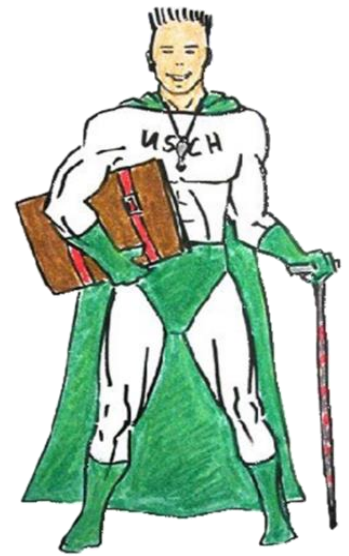
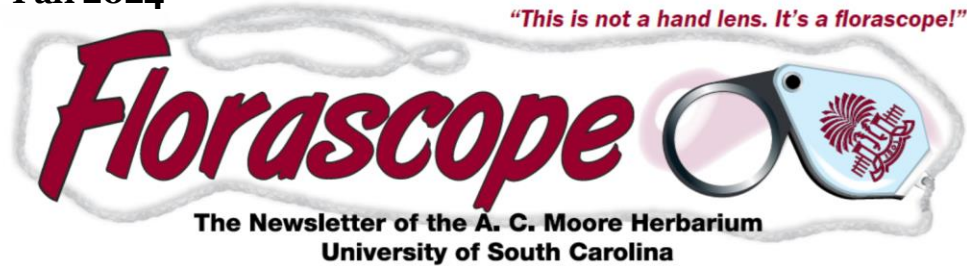


Fall 2024



## Back in Action

Vivat Linnaeus! It has been a long time since our last Florасcope issue, so we have quite a few updates on what we have been up to.

Since 2019, Dr. Herrick Brown has moved into the role of Curator, following Dr. John Nelson's retirement (but still a herbarium regular – come see him on Friday mornings!). We now also have Avery Browning working as Assistant Curator, and Hien Dinh working as a data technician. A small army of volunteers assist us many days with processing specimens. We are also working in collaboration with other herbaria and organizations on conferences, projects, and more!

### SC Consortium of Herbaria

In collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Botany and Plant Conservation Program, the Consortium of South Carolina Herbaria was revived in 2023. The Consortium provides a channel for meeting with curators, researchers, students, and naturalists – creating a space for discussing developments, standardization, news, and botanical passion. Meetings mainly occur digitally on Zoom, but on August 12<sup>th</sup>, SCDNR Botany hosted our first in-person meeting since 1990. This was a huge milestone and fantastic success, connecting 75 individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, and extending to other southeastern states as well. You can view videos, slideshows, and PDFs from this meeting, and of previous meetings on the 'Meetings and Discussions' section of the 'Digitarium' page of our website. You can also sign up for the next upcoming meeting if you would like to attend!



*From the August 12<sup>th</sup> SC Consortium meeting*

### New Website

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, we deployed a full website upgrade. This version has a more modern look, with updated information across all pages. We have also added new pages (especially in our 'Digitarium' and 'Resources' sections!) and information for visitors to explore. Check it out and let us know what you think!

# Upcoming Events

## Blomquist Foray 2025

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Trust Botany and Plant Conservation Program will be hosting the next Blomquist Foray in February of 2025. The Foray is a meeting of enthusiastic bryologists and lichenologists to perform field work and present research in a conference-style gathering over several days. Collaboration between these individuals supports collections of specimens, identification, and new locality data. Bryophytes and lichens are historically underrepresented in many herbaria but growing in prevalence. The A.C. Moore Herbarium will be providing a space for specimen processing, and receive an estimated 800-1000 new specimens, vastly expanding our bryophyte and lichen collections.



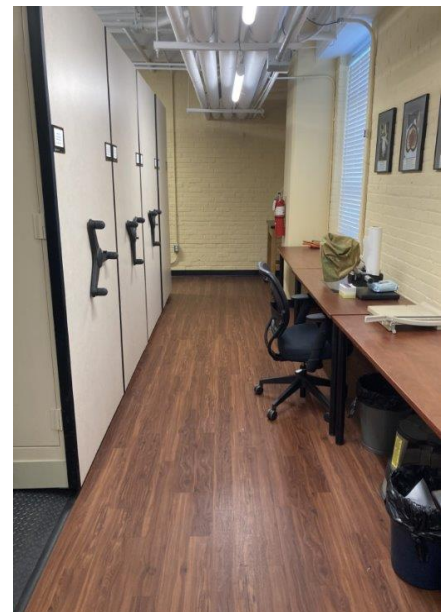
*From the 2024 Blomquist Foray*

## Compactor system?

In our last issue (2016!), we discussed the space limitations of the herbarium. After breaking the 130,000-specimen mark, the collection space has become more increasingly cramped. To remedy this, we are looking at installing a compactor system – a sleek storage option

that some herbaria, such as Clemson, have already implemented. The curator of the Clemson University herbarium, Lorena Endara, kindly showed us the ins and outs of what this looks like. Mobile shelving units are used to reduce space taken up by cabinets – in contrast to our current set up with stationary cabinets, which require additional space for movement between aisles and clearance for opening cabinet doors. Based on our current rate, a new compactor system and additional cabinets would allow for 19 more years of growth!

*Side view of the compactor system used at Clemson*



## Next SC Consortium of Herbaria Meeting

Our next (digital) SC Consortium meeting will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm EST.

If you would like to attend, the registration link can be found on our website under the 'Meetings and Discussions' section on the "Digitarium" page (or you can click here if you're viewing this edition of Florascope online: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwkdeurrz8qGdfTxXAZV6wV1L4ZveatgOUT#/registration>). It is not required to have attended previous meetings to be included!



# USCH Offerings

## Herbarium Tours

Want to see the collection in person, meet the curator, or watch the volunteers in action? We offer free herbarium tours by appointment. Feel free to come solo or bring a group!

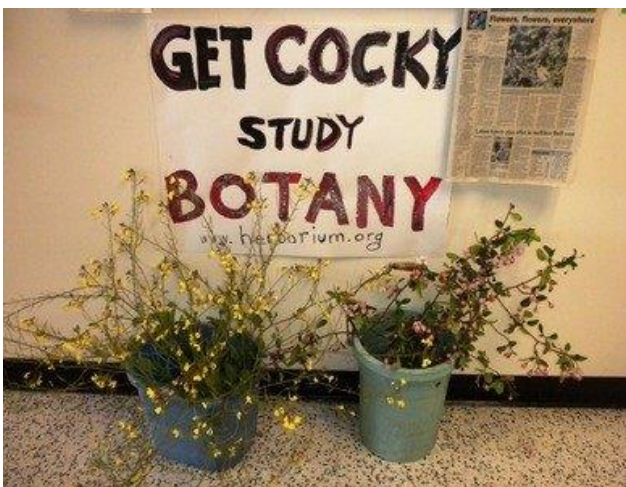
Email us at [herbarium@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:herbarium@mailbox.sc.edu) for more information and to schedule a tour!

## Botany Walks

Botany Walks occur on the third Wednesday of every month and meet on the steps of McKissick Museum on the USC 'Horseshoe' at 11 am. The walk is led by curator Dr. Herrick Brown, who will point out what's blooming on the Horseshoe and more information on the many fascinating species growing there. Every month is different, so you may want to make it a habit to attend!

## USC Courses

"The Fall Flora" (BIOL 526) and "The Spring Flora" (BIOL 527) are classes available for USC students to enroll in, taught by curator Dr. Herrick Brown. Both The Fall Flora and The Spring Flora are 4 credits, with two lecture and four laboratory hours per week. Taking Ecology and Evolution (BIOL 301) is a prerequisite for both courses. Seats fill quickly, so enroll early!



## FREE Plant Identification

Plantman is here to identify your mystery plants! Bring (or ship) a specimen to the herbarium or email us photographs for identification. Including flowers and/or fruits (if applicable) is preferred.

Preparation instructions for shipping can be found on our website under the 'Free Plant Identification' tab.



*Volunteer Ted Kalutz*

## Volunteer Opportunities

The amount of volunteering interest we have received recently has been fantastic (and much can likely be attributed to the wonderful flyers made for us by Hannah Berberich of SCDNR)! Volunteers assist in a variety of tasks, including mounting specimens, imaging, data entry, and filing.

At this point in time, we have reached capacity for the semester, but new opportunities will be available in the spring 2025 semester.

Potential independent studies for USC class credit and research opportunities may also be available!

## The Volunteer Experience

As a volunteer, my duties include putting away dried specimen in the herbarium, sorting by location the specimen was found, their family, and genus. I also help with digitizing the plants and inputting them into a database so others can easily find information about the collection online. There is a third responsibility that volunteers can get involved with that I haven't personally done yet, mounting the dried specimen on paper. I've heard that it's very fun, though, and if you are artistically inclined, right up your ally.

My favorite activity, by far, is definitely putting away specimen. I worked as a library page for a while in high school, meaning I shelved and checked in books people returned to the library. It was a very relaxing process, I could turn on a podcast and methodically put stuff away. While "shelving" specimen requires a bit more brainpower to get right, it is still the same basic deal and still just as fun.

- Haley Hair (Student Volunteer)

## Support the Herbarium

Want to help support the USCH herbarium? Consider donating to the W.T. Batson Endowment. This endowment provides funding for research projects, publications, student-worker salaries, and technology— all necessary for collection sustainability, both in-person and digital. See more information on our website on how to donate!

## Bumper Stickers

Bumper stickers are available! Find more information on our website under the 'Support the Herbarium' page.



*Bumper sticker options*

**That's it for this issue! Have a happy holiday and we'll see you next time!**

*Florascope* Vol. #10



A.C. Moore Herbarium  
University of South Carolina

**Andrew Charles Moore Herbarium (USCH)**

—Established 1907—

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