

Commitment to Human Diversity in Ecology Award: Frank P. Day



Frank Day

This ESA award recognizes long-standing contributions of an individual toward increasing the diversity of future ecologists through mentoring, teaching, or outreach. Frank Day, a professor of ecology and eminent scholar at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, is known for mentoring many graduate and undergraduate students as well as his stellar career as a wetland scientist. For 14 years, he has been instrumental in obtaining National Science Foundation funding and

developing and implementing wetland science career development mentoring programs for minority undergraduates. In 2002, as President of the Society of Wetland Scientists, he started the SWS Human Diversity Committee, developing their undergraduate mentoring infrastructure. He continues working on increasing minorities in wetland ecology in collaboration with ESA's Strategies for Ecology Education Diversity and Sustainability (SEEDS) initiative and NSF's Long-Term Ecological Research Human Diversity Committee. Of the many students he has mentored in the study of wetlands, all have graduated with a B.S. or B.A. degree, 64% are currently enrolled in graduate school, and about half are employed in some capacity within a natural resource, wetland science, or ecology field.