**The Herbarium at Amistad National Recreation Area**

The plants of Amistad National Recreation Area help define the landscape of the park. Over 700 plant species have been identified in Amistad National Recreation Area. Park personnel and other researchers often collect plants during scientific field work. The plant specimens are prepared for permanent storage in a herbarium by drying them and attaching them to special paper with glue. The prepared herbarium collections are stored in sealed cabinets in the park’s museum building. The collections of dried plants and the information about each specimen provide park scientists and managers with information useful in making decisions for protecting the park’s resources.

A sprig of a stem, a flower, or a leaf is usually not enough for a botanist to include in a herbarium collection. The best herbarium specimen will have flowers or fruits along with stems, leaves, and sometimes, depending on the kind of plant, roots as well. But without the flowers or fruits, a plant collection is not complete. To be most useful, the information about the plant must include where and when the plant was collected, the name of the person who made the collection, and a brief description of the plant itself.

If you would like to learn more about botany, the study of plants, refer to the following list of field guides and other books about identifying plants.

**Suggested references:**

Agnes Chase's First Book of Grasses, 4th ed.

*Lynn G. Clark and Richard W. Pohl, 1996. Smithsonian Institute Press, Washington, DC.*

Cacti of the Trans-Pecos and Adjacent Areas.

*A. Michael Powell and James F. Weedin, 2004. Texas Tech University Press, Lubbock, Texas.*

Common Texas Grasses.

# *Frank W. Gould, 1978. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX.*

# The Ferns and Lycophytes of Texas.

*George M. Diggs, Jr. and Barney L. Lipscomb, 2014. Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX.*

Grasses of the Trans-Pecos and Adjacent Areas.

*A. Michael Powell, 2000. Iron Mountain Press, Austin, TX.*

Guide to Texas Grasses.

*Robert B. Shaw, 2012. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX.*

Identifying Plants by Family and Genus: Wildflowers and Shrubs of the Western United States.

*Kristin Quinlan, 2000. Xlibris Corporation, www.Xlibris.com.*

Medicinal Plants of the Desert and Canyon Southwest.

*Michael Moore, 1989. Museum of New Mexico Press, Santa Fe, New Mexico.*

Plant Identification and Terminology: An Illustrated Glossary, 2nd ed.

*James G. Harris and Melinda W. Harris, 2001. Spring Lake Publishing, Spring Lake, UT.*

Shrubs and Trees of the Southwest Uplands.

*Francis H. Elmore, 1976. Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, Tucson, AZ.*

Trees, Shrubs, & Cacti of South Texas.

*James H. Everitt and D. Lynn Drawe, 1993. Texas Tech University Press, Lubbock, TX.*

Trees and Shrubs of the Trans-Pecos and adjacent areas.

1. *Michael Powell, 1998. University of Texas Press, Austin.*

Wildflowers of the Big Bend Country.

*Barton H. Warnock, 1970. Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX. (out of print)*

# Wildflowers of Texas, rev. ed.

*Ajilvsgi, Geyata, 2002. Schearer Publishing, Fredricksburg, TX.*