



Friends of the Herbarium

Biological Sciences Herbarium

California State University, Chico

Newsletter

Vol. 2 No. 2

December 1996

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

On October 26, during the General Meeting of the Friends of the Herbarium, **DR. VERNON OSWALD** was given a Distinguished Service award for his many contributions to the Herbarium.

Dr. Oswald was born and raised a few miles from Akron, Ohio, in the small town of Hartville. He completed both his undergraduate and graduate work at Ohio State University, and after receiving his Ph.D. in zoology in 1957, he took a position in the Biology Department of CSU, Chico. His course in invertebrate zoology and general biology became exceptionally popular, and in 1983 many were sorry to see him take an early retirement. Two years before he retired Dr. Oswald began photographing wildflowers, and his ensuing hard work and experience led to his becoming an accomplished field botanist. With the extensive collaboration of Lowell Ahart, Dr. Oswald eventually produced the very useful and thorough "Manual of the Vascular Plants of Butte County, California," which is now published by the California Native Plant Society. He also revised the "Flora of Lassen National Park," and has authored or is authoring other similar floras.

The award Plaque, which was beautifully designed and constructed of stained glass by Randy Rickert, included images of Mt. Lassen and *Arnica* flowers. After the meeting Dr. Oswald and friends adjourned to Kramore Inn for dinner and fellowship. Thanks again, Vern, for all you've done for the Herbarium, and for field botanists in general!

KS

GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium took place on the afternoon of 26 October 1996. About 30 members attended this event which was preceded by a short reception with refreshments.

After a short summary of the status of the herbarium and the accomplishments of the Friends of the Herbarium, given by Kingsley Stern, the recent winners of the Jim Jokerst Field Botany Award, Caroline Warren and Deborah Topp, were introduced and treated the group to short presentations, accompanied by slides, of their research. Next was a slide presentation by Lawrence Janeway detailing his efforts to confirm the existence of *Clarkia mosquinii*, which

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General Meeting

until his work was considered to be extinct. The last (and certainly not least) activity at the meeting was the presentation, by Kingsley Stern, of a Distinguished Service Award to Vern Oswald for his years of ceaseless contributions to the herbarium and to northern California botany in general. This was the first Distinguished Service Award presented by the Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium.

More details on the various activities at this General Meeting may be found within this newsletter.

A special thanks is due to Jan Monelo and Joyce Lacey, who pulled together most of the details for making the general meeting happen, including arranging meeting rooms, refreshments, flowers, etc! LJ

Jokerst Herbarium

Recently the family of the late Jim Jokerst generously donated Jim's personal herbarium to the Biological Sciences Herbarium. Jim's herbarium includes over 4600 unmounted specimens and a steel herbarium case. Dr. Vern Oswald and Lowell Ahart are currently processing the specimens. The collection is especially rich in California Lamiaceae (Jim prepared the treatments for several genera of the Lamiaceae for *The Jepson Manual*) and should prove invaluable to northern California botanists for both research and reference. The Friends of the Herbarium are most grateful for this significant contribution.

KS

Herbarium Expansion

The University recently announced approval of the release to the Biological Sciences Herbarium of the adjacent laboratory room (Holt 129). By the summer of 1997 the herbarium will expand into the new space, and a doorway between the two rooms will be constructed. Doorway construction and associated activities are funded by contributions and membership dues to the Friends of the Herbarium. The Friends of the Herbar-

ium are most grateful to the University for this addition of sorely needed space. Additional information about the expansion will be given in future issues of this newsletter. KS

Jim Jokerst Field Botany Awards

Congratulations to the *Jim Jokerst Field Botany Award* winners! This year's winners are **CAROLINE WARREN** and **DEBORAH TOPP**. Both recipients are graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences. Each of the award winning researchers gave a short presentation of their research at the General Meeting held October 26. Their presentations included slides and explanations of the research sites and the relevance of the site locations to the study being done. Caroline Warren is studying a rare plant at Vina Plains Preserve and Deborah Topp is interested in understanding a pesky noxious weed's life-cycle. Look for abstracts of their research in the next *Newsletter*.

We are very proud to award \$250.00 to each of these students. The cash award is contributed each year entirely by an anonymous donor. **We would be happy** to include your donation to this worthy cause in **future Jim Jokerst Field Botany Awards**; **leave a message** for Jan at the herbarium, 898-5381, and she will assist you. JM



SYSTEMATIC BOTANY

A while back the Biological Sciences Herbarium was donated an extra set of the journal *Systematic Botany* volumes 1-8 (1976-1983). Volumes 1-5 were recently donated to the Meriam Library by the herbarium, since the Library's holding started with volume 6. The remaining volumes were offered in exchange for plant specimens, through the e-mail discussion list TAXACOM (which is main-

tained for taxonomic discussion by UC, Berkeley). An offer of 120 specimens from the Herbarium at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia was accepted, and the journals have been mailed. The specimens from Malaysia that we will be receiving in return should provide us with an interesting and educational glimpse into tropical plant families.

The journal *Systematic Botany* is published by the American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT). Annual dues for membership in ASPT, which includes a subscription to *Systematic Botany*, are \$38.00 (regular) and \$18.00 (student) and may be mailed to Richard J. Jenson, Department of Biology, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN 46556. The ASPT newsletter can be accessed at <http://www.csd1.tamu.edu/FLORA/aspt/aspthome.htm> LJ



JEPSON MANUAL CORRECTIONS

The third printing of *The Jepson Manual* incorporates numerous corrections and additions ("Third printing with corrections, 1996"). The second printing did not contain any corrections. The changes include only those corrections and additions that could be incorporated without changing pagination. The newsletter of the Friends of The Jepson Herbarium (UC, Berkeley), *The Jepson Globe*, is publishing installments of the changes; two installments have been published to date. A folder titled "Jepson Manual corrections, errors, and typos" containing copies of the Jepson Globe installments has been placed in the Biological Sciences Herbarium, CSU, Chico. The current issue of *The Jepson Globe* is also available in the herbarium. Membership in the Friends of the Jepson Herbarium is \$25.00 (individual) and up, and may be mailed to Friends of the Jepson Herbarium, 1001 Valley Life Science Building #2465, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-2465. LJ

FRIENDS OF THE HERBARIUM WORKSHOPS

INTRODUCTION TO LICHENS! 15-16 March 1997, Saturday & Sunday.

Cherie Bratt of the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum is coming to Chico to lead this two day workshop on lichens! Participants will learn how to identify, collect, and make herbarium specimens of lichens. Saturday will be spent in the laboratory learning to identify lichens and Sunday will be spent largely in the field. Please bring forceps (tweezers), dissecting needle, and 6" millimeter ruler; also bring a shoebox to store your new lichen collection. If possible, also bring a copy of Mason Hale's *The Lichens of California*; we will have a few copies to loan to those participants without one. The workshop will meet from 9:00am to 5:00pm both days, in Holt Hall Room 129 at CSU, Chico (except for time in the field). The class is limited to 20 participants; the fee is \$50.00 for members of Friends of the Herbarium and \$70.00 for non-members. Registration for the Saturday session only, for half of the price, is available although preference will be given to those who sign up for both days. Please register by March 1, if possible. For more information, please contact Linnea Hanson at 916-345-6229.

FRIENDS OF THE HERBARIUM WORKSHOPS

Registration Form

Introduction to Lichens, 15-16 March ___ \$50.00 (member) ___ \$70.00 (non-member)

Introduction to Lichens, 15 March only ___ \$25.00 (member) ___ \$35.00 (non-member)

Please make your check payable to "Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium"
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California State University, Chico

Chico, CA 95929-0515

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A Review of the Workshop "Intro to Keying Comps" September 14, 1996

The keying and identification of composites is a notoriously difficult and frustrating endeavor. In spite of that, the composites workshop was very successful. John Dittes, with logistical support from Josephine Guardino, conducted a very informative session. Attendees came from as far away as the Siskiyou area.

John carefully described the rele-

vant anatomical features of composite flowers and related them to the corresponding parts of plants with isolated flowers. We worked together through several examples, selected to illustrate a range of typical composite features. Then folks picked their own specimens from the varied plants available and worked through the keys themselves. John was always ready to clarify a point or to provide a helpful hint. The session was an optimal mix of instruction and hands-on practice. As a novice at keying, I provide a severe test of an instruc-

tor's effectiveness, and I found this workshop to be very productive. Why, I might even distinguish *Madia elegans* from *Artemisia tridentata* next time I see them!

Jim Bishop



Yes! I would like to join!

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This is a renewal for 1996

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