

and seven temperate tree species, and accords with qualitative features of tree life history theory, including basic demographics and reproduction. The overall picture that emerges from this study, along with the three previous papers published in *Science* and *Nature*, is that scaling relationships have real power to be translated into fundamental ecological/evolutionary laws.

The Mercer Award Subcommittee was especially impressed by the results of rigorous mathematical modeling backed up with global-scale field data. This double-barreled approach is a wonderful antidote to armchair theorizing common in the nascent field of macroecology. This paper highlights links across scales of organization, from demography/life history to primary productivity and ecosystem function, and was a strong first choice for the Mercer Award.

Mercer Award Subcommittee: Nicholas Gotelli (Chair), Alison Brody, Aaron Ellison, Steve Heard, Mark McPeck, Margaret Palmer, Mary Price

MURRAY F. BUELL AWARD



Melinda D. Smith

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 2001 is Melinda D. Smith for her presentation, "Loss of subordinate species affects productivity of a C₄-dominated grassland," which is based on her current doctoral research at Kansas State University under the supervision of Alan Knapp. Melinda's presentation was described by Buell judges to be: "A very interesting, well-planned study. Appears to have been executed with diligence and care. Great potential for yielding valuable insight into the role and value of subordinate species in prairie assemblages. Very nice paper. Wow! Good context and idea development. Excellent discussion and methodology. Speaker very composed during talk and questions. This was an excellent talk and will add good information to the diversity/productivity debate. Good use of humor. Carefully laid-out experiment and good design. Good use of statistics. Appropriate length:content ratio—very clear and clear slides." Melinda received her bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado and her Master's degree from Kansas State University.

Receiving honorable mention citations are Caroline E. Christian from the University of California, Davis for her talk, "Fitness and population consequences of a seed dispersal mutualism," and Megan Donahue, also from the University of California, Davis for her talk, "The effects of density dependent dispersal on population dynamics in experimental microcosms."

Buell Awards Selection Committee: Paul Marino (Chair), Cindy Pasczkowski, Christopher Sacchi, Bill Tonn, Mark Twery, Alan Yeakley