No. 63
Spring 2025

DAVIS BOTANICAL SOCIETY

LASTHENIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVIS BOTANICAL SOCIETY

BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY HAPPENINGS

As another academic year wraps up, it is a good time to take a breather and reflect on all that has occurred at the Botanical Conservatory this past year. It has been a bit of a blur as we work hard to make the collection the best it can be, meet our teaching mission and develop new projects that highlight the wonders of the Conservatory.

We continue to focus on our teaching mission: growing plants for labs, giving tours and opening the conservatory for all types of classes and visitors. In the coming year, major changes in the core biological sequence will affect the Conservatory's activity, although the details are not yet clear. In addition to UC Davis plant sciences and biology, a steady stream of K-12 classes, garden groups, community college and art classes utilize the Conservatory. It is always a treat to see the work that comes from the art students. In the coming year we hope to collaborate with the Art Department and have an "Art of the Conservatory" night where students can showcase their representations of our plants.

Some of our plants made their stage debut this year. We collaborated with the Theater and Dance department for an immersive performance 'Taming the Lightning'. Photos of our plants were enlarged and projected on the screen as well as being highlighted in the scenery. A Titan Arum even "sang" a duet with a performer; an electronic Plant Wave device was attached to the plant and the sounds recorded.

Fig. 1. Students holding **Welwitschia** *seedlings. Photo: R. Booke*

While teaching support is our main mission, we do support research when we can. Our Wollemi pine was harvested for root material for a terpene study. Our collection of Gongora orchids is regularly sampled for an ongoing pollination study, and some of our Venus fly traps have been sent off to be studied for a laser experiment. I'm hoping to get more details on that one!

continued on page 4

COLUSA GRASS AT JEPSON PRAIRIE

Taxonomic background

Colusa Grass (*Neostapfia colusana*) is in a monotypic genus in the grass tribe Orcuttieae. All Orcuttieae are vernal pool endemic annual plants and occur primarily in large, playa-type vernal pools. These large pools typically pond for three months or longer, but dry completely in the summer, when the grasses bloom and set seed. Other genera in the tribe are *Orcuttia* and *Tuctoria*. Of the ten currently recognized taxa in the tribe, nine occur entirely within the California floristic province and one taxon occurs in southern Baja California. All, except the Baja California *Orcuttia fragilis*, are listed as threatened or endangered under the federal and California Endangered Species Acts.

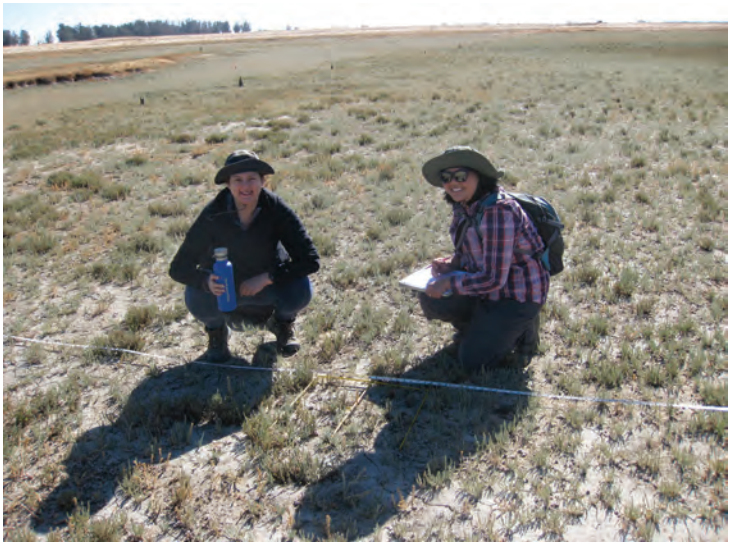
Colusa Grass has one of the broadest distributions of these rare grasses

Neostafia colusana. ***Photo: C. Russell***

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

COLUSA GRASS (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

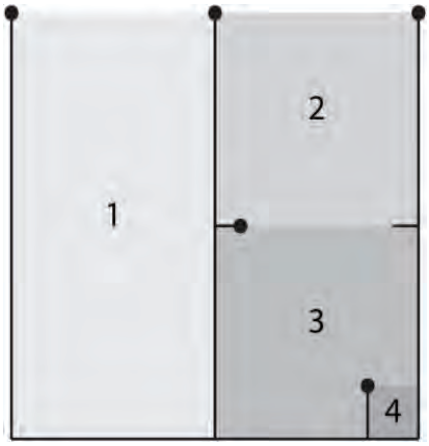


Volunteers at work at the transect tape. Photo: G. Kareofelas

with 66 known historic occurrences within the Central Valley in Colusa, Solano, Stanislaus, and Merced counties. At least 21 of those historic occurrences have been extirpated, including the one in Colusa County from which the common name was derived. Most of the 45 remaining occurrences are on private property, and many are adjacent to ever-expanding orchards. Jepson Prairie Preserve in Solano County contains a large and regionally significant population of Colusa Grass. The population in the preserve's Olcott Lake tends to be large and persistent. Other nearby populations are small and more intermittent. The nearest large population is in southeastern Stanislaus County.

Project design

In 1988, as a new and enthusiastic volunteer docent at Jepson Prairie, I asked Tom Griggs, who was then preserve manager, to help me identify and implement a volunteer-led monitoring project. After discussing the need for simplicity and repeatability over time and by observers with various levels of skill, we decided to use nested frequency frames. This sampling protocol was commonly used in range management monitoring at the time.



Nested frame used in monitoring. Credit: C. Witham

The method consists of placing the frame at regular intervals along a tape and recording the highest numerical designation of each plant rooted within the frame. Data on vegetation cover, litter, bare soil, etc. is also collected. Since no calibration of cover values is required, and there are only eight species that generally co-occur with the Colusa Grass, this method is easily taught to volunteers of various skill levels.

In the summer of 1989, we installed three permanent plots in the eastern portion of Olcott Lake. Each plot contained five transects. A total of 20 frame placements were made along each transect for a total of 100 frame placements for each plot. The beginning and end of each transect was permanently marked, and the interval placement was recorded. All this allowed for consistent frame placement in all subsequent monitoring years. Standardized data forms were created and over the years some cheat sheets were prepared to help identify the other species present. Frequency data can be simply reported as the summed scores divided by the maximum total score possible for the plot.

Results I: Citizen science success

2024 marked the 36th year of continuous data collection for this project. Every year volunteers gather at Jepson Prairie early on a late July or August morning. The volunteers have diverse occupational and educational backgrounds and widely varying botanical skill levels. After a brief orientation to the monitoring methods and a quick review of the common plants, we set out in teams to collect data. Since we usually finish by noon, the data collection is often followed by a picnic and sometimes a field trip. To date, over 115 individuals have participated in this citizen science project. Some come only once or twice, while others have helped dozens of times over the years. At least 800 volunteer hours have been recorded for this project.

The monitoring methods chosen back in 1988 have proven to be very easy to teach to volunteers; with only a few minor glitches, the data have been highly consistent from year to year. While in retrospect I might have chosen a more elaborate monitoring protocol, this is the longest continuous monitoring project at Jepson Prairie Preserve. I believe its design simplicity has been part of the reason this monitoring has continued for 36 years and counting. I hope the straightforward protocol will also make it easier to pass the project on to a new volunteer leader in the near future.

Results II: Data analysis past and future

Years ago, I did some preliminary analysis of the data for a poster presentation. I simply plotted annual frequency of *Neostapfia colusana* against annual rainfall totals. While the data showed strong correlation between total rainfall and plant frequency, there were a number of anomalous years. I suspect that other weather factors may play a role during the small window for germination of this species.

All 495 field data forms have been scanned and are available electronically, along with more detailed information on the methods, exact location of the plots, preliminary analyses, etc. Part of the data is entered into a spreadsheet, and I am hoping to get the remainder entered this summer. I'd like to make all this available to anyone who might want to take a stab at some analyses.

Anyone interested in the data set, or in coming out to help with this monitoring, can contact me at carolwwitham@gmail.com.

C. Witham

RECENT GIFTS

Ellen Dean Herbarium Endowment
Alison Colwell & Bruce Ponman
Sonia Cook
In memory of James West
Beth Corbin
Ellen Dean & Tom & Margaret Starbuck
Ron, Diana, & Nora Glick
Ron, Diana, & Nora Grigarick
Louis & Georgette Grivetti
Glen Holstein
Russell Huddleston
Marie Jasieniuk & Frank Roe
In honor of Ellen Dean
Julie Knorr
Sally Manning
Patrick McGuire
Karen Miyagishima
Sue Nichol
Trish Pease
Willa & Stuart Pettygrove
Robert Preston
Robyn Smith
Craig Thomsen
In honor of Ellen Dean
Mandy Tu
Petra & Ronald Unger
In honor of Ellen Dean
Lorraine Van Kekerix
Rosalie Vanderhoef
John Giles Waines
In honor of Grady & Barbara Webster
Alice Warrick
Alan Whittemore
Valerie Whitworth
In memory of Michael Barbour

Tim Metcalf Botanical Conservatory Endowment
Sonia Cook
Joseph & Susan DiTomaso
James Doyle & Susan Ustin
Ron, Diana, & Nora Glick
Lassie Hammock
Marie Jasieniuk & Frank Roe
Sally Manning
Calvin & Kitty Qualset
Petra & Ronald Unger
Rosalie Vanderhoef
Alice Warrick
Valerie Whitworth

DBS Student Grants Fund
Elizabeth Brusati
Ron, Diana, & Nora Glick
Al & Barbara Grigarick
Russell Huddleston
Marie Jasieniuk & Frank Roe
Sally Manning
Staci Markos
Karen Miyagishima
Marcel & Eliska Rejmanek
Mandy Tu
Rosalie Vanderhoef
Alice Warrick
Tom Zavortink

Herbarium Operations and Gifts in Kind
Kate Mawdsley
Karen Miyagashima
Marcel Rejmanek
Steven Shacoski

Conservatory Give Day Campaign
AJ Alpert
Grace Auringer
Nancy Guyon Baldwin & Paul Baldwin
Aamirah Begum
Javaan Bhakta
Brandon Bierlein
Nina Bingham
Debra Booke
Andrew Bowles
Yeela Bronicki
Stephanie Brooks & Gary Dodson
Elizabeth Brusati
Patricia Buckholz
Josh Burns
Kimberly Callahan
Alex Camacho
Marin Cantrell
Jason Carter
Linda Chen & Simon Heeps
Lilly Clem
Alison Colwell & Bruce Ponman
Sonia Cook
Katherine Corn & Daniel Rath
Karolina Czarnecki
Darian Debortoli
Christine & C.M. Dewees
Haley Di Pressi & Lewis Deyele
Linda Dodge
Irving Dominguez
Noel Dybdal & Paul Lutes
Kyle Elshoff
Lisa & Drew Elshoff
Joshua Erdman
Nicolas Fauchier-Magnan & Heather Bischel
Tida Feepakproh
James Fong
Jessica Friedman
Emmy Gallagher
Anna Gibson & Calvin Nauer
Mallory Gorenzel
Seth Gross
Lesley Hamamoto
Eileen & James Harbertson
Stacey Harmer & Julin Maloof
Susan Harrison & Howard Hornell
Jane He
Maya Heeps
Elisa Hernandez & Anthony Ramirez
Maud Hinchee
Jeffrey & Lisa Holmsen
Iris Holzer
Carole Hom & Neil Willits
Margaret Honig
Alden Hughes
Esther Hurtado
Zachariah Jaramillo
Tina Jeoh & Steven Zicari
Judy Jernstedt
Noelle Joobeur
Axel Jurgens
Alison Kim
Christine Kim
Anastasia Klestinec
Hannah Knab
Marla & Steven Knight
Ishaan Kumar
Joel Ledford
Andie Lehman
Lori Leong & Mark Pollock
Frances Lessman
Yvonne Leung
Cryssina Loglin & Ryan Fadden
Shelly Maramonte
Elizabeth Marder
Deborah & Patrick Martin
Katherine Mawdsley
Hannah Mccurry
Megan McDaniels
Jillian McKie
Lila McNiff
Richard Meadors
Margaret Memmott
Kapila Mhaiskar
Florence Miller
Kyhiera Miller
Lynne & John Morgan
Christopher Mulligan
Deborah Neff
Leslee & Steven Newton-Reed
Brianna Nguyen
Patricia Odenthal
Laurel Ode-Schneider & Joe Schneider
Grace Olson
Thana Paguyo
Tina Pan
Lori Ann Pardau
Nick Parker
Amy Parkhurst
Kate Pecsok Ewert
AiVy Quach
C. O. & Kathleen Qualset
Mason Rogers
Nina Ronstadt & Kennth Klestinec
Nathan Rosselli
Thomas & Ann Rost
Tova Rothert
Hannah Russell
Alya Samsudin
Sarah Sawtelle
Steve Schoenig & Carol Hillhouse
Jon Shaff
Katie Sharp
Jean & Scott Shepard
M .Silk & Ronald Goldberg
Alicia Sillers
Ester Sinaga
Eric Slessarev & Claire Kouba
Robert Snider & Jak Jarasjakkrawhal
Syrendell
Lori Taste
Anastasia Thompson
Sophie Thompson
Brenda Torres
Daniel M. Tran
Nickolas Trane
Dianne Velasco
Zane Warden
Gabrielle Wyatt
Nicole Anne Yalung
Shu-Hsien Yang
Yiying Yang
Megan Yu
Thomas Zavortink
Sunny Zhou

Botanical Conservatory General Support
Carl Archut, Jr. & Karim Mohamed
Meghan Bohan
Bill Cooper
Jonathan Mkhitarian
Richard & Susan Stickel

Thank you!

CONSERVATORY (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

Fig. 2. **Nymphaea thermarum** *in bloom. Photo: R. Booke*

April saw the first Conservatory plant sale in several years, and we were delighted with the response. The line to enter the sales area wove through the parking lot and down past California Hall. Our *Welwitschia* seedlings were a big draw, but staghorn ferns, begonias, and ant plants (*Hydnophytum*) were hits as well.

In Winter Quarter our 12 interns, along with volunteers, spent many hours propagating and transplanting our sale stock. Almost everything sold out, so this summer volunteers will be propagating energetically to prepare for a late fall sale. We hope to be able to accept credit cards soon, which will make sales much easier and faster. With course changes affecting income from recharge, the plant sales will become a crucial support for the Conservatory.

The campus Big Day of Giving coincides with Picnic Day in April, and the support for the Conservatory was overwhelming. The project had the fourth highest number of donors throughout the campus. Plant Sciences Professor emerita Judy Jernstedt and longtime Conservatory supporter Maud Hinchee initiated the campaign with generous challenge donations. When online gifts met that goal within two days, Judy and Maud doubled their initial challenge, and our wonderful donors met that goal as well.

If you follow the Conservatory's postings on social media, you know that the *Victoria amazonica* featured in the Spring 2024 *Lasthenia* is a big hit with visitors and online viewers. The student-led project to grow the species has been quite successful, and our plants have gained attention from a number of other botanical institutions. The Denver Botanic Gardens has invited us to participate in this year's Waterlily Weigh-Off, which determines how much weight an individual leaf can hold. We will be competing with organizations like the Missouri Botanic Garden (last year's winner) and Longwood Gardens. The winner will be revealed August 28th. At our latest pre-weigh off, we are at a weight of 80 pounds.

At the other end of the size spectrum, the world's smallest water lily, the critically endangered Rwanda water lily (*Nymphaea thermarum*), bloomed in May. We hope to be able to produce seed to disseminate to other botanical gardens that have requested this species.

The major project to create an accurate current plant database is progressing; we hope to have it online and on our new, yes new, website (conservatory.ucdavis.edu) within the next few months. Elice Leung, staff horticulturalist, is going through and assessing every plant in our collection for up-to-date names and data.

The quarterly lecture series "Night at the Conservatory" continues. We have had a fabulous turnout for all of them. Some of the topics have included parasitic plants, *Welwitschia*, orchid pollination and Aroids. We are gearing up for our Fall program, so stay tuned for that.

All the activity reported here cannot be accomplished alone: a big thanks goes to the Conservatory's wonderful student staff. They are the backbone of the Conservatory and always step up when needed. Another big thanks goes to our interns. Currently, due to time constraints, we have around 12 students each Fall Quarter. We hope to increase this to two intern cohorts per year. Not only is the internship important for maintenance of the collection and propagation of our sale plants, but it is also a valuable learning experience for the participants. Most of our student workers were interns (as were Elice and I many, many years ago!). And of course, thank you to all that support the Conservatory whether financially, by volunteering, or by visiting us. It is all appreciated.

2025 has been a challenging but exciting year for the Conservatory. As with most departments and institutions on campus, the uncertainty about budget looms large. However, the Conservatory has been around for sixty years and has weathered many storms; let us all hope that this year is just another storm to ride out. The work and dedication that our predecessors put into the Conservatory are not lost on us, and we take the responsibility and care of the collection to heart.

M. Simon

LAW FAMILY AWARDS

This year more students than ever have helped the herbarium with projects and events, either as interns-for-credit, as volunteers, or as employees. Happily, there is a tangible way to reward their efforts: the Law Family Endowment was established by E. Eric Grissell in 2014. Dr. Grissell is an entomologist who worked with Dr. John Tucker during his doctoral studies and who has had a longtime interest in supporting students in plant science-related service to the herbarium.

In recognition of their contributions, the 2025 Law Family Endowment awards have been presented to six students who have made significant contributions: three undergraduate and three graduate students.

The undergarduate awardees are:

- Morgan Thompkins, a graduating senior, for digitizing our African plant specimens.
- Andy Jones, a junior, for identifications on *Lupinus* specimens.
- Raine Kosoff, a sophomore, for putting many hours into cleaning and counting seeds for the rare plant seed repository effort.

Our graduate awardees:

- Han Wang, for helping us update the ethnobotany collection, and processing & translating specimens from China.
- Will McMahan for helping with events, soliciting identifications for our Hmong ethnobotany specimens from the Hmong community and identifying our African plant specimens.
- Reed Kenny, who recently completed his PhD, for identifying many *Juncus* specimens.

A. Colwell

A SUMMER RESEARCH ADVENTURE WITH DIVYA SHRESTHA

In the summer of 2024, I had the rewarding opportunity to mentor Divya Shrestha, a master's student from Fort Valley State University in Georgia. Divya was at UC Davis through the Plant Agricultural Biology Graduate Admissions Pathways (PABGAP) program, an initiative of the UC Office of the President designed to support students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) by immersing them in research, fieldwork, and mentoring experiences.

PABGAP, which launched in 2016, offers students the opportunity to work closely with faculty and mentors at UC campuses. The program offers students professional development opportunities, graduate school application assistance, and even logistical support like bikes and housing. Divya embraced the full scope of this experience—receiving a stipend, conducting research, and adjusting to life on a big campus. Reflecting on her time here, she said, "This internship was a real adventure. Some days we'd be out collecting samples, while on others we'd be busy in lab. But no matter where I was, I was always learning something new."

Our project focused on arroyo willow, *Salix lasiolepis*, a species commonly found in California, and a priority species for the California Phenology Project. (The California Phenology Project (CPP) monitors the timing of life cycle events in about 60 plants across diverse ecosystems to study the effects of climate change.) Our goal was to explore how its flowering patterns have shifted over the past century by studying the more than 200 herbarium specimens available through the Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH2). The project was related to my dissertation project on the systematics and evolution of *Salix* species.

Divya, though familiar with plant science, was new to working with herbaria. This experience became a deep dive into botanical history, revealing how these records offer valuable insights into climate change and plant life. The project was both a learning experience and a race against time, as we had just six weeks to complete it. Divya was eager to gain new technical skills and also to explore ethnobotany. *Salix* has many ethnobotanical uses, so I developed a project that fit these goals within our tight timeline.

Our first step was gathering willow samples from locations around Davis, aiming for a diverse range of samples to capture the flowering patterns of *Salix lasiolepis*. We trekked through different habitats, carefully gathering samples, and ended up with only one poison oak rash—proof of our commitment! Divya was particularly enthusiastic about the hands-on aspects of herbarium work. She shared, "My favorite part was learning how to mount the specimens. I loved every minute of it." For each sample, she recorded key details, including the plant's growth stage (flowering, budding, or fruiting), and environmental factors like location and climate.

Divya Shrestha and Kandiss Dowdell. Photo: D. Potter

To understand how *Salix lasiolepis* flowering patterns have evolved, we analyzed the specimens we had collected and also hundreds of additional specimen images provided through CCH2, recording their reproductive stages. Each specimen image was a snapshot of the plant's life cycle stage at the moment it was collected. We used two methods: one to indicate whether the plant was flowering, and another to detail its specific growth stages.

Next, we linked these flowering patterns with climate data. We divided the samples by location in cooler and warmer regions and compared their flowering times. This allowed us to see if there were noticeable differences based on environmental conditions. To make the comparison clearer, we focused on samples from the coldest and warmest regions only, excluding those from areas with average temperatures (see poster on p. 7).

We searched for trends showing how flowering timing changed over the years in response to temperature fluctuations. However, clear trends were hard to find due to the limited number of samples and the fact that most specimens had been collected during flowering periods, which could skew the results.

Despite these challenges, the experience of doing the project was thoroughly rewarding. Divya not only gained technical skills but also developed a deeper appreciation for the role of herbaria in plant science. "I was always learning something new," she said. "It was fascinating to see how even a single plant sample could tell such a detailed story." She learned that herbaria are much more than rooms full of withered plants, they're crucial record depositories that provide insight into how plants have adapted to environmental changes.

This experience also sparked Divya's interest in exploring herbarium collections in her native Nepal, where she realized valuable historical records are waiting to be studied. "Thanks to everyone who helped me during my stay here," Divya added, reflecting on her summer experience.

As Divya considers her future career, whether in plant science or cancer research, she carries with her the insights and skills gained from this summer. The experience broadened her perspective on research and demonstrated the importance of preserving and studying plant specimens.

Our summer project was more than just an investigation into willow flowering patterns; it was also an introduction to botanical techniques and the world of herbaria and the stories they hold. Through this experience Divya learned to appreciate the role these collections can play in understanding plant history and climate change. It was a summer of discovery, growth, and newfound passion, turning inert dried plants into windows into the past and paving the way for future research.

K. Dowdell

RESURRECTING A DORMANT HERBARIUM

The plant specimens housed in the Sacramento State Herbarium had remained dormant for decades. As a plant community ecologist fascinated by seeds, I can't help but draw a connection between soil seed banks and our small herbarium. Soil seed banks harbor a hidden diversity of dormant plants, offering a glimpse into past plant communities and the potential for future ones. The Sacramento State Herbarium is no different: Housing an estimated 20,000 specimens with fewer than 10% of its metadata online, the plant diversity of our humble herbarium was a complete mystery – until now.

Thanks to a collaborative effort involving the Consortium of California Herbaria, the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity, the California Institute for Biodiversity, and multiple departments at Sacramento State, our herbarium is operational once again. As a result, we are helping to fill gaps in our understanding of plant distribution over the last century and enabling researchers worldwide to explore these plant communities' pasts and futures.

When I joined Sacramento State's Department of Biological Sciences as an Assistant Professor in January 2024, I was thrilled to discover the campus herbarium and the opportunity to help manage it. I had spent the previous few years introducing students to the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Evolution and Ecology and had fond memories of mounting herbarium specimens as a lab technician at Utah State University over a decade ago.

Fig. 1. Scraping of old weatherstripping and cleaning of the cabinets began in June 2024. Photo: M. La Forgia

Fig. 2. While cabinets were cleaned and re-sealed, specimens were allowed to off-gas in fume hoods in campus chemistry labs. Photo: M. La Forgia

The herbarium was in dire need of attention. The campus Environmental Health and Safety Department had closed the collection in November 2023 due to excessive use of paradichlorobenzene, a pesticide fumigant which left behind nauseating fumes. The space was also a fire hazard, cluttered with over a thousand books, notebooks, and maps, as well as piles of papers and faulty equipment. Holes in the lead-painted walls, mouse droppings in storage cabinets, and crumbling or melted weatherstripping on the metal specimen cabinets only added to the challenges. To top it off, despite being housed in the same room for over 50 years, the door plate read "Lab Services," hardly reflecting its purpose.

The potential of the space was undeniable however – it was attached to the classroom where I would teach Plant Taxonomy each spring semester, and I was eager to introduce my students to the world of pressed plants. I began addressing the hazards, overhauling the space, and initiating digitization efforts during the summer of 2024. With the help of Environmental Health and Safety, the Chemistry Department, and five dedicated undergraduate volunteers, we moved the contents of 18 of our 31 herbarium cabinets to fume hoods across campus to allow the fumigant to off-gas (Fig. 2).

While the specimens aired out, we cleaned the space, removed old weatherstripping, installed new seals on the cabinets, obtained a large chest freezer, and organized the many books and papers. Additionally, facilities staff patched the walls, repainted the room, and replaced the door plate, which now proudly reads "Herbarium."

Once the hazards were remediated, the next step was the digitization of our thousands of unknown specimens. With a Collections Rescue Grant from the California Institute for Biodiversity, I hired a talented student assistant, Mel Weber, and we embarked on the digitization journey together. We attended an iDigBio online course on digitizing natural history collections and then reached out to the Consortium of California Herbaria for assistance. Jim Hogue of the CSU Northridge Herbarium lent us digitization equipment, and Alison Colwell and Teri Barry from the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity provided invaluable training on their digitizing protocols. Then, in Fall 2024, we received additional funds from the NSF-funded SIRIUS project to purchase our own digitization equipment with the express purpose of integrating the equipment into my Plant Taxonomy course, offering students hands-on experience in collections management and helping us catalog our specimens.

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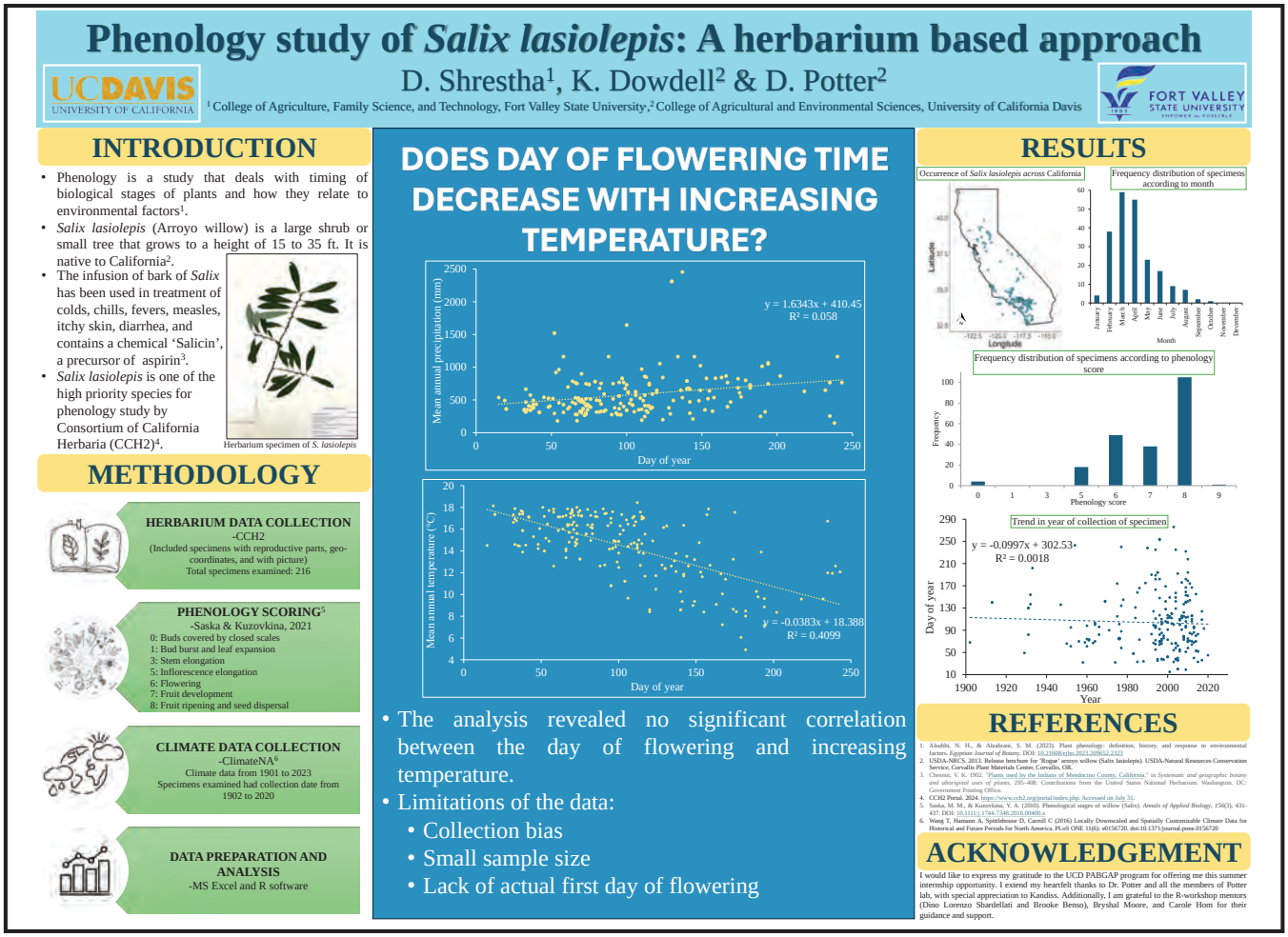

Divya's Poster for the end of summer presentation.

Fig. 3. Our digitizing set up is temporarily housed in my lab, conveniently located across from the herbarium. Photo: M. La Forgia

Before digitizing efforts began, we estimated that our collection was primarily from California with a large focus on Placer County, reflecting the work of former Director and Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences Dr. Michael Baad to document local plant diversity before regional development in the 1970s. Since November 2024, we have imaged over 2,000 specimens and fully transcribed data for 2,800. Preliminary findings confirm our original estimates: 95% of transcribed specimens are from California with 45% from Placer County.

With nearly 18,000 specimens left to digitize and 13 cabinets yet to be explored, there is much work ahead. Six of these 13 cabinets contain pressed, unmounted specimens, including three labeled "Placer County Flora Project," reflecting even more specimens from Dr. Baad's collecting efforts there.

I'm grateful for the supportive network of California herbaria, my student assistant Mel, and the many plant taxonomy students who are helping to resurrect our dormant specimens. I'm excited to continue uncovering the rich history and plant diversity within our herbarium, laying the groundwork for future discoveries in plant biodiversity.

M. La Forgia

DAVIS BOTANICAL SOCIETY

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Look Inside For Slate of Proposed Board Members & Please Vote

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

The Society is looking for a volunteer to fill a new Board position: **Vice President in charge of Program and Events**. The Vice President, in conjunction with other members of the Board, will:

- Develop and prepare the annual calendar in collaboration with the Board;
- Coordinate with the President for detailed planning for the fall and spring program meetings;
- Coordinate with and provide information and assistance as required to Members-at-Large who are planning field trips to prepare flyers for distribution;
- Coordinate with the Membership VP so that materials are available for timely mailing, posting, etc.;
- Keep events page on website up to date (https://herbarium.ucdavis.edu/events).

DBS members who have worked on various parts of this portfolio will be available for advice and assistance as the new Vice President develops the structure of the position. Please contact the herbarium by phone at (530) 752-1091 or via email at herbarium@ucdavis.edu.

LASTHENIA

LASTHENIA, the Newsletter of the Davis Botanical Society, is published in collaboration with the staff of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory and Center for Plant Diversity.

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