Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition

LANDSCAPE NEWS

Volume 23, Issue #1 • Fall 2025

The Gregory G. Gust Herbarium: Preserving Nature, One Plant at a Time

Hans Hallman, ENLC Botanist

Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition's (ENLC) herbarium began in 2007 as a modest handful of plant specimens stored on open metal shelving units in a back closet of our offices. Started by Greg Gust, this repository was meant to aid in teaching seasonal field ecology workers about plant identification in the Great Basin and Mojave deserts. Today, thanks to Greg's and dozens of seasonal workers' and volunteers' efforts over 16+ years, ENLC now holds over 6,500 specimens, most of which represent the flora of Nevada, and in particular focus on the Great Basin and Mojave deserts and their intergradation. Among our collections are Seeds of Success vouchers, specimens from targeted floristic inventories, noxious and invasive weed surveys, and specimens of conservation concern. Our holdings represent 1,323 species, and 1,788 unique taxa, including subspecies and varieties.



An isotype specimen of *Penstemon keckii* from 1936.

As part of the Intermountain Region Herbarium Network, hosted by SEInet Portal Network within Symbiota, open-source biodiversity management software, all of ENLC's herbarium data are accessible to the public. Please see https://intermountainbiota.org/portal/collections/misc/collprofiles.php?collid=120 for more information or to search our collections.

So What All Is a Herbarium?

A herbarium is much more than just a collection of dried plants pressed between sheets of paper—it's a vital scientific resource, an historical archive, and a key to understanding the natural world. Found in universities, museums, botanical gardens, and research institutions across the globe, herbaria play a critical role in plant science, conservation, and education.

A *herbarium* (plural: *herbaria*) is a systematically arranged collection of preserved plant specimens. These specimens, which may include flowers, leaves, stems, seeds, and even bark or roots, are carefully dried, mounted on sheets, labeled with detailed information, and stored in climate-controlled cabinets to prevent deterioration.

Continued on page three