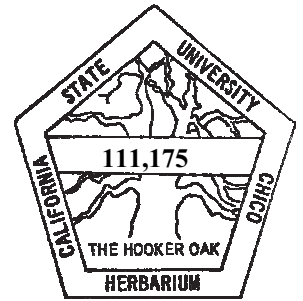




Friends of the Herbarium

**The Chico State Herbarium
California State University, Chico**



Volume 20 Number 1
April 2014

Newsletter

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Sue Taylor - Prodigious Collector and Dedicated Volunteer in the Chico State Herbarium in the 1970s

[Lowell Ahart asked Sue Taylor to write up her past association with the Chico State Herbarium, to help FOH compile the history of the Herbarium. She complied with a long, delightful and insightful letter, that has been condensed for this newsletter.]

Mary Susan (Sue) Taylor grew up in Pacific Grove, California. She graduated from Pacific Grove High School during the “hippie era” and by then had developed an interest in herbs, and in collecting books on herbs. After two years at Monterey Peninsula College Sue hitchhiked to several distant cities - Eureka, San Luis Obispo and Chico - to visit prospective colleges. Chico won out, and she transferred to Chico State University, impressed with the beautiful campus with a creek running through it (and a waterhole near the biology building). She says the town seemed vibrant and had comfortable and contented-appearing hippies everywhere.



Sue Taylor admiring a Washington Lily (*Lilium washingtonianum*) in coniferous forest near Lomo, Butte County, July 1980

Her major at Chico State started in Agriculture, then switched to Recreation, since she had a “vague idea of working as a park ranger some day.” For that major she

(Continued on page 3)

Friends of the Herbarium Announces the 4th Annual Plant Photo Contest for Students

See Page 9 for details

2013 1st place photo:
Jiri Roznovjak
Chico High School





The Friends of the Chico State Herbarium, 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.

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Newsletter

Volume 20 Number 1

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

Accessions into CHSC during 2013

Fifteen years ago Vern Oswald started the annual tradition in this newsletter of summarizing all of the collections accessioned into The Chico State Herbarium during the preceding year by county and collector. Here is the summary for 2013. The total number of accessions for 2013 was 1152 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 and lichens, that are accessioned into the collection in folded paper packets rather than mounted, Lowell has mounted almost all of the specimens accessioned into the herbarium in 2013. In fact, Lowell has mounted almost all of the specimens accessioned into the herbarium each year since 1995! For 2013, this means that Lowell prepared about 1015 beautifully mounted specimens that were accessioned into herbarium collection during the year (and many more that haven't been accessioned yet), 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 year (and filing) has mostly been done by our wonderful volunteer, Cindy Weiner, with help from Erin Gottschalk Fisher, Emily Meigs, Herman Gray, and Mari Moore.

Thanks also to all of the collectors for their time spent collecting, identifying, and making labels for all of the specimens that 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 volunteer time on the part of the collectors.

The following table summarizes the plant specimens accessioned into The Chico State Herbarium during 2013, based on plant group, collector, and county.

Lawrence Janeway, Herbarium Curator 🐾

| 2013 | | | | | |
|------------------|------|-------------------------|-----|------------------|------|
| GRAND TOTAL | 1152 | COLLECTORS | | TOTAL CALIFORNIA | 1082 |
| | | More than 1 collection: | | Top 10 counties: | |
| Lichens | 35 | Lowell Ahart | 413 | Butte | 416 |
| Mosses | 102 | Lawrence Janeway | 325 | Plumas | 133 |
| Horsetails | 1 | Barbara Castro | 111 | Modoc | 112 |
| Club mosses | 1 | Julie Kierstead Nelson | 46 | Glenn | 58 |
| Ferns | 6 | David Isle | 30 | Sierra | 41 |
| Conifers | 15 | Christopher T. Ivey | 7 | Shasta | 36 |
| Flowering plants | 992 | Daniel Slakey | 4 | Yuba | 30 |
| | | Dean Wm. Taylor | 2 | Siskiyou | 24 |
| | | | | Los Angeles | 24 |
| | | | | Riverside | 24 |

Message from the Friends of the Herbarium President

As many of us are aware, the Chico State Herbarium is an important resource for researchers, field botanists, and many others. The Friends of the Chico State Herbarium's goal to support this important resource could not be realized without the help and support of the Members, volunteers, and donors. If you would like to volunteer your time or donate to the Herbarium, please contact us. Volunteers are always needed. Thank you for your continued support.

Elena Gregg, FOH Board President 🐾

(Sue Taylor: Continued from page 1)

took the plant taxonomy course, and that produced a revelation. On their very first bus trip to collect plants, Dr. Stern pointed out a horehound plant (*Marrubium vulgare*) at roadside, and Sue, finally meeting a plant she had only read about for years in her herb books, “recited its uses to fellow students - to their surprise and appreciation.” With this event she realized that she had a gift for remembering plant names. That class proved that she easily remembered plants by sight too. Sue “hugely liked” Dr. Stern’s class and appreciated his rapport with his students. She says his students really liked him, and sometimes on field trips they would play tricks on him. Sue has a photo of him being carried by some of the girls.

But Sue did not always appreciate Dr. Stern’s “disinterest in dealing with ‘hard to key’ plants” (like *Plagiobothrys* species, the popcorn flowers). Related to this, Sue describes some of the others who also influenced her first years in botany in Chico. One was Marc Hayes, a student that had “thrived on challenges” and worked at all the “difficult genera” - like the popcorn flowers. Marc showed her how to work in the field, and was also responsible starting Sue’s interest in making a list of the plants of Butte County. Sue compliments several of the faculty in botany and biology - Drs. Anthony, Derr, Ediger, Lederer and Schlising - for interesting undergraduate studies, and credits Dr. Stern with encouraging her to do a master’s degree at Chico State.

During the undergraduate and graduate years in Chico Sue’s collecting and pressing of plant specimens took off in earnest - and became her passion. She collected avidly, often with another botanist or two. She also worked on these collections in the Herbarium, keying, typing labels, mounting, filing - often working without pay. Sue noted that there was competition for use of the tiny room attached to the Herbarium. But since others complained of the noise of her continual typing (on an old electric typewriter in those days), they moved the typewriter and her into the side room.

Among the people (in the “greater Chico area”) in those days that liked plants and nature, she especially appreciated Mike Foster, Tom Griggs, Jeff and Nancy Prouty, and Howard Wurlitzer. But her two major partners (her “two best buddies”) in field and herbarium botany were Lowell Ahart, the rancher-botanist, and Jim Jokerst, then a student at Chico State. She notes that they were “deeply committed to the plant world” and “spread zest for exploration and discovery.” Sue has great (and some amusing) memories of being in the field with these botanists (e.g., a memory of Lowell cutting off seatbelts in his truck so a jeep that came by could use the belts to tow the stuck-truck out, and a memory of Jim with a mass of *Juncus* collections in one hand and a joint in the other). Much collecting in the field with Lowell and Jim, and extensive work on their herbarium specimens, eventually led to her compiling checklists of plants of the area and producing the “Flora Buttensis.” During their “tenure as a group” they may have increased the Herbarium’s collection by 20,000 plants. The database shows 3869 specimens with her as the principal collector!!

She earned her master’s degree in 1976 (“Some native medicinal and edible plants of Butte County”). Then she spent several years at different botany jobs, and when possible she provided voucher specimens and extra plant material for the Herbarium. In 1979 she worked a season for Jones and Stokes, in Sacramento, and gained botanical experience in Nevada under field team-leader Bob Holland. Then she worked seasonally as a botanist for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and started their herbarium. Next she worked several summers for the Plumas National Forest, and has compliments for her supervisor, Linnea Hanson, “who really knew her stuff.” During these years Sue compiled checklists and bibliographies (all grouped under the title “Flora Buttensis”) that related especially to plants of Butte County. Some of these documents are available on the Chico State Herbarium webpage thanks to Curator Lawrence Janeway.

Certainly Sue Taylor’s experiences with the Chico State Herbarium, and her extensive fieldwork and plant collecting in Northern California helped her get a job as Herbarium Assistant at the Missouri Botanical Garden (MO), in Saint Louis, in 1982. She loved her many duties and activities there - including being an assistant for the Madagascar Project and eventually compiling a 400+ page bibliography on plant taxonomy literature for the flora of Madagascar. She collected plants in Missouri for the Flora of Missouri Project, and co-founded the first local chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society. Even here Sue had connections with Butte County (and other California county) plants, because Lowell Ahart sent her numerous collections for MO to use in their exchange program. She notes that she helped deposit his (and her own) specimens at herbaria in New York, Chicago, Pomona, Kew, Paris, Saint Petersburg, and other places.

Sue reports, however, that the “peak of her botanical career was cut short by ‘Reaganomics’” when all of the MO grant proposals submitted for Washington D.C. funding were rejected in 1992, and she lost her job. Sue spent several years helping members of her family in California and then in Texas, before finally settling in Fresno with her sister. Currently, she is heavily into quilting and craftwork. But she also spends much time at the computer, and her excellent background in compiling floral lists and bibliographies serves her exceptionally well (e.g., she has sent over 20,000 items to the Monterey County GenWeb site and close to 30,000 entries for the Pacific Grove Public Library newspaper index card file). However, she misses not being able to collect plants any more, and often has “vivid dreams of working in the Herbarium.”

Presently, it is easy for us to see part of Sue Taylor’s major legacy at the Chico State Herbarium, by examining folders of plants in most of the herbarium cabinets. There previously noted, there are a number of mounted specimens with labels bearing the collector’s name “M. S. Taylor”!

Rob Schlising, FOH Board

Discovery of *Bidens tripartita* L., new to Butte County and northern California

by Lowell Ahart, Summer 2013

On 13 May 2013 Hamid Razifard, of the University of Connecticut, came to the Peter Ahart Ranch and we looked for *Elatine* (waterwort). We looked in a number of places where I had found it before, but did not find any. I had already looked some days before and had found none. A bad year for waterworts. I told Hamid that years ago I had collected *Elatine* at the Gray Lodge Wildlife Management Area which is southwest of Gridley. A few days later Hamid e-mailed me saying that he had gone to Gray Lodge and had looked but didn't find any *Elatine*.

On 21 May 2013 I went to Gray Lodge. I went to Parking Lot 18 and paid the \$4.00 entrance fee and filled out the permit. I then went to Parking Lot 16 and looked for *Elatine*. I saw an interesting *Rumex* but it was too young so I left it alone. I next went to Parking Lot 17 and walked back towards Lot 16. The duck fields were dry to the south so I went out into an area where there was bare ground from too much salt. I saw that in many places the ground was covered with reddish dried up plants. They were *Elatine* but I could find none with seed capsules. I collected some anyway and then went on to Parking Lot 14 and looked over a small bare duck pond. I saw a single *Elatine* plant and again it was all dried up. I saw a few things that needed to be collected but most were too young. After that I went home.

On 18 June 2013 I returned to Gray Lodge, went straight to Parking Lot 18 and filled out the permit and paid the four dollars. Went to Parking Lot 16 and found the *Rumex* but it was just a common species. Looked around for *Elatine* and went into a large duck field. The weeds were doing very well and I saw some barnyard grass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*). Lawrence Janeway and I had recently discussed the great variability of this species and that someone was trying to make subspecies out of some of the forms. The barnyard grass I encountered had bright purple awns. I had a plastic bag and some went into it (Ahart 18803). While collecting the grass I noticed that the *Bidens* there did not look right (sticktight, in the Asteraceae). Some of this also went into the bag (Ahart 18802). I went on to Parking Lot 17 and walked a good distance back towards Parking Lot 16. There was a deep ditch that was drained and looked like a good place for *Elatine*. Spent some time looking but found none. Went on to Parking Lot 14 and collected a few things. The best was *Rumex fueginus* (golden dock - Ahart 18804). The only other collection of this *Rumex* from Butte County is Ahart 6588 from the strand of Lake Oroville in 1990. I then went home and put the collected plants in my plant press.

By using *The Jepson Manual II* I keyed the *Bidens* to *Bidens tripartita* L. which is a new record for Butte County and also is new to Vern Oswald's *Selected Plants of Northern California and Adjacent Nevada*. It's only a weed, but it's a new species to our northern California flora, so **All Right!**



Lowell Ahart's specimen of *Bidens tripartita*, mounted on a standard 12"x18" herbarium sheet



Lowell Ahart's specimen of *Rumex fueginus*

Message from the Herbarium Director

I always get excited when the articles come in for the semi-annual newsletter. This one is no exception and in fact this is a pretty exciting newsletter. So much is happening (over 1100 accessions to the Herbarium in 2013!) and one often doesn't realize just how much until it is compiled into one place such as this newsletter. In addition to the summaries for past workshops, The Friends (FOH) also have an exciting list of upcoming workshops that are perfect to celebrate spring here in the North State. FOH is also planning for the 4th annual Student Photo contest – last years was memorable with a record number of entries.

It is important to stop on occasion and recognize those who have played a significant role in the Herbariums history. Certainly Vesta Holt stands out, but in our last fall newsletter and in this current spring Newsletter we highlight the impressive contributions of Marge Anthony and Sue Taylor. We also want to recognize one of our current volunteers, Cindy Weiner. Cindy helps form the glue for Herbarium operations, without volunteers we would face an uncertain future, we can't keep our doors open without volunteer support.

Finally, I want to express what an honor it is to work with such an amazing group that comprises the FOH Board. Their hard work and dedication to the Herbarium is unsurpassed. Indeed as many Herbaria across the country experience short-falls in funding, I frequently receive requests to share how FOH rescued the Herbarium during the recent economic downturn. Without the FOH, there would be no workshops and more importantly, no public access to the Herbarium and limited access for students. Thank you FOH Board and each of you as members who support them!

Colleen Hatfield

Recent Workshops

Identifying Lichens to Genus

Tom Carlberg (from Arcata) presented his introduction to lichens, for the 6th year. On March 1st his workshop in the Herbarium attracted local attendees as well as registrants from Albany, Arcata, Davis, Nevada City, Oakland, Redding, Red Bluff, and Sacramento. Tom's title "Keying lichens to genus" referred to the identification key that he constructed, and that he says included 13 additional genera this year. As usual, Tom laid out ample dry lichen materials on the tables at each student's station, and used these specimens to illustrate numerous features of lichens. One disappointing feature of this workshop in 2014 was that rainy weather had made lichens soggy in the field, and since lichens need to be studied and keyed when they are dry, the fieldtrip portion of the workshop was called off. However, instead of using lichens that were to be collected during the noontime fieldtrip, Tom had brought additional dried materials (that did not have the names shown), that were keyed out individually by students during the afternoon. Another new feature of this workshop was having a former student from one of Tom's workshops (Robert Fischer) on hand to assist newbies in interpreting and keying lichens. During most of the workshop a spectacular, interesting and instructive PowerPoint presentation was used on the screen at the front of the Herbarium.



[photo by Robert Fischer]

Wreath-Making Workshop

A celebration of winter through native California plants was held in the Herbarium on December 7, 2013. Jennifer Jewell, known for her weekly commentaries "In a North State Garden" on KCHO, led this class in wreath-making, a skill she has honed since childhood (she posts essays and gardening events for northern California on JewellGarden.com). Both Jennifer, and her assistant, botanist Adrienne Edwards, discussed the native chaparral species found in our Mediterranean climate that are ideal for creating aromatic, long-lasting and low-impact wreaths. Incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) provided a greenery base along with common manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*).



[photo by Jennifer Jewell]



Toyons berries, various cones, and buckeye fruits (*Aesculus californica*) were just a few of the accents the students had to choose from. Buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*), yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), and foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) provided silvery accents. Students not only brought home beautiful and unique native plant wreaths, but handouts on the ethnobotanical uses of their wreath components! Overall students came away with a greater appreciation for our native California plants, and how we can utilize them sustainably in celebration.



Upcoming Workshops Sponsored by Friends of the Herbarium

Introduction to Soil Morphology and Hydric Soils - April 12, 2014, Saturday 9:00 am—4:00 pm

This one day workshop, taught by Russell Huddleston, a certified Professional Wetland Scientist, is intended to provide an introduction to general soil morphology including an introduction to hydric soils. The intent of the workshop is to provide a better understanding of techniques used to describe soils. Registration is \$125 for business, \$100 personal, \$90 for members of Friends of the Herbarium and \$40 for students (only 2 student seats available). Please register in advance; class size is limited to 16 participants. [Note this workshop has already passed, but it was well attended and full of information.]



Designing a Pollinator Garden—April 19, 2014, Saturday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

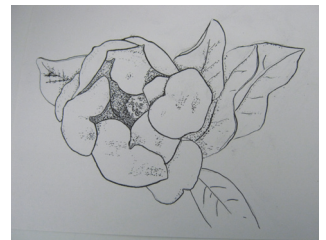
In this one day workshop, taught by John Whittlesey of Canyon Creek Nursery and botanist Adrienne Edwards (Chico State), you will learn how to design a garden to encourage native pollinators and visit pollinator-friendly gardens to discuss plant selection, placement and garden care to provide a thriving habitat for a wide range of pollinators and insect life, enriching the color, diversity and health of your garden. Registration is \$65.00 personal, \$55.00 for members of Friends of the Herbarium. Please register in advance; class size is limited to 25 participants.



[photo by John Whittlesey]

Botanical Illustration Workshop—April 26, 2014, Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

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 upon the interest of the participants. Bring plant cuttings and flowers to share and draw. Registration for the workshop is \$40 (\$30 for students and members of Friends of the Herbarium). Please register in advance; class size is limited to 16 participants.



Wild Food Wanders—May 18, 2014, Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Learn about the wild foods in the Sacramento Valley including their historical uses by early settlers and indigenous peoples in this afternoon workshop. Wolfgang Rouble, author of *Sacramento Valley Feast: "How to Find, Harvest, and Cook Local Wild Food All Year Long"* will guide participants on a walk outdoors to identify edible and medicinal plants in the wild. Learn about native plants that have provided sustenance to Californians for thousands of years, and re-discover notorious invasives that happen to be long-overlooked sources of nutrition and healing. The walk will meet in Bidwell Park at Sycamore Field parking lot. Bring a camera, walking shoes, water and a hat. Registration fee will be \$25. Please register in advance; class size is limited to 25 participants.



Ribwort (*Plantago lanceolata*) left;
Self-healing (*Prunella vulgaris*) right

General Workshop Information:

All workshops unless otherwise noted are held in Holt Hall 129 on the CSU Campus. Registration cost is \$100.00 personal, \$125.00 business, \$90.00 for members of Friends of the Herbarium, and \$40.00 student (only 2 seats available per class at the student price). Check out the FOH Workshop website for more details on each of these workshops, registration information as well as updates on these and future workshops at www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html.



Herbarium Roots: Marge Anthony, Ph.D., mentor and role-model, Part 2

In the Spring 2014 issue of the Friends of the Herbarium Newsletter, we shared the first part of our wonderful visit and conversation with Dr. Marge Anthony, retired CSUC Biology Professor, at her home at The Sea Ranch on the Sonoma coast. On that day, April 25, 2013, she described how she, a New Jersey Native, developed a keen interest in the western landscape and in ecology. As a young woman at a time when there weren't many women "in the sciences," she earned a PhD researching the ecology of cacti in and around the Chisos Mountains in the just-created Big Bend National Park, in Trans Pecos (western), Texas.

Through a series of "serendipitous" events, she found herself in 1949 as the newest and fifth faculty member at the Department of Biological Sciences, Chico Teacher's College (see Friends of the Herbarium Winter-2013 Newsletter 19:2).

We finished lunch on the deck overlooking the rugged Sonoma coast. Lowell put the last of the plants we collected from Marge's property into his trusty press. As usual, it does not take a lot of effort to find and collect interesting herbarium specimens representing new records for a particular location! Of additional significance, the specimen labels will bear the names "Ahart & Anthony," former student and teacher, together again 53 years after Plant Taxonomy class! The sky was clear and sunny on that warm day this last spring, ravens soared the ocean breeze and turkeys strutted on the slope below as we continued our conversation with Marge.

In response to the question, "What was your first impression of Chico?" Marge replied, "As I flew in for the first time I was disappointed. I thought, God it's a long, hot valley, but there was the Sierra." She continued, "I was happy to be there and Vesta was so warm and welcoming, I had found the best place in the world for my first job!"

Vesta Holt, namesake of Holt Hall, was Chair of the biology department at the time. Marge told us how Vesta introduced her to various local places of interest, "She knew all the good places to take students." They would often go on field trips together to sites where Marge would later take her plant taxonomy and ecology classes. Bidwell Park, the Magalia Serpentine, Sacramento River, Eagle Lake, and other local landscapes were valuable educational resource then, as they are for Chico's teachers and students today!

Marge mentioned how she liked to assign a semester project where a student would select a study site to "learn the ecology." At some point the whole class would take a field trip there where the student would demonstrate what he or she did. The class would observe, participate and provide feedback. Then at the end of the semester, she would visit the site with the student to evaluate the project. "Each student would gain a new outlook and share with others." I mentioned that Doug Alexander used a similar approach in his Population Ecology course, which Josephine and I took in the early 1990's. Marge replied that, "I got the idea from him; he had a lot of good ideas."



Josephine asked how was it teaching ecology at a time when it was such a "new science?" Marge described how after teaching her plant geography class years earlier, she became "more interested in the environment the plants are in, rather than their taxonomy." At Chico, she continued, "I started a course in plant ecology. I had to make it in plant ecology, since there were no books yet called Ecology!" There was only a classic text in plant ecology and another in animal ecology. Then Dr. Eugene Odum published his classic "Ecology" text. Marge mentioned that she wrote to him and thanked him, "...it's just what we were waiting for, and we're using your text and we're renaming our course as Ecology." Doug Alexander was hired as an invertebrate ecologist shortly after that and together with Marge taught the first "Ecology Courses" at Chico State College.

Marge Anthony (right) with Barbara Malloch Leitner at Vina Plains Preserve. Both were involved in working with The Nature Conservancy in setting up the Preserve. Photo: 14 March 1982

A few years later at a department meeting, the head of the science division announced that they had some money to invite a guest speaker, and asked if anyone had any suggestions. Marge recalls, "I looked at Doug, he looked at me, yes!" You've got to invite Eugene Odum, he's the "father of modern ecology" and he's terrific! And so the invitation was sent and Eugene Odum arrived as a guest lecturer, along with his wife. During that visit, Marge had the opportunity to take Dr. Odum and his wife Martha on a landscape tour in a rented airplane, as she'd already earned her private pilot's license. Marge emphasizes, "There's so much interesting ecology to see from the air!"

After finishing his NSF commitments with our Biology Department, Eugene and Martha rented a car to drive to see the Pacific Ocean where on Marge's recommendation, they rented a room at The Sea Ranch lodge. Eugene had said he intended to work on a revision of the Ecology textbook while Martha painted landscape watercolors. "Imagine my surprise when he called next day with

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

an invitation to join them for lunch." She flew over then to Sea Ranch, where she spent the weekend with them, exploring and interpreting its Coast. After that Marge recalls, she saw him again when he was a speaker at UC Davis. During his lecture he mentioned how he did not realize how much ecology you can see from a small plane. A whole new dimension, and how nobody before had taken him up. Although he did not mention her name during the lecture, Marge was pleased knowing the experience she shared, piloting the airplane around northern California was significant to this world-known "father of modern ecology."

Marge had the opportunity to visit Odum's lab in Georgia during the design of Holt Hall, as she was developing her course in Radiation Biology. At this point of the conversation, Lowell mentions that Marge's Plant Taxonomy and Radiation Biology classes were very important to him! Marge seemed pleased to hear that and continued, "there was pressure by the president of the college...we were supposed to do something for the community." She recalls with a laugh, "I'd only been there a year, after Michigan and New Jersey when I was asked to give an agricultural seminar to the farmers of Chico. That was crazy, what did I know and they'd know everything! So I decided that if we are to do something for the community, I'd do something that interested me."

Marge realized that "atomic energy was going to be a huge field." With the recent dropping of the Atomic Bomb "everyone was talking about atomic energy." She attended a training program offered by the Civil Defense program, which was preparing citizens to monitor radiation in case of atomic attack. She then attended a summer program in Oak Ridge, Tenn. on "Radiation Biology" offered for teachers by the National Science Foundation. Since Dr. Odum was part of that program, Marge then asked if she could drive down to visit his lab at the University of Georgia, where he was doing pioneering work with radioactive isotopes in the study of biological/ecological systems. Armed with this information and knowing exactly what was needed, Marge was better able to design the "Radiation Biology Suite" on the third floor of Holt Hall, where she taught that class until retiring in 1983.

In addition to curriculum development and her work in shaping Holt Hall, Marge made another important lasting mark on the Chico community. Back in the late 1970s, there was a proposal to "modernize" the campus which involved cutting down trees, some dating back to the time of General Bidwell. Marge, understanding how central the trees are to Chico's sense of place and ecology, led an effort to formally recognize the significance of the campus environment. She flew her little Cessna 150 down to CSU Fresno to learn about the arboretum that was established there. Then along with help from Professors Gordon Van Laan (Agriculture), Julie Newman (Communications) and about a dozen students, two interpretive guides were produced: "Guide to the Woody Plants of the Front Campus" and the "Five Bridges Trail." These efforts, initiated by Marge, culminated in 1983 in the recognition, establishment and preservation of the CSU Chico Arboretum. Subsequently, Dr. Wes Dempsey produced the still-popular, self-guided arboretum tour, with interpretative pamphlet and labeled trees.

Marge's illustrious career at Chico included collaborations with her esteemed colleagues and friends, and her teaching and mentoring of untold number of students in Plant Taxonomy, Plant Ecology, Ecology, and Radiation Biology. Of course there is Lowell, sitting now on her deck with full plant press, as testimony to her teaching legacy! Another of Marge's students who went on to make significant contributions to California botany was the late John Sawyer, who earned a PhD and became professor of Botany at Humboldt State University. How many other botanists, biologists and ecologists has Marge influenced over the years?

And since retirement, of course, Dr. Anthony has kept busy learning and teaching! She's been studying the ecology of The Sea Ranch on the Sonoma Coast, and has produced a series of natural history guides for the wonderful trails there. The first, "Monarch Glen," describes the riparian evergreen woodland overwintering site of the Western Monarch Butterflies. The second guide explores the "San Andreas Fault Zone." The third guide "Reading our Seascapes" was centered on the ecology of shoreline, bluffs and successively older coastal terraces. She produced another guide to "The Sag Pond Story," and another to "Celestial Wonders." She intends to work up the amphibians/reptiles, and has me thinking about insects. In her guides, Marge urges the reader to "Look, Listen, Smell, Feel and IMAGINE what's going on: at night, underground, other seasons, etc." For this Sea Ranch work, she's earned a "Distinguished Lifetime Service Award" from the community.

Our wonderful visit this last spring ended in the afternoon with a hike through majestic Coast Redwoods along the Sag Pond Trails, teacher in the lead, pointing out trees, plants and assorted "features of interest." John Dittes, FOH Board



Marge Anthony with Lowell Ahart. Marge received a Distinguished Lifetime Service Award from Sea Ranch in recognition of her contribution to the community and her series of natural history guides.

Faces in the Herbarium

Cindy Weiner has been volunteering in the Herbarium since 2007. After having worked in an herbarium when going to college, she read about the Annual Meeting of the Chico State Herbarium, walked in, was introduced to Lawrence Janeway and soon found herself volunteering one day a week.

Cindy has a background in biology with a Masters in microbiology and a deep interest in botany. Her interest in native plants also extends into the garden. Last fall she began to teach an OLLI class on Gardening with Native Plants. This popular class is being offered again this spring.

Much of her work as a volunteer entails databasing - entering information from specimen labels into the herbarium database which is then shared with the Consortium of California Herbaria. She in particular appreciates the carefully and artfully pressed specimens received from Lowell Ahart. "Many of them

are works of art" she says. Other duties include annotating many specimens to reflect the name changes in the new Jepson manual, filing specimens, making new folders and other details that arise in the maintenance of an active herbarium.

Cindy clearly enjoys being a part of the Herbarium. From the visiting botanists to the students who use its resources for their research, she says "There is always something interesting going on there".



Friends of the Herbarium Announces the 4th Annual Plant Photo Contest for Students

Prizes

- 1st Prize: \$100 and Herbarium T-shirt
- 2nd Prize: \$50 and Herbarium T-shirt
- 3rd Prize: \$25 and Herbarium T-shirt

Who is Eligible:

6th through 12th grade students

Specifications: *Maximum of two entries per participant. All entries must be received by May 1, 2014, in order to be displayed and judged. Please submit photos in 8"x10" format as both a hard copy and as a digital file (e.g., jpeg); and include a note with the title or subject, your name, grade level, school, and contact information. Submit prints in person to the Gateway Science Museum Ticket Office OR by mail to: 2014 Plant Photo Contest, Chico State Herbarium, CSU Chico, Chico, CA 95929-0515. Submit the digital file and any questions to John at johnccnd@gmail.com.*

All photos will be on display during the **Herbarium Open House May 9th**, in the Chico State Herbarium, CSUC Campus, Holt Hall Room 129.

Selected photos will be displayed in the Gateway Science Museum and printed in the Chico News & Review!



2013 2nd Place Winner:
Kaesha Fleming, Chico High



CHECK IT OUT!

Conifers of the Pacific Slope. A field guide to the conifers of California, Oregon and Washington by Michael Edward Kaufmann. This book provides a key to the conifers plus descriptions, photos and distribution maps of the different species. The distribution maps of the species is the most interesting. Many of the conifers that are widespread in our local area are really only found in a limited range on the west coast. There are also some maps to conifer destinations so the reader can plan their own trip to visit these amazing species. A wonderful reference. Order this book online at www.backcountrypress.com.

Field guide to the common bees of California by Gretchen LeBuhn. 2013. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA. [California Natural History Guide Series 107]

The **Native Plant Program** by CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (www.dfg.ca.gov/habcom/plant). The website provides answers to a variety of questions pertaining to native plants. There is information on listed plant species and the most common threats to their populations statewide. There is also information on climate change and vegetation as well as research efforts to improve our understanding of rare plant species. Because invasive, non-native plants are one of the greatest threats to rare plant populations, the Department also hosts an invasive species site (www.dfg.ca.gov/habcom/plant/invasives/), and a guide to what plants NOT to plant because they may become invasive (even if they are for sale at your Nursery!).



Yes! I would like to join/renew!

____ Student \$20.00
____ Individual \$35.00
____ Sustaining \$100.00
____ Lifetime \$1,000.00

Contribution to the Jim Jokerst Award \$ _____

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Friends of the Herbarium

The Chico State Herbarium
California State University, Chico

***IT'S SPRING, TIME FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL PLANT PHOTO CONTEST
FOR STUDENTS!***

Friends of the Chico State Herbarium
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0515
(530) 898-5356