

eminent ecologist 1970

Murray F. Buell

The eminent Ecologist for 1970 is a man who may well have influenced the professional ecological lives of a majority of those here tonight. Indeed he has been a major influence on the whole of ecology through his teaching, his research, his interest in public affairs and through his dedication to the Ecological Society of America.

He was reared in a liberal New England family, educated at the Loomis School, Cornell University and the University of Minnesota before beginning his professional career in North Carolina. There he made early contributions to palynology, paleoecology, and vegetation analysis. In 1946 he moved to a University where ecology was scarcely known and where today—through his major influence—you find one of the leading centers of ecology.

Our Eminent Ecologist of 1970 has pioneered ecological research in several directions long before their relevance, impact, and popular appeal were known. Two decades ago he and his students studied public park ecosystems and the impact of people on these systems. At this same time and for the intervening years he has directed interdisciplinary research in hydrobiology and prescribed burning of forest ecosystems. For several years now he has had a large group of graduate students investigating the impact of urbanization and industrial pollution on ecosystem functions. In fact, his production of scholars in ecology has been so great that many laboratories in the nation bear the imprint of his students. There are many both in and out of Ecological Society of America who have benefited from his inspired, single-minded dedication to ecology.

He has served over the years in many, if not all, of the major elected and appointed offices of the Ecological Society. His influence was strongly felt in drafting our present Constitution and Bylaws—and, in fact, he established the Eminent Ecology Award

itself. He has been active, in a quiet way, in political and public matters where his ecological knowledge could lead to wiser public decisions. He pioneered the use of ecological knowledge in the courts of our land long before the more recent, elaborate and successful activities of the Environmental Defense Fund.

Finally, we all must agree that tonight we honor a liberal scholar and a quiet, patient, gentle man. Each of us can aspire to be as respected, as warm, as dedicated to the profession of ecology and as completely successful as is our EMINENT ECOLOGIST FOR 1970—Dr. Murray F. Buell.

Paul Pearson
F. Herbert Bormann

