area of interest, the northern Arizona region. A major recent work has been *The Seed Plants of Northern Arizona* (1973). Today Dr. McDougall may be found at the Museum five days a week curating botanical specimens, identifying plants for students from Northern Arizona University and local residents and working with biologists in the department on various aspects of their research. He still drives his car to work and last year travelled to Washington, D.C. to receive the Conservation Service Award from the Department of the Interior. Dr. McDougall’s career, spanning 64 years, would seem to offer proof that there is a correlation between an active life in the field and productive longevity. The Ecological Society could not honor a more outstanding person than Dr. Walter Byron McDougall as its Eminent Ecologist for 1977.

William A. Niering

MERCER AWARD FOR 1977

Douglas G. Sprugel

Dr. Douglas G. Sprugel of the Radiological and Environmental Health Division, Argonne National Laboratory was the recipient of the 1977 George Mercer Award presented annually in recognition of the years outstanding publication in ecological research. The recipient of the Mercer Award is selected by a committee of his peers and the award is the highest form of recognition for young scientists for published work.

The award is being presented to Dr. Sprugel (left) by Dr. Robert Sachs, Director, of the Argonne National Laboratory. The paper for which Dr. Sprugel received the award is entitled “Dynamic structure of wave-regenerated *Abies balsamea* forests of the northeastern United States.” *(J. Ecol. 64:889-911.)*