

John Goldie Award – 2017

By W.D. McIlveen

The 11th John Goldie Award was given to Irwin (Ernie Brodo) on September 19, 2017, at the FBO AGM held at Ottawa. The award was given in recognition of his contribution to field botany in Ontario. For anyone at all familiar with lichens, the name Ernie Brodo is synonymous with lichens in Ontario as well as much those further afield. Like all of the previous Goldie Award winners, Ernie is another highly-deserving recipient.

Ernie's career started with a formal education at City College of New York where he received an undergraduate degree in biology in 1957. Moving a little further west, he completed his Masters degree from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. in 1959. He then moved further west to Michigan State University for his Ph.D. that was granted in 1965 though his field work was studies on lichen flora back on Long Island.

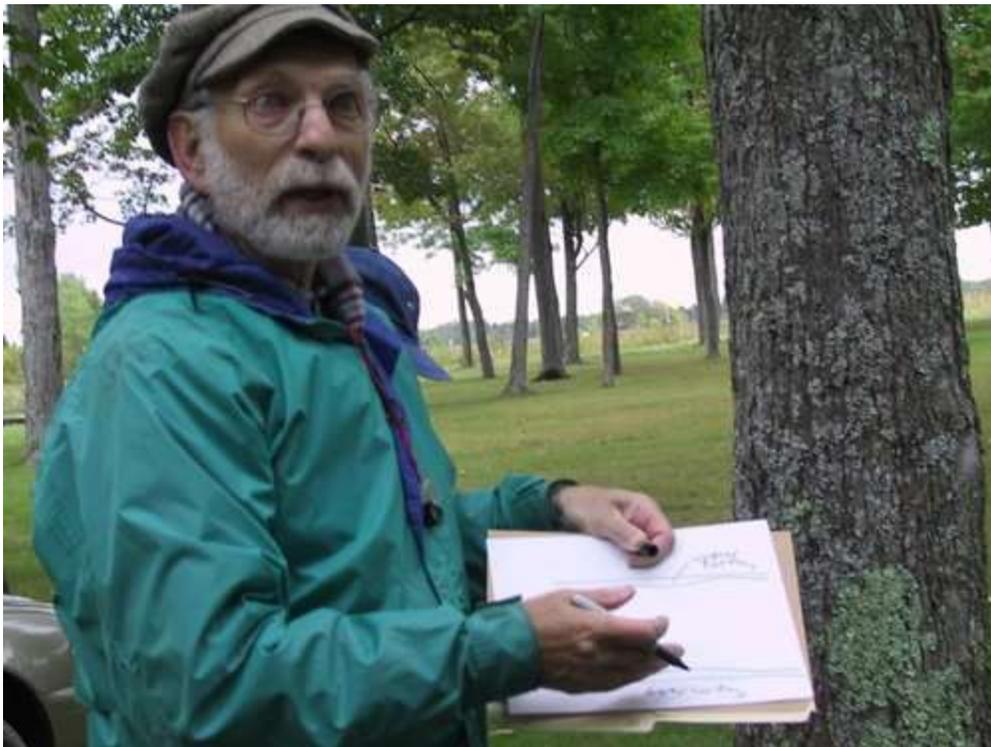
After a short period as an assistant professor at Chatham College in Pittsburgh, he took the position of Curator of Lichens at the National Museum of Natural Sciences of Canada in Ottawa in 1965. At the Museum, he served as Chief of the Botany Division (1981–1989), as a Research Scientist (1989–2000) until he retired; and then as Emeritus/Research Associate from 2000 to the present. During his tenure at the Museum, the number of lichens specimens in the collection increased from 18,000 to 124,000.

Ernie's work has covered most of North America from coast to coast to coast as well as Europe and Australia. His research work at the Museum included taxonomic revisions to the lichen genera *Coccotrema* (1973), *Alectoria* (1977), *Lecanora* (1984), *Amygdalaria* (1987), *Ochrolechia* (1990), *Cladonia* and *Haematomma* (2008). He has described, usually with colleagues, over 50 species or subspecies and two genera, *Bryoria* (1977) and *Nodobryoria* (1995). He will most likely be remembered best as the co-author of the beautiful *Lichens of North America* 2001, a thin field guide of only 795 pages! He followed that with a set of keys to the species in 2015. More locally, he was the author of the *Lichens of the Ottawa Region* (1988).

Ernie has strongly supported various professional organizations and served as the president of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the American Bryological and Lichenological Society, Canadian Botanical Association, the Ottawa Field-Naturalists, and the International Association for Lichenology. His work has been variously recognized by different organizations. These include the Acharius medal for life long contributions to lichenology from the International Association for Lichenology, the Mary Elliot Award for service to the Canadian Botanical Association, and the George Lawson Medal for his contributions to Canadian botany. He has been honoured by having several species and the genus *Brodoa* named after him. These awards are certainly prestigious and substantiate the reasons for FBO's decision to award Ernie with the Goldie Award. As well, Ernie has led at least two field trips for FBO in 2000 and 2009.



The 2017 John Goldie Award plaque.



Ernie Brodo leading an FBO trip in Gatineau in 2000.