

CBHL Appoints New Vice President

The CBHL Board unanimously approved Kristen Mastel to fill the vacant position of Office of Vice President. Kristen is the new Andersen Horticultural Library librarian at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. She continues to cover the University of Minnesota's College of Continuing and Professional Studies, Extension, Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing, and the Institute on the Environment as their liaison until her former position is filled.

Kristen received her Masters of Library Science from Indiana University and her undergraduate Bachelor of Arts from the University of Minnesota Morris. Her research areas of interest include instruction, information literacy, outreach, and instructional design. Kristen is a Past President of the Minnesota Library Association and the United States Agricultural Information Network. Her strengths are: empathy, harmony, adaptability, connectedness, and woo!



You can read more about her personal background in a [recent article in the *Continuum*](#), newsletter of the University of Minnesota Libraries.

Save the dates for the new CBHL Virtual Roundtable Discussions!

CBHL virtual roundtable discussions aim to be a knowledge sharing forum that allows for open conversation around specific topics. Are you new to your position? This is for you! Are you a long time member? This is for you too! Join the conversation, add your voice, and learn from your colleagues.

Bi-Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, One-hour (3pm Eastern/2pm Central/1pm Mountain/12pm Pacific/11am Alaska)

Held on Zoom. Zoom links will be sent one week prior to the session.

Open to CBHL members only; this is a benefit of membership.

Sessions will be informal and will not be recorded to encourage full participation.

Schedule:

September 13, 2023: "CBHL 101" with moderator Robin Everly, CBHL Membership Manager, Smithsonian Botany Librarian. Do a deep dive into CBHL committees, website, LibGuide, and more. For new

members, members who want a refresher, and all members to contribute to the conversation.

November 8, 2023: Physical collections including bibliographies and textbooks with moderator Allaina Wallace, CBHL President, Head Librarian Denver Botanic Garden.

January 10, 2024: Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access (EDIA) with moderator Leora Siegel, CBHL Past-President, Library Director Chicago Botanic Garden. Share your organization's EDIA initiatives, opportunities to advance EDIA initiatives in our libraries, sources for acquiring diverse literature, subject heading revisions, and more.

March 13, 2024: CBHL Solo Librarians with moderator TBD

Have suggestions for future topics? Send them to Leora Siegel lsiegel@chicagobotanic.org

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

Edited by Rita M. Hassert
Library Collections Manager
Sterling Morton Library
The Morton Arboretum

October 11-14, 2023

American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA)
29th Annual Meeting & Conference
Mobile, Alabama
<https://asba-art.org/>

October 20-21, 2023

American Horticultural Therapy Association
Annual Conference
Virtual
<http://www.ahta.org>

October 27-30, 2023

American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
Conference on Landscape Architecture
Minneapolis, Minnesota
<https://www.asla.org/annualmeetingandexpo.aspx>

November 2, 2023

Natural Areas Association
2023 Conference
Virtual
<http://www.naturalareas.org>

November 8-10, 2023

Museum Computer Network
Annual Conference
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
<http://mcn.edu/>

November 2023

Charleston Conference
Charleston, South Carolina, and virtual
<https://www.charleston-hub.com/the-charleston-conference>

ASBA

American Society
of Botanical Artists



American Horticultural Therapy Association.



American Society of Landscape Architects



advancing
digital transformation
in museums



CHARLESTON HUB
CHARLESTON CONFERENCE

About the Maria Sibylla Merian Society

Florence F.J.M. Pieters
Retired Librarian/Conservator
Artis Library
University of Amsterdam

In the year 2022, the Maria Sibylla Merian Society commemorated the 375th anniversary of the birth of Maria Sibylla Merian (born in Nuremberg 1647 – died in Amsterdam 1717). Her portrait at the age of 32 is represented in Figure 1. 2022 also marked exactly 10 years since founding members Diny Winthagen and I gave a presentation for our group entitled *Our fascination with M.S. Merian* at the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Group (EBHL) annual meeting in Leiden. Nowadays, Diny and I are guest researchers at the Artis Library, which is the former Library of the Royal Zoological Society Natura Artis Magistra (nature is the teacher of art), founded in Amsterdam (The Netherlands) in 1838.

In 1939, bankruptcy of the zoo was prevented by the municipality of Amsterdam, with the result that the library and the animal specimens collection became part of the University of Amsterdam (UvA), named Artis Library (of the UvA) and Zoological Museum (of the UvA), respectively. ARTIS is the popular abbreviated name of the zoological garden in the center of Amsterdam. Since 5 June 2020, the zoological garden of Artis is officially acknowledged as a botanical garden as well, because of its renowned arboretum.

Before my appointment as scientific librarian at the Artis Library in 1969, I had never heard about Maria Sibylla Merian. My first encounter with her was reading her name on a marble plaque on the façade of the library, in chiseled, golden capitals: “M.S. MERIAN” (Figure 2). There are 36 names of naturalists on marble memorial plaques on both



Fig. 1. Maria Sibylla Merian (1647-1717), attributed to her stepfather Jacob Marrel, dated 1679. Reproduced by permission of Kunstmuseum Basel.



Left: Fig. 2 . Detail of the façade of the Artis Library annex museum building, showing Merian’s memorial plaque. Photo by Florence Pieters.

Above: Fig. 3. Lithograph by Willem Hekking, showing the library part of the building from the street side with the marble plaques with names. Reproduced from the frontispiece of *Jaarboekje van het Koninklijk Zoölogisch Genootschap Natura Artis Magistra* (1868).



Figs. 4 and 5. Original drawings by M.S. Merian. Left: Branch with red fruit of the hawthorn with various metamorphoses. Right: Branch with purple fruit of the blackthorn with various metamorphoses. Courtesy Allard Pierson, Artis Library, University of Amsterdam.

sides of the library/annex museum building, placed in chronological order (Figure 3): on the street side ARISTOTELES, PLINIUS, C. GESNER, P. BELON, J. RAY, A. v. LEEUWENHOEK, J.F. GRONOVIVS, J. SWAMMERDAM, M.S. MERIAN, A. SEBA, G. EDWARDS, R.A.F. de REAUMUR, P. ARTEDI, C. v. LINNÉ, L. De BUFFON, L.J.M. DAUBENTON, P. CAMPER, and M.J. BRISSON. On the zoo side, a further 18 deceased male naturalists are commemorated (for all names see Pieters, 1988), whereby DARWIN and WALLACE are lacking. The reason for this is that both were still alive when the building was finished in 1868.

Soon I delved into Merian's life and work and I learned that she was at the time an almost forgotten artist and scientist, even though she was well known in the 18th century for her studies of the metamorphosis of caterpillars on their host plants as well as for her art. It struck me also that she was the only woman in this honorable scientific company of 36 scientists. As a matter of fact, our library (which is now part of Allard Pierson, the special collections of the University of Amsterdam) possesses a rich collection of MERIANA, including two original drawings on parchment (Figures 4 & 5). Moreover, the Artis Library is similarly very rich in books by the other authors

honored on the façade of its building, especially LINNAEANA (books by or about Linnaeus). The main book room has still a typically 19th-century atmosphere, with Linnaeus's portrait in Lapland dress hanging pontifically in the middle of the east end of the room (Figure 6).



Fig. 6. Interior of the Artis Library with portrait of Linnaeus in Lapland dress hanging at the balustrade in the middle.

In 1969, Merian seemed to have been almost fallen into oblivion, though in the Netherlands in 1944 and 1945 a romanticized biography (with excellent notes) by Jant Stuldreher-Nienhuis was published in two editions. Moreover, a Dutch poem about four episodes in her life, by Bertus Aafjes, appeared in print at least six times since 1946. In Germany, an important exhibition of her work was organized in 1967, in the Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nurem-

berg, with an elaborate catalog by Elisabeth Rücker.

However, during the last quarter of the 20th century a real international revival of Merian's fame took place. In 1981, Diny Winthagen translated part of a book by Gerhard Nebel from the German, on a selection of plates from Merian's *Metamorphosis Insectorum Surinamensium* for the series *Wereldbibliotheek* (World Library), printed simultaneously in Dutch as well as in German (Figure 7). Furthermore, I was very lucky that "my" library could afford to acquire the precious facsimiles in folio of Merian's *Book of Notes and Studies* (W.-D. Beer, ed., first published 1976) and the *Leningrader Aquarelle* (E. Ullmann, ed., first published 1974), as well as the *Metamorphosis Insectorum Surinamensium* (E. Rücker & W.T. Stearn, eds., 1982) with their commentary volumes.



Fig. 8. M.S. Merian, *Metamorphosis on tulip*. Counterproof of plate 2 in: *Der Rupsen Begin [...] [1912]* (Allard Pierson, Artis Library, University of Amsterdam).

Of course the Artis Library owned the second edition of the Surinam book (from 1719) since time immemorial, as well as the Dutch caterpillar books, both with hand-colored plates in counterproof (Figure 8; about counterproofs, see e.g. Heard, 2022). These well-known books by Merian are mentioned in its voluminous printed catalog, published as early as 1881 (Janse, 1881). Towards the end of the 20th century, on the occasion of Merian's 350th birthday in 1997, two impressive exhibitions were organised in Frankfurt am Main and Haarlem by Kurt Wettengl. Wettengl's catalog in German was translated into Dutch and English and it is still a standard work on Merian. In 2008, two likewise eye-catching exhibitions were arranged by Ella Reitsma in Amsterdam and Los Angeles, similarly with good catalogs in Dutch and English, that also focused on Merian's daughters.

In 1999, Diny and I published a review article on Merian's life and work in the *Archives of Natural History*, based on a talk held in 1997 (again on the occasion of Merian's 350th birthday) in Charlottesville (U.S.A.) at the University of Virginia, organized by the Society for the History of Natural History.

Thus, from the start of the new millennium, Merian's star was rising higher and higher. In the summer of 2011, I was invited to give a presentation about Merian's influence on Mark Catesby at the Mark Catesby Tercentennial Symposium in Richmond (Virginia), Washington (DC), and Charleston (South Carolina). That symposium took place over three days in three different places to commemorate Catesby's first arrival in North America in 1712. Initially I agreed reluctantly to do it, but soon after discovered that Professor Kay Etheridge of Gettysburg had already done research on this subject. So I proposed to invite her in my place. Fortunately, thanks to mediation of our colleague Leslie Overstreet in Washington, we were invited to do this together: Kay on Merian's influence on Catesby, and I on the life, art, and science of Maria Sibylla Merian in general.



Fig. 7. Front cover of the pocket-sized Dutch edition of the book by Gerhard Nebel in the series *Wereldbibliotheek* (1981).

Just after we had given our lectures in Richmond on 5 November 2012, we got the idea to organize an equivalent symposium on Maria Sibylla Merian. Some years later, in 2015, the proceedings of the Catesby symposium were published in the book *The Curious Mr. Catesby: a “truly ingenious” naturalist explores new worlds*, edited by David Elliott and Charles Nelson, who had also initiated the symposium. The book is very informative, based on thorough scholarly research, and in 2016 was awarded the CBHL Annual Literature Award, given for a work that makes a significant contribution to the literature of botany or horticulture. Ever since then, Kay, Diny, and I were dreaming of a conference concluded by a book on Maria Sibylla Merian.

There was a motive to commemorate Merian during an international conference soon: the 300th anniversary of her death in Amsterdam in 2017. It seemed logical to organize it in the Artis Library in cooperation with the Artis Zoo. But first we wished to have a smaller meeting in the summer of 2014. So we did, and the conference, entitled *Exploring Maria Sibylla Merian*, was successful, with about 80 participants. It was held in the Artis Library and adjacent large rooms in the same building with Merian’s name on the façade. Thanks for the good organization were especially due to the current curator of the Artis Library, Hans Mulder. The third day consisted of workshops and there originated the idea of founding the Maria Sibylla Merian Society with a website where we could place essays inspired by the lectures at the symposium and further important news about Merian research, for instance, the new facsimile edition of Merian’s folio on the metamorphosis of insects in Surinam with commentaries, published by Lannoo in 2016. On the website we could also announce our forthcoming larger symposium entitled *Changing the Nature of Art and Science: Intersections with Maria Sibylla Merian*.

In the end, the conference took place in Amsterdam, at the Royal Institute of the Tropics on 7 and 8 June 2017, followed the third day by workshops in the Artis Library, walks in the butterfly garden of the Artis Zoo, and walks along places within the old city of Amsterdam that were known to Merian. The conference was sponsored by the Amsterdam University Fund, just as the smaller one in 2014. There was also a small exhibition on Maria Sibylla Merian, curated by Tom van der Molen and Bert van de Roemer, in the Cromhout House Museum, which was at the time part of the Amsterdam Museum. All in all, afterwards we were very satisfied as well as exhausted. By “we,” I mean the founding members of the Maria Sibylla Merian Society: Marieke van Delft, Kay Etheridge, Hans Mulder, Bert van de Roemer, Katharina Schmidt-Loske, Rose Marie Tillisch, Kurt Wettengl, Diny Winthagen, and myself.

Ultimately, the plans for the book took longer than expected. The previously-mentioned four founding members had very good connections with the publisher Lannoo in Antwerp, Belgium (especially Marieke van Delft), because of their editor- or authorship of the folio facsimile of *Metamorphosis Insectorum*



Fig. 9. Cover of the new book by Bert van de Roemer et al., Maria Sibylla Merian- Changing the Nature of Art and Science (2022).

Surinamensium published in 2016. Therefore, Marieke contacted its director Maarten van Steenberg, who visited us in Amsterdam and signed a contract with technical details on 19 February 2020, featuring, among other things, that the book was subsidized by the University of Amsterdam and that after the 1,000th copy was sold, 5% royalties would flow back to the Amsterdam University Fund, to be added to the Artis Library Fund.

Ever since then, the book was gaining momentum and we worked very hard, ultimately resulting recently in a particularly pleasant book presentation in the Artis Library on 23 September this year, attended by our two Belgian contact persons at Lannoo who have been extremely helpful and creative, especially with the cover design and general design: Michiel de Messemaeker and Wouter Verplancke. The book has 23 chapters and 304 pages and is richly illustrated (Figure 9). We had invited Arthur MacGregor to write a preface. After having received his author's copy, he wrote us (on 5 October 2022):

"My copy of The Volume arrived yesterday and it looks magnificent! Many congratulations on bringing it to such a triumphant conclusion. I feel very privileged to have played a small part in it, and to have been associated with such a grand project. It's an ambitious mix of themes and I hope its reception befits the imagination and industry that have gone in to it."

The Editorial Committee was very happy with the compliments of this illustrious scholar (Figure 10). Of course the book *Maria Sibylla Merian – Changing the Nature of Art and Science* is announced on the website of the Maria Sibylla Merian Society: <https://www.themariasibyllameriansociety.humanities.uva.nl/> or just Google *Merian + Society* and you are there immediately. Our webmaster, Bert van de Roemer, has long worked to include primary sources, for instance, archival material from the Amsterdam municipal archives, and transcribing correctly the eighteen hitherto known letters by Merian from the original (mostly in German). Presently, he is adding summaries of their contents in English. In 2020 all original letters



Fig. 10. The editors of the recently published Merian book, dining together in Amsterdam. From left to right: Marieke van Delft, Florence Pieters, Hans Mulder, Bert van de Roemer, and Kay Etheridge. Photo Diny Wintthagen.

were transcribed and printed in their original language with facsimiles of the autographs and commentaries in German in the very informative book by Katharina Schmidt-Loske, et al.: *Maria Sibylla Merian: Briefe 1682 bis 1712*.

Anyone can become a member, just by consulting the website – it’s free! The website is a *mer à boire* for Merian studies, with primary and secondary sources, essays resulting from the first Merian symposium in 2014, bibliographies of Merian studies, links to other websites relating to Merian, and announcements of new books, for instance Kay Etheridge’s well-received study of Merian’s first caterpillar book, *The Flowering of Ecology* (2021). Presently, the first-mentioned book on our website is, of course, the new Merian book, *Maria Sibylla Merian: Changing the Nature of Art and Science*, also known as “Bert van de Roemer et al. (2022)”. We do hope that the book will have its second printing run soon, especially since this will give good future prospects for the old Artis Library.

This paper is based on a talk by Florence F.J.M. Pieters at the EBHL Annual Meeting held on 18 October 2022 in Meise Botanic Garden near Brussels (Belgium). It is written in co-operation with Diny Winthagen. Both are guest researchers at Allard Pierson, Artis Library, University of Amsterdam.

See page 22 for the list of references used in preparing this paper.

CBHL Board of Directors 2023-2024

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CBHL Members' East News

Edited by Shelly Kilroy
Librarian, Peter M. Wege Library
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Staff News from New York Botanical Garden

Stephen Sinon
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of Special Collections, Research and Archives
LuEsther T. Mertz Library
The New York Botanical Garden

Zachary Rosalinsky joins NYBG as Special Collections Catalog Librarian

Zachary Rosalinsky is a cataloger, originally from Brooklyn, NY. He did his undergraduate degree in instrumental performance at New York University and, after a period as a full-time musician, he switched careers and went to library school at Long Island University's Palmer School. Shortly after, he also got an MA in Classics at New York University, where he focused on Latin and Roman history, particularly in the Julio-Claudian and Flavian periods. While a graduate student at NYU, Zach served as a library clerk at NYU's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World where, among many daily tasks needed to keep a library running, he cataloged thousands of books. He was also an independent cataloger, during which time he cataloged the classics, history, and ancient studies collection of the late Thomas Cole, professor of Classics at Yale University. Until recently, Zach was the Shelby White & Leon Levy Fellow in manuscript cataloging at The Morgan Library & Museum, where he cataloged graphics, musical works, and manuscripts relating to historical figures such as Henry James, Hans Christian Andersen, Pope Gregory XIII, and W.S. Gilbert.

Zach is excited to be here at the New York Botanical Garden, where he is the new Special Collections Catalog Librarian. He is looking forward to learning more about plants, especially edible plants and trees. He continues to perform as an oboist and woodwind doubler in the Tri-State Area, to study Latin and Classics, and to keep up to date on new library, especially cataloging, procedures and innovations. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, playing with his cats, cooking, and learning languages.

Althea Meer joins NYBG as Systems & Digital Librarian

Althea Meer was born and raised in Schodack, New York, where she developed a love for nature through countless family hikes and camping trips. She moved to the city to complete an undergraduate degree in English & American Literature at NYU, with a minor in Web Programming. She is starting her career in

September 2023



*Two new staff members at NYBG.
Top: Zachary Rosalinsky, Special
Collections Catalog Librarian. Bot-
tom: Althea Meer, Systems & Digital
Librarian.*

systems librarianship after graduating from Pratt's School of Information in May. During her time as a library student, she worked in the Maps, Local History & Genealogy, and Jewish Divisions of the New York Public Library. She was also the User Services Fellow at the Center for Brooklyn History, where she used her Python skills to analyze and create visualizations of usage statistics, and she worked as a Collections & Preservation Intern at the Weeksville Heritage Center in Brooklyn.

Althea has always loved solving problems and helping people, and hopes to bring a friendly, user-oriented perspective to her work with the (sometimes frustrating and intimidating) systems that keep the library running. She's also excited to increase access to the library's collections through digitization projects. When not at work, you can find Althea reading old mystery novels, shopping for vintage home décor, or absorbed in Wikipedia articles about various historical figures.

CBHL Members' West News

Edited by Beth Brand
Head Librarian
Schilling Library, Desert Botanical Garden

Learning in Londontown: A Recap of the EBHL 2023 Annual Meeting

Kristen Mastel
Librarian
Andersen Horticultural Library
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Ana Niño
Librarian
Botanical Research Institute of Texas
Fort Worth Botanic Garden

We are thrilled to bring you the highlights of the highly anticipated 28th Meeting of the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (EBHL) and the 26th Linnaeus Link Partners' Meeting, held June 20-23, 2023, in London. The conference, organized by colleagues across four institutions, offered a platform for engaging discussions, insightful presentations, and meaningful exchanges. Representing CBHL at the meeting were members Ana Niño, Barney Lipscomb, Leora Siegel, Stacy Stoldt and Kristen Mastel.

Day 1: Natural History Museum and Chelsea Physic Garden

The conference kicked off with presentations from Andrea Hart, Isabel Davis, and Brad Scott highlighting the collections and library at the Natural History Museum and their constellations of connections to collections at other institutions.



CBHL members representing at EBHL 2023! L to R: Ana Niño, Barney Lipscomb, Leora Siegel, Stacy Stoldt and Kristen Mastel. Photo by Alberto Niño



Custom wall storage for Sir Hans Sloane's collection of more than 300 horti sicci. Photo by Ana Niño.

Following lunch, attendees visited the Old General Herbarium, the Historical Collections Room, and the Botany Special Collections Room. The custom shelving for Sir Hans Sloane's *horti sicci* was a sight to be seen, along with Ferdinand and Franz Bauer's watercolors and Barbara Everard's drawings. The evening was capped off with a garden and grounds tour and dinner at Chelsea Physic Garden.

Day 2: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

On the second day, we headed to the renowned Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

In the morning session, we had the privilege of hearing from esteemed speakers who shed light on the fascinating world of botany and its connection to the humanities. The Lady Lisa Sainsbury Lecture Theatre welcomed us at 9:50 A.M. for a warm welcome by Fiona Ainsworth, Head of Library and Archives at Kew.

The morning session featured talks by Mark Nesbitt, Felix Driver, Bergit Arends, Heather Pardoe, and Jonathan Cane, all experts in their respective fields. Engaging with their enlightening presentations, we expanded our knowledge of the intricate relationship between plants, humanities, and collections.

For those eager to delve deeper into the world of Kew's Library and Archives and Economic Botany Collections, two guided tours were available. We eagerly joined the groups of 15 delegates each, relishing the opportunity to learn about some of the Kew collections' hidden treasures.

We took a break for a delightful lunch and explored the captivating gardens of Kew at our leisure. There was no better way to absorb the beauty and tranquility that surrounded us.

In the afternoon, we resumed with engaging presentations by Kiri Ross Jones and Kate Teltscher, followed by afternoon cake and the opportunity to explore the gardens until closing time at 7 PM. We enjoyed the lush surroundings, immersing ourselves in the sights and scents of this botanical paradise.

Day 3: "Flora in Folio" discussions and workshops at the Linnean Society of London

We welcomed the third day at the Linnean Society of London, where the captivating world of flora in folio took center stage.

Dr. Anna Svensson of Uppsala University grounded the day's discussion with her experiences and research on the intricacies of pressed plants in books, and her talk was followed by presentations from Maria Kalligerou and Katie Birkwood, who provided their perspectives on these unique items' conservation and cataloging.

One of the highlights of the day was the workshop on pressed plants in books and archives, co-convened by Dr. Isabelle Charmantier and Dr. Anna Svensson. Attendees were assigned to three breakout groups:

one dedicated to the conservation challenges central to preserving plant pressings in books, another to the metadata and cataloging challenges - specifically the lack of unanimous subject heading for these plant pressings in books, and lastly, the research opportunities these biological inserts present. After discussing thoughts, challenges, and solutions among themselves, all three groups came back together to share their key discussion points. Especially lively was the discussion about potential subject headings, with ideas like “biological inserts” and “plant pressings” getting thrown around.

In the evening, we didn’t miss the behind-the-scenes tour of the Linnean Society’s premises, including their bomb-proof collections store. This exclusive tour was limited to 36 delegates, and luckily we out-of-town members were given priority for registrations. Truly a highlight of the trip and day was seeing in person the Linnaean specimen collections of plants, fish, shells, and insects that belonged to Carl Linnaeus, along with his personal library.

Day 4: RHS Wisley Excursion

We prepared for an enchanting day trip to RHS Wisley, a horticultural haven. Upon arrival, we savored tea and coffee at Hilltop, the new state of the art education and research building, setting the stage to see the rest of the grounds. Split into two cohorts, we explored different areas of RHS Wisley. Cohort A visited the Hilltop Centre, which opened in June 2021 and is where the library and herbarium are housed, while cohort B explored the Old Laboratory where an impressive immersive walk-through exhibit awaited, detailing the story of this organization and this historic building. We enjoyed a scrumptious sandwich lunch in the Garden Room and then swapped locations for the afternoon tours.

Immersed in the captivating surroundings, we marveled at the breathtaking flower displays and sculptures that RHS Wisley had to offer.

We enjoyed convening with our colleagues from North America and across the pond in England and beyond!



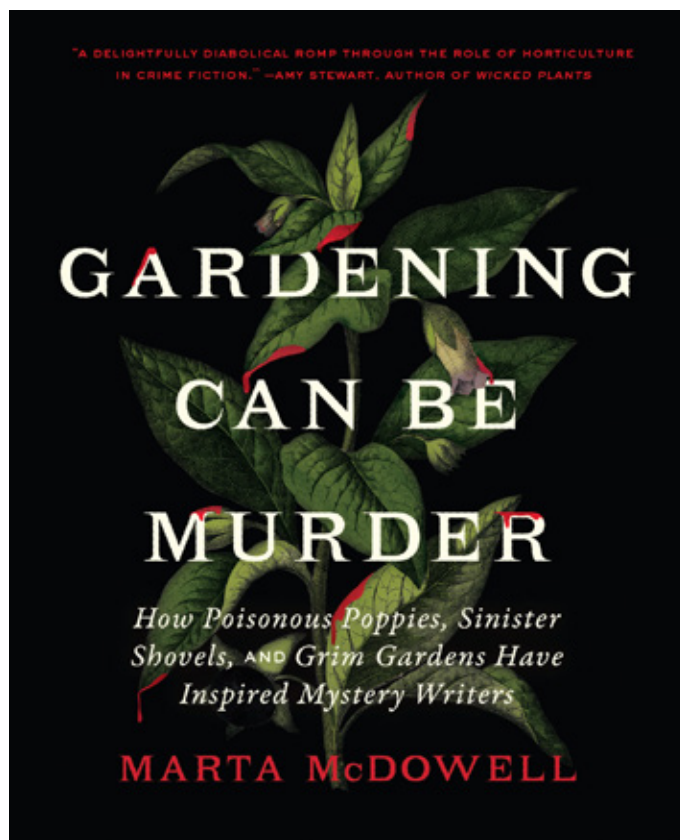
EBHL 2023 delegates posing next to a pond at Kew Gardens. Photo by Alberto Niño.

Book Reviews

Edited by Gillian Hayward
Library Manager
Library and Information Services
Longwood Gardens

Gardening Can Be Murder: How Poisonous Poppies, Sinister Shovels, and Grim Gardens Have Inspired Mystery Writers by Marta McDowell. Portland, OR: Timber Press, on sale Sept. 5, 2023. 216 pages. \$29.00. ISBN: 9781643261126.

Reviewed by Kristina Wilson
Archives Manager
Library and Information Services
Longwood Gardens



When I was given the opportunity to write a book review for CBHL, my first thought was, 'I'll finally be forced outside of my gothic horror/sci-fi/supernatural/detective mystery comfort zone. There are so many aspects of plants and horticulture that I want to explore!' But... spoiler alert... I did not "branch" out nearly as far as I'd hoped. Once I spied Marta McDowell's new book *Gardening Can Be Murder*, I fell contentedly back into my familiar wheelhouse – albeit one festooned with lush flowers and populated with characters of the horticultural variety. Once begun, the fast-flowing read, exquisitely illustrated, was a fun, educational, and occasionally morbid look into a darker side of gardens – and humans themselves.

In *Gardening Can Be Murder*, McDowell (in addition to a double entendre in the title that all gardeners can appreciate), takes the reader on a *Who's Who* tour of garden-based murders in novels and detective stories from around 1920 to present. From favorite authors such as Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers and well-loved characters Nero Wolfe and Nancy Drew to more recent additions to the canon including James McBride's *Deacon King Kong* and Cynthia Riggs' *The Crane-fly Orchid Murders*, McDowell examines the means, settings, motives, clues, and suspects in clearly written, well-constructed chapters that perfectly mirror that of a murder investigation chronology.

Though gardens are serene and bucolic, McDowell reminds us that it is this very beauty and peace that provides so stark a juxtaposition to murder and death, and why so many authors have employed gardens – real or fictionalized – as settings. Shakespeare employs an orchard for the murder of King Hamlet while a fictional reimagining of deaths at Sissinghurst Castle, the home of Vita Sackville-West (in Stephanie Barron's *The White Garden*) places the protagonist, Jo Bellamy, square in the middle of a complicated personal history. John Sherwood sets his novel *The Mantrap Garden* in a garden named Monk's Mead which, though fictional, was designed by the very real artist and garden designer Gertrude Jekyll.

Mazes, gazebos, and sundials have also been employed by authors such J.J. Connington (*Murder in the Maze*), J.K. Rowling (*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*) and Patricia Wentworth (*The Gazebo*). Three others, not mentioned in McDowell's book but favorites of mine, include the menacing hedge maze that served as the setting for the climax in Stephen King's *The Shining*, a maze and spurious sundial in an over-

grown estate garden in *Mr. Humphreys and His Inheritance* by M.R. James, and the aptly named *The Sundial* by R.H. Malden in which the main character, in ordering a sundial for his garden, receives far more than he bargained for when it finally arrives.

Motives for murder, like people, vary, though most fall under the larger umbrellas of love, jealousy, hatred and greed. The same can't be said for the means of carrying out these homicidal acts – they are as individual as the minds that conjure them up. When one thinks of death by garden, poison is not, as McDowell shows us, the only method. Garden implements of various types (ranging from hoe in *A Curtain of Green* by Eudora Welty, to a Mayan scythe in *Pushing Up the Daisies* by Rosemary Harris) to floral wire (*Passing Strange* by Cynthia Aird), and even leaf collection bags (Ann Ripley's *Mulch*) have been deployed most creatively by novelists as they look for ever new and original ways to execute the perfect murder. Continuing her mirroring of the quintessential whodunnit, McDowell examines clues and suspects in the last section. This, like any good detective investigation, ties things up in a nice ribbon and all questions are answered through perseverance and cleverness. At this point, McDowell strays from the discussion of fictional worlds and takes the reader into the real one inhabited by the authors who create the stories we love to read.

Nathaniel Hawthorne's use of horticultural imagery in his works, and even the addition of an 'e' to his last name to echo the tree, are examined, as is the influence of Agatha Christie's homes – both Ashland of her childhood and Greenway of her adult life – on her writing. Cynthia Riggs, Vicki Lane, and Naomi Hirahara all spoke with McDowell on how gardens inspire their writing and nurture them as people, providing insight into their process and their work.

While this book is certainly an interesting and fun read, one somewhat glaring gap is the exclusion of authors from outside of Western Europe and North America. Perhaps this was intentional – there are intrinsic commonalities between several of the settings, characters, story lines, and authors that create a cohesive narrative – but that makes the lack of global representation all the more obvious. A second installment, covering these geographic regions, would make for an excellent companion piece for, surely, gardening linked with murder is an international business!

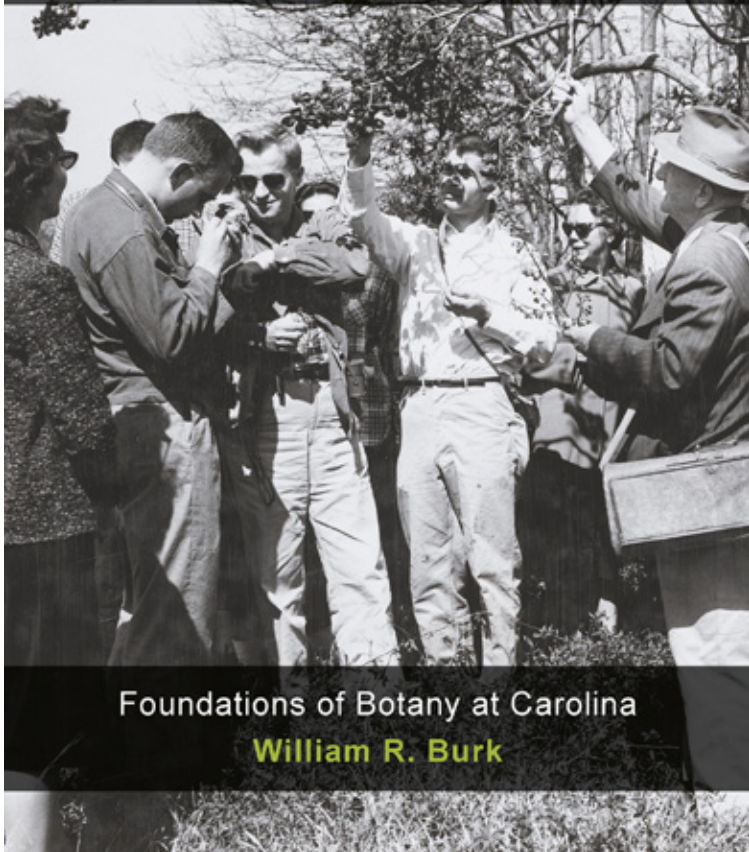
Although I chose Marta McDowell's book based on my own predilection for gothic horror, you by no means need to be a horror fan to enjoy this quick and easy read. Even the squeamish can comfortably - and enjoyably - make it through the pages, for if the murder part doesn't appeal, the gardening aspect certainly will!

Putting Down Roots: Foundations of Botany at Carolina by William R. Burk (Sida, Bot. Misc. 62). Fort Worth: Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 2023. 616 pages. \$45.00. ISBN 9781889878713 (softcover).

Reviewed by Charlotte A. Tancin
Librarian
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William R. Burk's career was spent in academic libraries, lastly as Botany Librarian (later Biology Librarian) for 30 years at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill before his retirement. That final position led him to this current book. From around 1992, he had become interested in the history of North American academic botany through the work of Emanuel D. Rudolph and Ronald L. Stuckey. A few years later he found a 1927 document in the UNC Herbarium archives that listed the names of 13 men who had taught botany there. The paucity of written history on the topic inspired his 18 years

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS



Foundations of Botany at Carolina
William R. Burk

of research for *Putting Down Roots: Foundations of Botany at Carolina*, covering the period 1792-1982. Much of the focus is on UNC's 19th-century history and its scientific education, some of this history is not published elsewhere.

UNC was founded in 1789, and by 1792 a committee was putting together proposals for a curriculum that would include botanical and agricultural information. In 1795 the first curriculum was adopted and included a weekly lecture on the "Principles of Agriculture, Botany, Zoology, Mineralogy [or] Commerce." From small seeds, mighty trees grow. From 1819 to 1908 a series of eight men gave botany lectures framed through their various professorships in Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology – Chemistry Applied to Agriculture and the Arts – Agriculture – Natural History – Geology and Natural History – Biology. Those first men who came to teach had been educated mostly at northern schools: Cornell University, Yale College, Harvard College, University of Michigan, Johns Hopkins University. For them, and also for the first four chairs of the later Department of Botany, each has its own dedicated chapter, along with a chapter for the first woman to teach botany there at the Summer School in 1894. It is in these treatments of individual educators that Burk shines as a meticulous researcher who cares deeply about his subject.

The aggregated material he has distilled or appended forms an important and well-organized history of botany at this major academic botanical center. He provides deeply researched information on each of these early educators' biography, education, mentors or other educational influences, expertise, and how they made their living before coming to UNC. He discusses their time at UNC in detail: their specializations, teaching style, strengths and weaknesses as educators, innovations and other contributions to the department and sometimes to university administration, outreach beyond the university, and if they left/resigned and went elsewhere, ending each chapter with an assessment of each educator's legacy, and a list of references cited.

Adding to the stories, portraits are included of these educators (often both early and late portraits), and also of their own primary professors or influences. Images of selected title pages, maps, documents, advertisements, tombstones, etc. add to the text, which is further enhanced by tables and lists: of chronologies or milestones, of talks presented, of published articles by an educator, of summer school classes, of theses, of students in the 1857 Agricultural Chemistry course, of faculty members and their titles and years served, and more. Some chapters have appendices, such as "Transcriptions of selected botanical notes from lectures of Denison Olmsted's chemistry course taken by Augustus Moore in 1820." An appendix to chapter 15 lists all of the graduate students from the Botany Department with their major advisors and their thesis dates and titles. An appendix at the end of the volume lists all of the students 1876-1904 who enrolled in botany and horticulture courses, including year and term taken, course or subject, and

grade received. Thus, this long history has been pulled together and presented in a thorough way.

Another interesting aspect of Burk's book is information on the development of UNC and of the various versions of natural science departments. Many chapters include some contemporary description of the campus, the village of Chapel Hill, the building(s) in which these scientific topics were taught. We see a number of images showing the campus from its earliest days and through a succession of changes, including an 1818 diagram of campus drawn by Elisha Mitchell in a letter to his fiancée. Horticulture, landscaping, and campus beautification were a recurring theme from time to time over the years.

Numerous ancillary educational resources are discussed. UNC's library was begun in 1795, and the University Museum in the same year; the first chemistry laboratory was made in 1819; laboratory teaching was first attempted later, in 1876/1877. The Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society was founded in 1883 as a learned scientific society on campus; it was a catalyst for professionalization of science at UNC, and was the first of its kind to be connected with a university in the southern states (disbanded in 1984). In its early years only men could be members, but women were permitted to attend meetings. Papers were presented at meetings and published in the *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society* (continued as *Journal of the North Carolina Academy of Science*).

Two themes that ran throughout UNC's 19th-century natural science discussions were the importance of sharing botanical information with farmers, and of North Carolina's geological resources. Creation of a model farm was proposed, as were several geological surveys. Some of the highlighted educators worked to make botanical information available to farmers, including on crop plants and on plant diseases and pests.

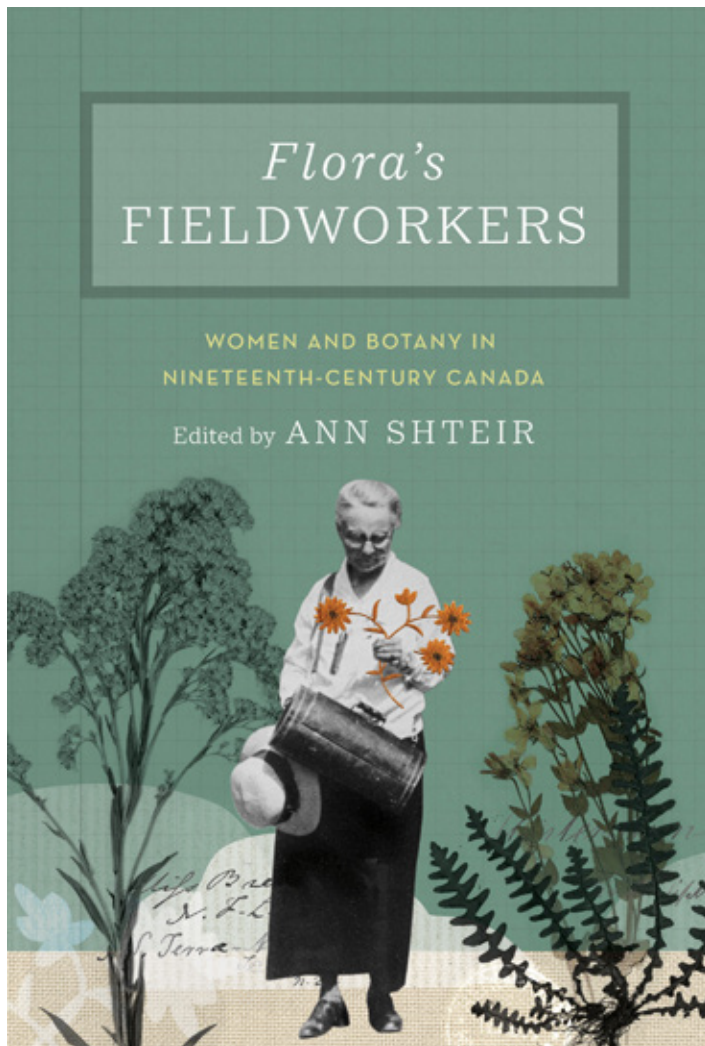
Another function that reached beyond the university was the creation of the University Normal School and later the Summer School. The Normal School (1877-1894) was designed to train North Carolina teachers, and although founded for white males connected with UNC it was also open to North Carolina teachers as well as others intending to teach, including women. Funded by state appropriations, it was designed to be affordable to rich and poor. The school was a U.S. prototype, widely praised and inspiring the creation of others. It included no botany courses, but there were special lectures. The Summer School (1894-1904) was a new version of the same thing, but without state funding. A modest fee was charged and there was more scientific instruction included. Dixie Lee Bryant was chosen to teach physical geography and botany there, becoming the first woman to teach botany at UNC, in 1894. A late 1890s photograph shows her and a group of women students engaging in laboratory study there.

Chapel Hill also saw the development of a freedmen's school in 1866 during the tenure of George Dixon, who was active in freedmen's projects in his native England and in the Friends' Freedmen's Association of Philadelphia (a list of such schools in North Carolina in 1867 is on p. 212).

The history of academic botany at UNC traces the first curricula, the development of a Department of Geology and Natural History that split into two departments for biology and geology around 1891, the Department of Biology's eventual splitting into separate departments for botany and zoology in 1908, and the difficulties that led to their eventual merging in 1982 (against the wishes of the botany faculty) into a Department of Biology again. The final chapter of the book is a densely packed history of the Department of Botany 1908-1982 at UNC Chapel Hill (timeline, p. 456-457). The four chairs from that period are individually discussed, and professors of botany joining UNC during these chairs' tenures are highlighted, listing their research interests, courses taught, selected publications and graduate students. Burk also discusses the Botany Library, University Arboretum, University Herbarium, Photo Lab, first and second Botany Electron Microscope Laboratories, a new Botany building, and educational outreach beyond UNC in this modern period. He ends the text with: "During seventy-five years of academic service, the Depart-

ment of Botany was a distinguished unit at UNC. Its faculty members made numerous contributions in their fields of expertise through publications, guidance of over 300 graduate students, leadership roles in various scientific organizations, and advancements and discoveries in diverse areas of botany.”

A subject index and one index of scientific and common names complete the book. This is an important work for the history of botany in the U.S. Kudos and thanks to William Burk for this accomplishment.



Flora's Fieldworkers: Women and Botany in Nineteenth-century Canada, edited by Ann Shteir. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2022. 445 pages. CAD 70.00. ISBN 9780228011125 (cloth); 9780228013464 (ePDF).

Reviewed by Charlotte A. Tancin
Librarian
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This book came out of a 2017 workshop at York University, “Women, Men, and Plants in 19th-century Canada: New Resources and New Perspectives,” organized by York’s Centre for Feminist Research. A central point made over and over again is that to find the stories of these women and their engagement with plants and plant study, it is necessary to look beyond “the usual records.” And so here we have the fruit of such determined and creative research: accounts of botanical, floristic and horticultural activities by women in British colonial and settler locations in Canada, along with a chapter set in colonial Australia, looking at colonial, imperial and national dimensions of botany in these places. Some of the women discussed were well-known and so are

still discoverable today, while others were not and are generally absent from histories. Many kinds of records and materials previously unavailable are now accessible digitally, opening new possibilities. In her introduction Ann Shteir outlines issues that underpinned the workshop and that are being explored by researchers and writers, and – as is true for each essay here – her introduction comes with a bibliography, and an index is included.

Part 1, “Approaching Lady Dalhousie: New Resources, New Perspectives”

A Botanical Journey of Discovery: Lady Dalhousie in British North America, by Deborah Reid.

During her time in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Quebec in the early 19th century, Christian Ramsay, the Countess of Dalhousie (1786-1839), amassed an enormous collection of North American plants. She introduced many into British gardens, but her contributions are not well documented in garden history. Reid examines available archival sources and discusses how Lady Dalhousie overcame a lack of formal training to become a knowledgeable collector. She accompanied her husband on excursions in the Que-

bec region, where she drew and made notes of plants seen. She found and sent plants to her gardener in Scotland, and corresponded with William Jackson Hooker, also becoming friends with two other women who collected plants for him. She made a herbarium of nearly 300 specimens, most of them accurately identified.

Lady Dalhousie's Orchids and Other Rare Plants in Lower Canada, 1820-1828: Resources for Historical Study, by Jacques Cayouette and Faye-Yin Khoo. Historical plant collections are important, and the best collections from Lower Canada in the 1820s were made by the knowledgeable Lady Dalhousie. Cayouette and Khoo look at nine sources (including published information, a manuscript, several herbaria, and a plant album) that contain specimens or information from her, documenting 36 species now at risk in Quebec. Lady Dalhousie's expertise was acknowledged in her lifetime, and her plant data are very reliable. The records and information she produced or contributed can now help with the conservation of threatened plants.

Gender, Botany, and Imperial Networks: Reflections on a Letter, by Virginia Vandenberg. In 1829, Lady Dalhousie wrote to her Quebec friend, Anne Mary Perceval (also a botanizer), about the long sea journey from Scotland to her husband's new posting as commander-in-chief of the British Army in India. Lady Dalhousie was a knowledgeable plant collector, part of a global network of correspondents and collectors for William Jackson Hooker. Now she was going to a place with a completely unfamiliar flora. Vandenberg's essay looks at how this letter (full transcript at the end of the essay), and the life experiences of female botanical collectors, can be used to explicate stories of women in science. She uses approaches from feminist and postcolonial studies to reflect on the letter and the complex factors at play in the global knowledge economy. It is instructive to read the letter and to critically examine it through Vandenberg's eyes.

Part 2, "Collecting and Its Contexts"

"I dare not say Botanical ... Mine is a real love for flowers." Mary Brenton in 1830s Newfoundland, by Ann Shteir. Mary Brenton's (1791-1884) father was a judge in the Newfoundland Supreme Court, so her family was part of the social circle of the Governor. She was able to visit his garden and he likely suggested her to William Jackson Hooker as a possible correspondent for the *Flora Boreali-Americana* (1829-1840). She was one of only four women contributors who sent him plants. Hooker instructed her by letter and sent her a copy of his *The British Flora* (1830). Mary traveled with her father on his circuit and collected plants, becoming interested in the effects of geographic location and climate on plants. Research on her is part of the effort of "writing women into Canadian history."

Baron Ferdinand von Mueller's Plant Collectors: At Home with the Australian Flora, by Sara Maroske. In the early 1880s botanist Baron Ferdinand von Mueller advertised in the West Australian newspaper for Australian settlers to help him by sending him plant specimens, the editor pitching the ad especially to appeal to socially/intellectually isolated women. There were at one point some 1,800 collectors, many of them female. Although this project was to be part of William Jackson Hooker's series of colonial floras, Mueller managed to shift the balance such that "his" collectors thought of him as "their" botanist and felt they were contributing to an Australian undertaking. A number of women are discussed, including artist Ellis Rowan.

Alice Hollingworth, Early Botanical Explorer in Muskoka District, Ontario, by James Pringle. Alice Hollingworth was born in Canada into the lower class and lived in a remote, newly-settled farm/logging area. She was an active member of the Botanical Club of Canada and of the Canadian Institute and its Biological Section. She collected in an area that would not be botanically explored by others for many years, so her specimens were important for botany; her own herbarium is now at the University of Guelph and includes grasses, sedges, rushes, asters, and goldenrods. She studied morphology and classification, and

she also made some plant drawings in pen and ink. She was active in the Women's Institutes of Ontario and founded 18 of the first 44 branches of that organization. She advocated for better conditions for farmers, for women, and for public schools.

Part 3, "Natural History 'Old' and 'New'"

Catharine Parr Traill: A Natural Historian in Changing Times, by Michael Peterman. Catharine Parr Traill (1802-1899) was an amateur natural historian (her preferred term) in the upper Canadian backwoods, committed to studying the Canadian flora, mostly native plants and ferns. She had a feminine/maternal feeling for nature and was influenced by writings of Gilbert White and by herbal and medicinal knowledge from First Nations' friends and immigrant neighbors. She wrote natural history books for children and adults, and essays on plants and natural history. Her sisters published books for juvenile readers in England, and some of Traill's books were published there with their help; she also published in Boston, but was unable to interest Canadian publishers until finally *Studies of Plant Life in Canada* (Ottawa, 1885) and then *Canadian Wild Flowers* (Toronto, 1895) were published. Her vivid descriptions showed careful and loving observation of the natural world.

"Botany ... a Prominent Study:" Isabella McIntosh's Ferns and Natural History in 1860s Montreal, by Karen Stanworth. Isabella McIntosh (1828-c.1915) grew up in contact with Montreal's cultural and scientific community. A groundbreaking educator and an active Presbyterian, she opened a school for girls and added botany, object lessons, and gymnastics to the curriculum. Plant studies were important in 19th-century Canada not only because of the wealth of natural resources but also because agricultural reforms were desperately needed. The Natural History Society of Montreal was formed, and the public (including women) could attend conversaciones and other open events. McIntosh was cited in the Society's transactions for her fern collecting, and her and Catharine Parr Traill's pressed and labeled plant collections were highlighted and displayed side by side, compatible and complementary, Traill's from Canada West and McIntosh's from Canada East.

Part 4, "Seeing and Making"

Botanical Albums as Theoretical Objects: Sophie Pemberton and the Logic of Identity, by Kristina Huneault. Sophie Pemberton (1869-1959) was born in Victoria and drew and painted flowers all her life. Two albums of her British Columbia wildflower drawings offer examples of how many women artists making similar drawings and collections at the time may have thought about their work. Her albums were made at age 26 and were bound as gifts for elder siblings. One paired bits of poetry with carefully chosen plants. The other album was less sentimental and more botanical. Huneault sees them as demonstrating both the femininity framing of the time and direct, careful observation of the natural world.

Slips and Seeds: Botany and Horticulture in Two Nineteenth-Century Canadian Quilts, by Vanessa Nicholas. A floral quilt, the "Fallowfield quilt," attributed to Elizabeth Bell, is shown and described, along with another of a different style by Margaret McCrum. They are as different as night and day, but both appear to show plants directly familiar to the quiltmakers. The Fallowfield quilt follows a familiar format, with a bouquet in a large, center block, surrounded on four sides by rows of smaller blocks embroidered with additional flowering plants, those blocks made somewhat like early modern British "slips." It seems to have been begun by her mother in England and finished by Bell in Canada. McCrum's quilt was made in Canada and shows flowers and birds on more freely-designed garden plots, the background black and the colors bright. Its style is very much North American and also references Indigenous material culture, perhaps showing an emerging Canadian sense of national identity.

Part 5, "Expanding Public Practices," examines botanical gardens and also citizen science.

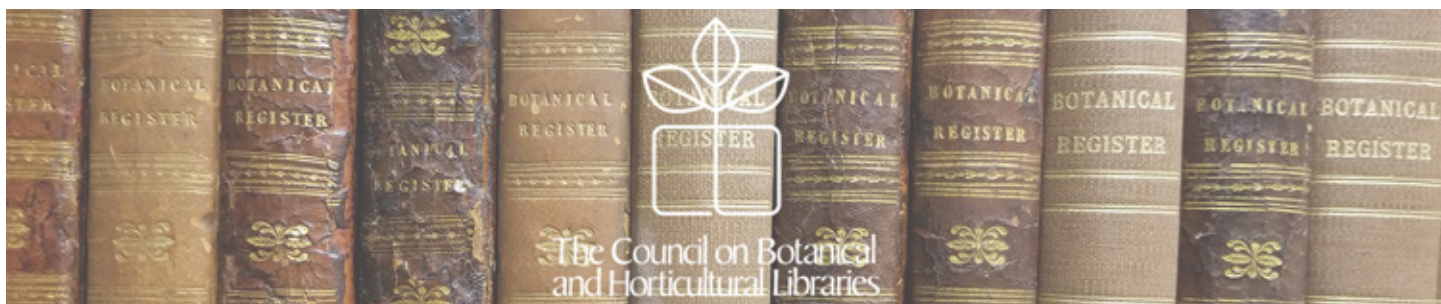
Botanical Gardens in Nineteenth-Century Canada: Individuals and Institutions, by David Galbraith. At least twelve botanical gardens were proposed/planned/built in Canada in the 19th century. Galbraith

describes the functions of such gardens at the time and notes that they were one way that women could access scientific botany. In the 19th century four of these gardens were built: in Montreal, Toronto, Kingston and Ottawa (and possibly also Halifax). Women were strongly involved in at least two of them: the King's Botanical Garden for North American Plants in Montreal in 1822 and the Kingston Botanic Garden in 1861. A number of other gardens either were never made or were made but then failed, because of an inability to get an institution to take over their ownership and management. Galbraith suggests that this was due to a lack of understanding the purpose of such a garden.

Women, Citizen Science and Botanical Knowledge in Ontario, 1870-1920, by Dawn R. Bazely and Kathryn McPherson. Bazely and McPherson look at the ways that women used disruptive technologies to insert themselves into the public discourse through the transformations of public education, increased mass literacy, and evolution of cheap, mass publications. This grew a Canadian audience for writings about plants (and everything else) and gave women writers a way to speak to readers and assert their expertise. Women were actively engaged in botanical activities as authors, illustrators, members of horticultural societies, and owners of plant businesses. The professionalization of scientific botany may have marginalized women, but there were other avenues to pursue. Local gardening and horticultural organizations developed plant knowledge to share, some of it through magazines. Some women established garden plant businesses. A growing market for household books about plants also opened opportunities. Among all of the women mentioned in this essay, only Catharine Parr Trill is widely known in Canada, demonstrating that more research is needed to bring Indigenous women, Franco-Ontarian women, African Canadian women, and other European immigrants into the frame of history, and to bridge the STEM/liberal arts divide.

Afterword, Finding Meaning in the Understory, by Suzanne Zeller. An extra, invited paper is a capstone to this set of studies. Zeller notes the interest of the book's authors in the question: "Who shaped access to knowledge of plants in nineteenth-century Canada?" Zeller offers an overview of the essays in the book by reviewing them in terms of John V. Pickstone's categories of knowledge, outlooks, and practices: natural historical (encountering and possessing nature), analytical (as in Alexander von Humboldt's work), and experimentalist (devaluing fieldwork in favor of laboratory research). She also reminds us of the importance of bringing race, gender, and class into the framing, as what we know and what we seek are re-examined.

Flora's Fieldworkers is a richly stimulating collection of studies looking at specific 19th-century Canadian (and Australian) women from a wide variety of situations who were engaged with the plant world in a wide variety of ways, and often under- or even unappreciated. It provides welcome views into Canadian botanical, cultural, and social history. And it does make you wonder about all of the other currently unknown women who also worked with plants in many ways and wonder just how researchers will find them. May this well-illustrated book, the workshop that led to it, and the work of these and other researchers inspire new generations of historians.



About the Maria Sibylla Merian Society

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Minutes of the 55th Annual Meeting of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries

Edited by Brandy Watts

ARLIS Director

Alaska Resources Library & Information Services

Minutes of the 55th Annual Meeting of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries

55th Annual Meeting was hosted by Botanical Research Institute of Texas (virtual)

Thursday, May 4, 2023

Call to order: 10:15 am Pacific / 11:15 am Mountain / 12:15 pm Central / 1:15 pm Eastern

Welcome and Official Commencement

President Allaina Wallace welcomes everyone: It is Thursday, May 4, 2023, and I'd like to call the 55th Business Meeting of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries to order.

President Allaina Wallace, Past President Brandy Kuhl, Treasurer Betsy Kruthoffer, Secretary Brandy Watts, and interim Vice President Leora Siegel introduce themselves. Leora Siegel serves as Parliamentarian for the business meeting.

Eighty-four members have registered to join virtually and there is a Quorum (at least 15 members per the CBHL bylaws).

The minutes of the 54rd annual business meeting, hosted by Denver Botanic Gardens on May 26, 2022 were shared via email on April 17, 2023. No corrections. Motion to approve: Kathy Crosby. Second: Suzi Teghtmeyer. Motion passes.

No additions to the agenda. First time attendees and members are welcomed.

Officer Reports

Secretary's Report, Brandy Watts

The CBHL Procedures Manual was updated to include language pertaining to 1. reimbursement for the EBHL Travel Award and 2. specifying training time for the incoming Treasurer in advance of the outgoing Treasurer's retirement. The updated procedures manual can be found on the CBHL Libguides.

A proposal for a change in the CBHL bylaws was submitted by Betsy Kruthoffer concerning a change to membership renewals from occurring on an annual basis to rolling. The votes cast to date is a unanimous yes at 26 votes, which meets the quorum requirement for passing the vote. Voting will be open until May 9, 2023. The revised bylaws will be available on the CBHL Libguides by mid-May.

Starting this year, we will be updating the process by which we announce and accept applications for the three annual awards that CBHL offers: the Founders Fund Award, The Conference Collaboration Award, and the EBHL Travel Award.

Nominating Committee, Past President's report, Brandy Kuhl

This year's Nominating Committee members are Leora Siegel, Gillian Hayward, and me. I want to thank Leora and Gillian for their service on the committee.

Meg Eastwood from the University of Denver was nominated for the position of Vice President in February. Meg ultimately withdrew her candidacy due to a very unfortunate personal situation.

Gillian Hayward of Longwood Gardens was nominated for the position of Treasurer. Gillian's bio was shared with the membership in early March and was voted on to the board by an online vote of the membership. Gillian officially joins the board at the end of this business meeting. Thank you, Gillian!

The Vice President position unfortunately remains vacant, and we are currently seeking a volunteer for Vice President. If you can, please consider joining the board, even if you have served before.

Treasurer report, Betsy Kruthoffer

(The following comments refer to documents shared virtually with everyone)

“Conference Revenue” refers to registration fees for the 2022 annual meeting in Denver that were taken by CBHL. “Conference Costs” refers to meeting expenses paid directly by CBHL.

“Annual Meeting Costs” refers to the expenses incurred by CBHL every time we meet in person (board registration, event insurance, and a gift for the host).

“Annual Literature Award” expenses were unusually high due to having three years’ worth of nominated books to send to Denver for the raffle.

“Other Costs (Admin)” were high due to a monthly fee for QuickBooks after losing the subscription via TechSoup. I opened a TechSoup account for CBHL. TechSoup is a tech clearing house for nonprofits to obtain apps and equipment at discounted prices. QuickBooks was not available, so I subscribed to a new accounting app called Xero. We were able to subscribe to Adobe via TechSoup for the newsletter.

Bank Account Totals show a slight increase in revenue.

CBHL 2022 Finances report is a simple breakdown of revenue and expenses. We made a small profit of \$120.07.

FOR THE RECORD: Gillian Hayward will replace Betsy Kruthoffer as Treasurer and will become the signatory for the CBHL bank accounts. Brandy Watts will be added as the second signatory. Are there any questions about the treasurer’s report?

Vice-President’s report, Leora Siegel

No report.

Standing Committee Award Reports

Charles Robert Long Award (Kathy Crosby)

The committee “met” briefly through a series of emails this spring.

Some candidates for the award were considered this year, but it was decided by the committee members and the board to use the opportunity of the upcoming, in person meeting in Michigan for the next potential award presentation.

Since 2012, the committee has also been in favor of sharing the process of nomination for the award with the membership—this is according to the minutes posted on the CBHL Libguides site. An example of the nomination form is posted there, as are some of the older assessment and evaluation worksheets.

As chair, I also apologize for my delay in facilitating the process in a timely manner relative to this year’s annual meeting. I felt greatly challenged in my role as BBG’s librarian this past year and spring—in very good and interesting, but very time-consuming ways. I also promise to update the Libguides page.

The committee is comprised of the current President and Secretary plus three appointed members, all past officers. Regarding the latter, we could not meet those requirements from the past two years of board rotations, so a person who was selected by the Nominating Committee for an office and could not serve, was appointed to the award committee. We might want to consider a bylaws change relative to this issue.

I would like to take some time at this year’s annual meeting to provide some background to the award inspired by the high standard of professionalism shown by Charles Robert Long in his career in librarianship. He was

the esteemed head of the New York Botanical Garden Library and a long time CBHL member. The award was established in 1987.

The example he set in terms of professional development, support of high library and bibliographic standards, and advocacy in terms of the collaborative efforts of libraries forms the basis of the award today. It is given to an individual or organization for outstanding contributions to CBHL, meritorious service to CBHL, or for outstanding publications or service in the fields of botanical/horticultural libraries or literature. The award is not meant to be given posthumously, nor is it necessarily awarded each year.

The awardee, if individual, is given lifetime membership and a signature wooden box, plaque, or equivalent, and, if organizational, fifteen years of membership. Both receive a certificate.

We hope to review the award categories this year in terms of our current roles and how technology and organizational demands have changed them. For example, we might want to consider the many ways in which we achieve high bibliographic standards in terms of our digital environment. To this end, we welcome all of your thoughts and comments.

Annual Literature Award (Celine Arsenault)

The Annual Literature Award Committee met by Zoom on 4/11/2023 and 4/27/2023.

Committee members include: Céline Arseneault, Susan Eubank, co-chair, Janet Evans, Rita Hassert, Brian Thompson, co-chair, and Nitzan Watman

For 2023, there were 34 nominations, from 27 publishers.

Including 9 for children/young adults.

These were submitted by 13 member nominators.

The committee chose one book to receive the Annual Literature Award, and six others to receive Awards of Excellence in different categories. All will be announced on May 4 at the Annual Meeting.

Because of the quantity and especially the quality of books for children and young adults this year, the committee decided to distinguish two age groups with separate Awards of Excellence: one for Literature for Children and one for Literature for Young Adults.

The committee added a new category for Awards of Excellence: Plants and Environmental Change.

This year the raffle will only be for nominators. Céline will take the lead on this.

Nominations for 2024 will close earlier, on December 1, 2023, than in past years to give more time in early 2024 for reviewing by committee members. The nomination form is available now for 2024 awards.

Committee Reports

Committees provided the membership with a written copy of their report, posted on the listserv, with time for feedback and discussion during new business. Feedback from newer members and first-time conference attendees was provided about how they would like to know more about committees. Much of CBHL's work is done through committees and all CBHL members are encouraged to participate and join committees. Committee chairs said a few words about the purpose of their committee.

Steering Committee (Leora Siegel)

The Steering Committee has a new chair in 2022/2023. Stacy Stoldt handed off the Chair to Donna Herendeen after the 2022 Annual meeting in Denver.

The Committee met twice this year, January 11, 2023, and April 12, 2023. The minutes for both meetings appear on the CBHL Libguides Committee pages. All other minutes are also available as PDF documents at the same location.

The Steering Committee at its next meeting should discuss the most useful timeline for Steering Committee meetings.

Steering Committee Meetings were useful at the in-person Annual Meeting as a final meeting to gather and update all committee chairs and managers on activities after the pre-meeting committee meetings. But it has been pointed out that the same information is gone over again during the business meeting. The Steering Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting may be a duplicate effort.

As part of the Steering Committee charge, we maintain the roster of Managers, Chairs, and the Board. Any updates, changes or corrections should go to Donna Herendeen, Chair of the Steering Committee. Anyone needing this information can consult the Steering Committee LibGuide Page.

The current roster of members for the Steering Committee are:

Managers:

1. Archivist, Stephen Sinon
2. Electronic List, Susan Eubank
3. Historian, John Reed
4. LibGuides, Danielle Nowak
5. Membership, Robin Everly
6. Newsletter, Judy Stevenson
7. Non-book collections database, Kathy Crosby
8. Public Relations, Rita Hassert
9. Webmaster, Celine Arseneault

Committees:

1. Ad Hoc Committee on Future Conferences Chair: Stephen Sinon
2. Annual Literature Award Committee Co-Chairs: Brian Thompson & Susan Eubank
3. Charles Robert Long Award Committee Chair: Kathy Crosby
4. Communications Committee Chair: (Vacant, Judy Stevenson assisting)
5. Financial Advisory Committee Chair: Brian Thompson
6. Founders Fund Committee (No Chair; committee is board members)
7. Membership Committee Chair: Robin Everly
8. Nominating Committee Chair: Brandy Kuhl as Past President

Board Members:

1. Past President, Brandy Kuhl
2. President, Allaina Wallace
3. Secretary, Brandy Watts
4. Treasurer, Betsy Kruthoffer (Gillian Hayward is Treasurer elect)
5. Vice President, Leora Siegel as interim VP

Liaison: Brandy Watts

Membership Committee

The membership committee will meet in the next month or so and try to recruit a membership committee chair. Robin wants to be Membership Manager, keeping up the membership database and sending out letters that need to be done. Robin thinks it would be good to have a membership committee chair and one person designated to membership recruitment as well.

Here are the membership numbers as of today, 5/4/2023:

129 – members total: Individual – 27, Institutional – 37, Retiree – 12, Commercial – 3, Student – 4, Lifetime/Long Award – 9.

Financial Advisory Committee (Betsy Kruthoffer)

The full Financial Advisory Committee met on 4/18/2023 with Betsy Kruthoffer, treasurer; Brian Thompson, chair; and Amy Kasameyer.

Betsy presented her draft of the treasurer's report for the committee's review. After discussion, the committee

determined the report was accurate and complete.

This included the CBHL 2020 account, which had been carried forward for accounting of the 2023 Annual Meeting. This account will be dissolved in the near future and the funds added to the general account. **This has been done.**

The only change requested was adding an explanation of the distinction between Annual Meeting Costs (needed every year including board registration, insurance, and host gift) and Conference Costs (specific to each meeting program and site).

Betsy was able to get CBHL approved for TechSoup, a low-priced technology for non-profits, but QuickBooks is no longer available through this site. Cost has been \$100+/month. She is testing a more reasonable program – Xero – available for only \$13/month. QuickBooks archives will continue to be available for 12 months. She also received consultant help from her daughter, an accountant!

Betsy will work with Gillian Hayward, the incoming treasurer, to transfer responsibilities and expects this work will last several months. She recommends keeping the accounts at the bank in Decorah, Iowa, as they have been very responsive and easy to work with on fund management. After Betsy and Gillian have had some time to work together, the Financial Advisory Committee will meet again, probably in early summer.

Communications Committee (Judy Stevenson)

Meg Eastwood stepped down as chair of the committee, and the committee is currently seeking a new chair. Judy Stevenson is serving as temporary interim chair.

Reports from Managers

Susan Eubank, CBHL Listserv

The CBHL Listserv currently has 225 members and 11 unresolved confirmations from March and April. I have been working closely with Robin Everly to confirm memberships for the unresolved confirmations. This is on-going work. Many thanks for Robin for her help! The listserv is fairly active, and the bulk of the posts have to do with sharing materials in various ways. I am also aided by Céline Arsenault who deals with the inner workings of the listserv such as when someone has not been receiving the posts, etc. Many thanks to Céline as well!

As an effort to move farther into retirement activities, I am relinquishing this duty. This is fairly rote and calming work and allowed me to learn new member names, to work through a few problems and know when others are no longer participating and feel their absence. I believe this role is well-suited to a new or longstanding member who wants to help the organization in a very concrete way.

I have been happy to serve in this capacity and am happy to pass it to someone new. During the Communication Committee Betsy Kruthoffer graciously volunteered to take on the Listserv management. I will be available to train her.

Robin Everly, Twitter Manager

Twitters statistics are 1,523 following, 887 followers (meaning following CBHL), 3,527 tweets have been sent or replied to, and CBHL joined Twitter in December 2010, which I believe is fairly early in twitter time. The accounts looks good and I'll be tweeting about our meeting. Can use the hashtag #CBHL2023 to tweet.

Robin also announced she plans to step down as Twitter Manager in the summer. The committee discussed broadening this manager position to Social Media Manager and moving responsibility for the CBHL Facebook page to this position (currently Rita Hassert handles Facebook). The committee agreed to announce the open position for Social Media Manager at the Annual Meeting next week. Gillian suggested the Social Media Manager could share the same content across platforms. Kristen suggested a “library takeover” format and Betsy noted that this could allow libraries who don't have a dedicated social media account to share content.

Rita Hassert, PR Manager

Press releases were created and distributed for:

CBHL Annual Literature Awards - 2022

Charles Robert Long Award of Extraordinary Merit - 2022

CBHL Annual Meeting 2023 - in-person and virtual annual meetings – sent to various affiliate organizations as well as library programs.

The CBHL social media campaign continues via Facebook with over 500 followers.

Gillian Hayward has continued the project to increase the visibility of CBHL and the Annual Literature Awards by identifying Award nominees and winners within their OCLC master records. Like Caldecott and Newbery Award winners, the 2022 CBHL Annual Literature Award nominees and honorees were added to the Awards Note in the bibliographic records. Gillian's efforts to increase the visibility of CBHL as well as the Annual Literature Awards are greatly appreciated.

Rita also notes she is happy to pass Facebook on to the new Social Media Manager.

Judy Stevenson, CBHL Newsletter

New email address for newsletter is newsletter@cbhl.net

Issue schedule for 2023/2024 will be:

June issue (April 15 deadline)

September issue (July (15 deadline) - this issue includes coverage of the annual meeting, including minutes.

December issue (October 15 deadline)

March issue (January 15 deadline)

Celine Arsenault, CBHL Website (May 2022-May 2023)

Users: 5,720

Sessions: 7,670

Pages read: 13,600

Most read pages: /plant-libraries, /award-winners, /annual-meeting, /cbhl-newsletter

Actions:

- Tables of Contents for Newsletters archives (with Jodi Shippee)
- Revision of the Plant Libraries listing. Personal contact to 12
- institutions who had not renewed (and from these 6 renewed). Updates
- online, target: August 2023
- Regular updates, maintenance with our vendor and problems'
- resolution throughout the year
- Annual Literature Award: 3 phases - nomination form, nominees' list, winners
- Different current posts throughout the year, including Judy Reed's tribute
- Please remind members, still time: The address is: (password for everyone is DearJudy) <https://www.cbhl.net/dear-judy>
- Transition to Google Analytics G4 in progress. Target: July 2023
- Installing G4 on the Membership Directory. Target: July 2023
- Use of the webmaster email address instead of my personal email.
- Target: July 2023

Founders' Fund Travel Fellowship Award Committee

No award

Ad Hoc Committee on Future Conferences (Stephen Sinon)

The good news to report is that we have an offer to host in 2026 from David Sleasman at Longwood Gardens.

This came about as I inquired with David about potentially hosting CBHL and he said they were undergoing some changes which should be finished by 2026 and they would be pleased to show off these newly built features.

I informed David that we would need a letter drafted from the Longwood administration to the CBHL Board with a

formal offer to host. Longwood Gardens last hosted CBHL in 1976! In 2005, the conference hosted by Janet Evans at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society featured a day trip to Longwood. THANK YOU DAVID!

In 2024 we are being graciously hosted by Suzi Teghtmeyer at Michigan State University Libraries in East Lansing. It will be a joint conference with USAIN scheduled for May 6-9th. Suzi has put together a welcome video which can be viewed here: [Big Reveal-USAIN 2024](#)

The video will provide a peek for those who did not attend in 2013 when Suzi last hosted CBHL. THANK YOU SUZI!

This all means that at this point we have no host for 2025 which is our most pressing need. Thank you. Are there any questions about the committees?

Again, there will be time for member feedback and discussion of the written committee reports when we get to new business.

New Business

2024 CBHL Annual Meeting (Suzi Teghtmeyer)

The 2024 CBHL Annual meeting will be held on May 6-9, 2024 at Michigan State University Libraries! This will be an exciting event because it will be a joint conference with USAIN, the United States Agriculture Information Network! The two organizations, both with roots in areas of plant sciences, haven't held a meeting together, yet we're (almost) all librarians serving our plant and & agricultural disciplines and patrons in our own unique ways - it's time to share!

USAIN holds its meetings every two years, so we are already ramping up conference planning, discussion topics, lodging, and activities. I'm working with Betsy and the Board to work out financial arrangements and such for a joint meeting.

We've put together a video welcoming USAIN to MSU and it can be viewed here: [Big Reveal-USAIN 2024](#). Note that we invited USAIN here early in the year, then we got permission to invite CBHL and the boards and & MSU Library Deans agreed. Please enjoy!

More details are coming soon. If any of you would like to work with me, Andrew Lundeen, and USAIN colleagues on planning the conference, please email me.

General Announcements from the Membership

Stephen Sinon: A new director has been selected for the LuEsther T. Mertz Library. We are also hiring for a new Special Collections Librarian - Cataloger and a Systems Librarian. The position of director has opened for Humanities Institute as well. All positions have been posted on the website.

Suzi Teghtmeyer: Botanical Art & Illustration Through the Ages exhibition from last summer is available online as a digital exhibit.

Robin Everly: The Head of the Natural History Library position has been filled by Jane Quigly who came from Dartmouth. Robin will be retiring at the end of this year. She plans to still be involved with CBHL following retirement.

Marisha Sullivan: I am the new librarian for Cleveland Botanical Garden & Arboretum. It is great to be among the CBHL community.

Leora Siegel: I would like to ask that everyone who is new, please introduce yourself.

Maureen O'Brian: I am the Library Manager at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in Wellesley Massachusetts. I have enjoyed the conference.

Rebecca Benson: I am one of the cataloging librarians from the Missouri Botanic Garden Library.

Brittany Stark: I'm the Technical Services Librarian for the Denver Botanic Garden Helen Fowler Library.

Erin Aults: Celine and I have been working with the Canadian Garden Council in a new endeavor, which is the Canadian Garden Hall of Fame.

Allaina Wallace: Welcome everyone.

Closing of Annual Meeting

Thank you to our host. At this time, I would like to say thank you to Ana Nino and BRIT for hosting us this year. Let's all give a virtual round of applause. It was quite an endeavor, and we really appreciate your flexibility. Great job!

Ana Nino: Happy to have hosted. I've learned so much. Thank you for the opportunity to allow BRIT to host this meeting. I hope y'all have found it rewarding.

Recognition of Outgoing/Incoming Officers

In March 2022, Larissa stepped down and the board appointed Leora Siegel to serve as interim Vice President. Thank you, Larissa, for your service to CBHL.

Brandy Kuhl has completed an extended term of service as Past President. She is now stepping off the board. Thank you, Brandy, for your 5-years of dedicated service to the CBHL Board through COVID and other challenges.

Brandy Kuhl: Thank you for having me everyone. It's always great to be part of CBHL.

Leora will now be stepping in to serve as Past President.

Leora Siegel: I love this organization. I'm happy to keep it going with all the other board members.

We want to extend a very warm thank you to Betsy who has completed her term as Treasurer. Thank you, Betsy, for your service on the board.

Betsy Kruthoffer: Thank you, I've enjoyed it. I've learned a lot. I'm glad I've been able to give back to this organization that has given me so much over a long time.

Gillian has been appointed to the Treasurer position. Welcome to the board, Gillian!

Allaina Wallace: Due to our current circumstances, I am staying on as President. I am looking forward to this next year as we think about how we can make CBHL better and move it into the future.

Thank you everyone. Are there any questions?

Adjourn

Allaina: Do we have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

Marisha Sullivan: Move to adjourn.

Kathy Crosby: Move to second.

Allaina: All in favor, wave your hands.

Membership: Hands wave.

Allaina: The meeting is adjourned.

Adjourn: 11:45 pm Pacific / 12:45 pm Mountain / 1:45 pm Central / 2:45 pm Eastern

CBHL Newsletter, Issue 170, September 2023

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Submissions Welcome!

Articles may be submitted to Judy Stevenson, Editor, newsletter@cbhl.net.
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Join us!

Receive the CBHL Newsletter, Membership Directory, email discussion list, members-only web pages, and annual meeting materials.

Join online at:

<https://www.cbhl.net/become-cbhl-member>

Questions?

Contact CBHL Membership Manager
Robin Everly, robin.everly@verizon.net

Please use the subject line "CBHL Membership"

Student.....	\$50
Regular Individual.....	\$80
Retired.....	\$50
Institutional.....	\$130
Additional Institutional Member.....	\$75
Commercial.....	\$175

