

Fall 2020

Richard G. Olmstead, Curator

David E. Giblin, Collections Manager



Olympic National Park, High Divide Trail near Bogachiel Peak. Photo by Scott Bischke.

## **UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IMPACTS ON HERBARIUM AND BURKE MUSEUM OPERATIONS**

The Burke Museum reopened to the public on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. For more information visit (<https://www.burkemuseum.org/visit/welcome-back-protocols>).

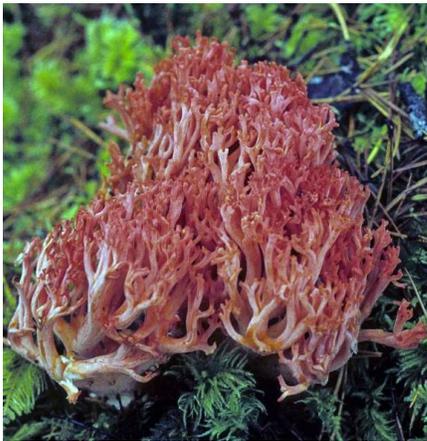
All Herbarium staff are well. David Giblin works in the collections two days a week. Student assistants come in on those days to image plant and fungal specimens to support remote databasing. Crystal Shin also comes in one day a week to database and mount specimens, and process loan requests. Dick Olmstead and Joe Ammirati continue to work remotely, with occasional visits for research purposes. Joe has also been pulling and organizing specimens for fungal loan requests. Herbarium Research Associates visit the collections with regular or irregular frequencies.

The highest priority remains limiting the number of people in the collections at any one time. As much as we would like to have volunteers return to the collections, it simply is not safe for them or Herbarium staff to have multiple people working in the collections at the same time. We hope this changes in the near future.

# MYCOLOGY ENDOWMENT UPDATE: \$400,000 RAISED



Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz



*Ramaria stuntzii*. Photo by Kit Scates Barnhart.



*Russula stuntzii*. Photo by Steve Trudell.

The Daniel E. Stuntz Memorial Endowment was founded in 2008 through the efforts of the late Patrice Benson, Joanne Young, Lynn Phillips, and Joe Ammirati, and in partnership with the Daniel E. Stuntz Memorial Foundation. Since its inception, the endowment has supported the databasing, imaging, packaging, and filing of several thousand fungal specimens either recently gifted to the Herbarium or in our backlog. All label data and images have been made available online and the specimens are accessible by loan to researchers worldwide.

Adjunct Mycology Curator Dr. Joe Ammirati will be retiring in the next few years, meaning the Herbarium would be without a research mycologist for the first time in a century. To address this we launched a campaign in December 2018 in partnership with the Stuntz Memorial Fund to build the endowment principal to \$500,000. Our ultimate goal is to build the endowment principal to support a half-time, Ph.D. research mycologist to conduct field and collections-based research, expand our mycological online resources, and build community around the collections.

We are delighted to report that through major gifts and pledged matches we have reached and even slightly surpassed our initial fundraising goal. We want to thank James and Diann Robbers, Lynn Phillips and Warren Bakken, Gary and Beth Laursen, Jim and Birte Falconer, the Peg and Rick Young Foundation, and the Stuntz Memorial Fund for this initial success.

To read more about Dr. Stuntz visit <https://stuntzfoundation.org/about.html>. If you would like to know more about this campaign, please contact Dick Olmstead ([olmstead@uw.edu](mailto:olmstead@uw.edu)) or David Giblin ([dgiblin@uw.edu](mailto:dgiblin@uw.edu)).

# RECENT COLLECTING ACTIVITIES

The coronavirus situation led to the cancellation of this year's Herbarium Foray, but it did not curtail all of our field work. David Giblin made monthly, multi-day collecting trips, and a couple of one-day trips, from June through September. The geographic area surveyed included the Cascades of Skamania, Yakima, and Okanogan counties, aquatic and scabland areas in eastern Washington in the Spokane area, and the Puget Sound lowlands of Kitsap County. The trips generated approximately 700 specimens. We gratefully acknowledge the Nygren Family Endowment for the Herbarium for making this work possible.

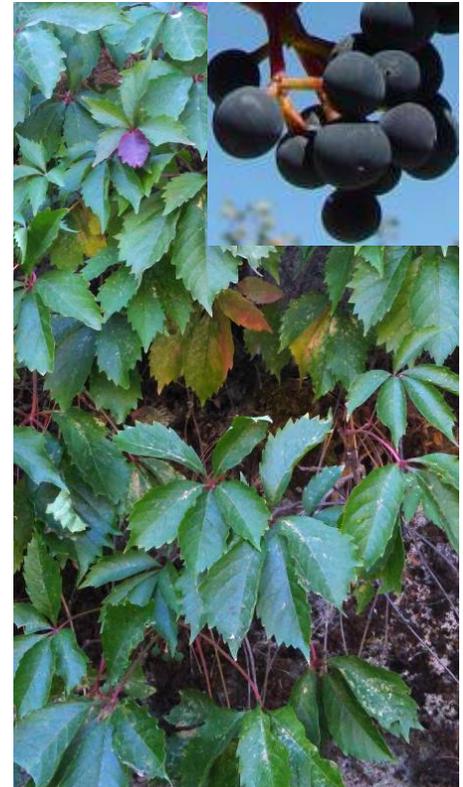
Notable collections included *Huperzia miyoshiana* (fir clubmoss) from Skamania County (the southernmost population ever documented for this species), native *Taraxacum scopulorum* (alpine dandelion) in Whatcom County (only second time collected in Washington), several collections of non-native *Parthenocissus vitacea* (false Virginia creeper) along the Spokane River (a potentially invasive species whose distribution is poorly documented), and the addition of the Potamogetonaceae (pondweed) and Cabombaceae (watershield) families to the Kitsap County flora (reminder of how poorly documented some areas close to Seattle can be).

Specimens from this field work have already led to distribution updates to the *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*, 2nd edition. We make these updates available online: <http://www.pnwherberia.org/florapnw/errata.php?Filter=distribution%20update>.

There are likely some other interesting finds among these collections (no time to do identifications in the field while collecting), which will be fully examined and identified in the Herbarium this fall and winter.

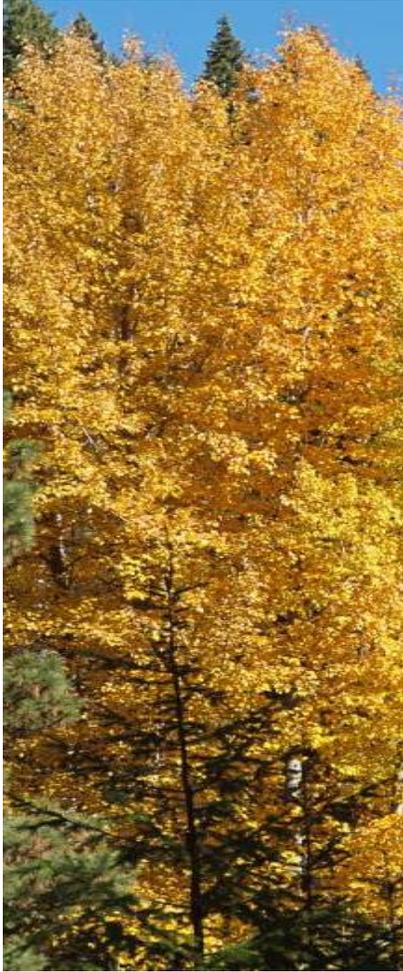


***Huperzia miyoshiana*** (fir clubmoss) Photo by Ben Legler.



***Parthenocissus vitacea*** (false Virginia creeper). Main photo by David Giblin; inset photo by Richard Old.

# PLANTS AND FUNGI IMAGE GALLERY UPDATES



*Populus trichocarpa*  
(black cottonwood).  
Photo by Susan  
McDougall.

**Growth:** Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, our community of photo contributors have added 1,850 new fungal and plant images to the Gallery. The current totals are 71,855 images contributed by 493 photographers. We are both impressed by and grateful for everyone's generosity in sharing their photos.

**Site Visitation Statistics:** We began tracking site visitation in early April of this year using Google Analytics. Since then the Gallery has served over 126,000 sessions by over 70,000 users who on average spent 6 minutes viewing content. These are very impressive numbers! Even in early October we are seeing over 500 users per day.

**Mapping Image Locations:** This summer Herbarium Assistant Joey Ellis revised the Gallery's coding to support mapping images that have geocoordinates (latitude/longitude). Also, counties are now highlighted as part of a species's distribution if documented only by an image. Previously only specimen records triggered a county occurrence, which led to species distributions being underreported. Ben Legler recently added functionality to expedite georeferencing (assigning latitude and longitude values based on the text description of a locality - e.g., Deception Pass)

**Coming Soon – Illustrated Glossary:** Joey Ellis is working with David Giblin to expand the Gallery to include an illustrated glossary. Glossary terms are listed alphabetically, and volunteers and staff are tagging images that illustrate the terms. Contact David Giblin ([dgiblin@uw.edu](mailto:dgiblin@uw.edu)) if you'd like to see a test version of the Glossary. We hope to have it fully available by the end of October.

**New Staff:** Dr. Melissa Islam, formerly of the Denver Botanical Garden Herbarium, was hired to coordinate efforts to georeference images in the Gallery and score the phenology (life cycle phase – e.g., flowers, fruits, etc.) for each image. She is joined by volunteer John Haskins, who has been assisting us with mining the Image Gallery database. Melissa will be announcing volunteer opportunities for these projects in the near future.



*Aleuria aurantia* (orange peel fungus). Photo by David Giblin

## RECENT PRESENTATIONS AND CLASSES

Dick Olmstead and David Giblin gave online presentations in the Burke Museum's Curated Conversations series this summer. Dick presented on the nomenclatural history of notable Pacific Northwest native plants, and David spoke about his previous field research examining biogeographic and floristic patterns in the San Juan Islands Archipelago.

In July and August Crystal Shin led a 6-week botanical illustration workshop co-sponsored by the Herbarium and the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS). In August David Giblin taught a 4-part workshop focusing on four common plant families, which also was co-sponsored by the Herbarium and WNPS.



*Rubus parviflorus* (thimbleberry) of the Rosaceae, a family covered in this summer's taxon-omy workshops. Photo by David Giblin.

## UPCOMING CLASS AND SYMPOSIUM



*Erythranthe caespitosa* (large mountain monkeyflower) with bilaterally symmetric, bilabiate corollas. Photo by David Giblin.

**Introduction to Plant Morphology** (online). Nov. 4, 5; 4:00-5:00. Two one-hour presentations and discussion on the basic vegetative (roots, stems, and leaves) and reproductive (flowers and fruits) morphology of flowering plants. Intended for beginners or those looking for a refresher on terms. Co-sponsored by the Washington Native Plant Society. For more information visit: <https://www.wnps.org/events/913>

**Washington Botanical Symposium** (online). **Save the date:** Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. 9:00-4:00. Details forthcoming in December.