

**Paul Tuskowski, Intern  
Andersen Horticultural Library  
Chaska, Minnesota**

I am a new member to CBHL and currently a master's candidate at the **University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee**, studying library and information sciences. This past summer I had the opportunity to complete an internship at the **Andersen Horticultural Library (AHL)** with head librarian Kathy Allen. I became aware of this opportunity at AHL through the **Becker Memorial Library (BML)** at **Seed Savers Exchange**, in Decorah, Iowa, where I completed a previous internship. At the time of this internship at BML, I was an undergraduate student majoring in music and education, but that would not be the path I would take upon my graduation. Through my experiences at the BML, working with head librarian **Bill Musser**, I cataloged nearly 1,000 items into their general collection and helped curate an exhibition of their special collections. As a result, my academic goals were sent on an entirely different path. These experiences gave me the drive to attain a master's degree and to complete an internship at AHL.

Through my internship with Mr. Musser, I was able to see and learn about the vast array of resources botanical and horticultural libraries hold in their collections. To further my knowledge about these collections, I contacted AHL head librarian **Kathy Allen** to inquire about completing an internship there. My internship was scheduled and I was extremely excited about all the different opportunities I would have to put to work the

knowledge I was gaining through my graduate classes and build on the skills I developed through my internship at BML.

Many experiences at AHL helped me acquire and build knowledge, but of all the opportunities, one of the most impactful was working with historic florilegia. Florilegia are "catalogs of flowers" consisting of paintings created to document the plants growing in the gardens of royalty and the wealthy. AHL holds several florilegia in its collection, including *Jardin de la Malmaison*, the florilegium of **Empress Josephine Bonaparte's** garden, and the *Highgrove Florilegium*, from **Prince Charles' Highgrove Estate** garden. I conducted research about these historic florilegia and, for an anniversary event, was able to help put on an art display of watercolor prints from the *Highgrove Florilegium*. These florilegia are important today, not only because of their artistic value but also because they serve as historical records of the plants growing in certain areas of the world. These records can be compared to plants today to determine how gardens have changed over time.

In addition to working with florilegia, another significant experience I had while interning for Ms. Allen was working with preservation, specifically the construction of a clamshell book box. AHL has a climate-controlled room to house its rare books, but sometimes certain books need more "help" to survive the tests of time. Deteriorating bindings and spines can endanger the longevity of important items in the collection. In situations such as these, AHL relies on the help of preservation volunteers to hand make book boxes to protect these valuable resources for future generations. Under the tutelage of volunteer **Joan Behrendt**, I learned how to construct my very own clamshell book box for a 1909 edition of the *Horticulturist* journal. The construction of these boxes is done using acid-free materials to prevent the discoloration of pages. Many exact measurements are made at several different stages for the box to effectively protect the book, any of which if done only slightly off can render the box useless. While the process was stressful at times, I found it extremely rewarding when my box actually worked!

The impact of these internships at AHL and BML on my career path has been immense and I am thankful for Mr. Musser, Ms. Allen, and all the other library staff and volunteers who made them such rewarding learning experiences. They have led me to pursue my master's degree and fostered my interest in botanical and

# From the President

**Suzi Teghtmeyer**  
**Michigan State University**  
**Libraries**  
**East Lansing, MI**

## “How’s the Water?”

Dear colleagues,

Just over a year ago I listened to **David Foster Wallace’s** 2005 commencement address to **Kenyon College** titled “**This is Water.**” Wallace begins with the parable of two young goldfish swimming along when an older goldfish swims by who calls out, “How’s the water, boys?” and swims on. A few min-

utes pass until one fish turns to the other and asks, “What the hell is water?”

By Wallace’s view, Water encompasses the ins & outs, ups & downs, the mundane of living your day-to-day life. He was telling the new grads that they have earned degrees and are eager to go and do their part, to embark on the rest of their lives with high hopes and aspirations, but before long reality will hit and they’ll begin the routine of (what we seasoned professionals call) the daily grind and all of the mundane minutiae. Wallace concluded that having a higher level of awareness of your surroundings, hence knowing your Water, will determine how well you will be able to survive and ultimately thrive and find happiness in your chosen environment.

I believe that many of us have been swimming in our water, our awareness, for a while now and know the ebb and flow, know when to camouflage from the predators, and when to swim freely in the open without fear. But, what happens if you don’t like your water, can’t avoid feeling like target prey, or see a murkiness creeping in?

In my own little library pond, so to speak, changes have been filtering in that have kept life interesting. A few examples include my library rolling out a new discovery layer necessitating the development of new instruction methods for all patron levels; MSUL upgrading to the new version of LibGuides thus requiring restructuring of guides to take advantage of new features; the closing of a favorite instruction room for a new high-tech room and consequently thrusting me out of my comfortable teaching style for a more interactive and engaging method; and new instructors in my secondary college restructuring their teaching program so now I’m teaching most of their library information sessions at the beginning of the semester instead of the middle, thereby I’m scrambling to prepare the necessary materials and methods. How would I rate my water? Ripply with bigger swells than usual, never static, and mostly clear but with agitation at the fringes.

What about CBHL’s Water? How would you characterize our organizational awareness?

From my position I see that we are in gently agitating water. Some may feel calm ripples, whereas others are experiencing rougher, uncertain Water. Some of our members may feel they are swimming alone in the bowl, some have a local ‘school’ to support them. CBHL is charting new Waters certainly. To help us along we have our infrastructure - the Steering committee is looking toward the future to help us navigate uncertainty. Membership, Public Relations, and Publications committees are taking action to insure we remain a strong ‘school’ and increase our ‘pond size.’ The Electronic Communications committee is improving tools for communicating within our organization and reach out to our varied patron bases and potential members. I see that together we are a strong school with a heightened awareness of our Water. As long as we communicate on a regular basis and ward off predatory situations together, we’ll remain strong and continue to enjoy our Water.

Video on Vimeo: < <http://vimeo.com/68855377> >

Transcript of “This is Water”: < <http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~drkelly/DFWKenyonAddress2005.pdf> >

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horticultural libraries, allowing two of my lifelong interests of books and gardening to meld into one. Through these internships, I have seen how working in a small library can be a dynamic experience, allowing one to diversify their library duties to fulfill the needs of their institution and its users. During my internship at BML, Mr. Musser taught and demonstrated how finding your niche in the professional world is very important in fostering a lifelong love of one's career. I have found my niche and hope one day my career path crosses with the opportunity to work in a botanical and horticultural library. Cicero said it best: "If you have a garden and a library you have everything you need."

## Members' News East

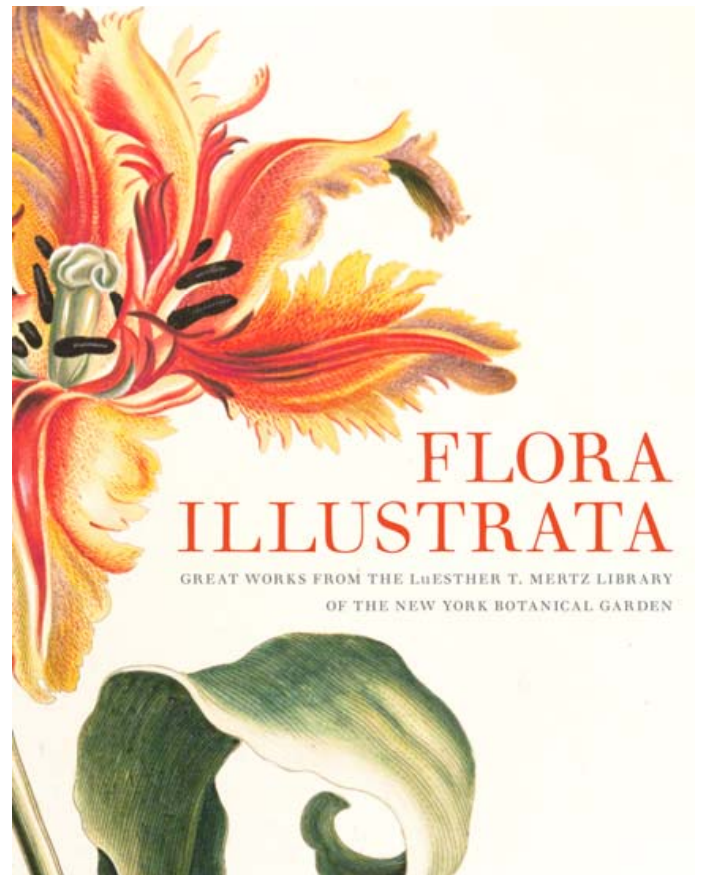
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Frederik Meijer Gardens  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Susan Fraser, Library Director and  
Secretary Biodiversity Heritage Library  
LuEsther T. Mertz Library  
New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY

*Flora Illustrata: Great Works from the LuEsther T. Mertz Library of The New York Botanical Garden.*

Edited by Susan M. Fraser and Vanessa Bezemer Sellers.

The renowned **LuEsther T. Mertz Library** of the **New York Botanical Garden** counts among its holdings many of the most beautiful and pioneering botanical and horticultural works ever created. More than eight centuries of knowledge, from the twelfth century to the present, are represented in the library's collection of over one million items. In this sumptuously illustrated volume, international experts introduce us to some of the library's most fascinating works—exceedingly rare books, stunning botanical artworks, handwritten manuscripts, Renaissance herbals, nursery catalogs, explorers' notebooks, and more. The contributors hold these treasures up for close inspection and offer surprising insights into their histories and importance. The diverse materials showcased in the volume reflect the creative efforts of eminent explorers, scientists, artists, publishers, and print makers. From the rare, illuminated pages of **Pliny the Elder's** *Naturalis historia* (1483), to the earliest book ever published on American insects (1797), to lovely etchings of the water gardens at **Villa Pratolino** in Florence (1600s), the Mertz Library holdings will inspire in readers a new appreciation for the extraordinary history of botany and its far-



reaching connections to the worlds of science, books, art, and culture. The book is published by **Yale University Press** and will be available fall 2014.

### Praise for *Flora Illustrata*

"The LuEsther T. Mertz Library is unquestionably one of the great treasures of the world. *Flora Illustrata* reveals with stunning scholarship the deeply intertwined history of plants, science, and humanity. Rich and fascinating beyond imagination and now accessible to anyone. A triumph of a book."—**Thomas E. Lovejoy, George Mason University**

"As a synthetic grouping, *Flora Illustrata* is an important and useful contribution. The essays are rich, and are accompanied by some wonderful illustrations. This is a lavish book, successful in its objectives, and useful to a wide audience."—**Daniel Lewis, Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens**

"An erudite and sumptuous exploration of the timeless fascination of people with plants, which along the way reveals the origins of one of the world's great botanical gardens."—**Peter Crane, author of *Ginkgo: The Tree That Time Forgot***

"The LuEsther T. Mertz Library at the New York Botanical Garden is surely the greatest research botanical

library in the world, a precious repository of knowledge from cultures all over the world and spanning from the 12th century to the 21st. Plants—from which we ultimately derive all of our food, building materials, and medicines—are also a source of great beauty and wonder. *Flora Illustrata* celebrates all this, and speaks of an intimate relationship between art and science. It is equally a feast for the mind and the eyes.”—**Oliver Sacks**

**Judith A. Warnement**  
Librarian of Harvard University Botany Libraries  
Harvard University Herbaria  
Cambridge, MA

Australian orchidologist **Paul Ormerod** migrates from his home in Cairns, Queensland, for a few weeks each summer to immerse himself in the vast **Oakes Ames Orchid collection** at the **Harvard University Herbaria**. When not sorting through specimens or hunched over a microscope, Paul can be found thumbing the pages of library books and journals to trace obscure references in his quest to determine the identities of Southeast Asian orchids.

When not in residence Paul sends occasional requests for references, holiday cards, and his latest re-prints to add to his collected works in the **Ames Orchid Library**. His more recent publications have created quite a stir in the **Botany Libraries** because he has named new species to thank **Lisa DeCesare**, **Gretchen Wade**, and **Judy Warnement** for their support over the years.

Read all about it at:

Ormerod, Paul and Cootes, Jim. 2013. “Leafy Vanilla species of the Philippines.” *Orchideen Journal*. v.1-2, 2013 [epublished]. *Vanilla decesareae* Ormerod & Cootes (p. 4-5). <[http://orchideen-journal.de/permalink/ORMEROD\\_COOTES\\_Vanilla.pdf](http://orchideen-journal.de/permalink/ORMEROD_COOTES_Vanilla.pdf)>

Ormerod, Paul. 2014. “A Synopsis of *Eria* Lindl. Section *Cylindrolobus* (Blume) Lindl. (Orchidaceae: Eriinae) in Malesia.” *Harvard Papers in Botany* 19(1): 77-95. *Eria gretchianiae* Ormerod, sp. nov. (p. 85) and *Eria warnementiae* Ormerod, sp. nov. (p. 93) <[http://huh.harvard.edu/files/herbaria/files/19\\_1\\_77\\_ormerod\\_i.pdf](http://huh.harvard.edu/files/herbaria/files/19_1_77_ormerod_i.pdf)>

The Botany Libraries received two grants from the Harvard Library to digitize hidden collections. The first grant created online access to the **Collection of Botanists' Autographs and Biographies**, (174?-189?) compiled by **Jane Loring Gray** (1821-1909). The volumes include 877 entries; most are letters and many are accompanied by engravings or photographs. The collection presents an impressive display of the most important naturalists of the 18th and 19th centuries and some surprises like letters from **Benjamin Franklin** and **Thomas Jefferson** (in the albums), and **George Washington's** autograph

(with correspondence). The albums can be viewed via Hollis, Harvard's online catalog at <[http://beta.hollis.harvard.edu/HVD:HVD\\_ALEPH008014630](http://beta.hollis.harvard.edu/HVD:HVD_ALEPH008014630)>.

The second grant will cover the cost of digitizing the **Asa Gray's** correspondence files which include more than 18,000 pages. The collection is being prepared for scanning by mid-October.

The **Mellon Foundation** has also provided funds to add the following field notes as part of the **Global Plants Initiative**: **Charles Wright** (21 bound notebooks & 1,067 loose notes), **Cyrus Guernsey Pringle** (3 bound notebooks & 1,541 loose notes), **Richard Alden Howard** (31 bound notebooks), **Gaspe Peninsula Collecting Papers** (13 bound notebooks & 2,849 loose notes), **Richard Evans Schultes** (37 bound notebooks & 2 loose notes), and the **Miscellaneous Plant Lists** (13 bound notebooks & 1,589 loose notes). These collections are currently being digitized and will be available via Harvard's online catalog, **Hollis**, **JSTOR's Global Plants**, and eventually all of the material will be added to the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**.

## Members' News West

**Compiled by Beth Brand**  
Librarian, Schilling Library  
Desert Botanical Garden  
Phoenix, Arizona

**Laurie Hannah**  
Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and  
Ecological Restoration  
University of California, Santa Barbara, California

After eight years at the **Cheadle Center**, working in various roles as librarian, archivist, and digital resources coordinator, I am leaving my job at the end of October. Funding has run out and the position is not a permanently supported one. There is a possibility that in future I could be rehired in a temporary part time position as new grant funding becomes available, but we will have to wait and see. For now, however, I can be reached at <[lauriehannah@cox.net](mailto:lauriehannah@cox.net)>.

**Laura Blumhagen, Information Specialist**  
**Elisabeth C. Miller Library**  
University of Washington Botanic Gardens  
Seattle, Washington

### **Leaflet and Leaflet for Scholars from the Miller Library**

Since January 2014, our email newsletters at the **Elisabeth C. Miller Library** have a new look and new names: **Leaflet** and **Leaflet for Scholars!** These colorful monthly publications present the latest information on our new

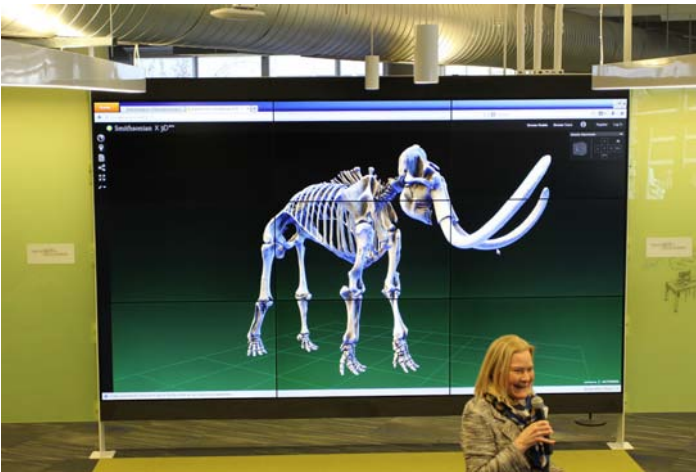
books, exhibits, programs, services, and resources. As readers peruse the cover images of our new items, they can click on each image to enter the catalog record for that item, with the option of placing holds on items they wish to borrow.

*Leaflet* features news for all library users, including events, exhibits, book reviews by staff, and intriguing questions answered by our **Plant Answer Line**. *Leaflet for Scholars* features topics of interest to faculty and students, including special displays, recent theses, and research tips.

Approximately 900 email subscribers now receive *Leaflet*. *Leaflet for Scholars* is intended for a smaller group, with about 125 current subscribers. Both numbers are expected to grow gradually as the young publications become established. In addition, we print both newsletters monthly for posting on bulletin boards in the library and throughout the Center for Urban Horticulture, and archive them with our periodicals as well as on the library website.

**Gayle Bradbeer**  
Librarian, Auraria Library  
UC Denver, MSU Denver & CCD  
Denver, CO

### Meet the Discovery Wall



**The Discovery Wall** is a large scale video wall that stands in the center of the main floor of the **Auraria Library** which is an academic library for three institutions of higher education, **University of Colorado Denver**, **Metropolitan State University**, and the **Community College of Denver**. The Discovery Wall is a resource designed to showcase and disseminate campus-created and academic content to the Auraria Community. It features faculty or student work related to teaching, learning, or research on the Auraria Campus or highlights from Library collections. For additional information including technical specs please see < <http://library.auraria.edu/discoverywall> >.



*Vaughan's 1923 catalog - from "The Art of Seed Catalogs" installment*

**Bill Musser, Librarian**  
Seed Savers Exchange  
Decorah, IA

**Robert Becker Memorial Library at Seed Savers Exchange** has mounted a revolving six-part public exhibition in the **Lillian Goldman Visitors Center: Seeing is Believing: Seed Catalog Covers and the Search for the Perfect Vegetable**. From the opening text of the exhibit: "Beyond their appeal as beautiful artifacts, seed catalog covers are also important functional objects. Illustrated catalog covers help sell seeds, introduce new varieties, and encourage gardening . . . Seed Savers Exchange sends out more than 250,000 seed catalogs every year. Hopefully our catalogs, like those in the exhibit, are appreciated for their beauty as well as for the diverse bounty contained between their covers." The exhibit opened in May with "Plant Portraits," followed by "The Art of Seed Catalogs" and "Prolific Produce! Voluminous Vegetables!" Installments to come include: "Victory Gardens," "Fields of Dreams," and "Seeing is Believing." Exhibit images and text are shared on the "Becker Library at Seed Savers Exchange" Facebook page. All catalog cover images come from the RBML seed catalog collection. The exhibition will conclude in April 2015.

Brandy Kuhl  
Abbey Levantini  
Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture  
San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum  
San Francisco, CA

### Our First International Intern

We are delighted to welcome **Anni Mäki** to the **San Francisco Botanical Garden**; our first international library intern. Anni is studying Library and Information Services at the **University of Applied Sciences in Turku, Finland**, and is working toward a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Her program is entirely library science and prepares students to be librarians. Anni will be at the library for twenty weeks, from August through December, at 35 hours per week. We are thrilled to have her here and look forward to a learning experience, on both sides!

### Second Annual Summer Reading Club

Children and their families had a blast during the **Summer Reading Club** in June and July. Presented by the **Helen Crocker Russell Library**, the Garden's second-annual free Summer Reading Club invited children to explore nature-themed books and activities during the eight-week program. Participants tracked the books they'd read in their Log Books and received seeds to plant when they met weekly reading goals. Themed activities, book lists, garden walks and scavenger hunts deepened the Club's connection between the Library and the Garden. The Club's finale celebration drew families to the **Children's Garden** to plant seeds in the soil, and participants shared their enthusiasm and gratitude for the program. As one mother of two children in the Club happily told our Assistant Librarian, "It's been a big part of our summer." The Summer Reading Club was generously funded by a grant from the **S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation**.

### Art Exhibit: Cloud Forest Plants of Mesoamerica

Our current art exhibition, on display and for sale through December, celebrates the beauty and rarity of cloud forest plants from Mexico's highlands. The exhibit features original watercolors and giclée prints by Master Artists of the **Mary L. Harden School of Botanical Illustration**. All of the watercolors have been painted from plants in the San Francisco Botanical Garden, and will be on display and for sale through December.

**Mary L. Harden** has been teaching Botanical Illustration for many years, often using the plants in the Botanical Garden as the primary subjects. Many of her advanced students have studied with her for years and their group has had three previous successful shows



*Saurauia madrensis*, Nancy Jacobson

at the Helen Crocker Russell Library. Harden and her students have exhibited widely and frequently in the Bay Area including exhibits at the **Conservatory of Flowers** and **University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)**.

With over twenty different artists exhibiting, a variety of styles are on display with Harden's characteristic emphasis on color. The artists began their artistic journey in the **Mesoamerican Cloud Forest** of **San Francisco Botanical Garden**. Each painting was crafted directly from life, using plant specimens collected within the year preceding the exhibit. Featured plants include *Deppea splendens*, *Salvia chiapensis*, *Bomarea acutifolia*, and *Chiranthodendron pentadactylon*.

Because of our mild climate, San Francisco Botanical Garden is one of the only locations in the world where these high elevation cloud forest plants thrive outdoors. Fall is the best time to see the Garden's captivating cloud forest bloom.

# Conference Collaboration Grant Report

## 2014 Cullowhee Native Plant Conference - July 16-19

**Nadine Phillips**  
**Interlibrary Loan Librarian**  
**University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Hattiesburg, MS**

Thanks to a **Conference Collaboration Grant** awarded by the **CBHL Board**, I was able to participate in a regional native plant conference in July. I traveled to **Western North Carolina** primed and ready for action with CBHL Membership pamphlets and business cards, not knowing what to expect exactly. As it turned out, this conference was a breath of fresh air compared to some academic conferences I've attended.

**The 2014 Cullowhee**, as the regulars call it, was the 31st annual meeting of this group of native plant enthusiasts. Since its inception in 1984, this "horticultural Brigadoon," to quote conference regular **Carole Ottesen**, has taken place on the campus of **Western Carolina University** in **Cullowhee, NC**, between the **Great Smoky** and **Blue Ridge Mountains**, approximately fifty miles west of **Asheville**. The literal air was indeed brisk, cool and refreshing. The conference atmosphere was much the same and I was thrilled to see such an interesting mix of attendees: biologists, researchers, native plant vendors, horticulturists, landscape designers and architects, to categorize but a few. Vendor booths were open all week which included a book seller along with about ten different native plant vendors. The Cullowhee Conference sponsors an annual t-shirt contest where the winning design is featured on the official conference t-shirts. Conference entertainment included two different dances, a talent show and the chance to spend an evening with famed botanist **William Bartram**.

For a bit of background about Cullowhee, I will borrow the goals directly from the conference webpage. The goals of the Cullowhee Conference are to:

- Provide forums for presentations and discussions about ecological philosophy, horticulture, landscape design and installation, gardening methods, and ecological investigation
- Increase interest in and knowledge of native plant propagation
- Promote knowledge of native plant and native plant community ecology
- Encourage the use of native plants in landscaping and ecological restoration

- Provide field, workshop, and lecture activities designed as valuable educational experiences
- Advance dialog and cooperation between all participants in native and cultural landscape management

From my perspective, the presentations and workshop offerings addressed these goals in a wide variety of ways while utilizing a format of general and concurrent sessions. The general session schedule was packed with notable speakers who are the best of the best in their respective fields. The concurrent session and field trip schedules offered an overwhelming selection of options from which to choose. Among the large selection of talks and workshop options were topics exploring native plants ranging from home gardening, wild edibles, ethnobotany, plant photography, botanical illustration, stream restoration and backyard rain gardens. In addition, **Lunch 'N Learn** sessions and **Poster Presentations** allowed participants to share their knowledge and experience of native plants with conference attendees. These poster sessions featured offerings from students, professionals, hobbyists, educational groups, and botanical institutions alike, highlighting the diversity among attendants.

I first learned of this meeting via the director of **The Crosby Arboretum, Pat Drackett**, who offered to let me ride along with her to North Carolina. In order to take full advantage of the conference, we arrived at WCU Tuesday evening and stayed until noon on Saturday. I will briefly recount my schedule in what follows:

After having breakfast in the campus cafeteria, I made my way over to the sports complex parking lot to depart for my field trip. Wednesday's activities offered eleven different field trips that ranged in ease from a leisurely walking tour of the campus trees to a rigorous 5-hour canoe trip. My full-day field trip involved a scenic journey along the **Blue Ridge Parkway** that led to a moderate hike among stunning 400-year-old yellow poplar trees in the diverse landscape of the **Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest**. The day's weather was sunny and the mountain air crisp, making for optimum hiking. Our trip leaders were **Ila Hatter**, a **Smoky Mountain** naturalist and wildcrafter, and **Dr. Dan Pittillo**, a retired biology professor from WCU and author currently documenting the flora of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Wednesday evening's banquet was followed by entertainment perfectly suited for such a gathering. Veteran actor and playwright **J.D. Sutton** delivered a captivating performance as renowned botanist **William Bartram**. The scene was set as though the audience collectively was a visitor at the Bartram estate being regaled by William himself of his many travels and travails. I must admit to being hesitant of its caliber in the beginning, but it did not take long to be swept up in Sutton's engaging enactment of Bartram. It was a thoroughly



Scenic stop along the Blue Ridge Parkway

enjoyable experience. Thursday's morning line-up featured two plenary speakers and the remainder of the day offered workshops, walks or half-day field trips. I opted for the short field trip to a quaint wildflower refuge. **The Corneille Bryan Native Garden at Lake Junaluska** was born from an unkempt storm drainage and refuse area and conceived by a garden club dedicated to reclaiming and beautifying the location. The club certainly succeeded as it was a delight to behold.

Friday's schedule began with two plenary talks. Having the most impact on me was **David Wagner's** lecture entitled "Native Plants, Caterpillars, Birds—A Story of Connected Fates." The presentation featured such vivid slides of various caterpillars, shown in splendid detail. Wagner spoke movingly about the unfortunate fact that, heretofore, images of caterpillars have been introduced to the world in miniscule proportion. Wagner rectified this shortcoming in his own book by featuring the glory of caterpillars in much larger up-close detail with vivid photography. Wagner's 2005 book *Caterpillars of Eastern North America* was featured prominently on the book vendors table before the talk and were quickly gone after his lecture. I also attended two excellent sessions following Wagner's talk: "Integrated Pest Management for Native Plant Gardens" and "Herbs and the Civil War." Fridays at Cullowhee had long been designated as picnic day but the weather was not permitting this year. Luckily the majority of the conference gathering took place inside the WCU basketball arena which features a substantially wide eave around the building so grilling was achieved.



Me and William Bartram (aka J.D. Sutton). J.D. was so excited because this was his first time to photobomb someone as Bartram.

Saturday was a half day endeavor and the conference concluded with a speaker more than capable of rounding up the conference. Landscape architect **Thomas Rainer's** closing talk on designed plant communities synthesized the conference themes into a cohesive conclusion. Integrating native plants more fully into designed landscapes can only serve to enrich the environment and our lives.

While this conference was certainly not as tightly focused as our annual CBHL meetings, I see many useful parallels between us and the Cullowhee folks. Perhaps the most notable aspect for me is the importance of having the chance to forge connections and create networks with other professionals in closely related fields. Worth noting is the format of the Cullowhee conference. It offers a lot of variety and a closer look at the schedule arrangement might yield ideas for future CBHL Annual meeting hosts. Finally, I'd be remiss if I did not recommend **J.D. Sutton** as a featured performer. Sutton's portrayal of **William Bartram** was born from a request given him by the **Florida Humanities Council** to develop an hour-long play about Bartram.

If you'd like to learn more details about the beginning of this engaging conference, please read **Carole Ottesen's** article: "Native Plant Nirvana" in *The American Gardener* January / February 2003, pages 36-40.



*The Hours of Marie de Medici - A Facsimile*

Introduction by Eberhard König

October 2014

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# CBHL Conference Collaboration Grant Program



During the 2010 mid-winter CBHL Board Meeting, the Board established a grant program to encourage your participation in other like-minded organizations conferences. Currently there is already a wonderful reciprocal relationship with the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Group (EBHL).

To expand collaboration, this “CBHL Conference Collaboration Grant” will pay up to \$500 towards conference fees for a CBHL member to go to the conferences of Garden Writers Association, American Public Garden Association, Special Libraries Association, Internet Librarian, or similar organization.

The grantee would be reimbursed the funds (up to \$500) after they have presented a report to CBHL (either through the CBHL Newsletter or as a presentation at the Annual Meeting). The report should include useful aspects of the conference that will help other CBHL members. The report is intended as continuing education for the CBHL members. The grantee is also intended to serve as a CBHL ambassador to the conference and is required to register as the CBHL representative.

To receive the grant, the prospective grantee needs to submit a letter addressed to the CBHL Secretary and include:

Name of conference  
Date of conference  
URL to the conference website  
Reason for choosing the conference, including the benefit to CBHL

The date when you will submit your report about the conference to either the CBHL Newsletter or as a talk at the CBHL Annual Meeting.

•••

Please give the Board one month prior to the registration deadline for the conference to make a decision about the grant. Funding will be awarded based on the amount of funds made available by the Board during that particular fiscal year.



## Annual Meeting Proceedings 2014

### Post-Conference Tour: Colonial Williamsburg

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

Jane Alling organized a wonderful post-conference tour of Colonial Williamsburg. Our first stop was the **John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library**, which, according to their website, “is dedicated to advancing knowledge of colonial British America, the American Revolution and the early United States.” We were given a comprehensive tour by librarian **Juleigh Clark**, including a wonderful display of historical resources including books, maps, and original landscape and architectural plans of Colonial Williamsburg.

The rest of the morning was pleasantly spent on Jane’s “Gardens of Gentility” tour, where we learned how Colonial Williamsburg gardens reflected 18th century lifestyles and ideals. We toured several gardens, contrasting and comparing humble vegetable, fruit and

herb gardens to the meticulously manicured topiary and ornamental gardens at the Governor’s Palace.

One of the day’s highlights was lunch at **King’s Arms Tavern**. Our host was friendly and entertaining, and we had an entire room to ourselves. As the only vegetarian in the group I enjoyed **Mrs. Vobe’s Garden Pye**, a delicious deep-dish pie with squash, eggplant, mushrooms, leeks, spinach, and parmesan cheese in a tomato basil sauce. For dessert, we had vanilla ice cream. It all went down well with tasty local ale. Peanut soup, a southern specialty, and **Norfolk Chicken Pottage Pye** were enjoyed by the rest of the group. During lunch we enjoyed animated conversation and had the special treat of live music from a fiddle player.

After lunch, I was part of a small group that decided to explore Colonial Williamsburg on our own. We visited the apothecary, the milliner, the silversmith, and the Prentis store, among others. We also enjoyed some charming singing by a trio outside and heard stirring speeches given by **Patrick Henry**. Our trip to Colonial Williamsburg was a great way to round out an educational and delightful annual meeting.

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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



**October 31-November 5, 2014**

Seattle. American Society for Information Science & Technology. "Connecting Collections, Cultures, and Communities."

< <http://www.asis.org/asist2014> >

**November 2-5, 2014**

Long Beach. International Annual Meeting of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA). "Grand Challenges—Great Solutions" < <https://www.acsmeetings.org/home> >

**November 5-8, 2014**

Charleston, South Carolina. Charleston Conference-Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition. "The Importance of Being Earnest."

< <http://www.katina.info/conference> >

**November 19-23, 2014**

Dallas. 41st Annual Museum Computer Network Conference. "Think Big, Start Small, Create"

< <http://www.mcn.edu/mcn-2014-dallas> >

**November 21-24, 2014**

Denver. American Society of Landscape Architects. Annual Meeting & Expo.  
< <http://www.asla.org/annualmeetingandexpo.aspx> >

**January 30-February 3, 2015**

Chicago. ALA Midwinter Meeting.

< <http://www.ala.org> >

**April 8-11, 2015**

Chicago. Museums and the Web 2015.

< <http://mw2015.museumsandtheweb.com> >

**April 12-18, 2015**

National Library Week.

< <http://www.ala.org/nlw> >

**June 14-16, 2015**

Boston. SLA 2015 Annual Conference.

< <http://www.sla.org> >

**June 16-20, 2015**

Decorah, Iowa. CBHL 47th Annual Meeting.

< <http://www.cbhl.net> >

**June 22-25, 2015**

Minneapolis / St. Paul.  
APGA 2015 Conference.

< <http://www.publicgardens.org> >

**June 25-30, 2015**

San Francisco. ALA Annual Meeting.

< <http://www.ala.org> >

# Leaving the Stacks

## The List

**Susan C. Eubank**  
**Arboretum Librarian**  
**Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden**  
**Arcadia, California**

I've had a couple of conversations about my workload that stayed with me. Our former communications manager once asked me, "How do you decide among all the competing top priorities that you have what you are going to work on that day?" I guess I briefly thought about that and said, I picked the one that was going to bite me back if I didn't do it that day or soon. Is that crisis management? The other conversation I had at a **CBHL Annual Meeting**. I was talking with a fellow librarian and she said "Sometimes I have so much work I can't breathe!" I've felt that pressure in my chest at its worst when in addition to my regular librarian duties I was the editor of two newsletters at the same time. There were the relentless deadlines that four times a year came at the same time.

Well, I no longer do the newsletters, but I still wake in the middle of the night pondering through the sticky wickets.

Today's list:

Write article for **CBHL newsletter**

Find someone to write an article for the upcoming CBHL newsletter; 4 people have already turned me down or postponed. The postponing is good for the next deadline, but not this one.

Consult with co-chairperson of **CBHL Strategic Planning Committee**

Figure out doodle to schedule a **CBHL Steering Committee Meeting**

Change to next month's book club book in:

Email to book group e-list

**LibGuides**

Online catalog

Social media

**Facebook**

**Twitter**

**Goodreads**

Suggest to current communications person that she fix the book club material on new website so it doesn't look as if the book club no longer exists

Order interlibrary loans for several book club attendees

Advertise upcoming writing classes in the same places as above

Manage and work with Thursday's 6 volunteers who work with periodicals (1 current and 1 non-current), book repair, cataloging, uncataloged morass of pamphlets, etc. to determine items to deaccession as out of scope or duplicate, shelving main collection, and working to better organize the book sale shelves

Write evaluation of e-book offerings and ease of use at the **McClean Library, Longwood Library, Mt. Cuba Center Library** for that group in hopes that soon, I will be able to offer e-books here (a prime priority of my boss)

Try to look at book reviews for acquisitions

Finalize **EBSCO** list for this year's periodicals bill

Interact with and help library customers

Write personal evaluation for the **Botanical**

**Information Consultant**

Develop and maintain cordial relations with Arboretum staff to facilitate future endeavors

Think through training for tomorrow's brand new **Pasadena City College Library Technician Program** intern

Add the three missing periodical titles on the LibGuides page for the digitization grant

E-mail about invoice for finished scanning for digitization grant

Have conversation with **Biodiversity Heritage Library** collaborators about how to proceed from here with Arboretum periodicals that were created in the time the others were being scanned

Make sure the café knows we are using their outside patio for the **Canine Good Citizen** training

Work through more of getting **OCLC's WorldShare Discovery** up and running on our LibGuides site

Fortunately there are a few things I don't have to deal with today because the ball is in someone else's court or it happens later:

Evaluate 3 web site proposals for the digitization grant

Work on library renovation plans for fund-raising effort

Strategic Planning Committee work (meeting next week)

**Public Programs Committee** (next **Arboretum Newsletter** deadline will be coming soon, so need next 6 months of Library Programs)

Senior Staff Meeting (meeting next week)

Meeting with boss (next week)

When I look at the list with a smile, I'm amazed at how much a solo librarian can accomplish in a forty hour week.

When I frown I feel that pressure in the chest and a portion of the night goes sleepless.

I am sure that all of the other librarians affiliated with CBHL have just as intense a list which in the end is all about serving our customers in the best way possible.

## On the Web: Some Resources from the CBHL E-List and Seed Libraries

### Stanley Johnston, Mentor, Ohio

The last three months have been a very productive period for alerting members to electronic resources via the CBHL E-List. Cees Lut of the **Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden, the Netherlands**, announced the completion of his **Guide to the Plant Species Descriptions Published in Seed Lists from Botanic Gardens for the Period 1800-1900** < <http://seedlists.naturalis.nl/content/seedlists> > searchable by genus, species, author, place of publication and date. It represents the conclusion of a seven year project to fill a gap in the resources currently available to students of botanical nomenclature and the history of horticulture.

**Robin Everly** brought to our attention **John Bogdans' DCTropics: Testing the Limits in a Tiny Garden** < <http://dctropics.blogspot.com/2014/07/smithsonian-gardens.html> > the first page of his discussion of the Smithsonian gardens from his blog. Fuller information on them can be found on the Smithsonian Gardens website < <http://gardens.si.edu/> >.

**Stephen Sinon** informed us of a major resource for the study of scientific illustration, **DSI: Database of Scientific Illustrators, 1450-1950** < [http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/hi/gnt/dsi2/index.php?function=show\\_static\\_page&id\\_static\\_page=1&table\\_name=dsi](http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/hi/gnt/dsi2/index.php?function=show_static_page&id_static_page=1&table_name=dsi) > covering over 8600 illustrators of scientific works courtesy of the **Section for History of Science and Technology of the University of Stuttgart**. The entries are alphabetical by artist name and the expanded entries provide brief biographical information as well as publications and, in some cases, information on original art work and archival resources.

To digress briefly, a few internet resources dealing with botanical illustration and its history include: **Gina Mikel's Botanical Botany** < <http://www.scientificillustrator.com/artists/botanical/botany.html> > containing links to web pages (some dead) and books dealing with the history of botanical illustration. Ms. Mikel is an artist, whose botanical art can be sampled at < <http://www.scientificillustrator.com/botanical.html> > and botanical photography at < <http://www.scientificillustrator.com/photography-botanical.html> >. Various pages from the artist **Katherine Tyrrell's Making a Mark** blog < [http://makingamark.hubpages.com/#mycontent\\_arts\\_and\\_design\\_hubs](http://makingamark.hubpages.com/#mycontent_arts_and_design_hubs) > include everything from photo essays from various gardens to historical pages such as **A History of Botanical Art** < <http://makingamark.hubpages.com/hub/history-botanicalart> >, with commentary and links to web sites and information on books.

**Leslie Overstreet's** posting a notice of the book *John Stuart, 3rd Earl of Bute, 1713: Botanical and Horticultural Interests and Legacy*, edited by **Charlotte Philipps** and **Nora Shane**, led to her own posting of the **Luton Hoo Walled Garden** site < <http://www.lhwg.org.uk/index.html> > and of the **Digitizing Project: Flowering Plants from the Gardens of Lord Bute at Luton Hoo** < <http://www.oakspring.org/lutonhoo.html> >, showing the paintings done there by **Simon Taylor (1742-1796)** which are now in **Rachel Lambert Mellon's Oak Spring Garden Library**.

Finally, a query about ethnobotany resources led **Marty Schlabach** to forward **Gilles Denis' notice of the History of Early and Modern Plant Sciences, 1450-1850 (HEMPS)** electronic list, which can be subscribed to by sending an email to < [plant-early-modern-sciences-request@univ-lille1.fr](mailto:plant-early-modern-sciences-request@univ-lille1.fr) >. This raises the question of what other lists might be out there which might be of interest to different segments of our membership. Unfortunately there does not appear to be an easy way to find out.

Apart from the e-list, my main recent find was the **Seed Library** < [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seed\\_library](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seed_library) >, which seems to focus primarily on providing a free community resource for growing seeds, as discussed in this article from Wikipedia. Although the article suggests that some versions may be interested in heirloom plants, most seem to be attached to public libraries and function by lending seeds to the public for propagation and expecting the return of new seeds from the harvested crop for use by the users in the following years as in the case of the **Concord Seed Lending Library** < <http://www.concordseedlendinglibrary.org/> >. There seems to be some confusion in the **Wikipedia** article between these programs aimed at promoting community gardening and self-sufficiency and seed bank programs, such as **Seed Savers Exchange**, which aim to preserve heirloom plants and the integrity of their germ plasm while making them available for sale to the public—which is what is actually going on at **Hull-House** and **VanDusen** where the material is all collected under supervision from their own controlled collections. The problem with the seed lending library model is that there is no control of the genetic material returned by the borrower allowing the possibility of the return of undocumented and possibly mislabeled seed which also may contain sports due to cross-pollination. In any event, the last item for this issue is the **Seedlibrarian.com: Seed Library Locator Map** < <http://www.seedlibrarian.com/> >, which covers both types of institutions and indicates which type they are under the entry for each location.

# Seed Lending Libraries: Teaching Moments in Botany and Horticulture

## **Bill Musser, Librarian Seed Savers Exchange**

It would seem a rare precedent for a public library to set off alarm bells in a state agricultural department office. The recent interventions of the **Pennsylvania** and **Maryland Departments of Agriculture** in seed library programs have sparked conversation and concern across the country. Deemed potentially hazardous—including the risk of opening doors to eco-terrorism—seed lending libraries in both states have been effectively shut down. Public librarians and other organizations administering the approximately 300 existing U.S. seed lending libraries are keeping a close watch on their own state agriculture departments, wondering if the addition of a botanical/horticultural dimension to their public service might lead to trouble for them as well. My first exposure to the concept of seed lending libraries was an article that appeared in the *New York Times* in 2010 about the **Hudson Valley Seed Library**. Two years later I met the two men who founded the organization, **Ken Greene** and **Doug Muller**, when they spoke at the **2012 Seed Savers Exchange annual conference**. Though I was glad for libraries to be engaging in promoting gardening, I admitted to them that I was dogged by the question about ensuring the integrity of seed returned to the library at the end of the growing season. I was concerned about the need for educational efforts to help stave off problems arising from cross-pollination and disease. They were quick to acknowledge that these were, indeed, a concern.

I was reminded, however, that every gardener starts out as an amateur, and as the love of gardening grows, so does the desire for a more sophisticated understanding of the science of seeds, on a need-to-know basis. Anomalies and mistakes often provide the best teaching moments both within a classroom and outside in the garden. Gardening knowledge and skills are acquired through time and practice; gardening is an art of patience and persistence, and sharing of knowledge in community contexts is often a large part of the endeavor. The role of seed lending library administrators will always necessarily include education in the stewardship of seeds. What an opportunity for public education in botany and horticulture!

The **Wikipedia** article on the subject “Seed Library” (as noted by Stan in his column) may be confusing if it is understood beyond the context of public libraries and other similar institutions involved in seed-sharing via lending programs. **Seed Savers Exchange (SSE)**, as one may understand by the name, began as a network enabling person-to-person sharing of seeds among gardeners interested in preserving heirloom, historic, or endangered kitchen garden varieties. But early on, it became clear that a central repository, a “seed bank” as it were, would be advisable to steward the thousands of heirloom and historic vegetable, fruit, and flower varieties that were disappearing. With a collection that currently contains over 20,000 accessions, SSE has, of necessity, created professional staff positions including a **Collection Curator** and a **Seed Bank Manager**, as well as 12 supporting Preservation staff.



SSE still maintains an extensive, formalized seed exchange that has sensible guidelines for the quality control of seed shared through the Exchange. The Exchange includes all the offerings of gardener-members of the organization throughout the world, with contact information and detailed listings of varieties held by individuals.

The 2014 Exchange includes 598 seed savers growing over 13,000 varieties of seed and plants located in gardens and farms in 50 states and 8 foreign countries, making seed available to more than 13,000 members, forming the largest seed exchange in the nation.

Because Seed Savers Exchange has been donating seed and providing educational support for seed lending libraries across the country, SSE’s Executive Director, **John Torgrimson**, responded to the USDA’s actions in Pennsylvania and Maryland with this formal statement:

### *Seed Libraries are no threat to agriculture*

Recently, state governments in Pennsylvania and Maryland have intervened to prevent the free distribution of home-saved vegetable seeds through public seed libraries in their states, citing legislation meant to regulate the commercial sale of seeds.

People have been saving and sharing seeds for millennia. These are uniquely human activities that facilitated the domestication of plants and in turn made agriculture, and human culture as we know it today, possible. **Thomas Jefferson** belonged to seed exchanges and introduced many varieties at **Monticello** at a time when the sharing of seeds among farmers and gardeners was the primary way seeds were distributed in the United States.

Saving and sharing seeds can help us feel more self-sufficient and independent, can help us build meaningful relationships with our friends and neighbors, and



Photographs ©SSE. Used by permission

can empower us to participate in building a stronger and more secure food system. And despite what some have suggested, seeds can be valuable, safe, and healthy without laboratory germination tests or government licenses. Since 1975, Seed Savers Exchange has encouraged thousands of gardeners to save and share seeds as amateurs. Together, they have protected agricultural diversity by stewarding tens of thousands of heirloom and open-pollinated seeds that would have otherwise disappeared if left only to license-holding, germination-testing seed companies. (**Moon and Stars** watermelon and **Cherokee Purple** tomato are just two that come to mind).

The seed library movement is growing in response to renewed interest in community seed stewardship and increased local food access. Seed libraries and community seed banks accomplish many incredible things:

- They increase seed access, allowing low-income families to grow their own food;
- They support and encourage regionally adapted varieties by engaging a community in plant selection;
- They protect rare varieties that may not be maintained by the commercial marketplace; and
- They create excitement and interest in seeds, the source for our food.

Because of these very positive outcomes, and the overwhelming community support that these initiatives

attract, Seed Savers Exchange remains a staunch and enthusiastic supporter of seed libraries. In fact, we regularly supply seed libraries with their initial outlay of seeds to distribute to their participating library patrons.

Seed Savers Exchange encourages seed libraries to follow best practices when distributing their seeds:

- Advertise, proudly, that the seeds offered were grown by amateurs - no guarantee of 100% germination, no guarantee of absolute varietal purity, only a guarantee that the seeds were produced in good faith and spirit by friends and neighbors interested in connecting their community to food and seeds.
- Label donated seeds with the name of the grower, date of harvest, variety name, crop type, plant description, plant history, and growing conditions - the next grower should be very well informed about the seeds they are planting.
- Do not distribute very old seeds or seeds of unknown origin - it is important to give patrons the best chance of success and satisfaction in their gardens so they return again next year.
- Organize gardening and/or seed saving resources to educate the community and help seed library participants produce high quality seed.

Seed libraries pose no real threat to agriculture when they act as intermediaries in the exchange of seeds. In fact, the opposite is true: they fulfill the obligations we humans owe to our forebears who have been saving seeds for more than 12,000 years.

*Based near Decorah, Iowa, Seed Savers Exchange is a non-profit organization whose mission is to collect, maintain and distribute heirloom and open-pollinated seeds.*



CBHL Newsletter, c/o Stacy Stoldt, Secretary  
Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, Inc.  
Lenhardt Library, Chicago Botanic Garden  
1000 Lake Cook Road  
Glencoe, IL 60022

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### Questions?

Contact Laura Soito,  
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