In celebration of Dr. John J. Engel: A tribute to 40 years in bryology

Botany
NEW SERIES, NO. 47

Part One: Biographical Contributions

Chapter One: John J. Engel: At the Field and in the Field
Matt von Konrat

Department of Botany, The Field Museum, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60605-2496 USA

Accepted May 20, 2008
Published November 24, 2008
Publication 1550

PUBLISHED BY FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Introduction

If you ever have the opportunity to do fieldwork with Dr. John Engel in New Zealand, it will not be long until John, with great delight, will tell you about his fond memories of what he recalls as the “glory years” back in the early 1980s. John, of course, has many stories of his experiences spanning his career. Here, I briefly outline John’s professional career but leave some early recollections to his family and Dr. John Braggins, his friend and colleague of almost two decades, who also provides a brief commentary of his academic career.

John Jay Engel was born July 27, 1941, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; has been married to Karen Engel for 45 years; and has two daughters, Beth and Laura Engel. By 1965, John had obtained his B.S. and M.S. from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. From 1967 to 1972, he undertook his Ph.D., which was followed in the same year as a postdoctoral research associate, both at Michigan State University. John himself acknowledges his “special heartfelt thanks” to Dr. Henry Imshaug for his interest and invaluable guidance throughout John’s years at Michigan State. This foundation at the University of Wisconsin and Michigan State University was to set the scene for a distinguished and still thriving career some 40 years later.

In reviewing a career spanning over 40 years, including over 35 years at the Field Museum, the number of professional appointments, grants, and awards run the length of one’s arm. The following is a brief synopsis of that career. After a position as a Michigan State University, John took up the position as Donald Richards Assistant Curator of Bryology at the Field Museum. In 1977, John was promoted to associate curator, followed by curator in 1986. John Engel also