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
Norma Fowler
Judy Meyer
Robert Ricklefs
Donald Strong
David Tilman
Teresa Turner
Peter Vitousek


MURRAY F. BUELL AWARD

Lisa J. Petit

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 1991 winner of the award is Lisa J. Petit for her paper "Habitat selection by Prothonotary Warblers: A test of the Fretwell-Lucas models." Lisa received her bachelor's degree from Ohio State University and her master's degree from Bowling Green State University, Ohio. She completed her doctorate in May 1991 from the Department of Biological Sci-