

Friends of the Herbarium

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

Newsletter

Vol. 7 No. 2

February 2002

Herbarium Open House in Honor of Vern Oswald

***** March 15 ***
12:00 to 3:30 pm**

**Holt Hall room 129,
California State University Chico.**

**Join this informal gathering
of friends and colleagues of Vern Oswald
in the Biological Sciences Herbarium.**

**See other articles in this newsletter about
Vern Oswald's passing. Visit
www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/vern_oswald.html
for more information, tributes, and photos.**

**At 2:00 there will be a period
for informal reminiscences
by Vern's friends and colleagues.**

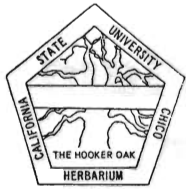
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

This newsletter has been rushed out in order to let you, the members of the Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium, know about the upcoming "Herbarium Open House in Honor of Vern Oswald," so that those of you who knew Vern have an opportunity to gather in his honor. Vern's recent passing was a shock to all, and he will be sorely missed. His many contributions to Northern California botany will live on, continuing to guide present and future generations of field botanists.

We have a couple of articles in the works for the next newsletter about new species that were recently found or described for our area. Unfortunately the articles couldn't be completed in time for this newsletter. This is one of the

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Friends of the Herbarium

The **Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium**, California State University, Chico, was formed to help maintain the high quality of work that has been known to be associated with the herbarium. The primary purpose of the group is to provide community support for the herbarium. This includes raising funds for items that are not covered under the University budget. Scientific and academic pursuits are the focus of the group. The Friends also offers low cost workshops and classes on various botanical topics.

The Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium operates under the auspices of the California State University, Chico, and enjoys non-profit status and has access to the use of University classrooms and equipment.

Memberships are renewed on May 1 of each year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Newsletter

Volume 7 Number 2

The Newsletter is published three times per year (June, October, and February) by the **Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium**, California State University, Chico. Subscription is free with membership. Submissions on herbarium related topics are welcome.

Continued from page 1
Message from the Board

main goals for this newsletter, to keep the readership informed about changes in our understanding of the local flora, from newly found species and newly described species, to name changes and taxonomic rearrangements. We welcome, and ac-

tively seek, more articles from the you, the readers of this newsletter, about such topics. Vern Oswald contributed a number of interesting and informative articles to this newsletter over the years — now it's your turn!

LJ



Accessions into CHSC during 2001

Two years ago Vern Oswald started this annual tradition in this newsletter of summarizing all of the collections accessioned into the herbarium during the preceding year by county and collector. Here is the latest set of summaries for 2001. Vern prepared the summary of accessions by county, and Lawrence Janeway prepared the summary by collector.

The Biological Sciences Herbarium accessioned about an average number of specimens compared with the past few years: 2944 collections were accessioned into the herbarium during 2001. This compares to 2681, 2831, 3681, and 2320 collections during 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000, respectively.

We continue to owe a huge debt of gratitude to our mounting specialist, Lowell Ahart. Aside from a few exchange sheets that were already mounted, and the bryophytes that were accessioned into the collection in packets rather than mounted, Lowell prepared about 2600 beautifully mounted specimens for the herbarium during 2001. Thank you once again, Lowell, for your continuing contribution of countless hours of invaluable time and some associated expenses to further the goals of the Biological Sciences Herbarium. Also, many thanks again to Vern Oswald for continuing to do all of the accessioning into the herbarium collection of all new specimens except for the bryophytes, and for the filing of all of these specimens into the herbarium collection, updating folders and nomenclature in the process.

The following table summarizes the plant specimens accessioned into the University Herbarium during 2001. LJ

SUMMARY

California accessions (counties with more than 10):

Butte	200	Mendocino	97	Sierra	55
Colusa	151	Mono	132	Solano	26
El Dorado	16	Nevada	170	Tehama	420
Glenn	78	Placer	78	Trinity	45
Humboldt	17	Plumas	427	Yolo	38
Lake	24	Sacramento	21	Yuba	23
Lassen	43	Shasta	28		

Contributions of local collectors (with more than 10):

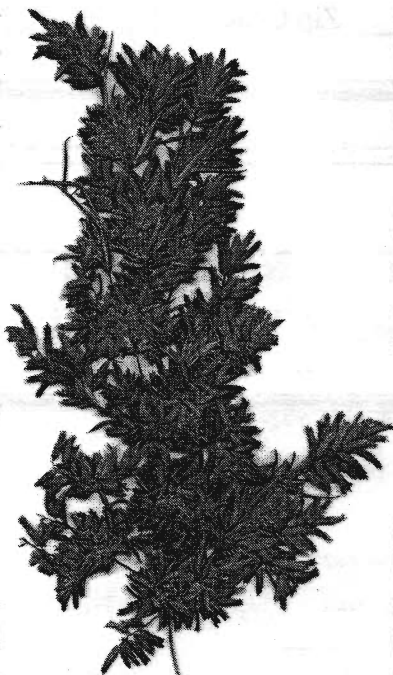
Lowell Ahart	704	Petra Lee	13	Dustin Tellefson	17
Colby Boggs	43	Jenny Marr	16	Jeannie Trizzino	42
Jeanne Boze	12	Vernon Oswald	82	Caroline Warren	67
Barbara Castro	138	Julie Rose	13	Ann Willyard	13
Lawrence Janeway ..	434				

Vernon H. Oswald

1925-2002

Vern Oswald passed away on 11 February 2002, in Chico, following a short illness. Vern's passing leaves a huge hole in the collective botanical knowledge of northern California plants. His time spent in the field helping area botanists is almost legendary, and his time spent volunteering in the herbarium has been essential to it being a functional facility.

Vern started his career as a botanist around the time of his 1983 retirement from teaching general biology and invertebrate zoology at CSU Chico. He quickly became one of the most knowledgeable field botanists in northern California, with publication in 1986 of "Vascular Plants of Upper Bidwell Park, Chico, California," in 1994 of "Manual of the Vascular Plants of Butte County, California," and co-authorship in 1995 of the revision of "A Flora of Lassen Volcanic National Park, California." Vern produced numerous florulae (as he called them), annotated checklists of the plants of wildlife areas, preserves, interesting private



properties, etc. around northern California. His unpublished "Selected Plants of Northern Cali-

Eragrostis hypnoides (Lam.) Britton. Stems & Poggenb. - CREEPING LOVEGRASS. Sandbars, lake and reservoir margins. 100-900 ft. RW. FW, [ScV, NCoRI, n SNF]. Early Jun. *But* 1252: Sacramento River below Stony Creek. *But* 4462: Dark Canyon arm of Lake Oroville. *But* 8292: Llano Seco, Sanctuary I. *Gle* 1072: Grizzly Flats at Black Butte Lake. *Teh* 10064: Burris Creek Area of Black Butte Lake.

fornia and Adjacent Nevada," with the 2002 version recently distributed, is highly prized by those botanists privileged to have a copy (or any of the older versions). His main activity over the past couple of years has been taking photos and close-up scans of plants to accompany a cd-rom version of this book (which has received some private distribution).**

Vern received the "Distinguished Service Award" from the Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium, CSU Chico, in 1996 for his extensive volunteer help in the herbarium. This volunteer activity consisted primarily of doing ALL of the accessioning and filing of vascular

specimens per year), a service that Vern continued to perform up until his death. In addition, over the

past 18 years he made over 10,000 plant collections, almost all of which are housed at the Biological Sciences Herbarium, CSU Chico (CHSC), with many duplicates distributed by Vern, or by the herbarium, to other institutions across the United States.

All of this was done without remuneration -- simply for the personal satisfaction derived. LJ

**Studies From The Herbarium, at CSU Chico, is working to release the "Selected Plants of Northern California and Adjacent Nevada" as part of its series of occasional publications. We hope to have the book available in time for use during the current field season, with the cd-rom available soon after.

PLANTS OF TEHAMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Eragrostis hypnoides (Lam.) Britton, Stems & Poggenb.

POACEAE

Sehorn Creek Quadrangle

T23N R5W SE¼ SE¼ Sect. 35

Latitude: 39° 48.12' N

Elevation: 440 ft

Longitude: 122° 23.34' W

Reservoir located in Foothill Woodland Community

Burris Creek Area of Black Butte Lake located at the east end of Morrison Bryant Road. Common on cracked clay mud on the early autumn strand of the reservoir, well below the spillway level of the lake. Stems prostrate, matted.

Vernon H. Oswald 10,064

18 October 2001

HERBARIUM OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO (CHSC)

plant specimens coming into the herbarium (about 2000-3000

About the illustrations. As near as I can tell, the herbarium label and plant shown on this page is the last collection made by Vern Oswald. The clip near the top of the page comes from the 2002 Version of "Selected Plants of Northern California and Adjacent Nevada," and references this collection.

Yes! I would like to join!

____ Student \$5.00
____ Individual \$10.00
____ Contributing \$25.00
____ Sustaining \$100.00
____ Lifetime \$1,000.00

____ Donation..... \$ _____

This is a renewal for 2001-2.....

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Please make your check payable to:
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Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0515
(530) 898-5381

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS 2002
SPONSORED BY THE
FRIENDS OF THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES HERBARIUM
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO

INTRODUCTION TO FLOWERING PLANT IDENTIFICATION, TERMINOLOGY, AND TECHNIQUES FOR BEGINNERS. John Dittes.
April 6, 2002, Saturday.

IDENTIFICATION OF PLANTS FROM VERNAL POOLS AND OTHER SEASONAL WETLANDS.
John Dittes & Josephine Guardino.
April 20, 2002, Saturday

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION. Judy McCrary.
April 27, 2002, Saturday.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERPENTINE ECOSYSTEM. Hugh Safford.
June 15, 2002, Saturday.

**ELEVATION TRANSECT OF THE SOILS IN BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA:
"From Entisols to Andisols and Back."** Andrew Conlin.
June 22, 2002, Saturday.

INTRODUCTION TO KEYING THE SUNFLOWERS (ASTERACEAE). John Dittes.
September 7, 2002, Saturday.

*** This list is also available at www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html ***
Check there for updates and additions to the workshop list.

TO REGISTER FOR WORKSHOPS:

Please make checks payable to: "Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium"

Note that prices vary per workshop – see individual workshop descriptions.

Please include your name, address, and phone number and mail to:

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

INTRODUCTION TO FLOWERING PLANT IDENTIFICATION, TERMINOLOGY, AND TECHNIQUES FOR BEGINNERS. John Dittes.
April 6, 2002, Saturday.

California has over 5,800 species of flowering plants, roughly 30% of all North American plant species (north of Mexico). How do you accurately figure out the name of a plant without thumbing through incomplete picture books? How do botanists go to a totally new area and make an accurate and complete plant list? This workshop will answer those questions and get you started identifying plants by yourself.

The workshop is designed to introduce beginners in plant identification to the terminology and techniques essential to identifying flowering plants using *The Jepson Manual*. Students will work with fresh plant material that illustrates the terminology used in plant identification, they will be introduced to using and writing plant "keys" (a central concept to identifying plants), and they will learn how to dissect flowers with a dissecting microscope and a hand lens. Emphasis during group instruction will be in the use of keys available in *The Jepson Manual*. The workshop, led by local botanical consultant John Dittes, is always very popular and educational.

Some of the basic equipment is available to loan to workshop participants, but if you have any of the following items please bring them: hand lens, forceps (tweezers), dissecting needle, 6" millimeter ruler, and *The Jepson Manual* (please let us know what you need to borrow).

The workshop will meet Saturday, April 6, 2002, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Holt Hall room 129 at CSU Chico. The registration fee is \$40.00 personal, \$80.00 business (\$30.00 for members). Please register in advance; class size is limited to 16 participants (class cancelled without a minimum of 5 participants). For more information about workshop content, please contact John Dittes at (530) 895-0349 or <jcdittes@cs.com>. For more information about registration or directions please call the Herbarium at (530) 898-5381.

IDENTIFICATION OF PLANTS FROM VERNAL POOLS AND OTHER SEASONAL WETLANDS.

John Dittes and Josephine Guardino.

April 20, 2002, Saturday

Vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands are fascinating and complicated habitats that support hydrophytic plant species from a variety of flowering, and non-flowering, plant families. This workshop will provide an opportunity to practice your plant identification skills, and at the same time become more familiar with the diverse and unique flora of seasonal wetlands.

This one day workshop is designed for those who already have a beginning understanding of the terminology used in plant identification, and the use of *The Jepson Manual* as a plant "key." Fresh and pressed specimens of local plants will be provided for participants to key, mostly as individuals with one-on-one instruction, and also as a group. Emphasis of group instruction will be placed on the recognition of families and the morphological features used to delimit genera and species. An overview will also be provided of the types of seasonal wetlands in northern California and some of their important ecological characteristics. This workshop is led by John Dittes and Josephine Guardino, local botanical consultants. This popular workshop filled early last year.

Some of the basic equipment is available to loan to workshop participants, but if you have any of the following items please bring them: hand lens, forceps (tweezers), dissecting needle, 6" millimeter ruler, and *The Jepson Manual* (please let us know what you need to borrow).

The workshop will meet Saturday, April 20, 2002, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Holt Hall room 129 at CSU Chico. The registration fee is \$45.00 personal, \$80.00 business (\$35.00 for members). Please register in advance; class size is limited to 16 participants (class cancelled without a minimum of 5 participants). For more information about workshop content please contact John Dittes or Josephine Guardino at (530) 895-0349 or <jcdittes@cs.com>. For more information about registration or directions please call the Herbarium at (530) 898-5381.

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION. Judy McCrary.

April 27, 2002, Saturday.

Want to draw plants and flowers? Here's your chance! Local illustrator and teacher, Judy McCrary, will lead this one day workshop on botanical illustration. The workshop will concentrate on pencil and ink techniques, although other media may be explored depending on the interests of the participants.

Please bring an HB pencil, a crow-quill pen base and nib, and black ink if you have them on hand – these and other basic materials, including paper, will be available for purchase at the class. Let's all bring plant cuttings and flowers to draw and share. Please also bring a lunch.

The workshop will meet on Saturday, April 27, 2002, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Holt Hall room 129 at CSU Chico. Registration for the workshop is \$40.00 (\$30.00 for members); please register in advance. Class size is limited to 16 participants (class cancelled without a minimum of 5 participants); older children are welcome to register. For more information about workshop content please contact Judy McCrary at (530) 589-1418. For information about registration or directions please call the Herbarium at (530) 898-5381.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERPENTINE ECOSYSTEM. Hugh Safford.

June 15, 2002, Saturday.

Learn about the geology and ecology of serpentine areas in the northern Sierra Nevada. Serpentine areas characteristically harbor a high number of endemic plant species and an abnormally high number of rare species; they are also important refugia for other native species that cannot compete with the exotic plants that have invaded so many of California's plant communities. Serpentine is the state rock of California. Workshop participants will key plant species found in the serpentine area using *The Jepson Manual*. Hugh Safford, Regional Ecologist for the Pacific Southwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service will lead this field workshop on the serpentine ecosystem. Dr. Safford has been studying the serpentine ecosystem throughout California as a researcher at UC Davis. He is currently leading a statewide inventory of serpentine plant diversity and has a number of permanent plots on the Plumas National Forest. Linnea Hanson, Plumas National Forest Botanist, will assist Hugh with this field workshop.

Please bring a copy of *The Jepson Manual*, 6" millimeter ruler and a 10X hand lens for keying. Bring lunch, water and wear boots and field clothes for this all-day field workshop.

The workshop will meet on Saturday, June 15, 2002 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please meet at the Feather River Ranger District office in Oroville at 875 Mitchell Avenue to carpool to the serpentine areas. Bring a vehicle that can travel on rough mountain roads. The registration fee is \$45.00 personal, \$80.00 business (\$35.00 for members). Please register in advance; class size is limited to 16 participants (class cancelled without a minimum of 5 participants). For more information about workshop content, logistics, or directions please contact Linnea Hanson at <lhanson@fs.fed.us> or (530) 532-7425. For information about registration please call the Herbarium at (530) 898-5381.

ELEVATION TRANSECT OF THE SOILS IN BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA:

"From Entisols to Andisols and Back." Andrew Conlin.

June 22, 2002, Saturday.

Butte County encompasses part of the juncture of the Cascade and Sierra Nevada Mountain Ranges, as well as Sacramento River-deposited alluvium that originates from the Coastal, Klamath, Cascade and Sierra Ranges. This remarkable geographical position encompasses a wide range of geological formations and accounts for the remarkable array of associated soils. This complicated landscape also presents diverse climate, with approximately 20 inches of annual precipitation in the Valley and 80 inches near Humboldt Summit. These remarkably varied physical parameters interact to influence the diverse native plant biodiversity.

Andrew Conlin, now completing 8 years of fieldwork in Butte County as a soil scientist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, will lead this field trip. The trip will emphasize the diversity and properties of soils associated with the various geological landforms of the southern portion of the Cascade, the northern Sierra Nevada Ranges and adjacent eastern Sacramento Valley.

This bus trip will begin at about 150 feet elevation, with a discussion of soils of the floodplain of the Sacramento River and the adjacent alluvial deposits of the local creek drainages. From the valley floor, we will journey east to examine the soils associated with the terraces and foothills. We will continue further east, upward along the Skyway, stopping along the way to examine and discuss the dramatic changes in soils, climate and vegetation types. Eventually, we will reach the elevation peak of the trip at Humboldt Summit (6,600 feet elevation), where we will see the crater of the Pliocene-age Mount Yana, the local source of the volcanic Tuscan Formation. Along the way, we will learn how climate influences soil development and ultimately the vegetation and biological communities of the region. We will stop for lunch along the West Branch Feather River. The return trip will be down-slope via Hwy 32, where we will review the climate, soil and vegetation types that characterize the Tuscan Formation encountered along the way.

Registration is required since the bus is limited to 24 people. Participants will meet the bus at 9:00 a.m. in front of Holt Hall at CSU Chico. We will return to Holt Hall at approximately 5:00 p.m. Please bring lunch, water, sunscreen, sunglasses and hat. Bring sturdy shoes, although minimal walking is anticipated. The registration fee is \$50.00 personal, \$80.00 business (\$40.00 for members). For more information about workshop content please contact Andrew Conlin at (530) 343-2731. For more information about registration or directions please call the Herbarium at (530) 898-5381.

INTRODUCTION TO KEYING THE SUNFLOWERS (ASTERACEAE). John Dittes.

September 7, 2002, Saturday.

With over 1,300 genera and 21,000 species recorded, the sunflower family (Asteraceae) is the largest plant family in the world, and with over 207 genera represented, it is also the largest family in California. Come and learn the taxonomy of this remarkably diverse group with John Dittes, local botanist and private consultant. John will lead this one-day workshop during which participants will key as a group and individually, using *The Jepson Manual*. John will provide fresh specimens from Butte, Tehama, Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra Counties. Beginners, as well as those wishing to brush up on their skills, are invited.

Please bring forceps (tweezers), dissecting needle, and a 6" millimeter ruler. You are also invited to bring any plants you may have been wondering about. If possible, also bring a copy of *The Jepson Manual* (we have several copies to loan to those who need them); we can direct you to sources for *The Jepson Manual* if you contact us ahead of time.

The workshop will meet on Saturday, September 7, 2002, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Holt Hall room 129 at CSU Chico. The registration fee is \$45.00 personal, \$80.00 business (\$35.00 for members). Please register in advance; class size is limited to 16 participants (class cancelled without a minimum of 5 participants). For more information about workshop content please contact John Dittes at (530) 895-0349 or <jcdittes@cs.com>. For more information about registration or directions please call the Herbarium at (530) 898-5381.

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At least half of workshop registration fees go to help support the Friends activities on behalf of the Herbarium.

MEMBERSHIP in Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium is:

Student\$5.00
Individual.....\$10.00
Contributing.....\$25.00
Sustaining\$100.00
Lifetime\$1000.00

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