

**The Nature of Milam County**

S. M. Tracy Herbarium Plant Archival Procedures by Dale Kruse

**July 3, 2017**/1 – 2:30 p.m.

Tracy Herbarium

**Participants**:

Lead: Dale Kruse, Curator and Interim Director, Tracy Herbarium

Other: Joyce Conner, Cheryl Lewis

**Report**:

Participants met to discuss Dale Kruse’s training session on July 13 and future chapter volunteerism with the Herbarium.

***Bog Project:*** Dale gave an update on the bog project. At this time, because of Dale’s change in Herbarium responsibilities and the addition of teaching a class at A&M on grasses in the Fall and two on all other plants in the Spring, the extended bog project is on hold. He has talked to Jason Singhurst and found that Jason has bog data that might be shared.

***Archival Training Class:*** The members will be broken into three groups. Dale will lead the instruction with his group and Cheryl and Joyce will help out with two additional groups.

Dale will supply the glue, glass, archival paper, folders, washers, etc. Joyce will bring the dried plants with labels printed and cut and placed in their respective newspaper sheets. Only one specimen of each plant will be glued. No media setup is required at this training.

All glued specimens will remain in the church annex until the following day, when Joyce will retrieve all of them and take them to her house for final glue completion. After completion, they will be delivered to the Herbarium for annexation.

Joyce will ask the chapter/plant committee members whether the chapter copies can be donated to the Herbarium to be shared with other scientists/botanists, rather than housed by individual chapter members. If a chapter member would like to store the chapter specimens instead, they will be given to that member.

***Future Collection Project:*** Dale would like to enlist members of the Brazos Valley and El Camino Real Chapters in a future sedge and grass collection project.

By next year, he will give workshops to train a number of TMN chapters in collection procedures, including our two sister chapters. He will enlist everyone’s help to collect plants in their counties. Since the primary objective of this collection project is to collect grasses, sedges, and possibly rushes, he hopes/expects that most will be of that type. The collected and dried specimens will be sent to the Herbarium by each respective chapter to be processed. Processing includes identifying, mounting (gluing), accessioning, databasing, freezing, and filing. However, after identification, the specimens will be sent to either Milam County or Brazos County members for mounting. (Milam County members can glue the specimens locally.) After mounting, all specimens will be returned to the Herbarium for final processing.

The archival training on July 13 prepares our chapter members for what is required in the future collection project.

***Followup Meeting:*** Participants agreed to a followup meeting at which time they will review more fully the process for the July 13 training. Joyce is to bring samples of the chapter’s washers to show sizes, the printed and cut labels, and to have already divided the plants so that only one specimen of each plant would be glued on July 13. Cheryl will have worked with Dale on his background for an introduction. The meeting was set for July 7 at 1 pm at the Herbarium.

**VT:** 1 ½ hours - S. M. Tracy Herbarium support of flora collections and documentation