

Forbes (1887)

1. This paper is often cited to flag early ideas about balance and unity of ecosystems. Or is it about explaining [to the Peoria Scientific Association in 1887] the marvels beheld under the water's surface that are worth conserving?
2. Does stability and balance arise for an entire ecosystem as a natural outcome of adaptation and conflict within?
3. Is a lake like an island?
4. Are lakes replicable types (e.g., fluviatile or "water-shed") or unique outcomes of varied processes?

Lindeman (1942)

5. 'A large percentage of the following discussion and argument is based on "belief, probability, possibility, assumption and imaginary lakes" rather than on actual observation and data. The chances are that the author's beliefs and imaginary lakes would be very different entities if he had a background of observations on fifty or a hundred of the 10,000 lakes claimed by the state of Minnesota instead of only one, and that a special type.' - Chancey Juday, retold by Cook (1977). Agree?
6. p. 390, right column. "The trophic-dynamic viewpoint, as adopted in this paper, emphasizes the relationship of trophic or "energy-availing" relationships within the community-unit to the process of succession." Why was this revolutionary?
7. The "microbial loop" was central to his view (Fig. 1) – is this unique to a bog?
8. "Analyses of food-cycle relationships indicate that a biotic community cannot be clearly differentiated from its abiotic environment; the ecosystem is hence regarded as the more fundamental unit." Why are you still focusing on species, communities, or e-DNA?
9. Are species in higher trophic levels more often generalists? And more energetically-efficient?

Teal (1962)

10. Did Lindeman (1942) lead directly to this paper summarizing work at Sapelo Island?
11. Could a similar paper be put together for [insert your favorite ecosystem]?
12. kcal/m<sup>2</sup>/yr seems like a prominent unit – how do you get those data?
13. Fig. 4 summarizes it all: walk me thru the Spartina box – what is this saying?
14. Table IX. Should this be done for other systems? How high would a salt marsh rank?