



John Goldie Award – 2018

By W.D. McIlveen

On September 8, 2018, the FBO held their AGM at the Orillia Museum of Art and History. A highlight of that meeting was the presentation of the 12th John Goldie Award to John Semple from the University of Waterloo.

Virtually everyone that claims to practice field botany in Ontario, will be familiar with John's guides to the asters and goldenrods in the province published by the University of Waterloo. Before he joined the University in 1974, John had completed his Bachelor of Science (BSc) at Tufts University. He then went on to complete his Master of Arts (MA) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (1972) at Washington University St. Louis. Here he learned the principles and methods of plant taxonomy using Texas Sleepy Daisy (*Xanthisma texanum*) as his study species. That experience in morphological analysis and cytogenetic set him on a course where extended his studies to other members of the aster family. All of his early work predated the arrival of DNA sequencing. Presently John is presently Professor Emeritus and Adjunct Professor at the University.

Over his career, John has produced many scientific publications and papers all leading to an update of the taxonomy and nomenclature of the aster family. In addition to the guides to the asters and goldenrods of Ontario, he contributed portions of the book *Systematics, Evolution, and Biogeography of Compositae* edited by V. A Funk, A Susanna, T. F. Steussy, and R. J Bayer. He prepared the chapter on the *Solidago* for the *Flora of North America* as well as the chapter dealing with the asters in the genus *Symphiotrichum*. He contributed his drawings and guidance in a book on the asters, goldenrods and fleabanes of Bruce and Grey Counties published by Owen Sound Field Naturalists.

In recognition of the contributions made by his wife Brenda, he named one of the goldenrods *Solidago brendiae*. He prepared a lab manual for the study of plants by university classes. He provides guest lectures to many naturalist groups. In the case of FBO, he led field trips and workshops to Norfolk County in 1993 and Waterloo in 2007. The Field Botanists of Ontario are therefore pleased to acknowledge the very valuable contributions made by John Semple by recognizing his efforts in the form of the 2018 John Goldie Award.



Figure 1. FBO President Dan Westerhof presents John Semple with the John Goldie Award for



Figure 2 The 2018 John Goldie Award plaque.

