

Friends of the Herbarium

**Biological Sciences Herbarium
California State University, Chico**

Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 2

November 1995

GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium held a general meeting on Saturday, 7 October, at 2:00 pm. The meeting was held in conjunction with the *Vesta Holt Reunion: A Look at Biological Sciences through the Years*. The Reunion was sponsored by the Department of Biological Sciences as part of CSU, Chico homecoming activities. Several Friends were present to hear introductions of the board members, reviews of workshops held during the previous several months, announcement of recipients of the Jim Jokerst Field Botany Award, and a summary of the status of the Herbarium. See separate articles in this newsletter for reviews of our recent workshops and for details on the Jim Jokerst Field Botany Award; notes on the status of the herbarium follows.

Dr. Kingsley Stern presented a list of projects that are required to maintain the excellence of the Herbarium. The list included binding of the John Thomas Howell collection of journals, purchase of a locked library bookcase to store the Howell library, construction of a doorway between the herbarium and the adjacent lab (room 129) so that study of the collection can be conducted in room 129 and the herbarium collection kept separate and thus less susceptible to infestation by dermestid beetles and other damaging insects, and the purchase of a computer to make it possible to participate in the west coast/ intermountain area link (as proposed by Utah State University). Dr. Stern noted that the University's funds have been cut so severely there was no hope of funding for these projects from the University. The cost estimate is around \$25,000 for all the items mentioned. Dr. Stern said that "if that sounds like hinting, so be it."

JM

THE JIM JOKERST FIELD BOTANY AWARD

As many of you have already heard, Jim Jokerst died in a drowning accident on 5 August 1995. He earned a Master's degree in botany at CSU, Chico, wrote treatments for some of the mint family genera in the new Jepson Manual, and was the lead botanist for the consulting firm of Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc. of Sacramento. Many of Jim's herbarium specimens are here in the Biological Sciences Herbarium. He was an exceptional botanist and will be greatly missed.

One of our supporters has offered \$250 per semester for a field botany award, and upon learning of Jim's death, recommended that Jim be remembered by attaching his name to the award. The grant is available to second-semester juniors, seniors, or graduate students enrolled at CSU, Chico.

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WORKSHOP REVIEWS

Rare Summer Annuals of the Vernal Pools.

Eight people joined Tom Griggs of The Nature Conservancy at Vina Plains Preserve on 15 July. We saw *Chamaesyce hooveri*, *Orcuttia pilosa*, *Tuctoria greenei*, *Orcuttia tenuis*, and other more common species. My favorite was *Orcuttia pilosa*; the plants are sticky with a very fragrant substance that smells similar to rhubarb pie! Questions led to discussions on a number of subjects, including how to control *Taeniatherum caput-medusae* (Medusa-head). A late spring burn conducted when the *Taeniatherum* is still green, but everything else is brown, is effective by boiling the moisture in the *Taeniatherum* seeds. This July morning at Vina was both educational and pleasant (honest! – no wind, not too hot). RF

Introduction to Keying *Carex*, Part 1.

On 12 August, eight botanists met at Chico State for carpooling to higher (and cooler) localities of Butte County for on-the-meadow training in the identification of that difficult (or at least before the class) to identify genus *Carex*. Students came from Sacramento, Susanville, Redding, Corning, Chico, and Stonyford. After a beautiful drive up the Skyway we arrived at our first keying spot, at the Cornelia Lott Sank Memorial Spring, where the finer points of *Carex* identification were ex-

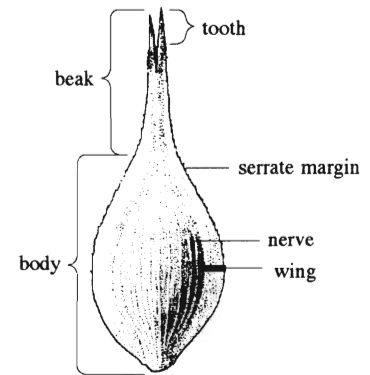
plained by our patient instructor, Lawrence Janeway. Materials were shared so that we were all able to see specific characteristics necessary for identification. After all species from that meadow were identified, the group moved on to a small meadow along the West Branch Feather River at the mouth of Coon Hollow for more keying. This introductory course definitely gave me the "courage to key a *Carex*" (as Robin Fallscheer was quoted in the workshop announcement). JL

Introduction to Keying *Carex*, Part 2.

A second *Carex* class, also taught by Lawrence Janeway, was held in the plant taxonomy lab at Chico State on 14 October. Ten botanists, primarily Forest Service personnel from throughout Northern California, spent nearly seven hours over dissecting scopes as we group-keyed collections made by Lawrence. The characteristics, which are often difficult to see in the field using a hand lens, were very clear under the more powerful magnification of the scopes (although a few students were not convinced their specimens had "pithy tissue" inside the perigynium under the achene). We were able to see most of the characteristics which are necessary to key almost all species of *Carex*. Herbarium labels were provided for the material keyed so that attendees went home with small reference collections. Specimens from the her-

barium were also brought out for viewing of unique characteristics.

JL



Continued from page 1
Field Botany Award

The Jim Jokerst Field Botany Award was presented for the first time this fall. For this time only, two awards were presented. The grant recipients were graduate students Elizabeth Hubert and Dan Efseaff. Elizabeth is studying *Nassella* at Dye Creek Nature Conservancy Preserve and Dan is studying root growth of riparian trees in different substrates.

Friends of the Herbarium is now accepting applications for the Spring 1996 award. If you would like more details about the Jim Jokerst Field Botany Award, an information sheet and single-page application form are available from the Biological Sciences Herbarium, California State University, Chico, CA 95929-0515. You may also request this information by telephoning and leaving a message for the herbarium at 916/898-5381. Applications for the Spring 1996 award are due by 22 December 1995. RF

FRIENDS OF THE HERBARIUM WORKSHOPS

BIOLOGICAL ILLUSTRATION (with an emphasis on Botany). 3 February, Saturday.

Local artist and illustrator, Denise Devine, will lead a one day workshop on biological illustration with an emphasis on botany. The workshop will concentrate on pencil and ink, although other media may be explored depending in the interest of the participants. This will be an all day class, meeting from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. We will meet in Holt Hall, Room 129, at CSU, Chico. The class is limited to 20 participants; older children are welcome to register. The fee is \$25.00 for members of Friends of the Herbarium and \$35.00 for non-members. Also, a small materials fee (probably less than \$5.00) will be charged the day of the class. Please register by 20 January. For more information, please contact Denise Devine at 916/345-8444.

INTRODUCTION TO PLANT IDENTIFICATION. 9 March, Saturday.

John Dittes, soon-to-be graduate of the Master's program at CSU, Chico, will lead this one day introduction to plant identification. This workshop will introduce participants to keying plants using The Jepson Manual. John will provide fresh material of local plants for the class to key together. Please bring forceps (tweezers), dissecting needle, and 6" millimeter ruler. If possible, also bring a copy of *The Jepson Manual* (we only have six copies to loan to those participants without them); we can direct you to sources for *The Jepson Manual* if you contact us ahead of time. The workshop will meet from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm in Holt Hall, Room 129, at CSU, Chico. The class is limited to 20 participants; the fee is \$25.00 for members of Friends of the Herbarium and \$35.00 for non-members. Please register by 23 February. For more information, please contact John Dittes at 916/895-0349.

Look for more workshops in the spring and summer. See details in the next newsletter. Also, if you or anyone you know is interested in leading a workshop, let us know. Workshop leaders are offered up to 50% of the registration fees, the rest remaining with Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium.



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Friends of the Herbarium WORKSHOPS
Registration Form

Biological Illustration	_____ \$25.00 (member)	_____ \$35.00 (non-member)
Introduction to Plant Identification	_____ \$25.00 (member)	_____ \$35.00 (non-member)

Please make your check payable to "Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium"
and mail to:

Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0515

Name _____

Organization _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Yes! I would like to join!

____ Student.....\$5.00
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____ Contributing\$25.00
____ Sustaining\$100.00
____ Lifetime\$1,000.00
____ Donation\$ _____

This is a renewal for 1996.....

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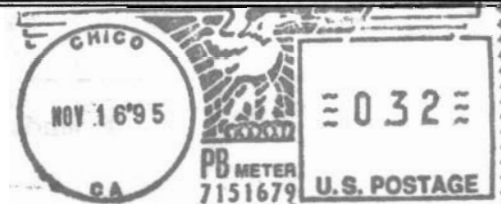
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