

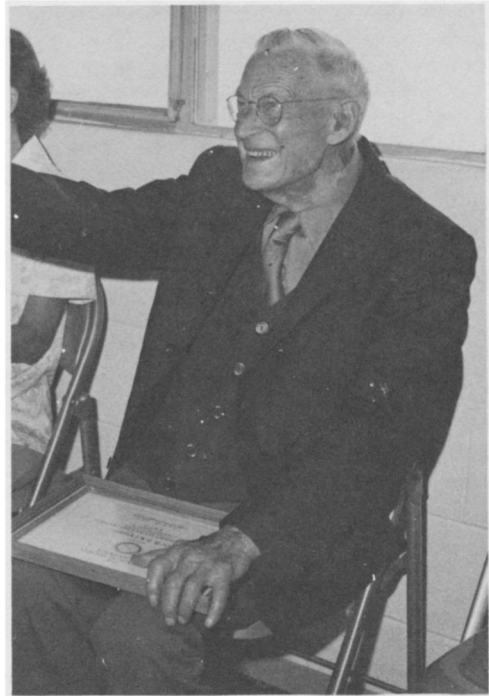
awards

EMINENT ECOLOGIST FOR 1977

Walter B. McDougall

At the 1977 Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, the Society conferred on Dr. W. B. McDougall the honor of being named Eminent Ecologist for 1977. The announcement of the award was made at the banquet at which time Dr. William Niering read the following citation and Dr. Frank B. Golley, President of the Society presented the certificate in absentia.

Walter Byron McDougall at age 93 is one of four living charter members of the Ecological Society. This represents a membership of 61 years. He was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan on December 10, 1883 and attended the University of Michigan where he received his Ph.D. in botany in 1913. His thesis, *On the Mycorrhizas of Forest Trees*, appeared in the first volume of the *American Journal of Botany* in 1914. He began his career in the same year that he received his degree as instructor in botany at the University of Illinois where he remained until 1928. During these years his interests were far-ranging. His publications include papers on fungi, primarily mushrooms, plant succession and symbiotic relationships within the forest. The research for the last was carried on in the University Woods at the University of Illinois. He also continued his work on mycorrhizal associations and early recognized the significance of this partnership between the fungi and the higher plant. His interest also extended to applied ecology in the study of the plant associations of strip-lands (strip-mined lands) in Illinois. In 1925 he wrote: "Studies on these strip-lands are being continued at several points, and it is hoped that a satisfactory answer to the economic question as to the most profitable way of dealing with them may be found." (*Ecology* 6:372-379.) It is of interest that current studies on Britain's strip-lands reveal the significant role mycorrhiza play in successful plant establishment. Just before he left the University of Illinois his text, *Plant Ecology*, was published. This basic college text was preceded only by Cowles's book and appeared prior to that of Weaver and Clements. It has been a significant contribution to the field of



plant ecology and has undergone three revisions.

Dr. McDougall taught for a year at the University of California after leaving the University of Illinois. This year, 1930-31, marked the end of his association with academia.

From 1935 until 1953 Dr. McDougall was associated with the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service. During this period the publications of the Park Service were greatly enriched by the talents of a professional plant ecologist. His plant guides for Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and Big Bend National Parks are classics for amateur and professional botanists. In 1936 he published a *Field Book of Illinois Wildflowers*.

At age 72, when most people have retired, Dr. McDougall began a new career at the Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, where he is at present. His publications have continued and reflect his new

area of interest, the northern Arizona region. A major recent work has been *The Seed Plants of Northern Arizona* (1973). Today Dr. McDougall may be found at the Museum five days a week curating botanical specimens, identifying plants for students from Northern Arizona University and local residents and working with biologists in the department on various aspects of their research. He still drives his car to work and last year travelled to Wash-

ington, D.C. to receive the Conservation Service Award from the Department of the Interior. Dr. McDougall's career, spanning 64 years, would seem to offer proof that there is a correlation between an active life in the field and productive longevity. The Ecological Society could not honor a more outstanding person than Dr. Walter Byron McDougall as its Eminent Ecologist for 1977.

William A. Niering