

Donald Buermann Lawrence

The Distinguished Service Citation for 1990 is presented to Donald Buermann Lawrence, whose long and exemplary tenure at the University of Minnesota was coupled with exceptional service to the Ecological Society of America. Don Lawrence was born in Portland, Oregon, on 8 March 1911. He attended Reed College through his junior year and then entered the Johns Hopkins University School of Higher Studies, completing a Ph.D. with Burton Edward Livingston in 1936. Unusually, Don holds neither B.S. nor M.S. degrees, only the doctorate in plant physiology. In the summer of 1937 he was invited to join William S. Cooper as an instructor in botany and plant ecology at the University of Minnesota, the institution he has served ever since.

Following early research on tree rings, glaciers, and prehistoric eruptions in the area around Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Hood, Don went on the 1941 expedition to Glacier Bay, Alaska, a springboard for continuing studies of glaciation and vegetation relationships throughout his career. After service with the

Army Air Corps during World War II, he returned to the University of Minnesota and soon undertook studies of glacial history in southern Chile and New Zealand, in addition to his work in Alaska. In the late 1950s, he pioneered work on the energy relations in terrestrial ecosystems at the Cedar Creek Natural History Area in Minnesota, a now world-famous research site that he helped to establish. Later in his career, he became interested in ethnobotany, the migration of people to the New World, and the aboriginal names of plants, animals, and places.

Don Lawrence began his service to the Ecological Society of America as a member of the Editorial Board of *Ecology* from 1940–1942. He was chairman of the Life History Committee from 1947–1949, remained on the Committee through 1957, and again served as its chair from 1957–1959. This committee coordinated the series “Outline for Life History Studies of . . .” that appeared in *Ecology* for almost a decade, and has proved immensely useful to myriads of ecology students ever



since. From 1947 to 1951, Don was Botanical Editor of *Ecology*, and served on the Editorial Board of *Ecological Monographs*. He was on the Council of the Society from 1946 to 1951, and chaired the local committee for the Minneapolis meetings of the Society in 1951. Also

in 1951, Dr. Lawrence proposed a constitutional amendment to form a Publications Committee for ESA. Following its passage, Don served as a member in 1952, and as Chairman in 1953–1954. Also from 1952–1954, Don chaired the Index Committee, and continued service through 1956, resulting in the publication of indices for volume runs of both *Ecology* and *Ecological Monographs*.

Don has also been an extremely active member in The Nature Conservancy, and has donated land, time, and professional expertise to projects both in Minnesota and in Oregon. He is a Fellow of AAAS, a Fellow of the American Geographical Society, and has received numerous awards from local, regional, and national organizations for undergraduate teaching, research, and conservation activities.

For all these things, covering a lifetime of service to the science of ecology and to the Ecological Society of America, we are proud and pleased to present the 1990 Distinguished Service Citation to Donald Buermann Lawrence, Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota.

Selection Committee:

Sarah Woodin, Chair  
Robert Burgess  
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