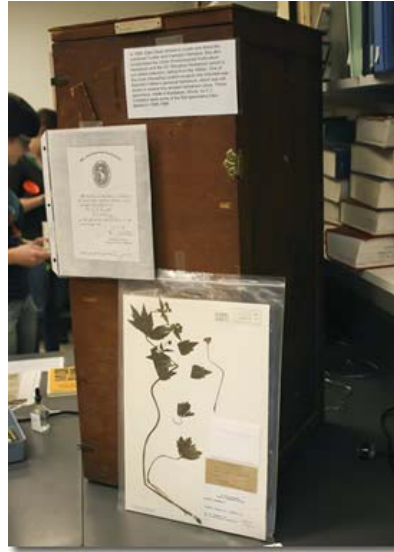


Crampton Herbarium celebrates 100

More than 300,000 specimens collected from as far back as 1831 have been dried, pressed and mounted to paper, then filed into the many columns of storage cabinets within the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity herbarium. About 45,000 of these specimens belong to the Beecher Crampton Herbarium, the second oldest herbarium on campus. On February 27, 2013 staff and volunteers celebrated a century of effort in building this collection. We're excited about the turnout and to be able to share so much of our work with others today," said Ellen Dean, curator of the herbarium.



Originally called the UC Agronomy Herbarium, the Crampton collection began in 1913 at UC Berkeley with biologist Patrick Kennedy and his wooden chest of clover specimens. In 1926, the herbarium found its way to the UC Farm Campus, what would become UC Davis. It was later renamed for Beecher Crampton, curator of the Agronomy Herbarium from 1952 to 1984 and an expert in grasses and vernal pool plants. After Crampton's retirement, the collection merged with the UC Davis Botany Department herbarium in Robbins Hall. Ellen Dean then moved the entire herbarium to new climate-controlled facilities in the Sciences Laboratory Building in 2004, where it continues to incorporate newly documented species. With Agronomy now incorporated into the Plant Sciences Department, the herbarium is Directed today by Plant Sciences Professor Daniel Potter.

"I've had some interesting learning assignments," said Donald Crosby, Emeritus Professor of Toxicology, who has also been volunteering at the herbarium for six years. He uses a magnifying glass on small photographs to identify details about when and where some of the plants were found. In admiring the herbarium for its efficient use of space, he said, "Not only is it well laid out, but it's easy to find specimens."

The afternoon celebration drew a diverse crowd of well-established plant scientists, along with a few curious students.

"We invite students on collecting trips and that's how we get them involved," said Collection Manager Jean Shepard, who has been with the herbarium since 1995. "That's how I got hooked!"

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