



Frank Golley, President

1976-77

Your new president is a man whose talents span the sciences, the arts and the humanities and who is also richly endowed with contagious enthusiasm and boundless energy which will certainly have a favorable impact on your Society. We can be assured that the often moribund committees of ESA will be prodded unmercifully, and that important action will be taken this year, especially regarding the improvement of professional standards for ecology and ecologists.

Frank B. Golley was born in Chicago and grew up in a family environment which stressed both the work ethic (his father managed a steel mill) and creativity. Frank graduated from Purdue University and then went to Washington State University for a Masters degree under the direction of the late Hal Buchner. He worked as a forest ranger during the summers, which I am sure was the beginning of his long-term interest in forest ecology. He then returned to the midwest for a Doctorate at Michigan State, where I first met him while on a seminar visit there. I was impressed with his thesis work on the energetics of a grass-mouse-weasel food chain, which, when published, became a classic often reprinted today in "Readings in Ecology" books. I immediately suggested the possibility of his coming to Georgia, and after teaching a half a year at the University of North Carolina in a temporary position we were able to set up a permanent position for him here in 1958.

In 1962 we had the opportunity to upgrade the ecological studies program at the AEC Savannah River Plant from an annual grant program to a permanent laboratory status. Frank was appointed the first Director of the new Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) and was responsible for developing the physical facilities and the staff into what today is a major national laboratory operated for the Federal Government (ERDA, as the offspring of AEC) by the Institute of Ecology of the University of Georgia. In 1967 Frank returned to the campus at Athens as Executive Director of the Institute. In these two administrative posts Frank has exhibited the rare ability of being able to take care of administrative necessities with dispatch and efficiency while conserving most of his energy for more creative things. His output of research and writing have continued unabated despite administrative chores. His artistic talents are particularly well displayed in the design of our new Ecology Building which is both attractive and functional.

In recent years Frank has become involved more deeply in the international scene. He now directs a large study program on tropical forests in Latin America and he is active in the Man and Biosphere Program (MAB) and other international efforts. He has sparked a number of international conferences and has edited or co-edited four symposium volumes in tropical ecology. He shares with me the philosophy that ecology is not just a collection of old sciences, but truly a new integrative discipline with a global reach, and with an as yet unrealized potential for applications to the good of mankind. He is impatient with the glacial slowness with which universities respond to the need for a holistic approach to man and environment. Frank Golley is indeed a leader in an ecological crusade which is worth the best that ESA can give.

Eugene P. Odum, Director
The Institute of Ecology
The University of Georgia