RM Friends Newsletter Vol. 6, No. 3

Big News

New Director!

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that the RM has a new director! Dr. David C. Tank will join the University of Wyoming Department of Botany as Professor and Director of the Rocky Mountain Herbarium in August. Dr. Tank has been at the University of Idaho since 2008, and is currently serving as Director of the Stillinger Herbarium, Director of the Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Graduate Program, and Professor. His research focuses on plant evolution, at scales from species to genus to kingdom, and the "stage" for plant evolution within populations, communities and whole floras. His particular emphasis is on the Orobanchaceae and *Castilleja*.

Dr. Dave Tank holding a sample of *Rubus spectabilis* (salmonberry) collected from one of the only inland populations of this species in the PNW, near Priest Lake in extreme NW Idaho. He and his lab group relocated this population this past summer to sample for some phylogeography work that they are doing to investigate the origins of the disjunct temperate rainforests in the inland PNW - specifically to determine if these disjunct populations are the result of ancient vicariance or recent dispersal events.

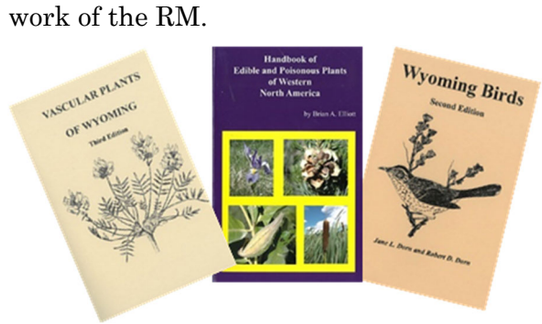
In turn, Dave pronounced the prospect of directing the RM as "incredibly exciting." He has a vision for the RM that is both broad and specific: to continue to grow the digital resources of the collection and expand the audience for those resources, to strategically direct collecting efforts based on under-collected areas, and to maintain the RM's reputation for training field botanists. His active roles in the Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria bode well for maintaining and building collaboration bridges for RM.

March 30, 2021

Furthermore, Dave will arrive at the RM at an exciting time! The RM has acquired the entire second floor of the Aven Nelson Building, and is looking forward to a major expansion in the next few years. In addition, the RM Management Team is now putting together a plan to convert the first floor into a public area to highlight the value of UW's natural science collections, and the troves of treasures, and their associated data, that lie within them. We look forward to sharing progress with you in future newsletters.

Virtual Tour of the RM

Management Team members presented a virtual tour of the Herbarium for members of Teton Plants, a chapter of the Wyoming Native Plant Society. The audience learned about the significance of the RM, how specimens are collected, created and stored, and received a tutorial on searching the database, which now includes nearly 900,000 specimens and >400,000 images.
The recorded tour can be viewed at https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/UdRDFO6s5byOSklfKOFEsOeDbimWcU0sof8tjbRVyKB1qluj2gOINX3Jar-S8ZZqYMJFV13ZrZiWy1gy.-U5CbBnihVlnXe0h?continueMode=true&_x_zm_rtaid=fICmicz5Rm6cKtKUTdPpgg.1615231226008.ffcff40a612f0602c84d2e3e59355ead&_x_zm_rhtaid=819.

RM Store

You can now shop online at the RM for books by Robert Dorn, Jane and Robert Dorn, and Brian Elliott, and Plants of Wyoming Flashcards. Visit RockyMountainHerbarium.org, and click on Store. Your purchases directly support the work of the RM.