

THE GEORGE MERCER AWARD FOR 1964



The George Mercer Award for 1964 was awarded to Dr. Orié L. Loucks, Associate Professor of Botany, University of Wisconsin for his paper entitled "Ordinating forest communities by means of environmental scalars and phytosociological indices" in **Ecological Monographs** 32:137-166. This award was announced at the Annual Banquet of the Society in Boulder, Colorado on August 25, 1964. A check for \$100.00 that accompanies this award was presented to Dr. Loucks by University of Wisconsin Provost Robben W. Fleming, as shown above.

Dr. Loucks was born in Minden, Ontario, Canada where he attended schools and where he got an early introduction to the relationships between forest, water and geology. He studied forestry at the University of Toronto where he received a bachelor and master of science in forestry degrees in 1953 and 1955. From 1955 to 1962 he was employed as a forest ecologist with the Department of Forestry in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. While in Ontario, his orientation in ecology was greatly influenced by G. A. Hills, and he began to take for granted that ecology meant an equally balanced study of plants and all aspects of their environment. It was the dissatisfaction with environmental aspects of the ecological literature that prompted the research leading to this award. In 1957 he went to the University of Wisconsin to study for the Ph.D. degree. Following the death of Dr. John Curtis, Dr. Loucks joined the University of Wisconsin as an Assistant Professor. He was promoted to his present rank in 1964.

The George Mercer Award was established in 1948 by a member of the Ecological Society of America in honor of a young naturalist and ecologist who was killed in World War I. Its purpose is "to encourage others to publish papers comparable with those it is reasonable to suppose he would have published if he had lived." The Award is made each year to a young man who in the previous two years, has published an outstanding paper in ecology.

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