

MSU Herbarium

Documenting Biodiversity



MSU Herbarium at Darwin Discovery Day 2017

By Sarah Seloske

Stationed in MSU Museum's Main Gallery in the Kids' Zone hub and adjacent to Charles Darwin's 207th Birthday cake, representatives of MSU Herbarium had a prime spot from which to share our love of all things both botanical and collectable. 760 guests and volunteers milled through the museum. We estimate that our station interacted with 275-300 people, chatting about MSU Herbarium, the functions we serve and the treasures we house.

Amelia Pease, the Herbarium Secretary, and Sarah Seloske, Plant Biology's Graduate Secretary, spoke to guests about on-going projects and the selected mounted vascular plant specimens showcased to compliment the day's theme, "...Endless Forms Most Beautiful", a quote taken from Charles Darwin's famous work, Origin of the Species. Guests saw pitcher plants, orchids and more.



Amelia giving out stickers and info.



Sarah showing guests specimens.

Plant Biology graduate student Klara Scharnagl shared the wonderfully weird world of lichens with guests of all ages. She dazzled visitors with lichen specimens that fluoresce under UV light. Guests were also treated to a sneak preview of her ever-popular (and ever-adorable) Lichen Buddies, which will be featured at the upcoming Science Festival event hosted by MSU Herbarium.



Klara demonstrating fluorescent lichens.

Mariah Faszczewski, a Zoology major and student employee at the Herbarium, introduced younger guests to the fun of specimen mounting. Mariah also spoke with guests about herbarium digitizing projects—her area of expertise.



Mariah showing specimen mounting fun.

MSU Herbarium thanks MSU Museum for hosting this wonderful event and thanks to everyone who came by and learned a little about us! We look forward to seeing you again next year! 🍀