

John Goldie Award – 2016

By W.D. McIlveen

On September 10, 2016, the tenth John Goldie Award was presented to James Phipps at the FBO AGM held at the Backus Heritage Conservation Area. The award was given in recognition of his contribution to field botany in Ontario. For all of his work, primarily on the genus *Crataegus*, Jim is another highly deserving recipient.

Jim is another transplant from England. A native of Birmingham, Jim graduated from the University there then went to British East Africa as a botanist in the 1950s. Here he began his studies on the grasses in the Arundinelleae. He was then hired by the University of Western Ontario as a Lecturer in the Department of Plant Sciences in the early 1960s. This position, with support from university and the National Research Council of Canada, allowed him to continue additional fieldwork in Africa and Madagascar. He was then able to continue his graduate studies and obtained his Ph.D. degree at UWO in 1969. At the time, he was applying the principles of numerical taxonomy to grass systematics. From this, he was able to publish not less than 18 papers on the taxonomy of those African grasses.



Later, he shifted his focus to hawthorns, a difficult group for which we know him best. Initially, he worked on the genus *Crataegus* in Ontario. Along with Dr. M. Munniyama, he concluded that there were 39 ‘good’ species in the genus in the province in a monograph published in 1980. Although there have been more recent treatments in which some of these names have changed, this was a great improvement in the then known occurrence of the genus in Ontario. Along with Dr. Munniyama, Jim was able to prove that suspected apomixis was happening in *Crataegus*. In additional papers, they reported on ploidy level and embryological variation in the genus.

Through the late 1970s and the 1980s, Jim guided a series of graduate students in studies of Ontario hawthorns. The list included Q. P. Sinnott (*C. series Pruinosae*); T.A. Dickinson (*C. series Crus-galli*); P.G. Smith (*C. series Rotundifoliae*); P.F. Ulf-Hansen (population dynamics); and T.C. Wells (hybridization). Jim continued his own work on hawthorn biogeography and taxonomy.

The study of hawthorns took Jim to other parts of North America. This included a great deal of work in southeastern United States, western North America, and even to northern Mexico. These studies were ideal in that they provided the necessary background information that allowed Jim to complete the comprehensive treatment of *Crataegus* for the Flora of North America (FNA), a

treatment that included 169 species in 153 pages! All through this period, Jim had many collaborators including Ken Robertson of the Illinois Natural History Survey, Bob O'Kennon, Ron Lance, Al Schotz, Angus Gholson Jr., and Theodore Palmer. The collaboration and individual study resulted in dozens of papers on hawthorns. In 2003, along with Bob O'Kennon and Ron Lance, Jim published a book on Hawthorns and Medlars (a related genus *Mespilus*).

At the University of Western Ontario, Jim was the director of the Sherwood Fox Arboretum which encompassed all of the landscape plantings on the University grounds. In addition to being Professor of Plant Sciences, he was Curator of the Herbarium at UWO. Under his guidance, the collection grew from 12,000 specimens to about 50,000 of which about 20% were *Crataegus* and other Rosaceae. But the collection outgrew its allotted space. As a consequence, in 2008, a large part of the *Crataegus* research collection was transferred to the Royal Ontario Museum due to support from the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust, NSERC support of Tim Dickinson's research, and other ROM resources. Jim retired in 2000 but remains active in his research projects.

In addition to his own research which resulted in the publication of over 70 papers on the hawthorns, Jim contributed to the Flora of North America as an editor for Volumes 3 (included Fagaceae) and Volume 22 (included Juncaceae). During his tenure as President of the Canadian Botanical Association in 1982, he was able to support and encourage the FNA from its beginnings.

Jim was known as a demanding but supportive supervisor who encouraged independent thinking in his students. In return, he was able to learn from them and to appreciate their contributions to science and his own studies. The combined efforts of Jim, his colleagues, and his students are therefore integral to the long-term benefit of those interested in botany and the interests of the Field Botanists of Ontario. The Field Botanists of Ontario are therefore pleased to present the John Goldie Award for 2016 to Jim Phipps.

(Many thanks are extended to Tim Dickinson of the Royal Ontario Museum for his contributions of information included in this report.)