

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION

**Robert Lewis Burgess**

The recipient of the 1988 Distinguished Service Award, Robert L. Burgess, is a perfect example of devotion of ESA through "hard labor in the vineyards." Bob's diligent work and thoughtful participation in a number of activities has had a profound influence on the Society. By honoring him with this Distinguished Service Award, we recognize all that Bob has done, and undoubtedly will continue to do.

Robert Lewis Burgess was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on 12 September 1931. He received his B.S. from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee in 1957, and his M.S. (1959) and Ph.D. (1961) under the tutelage of the late Dr. John T. Curtis at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He joined the faculty of Arizona State University in 1960, and moved to North Dakota State University in 1963. During 1965–1966, he was a visiting professor at Pahlavi University in Shiraz, Iran. In 1970, he assumed the position of Deputy Director of the U.S. International Biological Program's Eastern Deciduous Forest Biome project at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Later, he also served there as Program Manager, Section Head, and Senior Research Staff member. While at Oak Ridge, Bob was appointed adjunct professor of ecology at the University of



Tennessee in Knoxville. In 1981, he assumed his current position as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse.

Since joining ESA in 1957 Bob has served the Society in many capacities: on the Membership Committee from 1965–1973, as a member of the Committee on Ethics and Professionalism from 1971–1981, ESA Council 1971–1980 and 1982–present, and as Program Chairman from 1978–1980. He was a member of the Board of Editors (1971–1981), and Book Review Editor of *Ecology* (1971–1978). In 1982, he assumed the chairmanship of the Committee on Historical Records, a position which he still holds. Bob was also Co-chairman of the IV International Congress of Ecology held in Syracuse in 1986. But none of these responsibilities reflect the total extent to which he is constantly sought for advice on Society issues.

It comes as no surprise to those of us who know Bob's record of diligent service to ESA, that he has been equally active in many other professional organizations as well. He has served on the Governing Board, Membership Committee, and Meetings Committee of the American Institute of Biological Sciences. He has also served as an officer in Sigma Xi, The Nature Conservancy, the science academies of Arizona and North Dakota, and as a member of the editorial boards of several journals.

Bob's research interests have spanned a wide range of environments and subject areas, from North American and Middle Eastern des-

erts, to grasslands and deciduous forests. More recently, he has become interested in the role of ecological science in environmental management, and his writings reflect concerns for land use, acid rain, and other contemporary issues. Perhaps the most important service he now performs stems from his interest in the history of the science of ecology. Together with Dr. Robert P. McIntosh, Bob has worked tirelessly to develop a concern in ESA for our roots. Through his service on the Historical Records Committee and his constant reminders to the ESA Council of the need to preserve a record of early ecologists and their cultural and working environment, Bob has clearly shown us the rich legacy of those who have preceded us.

The 1988 Distinguished Service Citation Award goes to one of ESA's hardest workers and finest gentlemen. His contributions to ESA are like Carlyle's "underground vein of water that makes the grass green but remains unseen." It has been a joy to know Bob and to work with him through his many years of responsibility in the Ecological Society of America.

Written by Arthur C. Cooper  
and  
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