



The New Face of the Rocky Mountain Herbarium

The RM has a new, expanded, and attractive website, as befits its status of one of the great herbaria of North America! At the new site, <http://rockymountainherbarium.org/>, you will find information about the RM, its use policies, strategic plan, and past and present research. The RM database search platform has not changed, but the new site provides additional search opportunities for the non-vascular plants and non-plants, with direct links to the lichenological, mycological and bryological search portals. Additional links are available to the UW Libraries Digital Herbarium and other UW library-based botanical resources. The RM Friends are now included within the site, with enhanced opportunities to join the Friends.



As is appropriate with an up-to-date website, it is not finished yet. We have more material to transfer to the new site and to build from scratch. Watch the Events and Workshops page for opportunities to join us, once we are again able to come together for plant-based fun! This much-needed upgrade was made possible by the UW Biodiversity Institute, which donated the time and expertise of their web developer.

Good reading, not necessarily about plants

Imperfect Union: How Jessie and John Frémont mapped the west, invented celebrity, and helped cause the civil war. By Steve Inskeep, 2020.

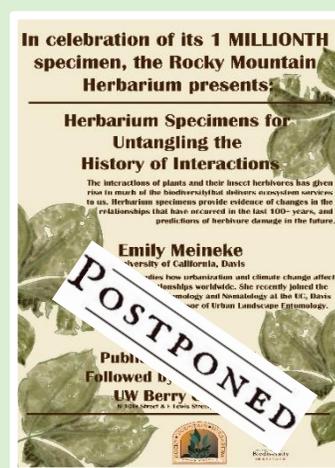
The proverbial everyone knows that John Charles Frémont collected the plant that was to become the type specimen of Wyoming's state wildflower, *Castilleja linariifolia*. The year was 1842, and Frémont was leading his first expedition to the west; his goal was South Pass "with a view to the establishment



of a line of military posts." Frémont's expeditions were regularly beset by disaster, including to his plant specimens, but a number survived. In Wyoming, we have Frémont's goosefoot (*Chenopodium fremontii*), Frémont's dwarf mountain ragweed (*Senecio fremontii* var. *blitoides*), Frémont's stickseed (*Lappula fremontii*), Frémont's bladderpod (*Physaria fremontii*) and Frémont's beardtongue (*Penstemon fremontii*) as reminders of his trespass. Yet J.C. Frémont was far more than a plant collector. With aid from his wife Jessie Benton Frémont, John became one of the most famous men of his time, an adventurer and explorer, and a presidential candidate. This new book about the Frémonts tells a story us plant-people are less familiar with, a story of ambition, fame and politics in 19th century America.

Celebration Postponed

We greatly regret that this spring's celebration of the 1,000,000th specimen has been postponed. Fortunately, our guest speaker, Dr. Emily Meineke, has agreed to come later in the year. You'll be the first to know the new date—or check our website!



Meanwhile, work continues at the RM, with students continuing their tasks while keeping far from each other. The number of specimens at the RM has reached nearly 1,012,000! Since January 1, our employees and volunteers have increased the number of databased specimens by about 2000, georeferenced more than 3300 specimens, and imaged 11,515 specimens. What a team!