

Herbarium Volunteer Luncheon Lectures

Spring 2008

The Herbarium Luncheon-Lecture Series is held in the Herbarium Conference Room from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. Please bring a lunch—hot beverages and snacks will be provided. All volunteers and staff are welcome.

- Wednesday, Jan. 30:** **“Plant Records: What are they, and why do we need them?”**
– **Edward Hedborn, Plant Records Manager.** The Arboretum keeps a dizzying set of records on the plants in its living collections, and it always has. From the sources of plant material to the literature on where plant names were published, plant records are essential to keeping the living collections moving ahead. In this lecture, Ed will present *everything* you wanted to know about the Arboretum's plant records system, from packing slips and inventories to labels, computers and web catalogs, in a mere 50 minutes!
- Wednesday, Feb. 27:** **“Conservation evaluation and planning for the Arboretum's East Woods”**
– **Kurt Dreisilker, Manager of Natural Resources.** The Arboretum received an IMLS grant in 2006 to inventory the East Woods, collect information on the history of land use, and begin development of a research and management plan for the area. In this lecture, Kurt will discuss the findings to date, emphasizing the extensive land use history he and volunteers have collected. The presentation includes, among other things, a series of fascinating maps that demonstrate the crazy-quilt-like history of land use and ownership at the Arboretum, and a photograph of a firewood pile large enough to conceal a small elephant.
- Wednesday, Mar. 26:** **“So many sedges, so little time” – Andrew Hipp, Plant Systematist and Herbarium Curator.** Sedges are among the world's most diverse and ecologically important plant families, with over two hundred species in the Chicago region alone. These grass-like plants, found mostly in wetlands, are increasingly popular with landscapers and home gardeners. Learning to identify sedges is challenging, however, and the available technical guides to the sedge family can be overwhelming to a nonspecialist. In this presentation, Andrew will introduce many common sedges of the Chicago region and discuss their ecology and use in native plantings.
- Wednesday, April 30:** **“Exploring Nature Through Education” – Megan Dunning, Manager of Natural History Education.** For hikers, birdwatchers, gardeners, artists and scientists alike, a foundation of ecological knowledge can inform and illuminate their interactions with the natural world. Exploring the biological diversity of an area creates a critical sense of involvement and connection with the environment. The Arboretum has a rich history of providing excellent natural history education that combines field study with an understanding of current research. In this talk, Megan will outline the overarching goals and trajectory for Natural History education at Morton, and discuss future directions in stewardship and conservation education for lay and professional audiences.