

### RM partners in large NSF grant

RM is gearing up to increase the rate of specimen digitization and imaging, as part of a \$2.9 million grant from the National Science Foundation. RM is a lead partner in the award, which includes 38 universities, botanical gardens, national parks and Native American Nations, to create a comprehensive digital archive of more than 1.7 million plant specimens native to the Southern Rocky Mountain region. The University of Colorado, Boulder is the principal lead for the award. As the largest herbarium in the region, RM will contribute a significant number of specimens (670,000), and will assist smaller institutions in their digitizing and imaging efforts. Curator Nelson will oversee specimen selection and imaging at the Herbarium. Larry Schmidt, of the UW Libraries, is project manager for the digital processing and work flow. UW Libraries are also involved in the data management, file processing and preservation aspects of the project. Once completed, researchers and the public will be able to access the database for information about the Southern Rocky Mountain region's more than 4000 plant species.

## Season's Greetings

from the RM Management Team



Back row, L to R: Ron Hartman (Curator Emeritus), Larry Schmidt (UW Libraries), Ernie Nelson (Curator), Greg Brown (Interim Director). Front row, L to R: Kristina Hufford (Ecosystem Science and Management), Dorothy Tuthill (Biodiversity Institute), Charmaine Delmatier (Director, RM Volunteer Program), Bonnie Heidel (Wyoming Natural Diversity Database). Established in October 2015, the team's goals are to support the RM's academic mission, and to promote the RM in the university and local community.

December 18, 2017

### National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) & the RM

This past summer, the RM received a contract from NEON to evaluate specimen identification accuracy and overall specimen quality for 4 of the NEON Domains (regions): Northern Plains, Central Plains, Southern Rockies and Colorado Plateau, and the Great Basin. A small number of randomly selected, mounted specimens were sent to the RM from each Domain to represent the respective regional herbaria's reference collection. Ernie Nelson and Greg Brown conducted most of the work. NEON is supported by the National Science Foundation.

### Volunteer Spotlight



Bob Springer travelled far and wide before finding the RM. Originally from Iowa, he served for the Air Force in both Japan and California, and also spent some time at Francis E. Warren AFB. His favorite job, among many interesting ones, was as a mechanic welder at the Nevada Test Site (now known as the Nevada National Security Site). Bob's fondest memories from his youth (It's not too late to make more, Bob!) include several rock climbing excursions to Yosemite NP. While attending college, he developed a keen appreciation for eastern philosophy and reveres the teachings of a 4th century B.C. Chinese philosopher, Chuang Tzu (Zhuang Zhou). His love of nature extends to the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, where in the winter months he can still be surrounded by wildflowers. Bob has become one of our experts in the Solheim Mycological Herbarium, repackaging older specimens to make the collection more space efficient. What he really appreciates from all of us, is the learning experience and depth of botanical knowledge!

*And we appreciate you, Bob. Thanks!*

[www.uwyo.edu/botany/rm-friends/](http://www.uwyo.edu/botany/rm-friends/)