The 2011 American Society of Plant Taxonomy’s Peter Raven award for exceptional outreach by a plant systematist was presented this year to Robbin C. Moran, the Mary Flagler Carey Curator of Botany in the Institute for Systematic Botany at The New York Botanical Garden. Those who know Robbin all recognize his passion for his research that is often expressed with missionary zeal as a spokesperson for all things fern. Robbin has published four books and about 100 research articles on ferns but that is only part of the story of his work on ferns.

Robbin began his study of biology at Beloit College in Wisconsin, where he received his B. S. in 1978. While working on his B. S. degree, he spent summers working as a field botanist for the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory in 1976 and 1977 and later for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources from 1978–80 and these two positions resulted in several research publications on the floristics of northern Illinois and Wisconsin. He went on to finish his M. S. in Botany at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1980 and he completed his Ph. D. in Botany at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1986. After one year at the Illinois Natural History Survey, Robbin moved to St. Louis, where he was an Assistant Curator at the Missouri Botanical Garden for six years. He then spent several years in the Department of Systematic Botany at Aarhus University in Denmark, and a year at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, before moving to New York to become a Curator in the Institute for Systematic Botany at The New York Botanical Garden in 1998.

Robbin is not only a fantastic teacher but also a passionate natural historian that is always willing to share with everybody what he has learned over the years about ferns. He is an adjunct Professor at the City University of New York, where he has taught courses in Pteridology, but his outreach to a variety of audiences is perhaps more important. He has taught regularly for the Organization for Tropical Studies in Costa Rica for more than ten years, has regularly taught a one-week course in fern biology at the Humboldt Field Research Station in Maine since 2005, and he has taught short courses for Latin American colleagues in Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Costa Rica. He has formally helped mentor seven graduate students at four universities, but also informally mentors and helps several students and researchers in Latin America, reading their proposals, sharing his opinions about fern taxonomy, and sending useful papers and books not available in some countries. He is also the president of the New York Fern Society and regularly gives talks to different plant groups. All his students and audiences remember him because of his passion for ferns, and the patience and love he puts in every lecture he imparts.

Robbin’s research output has been impressive and he has completed detailed monographs for *Asplenium* sect.