New course!
BOT4935 - Plant Symbioses
Spring 2014 - Dr. E. Christine Davis
Tuesdays, Periods 6 – 7 (12:50 – 2:45)
2 credits

“Symbiosis is not simply a type of interaction in the continuum of benefit and harm. It is a first-order process in the evolutionary diversification of living organisms, a crucial element to physiological function of most eukaryotes, and a major determinant of the structure of ecological communities.”
– Angela E. Douglas, *The Symbiotic Habit*

In this course, we’ll ask:
- How is symbiosis defined?
- How do symbioses form and how are they maintained?
- How does symbiosis lead to diversification?
- How important is symbiosis in evolution and ecology?

And we’ll:
- Examine in detail specific symbioses between plants and bacteria, fungi, animals and other plants.

Our study will consist of short lectures, student-led discussions of texts and primary literature, and observation and enjoyment of living examples of plant symbioses from the botany greenhouses.

Grades will be determined based on participation, leading discussion, and short writing assignments.