Peter J. Morin is the recipient of the George Mercer Award for 1985. The Mercer Award is presented annually to a young ecologist in recognition of an outstanding paper published during the previous two years.

Dr. Morin receives the award in recognition of his paper "Predation, Competition and the Composition of Larval Anuran Guilds," published in Ecological Monographs 53:119–138(1983). In this paper, Morin explores the effects and interactions of predation and competition on anuran assemblages in temporary ponds. His experimental design, statistical analysis, and biological interpretation are carried out with unusual rigor. This paper stands as an important example of how to define and approach questions in experimental community ecology.

Written by Donald J. Hall
Selection Committee:
  Larry B. Crowder
  Larry M. Dill
  John A. Endler
  Deborah E. Goldberg
  Nelson G. Hairston
  Donald J. Hall, Chair
  G. D. Tilman
  Richard G. Wiegert

The recipient of the first Cooper Award is William H. Romme, who is Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. The Cooper Award was established through the leadership of Donald B. Lawrence, Professor Emeritus of Botany at the University of Minnesota, in memory of William Skinner Cooper (1884–1978). The award was established to honor the author(s) of the best article on some aspect of geobotany or of physiographic ecology.

Dr. Romme was selected to receive this first award in recognition of his paper, "Fire and landscape diversity in subalpine forests of Yellowstone National Park," published in Ecological Monographs in 1982 (52:199–221). The research was carried out under the guidance of Professor Dennis H. Knight while Bill was a Ph.D. student at the University of Wyoming. In this paper, Bill focused on the interactions between physiographic features, development of the fuel complex, and fire in