

Distinguished Service Citation

The Distinguished Service Citation is given to an ecologist for long and distinguished service to the Society, to the larger scientific community, or to the larger purpose of application of ecology in the public welfare.



The 2011 recipient of the Distinguished Service Citation is Dr. Don Strong of the University of California at Davis.

Strong has maintained a distinguished research career, but almost a decade ago he took over as Editor-in-Chief of our society's flagship journal, *Ecology*. Dr. Strong has put enormous effort over this decade in shepherding this journal through rather tough times, including developing and managing some important, if sometimes controversial, changes in the journal, which involve changes in manuscript length and reviewing protocols. These weren't always easy or popular changes, but there is no doubt they have enabled the journal to maintain its high quality, get rid of backlogs and publication delays, and have substantially increased its efficiency for authors and reviewers. In his oversight of his large and intellectually disparate editorial board, Dr. Strong has maintained a wide breadth of ecological science among the papers published in

Ecology. He has devoted a huge amount of time and personal energy into his oversight of the journal, which serves both the Ecological Society of America, and more broadly the international discipline of ecology and environmental science.

Dr. Donald Strong
Professor
University of California, Davis
Evolution and Ecology

“Do what you want to do.”

My mother was nothing but supportive of everything I did. My father was a retired naval officer who became an engineer after WWII. He had hoped that I would go to the Naval Academy or become a businessman. I was bound for the Coast Guard Academy after graduation but my grandmother intervened and talked me out of it. I ended up getting a Masters in ecology and evolution and a Ph.D. in ecology. I spent 18 years as a professor at Florida State University and 20 years working at the University of California, Davis, in the Marine Laboratory and the Department of Evolution and Ecology.

I now do research in two different areas: invasive plants of estuaries and terrestrial food webs. My work is collaborative, involving lots of students, post docs, and colleagues. My new fascination is teaching Global Change Ecology to undergrads. There have been constant threats in my career from too many interests, going off in too many directions, and too many projects. You got to focus in this business!

My inspirations were a couple of cool high school teachers and college professors who really sparked the fires of interest in ecology for me. My undergrad pals would tease me about missing waves to study or go on field trips. However, I did get a lot of surfing in during the undergrad years. My hope for the future is to keep doing what I do now, forever.

The award that I am receiving this year from the ESA recognizes the success of *Ecology* and *Ecological Monographs* over the past decade. However, this spectacular success is actually owing to the highly professional work of hundreds of subject matter editors, to the special efforts of the people in the Publications Office of the ESA in Ithaca, the intelligent attentions of the Publications Committee, the Governing Board, and the corporate leaders in the ESA’s Washington office. ESA publications are a massive effort to which the Editor-in-Chief contributes only one part.

