

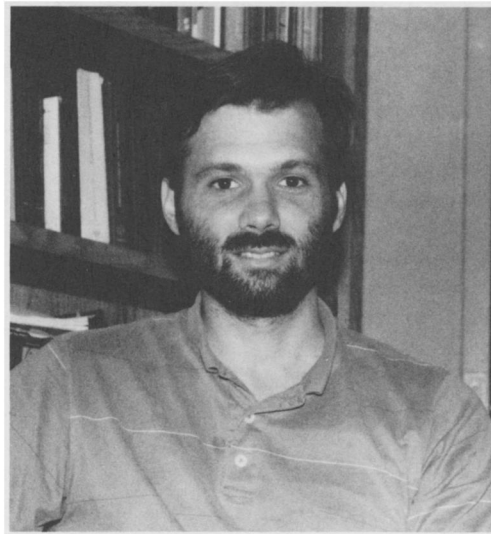
MERCER AWARD

James S. Clark

The George Mercer Award is given in memory of Lieutenant George Mercer who was killed in action while serving in the British Army during World War I. The award commemorates the sacrifice of a young naturalist and young ecologist by recognizing others who have published papers comparable to those it is reasonable to assume George Mercer would have authored if he had lived. Given annually to an author under the age of 40, the award honors an outstanding paper in ecology published in English during the previous two years.

The 1991 recipient of the Mercer Award is Dr. James S. Clark for his 1990 paper "Fire and climate change during the last 750 years in northwestern Minnesota" published in *Ecological Monographs* 60:135–159. This paper uses both dendrochronological history of fire scars and sedimentary profiles of lakes to reconstruct past fire regimes in northwestern Minnesota. The study is important because it provides the finest detail yet available of long-term changes in disturbance regime associated with climatic change. This paper represents an important step in our ability to understand and predict the indirect effects of climate change on vegetation.

Dr. Clark is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Botany at the University of Georgia. Following completion of a B.S. degree from North Carolina State University



in 1979, he received his M.S. degree at the University of Massachusetts and his Ph.D. in ecology at the University of Minnesota in 1988.

Selection Committee:

Stuart Chapin, Chair
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Judy Meyer
Robert Ricklefs
Donald Strong
David Tilman
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