

lawrence c. bliss, president

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The new president of the Ecological Society, Lawrence C. Bliss, is Professor of Ecology and Chairman of the Botany Department at the University of Washington, Seattle. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1929. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Botany (with minors in Geography and Geology) at Kent State University. His M.S. thesis combined his interests in vegetation and soils and concerned the vegetational relationships of beech woods in Ohio. He obtained his Ph.D. in Botany at Duke University in 1956. While at Duke, Bliss' interests in ecology matured under the direction of W. D. Billings, his major professor, and H. J. Oosting, then the senior plant ecologist and Chairman of the Botany Department at Duke. Bliss' Ph.D. thesis on plant development in microenvironments of arctic and alpine tundra was the first study of such wide scope and degree of detail, and has served as the basis for much of his extensive work on the ecology of tundra ecosystems in North America. After teaching at Bowling Green Uni-

versity in Ohio in 1956–1957, he moved to the University of Illinois where he served as Assistant, Associate, and Professor of Botany. In 1968 he went to the University of Alberta as Professor of Botany and Director of the newly constructed controlled environment facility. He assumed his present position at the University of Washington in 1978.

Professor Bliss has made tremendous contributions to tundra ecology, especially in the high arctic. His research has been unusually broad and ranges from detailed physiological ecology of major species to ecosystem ecology (especially the analysis of primary productivity), always with a careful consideration of the above- and belowground environments. He directed the Devon Island Project of the Canadian International Biological Program in the high arctic from 1970–1977. The results of this major undertaking were published in several journal articles and summarized in *Tundra Ecosystems: A Comparative Analysis*, which he edited, published by Cambridge University Press in 1981. Bliss directed several other major research projects such as applied ecological research in the Mackenzie Delta Region and the Oil Sands Research Project. A member of the United States National Committee on IBP and Chairman of the Terrestrial Productivity Subcommittee from 1966–1968, he was instrumental in developing that program. He has also served on several other national committees in the United States and Canada, including the National Research Council Biology Grants Committee, Environmental Protection Board of Canada Arctic Gas Study, Museums of Canada Committee. In addition to work in the tundra, Bliss and his students have worked in temperate grasslands and forests, and in montane vegetation in western North America.

Bliss' research on the impact of oil and gas exploration and development is widely recognized. He has been an active consultant for more than a half-dozen oil companies and government agencies, including the Oceanographic Institute of Washington and the National Research

Council Committee on Onshore Energy Minerals Management Research.

As part of an extensive international experience, Bliss worked in the tundra of New Zealand on a Fulbright Research Fellowship, and maintains close contacts with foreign researchers in tundra ecology, especially in the U.S.S.R., Scandinavia, and more recently, the People's Republic of China. He has travelled widely and is quite familiar with different vegetations, environments, and cultures.

The author or editor of several books on tundra ecology, he has also published two major articles in *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics*: "Arctic and Alpine Life Cycles" (1971), and "Arctic Tundra Ecosystems" (1973). Over 100 journal articles, including more than 30 in the Society's journals, demonstrate the breadth of Bliss' publications; he has also served on the editorial boards of *Oecologia* and *Arctic and Alpine Research*.

Bliss has been genuinely concerned with environmental issues. Besides doing extensive research on the impact of gas and oil exploration in the tundra, he has written articles and involved himself in public dis-

cussion about a variety of environmental concerns. Since long before the emergence of the "environmental movement," he was and continues to be a visible, strong, and tireless advocate of wise management of natural resources and the preservation of nature.

An active participant in the activities and governance of the Ecological Society for many years, Professor Bliss has served as local Chairman, member of the editorial board of *Ecological Monographs*, Member-at-Large, Treasurer, and Vice-President. His other professional contributions include service on the Executive Committee of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, and as a Fellow of the Arctic Institute of North America and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Larry Bliss is eminently qualified both as a researcher and an administrator to be at the helm of the Ecological Society. He has the experience, the wisdom, the vision, the prestige, and the concern for man and his environment to guide our Society ably and represent ecology in the coming year.

F. A. Bazzaz

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