



In Memoria: Ronald Hartman



The Rocky Mountain Herbarium and botanists across the country lost a long-time colleague and mentor on June 30, 2018, in the death of Ronald Hartman. Ron spent 38 years as RM Curator and Professor of Botany at the University of Wyoming, mentoring 52 graduate students over his career. To quote Tim Lowrey, a New Mexico colleague: “Dr. Hartman’s botanical contributions include building the RM Herbarium into a national and international resource, being one of the most prolific modern botanical collectors, training a generation of botanists, becoming an acknowledged expert on the large and important plant families of the Asteraceae, Caryophyllaceae, and Apiaceae, editor and author of numerous botanical publications including species new to science, teacher and colleague to botanists across the country. Ron is unmatched, in my opinion, among his contemporaries in amassing these achievements.”

Student Employees Rock the Herbarium

Students are a rock of the Rocky Mountain Herbarium operations. Without them, the processing of specimens, from mounting through imaging and databasing, would happen much more slowly. Several students are employed on the NSF grant to database, barcode and image collections from the Southern Rockies region; others are supported for more general work, especially mounting. Two work-study students are diligently completing digitization of the Solheim Mycological Herbarium, so that those specimens can be made available through Mycoportal. Cassie, now in her fourth year working for the RM, can and does do everything! Together with the help of our wonderful volunteers, 10,800 specimens have been mounted and 81,000 imaged since January 1!

Students have many options for employment on and off campus, so we especially appreciate those students who choose to return year after year. Two returnees explain why they like working at RM:

“My name is Mackenzie and I am currently a senior here at UW studying biology. I started working at the herbarium in October last year, 2017. Here at the herbarium I mount plant specimens that are sent to us—that way they can eventually make it into the RM Database. I really enjoy working here because everyone is so incredibly friendly and easy to get along with. I also like mounting plants because it’s actually quite relaxing and very rewarding to see the final product and how nice and neat it looks.”

“My name is Luke and I am a junior at UW, majoring in Agricultural Business. I have been working at the RM for two years now, and it has undoubtedly been one of the greatest employment experiences I have ever had. Currently, I am the microfungi project manager for the Wilhelm G. Solheim Mycological Herbarium here at RM, in which I am responsible for the transference of fungal specimen data to an online database which currently houses 32,500 specimen files. I work with data entry, imaging, collection management, geo-referencing, and work-study supervision. The reasons that I stay a faithful employee of RM are bountiful, but it ultimately comes down to the enjoyment of the work itself. As an Agricultural Business major, I am thoroughly fascinated by the systematic collection and research of cultivars, plus the work that I do here has thus far served me as a launch pad to future career opportunities in agronomy research. What’s more, I find great enjoyment in the people with whom I work. I would not trade my job at the Rocky Mountain Herbarium for any other form of undergraduate employment!”



Student employees, L to R: Mackenzie Butler, Latosha Wiford, Luke Byers, Cassie Heikkila, Bryan Siedschlag, Erik Larrow, Jacey Myers, Madison Dale, Matthew Ratterman. Not pictured: Nicole Miller, Taylor Britt

RM Event:

**Prickly Puzzles:
Exploring the
Colorado Flora
By Jennifer
Ackerfield, assist.**



curator, CSU Herbarium and author of *The Flora of Colorado*. October 16, 5:30 pm, reception to follow. At the Berry Center, 10th & Lewis St., Laramie.

RM Friends are invited to a special reception for Jennifer at the RM, 4 pm!