

News and Comment

Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada Awards 2011

A special reception of the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada (ANHMC) was held on October 24, 2011 on Parliament Hill, where the fifth annual Bruce Naylor Award was presented. The Bruce Naylor Award is named for the former director of the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology. Deceased in 2007, Dr. Naylor had also served as president of the ANHMC.

This year's recipient was Dr. David Green, noted conservationist and one of Canada's foremost experts on amphibians. The award recognizes significant contributions to the museum-based study of natural history in Canada. Dr. Green is currently a professor at McGill University and Director of the Redpath Museum. He has made his mark over a 30-year career as a scientist, museum administrator, teacher and conservation advocate. He has authored more than 120 scientific articles, books and publications, mainly about frogs and other amphibians. Dr. Green was a founding member of the Canadian Association of Herpetologists and the first Editor of their Bulletin.

"I was lucky to have discovered a passion for wildlife when I was very young, and I have long considered it a privilege to be able to pursue that passion professionally," he says. His academic path has taken him across Canada, from undergraduate studies at UBC to a doctorate at the University of Guelph. After post-doctoral work at the University of California at Berkeley, he had brief stints as a biology professor at McMaster University and the University of Windsor. By 1986, he had landed at McGill University and the Redpath Museum, where he continues today.

Green's passion for nature goes well beyond the lab and his fieldwork. He is a leading figure in the promotion of conservation, demonstrated most visibly through his membership with the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which he chaired for four years starting in the late 1990s. Every year this national group issues a public report identifying species at risk, based on scientific data.

While serving as co-chair of COSEWIC's Amphibians and Reptiles Subcommittee, he completed the first

assessment of all Canadian amphibians at risk. He also led a task force that documented the decline in amphibian populations in Canada – a phenomenon that garnered much media attention given associations with environmental degradation and habitat destruction. Also as Chair of COSEWIC, Dr. Green manoeuvred through a maze of policy and politics to bring COSEWIC assessments into the new Species at Risk Act.

Over his 25 years at the Redpath Museum, Green's drive and determination has ensured that the museum – one of Canada's oldest – was brought into McGill University's Faculty of Science. Since 2005, under his leadership as Director, the museum's public program has expanded and achieved stable funding, its teaching lab has been completely renovated, and a new program Minor in Natural History has been instituted along with new museum courses.

As noted by his nominators: "Any one of Professor Green's records of accomplishment in the fields of science, wildlife conservation, public service, education or advancement of museums would be—and have been—worthy of commendation. Combined, they demonstrate the exceptional contributions that he has made to museum-based natural history sciences and policy in Canada."

The network was created in 2003 to enhance collaborative work in the areas of research, collections development, and education about the natural environment. The 17 members of ANHMC are: the Royal B.C. Museum, the Beaty Biodiversity Museum, the Vancouver Aquarium, Royal Alberta Museum, Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre, Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Manitoba Museum, the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto Zoo, Canadian Museum of Nature, Montreal's Espace pour la Vie (Biodôme, Insectarium, Botanical Gardens and Planetarium), Montreal's Redpath Museum, New Brunswick Museum, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, and The Rooms Provincial Museum (Newfoundland and Labrador).

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Naming Rights to Two Newly Discovered Lichens Auctioned Off as Fundraisers for Two B.C. Environmental Groups

Naming rights to two undescribed lichens came to close at public auctions on December 15, 2011. The lichens were discovered in British Columbia's southern interior by acclaimed lichenologist Trevor Goward, curator of lichens at the Beaty Biodiversity Museum of the University of British Columbia. Earlier this year Trevor decided to donate his new species as fundraisers, one to the Ancient Forest Alliance (AFA) and the other to The Land Conservancy (TLC), both based in Victoria.

The lichen donated to The Ancient Forest Alliance was a *Bryoria* or "Horsehair Lichen", which forms elegant black tresses on the branches of trees. Wildlife artist Anne Hansen bid \$4,000 for the right to name this species *Bryoria kockiana*, in memory of her husband, University of Guelph horticulturist Henry Kock,

who passed away in 2005. The Ancient Forest Alliance will use the money in their efforts to halt the liquidation of B.C.'s remaining oldgrowth forests.

The Sulyma family purchased naming rights to the other lichen, a *Parmelia* or "Crottle Lichen", also a branch-dweller, from The Land Conservancy for \$17,900. The family named their lichen *Parmelia sulymae*, in honour of B.C. forester and caribou biologist Randy Sulyma who died tragically in early 2011. The money will help The Land Conservancy create a wildlife corridor for southern Wells Gray Provincial Park.

Trevor hopes the success of these auctions will encourage taxonomists around the world to put new species to work on behalf of the ecosystems that support them – an initiative he refers to as "taxonomic titling".

Phillip Merrill Youngman: 1927-2011

Phillip Merrill Youngman, mammalogist and all-around naturalist, passed away 22 November 2011 at age of 84 after a long illness. Phil spent most of his career at the Canadian Museum of Nature, 1960-1992, beginning when the museum was called the National Museum of Natural Sciences. He served in various positions including Curator of Mammals, Exhibits Planner, and finally Assistant Curator of Quaternary Zoology. Among his publication were Mammals of the Yukon Territory, *Museum of Natural Sciences, National*

*Museums of Canada, Publications in Zoology (10) 192 pages (1975); Distribution and systematics of the European mink *Mustela lutreola* Linnaeus 1761. *Acta Zoologica Fennica 166: 1-48 (1982); The Pleistocene small carnivores of Eastern Beringia. *The Canadian Field-Naturalist 107(2): 139-163 (1993).* A detailed tribute and bibliography by Irwin M. Brodov and Francis R. Cook will be published in a future issue of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist.***