

# Friends of the Herbarium

The Chico State Herbarium  
California State University, Chico

## Newsletter

Vol. 18 No. 1

May 2012



2012 First Place – “Yellow Rose” by Lauren Meichtry, Chico Country Day School

### *Herbarium Open House Celebrates 4th Annual Student Photo Contest*



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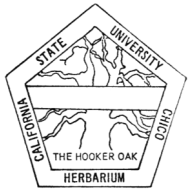
#### 4th Annual Chico State Herbarium Open House and Photo Contest

We are pleased to share the results of our 4th Annual Student Photo Contest which were announced at the Open House in the Chico State Herbarium (Holt Hall 129) on May 11th. The photo contest is designed to reach young people and expose them to natural sciences in the years prior to college. 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students were eligible to submit their favorite plant photographs to be judged by board members of the Friends of the Herbarium. They competed for several prizes, including \$100 for first place winner and smaller cash prizes for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places. The top three entries will also receive free enrollment to the Herbarium workshop of their choice to kick-start their botanical education. In addition, selected entries will be displayed in the Chico State Herbarium and/or the Gateway Science Museum throughout the year for enjoyment of the entire community.

This year photos were submitted from several different schools including Chico Country Day School, Chico High School, and Blue Oak School. The Friends of the Herbarium Board selected the “Yellow Rose” by Lauren Meichtry as the first place winner.

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## Friends of the Herbarium

The Friends of the Chico State Herbarium (Friends), Department of Biological Sciences, California State University, Chico, was formed to help maintain the high quality of work 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 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 January 1 of each year.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### Newsletter

### Volume 18, Number 1

The Newsletter is published two times per year by the Friends of the Herbarium, Department of Biological Sciences, California State University, Chico. Subscription is free with membership. Submissions on herbarium related topics are welcome.

## Accessions into CHSC during 2011

Thirteen years ago Vern Oswald started the annual tradition in this newsletter of summarizing all collections accessioned into The Chico State Herbarium during the preceding year by county and collector. Here is the summary for 2011. The total number accessions for 2011 was 2941 specimens.

We continue to owe a HUGE debt of gratitude to our volunteer mounting specialist and plant collector extraordinaire, Lowell Ahart. Aside from a few exchange sheets that came to the herbarium already mounted, and the bryophytes, lichens and slime molds that are accessioned into the collection in packets or small boxes rather than mounted, Lowell mounted almost all specimens accessioned into the herbarium each year. This means that Lowell prepared about 2500 beautifully mounted specimens for the herbarium during 2011, all as a volunteer! Thank you once again, Lowell, for your continuing contribution of countless hours of invaluable time and service to further the goals of The Chico State Herbarium and northern California botany.

All new incoming specimens are databased before they are filed. The databasing during the past three years (and filing) was mostly done by two wonderful volunteers, Susan Bazell and Cindy Weiner. Thank you Susan and Cindy!

Thanks also to all of the collectors for their time spent collecting, identifying, and making labels for the specimens they contributed to the herbarium. A lot of time goes into this process and I know that most, if not all, of this time is volunteered on part of the collectors. The following table summarizes the plant specimens accessioned into The Chico State Herbarium during 2011, based on plant group, collector, and county.

—Lawrence Janeway, Herbarium Curator

2011		2011		2011	
TOTAL	2941	COLLECTOR (top 10)		TOTAL CALIFORNIA	233
		Lowell Ahart	700	TOP 10 COUNTIES	4
Slime Molds	220	Lawrence Janeway	372	Butte	496
Lichens	194	Dwayne H. Curtis	215	Tehama	246
Liverworts	0	Robert Fischer	187	Lassen	173
Mosses	3	Barbara Castro	162	Plumas	139
Club mosses	2	David Isle	119	Modoc	126
Horsetails	1	Julie Kierstead Nelson	40	Shasta	122
Ferns	17	Matt Simenc	38	Mendocino	117
Conifers	6	Chris Ivey	13	Colusa	109
Flowering Plants	2498	Jane Van Susteren	10	Siskiyou	96
				Glenn	80

## Upcoming Friends Workshops and Events

**July 26th (Thursday):** Introduction to native bees as pollinators led by Rob Schlising and Robert Irwin. Optional fieldtrip to high Butte County on Friday, the 27th, for those attending Thursdays workshop.

**August 18th:** FEN-DANGO led by Carl Wishner & John Dittes. Botany and ecology of Northern Sierra fens with emphasis on mosses and liverworts at Sagehen Creek Field Station.

**September 8th:** Introduction to Keying Sunflowers (Asteraceae) led by John Dittes. A taxonomic overview of the most diverse plant family in California.

**October 13th:** Perfumes, Pigments, and Poisons—an Introduction to the Chemistry of Plants led by Margareta Sequin.

**Save the Date:** Friends of the Herbarium Annual Meeting— **Saturday, Nov 3rd.** 🐼

## Who Uses the Herbarium at CSU Chico?

The Herbarium at California State University, Chico houses a regionally important plant collection that provides a permanent record of northern California plant biodiversity. Particularly well-represented regions of California include the Northern Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascade Ranges and foothills, Modoc Plateau, Inner North Coast Ranges and Northern Great Central Valley.

In addition to providing teaching and research opportunities for CSUC faculty, staff and students, the herbarium is used by visitors from other academic institutions, government agencies, private consulting firms, and other members of the community. The botanical reach of the Chico State Herbarium extends well beyond Chico.

The visitor log shows that in 2010 and 2011, there were over 350 person-visits to the herbarium, excluding those signing-in for special events e.g., open house, tours, and workshops. In addition to “local” workers, researchers traveled to the Chico State Herbarium from Humboldt State University, CSU Sacramento, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC San Diego, UC Santa

Cruz, University of Washington and University of Ottawa, all for project-related needs.

The herbarium was also visited by resource specialists from government agencies, including Caltrans, California Department of Fish and Game and Department of Water Resources. Botanists from Lassen, Plumas and Sierra National Forests also came to use the herbarium, as did botanists from Yosemite National Park. Other Federal agencies visiting in 2010 and 2011 include United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and US Department of Food and Agriculture.

Finally, the visitor log shows that in the last two years, nearly a dozen private consulting firms, mostly from northern California, sent employees to use the herbarium for project needs relating to compliance with federal, state and local environmental laws.

The Chico State Herbarium is a valuable asset that is recognized, appreciated and used by the botanical community beyond Chico. In the next newsletter, we will explore in more detail *how the herbarium is used*.



## Friends' Flowers on the Wall

Friends of the Herbarium have set up a photo display of local flowers to showcase the Herbarium and plants in general, for people of the University and the community. Presently there are two Chico State Biology Department display cases on the wall near the Herbarium (Holt Hall 129) filled with large photos of flowers.

Friends thank Robert Fischer for donating and for installing push-pin-friendly backing in the cases, so that photos can be easily removed and replaced through the year. Photos of spring flowers on the wall (as of May) include present-day digital images and also images scanned from kodachrome

slides taken long ago, and have been provided by Susan Bazell, Robert Fischer, Joe Silveira and Rob Schlising.

Photos of flowers in one of the two display cases will be replaced in late May, with winning images from the FOH spring Student Photo Contest. By summer, one case will illustrate flowers that can be seen in the field locally during the summer and fall. In November one of the cases will show winners of the FOH fall “adult” Plant Photo Contest. A display of local plant propagules is planned for the winter months, and spring flowers will be showcased again in early 2013.

Stop by and see how many of the plants you recognize!



Photo display cases outside the Chico State Herbarium in Holt Hall on the Chico State campus. The current theme is a revolving seasonal display of nature's pallet



Close-up of one of the displays illustrating the spring-time kaleidoscope of color.



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## Friends of the Chico State Herbarium Join Forces with Friends of Bidwell Park On The Bidwell Park Vascular Plant Inventory Project

Friends of the Chico State Herbarium are excited to be collaborating with Friends of Bidwell Park on the Bidwell Park Vascular Plant Inventory Project. This project builds on a previous study conducted by the late Vernon H. Oswald, who in 1986 completed his *Vascular Plants of Upper Bidwell Park, Chico, California*. This flora was supported by a grant from Altacal Audubon Society and published through Studies from the CSU Chico Biological Sciences Herbarium. This flora covered approximately 1,800 acres of Upper Park, land originally donated to the City of Chico by Annie Bidwell in 1905 and 1911.

This updated inventory will be the first-ever comprehensive plant list created for Bidwell Park! It will include Lower Park which is approximately 400 acres and the additional 1,457 acres subsequently acquired by the City and added to Bidwell Park on the south side of Big Chico Creek (40 acres in 1993 and 1,417 acres in 1995).

The 2012 focus will be on surveying Lower Bidwell Park. Members of FOH and FOBP have been making regular excursions with renowned botanist and plant collector Lowell Ahart into the various vegetation management zones designated by the City of Chico. We are making a plant list for each zone and collecting herbarium specimens of new taxa encountered. These plant lists are being shared with City of Chico to help plan future invasive plant management in Lower Bidwell Park.

Friends of Bidwell Park have posted the preliminary results of this study on their website at [www.FriendsOfBidwellPark.org](http://www.FriendsOfBidwellPark.org). This plant list is an accumulation of work they and Lowell Ahart started in 2008 and is based on herbarium collections and casual observations. The list currently has over 925 taxa with nomenclature revised to reflect changes included in the recently published *Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* (Baldwin et al., 2012).

Please contact Friends of Bidwell Park at [info@FriendsOfBidwellPark.org](mailto:info@FriendsOfBidwellPark.org) or Josephine Guardino at [joguardino@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joguardino@sbcglobal.net) if you have any correction/additions for the preliminary plant list or if you are interested in joining us for one of weekly surveys.




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## Workshop & Event Updates—Fun and Learning by All

Recently, we have had a series of wonderful workshops and we share highlights of some here.

### Introduction to Lichen Identification

*I find myself inspecting little granules as it were on the bark of trees ---  
little shields or apothecia springing from a thallus ---  
such is the mood of my mind ---  
and I call it studying lichens.* Henry David Thoreau

Fifteen workshop attendees joined Tom Carlberg for the lichen identification workshop. For most people lichens are only colorful blotches on rocks or moss-like drapery on tree branches. But lichens are not mosses and they are not plants; they are unique organisms that combine the ancestry of two or even three kingdoms by forming symbiotic associations of fungus with green algae and/or cyanobacteria. These unique organisms are also essential components of ecosystems throughout the world, with more than 3600 species found in North America and over 1600 species reported from California.

Opportunities to learn about lichens and how to identify them are rare, even though their identification is often critical to complete inventories of natural resources during pre-project planning and review. Each year since 2009 Friends of the Herbarium has presented a workshop opportunity for botanists and biologists to gain skills and understanding of this under-studied group of organisms. For these last four years lichenologist Tom Carlberg has traveled from the North Coast to share his knowledge and passion about these fascinating and sophisticated life forms.



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It is with hope that the seeds of education, shared with passion and commitment, will allow the thallus of knowledge to grow and spread in the north valley. These popular workshops are typically scheduled in late winter or early spring.

### **Bryophyte Workshop**

The bryophyte workshop was well attended. We had a full house! Shana Gross is an excellent instructor for this group. We first learned about the biology of liverworts, hornworts, and mosses in the lab. Then we went into the field to the South Rim Trail in Bidwell Park. There was quite a variety of liverworts and mosses on the north-facing shady cliff. We even saw a liverwort sporophyte which is unusual to see. On Sunday, Shana had stations for us to view different structures and types of bryophytes around the lab. Then we learned how to make sections of a bryophyte. Shana's sections are excellent whereas many of us will need more practice! We spent the afternoon using the California Bryophyte key and as a group effort and with Shana's help we were able to key several mosses and liverworts. All in all it was a great workshop! Shana can be reached at [sgross@fs.fed.us](mailto:sgross@fs.fed.us).



### **Exploring Botany Field Media Methods**

We had 12 people for the media method workshop. Dan Glusenkamp is an excellent instructor and has a vast knowledge of current electronic media. We spent the morning learning about the different kinds of electronic media that are available. We also learned about Calflora, which is a database that people interested in plants in California can use. In the afternoon we used our smart phones to learn how to take a point, add notes or a picture and then upload the information to Calflora. What a wonderful tool to use in the field. And once it is downloaded the data are there for you to use. We learned you may also share the information you have obtained with others if you want. If you are interested in learning more about Calflora or using your smart phone be sure to contact [dan@calflora.org](mailto:dan@calflora.org).



### **The Jepson Manual Two Workshop**

Dan Potter led a workshop on the changes to the second edition of the Jepson Manual. We again had a full house for this workshop! He spent the morning explaining why so many names have changed since the old manual to the flora of California. Genetic research over the past 20 years has shifted many of the plant names and relationships that we once believed were true based primarily on morphology. Dan even had us divide into smaller groups and try to decide for ourselves how to divide several of the families that were a blend of different groups that didn't have a common origin. That was very interesting to do. After we decided how the families could be divided we learned how they were actually divided in the second edition of the manual. Then in the afternoon we spent time trying to key with the new manual. We had a vast variety of specimens that were collected by many people for the workshop including Lowell Ahart, Robert Fisher, and Rob Schlising. We keyed on our own for a while and then keyed plants as a group. One person read the key while others looked at the plant to differentiate the parts. It was a very instructive day. Now we are all ready to use the new manual! To contact Dan, his email is [dpotter@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dpotter@ucdavis.edu).



### **Avenue 9 Art Gallery Event**

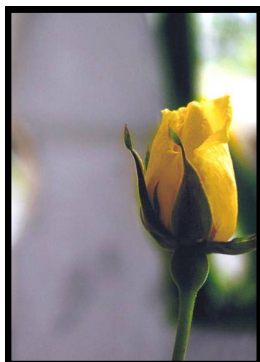
At one of our Friends of the Herbarium Board Meetings we talked about how to broaden our connections with the wider Chico community. We thought interacting with the art community could be a way to do that. Board Member Linnea Hanson met with Maria Phillips, the manager of Avenue 9 Art Gallery, and Dolores Mitchell, who is affiliated with the Gallery. The three planned a trip to Table Mountain for artists, guided by botanists. On April 17, ten people from the art gallery met at Table Mountain with Linnea Hanson. Linnea explained the geology of the area and how Table Mountain was formed and led a walk to Phantom Falls, the first waterfall. Linnea talked about the wildflowers along the walk. Many of the art guild took pictures along the way. At the waterfall, easels and sketch books came out and the wildflowers were made to blossom on the page. Others took more pictures and others just enjoyed the waterfall. It was a wonderful trip and enjoyed by all.



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**2012 Second Place –**  
**“Japanese Maple”**  
 by Emma Mavis  
 Chico High School



**2012 Third Place Tie –**  
**“Yellow Bud”** by Emma Mavis,  
 Chico High School



**2012 Third Place Tie –**  
**“Passion Flower”**  
 by Natalie Charlesworth,  
 Blue Oak School

(Continued from page 1)

Emma Mavis received 2nd place with “Japanese Maple Leaves”. Emma also tied for third place with her entry “Rosebud” along with Natalie Charlesworth’s photo of a passion flower.

The Herbarium Open House, including the photo contest, coincided with the Chico State Department of Biology’s annual Poster Symposium and Awards Ceremony. The combination of the Herbarium Open House and over 100 student research project posters on display, this day is always a visually stimulating experience to celebrate our students. A number of Friends Board members and volunteers were on hand to welcome those who stopped by to view the photos. The Friends continue to be committed to the philosophy of the photo contest, to increase awareness of the botanical wonders surrounding our daily lives, and are pleased to celebrate everyone who submitted photos to the contest.

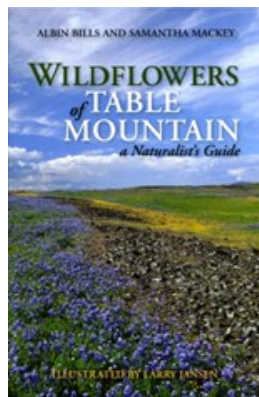
If you know of a budding young photographer, keep in mind that we will be having the photo contest again next year.



## Message from the Herbarium Director

It has been a productive time for Studies from the Herbarium. We had TWO book releases in the past few months. The *Wildflowers of Table Mountain, a Naturalist’s Guide* by Albin Bills and Samantha Mackey, is an update of the 2004 edition with more beautiful images and illustrations. It is a must for anyone who appreciates the area’s beauty. The second publication, “*Research and Recovery in Vernal Pool Landscapes*” by Doug Alexander and Rob Schlising, is a critically important addition to the vernal pool book series. This book comprises the proceedings of a 2010 conference entitled “Vernal Pool Conservation: Research, Progress and Problems. Is Recovery Possible?” Both recently released books are available through the Herbarium website under the Studies from the Herbarium link:

(<http://www.csuchico.edu/herbarium/studies/index.shtml>)



In spite of the state of the State budget, the Chico State Herbarium continues to prosper and grow in large part due to the countless volunteer hours, including those noted in the Accessions Update. But I want to take this opportunity to also note the HUGE volunteer contributions made by each and every board member of the Friends of the Chico State Herbarium. The volunteers are

responsible for a stimulating, vibrant workshop series, as highlighted herein, that offers a wide array of topics for professionals to budding naturalists. Friends Board members have stepped up and collaborated with Friends of Bidwell Park to document the botanical richness of our incredibly valuable local park resource. Lowell Ahart continues to amaze all of us with his botanical acumen and mounted plant specimens; these are both professional and artistic. Give yourself a treat and stop by the Herbarium to check out his masterpieces.

The Herbarium has also engaged students to help in a collaborative project with the Consortium of California Herbaria, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, with the goal to develop an extensive database of spatially referenced plant collections which in turn will inform predictions, understanding and monitoring the effects of climate change. Chico State students are active in contributing to the georeferencing of more than one-half million specimens.

Colleen Hatfield



## Discovering a New Weed for Butte County: Corn Snapdragon; *Antirrhinum orontium* L.

By Lowell Ahart-Winter 2012\*



Lowell Ahart and John Dittes take a rare break  
in Modoc County, June 21, 2008

Sometimes new discoveries are made in a round-about way. On 28 April 2011, a Thursday, it was around noon while eating lunch when the phone rang. Josephine Guardino called about the Bidwell Park Flora update project. I had been helping out by collecting plants in the eastern addition of Upper Park, which had not been covered by Vern Oswald in his original *Vascular Plants of Bidwell Park*<sup>1</sup>. She also happened to mention that her husband, John Dittes, was pressed for time collecting for his Fabaceae workshop that coming Saturday. He had visited a few places in Tehama County where he'd collected before, but found the cool and wet spring resulted in a little "grassing-over" with some usual taxa not found. John got on the phone and asked if I could help out, as it might take more time than anticipated. I said "yes", and agreed to bring fresh material to the Herbarium on Friday, along with another batch of mounted herbarium specimens. I have helped him before, collecting for his Poaceae, Asteraceae and Vernal Pool/Seasonal Wetland workshops. These workshops, among others, are presented to raise funds for the Chico State Herbarium.

Finishing lunch, I gathered a box of glass bottles, filled them half-full with water and headed out in my pickup. There is a familiar black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) tree nearby. Finding it was flowering, a few branches were collected for the workshop students. On the way back I gathered some rose clover (*Trifolium hirtum*) and subterranean clover (*T. subterraneum*). A little past the pasture gate I spotted little hop clover (*T. dubium*), sessile-headed clover (*T. glomeratum*) and angular-seeded pea (*Lathyrus angulatus*). A little further along, there was white-tipped clover (*T. variegatum*), the small-headed form, and dwarf cowbag clover (*T. depauperatum* var. *depauperatum*). These I added to the collection. In about another ½ mile distance, there is an area of dark clay soil. Here was a population of deceptive clover (*T. bifidum* var. *decipiens*); into the bottle it went. There was another area of similar clay soil about ¾-mile to the east, but wet, where the large-headed form of white-tipped clover grows. Another contribution to higher education!

I decided to head to North Honcut Creek, collecting foothill clover (*T. ciliolatum*) and small-headed clover (*T. microcephalum*) from Blue Oak Woodland along the way. The area along the creek is rough and rocky, with plenty more taxa to add. These included gar-

(Continued on page 8)

The description of Corn Snapdragon in the new *Jepson Manual*<sup>6</sup> is as follows:

Annual, generally glabrous proximal to inflorescence.

**Stem:** erect, self-supporting.

**Inflorescence:** raceme-like, hairy; bracts ± leaf-like; pedicels 1–4 mm, subtending branchlets 0.

**Flower:** calyx lobes unequal, lower ≥ corolla tube; corolla 10–15 mm, pink.

**Fruit:** upper chamber indehiscent.

**Seed:** generally smooth; 1 side flattened, with raised, rough, irregular border.

*n*=8. Open, disturbed areas; < 100 m. s Sacramento Valley, c Central Coast (Monterey Co.); native to Mediterranean. Mar–Jun

<sup>1</sup> Oswald, V.H. 1986. *Vascular Plants of Upper Bidwell Park*, Chico, California. Studies from the Herbarium Number 3. California State University, Chico.

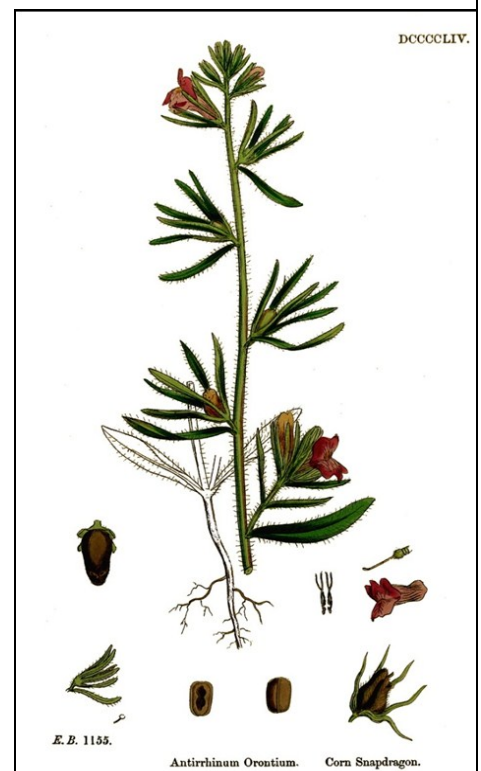
<sup>2</sup> Hickman, J.C. 1993. *Jepson Manual*, Higher Plants of California. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.

<sup>3</sup> Oswald, V.H. 2002. *Selected Plants of Northern California and Adjacent Nevada*. Studies from the Herbarium Number 11. California State University, Chico.

<sup>4</sup> <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/interchange.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium>

<sup>6</sup> Baldwin, B. G., D.H. Goldman, D.J. Keil, R. Patterson, T.R. Rosatti, D. H. Wilken, 2012. *The Jepson Manual*, Vascular Plants of California, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.



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den vetch (*Vicia sativa* ssp. *nigra*), wrangel lotus (*Lotus wrangelianus*), big-podded lupine (*Lupinus pachylobus*), sky lupine (*L. nanus* var. *vallicola*), spotted medic (*Medicago arabica*) and common bur-clover (*Medicago polymorpha*). In another 1½ miles further south I collected snub pea (*Lathyrus sulphureus*), lanky clover (*T. oliganthum*), notch-leaved clover (*T. bifidum* var. *bifidum*), a tall form of foothill clover (*T. ciliolatum*), olive clover (*T. albopurpureum* var. *olivaceum*) and tomcat clover (*T. wildenovii*). Twenty-four legume taxa were gathered from The Peter Ahart Ranch in about 6 hours.

That Friday (April 29, 2011), I loaded my little car with fresh legumes and latest batch of mounted plants for delivery to the Herbarium, with plans to collect along the way. At Central House Road, there was red-flowered vetch (*Vicia benghalensis*). Crossing west over the railroad tracks on Lower Honcut Road just past a slough, I knew of a population of persian clover (*T. tomentosum*). I later mentioned to John that the clover was not in the *Jepson Manual*<sup>2</sup>, but could be found in Vern Oswald's flora *Selected Plants of Northern California and Adjacent Nevada*<sup>3</sup>. What I forgot to tell him was that in *Selected Plants*, it keys out in the first couplet to *T. resupinatum*, but in the body of the text it is found under *T. tomentosum* (this will be fixed in the revision). At other stops along the way I added honey locust (*Gledistia triacanthos*), silvery wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), scarlet river-hemp (*Sesbania punica*) and alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*). I looked for sour clover (*T. fucatum*) but could not find any.

While collecting white clover (*Trifolium repens*) and black medic (*Medicago lupulina*) at a site near Oroville, I spotted an unfamiliar plant that appeared to be a snapdragon (*Antirrhinum* sp.). It was immature and not having plant press or GPS, I left it for another day.

Deciding enough was enough, it was time to head for Chico to drop off the goods. With little car parked at Bidwell Mansion (I have permission to park there), the bottles of legumes and boxes of mounted plants were carried to the Herbarium. There, I met John and Josephine. We unboxed the mounted plant specimens, sorted the legumes and put them into clean, labeled bottles with fresh water. We all went home pleased, knowing there was a *very nice* collection for the Saturday Fabaceae Workshop!

But now, what about that odd snapdragon? On May 01, 2011 it was time to go back to that site near Oroville and revisit the question. The area is about 70 yards east of State Hwy 70 at the intersection of Georgia Pacific Way and Feather River Blvd. There is a billboard advertising the local business organizations. Across the road to the east are some historic gold-dredge tailings that had been leveled with bulldozer. On this rather sterile, disturbed weedy area was the *Antirrhinum*. I had seen only one plant on the previous visit, but now looking around saw there were more. It is a somewhat inconspicuous species.

Now what was it I had in my press? The plant is not in Vern Oswald's *Selected Plants*. With other things needing to get done, I put off keying it. Then on July 02, 2011, I had some extra time. Going to *The Jepson Manual*, I narrowed it down to two species. Going to the computer and logging on to [The Jepson Interchange](#)<sup>4</sup>, it was clear that the plant collected was Corn Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum orontium* L.), a new record for Butte County (Collection number Ahart 17,344). Checking the [Consortium of California Herbaria](#)<sup>5</sup>, one can see only 7 California collections have been made of this introduced Mediterranean "waif" species. The first record was collected from Santa Clara County in 1960 by John H. Thomas. In addition, there are three collections from San Luis Obispo County, two from Sacramento, and one from Monterey Counties.

And to consider, *I only had to make my way past 32 different Legumes to find it!* John's Fabaceae workshop was a success, and I chalked-up another botanical discovery. All Right!!

\*The author greatly appreciates the excellent, skilled editorial help provided by John Dittes.




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## Art Gallery to feature Celebration of Wildflowers of Table Mountain

Avenue 9 Gallery presents a "Celebration of Wildflowers of Table Mountain." This four-part display consists of framed botanical specimens from the Chico State Herbarium, art by children from Chico's Open Classroom Wildflower School, paintings by plein air artists who participated in a field trip led by Linnea Hanson at Table Mountain, and finally a display of the "Wildflowers of Table Mountain" book.

A representative sampling of this four-part display will be included in the exhibition "Where Art Happens" opening June 29 at Avenue 9. On Saturday, July 14 (2 to 4pm) Avenue 9 Gallery will enlarge the Table Mountain display with temporary display racks and stage a gala reception with edibles and music. Friends of the Herbarium, artists and school children will share their Table Mountain experiences. Avenue 9 Gallery is at 180 East 9th Avenue (across from Big Al's). For further information: [www.avenue9gallery.com](http://www.avenue9gallery.com) and 879-1821.





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### Mushroom Identification Workshop

We all know mushrooms aren't vascular plants, but they sure are an important part of our habitats, and we're forever seeing them when we are looking for plants. So, with lots of interest in learning more about them, we offered our first workshop on mushroom identification on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Without question, it was a super hit, with 23 people joining us at the CSU Chico, Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve. Phil Carpenter's morning session was in the Henning House around a great big table, where he introduced us to fungi taxonomy, anatomy, and terminology. He provided great handouts and lots of good suggestions on how to use David Arora's 'Mushrooms Demystified' book. We spent a couple hours inside and then headed out on a mushroom hunt. Lots of different kinds of mushrooms were found, but the hit of the morning hunt was finding large butter-colored chanterelles on the hillside, with plenty to harvest. Our afternoon was spent examining and keying some of the 30 plus mushrooms Phil brought, along with those found outside. Phil finished up the day by cooking up samples of two kinds of mushrooms for everyone to sample (delicious). We've already asked Phil to come back again, this was such a great workshop! Phil can be reached at [philandmac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:philandmac@sbcglobal.net)



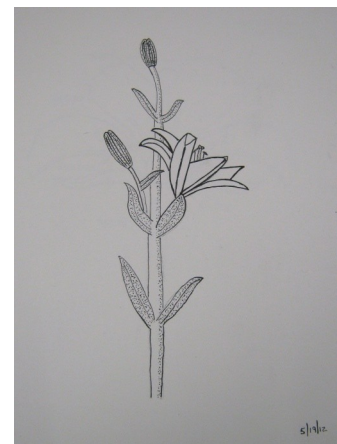
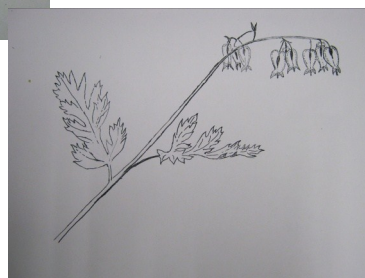
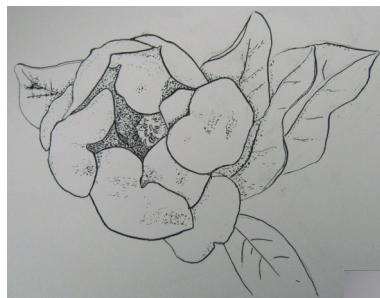
### Botanical Illustration Workshop

We had ten people attend the botanical illustration workshop. Four of the people in this enthusiastic group are artists who paint and draw and six were botanists who identify and survey for native and weedy plants. It was an interesting group of folks ranging from students to several retired or semi-retired people. Besides the artists several of the botanists were very accomplished artists while others were just learning. Judy McCrary taught us how to do quick draws which she called gesture drawing. We then learned how to use tracing paper to first draw the image on the tracing paper and then transfer it to a sheet of paper with homemade carbon paper. We then learned how to do ink drawings. And finally we learned how to measure the plant specimen to make an accurate botanical illustration. That is a very time consuming task!



The extent of my drawing ability has been doodling in meetings to stay awake. For someone like me it was quite an amazing experience to find out I could actually draw what I saw in front of me! I was also amazed at the difference in how this workshop was taught in contrast to most of our herbarium workshops. Judy had us all sit around one big huge table so that we were all working together. That really worked. We were able to then encourage each other in our drawing. It was a wonderful experience and many want to take the class again!

Judy McCrary did a wonderful job guiding us through the different methods of drawing plants. She brought an array of books that helped to supplement the information she taught us. Each of us brought flowers to draw which provided a rich assortment of plants, many of which were quite fragrant. Judy can be reached at [jmccrary@digitalpath.net](mailto:jmccrary@digitalpath.net).



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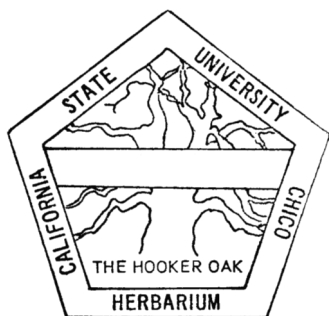
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## Friends of the Herbarium

**The Chico State Herbarium**  
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## Newsletter



*Watch the Friends website for details on the upcoming  
Fall Native Plant Photo Contest*

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California State University, Chico  
Chico, CA 95929-0515  
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