

awards

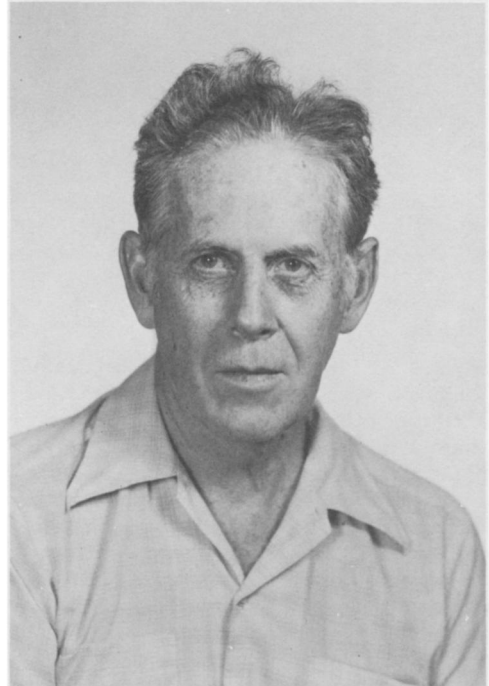
EMINENT ECOLOGIST

Edward Smith Deevey

Our Eminent Ecologist for 1982 was educated at Yale University, where he graduated *summa cum laude* and was awarded the Ph.D. degree at the age of 24. The recipient of many awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship and two Fulbrights, he is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and has worked at Rice Institute, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Yale University, Danmarks Geologisk Undersøgelse, the University of Canterbury and Dalhousie University. He is now Graduate Research Curator at the Florida State Museum. He has held many positions of responsibility in scientific societies and in the government councils of Canada and the United States, including those of Zoology Editor of *Ecology* and President of the Ecological Society of America.

Ed Deevey established the standard pollen stratigraphy for eastern North America, discovered the first late-glacial pollen assemblages in the New World, introduced quantitative methods into paleolimnology, and first applied life tables to general ecology. His thesis work with Evelyn Hutchinson introduced most of the ideas that have occupied paleolimnologists ever since. His monograph on Pleistocene biogeography was a dominant influence on biogeographers of the post-war generation. He played a large part in demonstrating the worldwide synchrony of major Quaternary climatic change and in developing the deposition-rate method of pollen analysis. He has demonstrated the mutual dependence of Mayan culture and its tropical environment.

Even in the select company of Eminent Ecologists, Deevey is remarkable for the diversity of fields in which he has made major contributions. There is a substantial body of Deevey work in pollen analysis, limnology, paleolimnology, population biology, radiocarbon dating, low-temperature geochemistry, biogeography and paleoanthropology. In addition to the vascular plants that have been his main biological material, he has published significant work on coelenterates, spiders, copepods, cladocera, chironomids, moas and mammals. His miscellaneous publications deal



with a wide variety of topics including taxonomy, sea-level change, physiography and the positions in the history of science of H. D. Thoreau and the ancient Aztecs. He has been generous in sharing the excitement of science with a wider audience through the pages of *Scientific Monthly*, *Scientific American* and *The New Yorker*.

Deevey's influence has been magnified by the contributions of his undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students. Because many of his pedagogical accomplishments have been joint ones with such distinguished colleagues as G. E. Hutchinson and R. F. Flint, the Deevey contribution to the development of limnology, biogeochemistry, Pleistocene geology, animal behavior and population biology may be less apparent than it is real. It is more evident for pollen analysis, which has been carried to remote parts of the earth, applied to remote periods of time and refined through statistical analysis of large data sets by Deevey students and their academic progeny.

Being neither showman, grantsman, nor empire builder, Deevey has succeeded as a teacher by the force of his personal example, and by the self-effacing exercise of gentle good humor. He is a master of allusion, but the better the joke, the quieter its delivery. The best known Deevey jokes are heard and appreciated only within a radius of two meters. His closest students

suspect that they miss even brighter gems of Deevey humor, delivered deadpan in a voice audible only to his pipe, and demanding, for their full appreciation, a breadth of shared erudition possessed only by that life-long inseparable companion.

D. A. Livingstone