
William A. Weber receives ABLS lifetime achievement awards

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William Alfred Weber has in 2018 received the first-ever lifetime achievement awards from the American Bryological and Lichenological Society (ABLS). His broad and extensive career was the basis for awarding him both the Elizabeth G. Britton award for bryology and the Chicita F. Culberson Culberson award for lichenology.

Weber, a Fellow of the Linnean Society and the 2018 recipient of the IAL Acharius Medal (Fig. 1; see text below), was born in New York City on November 16th 1918. At five years old, he looked through a microscope given to him by an older cousin for the first time, a revelatory experience many readers of this journal will surely understand. Dr. Weber often speaks with fondness of his apprenticeship in New York with mentors such as Josiah Otis Swift, a nature columnist and leader of the Yosian Brotherhood of Nature Philosophers, an introduction to botany through identifying winter trees and shrubs with a Columbia University graduate student, his friendship with Roger Tory Peterson, and his access to the backrooms of the American Museum where Ernst Mayr held court.



Figure 1. L to R: Frank Bungartz, ABLS President-Elect and meeting organizer holding the Elizabeth Britton award certificate, William Weber, daughter Heather Harris holding Acharius Award medal, Tim Hogan, Erin Tripp holding the Chicita Culberson award certificate.