I believe I sent all my records to the University of Georgia archives, so what follows is solely from 30+ year-old memories. Probably the most significant thing I accomplished was raising funds for our MacArthur Award, which I have detailed in the timeline.

Giving a past ESA president’s address has probably challenged all of us. It is vastly more than just giving a research seminar. One wants it to be focused on some general and substantive issue. Mine, *Truth in Ecology, ESA Bulletin 62: 256-258, 1981* explored the dichotomy between safe descriptions and forecasting an uncertain future. It presented the ecological world as a gaming table, and argued that to retain our credibility, we had to be up front about the associated uncertainties, especially given the incompleteness of our knowledge. Thirty years later, even with a much richer data base, I remain doubtful that we've made much progress in educating the public about the manifold consequences of a changing climate.

I mention here other reflections. My VP was an old friend from my Michigan days, Dick Root (he was still an undergraduate then). We'd spent a lot of time pondering the timing of the annual meeting. I had Dick put forward the proposition that it be moved from mid-summer to some time during the fall. The basic rationale was that ecologists tended to be in the field during summer months, and the meeting's timing conflicted with that. Dick’s model was the Entomological Society, which then met in the autumn and was generally viewed as a successful gathering. There was massive opposition to this proposition, and Dick good-naturedly accused me of using him as “a stalking horse.” We remain close friends.

The society at the time was involved in a small war with AIBS on who should plan our annual meetings. When we did it on our own, there was a small profit; when they did it, it always cost us. I threatened to pull ESA out of AIBS and was told that would kill them, since at the time we were their largest member society. Their response: that it would destroy them so a compromise was reached.
Two further recollections seem worth mentioning. First, I was occasionally asked, always on very short notice, to basically provide Society blessing to some environmentally outrageous proposal. The example I remember clearly is being asked to support the chemical control of the cotton boll weevil in some large area. I responded "no," but it led me to initiate an attempt to have expert ESA members prepare white papers on selected topics. I don't think I got very far on that but it clearly was the right thing to do.

Second, there was constant pressure for the society to have a "certified ecologist" program. I opposed this on the basis of unknown society liability and that it was based on self-certification. However, I believe it passed.