



### Bumper Summer at the RM

Rocky Mountain Herbarium (RM) is a long-time leader among herbaria nationwide in growth rate of specimen additions (Prather 2004). Greg Brown, Acting RM Director and former Botany Department Chair, praised RM accomplishments, noting “If the University had a major sports team that ranked in the top 20 every year for the past 25 years, that would be big news” (G. Brown, in: Eisenhauer 2002).

September 2018 marked the first full year of the 5-year Southern Rocky Mountains Project (“SoRo Project”; see Dec 2017 newsletter: Vol. 3, No. 2). The new grant requires new levels of record-keeping that give hard numbers in the progress. The first year is going to be hard to beat, thanks to the RM Volunteer Program, and to National Science Foundation (NSF) funding.

RM specimen imaging outpaced other herbaria in the first 10 months of the project (Allen et al. 2018) – including additions and imaging of material already in cabinets. The top two quarters are shown in Table 1. *How is it possible that so much got done in so short a time?* First, the RM Volunteer Program is new and overlaps with the reporting period. Second, the NSF funding supported hiring student employees for a summer surge in activity. Summer is otherwise a time when fieldwork is going full swing, volunteers take vacations, and student populations dwindle.

Table 1. Rocky Mountain Herbarium specimen work, April-September of 2018

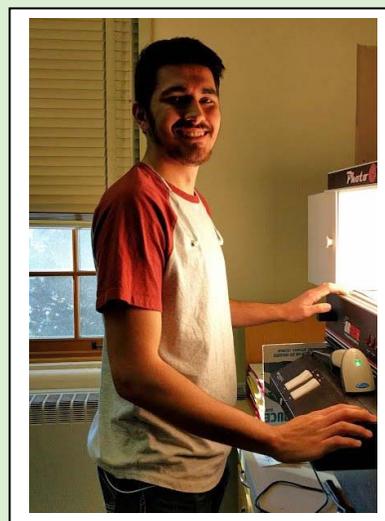
SPECIMEN WORK	Apr-June	Jul-Sept	TOTAL
specimens databased	2122	2072	4194
specimen records updated/barcoded	31,953	33,596	65,549
specimen records georeferenced	693	528	1221
specimens imaged	24,904	31,596	56,500

The RM surge marks a grand start for the SoRo project as a whole. RM accessions from the project area are linked to the newly-created SoRo database and integrated with even larger ones in the SEINet/Symbiota network of online databases. As we look forward to 2019, we look to RM as a growing herbarium...at the forefront!

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** A memorial for Ronald Hartman will be held on 8 February 2019 at the Berry Biodiversity Conservation Center @ 5:30 pm. Botany Dept arrangements are pending.

#### References

- Allen, J.R., E.A. Tripp and D.A. Clark. 2018. ANNUAL REPORT. Using Herbarium Data to Document Plant Niches in the High Peaks and High Plains of the Southern Rocky Mountains. University of Colorado, Boulder. Report to National Science Foundation, 6 Aug 2018.
- Eisenhauer, D. 2002. Plant passion. UWYO Magazine. November. Pp 12-16.
- Prather, L.A., O. Alvarez-Fuentes, M.H. Mayfield and C.J. Ferguson. 2004. Implications of the decline of plant collecting for systematic and floristic research. *Systematic Botany* 29(1): 216-220.



RM Faces: Bryan Siedschlag

RM success wears many faces. One is worn by Bryan Siedschlag, who contributed to an unprecedented pitch of specimen imaging activity in the summer of 2018, thanks to NSF funding of his work and that of co-workers Jacey Myers, Luke Byers and Matthew Ratterman.

Bryan is a junior Kinesiology major who started working on specimen imaging at RM as a sophomore. He contributes to the pace of imaging work (1100 images in a good day, 1500 tops) for the imaging team, all the while focused on quality.

The flexibility of summer RM work also enabled Bryan to take summer classes that fill requirements for grad school. He relishes the autonomy and camaraderie of RM imaging work, and the wealth of information he gained from people like Ernie Nelson, Ron Hartman and Dave Mullens. *-Thank you, Bryan!*