establishing a dynamic mosaic of forest age classes and vegetation types in Yellowstone National Park. The work combined extensive field observations and modeling to show how the diversity of vegetation types would have changed over the last 200 years with fire exclusion or selective burning in comparison with the natural fire regime. In this process Bill demonstrated a particular sensitivity to the relationship between spatial and temporal scaling so important to interpretation of process and utilization of concept. Bill Romme’s work embodies some of the most critical concepts of contemporary ecology within the Cooper tradition of physiographic ecology, and stands as a superb example for subsequent recipients of this very important award.

Written by William A. Reiners
Selection Committee:
Edward J. Cushing
Robert K. Peet
Orie L. Loucks
William A. Reiners, Chair

Deborah O. Raphael

Deborah O. Raphael of the University of California, Los Angeles was the 1985 recipient of the Murray F. Buell Award for Excellence in Ecology. Murray Buell ascribed great importance to the participation of students in meetings and to excellence in the presentation of papers. To honor Murray Buell’s dedication to the Ecological Society of America, and to the younger generation of ecologists, this award is presented to a student (undergraduate, graduate, or recent doctorate) for the outstanding paper presented at the Society’s annual meeting. The title of Deborah Raphael’s paper at the University of Minnesota meeting was: "Parent-ramet interactions: effect on water relations and ramet survival for a desert perennial."


Josephine Doherty

Josephine Doherty, ecologist, creative manager of ecological research, and adviser to scientists and administrators, in your long career as public servant, you have contributed greatly to our science and to the Ecological Society. Too few ecologists are aware of the immense influence you have had on the development of ecology and the direction that it has taken during the past 30 years. You have been active in our society since

42