

NEWS FLASH

The search for a new Director of RM is proceeding well, and the Search Committee has narrowed down the candidate pool to a strong short-list of candidates. Interviews will follow later this fall.



RM Faces: Lori Brummer

“You don’t come into these floristics thesis projects lightly!” declared Lori Brummer with a smile. Brummer is an RM alumna who completed her thesis in 2016 under Ron Hartman (Brummer 2016)... and took it one quantum step further to prepare each of her 12,000+ specimens for mounting in a volunteer capacity.

Brummer’s floristic inventory spanned over 4,000 sq miles of west-central Colorado (all or part of Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, and Ouray counties), in three years of fieldwork. A total of 12,398 collections were made at 314 sites within the study area. This resulted in 1,267 unique taxa from 93 families in 444 genera. A herbaria search resulted in the addition of 303 taxa, bringing the total number of taxa documented in the area to 1,572.

Four years after the thesis milestone, Lori reached another one this month. Each of her 12,000+ collections and duplicates are ready to mount. To do this, she travelled up to twice a week, three hours roundtrip from Colorado, to prepare all herbarium labels for collections, file them with specimens, and sort her specimens for distribution to 12 different herbaria. These preparation tasks between fieldwork and mounting are not supported by current RM grants or budgets, but Lori didn’t want to see her specimens added to the backlog. “I wouldn’t be doing this if I didn’t think that this is important,” she said with satisfaction.

Data and specimens produced from Brummer’s research have been in demand, including by Jennifer Ackerfield in preparing the *Flora of Colorado* (Ackerfield 2015) and continued work on a second edition. Brummer’s trips to RM were interrupted by overseas trips she and her husband made to see family in New Zealand, and more recently, the pandemic and meeting all University testing requirements. (When I asked her about New Zealand highlights, they included volunteer time in a herbarium!)

RM is open for business under every University of Wyoming safety precaution – fortunate to have the people who keep it growing by leaps and bounds.

And Lori is a quantum contributor - CONGRATULATIONS, LORI!!!

References

Ackerfield, J. *Flora of Colorado*. BRIT Press. 818 pp.

Brummer, L.E. 2016. A floristic inventory of the Uncompahgre, Lower Gunnison, and Plateau Creek Drainages, West-Central Colorado, U.S.A., M.S., Botany Dept., Univ. Wyoming, Laramie, WY. 164 pp.

RM Guest Speaker Marks Millionth Specimen

Dr. Emily Meineke gave an amazing talk on 8 Oct – “*Looking Forward and Back: Cities and Museum Specimens as Novel Methods for Untangling the History of Plant-Insect Interactions.*” Original plans for her to speak at a public event got replaced by a Zoom event, now at: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/he2i8tkuou9jvmh/AAACvpV1CWEJ_a1brUzNfs5Pa?dl=0



RM Faces: Nicole Miller

Assurance of having an RM job through school has felt all the more important in 2020 to Nicole Miller, senior from Colorado Springs majoring in Finance. Nicole has worked at RM for three years, bar-coding, databasing and imaging. She is quick to praise the flexibility in hours and learning on the job. But she couldn’t stop at one praise and topped her list of likes saying she “really loved making friends here” – no matter how socially-distanced.