



Friends of the Herbarium

Biological Sciences Herbarium
California State University, Chico

Newsletter

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DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

LOWELL AHART was the recipient of the 1997 Distinguished Service Award given by the Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium at the Annual Meeting on 18 October.

Lowell has been a rancher in the Honcut area for much of his life. In the mid 1950s he took Plant Taxonomy from Dr. Marge Anthony at CSU, Chico, and went on to develop into an excellent field botanist. He began preparing exceptionally fine herbarium specimens, which he deposited in the Chico State University Biological Sciences Herbarium, with duplicates going to several other herbaria, including that of the California Academy of Sciences (CAS). These specimens came to attention of the late John Thomas Howell, who was working at CAS, and who was much impressed with both the specimens and with Lowell's expertise in the field. Eventually, primarily because of Lowell's contributions, John Howell willed his library to our herbarium.

In due course Lowell teamed up with Dr. Vern Oswald and made invaluable contributions to our knowledge of the Butte County flora via his collaboration on the development of the *Manual of the Vascular Plants of Butte County, California*, now sold by the California Native Plant Society.

Lowell has charitably provided many other deeply appreciated contributions, in addition to those enhancing our knowledge of the local flora (and several other floras – such as that of Lassen National Park). For example, without any fanfare he quietly, for several months, picked up batches of unmounted specimens backlogged in the Herbarium and, at

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Our biggest news is that the Department of Biological Sciences at CSU, Chico is moving forward with the plan to hire a Plant Systematist professor. Several good candidates applied, and interviews should take place in March and early April. It is anticipated that four of the candidates will be giving seminars on campus. Two tentative dates for these seminars are March 13th and April 10th. Meet-the-candidate sessions will also be taking place. Please call the Department office at 530/898-5356 for the final schedule if you would like to attend. The candidate selected for this position will also serve as the Director of the Herbarium.

Dr. Robert Schlising and Lawrence Janeway, and the rest of the Board of Friends of the

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