



Friends of the Herbarium

Biological Sciences Herbarium

California State University, Chico

Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 3

March 1996

Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium

presents its

Second Annual Field Event

- brief Friends meeting
- annual phenological survey
- refreshments

JOIN US for year two of the annual phenological survey started last year at the Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium Inaugural Field Event. This long-term project of compiling lists of species in flower at the Vina Plants Preserve each year on about April 1 was initiated last year by Rob Schlising. Also, if "Pool 37" dries down in time for this Field Day, we will monitor the rare *Gratiola heterosepala* recently discovered to occur on the Preserve. These activities have been structured to include every level of botanical expertise, from novice to expert.

Date: 30 March 1996, Saturday

Time: 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Location: Vina Plains Preserve barn

NEW BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium? Now that the Friends of the Herbarium has been in existence for a year, we need to select a new board for the second year. As a board member you can be as involved as you are able to give of your time. The board holds meetings to plan the upcoming newsletter and events on an irregular basis throughout the year as the need arises. If you have ideas for Friends of the Herbarium, come and put them to use! Please personally contact one of the board members or call the Herbarium at CSU, Chico and leave a message (916-898-5381) or leave a message with Robin Fallscheer (916-343-7284).

LH



The Herbarium and the Internet

Why are herbaria trying to set up a database on the Internet (the Net)? Understanding the convenience of immediate access to information on any subject is one way to visualize the importance of interconnected data systems. The medical professions are one segment of the science-based population that is regularly accessing information on the Net. Doctors and laboratories no longer have to wait for "snail-mail" to arrive. Radiologists and orthopedic doctors can share the results of x-ray and other diagnostic information immediately via the Net to expedite the process of treating high-risk patients. I can imagine the merging of radiology and scanning technology that will allow a technician in Dallas to send a direct scan of a patient's body for analysis to San Francisco. Utilizing shared information is the wave of the future in all sciences.

The Internet is a perfect vehicle for herbaria. It will allow botanists to easily share information that has never been shared before. Herbaria can play a larger role in ecological evaluations. By entering data from specimens that includes location, habitat, associate plants, and other features such as density and abundance, and other parameters needed to compare similarities and differences, herbarium data banks can be a critical element in ecological exploration. The fields of plant systematics and classification lend themselves to computer-based data systems so that increasing amounts of data are readily available for construction of phylogenetic trees. Many university herbaria are setting up custom databases to serve

such research.

Our herbarium recently received a draft project outline from Mary Barkworth, Director and Curator of the Intermountain Herbarium at Utah State University in Logan. Dr. Barkworth proposes that a collaborative effort be undertaken to decide on criteria for data entry. She proposes that herbaria in the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain Regions discuss priorities and criteria necessary to form a useful and usable database. To Dr. Barkworth, the ultimate goal of the project is to develop a searchable database of information from specimens in all herbaria in the Pacific Northwest and the Intermountain Regions. This database will make it possible for those connected to the Net to generate 1) documented county-level checklists, 2) documented lists of the counties in which a taxon occurs, 3) documented county-level distribution maps for a given taxon or 4) documented county-level maps with an overlay of locality-based distribution data for a given taxon.

Another database in the early implementation stages is a system called SMASCH – Specimen Management System for California Herbaria. Contact Thomas Duncan at the University of California Berkeley for information about SMASCH. (Dr. Barkworth notes that Julian Humphries and Tom Duncan were influential in her decision to draw up a proposal for the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain Region database.)

If you are interested in helping develop the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain Region specimen database you can subscribe to a newsgroup formed by Jim Smith at Boise

Deadline for the Fall 1996

Jim Jokerst Field Botany Award

The Friends of the Herbarium is now accepting applications for the Fall 1996 award. This grant is available to second-semester juniors, seniors, and graduate students enrolled at CSU, Chico. 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 95929-0505 (916-898-5381) or from the Department of Biological Sciences office. Applications for the Fall 1996 award are due by 1 May 1996.

This award is funded by a \$250 donation each semester from one of our supporters. We are very grateful for this individual's continuing commitment to the encouragement of studies in field botany. RF

State University for exchanging ideas and comments. To subscribe to the newsgroup, send a message to: listserv@idbsu.idbsu.edu [or listserv@idbsu.bitnet]. Leave the subject line blank. The message to send is HERB-L_____ (Put your own name in the blank). To communicate with others concerning matters that relate to herbaria of the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain Regions use: HERB-L@idbsu.idbsu.edu as the address (=IN%HERB-L@idbsu.edu").

I am looking forward to the day when all the herbaria in the world are connected so we can, for instance, access information about a certain species in Chile or Pakistan. Good luck exploring the Net. JM

FRIENDS OF THE HERBARIUM WORKSHOPS

INTRODUCTION TO PLANT IDENTIFICATION. 9 March, Saturday.

INTRODUCTION TO PLANT IDENTIFICATION. 27 April, Saturday.

John Dittes, soon-to-be graduate of the Master's program at CSU, Chico, will lead two one-day introductions to plant identification. In these workshops, participants will be introduced 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 a few 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 workshops will meet from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm in Holt Hall, Room 129, at CSU, Chico. Each 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 at least 10 days ahead, if possible. For more information, please contact John Dittes at 916-895-0349.

REVEGETATION EFFORTS AT WALKER MINE. 28 June, Friday.

Jim Battagin, private botanical consultant from Quincy, will lead this one day field trip on the revegetation efforts he has been involved with at Walker Mine. Walker Mine is an old copper mine north of the town of Portola in Plumas County. The mine itself is on private property but the tailings are on National Forest land. The Chico Genetic Resource Center, U.S. Forest Service, has been involved in growing the plants for the revegetation from cuttings and seeds that have been collected in the Walker Mine area. This will be an all day field trip, so please bring a sack lunch and water. The fee is \$25.00 for members of Friends of the Herbarium and \$35.00 for non-members. Please register by 15 June. For more information, including time and place to meet, please contact Linnea Hanson at 916-345-6229.

Look for MORE WORKSHOPS in the summer and fall, including a Basic Introduction to Keying Grasses to be held sometime in September. Look for details in the next newsletter.

**Friends of the Herbarium WORKSHOPS
Registration Form**

Intro to Plant Identification, 9 March	___ \$25.00 (member)	___ \$35.00 (non-member)
Intro to Plant Identification, 27 April	___ \$25.00 (member)	___ \$35.00 (non-member)
Revetation at Walker Mine, 28 June	___ \$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

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Yes! I would like to join!

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

This is a renewal for 1996

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Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**If you are not a member of
Friends of the Herbarium,
this is your last issue.
Please consider joining.**