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Herbarium at the University of Montana

Spring 2022

2022 Friends of The University of Montana Herbarium Newsletter

Peter Lesica

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Friends of the University of Montana Herbarium



Spring 2022

People of MONTU Peter F. Stickney

Few people have contributed as much to the University of Montana Herbarium as Peter Stickney. Over the past six decades he collected more than 7,000 specimens. Just as important, Peter's specimens are all impeccably curated. His contributions are one of MONTU's greatest treasures.

Stickney grew up in Long Beach, California and attended Long Beach City College and the University of Idaho for his undergraduate degree. This was followed by a time in the U.S. Army and then a job with the U.S. Forest Service which brought him to Missoula for the first time. Shortly after that he attended the University of Wisconsin, Madison where he obtained a M.S. degree in Botany. His thesis was on the ecology of rough fescue (*Festuca scabrella* or *F. campestris*). Shortly after that Peter moved back to Missoula to take a research position at the U.S. Forest Service Forestry Sciences Laboratory on the University of Montana Campus. Much of his field work involved documenting plant succession following fire in the Northern Rocky Mountains of Montana and Idaho (Stickney 1980, 1986; Stickney and Campbell 2000). Many of his collections were made while conducting this research.

Stickney's first collections at MONTU were made in 1957, and his last were taken in 2014. He collected in locations throughout the western half of Montana as well as northern and central Idaho and eastern Washington. Most commonly collected areas in Montana included the Salish Range north of Whitefish, the Bitterroot Range, both north and south of Missoula, the Mission, Swan and Whitefish Ranges and the Flathead Range near Cooram. Dozens of other locations were visited only once or twice. There are specimens from the Missoula area every year of Peter's collecting career. He averaged more than 150 collections per year between 1957 and 1980 and then slowed down to fewer than 100 per year after that.

Peter made the first Montana collections of at least ten vascular plants: *Veronica verna* in 1960, *Calamagrostis tweedyi* (1964), *Allotropa virgata* (1965), *Satureja douglasii* (1970), *Kelloggia galioides* (1971), *Chaenorhinum minus* (1976), *Gentianella tenella* (1977), *Vulpia microstachys* (1981), *Centaurium erythraea* (1987) and *Githopsis specularioides* (1999). Three of these are known from only one location each in Montana (*Kelloggia*, *Centaurium*, *Githopsis*). Peter also made the first collection of common crupina (*Crupina vulgaris*) in Idaho. In addition, Stickney documented locations for numerous Montana Natural Heritage Program species of concern including *Adoxa moschatellina*, *Arctostaphylos patula*, *Athysanus pusillus*, *Botrychium simplex*, *Cardamine rupicola*, *Corydalis sempervirens*, *Drosera anglica*, *Erigeron tener*, *Eriophorum gracile*, *Grindelia howellii*, *Idahoia scapigera*, *Mertensia bella*, *Penstemon flavescens*, *Penstemon lemhiensis*, *Physaria carinata*, *Synthyris canbyi*, *Vaccinium myrtilloides* and *Veratrum californicum*.

(continued on P. 4)



PFS at his Miller Creek study site in 2017
Photo by Michelle Stickney.



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Dave Hanna
Jessie Salix
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Shannon Kimball, Herbarium curator
Peter Lesica, Newsletter editor

MONTU New Acquisitions - 2021

Peter Lesica: ca. 135 vascular plants from various counties in MT.
Karen Gray: 29 non-vascular collections from northern Idaho and western MT.
Kurt Hansen, Sioux Ranger District: ca. 80 vascular plants from southeastern MT.
Andrea Pipp: 8 MT collections made by the Montana Heritage Program Ecology Crew and Scott Freeman, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.
Peter Donati: 7 vascular plants collected in MT with Maggie Ross.
Joe Elliott: 14 moss collections, from MT and WA.
Harpo Faust: 140 vascular plant duplicates from the Idaho panhandle collected during graduate work at the University of Idaho.
Scott Mincemoyer: 110 MT vascular plant collections from 2020 and 2019.
Wayne Phillips 85 MT vascular plant collections.
J.B. Phipps: 17 collections of *Crataegus* from western North America.
Don Mansfield & B. Corbin: 1 collection of *Cymopterus hendersonii* from Madison Co., MT.
David Hanna: 5 vascular plants from Teton County, MT.
Peter Fraissinet: Isotype collection of *Eriogonum crosbyae*, collected by Virginia Crosby in OR.

Hey Let's Remember
It's time to pay your dues!
Please see the back page for details

Welcome New Members

Caroline and Willis Kurtz and Martin Skinner

New Lifetime Members

Loren Bahls and Bryce Maxell

Contributors to the MONTU/MRC

Herbarium Endowment - 2021

Loren Bahls, Andrea and Michael Pipp,
Peter Stickney

MONTU Loans and Gifts - 2021

Peter Lesica: Duplicates sent to College of Idaho and Montana State University for identification.

Peter Stickney: Over 1120 gift, duplicate collections divided between the Stillinger Herbarium at the University of Idaho, Marion Ownbey Herbarium at Washington State University, Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center Herbarium, Oregon State University Herbarium, Rocky Mountain Herbarium at the University of Wyoming.

MONTU Publications - 2021

Bahls, L. (2021). Diatoms of Montana and Western North America: Catalog and Atlas of Species in the Montana Diatom Collection - Volume One. The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia Special Publication 24.

Elliott, J. (2021). *Sphagnum cuspidatum*, new to the western conterminous United States. *Evansia*, 37(3), 100-102.

Ertter, B., C. Prentice, D.H. Mansfield, J. Kabins, and G.M. Johnson (2021). A new variety of *Montia parvifolia* (Montiaceae) in the high Idaho Batholith of central Idaho and adjacent Montana, *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas* 15 (1), 5-22.

Visitors to the UM Herbarium

General Public & Private Consultants

Scott Mincemoyer, Steve Shelly, Maria Mantas

UM Researchers & Students

Larry Hufford & Colette Berg with Botany class,
James Habeck, Austin Orville, Julian Colescott

Other Academic Researchers

Sam Isham & Reed Clark (O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West), Heather Salazar (Western New England University)

2022 FOH Annual Meeting

The annual business meeting of the Friends of the UM Herbarium will be Saturday, November 19th from 10 AM to 2:00 PM in Rm. 202 of the Natural Sciences Building on the UM Campus. Open to the membership.

NOTES from the BOARD

by Joe Elliott

The University of Montana Herbarium (MONTU) is an institution devoted to procurement, care, study, and display of objects of lasting interest or value – in other words, a museum, perhaps an art museum. The botanical specimens housed and curated at MONTU have been collected over a span of more than 120 years and represent elements of history, biogeography, floristic complexity and are, to many of us, a form of art. Peter Stickney's collections, and the herbarium staff's attention to detail on the placement and composition of specimens on herbarium sheets, express the aesthetic qualities of botanical specimens long after the flowers have dried and faded. By accessing the MONTU vascular plant collections via the online database for the Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria (CPNWH) or by opening a herbarium cabinet, the artful presentation of specimens and botanical features useful in identification can be observed and enjoyed.

Like vascular plants, MONTU mosses also are included in the database for CPNWH. Most mosses do not retain their color and structure after drying and placement in envelopes with collection information. When dry, they tend to be rather non-descript brown, fibrous blobs or greenish shriveled up fragments resembling old grass clippings. However, when immersed for a short time in hot water, they quickly revert to their natural morphology and look pretty much like they did when growing in a fen or under a forest canopy. Unlike images of some vascular plants on herbarium sheets, dry mosses in collection envelopes do little to evoke an esthetic response even in the most ardent bryologists.

Dried moss herbarium specimen are of little use in identifying collections and would definitely lack the aesthetic qualities of an artistically mounted vascular plant. What would be of substantial use in identifying mosses and compete with vascular plants in the artistic realm, would be images of moss leaves taken through a microscope. There are an infinite number of shapes, ornamentation and textures of moss leaves when viewed microscopically. It is the view through the microscope that transforms a previously dried herbarium specimen into an object of beauty and complexity, worthy of any art museum.

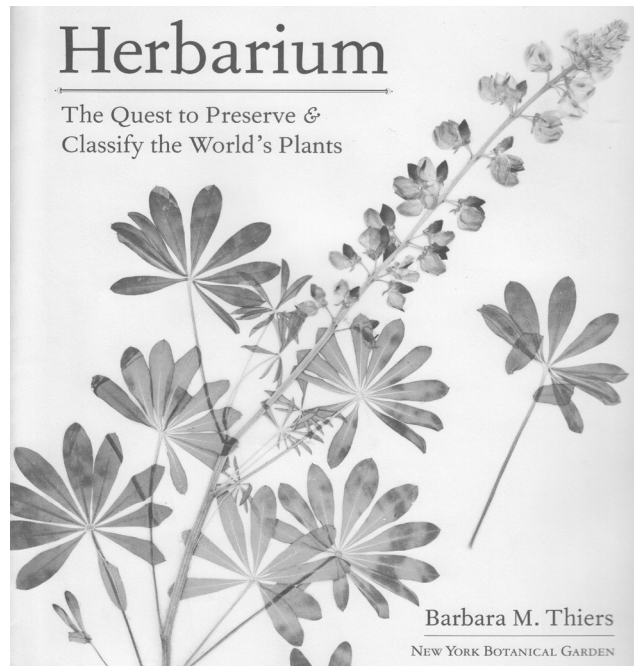
Herbarium: The Quest to Preserve and Classify the World's Plants

Written by Barbara M. Thiers, Reviewed by Justina Dumont

I loved this book. When I think about herbaria, I often think about them in the context of my work as a botanist and as a library for plants. I recognize the value and wide-ranging importance of all that they represent and provide for culture as a whole, but it can be easy to overlook the rich history of plant collecting and the exciting past that got us here. This book pulls the reader into the story of herbaria and plant collecting in an informative, engaging way by detailing the adventures and efforts of past collectors that ties the history to the where we are today with herbaria around the world.

What first appealed to me when I picked up the book were all the beautiful photographs of herbarium specimens and the feeling of immersion in the world of herbaria. It is a surprisingly easy read. The chapters are separated into bite size sections on specific collectors and explorers and their stories are always impressive and occasionally sensational.

The book is filled with delightful tidbits and remarkable characters, so it is worth a read for that alone. If that doesn't sway you the photographs absolutely should because they are beautiful. To me, though, the best part of this book was the connection it made me feel to the exciting history of herbaria. As a supporter of the University of Montana Herbarium, we are all a part of this rich history. It is a labor of love to maintain these herbaria over time and there have been losses along the way. The author makes the case of the value and importance of this work at the end of the book after demonstrating what adventurers and intellectuals have paved the way to get us to where we stand now.



Peter Stickney (*continued from P.1*)When looking through Stickney's collections it becomes apparent that he had an interest in certain species or genera. Perhaps foremost is rough fescue (*Festuca scabrella* (= *F. campestris*). His M.S. thesis was a monograph on the plant's biology in Montana, and he published a paper on its distribution in 1961. There are a total of 82 collections at MONTU. Another of Peter's favorite groups is the genus *Vaccinium*. There are 178 collections of various huckleberries, blueberries and whortleberries at MONTU. In addition he published a monograph on the Family Ericaceae in the Manual of Montana Vascular Plants. And then there are all the other shrubs. Peter's interest in Montana's shrubs resulted in numerous collections as well as a small book entitled Winter Field Key to the Native Shrubs of Montana authored with Mel Morris and Jack Schmautz. Stickney's collections also suggest an interest in several other groups including *Lycopodium*, *Equisetum* and *Carex*.

Although Peter Stickney's most important contribution to MONTU is his collections, he did a lot more than that. After joining the Forest Service's research wing in Missoula, Peter oversaw the official creation of the Missoula Research Center Herbarium (MRC) built from two small herbaria in the Region One office. Since then other collections from Region One research projects have been added including, of course, Peter's specimens. By 2009, MRC had grown to over 10,000 specimens. In 2009, 14 years after Stickney's retirement, MRC was transferred to the University of Montana and housed alongside MONTU. MRC specimens are now in the process of being databased and photographed.

As if all this wasn't enough, in 2014 Peter Stickney created an endowment for the UM Herbarium under the auspices of the University of Montana Foundation. The endowment currently has more than \$450,000. Peter's long-term goal in establishing the endowment was to eventually grow the account enough to fund a full-time curator. In the meantime interest from the fund is being used to fund student work-study wages, which significantly enhances the herbarium's productivity. To this day Stickney continues to curate and catalog his specimens, and MONTU is all the better for it.

THE GENUS VACCINIUM IN MONTANA

Peter F. Stickney

The genus *Vaccinium* in Montana's flora is known to consist of seven species: five huckleberry and two blueberry or blueberry-like species. All Montana *Vacciniums* are rhizomatous, deciduous, and determinant shrubs. Their stems have valvate buds, alternate leaf arrangement, and lack terminal buds; thus, the stem extension beyond the terminal lateral bud is termed a "*Vaccinium* stem-tip". This "tip" maybe used as a marker to age unbrowsed branch systems. The flower is has united petals, and the fruit a many-seeded berry. They occur in the mountainous counties of Montana at elevations from 2,500 to 9,200 feet.

Blueberry flowers are borne in few-flowered racemes from spherical floral buds located at the distal end of last season's stem. The calyx is well developed, its lobes persisting in fruit as a crown-like structure on the summit of the berry. The berry is articulate (jointed) with its peduncle. The anthers are awnless. The leaf margin is entire, and stems are terete (round in cross-section). In contrast, huckleberries bear solitary flowers in the proximal (basal) 1 or 2 leaf axils of the current season's stem, which is why the berries are picked one at a time. The calyx lobes are atrophied being reduced to an undulating rim on the summit of the berry. The peduncle is continuous with the berry. The anthers are awned. The leaf margin is finely serrated.

Dwarf Huckleberry (*Vaccinium caespitosum*) is the shortest (to 30 cm high) round-stem huckleberry It has ob-lanceolate leaves. Its flowers (~5 mm) are longer than broad and the berries (~7 mm) are blue. It is a shrub of open forests and forest margins ranging from valleys to subalpine. It's known to occur in 13 western Montana counties growing at elevations from 2,500 to 7,800 feet. In the other four species of huckleberries the stems are angled. Two species (*V. scoparium* and *V. myrtilus*) comprise the "green stem group" wherein the two and three year-old stems retain their deep green color and also are sharply angled.

Grouse Huckleberry (*Vaccinium scoparium*) is the other dwarf huckleberry (to 20 cm. high) It is a high-elevation species and the easiest to identify from its broom-like habit (*scoparium* means broom-like). The flowers are small (~3 mm), longer than broad, stems are slender. Leaves are small (~15 mm) elliptic to narrowly ovate. Berries (~15 mm) are bright red and the smallest of any Montana huckleberry. It grows in subalpine coniferous forest

to lower alpine and is the most common understory species in subalpine lodgepole pine forests. It is the most widely distributed *Vaccinium* **Low Huckleberry** (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), the other sharply angled green-stem huckleberry, grows to 30 cm high and has stouter stems and wider branching angles than Grouse Huckleberry. In comparison to Grouse Huckleberry, its leaves are larger (~25 mm) and flowers (~5 mm) broader than long. Its berry is larger (~7 mm), and dark red to purple. It grows at elevations of 2,800 to 9,000 feet

In the non-green stem huckleberries (*V. globulare*, *V. membranaceum*) the two and three year-old stems are reddish to brown (occasionally pale green to yellowish green). The shrubs are taller, the leaves, flowers and fruit larger than the other Montana huckleberries.

Globe Huckleberry (*Vaccinium globulare*) is the second most widely distributed huckleberry, known to occur in 21 western Montana counties and growing from 3,300 to 8,100 feet elevation. Its “principal leaves” (the 2nd & 3rd distal-most) are widest at or above the midpoint with an obtuse to broadly acute apex. The flower (~6 mm) is broader than long and the berry (~8 mm) dark purple to reddish purple. It is a shrub of upland montane to subalpine forests. Flowering/fruiting is most prolific in old burns and logged sites prior to the reestablishment of an overstory. This is the species that is picked for fresh fruit and preserves and is harvested commercially by wildcrafting. It is an important food source for wildlife, particularly bears.

Thinleaf Huckleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum*) is the tallest (to 200 cm high), most robust Montana huckleberry. Its “principal leaves” are broadest at or below the midpoint with an acute to acuminate (“drip-tip”) apex. Flowers (~6 mm) are longer than broad and its berry (~9 mm) is dark purple. It is found in moist, montane forest habitats consequently its occurrence in Montana is more sporadic. It is known in 8 western counties in Montana growing at elevations from 3,500 to 6,200 feet.

Velvetleaf Blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*) is a clonal intricately-branched medium tall shrub (to 45 cm high). This plant is readily recognized by the dense, velvety pubescence of its stems and leaves. Its round stems are verrucose (mottled). This shrub is semi-precocious in that the flowers are fully developed before its leaves. Mature leaves are elliptic with an entire margin. Its inflorescence is a short raceme of 1-4 campanulate flowers (~5 mm). Its berry (~8 mm) is blue with a heavy wax-like bloom. It is Montana’s rarest *Vaccinium*. It occurs in one square mile area centered on West Glacier in Flathead County.

Western Blueberry (*Vaccinium occidentale*) is a medium shrub (to 60 cm high) with glabrous stems and leaves. Its leaves are elliptic with entire margins. Foliage buds are valvate. Floral buds at the end of last year’s stems are spherical with several paired bud scales. The inflorescence is a few flowered (1-3) raceme with flowers (~5 mm) that are elliptic to urn shaped. Its berry (~5 mm) is blue. It is a high elevation shrub of wet sites occurring on slight rises in subalpine wet meadows and also lake and bog margins. It is known to occur in 7 counties of southwestern Montana growing at elevations from 5,700 to 9,200 feet.



Vaccinium scoparium (a huckleberry)



Vaccinium myrtilloides (a blueberry)

MOSS and LICHEN BIOBLITZ on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Jessie Salix

It all started with a draft revision of the Region 1 Forest Supervisor’s Species of Concern List. On the list were fifty moss and lichen species known or suspected to occur in the region, of which we had confirmation of only twelve on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (BDNF). It seemed a perfect opportunity to conduct baseline surveys with an emphasis on suitable habitats for the rare species. Since my lichen identification skills were quite stale, we called upon the experts: Bruce McCune (Oregon State University), Roger Rosentreter (retired

BLM State Botanist) both well-known Lichenologist, Joe Elliott (private consultant) an exceptional Bryologist; and Andrea Pipp (Montana Natural Heritage Program Botanist) a well-rounded botanist, knowledgeable in lichens and mosses.

The expert cadre was joined by several BDNF employees and one volunteer. Seven sites were sampled in habitats ranging from sagebrush steppe to alpine tundra, and from 5,400 to 9,400 feet elevation. A total of 168 lichen species and 90 moss species were collected and identified, along with a handful of liverworts. Several collections, including uncommon species and duplicates will be deposited in the MONTU Herbarium, while common species will go to the BDNF Herbarium and serve as a reference collection.

We found *Pohlia bolanderi* a new moss for the state and several other rare mosses including *Buxbaumia aphylla*, *Meesia triquetra*, *Meesia uliginosa* and *Syntrychia norvegica*.

We also found *Toninia philippea*, a state record lichen, in addition to other rare lichens including: *Cladonia luteoalba*, *Epigloea renitens*, *Rinodina cinnamomea*, *Scytinium turgidum*, and *Xanthoparmelia neochlorochroa*

Hypogymnia occidentalis, is a common lichen west of the Continental Divide and was collected in the Canyon Creek gorge on the Wise River District. Another suboceanic species, *Alectoria sarmentosa*, was previously collected further up the creek, indicating that Canyon Creek is serving as a refugia for some moisture loving species. Their persistence east of the Divide is worth monitoring as they may disappear with warming climate and drying trends

With 3.2 million acres to cover, this survey effort just scratched the surface of understanding the lichen and moss biodiversity on the Forest. More surveys are needed on the Forest and across the state. Much thanks goes out to the Tri-County Resource Advisory Council and the Southwest Montana Resource Advisory Council for funding, and to experts Bruce McCune, Roger Rosentreter, and Joe Elliot, and botanist Andrea Pipp, for undertaking this project and providing information on the flora of southwest Montana.



ACTIVITIES and PEOPLE in the UM HERBARIUM- 2021

With the University of Montana's covid-related mandates in place at the beginning of 2021, it was a quieter-than-average year in the UM herbarium. Throughout the year we operated with a reduced staff, no volunteers, and we limited visitors and kept tours to a minimum. There are hints this spring that the end of the pandemic is near, and we're relieved to say that campus-wide mask mandates have been lifted. While we're keeping group size small in order to enable some social distancing in our small space, our doors are open for tours, we're excited to welcome new volunteers, and it feels like MONTU is nearing the possibility of operating more closely to normal.

Last year there was a noticeable uptick in the number of collections sent to MONTU by botanists working in various locations in the Montana. Perhaps, with increased time at home, collectors had an opportunity to prepare their specimens, generate labels and send them to the herbarium. As a result of receiving this flush of specimens, throughout the winter of 2021-2022 we focused on accessioning new collections. This includes checking the accuracy of identifications, mounting the plants, then cataloging, databasing and photographing them. The final step is their placement in the proper cabinet folders. The entire process, done carefully, takes time, and we're fortunate to have a staff (albeit small) that's mindful of details.

The steadfast help of two work-study students, Peter Donati and Cora Rivers, was an important part of keeping our wheels turning. Peter has worked in the herbarium since 2018, when he started his undergraduate program in Wildlife Biology at the University of Montana. He finished his degree in an impressive three years and has left a giant hole in our small community of herbarium staff. We were selfishly sad to see him leave so soon but are excited to see where his talents and skills take him.

Last December Cora finished her undergraduate degree in Forestry at the University of Montana, having

transferred to UM from Guilford College in North Carolina in 2020. She also worked for Kelly Chadwick, caring for the University Center gardens, while she attended classes. Cora grew up in rural Appalachia in an off-the-grid-homestead, and developed a deep interest in plants when she was young. Her efficient, quiet, and focused attention to detail was a big asset to our databasing project during the tough months of 2020 and 2021. Cora has returned to North Carolina to begin her career, and we wish her the very best of luck.

Dorothea Kast has been working as a herbarium assistant since 2018, and volunteered for us for two years prior. Her skills have made her an essential part of our winter workforce, performing tasks including mounting, cataloging, databasing and shelving many of our incoming vascular plant and moss collections. She's also been instrumental in the process of moving Peter Stickney's career collections from boxes in his basement to proper placement in the USDA Forest Services' Rocky Mountain Research Station (MRC) cabinets. In the summertime Dorothea has a landscaping and garden care business, and we're glad that she carries her interest and knowledge of plants into the herbarium where those talents are appreciated and needed.

Our most recent addition to the MONTU collective is Austin Orville, an undergraduate student majoring in Environmental Sciences and Sustainability, with an emphasis in Natural Resource Conservation. Austin transferred to UM in January of 2020 from Mission Viejo, California, where he attended Saddleback Community College until the end of 2019. He's loved living in Montana, particularly the opportunities for fishing and disc golf that Missoula offers. Once he graduates this spring Austin plans to move to Bishop, California, where he's worked for the last six summers.



Austin Orville

Notable projects that were accomplished in 2021 include completion, approval and adoption of our MONTU Strategic Plan. This document outlines six different areas that the curator and Friends of the Herbarium identified as important areas on which to make progress. An article summarizing the goals and purpose of the strategic plan appears in the 2020 FOH newsletter, and the entire plan can be viewed through the MONTU website (<https://hs.umt.edu/herbarium/default.php>). Having such a document will make it easier to focus our attention on a list of important projects, including bringing our collections online, increasing the accuracy of our data, and educating others about the importance of biodiversity in our region.

Also of note: the identifications of MONTU's lichen collection (Montana specimens) have been reviewed, and the taxonomy updated, by Missoula-based lichenologist Tim Wheeler. Tim is a member of the Friends of the Herbarium and was hired to perform these precursory steps to databasing the label information of our Montana lichen collection. The records will eventually be available using the Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria website, where our moss and vascular plant data are already housed and can be viewed by researchers and others around the globe (<https://pnwherbaria.org>).

FOH board members elected to skip the 2020 Friends of the Herbarium annual board meeting due to covid, but all were able to assemble in November of 2021 at the University of Montana Natural Sciences Building. After a year of too many Zoom meetings and too much screen-time, we were happy to sit in a large room together - socially distanced of course. Board members are professionals who have worked or are working in natural resource management and have a particular interest in the maintenance and longevity of the herbarium's collections. Their input helps the curator make decisions that are in line with the needs of people that use the herbarium, and is an important part of MONTU's management. If you're interested in serving on the FOH Board please contact one of the members listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Now that the possibility of bringing others into the herbarium more regularly is feeling relatively safe, we are hoping to recruit more volunteers in 2022. If you have an interest in helping with plant mounting, cataloging, databasing or photographing collections please contact Shannon Kimball. The gift of your time will be appreciated by many who use MONTU's collections for reference as they are confirming the identity of their plants, and for many different types research. Each plant collection is an archival record that will be an important asset for generations to come.

Yes! I want to help protect the irreplaceable collections and enhance the facilities of the University of Montana Herbarium

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