



A busy day at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library

Are You Being Served?

Miller Library Reference Service: From the Perennial to the Exotic

Rebecca Alexander, Plant Answer Line Librarian

Elisabeth C. Miller Library, University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Seattle, WA

When should I prune my roses/clematis/hydrangea? How do I get rid of bamboo/ivy/horsetail? Should I get rid of lichen? Why won't my tree peony flower? I need a tree that will not grow taller than 15 feet.

My husband likes to smoke cigars in the greenhouse—bad idea? Are splinters from an elm tree toxic to humans? I'm writing a novel set in Seattle in the 19th century, and the heroine needs to hold a bridal bouquet of nonpoisonous,

fragrant, native flowers that might be blooming between July and November—any ideas?

OVERVIEW

Reference service at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library is hybrid in nature. Part university research library, part public library, we provide in-person, telephone, and email reference services. In 2009, we answered over 5,000 gardening questions. The library website extends resources beyond the

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From the President

Sheila Connor
Horticultural Research Archivist
Arnold Arboretum Horticultural Library
Jamaica Plain, MA

As I write this, the amount of activity that precedes the annual meeting has risen into high gear. All manner of preparation is going on behind the scenes. The Board and the Steering Committee has conference called and the Steering Committee, with Chuck Tancin at the helm, is making sure that each committee has an appropriate time and space in which to meet. Committee Chairs have been, or are about to be contacted by their Board liaisons to be brought up to date with the year's accomplishments. Attendees are making plane reservations and

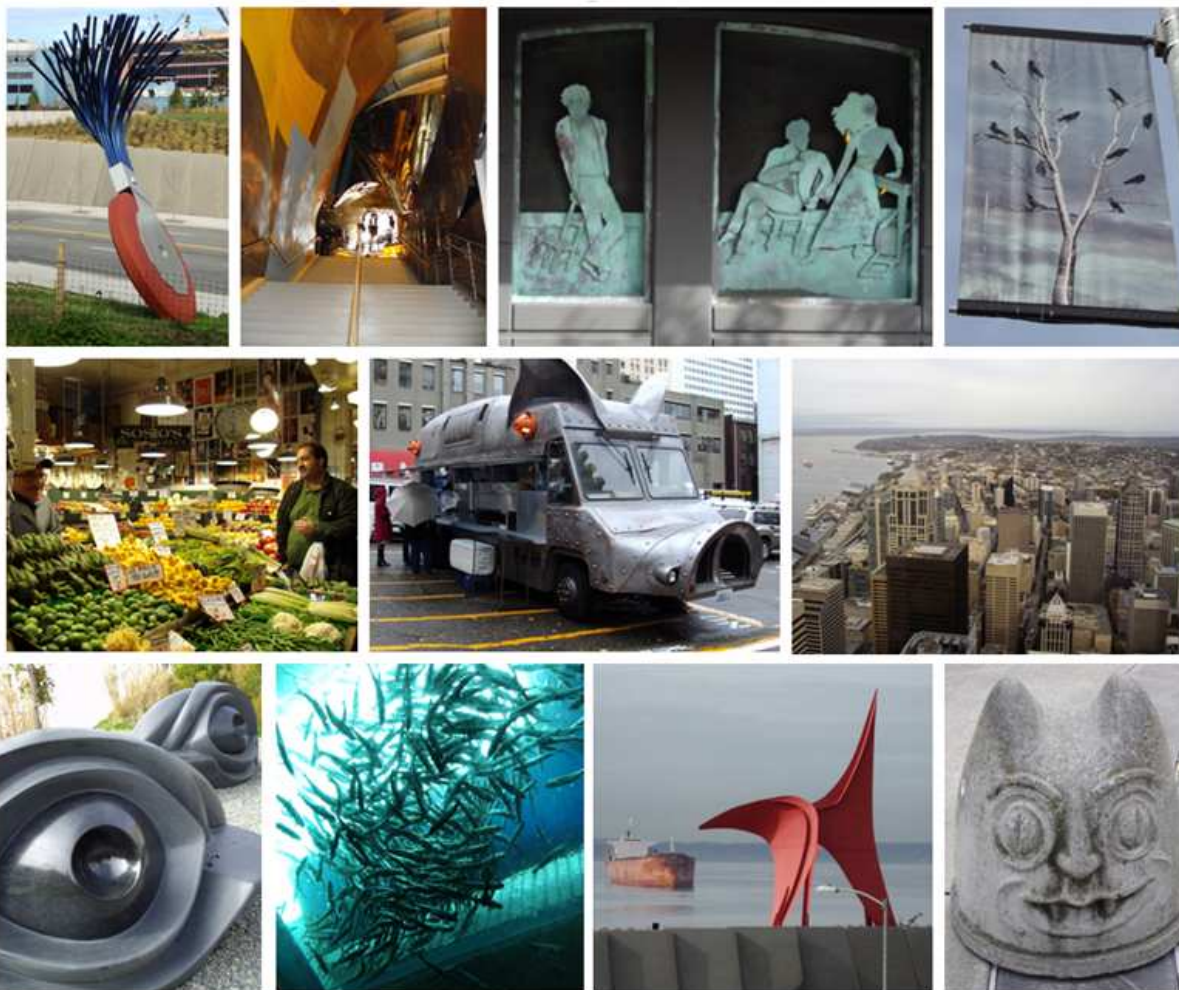
figuring out coverage for their library (and perhaps the home front too) while they're away. Early registration has just ended. Even sitting in my office in Boston a distance of close to 2,500 miles from Seattle, I can sense the energetic goings on at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library as they prepare to host us and help us explore "The art and science of providing service in a plant library."

Speaking of "Are you being served" —the theme for this year's annual meeting — hosting an Annual Meeting is a great way to serve CBHL. It is also an awesome team building experience for a library, or libraries if you undertake it as a collaborative venture. No matter how well you already work together, you are bound to discover the unusual, hidden (and never before called upon) talents that your colleagues possess. It can be frustrating and fun, number crunching and mind numbing, but I guarantee it will be as rewarding and memorable an event as any you'll undertake. It is a service that continues to provide returns years after the event. While you are busy making sure everything is running smoothly, connections are being made, friendships formed, and information exchanged. Years later you'll hear, "That's when I first met.... and learned about" and "Remember that great speaker, field trip, presentation, dinner, and spontaneous meeting we had in" You fill in the blanks.

So capture the anticipation you are feeling now, add to it how impressed you'll feel in Seattle and bring it home. Then think about how great it would be if we had the opportunity to visit your library.

I'll leave you with visions of Seattle and hosting an Annual Meeting dancing in your heads!

Sheila



Are You Being Served? (Continued from page 1)

library's walls, with a database of answered reference questions, several dozen subject bibliographies, and an annotated directory of links.

Of the six members of the library staff, four are frontline reference providers, and bring varied backgrounds to the task, including MLIS degrees, horticulture and botany coursework at the community college and university level, teaching experience, and hands-on gardening skills as professionals and avid home gardeners. We draw frequently upon each other's knowledge and expertise in providing service to patrons.



The reference desk at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library.

IN-PERSON REFERENCE

Because we are one of just a few University of Washington-affiliated libraries that provide full service to the general public, patrons at all levels of horticultural experience use our resources. Dealing with a diverse clientele requires the flexibility to help a pteridologist writing about fern nomenclature at the same time that a dozen teenagers (from Seattle Youth Garden Works, a vocational horticulture program for at-risk youth) seeking weed and invasive plant information demand our attention. In addition to the 15,000 books and 250 serials subscriptions at our fingertips, the Garden Literature Index (an EBSCO product) provides easy access to the content in some of our periodicals.

There are current and historical seed catalog collections, a children's collection which includes teaching resources, a vertical file of ephemeral materials, and assorted yearbooks and directories at our disposal when providing assistance to patrons. We act as information ambassadors for the plant collections at the Center for Urban Horticulture and the Washington Park Arboretum, as we field frequent questions about plants growing at both UW Botanic Gardens sites. Just beside the reference desk are the Pacific Northwest Connections shelves, featuring local authors with local

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approaches to gardening, as well as books about regions with comparable growing conditions.

PLANT ANSWER LINE

Since April 2001, the Elisabeth C. Miller Library has provided a free public service called Plant Answer Line. The service was the idea of former library manager Valerie Easton, who envisioned PAL as a quick information line much like that offered by the Seattle Public Library.

Most users of the Plant Answer Line service are local, but anyone may call or email us from anywhere in the world with gardening questions of all kinds. These range from the familiar and seasonally predictable to the odd and arcane. Most questions are answered the same day, but some responses require more extensive research. We serve beginning gardeners, professional horticulturists, and academics alike. As with any reference interview, it is sometimes necessary to winkle out the underlying question, including clues to the questioner's level of expertise and geographical location (if that information has not been

provided in the online Plant Answer Line form or the body of the message).

Unlike the Master Gardeners who are trained by Washington State University Extension Service, we do not necessarily answer as experts but instead substantiate our responses with references to books, articles, websites, and subject specialists. For example, we refer many questions about plant disease to the county extension's diagnostic clinic, and tricky plant identification questions are referred to the Herbarium specialists on site. When appropriate, we use our collective gardening know-how in assisting patrons, but we make a point of citing sources other than ourselves most of the time.


Examples:

Generic questions about the value of trees have, in the past, come from a city council member seeking fodder for an argument in favor of saving and increasing the city's tree population; a junior high student doing a presentation; and as homeowners whose neighbors have illegally topped their trees. Similarly, a question about the medicinal and edible properties of Ginkgo biloba may turn out to be from a novelist seeking historical authenticity, or an elderly patron who is planning to harvest leaves and make a tisane to serve her friends: the answers vary accordingly!

A professional gardener in Brooklyn wants information on low-maintenance container plants for a shady spot that gets hot air from vents. In addition to information gathered from our shade and container plant books, I referred him to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's website, which has generous excerpts from their publications (not to mention that this gardener lives less than a mile from the BBG, and could take advantage of the Gardener's Resource Center).

A patron in Nigeria wants easy-to-understand information about the responses of various cocoyam species to fungal pathogens, and he needs it quickly.

University of Washington
BOTANIC GARDENS
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Home Catalog Using the Library Collections and Services Resources News and Events
Home -> Collections and Services -> Plant Answer Line

 Plant Answer Line
Collections
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Recommend a Book
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Plant Answer Line

A Quick Reference Service for Gardeners

Plant Answer Line will provide quick answers to your gardening questions. Using the many resources found in the Miller Library and on the Internet, Plant Answer Line is tailored to the needs of Pacific Northwest gardeners.

Also try the [Gardening Answers Knowledgebase](#), a searchable database of Plant Answer Line question/answer sets and recommended websites.

Call the Plant Answer Line at 206-897-5268 (206-UW-PLANT); email hortlib@uw.edu or submit your question here:

Required fields marked with an asterisk*

By clicking this box I agree to the [Terms of Use and Disclaimer*](#) ☐

Your name:

Send my answer by*:
Phone ☐
Email ☐
Mail ☐

Please give us the information for your preferred method of receiving an answer (at least one method is required).

Phone

Email

Mail Address (Your location helps us answer your question more completely.)

Question* (html tags not allowed)

What is your gardening level?

How did you hear about us?

Spam filter: please add 2 + 2

We do not have resources in the library itself, but because of our cooperative arrangement with UW Libraries, I was able to find articles through their periodical indexes and send them. I located a website devoted to research on cocoyam cultivation, and referred him to plant pathologists at other institutions who specialize in cocoyam root rots.

GARDENING ANSWERS KNOWLEDGEBASE and MILLER LIBRARY WEBSITE

Technology librarian Tracy Mehlin sowed the seeds of the Knowledgebase in 2000 and after much planning and the efforts of many, the database emerged in 2006. It includes over 1,300 questions and answers taken from actual interactions with patrons, nearly 200 “garden tools” (quick and handy tips), and nearly 600 recommended websites. Curation of content in the Gardening Answers Knowledgebase is rooted in the recognition that there are “perennial” questions gardeners ask, but there are also more “exotic” questions whose answers are harder to find. By including both types of questions, we provide a service to our users and simultaneously save the time of reference staff. The Knowledgebase undergoes perpetual editing due to the ephemeral nature of web links, but there are also changes in botanical nomenclature and best horticultural practices to take into account (You say Myrica, I say Morella! Planting hole: amend or no? Dig extra deep or extra wide?) The Knowledgebase and the vast amount of information on the Miller Library website are freely available to anyone with Internet access.

BOOKLISTS

Booklists on a wide array of subjects are linked from the Miller Library website as well as available in print form in the library. Some are geared toward courses being offered by Center for Urban Horticulture faculty (eg., Peer-Reviewed Journals; Restoration Ecology). Others are developed for special events such as the Northwest Horticultural Society’s symposia. Most are updated at least annually, and occasionally new subjects are added. This year, we added a list entitled “Garden of Ideas,” bringing together disparate titles which address philosophical or sociocultural aspects of gardening.

OTHER CONCERNS

“How much dumbcane would it take to paralyze a dog’s vocal cords?”

When I discovered this question (and its answer) in our QuestionPoint archive, it sent chills down my spine. How

Gardening Answers Knowledgebase

The staff of the Miller Library have researched and answered thousands of gardening questions over the years. Now that knowledge is available for you to search and explore. We have collected the best practical questions plus a few bizarre ones just for fun. This is version 1.6 of the database, so please bear with us as we improve the search and display options. We welcome your [feedback!](#)

Search

Browse a list of all [keywords](#) assigned to the Plant Answer Line Questions and Garden Tools in the knowledgebase or try the [Tag Cloud](#) display.

OR to see randomly generated samples, click the question mark.

Question

The house that we purchased and moved into last spring came complete with a gorgeous, huge fig tree. It is currently full of gorgeous, huge figs, all rock-hard. It is planted against a south-facing wall, so it gets lots of reflected heat, but of course that is diminishing by the day.

So two questions:

- 1) Is there anything we can do to encourage at least a few figs to ripen before it is too late and
- 2) Is there anything worth doing with under-ripe figs?

Answer

I found information in the summer 2009 issue of *Edible Toronto* about ways to increase the chances of figs ripening on the tree in cooler climates. In an article entitled "[Fig Fetishists in Ontario](#)." Here is an excerpt: "The real secret to coaxing the fruit to ripen in our climate is to gain a few days of ripening time. Ferreira shows me a couple of trees over which he's draped clear plastic bags. This creates a warm microclimate around the tree, helping it to come out of dormancy more quickly. Once the current year's growth is underway and figs are forming, another trick is to break off the tip

would the response to such a question be used? Thinking about this issue eventually prompted us to seek advice from the Attorney General’s Office on the University of Washington campus. While not all of our problematic reference questions are sent by would-be dog poisoners, there are enough questions about such things as mushroom identification, medical and legal matters, and pesticides that it seemed wise to protect ourselves from liability. We also provide links to outside content on the website and in email responses for which we may not wish to be responsible. With the Attorney General Office’s guidance, we developed a terms of use statement and a disclaimer which can be found on the website as well as linked in every email response we send. There is also a written policy on how to respond safely to questions, and we provide training to those volunteers who answer the phone or email messages, or staff the reference desk.

“ARE YOU BEING SERVED?”

This question (and the many shades of subtlety under its umbrella) informs ongoing refinements and improvements to the reference service we offer our patrons. Our participation in a network of fellow librarians (CBHL, of course!) enhances and enriches the service we provide to our library users. We hope conference attendees will take the opportunity to explore the Miller Library, and share their views on the conference theme. We welcome and encourage you to take advantage of our online resources (Plant Answer Line, Gardening Answers Knowledgebase, subject booklists, annotated web links) when you are back “at home” in your own libraries as well.

Black Holes and Dark Ages: Preserving Digital Sources

Kathy Crosby, Head Librarian

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY

Loss of collective memory is and always has been an ongoing process. Perhaps the rate of loss is accelerating relative to the exponential growth of digitized information, perhaps not. Please allow me those first few lines of seeming complacency. The headlines, some of them rather old headlines, of my reading of late, warn of a coming “digital dark age.” In-depth journal articles follow suit. When and where this “digital dark age,” like any other imagined dark age, will have been said to begin, and its attributed significance, will vary interpretation by interpretation.

Is likening this imminent, and decidedly already in-process, vast loss of digitized information to the unknowns of ages of the past overstated? Understated? Think “black hole,” according to some. (Harvey 2008) In the “Ask the Astronomer” section of the NASA website, a student wrote in wanting to know who discovered the first black hole. The scientist responding to the student’s question explained that “black holes” can’t be discovered, but that the indirect evidence of their existence is overwhelming. The existence of black holes is an inferred concept; the phrase was coined by physicist John Wheeler. (Butterworth 1997)

John Wheeler, incidentally, comes from a family of librarians. Somehow the latter seemed appropriate to this discussion, albeit peripherally (Overbye 2008).

Has the evidence for a digital black hole reached overwhelming proportions? What would that evidence consist of? A graveyard expanse of hardware, software, and storage media, unless recycled? I had one of those, a personal graveyard, now largely recycled. There is a disturbing rhythm to this process, a ceaseless echo of ongoing waste. Waves that litter society’s shore, except on recycling or grassroots clean-up days. Am I disquieted? Yes? Resigned to a “dark age?” No. Consigned to the black hole? Not yet, I guess. There’s another term—“data rot.” Kind of makes me shiver.

And every day, there is a website not visited, a blog without comments, a tweet not followed, and a facebook feed hidden. An ephemeral dark age of personal choice and time constraints; ephemeral if archived, that is.

This layering—that of the inferred digital black hole over the imagined dark ages—speaks to emotion of loss of collective memory. I’m glad that the perception of this loss is so, so deep; I hope it’s an awakening.

For aside from the inevitable erosion through time, the portent of a coming dark age, or the abyss of a digital black hole, what else could possibly threaten an increasingly digital collective memory? We do. Loss of collective memory is not inherently technical; it is inherently personal, and at a more complex level, inherently social. In the same way that all history is in some way local, all collective memory is in some way personal.

The conversation about history and collective memory in the digital age is fascinating. For starters, enjoy the discussion. For chewy reads re thinking about collective

memory, consider Émile Durkheim, Maurice Halbwachs, Stewart Brand, James Michalko, Roy Rosenzweig and others listed below. Visit the websites of Digital Preservation Europe, the MiT6: Stone and Papyrus conference, the Long Now Foundation, the Center for History and New Media, Archive-It.org and Internet Archive, the Library of Congress Digital Preservation pages, and the final report of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Sustainable Digital Preservation and Access. Just have time for the news, view the Science Daily columns.

As librarians, how might this work with whom we serve?

As an exercise, I visited the websites of thirty nursery and seed enterprises. Some have “online only” catalogs, some have print and online catalogs, some blogs, some podcasts, and some, twitter and facebook accounts. Like our print nursery and seed catalog collections, the collective well is rich and deep. In this informal survey, I asked whether or not there was a routine for archiving their sites and other e-ephemera; twelve responded. Some do not archive their sites; some were not sure. Some thought the idea of archiving their sites a good one, and plan to check with their hosting service. A few keep paper copies. A number encouraged my downloading and saving of information, if I so desired.

More exercise. This time I sent an e-mail to just a few national horticulture and/or botany related organizations. Here too, the response was thoughtful. One organization asked what I might want to see in a digital preservation policy, and said they would be happy to work on one and send it to me.

I see potential for exciting both parent organizations and their membership about their collective memory—digital or not. I see us being able to help. We start by caring about the personal memory, the local history of those we serve; we start by conversation. By e-mail. By a facebook poke. By developing stewardship plans for digital ephemera and interagency collaboration, I think CBHL could contribute to preservation of digital resources. Both news articles and more in-depth articles alike stress the need for collaborative approaches to digital preservation, and this is CBHL’s strong suit.

I don’t mean to belittle the sustainability and technical issues. As librarians, archivists, historians, data archaeologists, IT forensic professionals, and other digital preservation professionals, we need to set policy for data migration programs and encourage industry wide standards for storage media and their interpretation. As a good omen, mark that Stanford has bridged the gap between the forensic world and the library world by developing a digital conservation laboratory. (Cohen 2010) Emory University is giving their Woodruff Library \$500,000 to follow suit (Cohen 2010). The lab technologies used by these libraries will likely become more mainstream.

But if we are not fascinated by the play of what we might accomplish, we will not succeed.

Enjoy the discussion.

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Halbwachs, Maurice. *On Collective Memory*, edited, translated, and with an introduction by Lewis A. Coser. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992.

Websites :

Archive-It.org : <http://www.archive-it.org/>

Blue Ribbon Task Force on Sustainable Digital Preservation and Access : <http://brtf.sdsc.edu/>

Center for History and New Media : <http://chnm.gmu.edu/>

Digital Preservation Europe : <http://www.digitalpreservationeurope.eu/>

Internet Archive : <http://www.archive.org/>

Library of Congress : <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/>

Long Now Foundation : <http://www.longnow.org/>

MiT 6 [Media in Transition] : <http://web.mit.edu/comm-forum/mit6/index.html>

*The deadline for the
CBHL Newsletter
August issue
is
June 15, 2010.*

Harry Potter's Herbology Class with Rare Books

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On the Web: Seattle Sights, Old Seed Catalogs, Some Library Catalog Add-ons, & Speed Traps

Stanley Johnston, Mentor, Ohio

With the approach of the CBHL Annual Meeting in Seattle, we start with web sites of some of the places attendees will be visiting beginning with the **Hotel Monaco** <monaco-seattle.com> where visitors have the option of bringing their pets or having a goldfish companion provided for the length of their stay. It is kitty-corner to the striking Main Branch of the Seattle Public Library <spl.org/default.asp?pageID=branch_central_about&branchID=1> where some of our meetings will be held. The hotel is also within walking distance of many local attractions including: **The Seattle Art Museum** <seattleartmuseum.org/>, the **Seattle Aquarium** <seattleaquarium.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=183>, and **Pike Place Market** <pikeplacemarket.org/frameset.asp?flash=true>. Somewhat farther afield are the **Klondike Gold Rush Museum**

<nps.gov/klse/index.htm> which is near the **Seattle Waterfall Garden** <en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Seattle_Waterfall_Garden_03.jpg>, and the **Seattle Center** <seattlecenter.com>, reachable by bus and monorail and home to the Space Needle, an amusement park, theaters, the Pacific Science Center, the Children's Museum, and the **Experience Music Project/Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame** <empsfm.org>. Really off the beaten track are sights such as the **Fremont Troll** <roadsideamerica.com/story/2236> clutching a captured Volkswagen and **Volunteer Park** <seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=399> with its handsome water tower, plant conservatory, and Seattle Asian Art Museum.

The cohorts for the meeting, apart from the Seattle Public Library, are the Elisabeth C. Miller Library at the **University of Washington Botanic Gardens** <depts.washington.edu/uwbg/visit/cuh.php> and the University of Washington Libraries. The main field trip is to the 150 acre **Bloedel Reserve** <bloedelreserve.org> with its memorable natural areas and moss garden. Although, I will personally miss not having the opportunity to revisit the **National Rhododendron Species Foundation and Garden** <rhodygarden.org/>

page/page/1083572.htm> which was one of the highlights for me of the last Seattle meeting.

For those of our members interested in getting a unique perspective on Seattle's history, the staff at the Miller Library have heartily recommended **Underground Tour** <undergroundtour.com>, which literally takes participants under Seattle's streets and sidewalks through underground passages that were once the main roadways and first floor storefronts of old downtown Seattle. Or if one desires a somewhat racier adventure, they also offer the Underworld Tour, centering on stories of the less reputable side of underground Seattle. Unfortunately, some of us are not up to the rigors of the up and down walking of the Underground Tour, especially given the challenge of walking in Seattle, which is a very hilly city. One option is to **Ride the Ducks of Seattle** <ridetheducksofseattle.com/rides.htm> for a 90-minute city tour culminating with a sail on Lake Union, another is the city tour, a 6 ½ hour combination land/sea tour offered by **Gray Line of Seattle** <graylineseattle.com> which combines a city tour with a visit to the Hiram Chittenden Locks, after which you board a ship in Lake Union and go through the locks to Elliott Bay, viewing Seattle's waterfront where the ship docks. Unfortunately, neither of these offers much time to visit any of the sites seen, but Gray Line also offers a double-decker tour with on-off privileges.

Old seed catalogs and their preservation have long been a focus of CBHL libraries. They can be an inspiration, as evidenced in the discussion at **Folkways Notebook: An Old Seed Catalog** <folkwaysnotebook.blogspot.com/2010/01/old-seed-catalog-and-what-it-can-teach.html>. Fortunately, although she has been retired for some time, the work done at the Smithsonian by our own Marca Woodhams remains online. This includes a **History of the American Seed and Nursery Industry and their Trade Catalogs Bibliography** <www.sil.si.edu/SILPublications/seeds/bibseednur.html>, her **Biographies of American Seedsmen and Nurserymen**

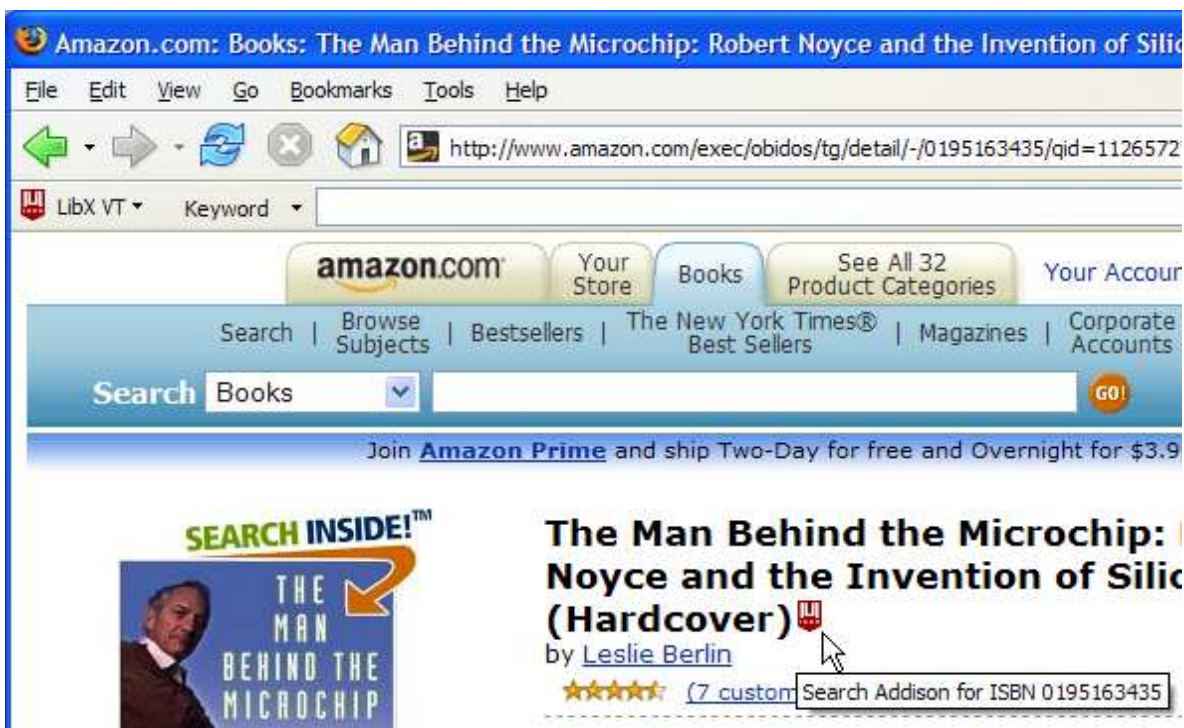
<www.sil.si.edu/silpublications/seeds/seedsmen-bios.html>, and the accompanying **Seed Catalogs** site <www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/SeedNurseryCatalogs/collection.cfm> with its searchable database of images from the Smithsonian seed catalog collection.

Just a quick note about two available resources for libraries with online catalogs which ALA recently offered training in. **LibX** <libx.org> is a

browser plug-in for Internet Explorer and Firefox to provide direct access to your library's resources.. **Zotero** <zotero.org>, from Virginia Tech University, is apparently only for Firefox. It is produced by the Center for New History and Media to allow scholars to easily collect, manage, cite, and share resource sources.

A few items of note for our membership. Jim White, the long-time Curator of Art at the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation and member of CBHL, has recently been disabled, leading to this article entitled **Art Illustrates an Amazing Life of James J. White** <pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/ae/museums/s_663372.html>. Janet Evans recently posted a video from one of her patrons, Jennifer Lin, featuring her mother, Sylvia Lin's efforts to prepare her exhibit for the **Philadelphia Flower Show** <theflowershow.com/Exhibits/SylviaLin.html>. Leora Siegel also sent a clip of Chicago Botanic Garden's Curator of Rare Books, Ed Valauskas, portraying a professor from Hogwarts School in **Harry Potter's Herbology Class with Rare Books** <youtube.com/watch?v=EzgL2SFFT0>.

Sciencia <sciencia.org> is a social networking site for posting and sharing news items, headlines, references, and resources in the sciences. **SeeClickFix** <seeclickfix.com/citizens> is a networking site for individuals and groups to identify problems in their communities and seek help from the internet community in resolving them. Although it is highly unlikely any of our members would go over the speed limit when driving, they might nevertheless find **The National Speed Trap Exchange** <speedtrap.org> of interest in learning about their locations. Finally, a fun site where you can play carnival games and get your fortune told at **Love Never Dies: The Coney Island Experience** <www.loveneverdies.com/coney-island-experience/#/home> which is part of the site for Andrew Lloyd Webber's sequel to The Phantom of the Opera.

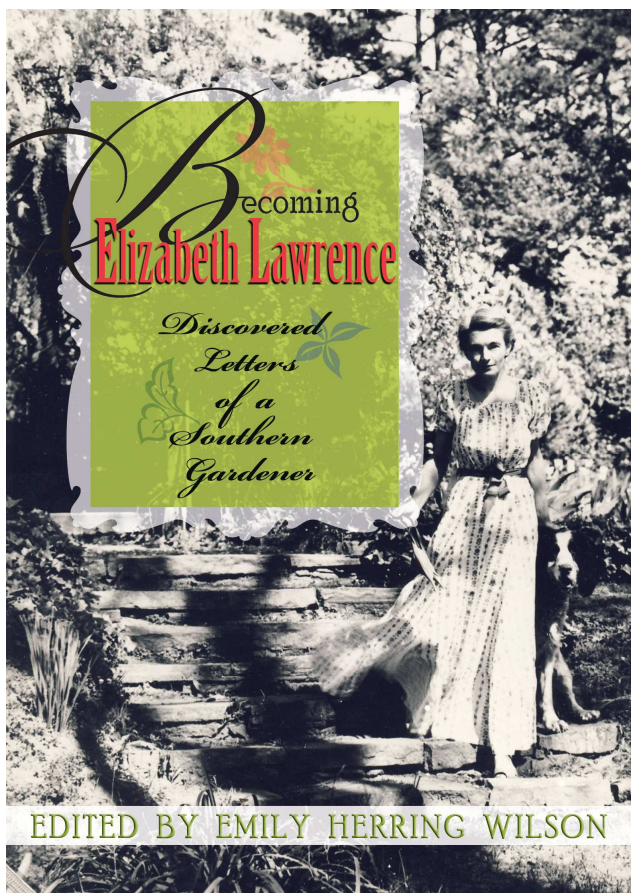


A screenshot from LibX. Notice the access in the browser bar and button to the Virginia Tech University Libraries.

Members' News East

Compiled by Shelly Kilroy, Librarian
Peter M. Wege Library
Frederik Meijer Gardens
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Staci Catron
Cherokee Garden Library Director
Kenan Research Center
Atlanta History Center
Atlanta, Georgia



Cherokee Garden Library Lecture:
Emily Herring Wilson
Becoming Elizabeth Lawrence: Discovered Letters of a Southern Gardener
Wednesday, April 28, 2010
Atlanta History Center's Kenan Research Center,
3:00 PM

Enjoy a fascinating afternoon with renowned author Emily Herring Wilson, discussing her newly-released book, *Becoming Elizabeth Lawrence: Discovered Letters of a Southern Gardener* on April 28, 2010. Wilson explores the friendship of famous playwright and actress Ann Preston Bridgers and Elizabeth Lawrence, who would become one of America's best garden writers. Bridgers' talent for friendship and for identifying the talent of others led to her correspondence with Elizabeth Lawrence.

Although only a small number of Ann's letters were preserved, editor Emily Herring Wilson discovered a treasure trove of Elizabeth's letters to her mentor. Through those letters, readers can glimpse what life in a Southern town was like for women, especially during the 1930s and 1940s. Elizabeth discusses family, friends, books, plays, travels, ideas, and, of course, writing. Elizabeth (who died in 1984) was featured as one of the 25 greatest gardeners in the world by Horticulture magazine. That acclaim would never have come her way without her friendship with Ann Preston Bridgers.

The New York Times called Emily Herring Wilson's *Two Gardeners: Katharine S. White and Elizabeth Lawrence—A Friendship in Letters* (2002) "one of the finest gardening books published in years." Wilson is also the author of an acclaimed biography of Elizabeth Lawrence entitled *No One Gardens Alone* (2004). While editing correspondence between Lawrence and Katharine White, she discovered several hundred letters from Lawrence to Bridgers, which inspired her to compile this collection. Admission to this event is FREE. Reservations are required. Please call 404.814.4146 to make a reservation.

Stephen Sinon
Head of Information Services and Archives
New York Botanical Garden
LuEsther T. Mertz Library
New York, New York

The LuEsther T. Mertz Library announces the start of a multi-year project to catalog its collection of nursery and seed trade catalogs, which contains approximately 43,000 catalogs from more than 5,000 companies in North America, Europe and Japan. Continuing resource (serial) records are being created in OCLC at encoding level K to allow other libraries to upgrade the records. Within the Library's online catalog, researchers can search by nursery or company name, location, specialties and chronological coverage by decade; the latter feature is still under development. The catalog display for each nursery includes exact holdings. To see what records have been added to the Library's catalog, go to <http://library.nybg.org> and search periodical call number for Y.

Dickinson's Garden: The Poetry of Flowers
Spring Exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden
May 1–June 13, 2010

During her lifetime, Emily Dickinson (1830–1886) was better known as a gardener than as a poet. Plants and flowers significantly influenced her poetry and other writings, most of which were not published until after her death. The New York Botanical Garden's multi-venue exhibition, Emily Dickinson's Garden: The Poetry of Flowers, will illuminate Dickinson's life and work, the connections that exist between her life and poems, and her study and love of flowers and gardens. Dickinson's poems have become an integral part of the American literary canon, yet the fundamental impact that plants and flowers had on her poetry is little known by the public. From May 1 through June 13, the Botanical Garden's

exhibition will reveal this new perspective.

On view in the Library's William D. Rondina Gallery will be an exhibition of 60 fascinating objects—books, manuscripts, watercolors, and photographs telling the story of Emily Dickinson's life. The artifacts provide a rare glimpse of Emily's world, her reclusiveness, her adoration of flowers and plants, and her reluctance to share her poetry with outsiders. The links between her verse and the plants and flowers that were her motivation will be on display, as well as several of her original manuscripts, both poems and letters.

A reproduction of her only extant dress (she wore exclusively white in the later half of her life) will be on loan from the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst. Other lenders to the exhibition are the Jones Library, also in Amherst; Harvard University; and the Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia. Visitors will discover her not only as a poet, but also as a gardener, botanist, nature lover, and woman of the Victorian era.

As an amateur botanist, she collected, pressed, classified, and labeled more than 420 flower specimens. Visitors will be able to peruse a digital version of Emily Dickinson's Herbarium (MS Am 118.11, by permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University), examining specimens through an interactive, touch-screen kiosk, as if they were turning the pages of Dickinson's scrapbook. An exhibition catalog will feature essays by Dickinson scholars Judith Farr and Marta McDowell.

A portion of the Emily Dickinson exhibit will be on view in the Lenhardt Library at the Chicago Botanic Garden from August 20 through November 14, 2010. While no firm decision has been made on the cases that will be on display, most likely the selections will be the two cases that discuss Emily's early life, influences, her early interest in botany and Emily as a gardener.

A flower show in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory will feature a re-creation of Dickinson's own mid-19th-century New England flower garden, an interpretation curators have been able to craft from extensive research and careful reading of her poems and notes. On display will be Dickinson's

favorite plants and flowers, including daisies, daylilies, tulips, roses, lilies, jasmine, and many others, giving witness to how she may have felt in the surroundings that inspired so much of her poetry. Visitors will stroll through a replica of the family property in Amherst, Massachusetts, including the Homestead, Emily's own home, as well as her brother's home, the Evergreens, and the beloved wooded pathway that joined the two.

Emily Dickinson's Poetry Walk, with over 40 poetry boards and audio messages featuring Dickinson's poems and

the plants and flowers that inspired her to write them, will take visitors throughout the Botanical Garden's collections at the peak of the spring flowering season. Strollers along the poetry walk will read her poems, while surrounded by plants that served as her muse — daffodils, roses, daisies, oaks, crabapples, and hemlocks — all on view across the Garden's historic 250 acres.

The New York Botanical Garden will also present several readings of Dickinson's poetry through *The Big Read*, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture.

The primary collaborators on *Emily Dickinson's Garden: The Poetry of Flowers* are the Emily

Dickinson Museum and the Poetry Society of America. The major sponsor is the National Endowment for the Humanities and there is additional support from the Kurt Berliner Foundation and the New York Council for the Humanities.



Bouquet. Handmade floral collage, pith paper, Maria E. Halsted [n.d.], [New York, 1853]
Gift of Miss L.P. Halsted, 1902



Vanda tricolor, Cuba correos, 1971

Cuba in Philatelic Flower – An Exhibition of Stamps Illustrating Flowers Now on Display in The LuEsther T. Mertz Library in Conjunction with The Orchid Show: Cuba in Flower, February 27 – April 11, 2010

In 2007 The LuEsther Mertz Library received a donation of approximately 13,000 postage stamps from Dr. James Luteyn, the retiring Mary Flagler Cary Curator with the Institute of Systematic Botany at the New York Botanical Garden. Dr. Luteyn began collecting stamps in the 1950s focusing on issues of the United States and United Nations. When he joined the staff of the NYBG in 1975 he began a topical collection of stamps depicting plants and flowers from around the world. Sir Ghilleen Prance, who was then Director of Research at the NYBG, also collected stamps, and they began actively trading with each other for their collections. When Dr. Prance left NYBG he was given a topical stamp collection of plants and flowers assembled by Dr. William Steere, Sr., who had been the Director and President of the Garden from 1958 to 1972. Sir Ghilleen gave Dr. Luteyn stamps from the Steere collection which duplicated items in his own collection.

For the past three years, Alan Steinfeld, a Garden volunteer, has been cataloging each stamp from the Luteyn gift to make this vast and important collection available for study. The accession process involves identifying each stamp in the Scott Standard postage stamp catalog and entering that information into a searchable database. The recorded

information includes the Scott catalog number, country of origin, denomination, genus, species and common name of the plant depicted, as well as the color. So far, approximately 5200 stamps have been entered in the database.

We have made use of the stamp collection to develop an exhibit complementing the orchid show, *Cuba in Flower*, currently on view in the Conservatory. A series of 21 stamps depicting orchids were issued by Cuba in 1971, '72 and '73. These stamps have been digitally reproduced and are on display in the Mertz Library's reading room display case. Interestingly, when the stamps were shown to Marc Hachadourian, curator of the Orchid Show, he noted that none of the orchids depicted are native to Cuba.

The index to the stamp collection will eventually be made available to the public. We are also creating digital images of each stamp which will supplement the catalog entry. You can see some of those images here: <http://mertzdigital.nybg.org/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2Fp15121coll4>

Charlotte Tancin
Librarian
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Holds Annual Open House in June

In conjunction with the exhibition *Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art, the Alisa and Isaac M. Sutton Collection*, the Hunt Institute will hold its annual Open House on June 27 and 28, 2010. We will have a guided gallery tour of the exhibition, two curator's talks and displays, a talk about and tour of the reading room and a Q&A with our curators and graphics manager.

Acting Curator of Art Eugene Bruno will give a guided gallery tour of *Botanicals*, which represents one of the finest private collections of contemporary botanical art in America. She also will talk about the influences on the Suttons' collecting interests and the important role of private and institutional collectors to both support the work of botanical artists and educate the public through exhibitions.

In one of two curator's talks during the open house, "Banks and the Banksias: The Man and the Plants that Define a Nation", archivist Angela Todd will explore the legacy and legend of Sir Joseph Banks (1744–1820), the famed British naturalist, botanist and world traveler for whom *Banksia* is named. When Banks returned from his voyage on the *Endeavour* (1768–1771) with Captain Cook, Linnaeus requested that the plant collections from the journey be sent to him for identification, but he died in January 1778 before seeing the specimens. Linnaeus' son later visited England and named the five type specimens collected by Banks in Australia *Banksia*. Included in the *Botanicals* exhibition are two *Banksia* paintings, Kyoto Katayama's *Banksia* study and Celia Rosser's *Banksia rosserae*.

The title of the exhibit, *Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art*, echoes the role that the botanical artist plays in documenting rare and endangered plants and common plants that play an important role in our planet's

biodiversity. It has always been the botanical artist's role to observe and document. Even today some travelers and explorers make drawings to record what they see, but before the invention of photography this activity was absolutely critical. In the second of the two curators' talks "Specimens captured with pencil and paint: Examples of artwork from expeditions," librarian Charlotte Tancin will display examples from the 16th to 20th centuries and talk about the creation of such art and the role it has played in the history of science.

Editor Scarlett Townsend will give a talk about the history of the reading room, which was designed to capture the essence of Rachel Hunt's personal library, and a walking tour of the antique furniture. This year's Open House will be a good time to see the exhibition before it closes and an opportunity to have an inside look at our collections and our work. We appreciate this opportunity to share our collections and their histories with the public. That was Rachel Hunt's goal, and we are happy to be able to realize it. A schedule of events is available on our Web site at <http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/HIBD/Services/OpenHouse.shtml>.

Hunt Institute Announces Rogers McVaugh Gift

The Hunt Institute is honored to announce that the late taxonomist and botanical explorer Rogers McVaugh (30 May 1909–24 September 2009), a member of the original Hunt Botanical Library advisory board and a longtime supporter of the Hunt Institute's mission, has bequeathed the remainder of his academic research papers and books to Hunt Institute. Dr. McVaugh was internationally renowned for his expertise in Compositae, Myrtaceae, Campanulaceae, woody Rosaceae, and the flora of Mexico, as well as in botanical history and nomenclature.

The donation includes McVaugh's professional library, his work on *Flora Novo-Galiciana*, his research files on botanical exploration, and correspondence and notes from his years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The books and papers will be deposited in the Institute's Library and Archives, respectively. This gift adds to the archival material previously donated by Dr. McVaugh, which includes his 1944–1979 correspondence and his collection of group and individual photographs of botanists and explorers (HI Archives McVaugh Collection no. 322).

Rita Hassert
Technical Services Librarian
Sterling Morton Library
The Morton Arboretum
Lisle, Illinois

Flora! Illuminated ...

Have plans to visit Chicagoland soon? The staff of the Sterling Morton Library is delighted to invite you to view our latest exhibit, *Flora! Illuminated ...*

Exploring spectacular plant images from the Library's Suzette Morton Davidson Special Collections, this non-traditional alphabetical exploration opened on March 12th. Works by Ehret, Crane, Rabel, Tyznik, Nessler, Merian, Dietzsch and Kredel are all featured in the exhibit. In addition to original artwork and prints, the exhibit features rare and miniature books, a nursery catalog and even a pottery vase

created by May Theilgaard Watts. Snatches of song lyrics, poetry and prose have been selected to accompany these brilliant images to engage and interest visitors.

The exhibit, created by Arlene Widrevitz, Nancy Faller and Rita Hassert, highlights some rarely seen artwork and rare books reveling in the extraordinary beauty and depth of the Library's collections ...and of the plant world!

The exhibit will be available for viewing through June 30th. Further details about the exhibit can be found at: www.sterlingmortonlibrary.org

Members' News West

Compiled by Barbara M. Pitschel, Head Librarian
San Francisco Botanical Garden
at Strybing Arboretum
Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture
San Francisco, California

Brandy Kuhl, Associate Head Librarian
San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing
Arboretum
Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture
San Francisco, California



Penstemon, Linda Stewart Henley

Exhibition of Watercolor Paintings

From May through August, the library will host *A Year in Bloom: Native California Wildflowers*, an exhibition of watercolors by Linda Stewart Henley. Original watercolors

calming If viewers can come away with even a small sense of wonder at the artistry of nature in even the smallest flower, I will consider my efforts worthwhile.”

Harvey Brenneise, Head Librarian
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Library
Claremont, California

Projects in Process

It is spring-cleaning time at Rancho (but then, we have spring 12 months of the year, right?). The following projects are in various stages of completion:

- The Dewey to LC conversion of the main collection should be completed before summer. Many of these records never appeared in OCLC in the past and were not in the local catalog. A similar project for the rare books will follow, and then a review of all MARC records to bring them up to full OCLC MARC standard.
- Barcoding of serials (shelved by title) has begun, and, of course, that involves further refinement of the cataloging and materials locations as the project proceeds.
- Policy documents (collection development, deaccessioning, and reprints) are in various states of development and completion.
- A review of standing orders and filling of gaps in book series has begun.
- Creation of “in” analytic OCLC MARC records for the Garden’s scientific publication, *Aliso*, is well underway and includes contents notes and abstracts. Eventually this metadata will create an infrastructure around which to build a PDF library of articles from the journal. It is also a significant part of the library’s successful plan to “earn” enough OCLC cataloging credit so that there will be no future OCLC out-of-pocket costs. Library school interns and trained volunteers are doing much of the initial record input.
- All of the backlog of copy cataloging and much of the original cataloging backlog has been completed.



California Poppy, Linda Stewart Henley.

and prints are available for sale, with 30% of the proceeds benefiting the library. The exhibit features a set of paintings representing California native flowers, painted from specimens in the field while they were in bloom and highlighted by month of flowering. Smaller individual paintings of native plants are also on display. “While detailing the stem, flowers, and leaves,” Linda says, “it is necessary to develop a quiet relationship with the plant, which is in itself



Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Library Exhibit—
Darwin’s Sexy Orchids: First Case Study *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection.*”

- In the next several weeks, the library will begin the development of a pamphlet/reprint file (using the new policy), with simple author/title/citation OCLC MARC records as its basis. Most reprints that the library has in other formats will not be retained.
- An initial inventory of field notes/notebooks has been completed and it is located here: <http://www.rsabg.org/research-department/library/archives/fieldnotes>. Locating this information on a web page rather than in a database will make it easier for web crawlers to find specific information. Further curation of these materials is intended in the future.
- An inventory of the Garden's *Occasional Publications* series has been developed. It is located here: <http://www.rsabg.org/research-department/scientific-publications/occasional>. These will soon be available for sale for those who want to fill the gaps in their collections.
- To commemorate the end of the "Year of Darwin," the library created an exhibit called "Darwin's Sexy Orchids: First Case Study *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*." To accompany this exhibit a library school intern created the first of what is intended to be a series of web pages to accompany all future (and a few past) library exhibits. The exhibit page is here: <http://www.rsabg.org/research-department/library/exhibits>.
- The library has an active program of recruiting library school interns, some of whom move on to become volunteers. At present, there are four such interns actively working, representing Drexel and San Jose State universities. Two are currently working on the Robert F. Thorne and Bonnie Templeton archives collections.
- The library and archives plan to begin actively submitting grant proposals for archival curation, including the archives of the California Native Plant Society and the glass negatives of Marcus E. Jones.
- Holly Moore, head of conservation at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, graciously "loaned" the library a University of Texas conservation intern. She is developing, at no cost to the library, a conservation plan. From that process, the library already has plans to install ceramic window film to eliminate UV and greatly reduce IR radiation.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

May 18-22, 2010. Seattle. CBHL 42nd Annual Meeting. "Are You Being Served? The Art and Science of Providing Service in a Plant Library."
<http://cbhl2010-seattle.wikispaces.com>

May 23-26, 2010. Los Angeles. AAM Annual Meeting and Museum Expo. "Museums without Borders." <http://www.aam-us.org>

June 1-5, 2010. Atlanta. APGA National Conference. "The Garden Canvas: Colors of Success." <http://www.aabga.org>

June 6-10, 2010. Xalapa, Mexico. Society for Economic Botany. 51st Annual Meeting. <http://www.econbot.org>

June 13-16, 2010. New Orleans. SLA Annual Conference. <http://www.sla.org>

June 24-29, 2010. Washington, DC. ALA Annual Conference. <http://www.ala.org>

July 11 - 17, 2010. Raleigh, NC. Guild of Natural Science Illustrators Conference & Annual Meeting. <http://www.gnsi.org>

July 22-24, 2010. Pasadena. National Children & Youth Garden Symposium. "The Vitality of Gardens: Energizing the Learning environment." http://www.ahs.org/youth_gardening/national_youth_garden_symposium.htm

July 31-August 4, 2010. Providence, Rhode Island. Joint meeting of the American Bryological and Lichenological Society, American Fern Society, American Society of Plant Taxonomists and Botanical Society of America. "Botany 2010." <http://www.botanyconference.org>

August 10-15, 2010. Austin. Joint Annual Meeting of the Council of State Archivists, the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, and the Society of American Archivists. "Archives*Records/DC 2010." <http://www.archivists.org>

Rita Hassert, Technical Services Librarian, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois

CBHL Board News

by Gayle Bradbeer, CBHL Secretary
Distance Support Librarian
Auraria Library
Denver, Colorado

The Board met by conference call just before the mid-year Board meeting to determine the agenda for the mid-year meeting in Seattle on October 17, 2009. On Saturday, October 17 the Board began business at breakfast in the conference hotel and continued all day at the Center for Urban Horticulture (for pre-conference photos of Seattle and our hosts visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/cbhl2005/collections/72157623566484732/>). In March 2010 the Board again met by conference call specifically to discuss the election mailing and items to discuss at the 2010 annual meeting. The Board will also meet by conference call with the Steering Committee in March 2010. The next meeting of the Board will be by conference call immediately before the annual meeting

Mid-year Board meeting: The first half of the morning was primarily a report on the upcoming annual meeting arrangements from the host Brian Thompson at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library. The hotel is lovely and some great speakers will be coming. The plans may be found at <http://cbhl2010-seattle.wikispaces.com/>. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to Board business. The Treasurer reported that the 2009 annual meeting made a profit which was put into the Founders Fund per tradition. The Board would like to thank Doug Holland and Lucy Fisher for a great experience. In addition to accident and sickness insurance for the annual meeting, CBHL will purchase a general liability policy. The Secretary plans to post the Board minutes on the Steering Committee wiki.

In the mid-year committee reports: Announcements for the Annual Literature Award were sent out. Led by the new chair Venice Bayrd the Electronic Communications Committee will discuss concerns about the elist and privacy and make a report to the membership using the elist. After looking at interest, donations, and profit from previous meeting the Board unanimously decided to offer four \$500 fellowships for travel to the Seattle meeting. The Membership form was revised and will be distributed soon for renewals. The Board would like to clarify that the Membership Committee's function as per the bylaws is to actively recruit new members. Kathy Allen, Kathy Crosby, David Lane, and Lisa Pearson have agreed to serve with Leora Siegel on the Nominating Committee. Discussion on a new survey for digital collections has begun in the Preservation and Access Committee. The new chair of the Publications Committee is Judy Warnement. Robin Everly will be the specific liaison to the Steering Committee from the Board this year.

Other issues discussed at the mid-year meeting: The Board created an application for grants to assist members to fund extraordinary activities related to the mission of CBHL. The application will be discussed by the Steering Committee. The elist membership only includes official institutional representatives and individual members. The Board will ask the Membership and subsequently the Publications committees to address the current financial and descriptive differences between institutional representatives and individual members at the same institution. The Board discussed the concerns raised at the last annual business meeting and subsequently discussed on the elist about the number of candidates nominated for election. The Board felt the present bylaws do not need to be amended as Article VI-B-2 indicates the number of candidates for each position are decided by the Nominating Committee which is a body appointed from the membership by the current President and chaired by the Past President. The Board will ask for discussion at next annual meeting to allow members to express their opinion on the question raised at the 2009 annual meeting concerning a new stipend for Board members to attend the annual meeting. The Board deferred discussion of online membership registration, the publication of presentations, and revising the procedures manual.



Courtesy www.botanicus.org,
Missouri Botanical Garden

*Reise durch die Wueste Atacama :auf Befehl der
chilenischen Regierung im Sommer 1853-54 /
unternommen und beschrieben von Rudolph
Amandus Philippi. Halle :E. Anton, 1860.*



© Janakadharasena | Dreamstime.com

CBHL Lite Readability – Newsletter vs. Bylaws

David M. Lane
Biological Sciences Librarian
University of New Hampshire
Durham, New Hampshire

You can download free software now that calculates the readability of any text. I thought the perfect test would be to compare the CBHL newsletter to the CBHL Bylaws. I used Word Counter (Supermagnus Software) for Macintosh to compare the November 2009 pdf issue of the Newsletter to the 2008 pdf version of the Bylaws. Even though the Newsletter has twice as many words (10,474) the results were clear for some measures and not at all unexpected.

The average sentence length (78.8 characters) of the Bylaws was twice that of the Newsletter. The average words per sentence (15.3) was also twice that of the Newsletter. The overall automated readability index (10.5) was twice as high for the Bylaws as for the Newsletter. No surprise there. We'll skip the number of monosyllabic words and similar measures.

There were quite a few different measures of reading grade level. The Flesch Reading Ease Grade Level for the Newsletter was 10 to 12, roughly sophomore to senior level in a traditional high school. The Bylaws, on the other hand, came out to be 13 to 16, roughly college level reading. I don't think this was a concern of the recent Bylaws Committees that we've had in CBHL.

The two most unusual sounding numerical measures were the Gunning Fog Index which was highest (20.5) for the Bylaws and the Lexical Density which was higher (30.8) for the Newsletter. Fog in this case does not mean 'difficult to see' but, as the Wikipedia puts it: "The fog index is generally used by people who want their writing to be read easily by a large segment of the population. Texts that are designed for a wide audience generally require a fog index of less than 12. Texts that require a close-to-universal understanding generally require an index of less than 8." The Newsletter is 11.4 while the more foggy Bylaws are 15.5. This column falls in between at 13, somewhat foggy for a wide audience.

Please feel free to send feedback in any format to me at: david.lane@unh.edu.

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Book Reviews

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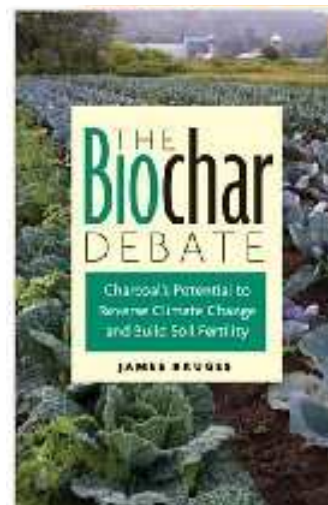
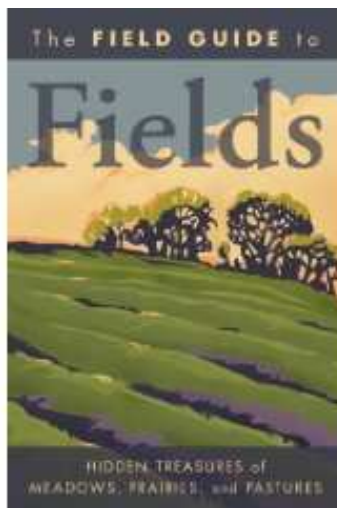
Marilyn K. Alaimo
Volunteer Book Reviewer
Lenhardt Library
Chicago Botanic Garden,
Glencoe, Illinois

Laws, Bill

The Field Guide to Fields: Hidden Treasures of Meadows, Prairies, and Pastures

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society (Quid

Publishing, Hove, England), 2010. Paper, 224 pp., ISBN 978-1-4262-0508-8, \$21.95.



In this outstanding reference to global agricultural history, Author Bill Laws examines the different types of fields around the world and how they impacted all plant and animal life, including mankind. Written in a discursive literary style, the fascinating text is organized into short essays on individual subjects; that and its handy size make it particularly suitable for occasional reading. The author points out that “the birth of civilization was triggered by the founding of fields” and proceeds to fill the pages with information about their development and how they affected all. Illustrated with artful drawings and photographs of the individual crops and animals that thrive in the bountiful countryside around the world, Laws concludes by saying that how mankind cares for fields will determine the future survival of all life on the planet.

Bruges, James

The Biochar Debate: Charcoal's Potential to Reverse Climate Change and Build Soil Fertility

White River Junction, Vermont: Chelsea Green Publishing, 2009.

Paper, 121 pp., ISBN 978-1-60358-255-1, \$14.95.

British author James Bruges directs attention to biochar, finely ground charcoal used as a soil amendment. He discusses its benefits in reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Using the experience of farmers in India who found that it was an incredibly effective, long-lasting fertilizer, he advises that this may be the way to solve the world's major problems of feeding its people and solving the issue of global warming. His review contains examples of its use around the world and the scientific basis for success. Among the subjects of interest to readers is the chapter on the effects of carbon credits to industry.

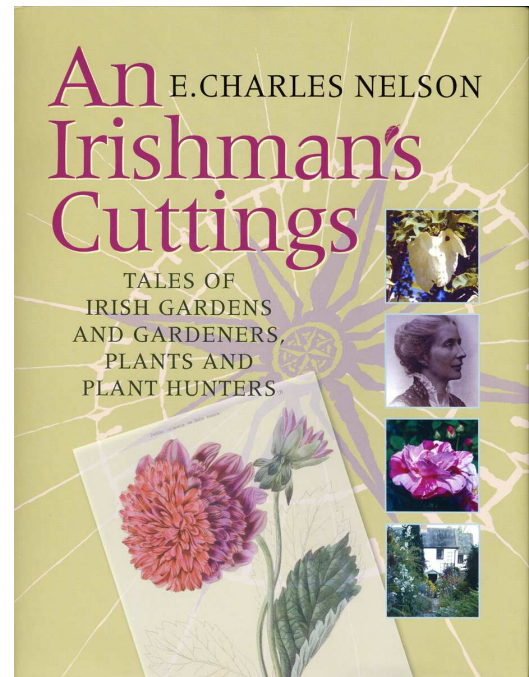
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Nelson, E. Charles.
An Irishman's Cuttings: Tales of Irish Gardens and Gardeners, Plants and Plant Hunters.
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The Collins Press, West Link Park, Doughcloyne, Wilton, Cork, Republic of Ireland.
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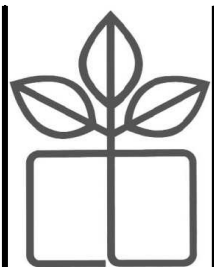


An Irishman's Cuttings is a collection of essays by E. Charles Nelson, a freelance botanist, author and editor, who for 19 years was horticultural taxonomist at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin. According to the dust jacket, "These cuttings are amusing, interesting tales of gardeners, plant hunters, plants discovered near home or in faraway places, sometimes after great hardships." All are rooted in Ireland and they provide an educational ramble through Irish horticultural history. Rather than giving a linear presentation, Nelson has organized the various articles into five sections: The Irish Garden, Home-Grown Plants, The Plant Hunters, Aristocrats of the Garden, and Mainly about People. All forty essays were previously published in *The Irish Garden* magazine, for which Charles Nelson has written since 1992. As that publication is not held in many North American libraries, *An Irishman's Cuttings* makes these writings accessible to a wider audience.

A small sampling of a few items from each section gives a sense of Nelson's interests, which are wide-ranging and well-informed. In *The Irish Garden*, he writes about John K'Eogh's *General Irish Herbal* of 1735, which in addition to being an herbal also contained information about what a well-stocked Irish garden attached to a large house contained in the early 1730s. He looks at Mary Delany's orangerie, Ulster's pioneer plantsman John Templeton, and the founding of the short-lived Cork Botanic Garden (1808-1828). The section on Home-Grown Plants includes papers on strawberry trees (*Arbutus*), on Dr. Patrick Bernard O'Kelly of Glenarra, plant hunter and nurseryman, and on efforts by David Moore, curator of the Royal Dublin Society's Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin, and Dublin Archbishop Richard Whately to introduce mistletoe to Irish gardens.

In *The Plant Hunters* Nelson writes colorfully about botanical explorer Thomas Drummond and *Phlox drummondii*, the Pride of Texas; about William Robinson's journey across America in 1870; and about Charlotte Isabel Wheeler Cuffe and the garden she created in Burma, Maymyo Botanical Garden. The section *Aristocrats of the Garden* includes essays on Governor Arthur Dobbs of North Carolina and the Venus fly trap that he acquired as part of the transatlantic group of plant enthusiasts that included Peter Collinson and John Bartram; on the formation of the Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin; and on the characteristics and collecting history of the Shan lily, *Lilium sulphureum*. In the final section called *Mainly about People*, one may read about parasol covers made from a 'botanical lace' created from stem fibers of bindweed, nasturtium, honeysuckle, nettle, and other plants; about letters sent from Irish correspondents to Charles Darwin; and about Sheila Pim's murder mysteries involving various types of garden crime.

Attractively produced and liberally illustrated, the book also includes plant index, general index, and source notes. I found this book to be very informative as well as interesting and entertaining. There is much here that would interest CBHL members and users of their libraries.



CBHL Newsletter, c/o Gayle Bradbeer, Secretary
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