EUGENE P. ODUM AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ECOLOGY EDUCATION

The Eugene P. Odum Award for Excellence in Ecology Education recognizes an ecologist for outstanding teaching, outreach, and mentoring activities and for demonstrated ability to relate basic ecological principles to human affairs. The winner for 2002 is Dr. Alan R. Berkowitz, of the Institute for Ecosystem Studies (IES) in Millbrook, New York. In the words of one Award Committee member, he is "the embodiment of an eminent ecology educator-scholar."

Alan Berkowitz began his career as an undergraduate at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. From there, he had numerous ecological education experiences, including park naturalist and resource manager at Grand Canyon National Park, and naturalist at High Rock Park Conservation Center in New York. Following completion of his Ph.D at Cornell University, he immediately assumed his current position as Head of Education at the IES.

As an ecological educator, Dr. Berkowitz has had tremendous impact on the education of K–12 students, collegiate undergraduates, and the general public. He is the instigator and inspiration for numerous education initiatives, including the Schoolyard Ecology for Elementary Teachers program in which students and teachers study their immediate, familiar environment to learn ecological principles and processes. This program has had a tremendous effect on improving ecological literacy. He also has been quite active in NSF's Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program.

Another group to receive the benefit of Alan Berkowitz' enthusiasm for ecological education is the ESA itself. In this role he has been "…instrumental in convincing the Society that ecological education, as well as research, should be recognized more formally." As one of the founders of ESA's Education Section and one of the strong voices in bringing ecological education to the forefront of the science education programs at the NSF, Alan has used his

wide range of skills to further this critically important agenda.

Nominators and Odum Award subcommittee members were lavish in praise of Alan. A common theme was that his contributions to ecology have been multifaceted and broad. One member wrote, "Alan is not only an exceptional teacher, or mentor, or the lead on an important ecology education program. He exemplifies the scholarship and intellect of an educator—and has been extremely successful at applying his political acumen and incredible energy to national, important and long-term achievements in ecology education." Others noted his excellent people skills and ability to work with a wide range of personalities and skill levels, signs of a quintessential educator. One referee summed up his amazing accomplishments: "His curriculum vita demonstrates the breadth and depth of his work in the field of ecology. It is not often that we have such talent amongst us, and it is a most fitting acknowledgment to honor Dr. Berkowitz with the Odum Award." It is with pleasure that the ESA presents Dr. Alan Berkowitz the 2003 Eugene P. Odum Award for Excellence in Ecological Education.

Odum Education Award Subcommittee: Linda L. Wallace (Chair), Richard Bowden, Charlene D'Avanzo, Peter Feinsinger, Bruce Grant, and Kathy Winnett-Murray.

MURRAY F. BUELL AWARD

Murray F. Buell ascribed great importance to the participation of students at meetings and to excellence in the presentation of papers. To honor his dedication to the Ecological Society of America and to the younger generation of ecologists, this award is presented to a student for the outstanding oral paper presented at the Society's annual meeting.

The winner of the Murray F. Buell award in 2003 is James Vonesh for his paper "Multi-predator effects across life-history stages: non-additivity of egg- and larval-stage predation in an African treefrog," which is based on his doctoral research at the University of Florida; he will finish this fall under the supervision of Craig W. Osenberg. The Buell judges noted that James had conducted a well-designed experiment informed by field observations to examine whether the density- and size-mediated effects of early life-stage predators can significantly alter predator–prey interactions in later stages. He found that predator effects across stages were not independent, survival was greater than that predicted from the independent effects of predators, and both the density and size effects of early predators enhanced survival in later stages. James followed up this

Alan R. Berkowitz