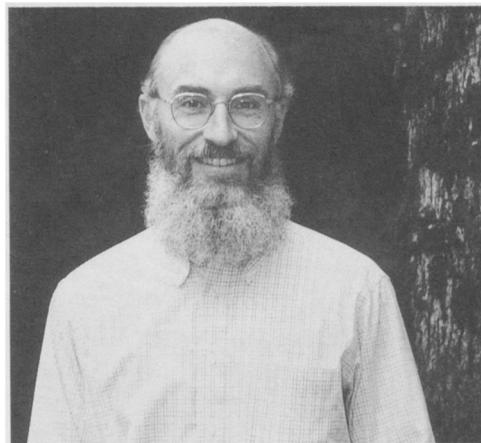


WILLIAM S. COOPER AWARD

The William S. Cooper Award is a recognition by the Society of distinguished research in geobotany and physiographic ecology. The award has two objectives, first to honor the author(s) of a paper in geobotany or physiographic ecology published in the past five years in any journal, and second, to encourage students to pursue work on these subjects. In making The Cooper Award, the awards committee has agreed that geobotany and physiographic ecology will include studies of the interaction of earth processes, surface forms, and physical disturbance events (or processes) that structure or control the nature of biotic assemblages.

Dr. Ronald P. Nielson of Oregon State University and the EPA Laboratory in Corvallis, and Dr. L. H. Wullstein of the University of Utah are the recipients of the William S. Cooper Award for 1987. This year's award recognizes a paper, The distribution of two southwest American oaks in relation to atmospheric dynamics, *Journal of Biogeography* 10:275–297, 1983. The paper examines the relationship of two climatic boundaries, the spring polar front, and the average northern penetration of the Arizona monsoon, supplemented by experimental studies, so as to understand and explain edaphic control of the



Ronald P. Nielson, senior author of the Cooper Award paper. L. H. Wullstein was research advisor for Dr. Nielson's Ph.D. thesis, from which the paper was largely derived.

distribution of the two oak species. The species are found in the mountains of Utah and northern New Mexico and Arizona, and do not now overlap. The paper was drawn largely from the Ph.D. thesis Dr. Nielson presented at the University of Utah under the direction of Dr. Wullstein.

We should note also the relationship between this award-winning paper and the origins of physiographic ecology in North America. W. S. Cooper, whose contributions the award recognizes, was a student of the great physiographic ecologist Henry Chandler Cowles at the University of Chicago, as was Walter Cottam, later of the University of Utah. Cowles pointed out the anomalous oak distribution problem in northeastern Utah to Walter Cottam many years ago, and it was Cottam, now retired, who pointed it out to Dr. Nielson.

**Written by Orie L. Loucks
Selection Committee:
Orie L. Loucks, Chair
Jane H. Bock
Kimball T. Harper
Emily Russell
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Philip V. Wells
Peter White**

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