



SOCIETY ACTIONS

A w a r d s

EMINENT ECOLOGIST AWARD

MARGARET BRYAN DAVIS



Each year the Ecological Society of America honors one of its members with the designation of Eminent Ecologist. The award recognized a body of work or a lifetime of contribution of extraordinary merit. Our eminent ecologist exemplifies the qualities, including scholarship, service, and outreach, that have characterized those of the past.

This scientist has based a phenomenal career on microscopically small indicators of past conditions—pollen grains fossilized in sediments. Moving from simple diagrams obtained with primitive coring devices to continental analyses of paleoclimates, she has illustrated how far good science can go in helping to solve some of the world's enigmatic problems. From a descriptive science, she has brought quantification, hypotheses-testing, modeling, and statistical validity into pollen analysis, and with a small group of co-workers, has built paleoecology into a leadership role in the current debates on global environmental change.

She has served on numerous national and international committees, panels, and advisory groups. She has consistently been praised as an exemplary teacher, and has guided the research work of many graduate students and post-doctoral associates. Her publication record is outstanding, and recent rates of productivity are a model for all to emulate. She has been a leader in the continuing struggle to improve the numbers, recognition, and rewards of women in science. In 1987-1988 she became the third woman to lead the Ecological Society of America as its president, and her advice and counsel continue to contribute to the betterment of the science of ecology and the Ecological Society of America.

At a time when she is still vibrantly active in teaching, research, and service, it is a pleasure to present the EMINENT ECOLOGIST AWARD to Margaret Bryan Davis.