**The Contributions and Achievements of Geoffrey Scudder**

Any summary of Geoff Scudder’s contributions and achievements clearly indicates that he is an excellent choice for the Bruce Naylor Award. His accomplishments in natural history science, museum life and entomological leadership are remarkable. Much of the following material is from the tribute introducing the Scudder festschrift in *The Canadian Entomologist* (2006) (included in the support material and which should be consulted for additional detail). Also included is Geoff’s own scientific autobiography (*Annual Review of Entomology*, 2008) where he notes he is one of those field or museum naturalists who enjoy working outdoors and who often collect a favourite group of organisms and study systematics, ecology, and behaviour.

This unassuming self-description is the core of his scientific life -- but he is much more. How does one begin to describe the phenomenon that is Geoff Scudder? Superb zoologist, intellectual whirlwind, prodigious writer, forceful speaker. Enthusiastic and supportive teacher and mentor. Relentless researcher, tireless insect collector, curious naturalist. Efficient administrator and organizer. Dedicated conservationist, lobbyist for biological causes, and servant of science.

The Naylor Award is presented for exceptional contributions to museum-based natural history in Canada and Geoff Scudder has made a brilliant mark on academic life in our nation. But it is the tripartite work of a natural history museum curator and administrator that lies at the heart of his career – field study, collections development and curation; research to expand understanding of the organisms collected and classified; interpretation, the passing of the knowledge gained to the scientific community and the public.

Geoff’s museum work centred on the Spencer Entomological Collection at the University of BC, where he was director from 1958 to 1999 and which he developed into one of the most important collections in Canada. However, as the documentation in this nomination attests, he improved many collections across Canada and the world. As part of his own research in his specialty, the diverse Hemiptera (true bugs), and his commitment to collections improvement, Geoff has curated the extensive holdings of dozens of collections, from the huge Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids and Nematodes in Ottawa to many others in provincial museums, universities, and the laboratories of the Canadian Forestry Service and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. He has donated innumerable specimens to these collections, making them more complete and useful. Throughout his career he has fought for the values and importance of natural history museums; his leadership in their promotion is legendary.

Geoff has published 248 refereed papers, 6 books, 12 book chapters and nearly 100 other publications ranging from symposium papers to book reviews, from internet articles to scientific briefs. The breadth of his biological interests is astounding: from taxonomy and morphology to ecology and physiology, from biogeography and biological diversity to evolutionary theory and conservation biology. For decades, Geoff has been a world authority on the seed bug families (Rhyparochromidae, Lygaeidae and relatives). In this group he has described at least two new families, 68 new genera and 275 new species. In addition to his international systematic studies, he has made impressive contributions to the taxonomy and diversity of the Canadian fauna of the suborder Prosorrhyncha (= Heteroptera) and is the Canadian expert on this huge group.

Geoff’s deep understanding of biological diversity, his scientific commitment, and his work in rare and threatened habitats make him a champion in the conservation movement. Tirelessly active as a technical advisor to conservation groups and governments, he is also an enthusiastic public educator – writing, speaking, cajoling. He is just as effective urging students and naturalists into action as he is convincing politicians and bureaucrats to change policies. On the national scene he has promoted strong endangered species legislation and has been especially active in saving coastal Garry Oak and Interior grassland habitats in British Columbia. He is a founder of the Osoyoos Desert Society and is heavily involved in habitat restoration research and public education at the society’s Osoyoos Desert Centre. For many years Geoff served as a director of The Nature Trust of BC, one of the most influential provincial organizations raising money and buying land fort nature conservation.

As a university teacher and administrator, Geoff is renowned. He received the Master Teacher Award at UBC and his stimulating lectures, especially a fourth-year evolution course, overflowed with a surfeit of unregistered students. He supervised 28 Masters, 10 doctoral students, and 7 post-doctoral fellows. These students went on to careers in natural history museums or are university professors, government researchers, conservation biologists, medical doctors and teachers. He has been an important mentor to many, helping and collaborating with his former students long after their graduation. Geoff took all university life seriously and spent an inordinate amount of time in exhausting administrative work at UBC. He was head of the Zoology Department from 1967 to 1991. He served on the Senate from 1978 to 1993, most of this time as chair of the budget committee, a most challenging job. Similarly, for most of his time on the executive of the Biology Program (1976-1991), he was its chair.

Geoff has a distinguished record of service in science, from the local schoolroom to the world stage. Always a great supporter and promoter of scientific societies, he has served long and faithfully on dozens, from the Entomological Society of Canada to the Royal Society, from the Biological Survey to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He sat on advisory committees to Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, the Canadian Space Agency, the Canadian Museum of Nature, Environment Canada, and others. He was active in the development of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy and the federal Species at Risk Act. As a member of various granting committees of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Geoff helped dispense resources for biological research. As part of the National Research Council’s Monograph Editorial Board (1993-2005) and former editor of the journal *Biodiversity*, he has played an important role in scientific publishing in Canada.

If there is one phrase that reminds colleagues of Geoff Scudder, it is his: “I’ll do that”. He gets things done. During his illustrious career of almost seven decades Geoff has done much to promote and support the importance of museum activities to the advancement of science, education, and the well-being of the Canadian environment and the citizens who live in it. The accompanying letters of support are a reminder of the rich contributions this most energetic and thoughtful scientist has made to Canadian biology and society. He is the epitome of what a recipient of the Bruce Naylor Award should be.

Rob Cannings, July 2020