

◆ CSE Award for Meritorious Achievement: Presentation to Lee Miller

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I was so thoroughly pleased to have had the Awards and Honors Committee unanimously endorse Lee Miller as this year's recipient of the Council's highest award because of all that I have seen him do, not just for the development of the Council, but for the development of the people in it. Many of us have learned much from Lee Miller over the years and through his writings and other contributions. I am sure there will be many others who will be fortunate enough to have him touch their lives.

Our look at Lee's career begins with his years as the managing editor of all Ecological Society of America (ESA) publications and as editor-in-chief of the journals *Ecology* and *Ecological Monographs*.

Jane Lubchenko, distinguished professor of zoology at Oregon State University and past president of ESA, commented that Lee's "most valuable contributions were his exceptionally high standards for editorial quality and the equally high standards for the science he published. He insisted on visual clarity and excellence in writing and on rigorously reviewed science on new and important topics." She also praised Lee's openness to new ideas and to new technology and his awareness of and hospitality toward new subjects emerging in the discipline—all of which allowed the journals to evolve and keep up with the changing field and sometimes to lead it.

Lee also worked closely with another ESA past president, Simon Levin, of Princeton University, in founding a new journal called *Ecological Applications*, designed to demonstrate the relevance and use of ecological information to other

disciplines, to build bridges to these other fields, and to contribute practical solutions to societal problems. The journal met with instant credibility and instant success, largely, Dr Lubchenko surmised, because of the reputation of the other ESA journals.

She described Lee as "a deeply thoughtful person, one who is interested in the broad landscape of science publishing and in the operating principles that guide science as a whole." And she believes that the society "has been blessed by the quality and longevity of Lee's publishing leadership." Lee's tenure as editor lasted 18 years.

Dr Levin, who was on the faculty of Cornell with Lee before he became ESA editor, said "one of Lee's big strengths is that he was a good scientist to start with!" Dr Levin also praised Lee's deep commitment to science, to publishing, and to editorial excellence. "He's the kind of person who's willing to do whatever's asked, but his colleagues look to him not just for what he can do, but for the wisdom of his experience." Dr Levin, in addition to having served as ESA president, was editor of one of the society's journals. "Lee was so efficient, organized, supportive, and good-natured that he made the job of journal editor a pleasure," Dr Levin said.

Although Lee officially retired a few years ago, he went on to help create the electronic journal *Conservation Ecology* and served as its founding managing editor. More recently he has chaired the Peer Review and Publishing Software Consortium, which seeks to share *Conservation Ecology's* online manuscript-submission and peer-review software with other journals.

ESA gave Lee its most prestigious Distinguished Service Award, normally not given to a paid employee, because his massive contributions to the society—and to ecology—far exceed what his job required. Lee has been acknowledged nationally and



internationally for his work in the field of ecology.

A member of the Council since 1980, he has made many valuable contributions to it. In addition to organizing workshops for annual meetings nearly every year, he served as program chair for the 1987 meeting in Vancouver. He initiated the CBE Education Committee, the CBE Information Management Committee, and the CBE Web site. Concurrently with his work on the latter two projects, he began an effort to develop a more thorough membership database. While he developed the Web site and found a home for it, he also served as a member of the CBE Board of Directors from 1995 to 1998.

A lover of jazz, fine wine, exotic travel, and his wife, Sylvia, Lee is a marvelous raconteur and a compassionate friend. It is indeed my privilege to present to Dr Lee Miller the CSE Award for Meritorious Achievement for the year 2000. 🍷

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