



The Florascope

An instrument that lays open the essence of Flower Structure
and now brings good news to Friends of the AC Moore Herbarium

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The Florascope

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 (see www.herbarium.org)

Origin of the "Florascope"

I believe it was in the Spring Semester of 1960 that I went on several field trips with Dr. B and his Spring Flora class. On the first trip I noticed that all of the students had a hand lens on quite a variety of cords hanging around their necks. Some were attached by strings of various diameters to include hemp cord while others used broad to narrow ribbons of a variety of colors and design. As a morphologist, I considered that flora students were unique amongst human beings. Unlike the rest of us, they had this extra appendage dangling from their necks. Several students were near-by when I asked Dr. B if the dangling hand lenses were a course requirement. Before he could answer, one of the students said as she held her lens with thumb and index finger, "This is not a hand lens! It is a floroscope." Dr. B just smiled not bothering to answer my course requirement inquiry, and the students all voiced their approval of this designation.

— Editor

Herbarium Volunteers

Dr. Alessandro Barchiesi, retired physician, now offers his time again. We are happy to have him back after a sort of 10 year absence. Alessandro is very interested in lichens and bryophytes, and has taken on the considerable job of mounting specimens into packets. These specimens are maintained at USCH much in the same way they are at Duke University. Eight paper packets are stapled on to a sheet of herbarium paper, which saves considerable space (and paper). The label is glued directly onto the top of the packet, and each one gets an accession number, just like the specimens in the vascular plant collection.

Irene Stevenson continues to repair and remount specimens, two days each week. Irene has been in the herbarium since 1994, and has repaired several thousand sheets. She was especially useful during our accessioning of the herbarium from Brookgreen Gardens, and more recently, has taken upon the repair of sheets that came to us from Lander University.

Mr. Rudolph Brantley works as our chief data-entry person. He has a BS degree from USC. His salary comes from the NSF grant that allowed us to buy 52 new herbarium cases, and initiate our data base activities. To date, nearly 20,000 specimens of South Carolina plants have been entered.

Student Workers

Mr. Won Flood was employed since last fall as a data manager and web site troubleshooter. Won graduated with his BS degree in May 2006, and has moved on to MUSC in Charleston. We wish him the best!

Ms. Jane Bradbury also received her BS degree in May, 2006. Jane completed her plant inventory of the Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve, a study made possible with \$1,000 provided by the SC Department of Natural Resources. Jane has been accepted into the Botany program at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, and we are excited about prospects at this prestigious institution. We also hope she handles the winter well!

New material

Lander University transferred a portion of its herbarium collection to USCH in June, 2006. 102 specimens are now in the process of being repaired, data-based, and accessioned. Endowment earnings were used for transportation costs.

Exchange Program

The herbarium has formalized an exchange program with the Herbarium of Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland. We initiated the exchange with a shipment of 121 specimens, they reciprocated with 100; their shipment is the first of any specimens from eastern Europe for our collection.

From September 18 2005 to September 18 2006, We sent out on loan 1,071 specimens for study. Among these were relatively large loans of *Sabatia* (244) to Western Carolina University (WCU), 137 specimens of *Festuca* to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (DAO), and 132 specimens of *Cyperus* to Eastern Illinois University (EIU)

Accessions and Identifications

In the last year, September 18, 2005 - September 18, 2006, 2,159 specimens were mounted and accessioned. Requests to "Plant Man" for plant identification have steadily increased. From formal requests, 377 plants were identified by mid-September, 2006. Over the entire year of 2005, 304 were identified as were 275 during 2004. Tell your friends and relatives about the free identification program at the AC Moore Herbarium.

Herbarium Endowment

The *WT Batson Endowment for the A C Moore Herbarium and Garden*, managed by the USC Educational Foundation, presently contains (as of June 30, 2006) \$8,888.65 in a spendable account, and this is currently being used for supplies and salaries for part-time student workers. The total endowment balance as of September 1, 2006 was \$106,554.77.

Mystery Plant Column

As of this report, 221 consecutive installments have been made. Participating newspapers now include *Charleston Post & Courier*, *The State*, *The Florence News*, *Island Packet* (Hilton Head), *Union Recorder* (Milledgeville GA), *Orangeburg Times-Democrat*, *Outer Banks (NC) Sentinel*, *Charlottesville (VA) Daily Progress*, and *Columbia (SC) Star*. Additional newspapers are being sought to run this column.

A. C. Moore Herbarium Research Award

The AC Moore Herbarium has established a research award for the plant science (botanical) paper or poster of highest excellence presented by a USC biology or marine science graduate or undergraduate student at the 68th annual meeting of the *Association of Southeastern Biologists* hosted by the USC Department of Biological Sciences, April 18-21, 2007.

To be eligible for this award, the student must submit to the Program Chair for the meeting an abstract prepared in accordance with the guidelines published in the September issue of the association journal, *Southeastern Biology*. In addition, he/she must prepare voucher specimens of the plant species investigated in the reported study and submit them to the curator of the A C Moore Herbarium in order to receive the award. Presentations from all fields of plant science investigation and from all plant groups are eligible for the award. Papers and posters to be considered for this award must be presented by the competing student, although the paper may have two or more authors. Those making the presentation must hold membership in the *Association of Southeastern Biology* and must be registered for the meeting.

The winner of this award will receive **\$500.00** and will be honored as a *Fellow of the A C Moore Herbarium*. Each student who participates in this competition will receive a one-year membership in the *Association of Southeastern Biologists*. For participating students who have also been recruited to work in the production of the meeting (e.g., registration, meeting room duties, etc.), registration fees will be waived. For participants not engaged in the production of the meeting, half of the registration fee will be covered as a part of this award program, so the participant's portion will be \$32.50.

As a *Friend of the AC Moore Herbarium*, you will be happy to know that this award could not have been established without earnings from the endowment. We expect to offer this award each year to entice students to join and participate in this regional association of biologists whose membership extends beyond the region to all parts of the United States and to foreign countries as well.

To offer this award for participation in the 2007 annual meeting of the *Association of Southeastern Biologists* carries a special significance. At this meeting, we will celebrate the 100th year of the *AC Moore Herbarium*, the 100,000th specimen accessioned by the herbarium, the 95th birthday of Dr. Wade Batson, and the 300th birthday of Carl Linnaeus. Please notice that the competition for this award is open to graduate and undergraduate students in *all* fields of Botany (aka: Plant Science; Phytology). We expect to report in the next issue of *The Florascope* that participation in this new program was undertaken by students in diverse fields of study.

Advisory Committee for the AC Moore Herbarium

Marked growth of the herbarium and the accompanying increase in its service to the university and community at large have brought to the attention of the Curator, John Nelson, the need for more than one voice speaking to the needs, direction, and future development of this marvelous facility. The AC Moore Herbarium is one among several organized units of the Department of Biological Sciences, and its service and influence extends broadly throughout the state and nation and, indeed, the rest of the world. John Nelson has recently traveled to Paris to collaborate with botanists at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, and between September 21st and October 2nd of this year, he will be studying at the Botanische Staatssammlung München in Munich, Germany. In recognition of the multifaceted nature of the herbarium, John decided to appoint the *AC Moore Herbarium Advisory Committee* to help with important decisions aimed toward efficient and future operation of the facility. The members of the Advisory Committee are:

Dr. Erin L. Connolly, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, USC-Columbia. *Chair*

Dr. Johannes W. Stratmann, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, USC-Columbia.

Ms. Lynn Robertson, Executive Director, McKissick Museum, USC-Columbia.

Dr. Walter B. Edgar, Professor & Director, Institute for Southern Studies, USC-Columbia.

Dr. Gail Wagner, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, USC-Columbia.

Dr. Albert B. Pittman, Botanist, Heritage Trust Program, Department of Natural Resources, SC.

Citations of USCH in the literature, 2006

Allison, James R. 2006. Big-fruited Buckthorn, *Sideroxylon macrocarpus* (Sapotaceae), a long-forgotten Georgia endemic. *Sida 22(1):243-264.*

Allison, James R., Michael Wayne Morris, and Ashley N Egan. 2006. A new species of *Pedimelum* (Fabaceae) from the lower Piedmont plateau of Georgia and South Carolina. *Sida 22(1):227-241.*

Brunton, Daniel F. and Donald M. Britton. 2006. *Isoetes melanopoda* spp. *silvatica* (subsp. nov.), a new quillwort (Isoetaceae) from eastern North America. *Castanea 71(1): 15-30.*

Knapp, Wesley M. and Dwayne Estes. 2006. *Gratiola brevifolia* (Plantaginaceae) new to the flora of Delaware, the Delmarva Peninsula, and the mid-Atlantic. *Sida 22(1):825-829.*

Krings, Alexander and Robert J. Richardson. 2006. *Cayratia japonica* (Vitaceae) new to North Carolina and an updated key to the genera of Vitaceae in the Carolinas. *Sida 22(1):813-815.*

Phipps, J. B. and K. Dvorsky. 2006. *Crataegus* series *Parviflorae* and its putative hybrids in the southeastern United States. *Sida 22(1):423-445.*

Smith, Tyler W., James T. Donaldson, Thomas F. Wieboldt, Gary L. Kauffman, and Marcia J. Waterway. 2006. The geographic and ecological distribution of the Roan Mountain Sedge, *Carex roanensis* (Cyperaceae). *Castanea 71(1): 45-53.*

Terrell, Edward E. and Harold Robinson. 2006. Taxonomy of North American species of *Oldenlandia* (Rubiaceae). *Sida 22(1):305-329.*