The George Mercer Award is given annually to a young ecologist in recognition of outstanding research published in the United States or Canada within the preceding two years. It is the highest form of recognition for published ecological research awarded by the Ecological Society of America.

Dr. Svařa M. Louda, Research Assistant Professor, Duke University Marine Laboratory, Beaufort, North Carolina is recognized for her paper, "Distribution ecology: Variation in plant recruitment over a gradient in relation to insect seed predation." The paper appeared in Ecological Monographs in 1982 (52:25-41). The work examined insect seed predation in the population dynamics of two shrub species. The experimental results showed, in this test of the role of insect-caused seed losses, that native insects can be a major force in controlling the recruitment and occurrence of a native plant over its distributional range. The paper represents an important contribution to understanding the interactions between plants and insects. In this case the interaction involves insect granivory and plant demography.

Dr. Louda continues her work on insect herbivory by investigating insect herbivory in relation to plant biochemical traits.

G. R. Marzolf

Deanna J. Stouder, Department of Biological Sciences, University of California, Santa Barbara, California was the 1982 recipient of the Murray F. Buell Award.

Murray Buell ascribed great importance to the participation of students in meetings and to excellence in the presentation of papers. To honor Murray F. Buell's dedication to the Ecological Society of America and to the younger generation of ecologists, this award is presented to a student (undergraduate, graduate, or recent doctorate) for an outstanding paper presented at the Society's annual meeting. The title of Deanna Stouder's paper was: "Effects of a severe weather disturbance on the foraging patterns by a guild of five temperate reef surf-perches."