

## Annual Meeting Proceedings 2015

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



*Photograph by Suzi Teghtmeyer.*

**Seed Savers Exchange's Robert Becker Memorial Library** is likely one of the smallest libraries among the membership in CBHL, but as SSE continues to gather momentum for its mission and garner widespread public recognition for its work, the importance of growing the capacity and quality of the research library increases exponentially. With this in mind, SSE hosted the **47th CBHL Annual Meeting**, wel-

coming the engagement and input of the botanical and horticultural library community. It was a great honor and privilege for Seed Savers

Exchange to host this event, and to bring 55 CBHL members and guests to a relatively isolated location to witness firsthand the breadth and depth of Seed Savers Exchange as a national leader in the co-mingling of the elements of "Taste, Tradition, and Beauty in the Edible Landscape."

Seed Savers Exchange's mission is to preserve our garden heritage; it is about food and the importance of maintaining genetic diversity in our food supply. This topic presented CBHL members with an opportunity to reflect upon how culture and agriculture, ornamental and edible plants, large scale garden and urban container

gardens relate to our next meal and our common future.

We hope every participant came away from the event with a shared sense of the vision we hold.

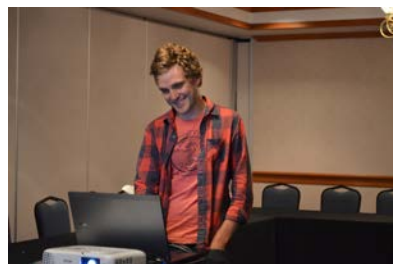
**Decorah, Iowa**, the home of Seed Savers Exchange, is a small city with a unique combination of rural roots and cultural riches. We sincerely hope all who participated in the 2015 CBHL Annual Meeting experienced the best of our community while learning more about the resources in and around it that prompted Seed Savers Exchange to be established here. It is a good place, and if you missed the meeting, I hope you can find another opportunity to visit. You will be welcome!

## Tuesday, June 16

**Creating a Seed Library for Your Institution.**

**Presented by Grant Olson,  
SSE Public Programs Manager**

**Reported by Suzi Teghtmeyer, Plant Sciences and  
Natural Resource Librarian, Michigan State University  
Libraries**



*Photograph by Bill Musser.*

Grant began his talk at the pre-conference workshop on Tuesday by telling us a bit about **Seed Savers Exchange (SSE)**, that they hold about 600 varieties there at SSE and facilitate the world's largest seed

exchange of about 16,000 varieties.

He continued with a botany lesson, defining a seed as "a plant in a box with its lunch." The right humidity level, warmth, and sometimes light are vital to germination and growth. The opposite conditions are for storage, that seeds and books like the same conditions: cool, dry, dark. Annuals produce the seed at the end of the growing season in one year (e.g. tomatoes and beans), biennials at the end of year two (e.g. beets and celery).

## Growing for seed

Grant covered pollination by recommending starting with seed from open, or self-pollinated varieties as

# From the President

**Kathy A. Crosby, Head Librarian  
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A few days ago, July 24th, 2015, **Donna Herendeen**, **Amy Kasameyer**, and I were on the phone talking to **Gary Esmonde**, Librarian at the **Cleveland Botanical Garden**, and his colleague **Renata Brown**, Vice President of Education, about the **2016 Annual Meeting**—a collaborative effort already underway. **Bill Musser** and **Brian Thompson**, sharing their experience via e-mail, have already weighed in on some of Gary's and Renata's financial procedures questions—not necessarily my best subject, but I'm learning.

And yet in some ways, I feel like I haven't even exactly left Decorah. I'm still hearing "Here sheep, here sheep," thinking about the romanticism of apple names and other heirloom histories, and reading *Oneota Flow : The Upper Iowa River and Its People* by **David Faldet**. I bought the book at **Dragonfly Books** in Decorah right after the **Vesterheim** tour, but before boarding the bus to go to **Seed Savers Exchange**. The book is also available as an e-book, and thanks to the presentations by **David Sleasman**, **Susan Eubank**, **Janet Evans**, **Liz Fite**, and **Gayle Bradbeer** at the **2015 Annual Meeting**, many members may be rethinking their approach to acquiring such titles.

In committees this year just briefly: the review of 36 titles for the **Annual Literature Award**, planned work toward updating our own contact information via the CBHL website, identification of a new listserv host (a task already accomplished since the Annual Meeting by **Leora Siegel** and **Celine Arsenault**), outreach to **APGA** and land grant institution libraries with regard to membership, new directory editors on board, newsletters expected and perused, press releases issued, further development of the **LibGuide** resource, and the ongoing strategic planning effort. So much underway; so much accomplished.

**The Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning Committee** in particular reflected on the vital nature of our information services relating to plants—their deep scientific and cultural implications and how we want to enable our member institutions to continue to be leaders of such services. The Committee continues to welcome your thoughts and input with regard to this planning effort.

And we feasted on the edible landscape in Decorah—at first visually—seeing the plants in their setting at Seed Savers Exchange and the **Pepperfield Project** and in **David Cavagnaro's** image-rich presentation following the Seed Saver's Heritage Barn dinner. And then deliciously—from our plates at Pepperfield surrounded by lush pink peonies and to our lunch at **Luther College** overlooking a striking driftless view. I'm still thinking about little Pepperfield polenta shapes with guacamole.

On Friday we walked through time with **Jens Jensen**, thanks to **Prof. Andrea Beckendorf**. Thank you Bill Musser and friends for this experience and thank you Gary, for sharing what is to come. Many thanks also to the **Hotel Winneshiek** staff. We all came away with so much from these collaborative experiences; thank you all for letting me be a part of your leadership along with Suzi Teghtmeyer, Amy Kasameyer, Donna Herendeen, Stacy Stoldt, and Bill Musser.

P.S. A footnote: post our visit, the Decorah area experienced a severe flood; thankfully no one was injured. I have this information from Bill Musser. **Diane Ott Whealy's** garden was partly wiped out, but the garden crews restored it as much as possible, just in time for Seed Savers Exchange's Annual Conference and Camp-Out and 40th Anniversary Celebration a week ago, and for the **Greg Brown & Iris Dement** concert coming next weekend. David Cavagnaro's driveway was restored right away by a neighbor, and he and his helpers have been working to replace the kitchen garden he showed us.

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there's less risk of varietal crossing in the garden. Heirloom varieties are most often open pollinated. To avoid cross pollination between varieties pollinated by insects or wind, try not to have different varieties near each other. Take precautions in the spring by planting different varieties 20 feet apart when possible.

Vegetables that are self-pollinating include: tomatoes, beans, peas, and lettuce.

Vegetables that require assistance from insects are: okra, squash, melons, "greens," carrots, and cabbages.

Vegetables that are wind pollinated are: beets, corn, and spinach.

### Harvesting seed

Dry-seeded crops, including beans, peas, corn, mustards, carrots, and amaranth, have pods. The plant[s] will turn brown then dry the seeds out. They're dry when you can't damage seeds with a fingernail.

You can get the seed out by threshing or stomping on them or beating with a stick. Break the seed pods by beating on them. Winnowing is to clean up the seeds. Seeds are denser than the chaff. Blowing can be done by mouth or you can pour it in front of a fan to blow off the chaff.

Wet-seeded crops, like tomatoes and watermelons, are trickier. The seed is ready when fruit is ready to be eaten or a week later. Two exceptions – harvest cucumbers and eggplants when immature and let them get squishy and brown so the seeds will be harder and swollen. Gather the seed by draining them into a cup and let ferment in a cup for 2-3 days. It stinks, but the molds burn off sugars. Rinse them off and get gunk off very well. Dry them off on coffee filters; be careful, they're sticky. Let the seed dry for two weeks in a place with a lot of air flow. Seeds are NOT dry enough for storage if they smush or are bendable.

### Tips for seed libraries

- Have fantastic diversity – colors, flavors, sizes, shapes; those that are historic to your area; varieties not available commercially; regional offerings that are not offered nationally.
- For the exchange, organization and labeling is key. Someone has to keep track of the inventory.
- Keep print records – sign in / sign out seeds.
- Some libraries require returns of seeds, some just give.
- Seed longevity - some seeds just don't last long. You need inventory dates and get rid of those that are too old. You can conduct a germination test using a wet paper towel in a baggie.
- Have a centralized location / distribution area for recently harvested seeds.
- Host a 'seed swap' day to casually exchange seeds – gardener to gardener.

- You should distribute information or teach about harvesting and saving seeds – how to do it and best practices.
- Have classes and information on how to grow the plants and harvest the seeds.
- Reach out to Master Gardeners in the area to participate and/or teach.
- People are generally pretty good about bringing seed back. The more you can connect with the growers, the better the inventory and growth.
- Need starter seed? There are seed donation programs out there if you look. SSE can also send out information to help get started, including some seed.
- The number of seeds per package is up to you. About 20 is normal, but it may depend on the variety and how much you have of that variety. People can save some for the next growing season, too.
- GMO seed isn't commonly in seed exchange programs.
- PVP (Plant Variety Protection) seed can be grown/ regrown for own use, but not sold/ exchanged until the patent has run out.
- Seed laws vary by state and with the Fed to potentially regulate seed libraries. You need to see if there's prohibitive regulation in your state / community (see the resources below).

### Resources:

Seed Saving: SSE's seed saving page is a wealth of information, and includes a great Crop-Specific Seed Saving Chart: < <http://www.seedsavers.org/Education/Seed-Saving-Resources/> >

Seed Laws by State: < <http://www.amseed.org/issues/state-federal/resources/> >

Sister Seed Libraries: Lists about 450 seed lending libraries open worldwide: < <http://seedlibraries.weebly.com/sister-libraries.html> >

### The American Kitchen Garden: Varietal Research Tools. Presented and reported by Sara Straate, SSE Seed Historian

Seed Savers Exchange's Seed Historian, Sara Straate, introduced workshop participants to the mission of the organization and its principle of participatory preservation. The Preservation collection at SSE consists of both seeds and the stories that accompany them. As with other public gardens, SSE's collection of living accessions can be multiplied, given away, and also can expire or incur genetic change. Sara documents the provenance of accessions in an extensive effort to consolidate, verify, enhance, and further organize the information on each variety maintained in the collection. SSE's accessions policy divides accessions into pre-1950 and post-1950 time periods, related to the introduction of hybrids following



WWII. Sara uses several resources to gather information about the accessions, including: donation correspondence, donor submitted photographs, historical texts, digitized seed catalogs, AES bulletins and reports, diaries and journals, census records, and digitized newspapers. Sara shared specific examples of accessions in subcategories: (1) Historic commercial variety; (2) Historic family heirloom; (3) Modern commercial variety. She also shared information on what makes a “likely” heirloom and also how an heirloom comes via the organization’s seed exchange.

## Wednesday, June 17

**40 Years of Taste, Tradition and Beauty at Seed Savers Exchange. Presented by Diane Ott Whealy. Reported by Laurie Hannah**



Photograph by Bill Musser.

The 2015 CBHL Annual Meeting got off to a great start with the engaging history of the founding of the **Seed Savers Exchange (SSE)**. Speaker and SSE co-founder **Diane Ott Whealy** told us the story of her childhood

introduction to heirloom seeds and gardening from her grandparents who farmed near St. Lucas, Iowa. She loved the story of the morning glory her grandparents brought from Bavaria and asked for some seeds so she could keep the plant growing long after her grandparents passed away. From that first realization of the importance of saving seeds, she and her husband Kent put an ad in the *Mother Earth News* in 1975 asking if other people wanted to exchange heirloom seeds as a way to document where they came from and tell the stories associated with them. Thus, Seed Savers Exchange was born in their house and 40 years later, it is a thriving operation with 70 employees at Heritage Farm in Decorah.

Accompanied by gorgeous photos of fruits and vegetables, many taken by **David Cavagnaro** (another conference host and speaker), Whealy gave us an arm-chair tour of the grounds and gardens and an overview of the seed bank, commercial seed growing, and the seed exchange (member-supported). Through its various programs, Seed Savers Exchange harvests over 10 million seeds per year! Beside the production gardens, Whealy also maintains a densely planted cottage garden of more than 250 varieties with an emphasis on self-seeding annuals. For those who want to learn more, you can read Whealy’s book *Gathering: Memoir of a Seed Saver* (Seed Savers Exchange, 2011).

**Historical Literature of the American Landscape. Presented by Keith Crotz. Reported by Stanley Johnston**

**D. Keith Crotz** is currently Chairman of the Board of **Seed Savers Exchange**, but is better known to our older members as the owner and proprietor of **The American Botanist**, a bookseller specializing in rare botanical and horticultural books. But he is much more than that: a student of agricultural and botanical history who has occasionally dabbled in bibliography, a successful farmer, and author of both historical and practical articles. He has also had a brief span as Kroger grocery store manager and taught occasional courses.

His talk, illustrated primarily with slides of title-pages, traced the evolution of the relationship of old and new world plants, agriculture, and horticulture from the Europeans learning of American plants from their explorations through works such as **Parkinson’s** *Theatrum botanicum* with its discussion of maize, to the importation of horticultural works from England for use in America. He also covered the gradual production of American botanical and horticultural works and the native celebration of new botanic discoveries, such as those discovered by **Lewis and Clark** and chronicled by **Bernard McMahon**, who made those discoveries available to the home gardener through his seed sales. The talk hit numerous high spots in the development of original American research and publication, including **Andrew Jackson Downing’s** original work on American landscape gardening.

## Member presentations

**Getting Started with Records Management at a Public Garden. Presented and reported by Judy Stevenson, Archivist, Longwood Gardens**

For the first time in its 60+ years as a public garden, **Longwood Gardens** is rolling out a gardens-wide records management program, affecting all staff in all areas across the organization. The initiative came out of Longwood’s Strategic Plan for 2010-2015, with strong support from the Board of Trustees, Executive Director, and Senior Management Team. The Library & Information Services Division is tasked with spearheading development and implementation of the records management program, and we hope that our experience will inform and inspire staff at other public gardens seeking to undertake this seemingly daunting task!

### **Lay the groundwork with strong policies**

Strong policies are your roadmap, outlining your responsibilities and, when officially approved by your Board, they become your mandate and formal authorization. Policies demonstrate thoughtful strategy, and may help reassure resistant staff, stating outright what records you will keep and what you won’t keep, how you will care

for the records and make them available, and clearly defining the expectations for each staff member. Longwood's records management program is guided by four policies:

- Records and Object Collections Policy – a Board-approved collections policy that broadly outlines what material shall be included in Longwood's non-living collections
- Records Management Framework – lists all known document-types produced by Longwood staff in the course of business (nearly 400!), and notes how long each document is to be retained (e.g., "Retain 7 years then destroy," "Retain permanently in Archives")
- Human Resources Manual chapter on records – outlines the responsibility of each staff member regarding management of their own records. Essentially, staff are to comply with records management policies, to not arbitrarily retain or delete records, and may not permanently store official records on phones or free websites
- Archives Policy and Procedure Manual – guides the caretakers of the records, outlining local practices for accessioning, cataloging, etc.

### **Make records management a culture change**

At Longwood, ALL staff receive mandatory records management training. Librarians, along with the Plant Records Specialist for the Horticulture Department, conduct hour-long training sessions department-by-department, typically consisting of a short PowerPoint presentation followed by Q&A. These sessions are a key opportunity to gain buy-in and support; we let staff know why we're interested in their records by highlighting the critical role institutional records play in providing foundation for display, outreach, education, and future planning.

Capturing our records enables us to capture our stories and traditions, and supports Longwood's mission and core values. We also emphasize the consequences of NOT managing our records, such as the cost of storing (and backing up) unneeded paper and digital files, inconsistent control of history and intellectual property, and the potential risk to the organization should Longwood be served with legal discovery pursuant to litigation.

During training, staff are briefed on key aspects of the records management program, including our new email policy (Senior Management team email will be kept permanently; all other email will be kept for seven years, then deleted), digital file management strategy (files on Longwood drives seven or more years old will be reviewed by librarians for deletion or archiving), and are encouraged to clean out their old filing cabinets (no need to sort! just label, box, and send to archives - we'll handle the rest). Training is also a great time to review and promote good digital file-naming practices and good

plant recordkeeping practices. Records management training is now included in new-hire orientation.

Providing regular and consistent follow-up will be critical to driving this culture change through the organization long-term. A series of SharePoint (Longwood's intranet) notifications are planned to periodically remind staff about expiring email, to encourage sending records to archives, and to simply keep records management front-of-mind across Longwood. Librarians routinely reach out to individuals who are known to have significant amounts of files in their offices or on their network drives, and work one-on-one to ensure these materials are transferred to archives for review. Staff who incorporate good records practices into their work are urged to include this in their annual performance review, essentially "getting credit" for participating in records management.

### **Good relationships are key**

Interdepartmental collaboration on projects is the norm at Longwood, and implementing records management would not have been possible without close working relationships between librarians and staff across the organization. Our Information Technology (IT) Division has been instrumental in overcoming the challenges of reviewing and archiving digital records and email; IT staff and librarians continue to meet regularly to address emerging issues related to managing Longwood's digital records. Administrative assistants have been essential allies in identifying orphan files, in capturing the records of the Senior Management team, and in gathering general feedback on how records management is being received in their departments.

Excellent reference service is a priority; by responding to requests for access to records quickly and efficiently, librarians build trust between records creators and the archives, reassuring staff that their records will be available when needed. However, librarians are careful to clearly state that archives is NOT central filing -- we don't keep everything forever, but rather are guided by the Records Management Framework policy, retaining permanently only those records that are of long-term value to Longwood. Whenever possible, we encourage staff to visit the archives for a tour -- many have never been to the archives before, and are delighted to find out where their records live, and are often much more comfortable reaching out to the archives with questions afterwards. Further, once folks see how small our archives storage space is, they seem to better understand how critical it is that we are selective about which records we keep permanently.

With smart policies and carefully cultivated relationships with staff, implementing records management at a public garden is not only possible, but also relatively painless. We hope that Longwood's experience and new-found expertise will inform and inspire our colleagues at public gardens across the country and around the world!



Photograph by Bill Musser.

### **Horticulture Ebook Consortium, Update. Presented by David Sleasman, LIS Coordinator, Longwood Gardens**

Over the last few years, **Mt. Cuba Center, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanic Garden, and Longwood Gardens**, have been partners in a shared ebook library. **Liz Fite, Susan Eubank, Janet Evans, and David Sleasman** offered an informal update on their progress, their struggles, and their successes. Initially the ebook vendor--ebruary--was uncertain how to handle us (not a formal school, not a public library, not a typical customer). This hurdle necessitated many conversations about purchase on demand models, potential user numbers, and licensing, that slowed their first steps. However, once those barriers were removed, setup and training was relatively easy (including loading MARC records into each individual OPAC). The shared collection is currently 5551 titles available with more content available each week. This new initiative is thriving. Interested in learning more? Contact David Sleasman <Dsleasman@longwoodgardens.org>.

### **Fast Boats and Flowers: Citizen Activism in Action, presented and reported by Janet Woody**

Richmond, VA, native **Newton Ancarrow** was a chemical engineer who loved fast boats. He left his job in New Jersey in 1960 to return to Richmond to open a boat-building business. He built a beautiful marina on the James River just south of the city and was horrified when sewage and dumped heating oil coated his new concrete structure on the river bank. Ancarrow got mad and got busy documenting cases of sewage dumped directly into the river. He eventually sued the City of Richmond, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the state of Virginia all the way to the US Supreme Court in his quest to end sewage dumping, destructive dredging and to recover lost income from the destruction of his boat business. In the process, he learned to love wildflowers and made about 20,000 images of wildflowers along the banks of the James River. Ancarrow worked tirelessly on his

passion from 1968 until 1979, when he gave up the fight and retired. His image collection is now at **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden** where a scanning project is underway with partner **Virginia Commonwealth University**. Ancarrow also left films and sound recordings to go along with his image collection as he made many presentations to local groups and became known for his ecological passion. Our goal is to create a multimedia presentation showcasing his important work.

### **From Garden Fork to Dinner Fork: Taste, Tradition and Beauty. Presented by David Cavagnaro, Founder & Director of Pepperfield Farm. Reported by Susan C. Eubank**

It's a good thing that the weather was threatening early in the day. Afternoon thunderstorms were predicted early in the day so our wonderful host, **Bill Musser**, moved the banquet to the loft of the **Heritage Farm Barn**. It is a gorgeous setting with a soaring ceiling and exposed timber framing. It had been restored by the Amish and is used for classes, meetings and performances and it originally housed the seed processing area. The dinner was locally sourced and had many delicious vegetables in the appetizers, the salad and the most delicious green beans with the main entrée.

Famed photographer **David Cavagnaro** gave us his winding tale of his life and career history accompanied by his photographs. These photographs are beloved at Seed Savers Exchange. Every talk presented by the Seed Savers staff featured them. They became a riff throughout the Annual Meeting. Each talk was accented with vibrant peppers, tomatoes and corn. David did not start out to be a photographer. His early jobs included scientific expeditions with which his skill with the camera became ever more important. By 1970 he was part of a duo doing up close nature photography that won an award in *Life Magazine* and his free-lance photography career was exuberantly launched.

He has published several books and many, many, many photographs are in magazine articles, other people's books, Seed Savers Exchange catalog covers and calendars. Early on it was nature photography. Later there was more and more focus on garden photography. When he moved to Decorah, Iowa, and talked himself into a job for Seed Savers Exchange (managing the Preservation Gardens), he grew his garden, in part, to take photographs of the plants, both at his farm and at his work. Our trip later to his **Pepperfield Project** farm revealed the bookcases filled with the items that contained his photographs. When asked about his transition to digital photography, he explained how the economic model for freelance photographers has changed so much he has shifted much of his energy to running the Pepperfield Project rather than being as active in the freelance photography field. His talk and, of course, his images carried



us into the night with beauty. As we wandered out of the barn when he was done, he timed it so the “golden” hour of the evening happened as we hit the top of the stair landing and looked out over the valley.

## Thursday, June 18

**An Online Game to Correct Inaccurate Optical Character Recognition (OCR) in the Biodiversity Heritage Library: A Purposeful Gaming Update.**  
Presented and reported by Marty Schlabach, Food & Agriculture Librarian, Mann Library, Cornell University

Historic seed and nursery catalogs often have beautiful images of fruit, vegetables, grains, flowers and landscape plants. Perhaps more important to us as gardeners, plant scientists and others interested in horticultural history and germplasm diversity are the written descriptions of the many cultivated varieties that were available in earlier years. In addition, there are many other topics that generate interest, such as illustration and art history, printing history and landscape history.

**The Irondequoit melon** is an example of the value that can be gained from early catalogs. Introduced in 1889 by **James Vick & Sons**, Rochester, NY, the Irondequoit melon was grown in Irondequoit, just north of Rochester on the outskirts of the city. An 1891 price list shows the seeds cost 5 times the amount of other melons in the Vick catalog, indicating how highly valued it was. But, as the city of Rochester grew, produce farms were pushed further and further from Rochester. Though the flavor was highly prized, the melon did not ship well, and soon lost favor among growers because of the increased distances from farm to market. The seed was not only dropped from Vick’s catalog, but the seed is now nowhere to be found.

The changes in printing technology can also be demonstrated via seed and nursery catalogs. Early on, catalogs were often broadsides, just a single page listing varieties and prices. This was followed by small multi-page booklets of textual descriptions of the plant material available. As the technology and costs made it possible, black & white illustrations were added. Eventually black & white lithograph illustrations were included and later color lithographs, making them even more attractive. Black & white photographs were introduced in the late 19th century and then color photography was commonly used to show off the flowers, vegetables and fruit.

Seed and nursery firms also started listing other products that would potentially be of interest to the same customer base; farm equipment & supplies, beekeeping equipment and even poultry and poultry supplies.

**Cornell’s Ethel Z. Bailey Horticultural Catalogue Collection** < <http://bhort.bh.cornell.edu/catalogs.htm> > was started by noted botanist and horticulturist **Liberty Hyde**



*Vick's Floral Guide, 1889.*

< <http://biodiversitylibrary.org/item/154467#page/71/mode/1up> >

**Bailey** and curated by his daughter **Ethel Zoe Bailey** for over 70 years. The 136,000+ catalog collection is part of the **Bailey Hortorium**, Cornell’s plant specimen collection. L.H. Bailey used the catalogs when writing a number of his publications, including *Hortus Third*, *Manual of Cultivated Plants*, and *Annals of Horticulture*.

**New York Botanical Garden’s LuEsther T. Mertz Library** also has a significant seed and nursery catalog collection, containing more than 58,000 items. < <http://mertz-digital.nybg.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15121coll8> >.

**Missouri Botanical Garden’s Library** also has a large collection of seed lists from botanical gardens and other organizations around the world.

**Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL)** members **Missouri Botanical Garden’s Peter Raven Library**, **Harvard’s Ernst Mayr Library** in the **Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ)**, **New York Botanical Garden’s Mertz Library**, and **Cornell University Library** are collaborating on an **Institute of Museum & Library Service (IMLS)** funded **Purposeful Gaming** project. Led by Missouri Botanical Library, the goal of the project is to develop an online game to crowdsource the correction of text in BHL that was generated with **Optical Character Recognition (OCR)** software. OCRing of older texts of varying fonts, multiple languages and ink bleed-through often results in many inaccuracies, which inhibits successful full-text searching.

NYBG and Cornell are participating by digitizing seed and nursery catalogs and Missouri Botanical Garden is digitizing seed lists to test the game on formats of material that differ significantly from the books and journals that make up the bulk of BHL. Not part of the funded project, **National Agriculture Library (NAL)** has also been digitizing seed and nursery catalogs from their very large collection and adding them to BHL.

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David Cavagnaro explains what's growing in The Pepperfield Project's gardens. Photograph by Beth Brand.



Suzi raises her glass to Bill for hosting a successful Annual Meeting in Decorah! Photograph by Beth Brand.

Thursday, June 18

## Tours of The Pepperfield Project and Canoe Creek Produce

Reported by Beth Brand, Librarian  
Schilling Library, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ

There was much to see and enjoy during our afternoon visits to **The Pepperfield Project** and **Canoe Creek Produce**. The Pepperfield Project was conceived in 2008 as an educational program where people could learn about preserving heirloom crop varieties through seed saving and sustainable organic farming. In 2010, when Pepperfield was granted non-profit status, co-founder **David Cavagnaro** donated his home and 55 acres of farmland to create the educational center.

Though it seemed quiet during our visit, a lot goes on at the small farm. In addition to growing 35 tomato varieties and several other open-pollinated crops, Pepperfield is host to classes, workshops, weddings and special themed dinners. While strolling about admiring the vegetable gardens, Cavagnaro explained that their harvest dinners often include 25 to 35 different edible varieties all grown on the property. The meals are prepared and served to guests who travel from near and far to attend the annual events. This fall, to celebrate the recently published book *The Seed Garden* and the 40th anniversary of **Seed Savers Exchange**, a special dinner will be prepared to highlight some of Seed Savers' founding heirloom varieties!

**Canoe Creek Produce** was another organic farm we had the pleasure of visiting that day. As we



Hair sheep at Canoe Creek Produce. Photograph by Laurie Hannah.

arrived, we were greeted by chickens, goats and Katahdin sheep (aka hair sheep) just waiting to be photographed. The farm is a labor of love for the Kraus family (Barbara, John, Peter, Tessa and Kevin) who use sustainable methods to tend to their organic gardens and grass-fed livestock. The family grows 1 ½ acres of greens and herbs, uses only organic and heirloom seeds, and has only one mechanical tiller. Theirs is an old-fashioned, hands-on operation. As Barbara showed us the prepping area, she pointed out that only 25% of their time is spent actually growing the crops while 75% of the time

is spent cleaning and preparing the harvests for the various local restaurants, farmers markets and co-ops they supply. Along with planting and harvesting, the family cares for ewes, hair sheep, goats (that Barbara said she "sort of" milks), hens, geese, rabbits and honeybees. They recently began growing edible flowers which we had the pleasure of sampling on some delicious hors d'oeuvres.

After our farm and garden tours, we were taken through the spacious main house at The Pepperfield Project followed by a delicious al fresco meal of wine, cheese and of course, dishes made with freshly harvested produce from the Pepperfield gardens.



continued from Page 7

To minimize duplication of effort NAL has joined NYBG and Cornell in collaborating on digitizing catalogs. To date, more than 15,000 catalogs have been digitized and added to BHL, the vast majority contributed by NAL. < <http://biodiversitylibrary.org/collection/seedcatalogs> >. MCZ has digitized handwritten field notebooks. Not suitable for OCRing, they are crowdsourcing the transcription of the field notebooks to make them searchable within BHL.

Two games have been developed by the Purposeful Gaming project. **Smorball** < <http://smorballgame.org> > is a game targeting 'gamers,' and **Beanstalk** < <http://beanstalkgame.org> > is for general users and those whose interests are more altruistic in helping to improve the searchability of BHL content. In actuality, the game and process is more complex than this, but here is a simple overview. In the games, users are fed a snippet of text that the computer did not recognize as a word, and users key in the word as they see it. If multiple users supply the same text string for a given word snippet, it is assumed to be correct and the word is fed back into the BHL index, thus improving the discoverability within BHL. The games were released on June 9 and available for anyone to play now through the end of the project in November 2015.

Links to the Purposeful Gaming project overview, the games and to the transcription web sites are listed below. The slides from this CBHL Annual Meeting talk can be found at < <http://www.slideshare.net/MartySchlabach/bhl-seed-catalog-collection-cbhl-20150618> >. Additional links were provided in a handout at the CBHL meeting and that handout can be found at < <http://biodivlib.wikispaces.com/file/view/BHL+Seed+Catalog+Collection+CBHL+2015.06.18+links+handout.pdf/555857761/BHL%20Seed%20Catalog%20Collection%20CBHL%202015.06.18%20links%20handout.pdf> >.

#### Purposeful Gaming

##### Overview of Purposeful Gaming Project

< <http://biodivlib.wikispaces.com/Purposeful+Gaming> >

##### Beanstalk (game for non-gamers)

< <http://beanstalkgame.org> >

##### Smorball (game for gamers)

< <http://smorballgame.org> >

##### FromThePage transcription tool (includes seed & nursery catalogs and field notebooks)

< <http://transcribebhl.mobot.org> >

##### DigiVol transcription tool (includes field notebooks only)

< <http://volunteer.ala.org.au> >

#### **E-Books Behind the Scenes at a University Library.** **Presented and reported by Gayle Bradbeer,** **Collection Development Librarian for Science and Engineering, Auraria Library**

There is a plethora of e-book purchase models available and the market is constantly changing in response to negotiation by libraries. This talk briefly examined the vocabulary of ebook purchasing and the features of several e-book models.

#### **Updates: Biodiversity Heritage Library, Institute of Museum & Library Services / National Leadership Grant.** **Presented by Susan Fraser, Library Director,** **LuEsther T. Mertz Library, NY Botanical Garden.**

In January of this year, Susan submitted a pre-proposal to the IMLS for a **National Leadership Grant** on behalf of the NYBG, Missouri Botanical Garden, Harvard MCZ and the BHL. The group has been invited to submit a full proposal for the Tier 2 round of review. If funded, this National Leadership Grant project will provide an on-ramp for many libraries to get content into both BHL and DPLA." [from *Program*\*—ed.]

#### **Hands Across the Water, or, an Adventure in Berlin.** **Presented and reported by Rita Hassert, Library Collections Manager, Sterling Morton Library, Morton Arboretum.**

To encourage increased collaboration and communication, CBHL provides a travel grant to support a member's attendance at the EBHL Annual Meeting. During this presentation, this year's recipient of the grant, Rita Hassert, reported on the March 2015 meeting hosted by the Bibliothek am Botanischen Garten und Botanischen Museum Berlin-Dahlem. Highlights of note included meetings with EBHL colleagues, presentations, site visits and tours of Berlin libraries and gardens.

#### **From Garlic to Gold : How Plant Adhesives Illuminate.** **Presented and reported by Kathy Crosby, Head Librarian, Brooklyn Botanic Garden**

This winter I was lucky enough to take a class on illumination—gold leaf, pigment, and calligraphy like one might use in producing an illuminated manuscript. On the first day of the illumination class I was helping to set out the instructor's, **Karen Gorst's**, sample books of gold leaf in combination with various glues. I was particularly taken by one sample; the sample was made, very surprisingly to me, from garlic. The sample books made me curious about the history of glues in general and how the chemistry of a wide range of sources made them good bases for adhesives. (And of course, I have somewhat of a bias toward adhesives made from plants.) Fish and hide glues frequently used in the gilding process are strong because of their protein content. These glues can

\* Seed Savers Exchange. *Taste, Tradition and Beauty in the Edible Landscape: The 47th Annual Meeting of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries*. Decorah, IA : Seed Savers Exchange, 2015.



Maren Anne Beard, Luther College. Photograph by Bill Musser.

be stored in their dry states for incredibly long periods and rehydrated for use, but an issue might arise from the glue becoming brittle. Plant adhesives are carbohydrate in nature, so it's the sugars that are important. But plants may also have a strong amino acid protein component as in the case of garlic. For garlic, that's glutamic acid; the protein percentage can be as high as 29%. Bonaduce in an article in the *Journal of Chromatography* reported on work done in collaboration with conservationists and historians. Very small samples of the gilding were removed. The most abundant components were glutamic acid, aspartic acid, and serine, significantly different from animal glue and egg proteins. (I. Bonaduce, M.P. Colom-

bini, S. Diring. "Identification of garlic in old gildings by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry." *Journal of Chromatography A*, 1107, 226-232 (2006).) Reading through the literature on this topic was wonderful, and I will try to do more and hopefully share a bibliography with all of you in the future—also hopefully the results of my gilding efforts!

## Friday, June 19

**Sustainability, Community, and Edible Landscapes. Presented by Maren Anne Beard, Sustainable Foods Educator, Luther College Center for Sustainability. Reported by Gayle Bradbeer, Collection Development Librarian for Science and Engineering, Auraria Library**

**Maren Beard** presented an enlightening view into the complexities of developing and maintaining a sustainable, local foods operation on a larger scale such as in a college cafeteria. Key considerations include involving all stakeholders from the chef to the students, creating a chain of accountability, extended menu planning to develop pre-planting purchase requests for local producers, maintaining multiple programs including education programs related to the topic, and developing appropriate and specific goals that can be measured. More about Campus Sustainability at **Luther College** at <<http://www.luther.edu/sustainability/campus>>.

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## Keynote

**Taste, Tradition and Beauty: Exploring the History of Apples in North America. Presented by Dan Bussey. Reported by Susan C. Eubank, Arboretum Librarian, Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden**

As we settled into the dessert phase of the banquet meal at the **CBHL Annual Meeting** (No, I don't think it was made with apples ... wrong time of year.) **Dan Bussey** started talking with two stellar stories. When he was very young he went yearly with his father with the windfall apples to the cider mill and absorbed all the sights, sounds and particularly the smell of the sludge pile thrown out the door, which also roiled with wasps and other insects. When the cider was brought home he watched as his father carefully left one jar on the counter to ferment; more roiling (actually, foaming) when that was ready to drink. Heady stuff and, as he said, the kind of memory you don't realize how irreplaceable it was at the time.

He drew us in even earlier, because almost his first sentence was about the stacks at the **University of Wisconsin-Madison Library** where he discovered how the land grant colleges contained comprehensive collections. He drove back and forth from his home with stacks of books for many years to feed his apple obsession. His obsession was a good example of how browsable stacks lead to intense research that may not have happened without that serendipity. From that library, he also ended up scouring other libraries, including the **National Agricultural Library**, and also purchasing nursery catalogs and other ephemera that weren't easily accessible, or perhaps even kept, by the libraries. The research wasn't his job. He was a restaurant supply salesman. But, once he discovered the apple work, he found his life's work. Finally, now, his career also came to match his obsession. He now manages the historic apple orchard at **Seed Savers Exchange**.

His slides for the talk didn't illustrate his points. It was just a running slide show of illustrations from his book. They never ran out. His book detailing 16,468 apple varieties will be published in January 2016 by **JAK KAW Press**. It is seven volumes, 3,300 pages including 1,500 illustrations, and will be given free to the agricultural libraries at universities in the United States and Canada. Now do we understand those patrons who keep coming back to us over and over and over or sometimes don't even tell us what their quest is?





CBHLers learn about the Luther College campus from librarian Andrea Beckendorf. Photograph by Amy Kasameyer.



An example of a council ring designed by Jen Jensen. Photograph by Amy Kasameyer.

**Friday, June 19**

## **Tour of Luther College campus with librarian Andrea Beckendorf**

**Reported by Amy Kasameyer, Librarian/Archivist  
University and Jepson Herbaria  
University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA**

In 1909, noted landscape architect **Jens Jensen** was invited to develop a landscape plan for the **Luther College's** 50th anniversary in 1911. Jensen's vision for the campus incorporated the natural landscape as much as possible, as he wanted to maintain strong ties to the adjacent **Upper Iowa River** natural area. His plan called for the removal of existing plantings of straight lines of trees and instead encouraged plantings that followed natural curves. We started our tour by admiring the views of campus and the adjacent natural area from the **Peace Dining Room** in the student union. The natural area is part of campus, includes 5 miles of hiking trails, and is used by students for research projects.

In the student union we saw a student-curated exhibit on Jens Jensen and the Luther College Landscape. The exhibit contained art works from the campus **Fine Art Collection** and excerpts from Jensen's writings.

On our walking tour of campus Andrea pointed out examples of Jensen's work, such as council rings, semi-circular seating areas designed for egalitarian interactions. Classes and student groups are encouraged to use the council rings for meetings.

We wandered on Jensen's winding pathways and saw examples of trees planted close to buildings so that the trees soften the views of the building.

Our tour took us by an **Oak Savannah** restoration project where native species have been planted under a large Bur Oak. We also passed the rain garden, which captures runoff from the roof of a nearby building.

We explored the **Edible Garden**, which began as a student initiated project from an environmental philosophy class. The garden is a collaborative project between the college and the **Pepperfield Project**. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to harvest produce from the garden, which included herbs, lettuces, and beans.

Our tour concluded in **Preus Library**, where we saw "Kernels of the Past: Portraits of Heirloom and Historic Maize Varieties," an exhibit of **David Cavagnaro's** photographs. **Andrea Beckendorf** had also created a rare book display for **CBHL** with examples of botanical works and archival material from the **Luther College Archives, Preus Library Rare Book Room, and Seed Savers Exchange Library**.



**Saturday, June 20**

## **Intrepid travelers to the mighty Mississippi were well fed and watered**

**Reported by Gayle Bradbeer  
Collection Development Librarian for Science and Engineering  
Auraria Library, Denver, CO**

The post-conference trip allowed us to see a wide swath of Iowa from the workings of the farmers' market and the successful co-op in Decorah, to the heights above the Mississippi and the museum on and about the river itself, to the international connections of another small Iowa town in between. The rainy morning did not stop the diverse farmers' market and the folks at the Co-op were as helpful as always. A van ride through the countryside revealed wide vistas of rolling hills and occasional large farm complexes. As we neared the Mississippi River (hereafter "the River") the roads ran between higher hills and across bluffs overlooking the River. Our lunch stop was at the all-volunteer **Dubuque Arboretum and Botanic Gardens** where despite the storm we wandered outside, staying close to the main building, and viewed a beautiful and well-kept facility.

**The National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium** had very new exhibits on conservation and fascinating glimpses into riverboat life including economics, construction and engineering. We then climbed to **Eagle Point Park** and watched the majestic progress of the River from above. The Algerian restaurant in Elkader was wonderful, the more so for the romantic connection of the city to Algeria and its having been named in 1847 after **Abd el-Kader**, a young Algerian hero who led his people in a resistance to French colonialism between 1830 and 1847. The long and sleepy drive back to Decorah was highlighted by the breathtakingly colored sunset we were driving into. Thanks so much to our host **Bill Musser** for being our chauffeur and tour guide.



# 47th Annual CBHL Business Meeting

Hosted by Seed Savers Exchange,  
Decorah, IA

Thursday, June 18, 2015

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

*Since we had several volunteer-appointees recording the Annual Meeting minutes this year instead of Stacy Stoldt, we ask you to send any corrections to <kcrosby@bbg.org>, who will follow up with Stacy Stoldt.*

**Suzi Teghtmeyer** welcomed everyone to the 47th Annual Meeting in Decorah. The rest of the Board introduced themselves : **Kathy Crosby**, First Vice President; **Amy Kasameyer**, Second Vice President; **Brian Thompson**, Treasurer; and **Suzi Teghtmeyer** introduced **Stacy Stoldt** as Secretary. Since the Secretary was unable to attend, the President appointed Kathy Crosby and Amy Kasameyer to take notes and read reports.

The President noted we had a quorum.

The President called upon **Laurie Hannah** to be Parliamentarian.

New attendee names were read and all eight attendees were asked to stand.

The President asked whether there were any corrections to be made to the minutes of last year's meeting. No corrections being offered, **John Reed** moved to approve the minutes of the 2014, **46th Annual Meeting** in Richmond, VA, as printed in issue 134 of the *CBHL Newsletter* in August 2014. **Leora Siegel** seconded. The minutes were approved by a vote of the membership. The President asked if there were any additions to the agenda and none were advanced at this time.

## **Board Reports**

The Secretary's report was read by **Kathy Crosby** and follows :

180 voting members were sent ballots and proxies more than 120 days before this Annual Meeting. Of the 86 Ballots returned for the election, 3 ballots were write-ins, 1 was blank.

Election results will be given during the **Nominating Committee Report**.

Of the 50 proxies received, all were valid, 41 appointed the CBHL Board as proxy, and nine (9) members appointed other CBHL members as proxies. These members have been notified. The ballot and proxy counts have been rechecked by the Treasurer.

**John Reed** moved to accept the Secretary's report and **David Sleasman** seconded.

**Brian Thompson** presented the **Treasurer's Report**. He noted that we have \$62,645.24 in the **General Fund**, \$17,967.44 in the **Founders Award Fund**, \$921.12 in the **Literature Award Fund**, and \$11,263.17 in the **Long Award Fund**. \$5,000 was advanced to the Decorah meeting in anticipation of costs. He also reported on a \$10,505.36 loss in part attributable to our new website, **LibGuides** subscription, **Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning Committee Pre-Meeting**, and annual meeting expenses. The account for the 46th Annual Meeting in Richmond is now closed.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report; the motion was seconded. The Treasurer's Report was approved by a vote of the membership.

A special **Vice President's report** was included in this year's meeting to introduce the work of the **Ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee**. Kathy Crosby, Vice President, and **Donna Herendeen**, Chair of the Ad-hoc Committee presented on work completed to date. Kathy Crosby discussed the importance of the Board and committees working closely together on something as core to our mission as strategic planning; this kind of work should not be the purview of one part of the organizational body. Board members not on the Ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee were invited to the pre-meeting held on June 15th. Part of the Ad-hoc committee's work also involved a survey of fifteen past and current Board members; the questions for the survey were developed by **Suzi Teghtmeyer** and **Chuck Tancin**. Kathy then introduced Donna Herendeen.

Donna reported that there had been four conference calls; the dates were 12/17 in 2014 and 1/15, 3/25, and 5/20 in 2015. The Membership Survey was sent out on 1/27/2015 and the Board Survey on 4/20/2015. [The results of the Membership Survey were tabulated and analyzed by **John Reed** and **David Sleasman** and the results of the Board Survey were compiled by Suzi Teghtmeyer.]The Committee also wanted to develop a line of input to the strategic planning work from the other CBHL committees and their chairs. To that end **Susan Eubank** sent the committee worksheets to the committee chairs on 6/2/2015. The Ad-hoc Committee also requested that the Board approve a special pre-meeting for the Committee held on 6/15/2015. The Board approved the request for the meeting scheduled for 6/15/2015 and the meeting was held.

At the June 15th meeting, using the survey-identified priorities, the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee reworked the language of part of the existing 2001 strategic plan section. The guiding principles/core values, vision statement, and mission statement were all reviewed, and alternate language has been proposed for review by the membership at the annual meeting during the afternoon speaker session later today. The Committee also drafted four preliminary goals. The language adopted for the revisions was drawn on last year's strategic

planning brainstorming session, the **Membership Survey**, and the Board Survey.

The committee also discussed current CBHL committee structure in the joint meeting with the Board on Monday afternoon. They are looking for more feedback on this topic and members can expect more surveys this summer. Currently, committee structure cannot be easily changed because the committees are written into the by-laws, and the by-laws cannot be changed without notice to members 60 days before the annual meeting. **Judy Warnement** commented that the by-laws could be set aside in order to make this vote. **Suzi Teghtmeyer** stated that the Board would look into this and possibly bring it up during Friday's session.

Members of the Committee include **Susan Eubank**, **David Sleasman**, **Chuck Tancin**, **Kathy Crosby**, **Suzi Teghtmeyer**, **Donna Herendeen**, and **John Reed**. Former members include **Robin Everly** and **Nadine Phillips**, both of whom resigned. Robin Everly was the former chair. Persons interested in serving on the Committee were asked to speak to members at any time during the meeting.

## Standing Committee Reports

### Annual Literature Award Committee

**Brian Thompson for Gretchen Wade, Chair**

**Brian Thompson** reported that the committee met via phone on June 10, 2015. He announced that **Pat Jonas** and **Gretchen Wade** were rotating off the committee. Brian commented on their long service and thanked them both for their participation both as members and chairs. The Board appointed **Susan Eubank** and **Rita Hassert** as new members and Brian Thompson, now rotating off the Board, will be the new chair. This year 39 titles were nominated and 36 were reviewed. Brian Thompson reminded attendees to come to the Award Raffle at the meeting where the award will be announced.

### Charles Robert Long Award of Merit Committee

**Kathy Allen, Chair**

**Kathy Allen** thanked the committee members **Rita Hassert**, **Laurie Hannah**, **Stacy Stoldt**, and **Suzi Teghtmeyer**. Committee members are appointed for 5 years. Kathy Allen explained the history of the Long Award and announced that no award was given this year. The award has been given to 15 individuals and one organization, the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, in its 27 year history. Past Long Award recipients present were recognized: **John Reed** (1995), **Stan Johnston** (2005), **Chuck Tancin** (2008), and the **Biodiversity Heritage Library** (2013) team.

## Electronic Communications Committee Leora Siegel, Chair

The **Electronic Communications Committee (ECC)** has three tasks: the website, the listserv, LibGuides.

**Celine Arsenault** is the webmaster for the website. She debuted the new site last year, and she continues to edit it particularly regarding updating links. Celine would like the membership to post more testimonials to the website. In order to provide cross-training and future expertise for this important resource, **Bill Musser** and **Tracy Mehlin** are being trained in maintenance procedures.

Over the next year, Celine will address phase II of the website which will hopefully allow the membership to make their own changes to contact information and the like—for instance, the contact data published in the online directory. A mobile-compliant interface is also under discussion.

**Gayle Bradbeer** has stepped down as Manager of the Wiki, as the Wiki is defunct and replaced by LibGuides. Please remove mentions of the CBHL wiki from existing documentation. **Donna Herendeen** is stepping down as the Manager of LibGuides; Tracy Mehlin is taking her place.

The listserv has been dead for the last two weeks. The last two weeks of messages sent will not auto upload and will need to be resent once the listserv, if ever, comes back. The committee is moving forward with a new listserv host as approved by the Board. The archives of the old list may not be able to be migrated to the new host. In that case, members of the ECC may divide up the work of maintaining the archives. Due to the listserv being down, **Leora Siegel** was unable to provide a report on listserv traffic, but she stated that traffic has been consistent from year to year. The main problems with the listserv have been attachments getting caught in the moderation filter and non-members (such as volunteers) posting messages. Non-members should send postings via a member's email address. After the Committee met yesterday, Leora officially asked the Board to approve the purchase of a new email list for no more than \$100. The Board met and approved to make the motion to the membership. **Suzi Teghtmeyer** asked for a motion: "The Electronic Communications Committee proposes to acquire a new listserv host for \$100 or less per year and to migrate to < <http://www.emwd.com> > as soon as possible." A motion was made to acquire a new host; the motion was seconded. Members voted and the vote passed.

The committee has also discussed whether a social media manager position should be created. **Susan Eubank** has volunteered to undertake some informal projects in this regard in context of thinking about the manager position.



**Financial Advisory Committee**  
**Betsy Kruthoffer, Chair**

**Betsy Kruthoffer** reported the Financial Report and the IRS Tax Form, submitted by **Brian Thompson**, were sound.

**Founders' Fund Travel Fellowship Award**  
**Suzi Teghtmeyer, Chair**

The committee was pleased to be able to award four **Founders' Fund Travel Fellowships** for this year.

Suzi clarified that members can only receive the award once every 10 years and encouraged new members to apply.

This year's recipients were recognized: **Sheila Connor, Susan Eubank, Pat Jonas, and Janet Woody.**

**Membership Committee**  
**Brian Thompson for Nadine Phillips**

Due to last minute changes in plans for Committee Chair **Nadine Phillips** and Membership Manager **Laura Soito**, both were unable to attend this year's annual meeting.

Brian reported that the committee will meet by phone in the next few weeks. Any members interested in joining this committee are invited to attend the phone meeting. The agenda for the meeting will include following up with libraries that have had retirements where a new person is not a CBHL member, strategies for recruitment of new members, earlier and tighter renewals, and the potential for posting membership information on the website.

From the membership manager, **Laura Soito**: CBHL has 220 active members, including 12 new members.

Three people have volunteered to help edit the 2015 print directory.

**Preservation and Access Committee**  
**Donna Herendeen, Chair**

Donna is stepping down as chair and announced that **Chuck Tancin** will be the new chair. Not all members of PAC could attend this year's committee meeting due to cross memberships in other committee meetings at the same time. In general, the committee members enjoy discussing topics of interest to CBHL like digital ideas, mounting exhibits, particular collections, conservation and preservation, etc. Chuck prepared a summary of the history of the committee and made it available on LibGuides. She suggested that PAC activities should continue as part of CBHL, but that these activities might not require the formal structure of a committee. Donna reported that the committee had hoped to focus more of its discussion on seed catalogs given this year's meeting theme, but did not get as far as members had hoped

along these lines. However, in this context Donna did report on the **National Agricultural Library's** digitization of seed catalogs and their availability via **Internet Archive** and the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**. She also noted that perhaps the National Agricultural Library will look to rejoin CBHL in the future. Donna noted that **Kathy Crosby** and PAC will look at the Non-Book database with regard to a change in platform and updating content.

**Public Relations**  
**Rita Hassert, Chair**

**Rita Hassert** reported that the committee sent out press releases for the **Annual Literature Award**, the **Charles Robert Long Award**, and the **Annual Meeting**. The committee is exploring ways to use social media including **Pinterest** and **Instagram** on behalf of CBHL. Upcoming projects include reaching out to people in land grant institutions as potential new members; the list was developed by **Cindy Monnier**. In addition, the committee is looking at **APGA** institutional members that have libraries, but not librarians, to determine what kind of services we might offer.

The membership brochure also needs to be updated.

Currently press releases are sent to organizations and print publications, and the committee is looking for suggestions of blogs as places to submit releases.

Rita Hassert is rotating off the committee and **Robin Everly** is taking over as Chair.

**Publications Committee**  
**Susan Eubank reported on behalf of Larissa Glasser**

The committee voted to keep both print and online versions of the newsletter for now. The newsletter is published four times annually. The submissions deadline for the Summer issue is normally June 15, but the committee voted to move it to August 1 so that the proceedings from the annual meeting could be included. The deadline for the Fall issue will remain September 15. Susan asked meeting presenters to submit brief summaries of their presentations with a link to their slides if possible. New members are going to be gently encouraged to write about their first annual meeting experience. One fun suggestion the committee had was to develop a clickable geographic map.

The Committee nominated and unanimously voted **Larissa Glasser**, our Desktop Publisher, for Chair of the Publications Committee.

**Nominating Committee**  
**Tracy Mehlin, Chair**

Tracy reported the members of the nominating commit-

tee for this past year were **Brandy Kuhl** and **Kathy Bell**, both appointed by **Suzi Teghtmeyer**. The committee nominated **Donna Herendeen** as 2nd vice-president and **Bill Musser** as treasurer.

#### **Steering Committee Susan Eubank, Chair**

**Susan Eubank** provided historical context for the Steering Committee's work.

The Steering Committee was established to look at duplication and commonality among CBHL committees. For a number of years, the committee met before and after the committee meetings on Tuesday; the committee includes the Board, committee chairs, and managers. For a number of years, each committee filled out a worksheet describing their charge, activities completed during a given year, and future goals. This year all committees were asked to fill out this worksheet as a process of input in the conversation about strategic planning. Susan requested that this worksheet be returned in two weeks.

Membership approved a recess until the following day.

## **Friday, June 19, 2015**

### **Future Annual Meetings**

**2016:** **Gary Esmonde** promoted the **48th Annual CBHL Meeting** in Cleveland, OH, at **Cleveland Botanic Garden** which will take place most likely May 22-28, 2016.

**2017:** **Kathy Allen** announced tentative dates for the **2017 49th Annual CBHL Meeting** at the **University of Minnesota Anderson Horticultural Library**: June 6-10, 2017.

**2018:** **Susan Fraser** announced that the **New York Botanical Garden** and **Brooklyn Botanic Garden** offered to host the 2018 meeting in New York. No other invitations were offered for 2018. **Judy Reed** moved to accept the invitation; the motion was seconded by **Kathy Allen**. The motion passed unanimously by membership vote. Given the high price of lodging in New York, NYBG is investigating use of dormitory space at **Fordham University**. NYBG has had success for doing this with other visiting groups.

**2019:** **Beth Brand** invited CBHL to Phoenix for the 2019 meeting. The meeting would be held earlier in the spring before it gets too hot. **John Reed** moved we accept Beth's invitation; the motion was seconded by **Gayle Bradbeer**. The motion unanimously passed by membership vote.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Ad-hoc Committee on Future Conferences Stephen Sinon**

**Kathy Crosby** presented **Stephen Sinon's** report which is printed here and attached.

#### **Report of meeting for June 4, 2015**

Attendees: **Gary Esmonde, Bill Musser, Kathy Allen, John Reed, Janet Evans, Stacy Stoldt, Pat Jonas, Suzi Teghtmeyer**

**Bill Musser** of Seed Savers mentioned having no issues to discuss. Transportation was his main gadfly and he is a former cab driver in Decorah on good terms with other drivers with whom he has made arrangements.

**Gary Esmonde** reported that **Cleveland Botanical Garden** is still working on its integration with the **Holden Arboretum**. Both libraries will remain open even though Cleveland has had a recent sale of its rare books and some were transferred to Holden. Gary is working on the speakers and has Holden CEO **Clem Hamilton** lined up as keynote speaker. A slide show about Cleveland will be presented in Decorah. Hotel partners include **Marriott Courtyard**, a luxury bed-and-breakfast, and the historic **Tudor Arms Hotel**, all very near to CBG. **Stan Hywet Hall** is being looked at for a side trip as well as the **CBG Green Corps Urban Farms**. **The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Library and Archive** are also on the agenda. The tentative conference theme will be "Working Together: Pages, Places, People."

**Kathy Allen** reported she is beginning to arrange a 2017 conference hotel. One day will be at the Arboretum, another is planned for the **St. Paul Como Park Zoo and Conservatory**. Kathy mentioned that **APGA** is meeting there soon and she hopes to get lots of information and ideas from the program planners. Local apple man **Dave Bedford** is a possible speaker as well as the daughter of **George Nakashima** who crafted the Arboretum Library's famous wooden furniture.

**Stephen Sinon** stated that NYBG and BBG were on board to host the 2018 conference in New York but that a formal letter of invitation has yet to be written and may be presented to the conference attendees in Decorah. Stacy mentioned speaking with the librarian at **University of Hawaii** about attending in 2016. **Eileen Herring**, another librarian at U Hawaii, will be retiring soon. A discussion was held about how best to revise the annual meeting handbook. It is posted in PDF format however it will be made into an editable Word doc and is scheduled be reviewed by the past three hosts for comment and additions. Each host will use a different color to enter their comments to avoid confusion. When the committee meets again it will review and discuss the manual section by section.



A discussion followed about the procedures for login and password for **CBHL LibGuides**, **Donna Herendeen** is the contact for obtaining a login.

Membership approved extending the **Ad-hoc Committee on Future Conferences** another year.

#### **Ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee Donna Herendeen and John Reed**

The Ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee would like to continue as an ad-hoc committee. Their special meeting on Monday went well and they plan to meet via phone in July. The committee has three new members: **Allaina Wallace**, **Gayle Bradbeer**, and **Laurie Hannah**.

Membership approved extending this ad-hoc committee another year.

### **New Business**

**Rita Hassert** reported on her attendance at **EBHL** in Berlin and encouraged members to apply for conference funding. Next year's **EBHL** conference will be in Edinburgh, Scotland. Suzi explained that the Board looks at the location and costs for the meeting and decides the amount of the grant at the Fall Board meeting. The money is given to the recipient prior to the conference, and is set at 75% of the estimated conference costs. Last year's grant was \$1,500. Rita noted that many European libraries are dealing with the funding and space constraint issues that we face in the United States.

**Chuck Tancin** reported that she has been updating the procedures manual originally created by Secretary **Jane Gates** in the 1990s. Chuck will place the updated version on **LibGuides**.

**Marty Schlabach** asked if we have a way of archiving material online. **Suzi Teghtmeyer** mentioned the **CBHL** archives at **NYBG**. The **Electronic Communications Committee** is using **LibGuides** as a de facto temporary archives for digital documents. Basically **LibGuides** is used as a consolidation point; documents are then downloaded onto CDs or another format and submitted to the archives. The **ECC** will work on guidelines for the Board and Committees. Our website is archived by the **Internet Archive**. **John Reed** asked how we were saving **CBHL** photos uploaded to **Flickr**. **Robin Everly** asked if we were continuing the practice of selecting 20 photos of the meeting each year to be sent to the archives. **John Reed** stated the **Historians** could do this but haven't received instruction to do so. **Suzi Teghtmeyer** stated the Board will take this under consideration and work with the **ECC** on this matter. **Leora Siegel** stated that **Don Wheeler** did select photos (primarily of people) from **Flickr** for several years for the archives. **Susan Fraser** noted that CDs are not archival, and we would need to use another format or consider migration practices.

There was a follow-up to the discussion of setting aside the by-laws in the context of allowing for a more efficient approach to voting for by-law changes as discussed in the **Ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee**. **Suzi Teghtmeyer** noted that we are unable to suspend our by-laws to amend our by-laws if the change is in conflict with current by-laws, as per *Robert's Rules of Order*. Therefore a potential by-law change discussed on Thursday will not be coming to a vote today.

### **Announcements**

#### **Collaborative Grant**

Last year the **Collaborative Grant** was awarded to **Nadine Phillips** and this year it was awarded to **Larissa Glasser**. The Board revised the grant this year to clarify what expenses are covered. **Suzi Teghtmeyer** read the revised announcement of the grant, which provides up to \$500 towards conference registration costs. **John Reed** asked if webinars would be covered under the grant. **Robin Everly** provided some background on the grant and reminded members that one of the goals of the grant was to provide outreach for **CBHL**. **Kathy Crosby** noted that some webinars have a discussion component that would allow for the outreach activity. **Gary Esmonde** asked if grant recipients have to present at the conference being attended. Grantees do not have to present at the conference. The grant is meant to provide a learning opportunity for the member and is an opportunity to act as an ambassador for **CBHL**. **Brian Thompson** noted that this year's funds have been exhausted, and **Suzi Teghtmeyer** added that the amount for 2016 will be decided at the Fall Board Meeting. **Irene Holliman** asked if just one grant was offered each year, and **Suzi Teghtmeyer** responded it depends on the funds allocated by the Board. **Gayle Bradbeer** brought up the concern that the grant recipient will not report on their experience and recommended the money be given after the report has been received. **Suzi Teghtmeyer** stated the Board will take members' comments under advisement and this will become a point of business at the fall meeting.

[NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S NOTE: The revised wording for the **CBHL** Collaboration Grant will be included in the November 2015 Newsletter. It is currently available on the **CBHL LibGuides** at < <http://cbhl.libguides.com/org-resources> >.]

#### **Biodiversity Heritage Library Letter of Support**

**Suzi Teghtmeyer** reported that **Susan Fraser** asked the Board to consider writing a letter of support for an **IMLS** grant to **BHL** that would assist **CBHL** members and others with becoming **BHL** contributors. **Suzi** read **Susan's** letter and then read the letter the Board wrote in support of the proposal. Positive comments on the grant proposal were offered.

## Annual Meeting Survey

**Amy Kasameyer** announced that attendees will receive a link to the Annual Meeting Survey via email.

## Closing of the Annual Meeting

### Presentation to Annual Meeting Host

**Suzi Teghtmeyer** and **Brian Thompson** presented **Bill Musser** and **Seed Savers** a gift for the wonderful job done for this years' Annual CBHL Meeting.

### Recognition of Outgoing/Incoming Officers

Gifts were given to **Tracy Mehlin** and **Brian Thompson** from their fellow Board members thanking them for their

outstanding service to the Board. **Donna Herendeen**, second vice-president, and **Bill Musser**, treasurer, were recognized and welcomed as the newest members of the Board.

### Passing of the Gavel

**Suzi Teghtmeyer** passed the CBHL gavel to **Kathy Crosby** as CBHL President for the 2015-2016 year.

Kathy called for a motion to close the meeting. **John Reed** so moved and **Tracy Mehlin** seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned by **Kathy Crosby** at 12:10 p.m. June 19, 2015.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### September 23-25, 2015

Santa Barbara. 2015 Volunteer Engagement Symposium. "Preserving & Conserving our Natural Resources: Volunteers!"  
< <http://www.publicgardens.org> >

### October 9-12, 2015

Portland. American Horticultural Therapy Association Annual Conference. "Research: Shaping the Horticultural Therapy Landscape."  
< <http://www.ahta.org> >

### October 15-17, 2015

Miami. American Society of Botanical Artists Annual Meeting and Conference.  
< <https://www.asba-art.org/conference/2015> >

### November 3-5, 2015

Little Rock. 2015 Natural Areas Conference.  
< <http://naturalareasconference.org> >

### November 4-7, 2015

Charleston, South Carolina. Charleston Conference-Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition. "Where Do We Go From Here."  
< <http://www.katina.info/conference> >

### November 4-7, 2015

Minneapolis. 42nd Annual Museum Computer Network Conference. "The Invisible Architectures of Connected Museums: Making Meaning with People, Collections, and Information."  
< <http://mcn.edu/mcn-2015-minneapolis> >

### November 6-10, 2015

St. Louis. Association for Information Science & Technology. "Information Science with Impact: Research in and for the Community."  
< <https://www.asist.org/events/annual-meeting/annual-meeting-2015> >

### November 6-9, 2015

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

### November 15-18, 2015

Minneapolis. International Annual Meeting of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA).  
"Synergy in Science: Partnering for Solutions."  
< <https://www.acsmeetings.org> >

### January 8-12, 2016

Boston. ALA Midwinter Meeting.  
< <http://www.ala.org> >



# CBHL Advocacy: An A-Z List

by Suzi Teghtmeyer

What is advocacy? Simply put, it is a deliberate plan to build organizational/stakeholder support.<sup>1</sup> It's not marketing, but generating loyalty in the stakeholders to the degree that they advocate, on your behalf. As a librarian at a small library, as many CBHL Libraries are, you have to also assume the role of advocate, which rarely is an innate trait. It may be difficult to get out there, standing up and justifying not only what the library is, but also how valuable it is to the organization. It takes thought and effort, both of which take time away from helping your patrons and running the library.

To prepare for this article I searched for articles on 'how to advocate a small library' that fit in with organizations on par with ours, with little success. I did find one though I liked, "A School Library Advocacy Alphabet" by Heather Gruenthal<sup>2</sup> and realized that it laid a framework that I adapted for us.<sup>3</sup> So here it goes – letters of steps to lead you to being a good/better/best advocate for yourself and your library.

**A – Announcement:** Announce to your patrons, your administration, your Friends groups that you are a professional librarian and you are a member of a national organization of librarians specializing in botanical and horticultural librarianship. Get out your soapbox, give it a wash and perhaps a new coat of paint and make yourself known. All of your organization's employees, the local libraries, school libraries if you have a children's collection, the State Library, the college and university libraries, and the library schools in the state should know of your existence. Send emails, send postcards, create a library page using in **LibGuides** – announce to the world you exist, you definitely have a place, you fill a niche and you deserve to be treated with respect.

**B – Branding:** 1) The establishment of an image that when said, i.e. "The Library", images and thoughts of access, research, satisfaction, comfort, 'insert-term-here' are conjured in the mind of the listener and bonhomie is felt all around. 2) Creating a logo that inspires the same feelings as no. 1. Granted, your organization may already have its own and balk at the library having its own, but feel free to use the CBHL logo.

**C – Collaboration:** Collaboration can (and should) be at all levels as collaborators will become your advocates. It

can be between you and your administrative group, with organizational employees, with patron groups such as Friends, with other local libraries (public, school), and of course within CBHL. Collaborations can generate new users and reveal to them what librarians/libraries can do, and build respect among all parties involved.

**D – Document:** Document and record everything—photographs of special events, library statistics, etc. Also, document your own continuing education efforts to show you are an invested member of the staff and a serious professional.

**E – Elevator Pitch:** Keep the initial message short, easy, and the fewer words the better. I recommend it also have a positive tone.

**F – Frontline Advocacy:** This is everyday interaction with your patrons. Provide the best service you can, fulfill their needs whenever possible and be empathetic with everyone who walks in the door. If conversation ensues, share with them your professional skills and activities and what you could do with more.

**G – Guides & Exhibits:** Generate guides to unique collections and exhibit the items if possible. Type up and post a list of the books on these and other relevant topics of the week/month/event. Another idea is on a regular basis invite one of the organization's employees in to create an exhibit on their specialization and create a reading list to go with it. This will encourage other employees to visit the exhibit and let them know the library is an open and welcoming place for them.

**H – Helpful:** Of course we are helpful to the patrons who walk in the door. Extend that when possible. If you hear of a staff member needing non-traditional library information or a topic is brought up at a meeting where you think you can assist, research it then share the findings.

**I – Inform:** Inform others what you do – basically toot your own horn (as no one may do it for you (yet)). Informing others of your diverse capabilities will help them realize that no one else can do your job and the library is an interesting and worthy place.

**J – Just Do It:** So you haven't advocated at the board meeting today – that's okay because you can do it at the next meeting and you can begin preparing now. You don't have to take on all 26 letters today – just one at a time and you'll get through them by keeping at it. Need help? Email the CBHL List!

**K – Know Your Stuff:** Be aware of what's going on in your organization and your town and prepare research materials, exhibits, spacing arrangements, etc., accordingly.

1. Gruenthal, Heather. 2012. A school library advocacy alphabet. Young Adult Library Services, 11(1):13-18.

2. Ibid.

3. I took many of the ideas and thoughts from Heather's article. She packed in more insights to many of the tips than I did, so I recommend you read the article if you want a fuller picture.

**L – LibGuides & Listserv:** LibGuides enables CBHL members to make a presence and reach out to potential patrons and donors. We're using it to promote ourselves to the world by sharing who our individual libraries are, what we each have to offer, and how we can help users find what they need at our individual libraries. Once you have a LibGuide created and published, ask your organization's webmaster to link it into the main organization's site. Internally, LibGuides are how we can share information about ourselves through the committee sites and how we are now conducting business. The listserv allows us to communicate quickly and at point of need. It opens discussion where opinions, advice, and options are shared.

**M – Meet Patron Needs:** Make sure that your library is meeting the needs of the primary patron base – collections materials, spacing, lighting, outlets, hours. Keep track of requests, questions, and unmet needs to have at the ready the next time your boss/director/board asks.

**N – Never Give Up:** Never give up – if you need help email the CBHL list and if that's not fast enough, pick up the CBHL Directory and call a friend. We'll do our best to help you survive.

**O – Ownership:** If your patrons and stakeholders feel a sense of ownership in your library, they are more apt to feel responsibility toward you and the library. Two ways are to post printouts of the articles they publish and encourage their input on exhibits and reading lists as mentioned earlier.

**P – Personal Stories:** Share with your administration and stakeholders the Wins you experience on a regular basis. If possible, try to document events with photos or testimonials that can be shared in support of your services.

**Q – Quantitative and Qualitative Data:** This goes along with Documenting; record statistics then create reports documenting uses and value. Qualitative data are the stories, photos, and testimonials that can be shared on your LibGuides page or posted to a bulletin board. Make it known that the Library is a 'happenin' place!

**R – Responsibility:** The weight we all carry on our shoulders is unbelievably heavy – work/home/parents/spouse/siblings/children/pets/health/organizations/hobbies – and now advocacy, too??? Yes, alas, advocacy is our responsibility, too. But we're in this together. There's no one person who has to shoulder the enormity of advocating this organization, but if everyone takes on a small component of the responsibility we can achieve much greater things. One small point of advocacy for CBHL is that everyone should email Celine 2-3 sentences for the "Why I am a CBHL member" feed. Another item is that if you have a website, use the CBHL logo (Branding) to signify your membership.

**S – Space:** Make sure your space fits the needs of your patrons. Uncomfortable and frustrated patrons will not win you advocacy points.

**T – Talk About It:** Talk to people about your library, your little finds, your challenges, the good and the bad. Not all of us are chatty or extroverts, but becoming an advocate requires some degree of getting out there and sharing with others what we do. If you're not into talking as much, try writing – for the CBHL Newsletter; your organization's newsletter, blog or website; or submit short articles to library or botanical magazines.

**U – Understanding, But Firm:** It is okay to understand the organization doesn't have a lot of money and times are tight, but it's okay to be firm regarding your library's needs and being able to supply the materials and space to the very employees of the organization who turn it around and make it a great place to visit. It is okay to negotiate with the needs, but don't be a pushover either, otherwise the consequences can be dire.

**V – Visible:** Be visible and active by attending meetings, events, gatherings, etc. You have a lot to offer so be present and share.

**W – Website:** Our CBHL website is our advocate – promoting us to the world, showing who we are and what we can do for them if they let us. Our responsibility to it is to keep it fresh, updated, and add valuable content as often as we can. [See **R – Responsibility**]

**X – Xeric:** Generally defined as a very dry place or environment. In the context of advocacy, I'm defining it as an inhospitable place that may or may not allow food and drinks. Don't allow your library to be a xeric location – allow activity and interaction. Welcome them in as if they are entering sanctuary.

**Y – Youth:** Do you have a lot of seasonal employees of the younger set? If so, think of ways to bring them into the library using events, exhibits, sodas or snacks, and get them used to the idea that libraries are of great use to them especially once out there in the real world.

**Z – Zero:** Zero is little or no budget. You may need to be creative to keep the library collection sustainable. Promote donations by creating a 'Wanted List' and sell withdrawn items, letting the buyers know the proceeds go toward new purchases.

Honestly, being your own advocate isn't easy and there will be times when you will need to just be brave and ask for what you need. The way you structure the request, however, will switch it from begging to a defined, supported and necessary need with actionable items. Remember, if you don't reach out to people, there's no way to reel them in.



**Special Libraries Association (SLA)  
2015 Annual Conference & INFO-EXPO  
Boston Convention and Exhibition Center  
Boston, MA  
June 14-16, 2015**



*The Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, Boston. Photograph by Larissa Glasser.*

**Reported by  
Larissa Glasser,  
Library Assistant  
Arnold Arboretum  
Horticultural Library  
Boston, MA**

2015 has been a year of firsts for me in many respects. Opportunities for both personal and professional growth emerged from both familiar and unexpected sources. Facilitated by **CBHL's Collaboration Grant**, I attended the **2015 Special Libraries Association (SLA)**

**Annual Conference.** The fact that this would take place in my home city of Boston this year was of no small importance, and the prospect of learning about new methods, workflows, perspectives, and resources excited me. Being able to represent **CBHL** and explain its benefits among a vast professional network was also a prized opportunity. And we all work with special collections which are a credit to the strength of our gardens/institutions.

This year's theme was "**Be Revolutionary**," which may resonate for any library specialist concerned with digitization and preservation of unique materials, in addition to how a collection can reach end users beyond physical and virtual boundaries. Ever since joining **SLA** in 2014, I've connected with library professionals in academic and corporate libraries. Of course, there are universal considerations for everyone working in our field: namely, adapting to rapidly developing technologies in a changing workplace.

**Sunday, June 14**

This year's conference was held at **The Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC)**, which is a prominent fixture in the "**Innovation District**," a highly redeveloped area of South Boston. Technology-based companies have enhanced the local demographic and the area is considerably built-up since the 2002 completion of **The Big Dig** with tourist-friendly shops, restaurants, and an expanded pub culture.

This was my first visit to the **BCEC**, which opened in 2004. The facility is *enormous*—516,000 square feet of exhibition space cover just shy of 5 hectares. Golf cart drivers are available for anyone in need. I arrived on Sunday for the opening general session, where **SLA President Jill Strand** began with a "wicked awesome" welcome to attendees and sponsors. The presentation of awards then began, which included:

**SLA Hall of Fame – Dr. James M. Matarazzo** (Dean and Professor Emeritus, School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College) and **Ethel Salonen** (Head of Information Services, MITRE).

**SLA Fellows - Amy Affelt** (Director of Database Research, Compass Lexecon), **Praveen Kumar (P.K.) Jain** (Librarian, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, India), **Janice Keeler** (Global Knowledge Management, NERA Economic Consulting, Chicago), **Tracy Z. Maleeff** (Library Resources Manager, Duane Morris LLP, Philadelphia), and **Mohamed Mubarak** (Senior Librarian, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar).

**SLA Rising Stars - Susmita Chakraborty** (Assistant Professor, Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta), **Chris Coughlan** (Information Architect, Aten Design Group, Denver, Colorado), and **Kathleen Lehman** (Head, Physics Library, University of Arkansas).

**Rose L. Vormelker Award – Tom Nielsen** (Member Services Manager, Metropolitan New York Library Council) and **Rebecca Vargha** (Library Director, University of North Carolina School of Information and Library Science).

and finally **The John Cotton Dana Award - Marjorie Hlava** (Access Innovations, Inc.). During Hlava's acceptance speech, she encouraged attendees to provide open access for their patrons and make ongoing learning a shared experience.

**NOTE:** for additional details about award recipients see **SLA 2015 Press Releases** available online at  
< <http://www.sla.org/about-sla/media-room/press-releases> >

**Robert Schrott** (Lexis-Nexis) then introduced keynote speaker **Leigh Gallagher** (Assistant Managing Editor, *Fortune Magazine*). Gallagher is author of *The End of the Suburbs: Where the American Dream Is Moving*, first published by Portfolio in 2013. She explained how she had relied upon information professionals for her book and story research. Gallagher stated the importance of information is the only constant in her own rapidly changing field. However, reliable information also depends on human (imperfect) use of the technological capabilities.

While researching her book, Gallagher needed to absorb a great deal of information compiled from library



*The INFO/EXPO exhibit hall. Photograph by Larissa Glasser.*

sources. There was risk of researching too deeply—a huge amount of municipal statistics dating back centuries were available to her online. However, information professionals are crucial for an organization, the perfect filter, because they are the ones who connect the dots from big data and compile it into a useful and contextual package. The internet cannot conduct a reference interview. Knowledge is power and economy. Thus, a balance may be achieved: speed with accuracy.

Gallagher encouraged SLA attendees to 1) market yourself (know your value, that you can fulfil the need for reliable information and your readiness to share your knowledge), 2) quantify yourself (show—don't tell; give examples, like *Apple*), 3) stay ahead of the curve (identify your tools and learn how to use them, 4) go artisanal (provide high-end customer service), and 5) innovate! (be like *Uber* for information, “*Be Revolutionary*”).

In closing, she challenged all to think of a world without access to information, without the necessity to be competitive. Rather than enable such a world, she encouraged information professionals to thrive for their end users, and continue to provide value.

At the conclusion of her talk, the **INFO/EXPO** exhibit hall opened, where vendors included **Lexis-Nexis**, **EBSCO**, **Cambridge University Press**, **OCLC**, the **Northeast Document Conservation Center**, and so many others. SLA is comprised of so many divisions and caucuses, from **Academic** and **Business/Finance** to **Military Libraries** and **Transportation**, vendors had something to offer everyone. Conversations with vendors are an excellent way to develop a large-scale context of additional opportunities and resources available for our collections.

In addition to prime networking opportunities, attendees had a multiple-track array of sessions to choose from at SLA (at least five at a time, on average).

Now, on to the panel discussions.

**An Introduction to Developing a Better Web-based User Experience / Speakers: Sarah Barrett, Information Architect at Factor / Moderator: Jacob Ratliff (National Fire Protection Association) / Presented by: Taxonomy Division and Government Information Division of SLA.**

My responsibilities at the **Arnold Arboretum Horticultural Library** include website design using the **WordPress** content management system (CMS). Sarah Barrett proposed new methods of online information delivery through needs assessment, and methods of designing an intuitive web experience. She gave participants an exercise during which we ranked blocks of information on a homepage in order of importance. Consider, for example, an educational organization that advocates for nutrition and health. Do you navigate to the prominent banner with vegan-friendly recipes or the smaller navigation menu? This depends on the purpose of your visit and search, of course. Barrett showed us multiple versions of the same page and how it developed over time in order to improve the user experience. She also showed us how to think like an end user, build intuitive navigation structures, and avoid redundancy. She went on to explain how taxonomies can function in website design. (She defined taxonomy as the “practice and theory of classification.”) She suggested the following online resources to learn more about the tools, vocabulary, and possibilities of information architecture:

- Christina Wodtke < <http://eleganthack.com> >
- Abby Covert < <http://abbytheia.com> >
- Dan Brown “Eight Principles of Information Architecture” < [https://www.asis.org/Bulletin/Aug-10/AugSep10\\_Brown.pdf](https://www.asis.org/Bulletin/Aug-10/AugSep10_Brown.pdf) >
- Sarah Barrett < <http://sarahrbarrett.com> >

Sarah continued her talk with additional design tips for an improved user experience.

- Links should be different from one another, with their own unique purpose and context
- With interactive functions, don't surprise the user. Tell them what they are getting, and
- A system should resemble a user's real world, their desire for finding and processing information.

### **So how do we determine what users need?**

Barrett suggested primary research, but to make it count. She suggested consulting Indi Young's “Mental Models: Aligning Design Strategy with Human Behavior” < <http://rosenfeldmedia.com/books/mental-models> >. She suggested the following guidelines for conducting primary research:

- 1) Gather information from four separate test users, then think in terms of convergence
- 2) This test set is a lot like a reference interview but you cannot be “helpful,” because that is training, not a design study.



- 3) Identify your research objectives:
  - a) Have questions ready
  - b) What are their expectations?
  - c) Try to find out what their mental world is (the in the occupational context, of course)
- 4) Listen for problems, then think of the big picture as you process the user feedback.  
 [see also Dan Klyn's "Determining What "Good" Means with Performance Continuums" < <http://understanding-group.com/2012/04/debut-of-a-new-thing-determining-what-good-means-with-performance-continuums/> >]
- 5) Translate your ideas into plans.

### Taking it Further

- 1) What do you have (testing and evaluation?)
- 2) What do you need (research and design-based thinking?)
- 3) How do you do it (planning and specification)
  - Change is hard, so planning helps. For instance, websites must now consider becoming more mobile-compliant in order to stay afloat. Talk to anyone who will play along, and try not to limit your scope to just one discipline. Stress-test your ideas. Test early and often. There are very powerful tools out there. Look for stories, not just data.

Finally, Barrett suggested the book *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In* by Roger Fisher, William L. Ury, and Bruce Patton, which is great for communicating design ideas.

### Cultivating Seed Libraries

**Speakers:** Enid Boasberg (Concord Seed Lending Library), Heather McCann (Hampshire College), and Caren Rosales with Angela Veizaga (Boston Public Library) / **Moderators:** Abbey Gerken (ASRC Primus) and Eric Tans (Michigan State University) / **Presented by The Environment & Resource Management Division of SLA.**

Enid began the talk with an overview of seeds and their usefulness in human history and culture (corn, for example, is a sacred plant in Mexico). Her library lends seeds in Concord, Massachusetts.

Caren and Angela then gave a brief history of how they started a seed library at the East Boston branch of **Boston Public Library**. They had some initial successes at the Mattapan branch with the help of the **Boston Natural Areas Network**. When they received seed pack donations, this really got their collection going. Workshops were not very well attended, but during the coming year they anticipate successful development by partnering with the **East Boston Community Garden**. Gardening and cooking programs, in addition to writing workshops, also spark youth and young adult interest.

They went on to give practical advice about starting a seed library:



Chris Williams, "Octopus." Stainless steel and blown glass,  
 < <http://chriswilliamssculpture.com> >. Artwork in the exhibit hall corridor.

Photograph by Larissa Glasser.

- Make sure managers know how much work it is, and allow time to sort, solicit donations, and prepare the garden.
- Take outreach opportunities (farmers' markets, educational/ non-profit orgs, gardening patrons)
- Be flexible
- Find good and seed-friendly storage space
- It's hard work but it's worth it.

**Heather McCann** of the **Seed Lending Library** at **Hampshire College** then spoke. As part of the five-college system (Hampshire, **University of Massachusetts Amherst**, **Mount Holyoke**, **Amherst College**, and **Smith College**), her seed collection faces its own challenges with a small staff and a large transient undergraduate population who are often lacking garden space. There are also legal challenges, considering that **Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture** recently notified **Simpson Seed Library** < [http://www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org/SIM\\_Seed-Library](http://www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org/SIM_Seed-Library) > they were lending seeds in violation of the "**Seed Act of 2004**." Hampshire now follows "**AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds**" < [http://www.aosaseed.com/aosa\\_rules\\_for\\_testing\\_seeds](http://www.aosaseed.com/aosa_rules_for_testing_seeds) >, and they label their seeds accordingly (plant name, variety, donor information, and check-out date). Heather's next steps are to establish a trading post for exchange of excess seeds, programming collaborations between Hampshire and local seed savers.

She emphasizes the importance of networking with other collections, and holding workshops.

**Get the Picture: Use Taxonomy to Classify Images**  
**Speakers: Joy Banks (library and archives consultant), Ann Pool (Corbis) / Moderator: Barbara Holder (FPInnovations) / Presented by: Taxonomy Division; Museums, Arts & Humanities Division**

**Ann Pool** is a Search Metadata Technical Specialist at **Corbis**, an immensely popular image-stock house that uses an “image aggregator” with automatic keywording and crowdsourcing systems in place. Their clients include commercial advertisers, and those creating documentaries, historical publications, fine art, and breaking news. Controlled vocabulary is an important factor in collecting metadata for images, when you consider that Corbis hosts over 600,000 concepts and keywords, broken into nine languages, which apply to approximately 58 million images.

For crowdsourcing data, Corbis uses a home-grown taxonomic metadata platform that includes contributed keywords which are repurposed into controlled vocabularies and searchable terms. These are then translated into nine languages. Words with multiple meanings are then sorted with a clarification window and spell-checking. They also use a management tool with a hierarchy of keywords (broad, narrow, and related term).

Ann then proposed some of the challenges of working with taxonomy and metadata:

- Breadth of content (taxonomy domain is ‘anything you can produce or capture in an image’)
- High Volume (over ten thousand new images are ingested each day)
- Ambiguity is everywhere (hence the need for a controlled vocabulary)
- Language is not static (news and celebrity [and notoriety] are all in flux, slang becomes legitimate over time).

For historical images, **The Funeral of John F. Kennedy**, for example, keywords depend on the context. She went on to further explain the cost-efficient crowdsourcing systems at Corbis are campaign-based, because people are better than machines in this regard.

**Joy Banks** then spoke. Her background at **Bok Tower Gardens** was traditional in the library sense, in that she had existing thesauri to enumerate keywords (LOC authorities, linked data). Her experience in compiling metadata for the Bok Tower image collections also included location data for the object description, image

type, language, and note fields for terms lacking authority headings. She then emphasized thinking like a user, and the unexpected ways they might search for an image, and to try to develop a systematic structure flexible for those needs, and yet also keep the big picture in mind.

Networking opportunities then continued at the **INFO/EXPO** hall during **SLA Fellows and First Timers Meet**. SLA Fellows were easily identifiable by their Hawaiian leis, in addition to their badges. I met a huge range of information professionals whose professional areas ranged from botany and entomology to pharmaceutical and legal. I even caught up with some former library interns of our own library and archives at **The Arnold Arboretum**, and took the opportunity to explain the scope, purpose, and advantages of **CBHL** to others I met.

## Saturday, June 15

After the **Military Libraries Division Networking Breakfast** (sponsored by **ProQuest**), I attended the Quick-Take Session “**Stretching the Boundaries: Reference for Physics, Astronomy, and Mathematics Relativity Speaking**.” Our speaker was **Lance Utley** (National Radio Astronomy Observatory) < <http://www.nrao.edu/> >.

Knowing many in the audience were not subject specialists, Lance encouraged us that knowledge can be developed over time, and that thinking outside of one’s subject-level comfort zone can benefit both us and patrons. In his words, “Rather than immediately referring a patron to an expert in the subject area, it is more responsible to attempt to fill the request in the name of good customer service. It is better for you, the information professional, to feel discomfort taking an inquiry outside your area of expertise than your patron.”

I come from more of an arts and humanities background than one in mathematics and sciences. However, plant science is an important staff-support function that we in the **Arnold Arboretum Horticultural Library** provide. Therefore, if you will, cross-pollinating your knowledge-base and skills must occur in order to provide the best resources for staff and patrons.

Institutional and resource knowledge is accumulated over time. You learn by *doing the gruntwork*.

This can be achieved by scaling your imagination—when trying to grasp otherwise unimaginable or unfamiliar concepts it can be helpful to break them into smaller clusters of information you can identify with and then scale up, work your way up from there. Think incrementally, and know your resources. There are plenty of educational support resources out there. These are encouraging thoughts for professional development.





*Innocent Awasom (Texas Tech University) speaks. Photograph by Larissa Glasser.*

**Taking the Library to the World: Innovative Outreach and Services Beyond Borders / Speakers:** Innocent Awasom (Texas Tech University), Wendy Davis (USDA), Valerie Minson (University of Florida), and Sarah Young (Cornell University) / **Presented by:** Food, Agriculture & Nutrition Division; Education Division; Science-Technology Division; International Information Exchange Caucus; Insurance & Employee Benefits Division / **Sponsored by:** ACSESS – Alliance of Crop Soil & Environmental Science Societies

Mr. Innocent Awasom began with the following distinction: outreach is a one-way transaction, a means to the end of engagement, which is a two-way exchange. At Texas Tech, his collection holds needs assessments with resource fairs and campus visits.

A current outreach initiative for Wendy Davis of the National Agricultural Library (NAL), USDA is project-based: the digitization and standardization of dietary guidelines for the public. Federal interagency groups had been requesting a permanent repository for nutrition and dietary guidelines. So in addition to warehousing this data on their website and blog, the NAL created a mobile application “USDA DRI [Dietary Resource Intake Calculator].” < <http://fnic.nal.usda.gov/dietary-guidance/dietary-reference-intakes/dietary-reference-intake-calculator-healthcare> > An expert panel analyzed and determined data standardization, both historic and current. This localization and digitization not only met the public need for dietary guidelines, it also facilitated digital access to that information very efficiently.

Valrie Minson is an outreach librarian at The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, which has multiple branches throughout The University of Florida. There are challenges for providing resource assistance for agents and specialists at multiple and often decentralized locations, but Minson grows outreach solutions through a 10-week course in Master Gardening, sharing

networked agricultural data, collecting surveys and oral histories, and presenting research results through popular social media.

Sarah Young at Cornell University Libraries is involved in an especially interesting partnership, The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library < <http://teal.org/> >, that offers library instruction and services for a plant breeding / crop research program at The University of Ghana < <http://wacci.edu.gh> > . Her library educates with resource sharing both in the classroom and in the fields near the coastal city of Accra in Ghana.

Next came time to volunteer at the SLA New England Chapter Booth, where we sold raffle tickets, accepted donations for the Northeast Animal Shelter, and provided directions for various restaurants throughout town. In addition to making valuable connections with my own peers in New England (I may have met at least a tenth of the personnel at EBSCO), volunteering is a great way to connect with a huge range of information professionals from all over the world. Networking opportunities continued at the INFO-EXPO Networking Reception in the vendor hall, and at the East Coast Chapter Reception.

## Tuesday, June 16

After some quick overviews detailing the basics of prospect research and the history of news journalism, I participated in the Business Meeting of The Natural History Caucus of SLA. The meeting was moderated by Dorothy Barr of Ernst Mayr Library, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. I made sure I had plenty of CBHL Brochures ready for attendees. I then had additional networking opportunities at the SLA New England Chapter desk and The Open House of The Military Libraries Division.

Perhaps one of the most rewarding takeaways from attending a large conference such as SLA 2015 is its diversity. When librarians connect over a broad-range of disciplines and industries, we expand our palette of information resources and we can also better understand the context of knowledge and how it applies. It was a great opportunity to explain the workings of horticultural librarianship—many were unaware that botanical gardens also host their own libraries, with staff! This was also a great way to spread the word about CBHL and the benefits of its membership.

SLA 2016 will take place June 12-14, 2016 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA. I highly recommend the experience! < <https://www.sla.org/attend/sla-2016-annual-conference/> > < <http://www.sla.org/attend/2015-annual-conference/> >



# Members' News East

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

Staci Catron, Director  
Cherokee Garden Library  
Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, GA

**Cherokee Garden Library Celebrates 40 Years with Gardening Superstar Ken Druse**

*"When gardeners garden, it is not just plants that grow, but the gardeners themselves." – Ken Druse*

To celebrate its 40th anniversary, the **Cherokee Garden Library** at the **Atlanta History Center** hosts a lecture featuring **Ken Druse** on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at 7:00 PM.

Called "the guru of natural gardening" by *The New York Times*, Ken Druse is a celebrated lecturer, photographer, and author. He has a dynamic weekly radio show and podcast called "**Ken Druse – The Real Dirt**," and he writes frequently for *The New York Times*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *House Beautiful*, and many other publications.

An organic gardener, writer, photographer, designer, and naturalist, Ken Druse's passion is to inspire and empower others to make gardening part of a balanced life, and to enhance their community through taking care of their piece of the earth. In *The Passion for Gardening*, Druse writes, "Tending the soil with busy hands sets the mind free to dream and can soothe the spirit like no other pursuit."

Ken Druse is best known for his eighteen engaging gardening books. With the tremendous success of his

books, including *The Natural Garden*, *The Natural Shade Garden*, *The Natural Habitat Garden*, *The Collector's Garden*, *Making More Plants: The Science, Art, and Joy of Propagation*, *The Passion for Gardening*, and *Planthropology*, Ken Druse is America's best-loved gardener. *Making More Plants* is a bestseller and winner of **The American Horticultural Society's** 2001 "Best Book of the Year" and the **Garden Writers Association** of America's 2001 "Award of the Year," its highest honor. The American Horticultural Society listed *The Natural Habitat Garden* among the best books of all times. His groundbreaking book, *The Natural Garden*, initiated a design movement that continues to grow in popularity today.

Due to the exceptional artistic quality of his photography, the **Archives of American Gardens** at **The Smithsonian Institution**, Washington, D.C., acquired the **Ken Druse Garden Photography Collection** in fall 2013. This extensive photographic collection of garden and plant images includes several thousand transparencies and slides documenting over 300 gardens across the United States. Druse captured these stunning images to illustrate his books, blog postings, and newspaper and magazine publications, such as *The New York Times* and *House & Garden*.

Druse's lecture in Atlanta is based on his 2012 book, *Natural Companions: The Garden Lover's Guide to Plant Combinations*. In *Natural Companions*, Druse presents recipes for perfect plant pairings using diverse species that look great together and bloom at the same time. *Natural Companions* features more than one hundred special botanical images of amazing depth and color. This is a book all garden lovers must have.

Communicating the pleasures and importance of the natural world is always Druse's main emphasis. Through his books, lectures, and weekly radio show and podcasts, Druse calls attention to the world of plants that surround us, sustain us, and lift our spirits. In *The Roots of My Obsession: Thirty Great Gardeners Reveal Why They Garden*, he shares a sentiment of all true dirt gardeners, "The only way to avoid the pangs of withdrawal from an

## Welcome New CBHL Members

### Toronto Botanical Garden

777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1P2  
**Mark Stewart**, Knowledge Resources Manager  
[librarian@torontobotanicalgarden.ca](mailto:librarian@torontobotanicalgarden.ca)  
416-397-1354  
< <http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/learn/weston-family-library/weston-family-library/> >

### The Horticultural Society of New York

148 W. 37th Street, Floor 13, New York, NY 10018  
**Sara Hobel**, Executive Director

[shobel@thehort.org](mailto:shobel@thehort.org)  
212-757-0915

**George Pisegna**, Deputy Director  
[gpisegna@thehort.org](mailto:gpisegna@thehort.org)  
212-757-0915  
< <http://www.thehort.org> >

### Judith B. Tankard, Landscape Historian

1452 Beacon St.  
Waban, MA 02468-1613  
[judith@tankard.net](mailto:judith@tankard.net)  
617-965-4167  
< <http://judithtankard.com> >



*Lady Bird Johnson (right) dedicates the garden at PHS in 1966. This image appeared in the Horticulture Walk of Fame exhibit.*

addiction like gardening is to garden more. This is one habit I have no intention of breaking."

Please save the date, **Wednesday, October 14, 2015** at 7:00 PM for this special celebration of the Cherokee Garden Library's 40th anniversary. Join us after the lecture for an author book signing and reception. Ticket price is \$25. For tickets, visit < [AtlantaHistoryCenter.com/Lectures](http://AtlantaHistoryCenter.com/Lectures) >. For more information, please call 404-814-4046.

**Janet Evans, Sr. Library Manager, McLean Library  
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society  
Philadelphia, PA**

#### **Book Group**

Our "**Stories from the Garden**" book group is now in its 15th year! We started in October 2001 and haven't stopped since. The group membership has changed somewhat over the years. Fellow CBHLer former-colleague-but-still-dear-friend **Jane Alling** moved to Williamsburg, and some other members have dropped out, but each year brings new members who share their enthusiastic thoughts on what we read. To see both our current and past years' readings, go here:

< <http://pennhort.libguides.com/McLeanLibraryBookGroup> >

#### **Horticulture Walk of Fame Exhibit**

In early January I sent out a query to CBHLers on the listserv to ask you all for your suggestions for milestones in American horticultural history. I received many wonderful, thoughtful responses and used some of them, for example, the **Morrill Land Grant Acts**, the contributions of **Frederick Law Olmsted**, and the formation of Garden Clubs in an exhibit I did for the **2015 Philadelphia Flower Show**. It was called "**Horticulture Walk of Fame**" and consisted of 20 key people, plants and events in American horticulture, beginning with our "First Gardeners" – Native Americans – and ending with our "First Ladies of Gardening" – recognizing the contributions of **Lady Bird Johnson** and **Michelle Obama**. So thank you all. A smaller, abbreviated version of this exhibit will be displayed in our library later this summer and fall.

**Duncan McCluskey, Librarian  
University of Georgia Tifton Campus  
Tifton, GA**

This campus will be 100 years old in 2018 and the library has been busy in gathering materials for this. The Assistant Dean has provided a half-time position to work on digitizing photos for the event. The local museum held a show to highlight the campus and information is available in the web page below. The committee saw the museum show as a test case to prepare for the centennial event. Current scientists worked on writing the biographies and information for the various teams that were highlighted in the museum show. For more information go to: < <http://www.caes.uga.edu/campus/tifton/history/index.html> >

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

In partnership with the **Poetry Society of America**, **The New York Botanical Garden** was fortunate to host a program curated by **Jenny Holzer**. Jenny Holzer's light projections embraced the theme of "**Frida Kahlo: Art, Garden, Life**," reflecting Kahlo's artistic and personal relationships with the natural world and with the culture of Mexico. Spanning four nights in June, scrolling light projections of waves of poetry swept over the façade of the **Enid A. Haupt Conservatory**, illuminating the iconic glass structure. This hour-long presentation, running from dusk until 10 p.m.; featured poetry from Mexico's Nobel Prize winner **Octavio Paz**, verses from contemporary Mexican female poets, as well as diary excerpts written by Frida Kahlo. Holzer's projections have been presented on four continents, in more than fifteen countries, and in nearly forty cities.





Grafted Apple by Elizabeth Peyton



Tower of Gold by Nina Antze



Hybrid Lilac by Vi Strain

## Members' News West

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

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

### San Francisco Botanical Garden Celebrates 75th Anniversary

2015 marks 75 years since the Garden opened to the public as a place of beauty, learning, and inspiration. To celebrate this monumental anniversary the Garden is hosting an array of events and activities. A special Garden Feast, the Garden's annual fundraiser, was held on May 28 and proved to be the most successful fundraiser in recent years. May 31 marked our first-ever Community Day, a free celebration that featured family activities, a library book sale, docent-led walking tours and world music and dance performances that reflected the global nature of the Garden's plant collections.

The most successful event so far has been **Flower Piano**, a collaboration with **Sunset Piano** (a brilliant project, see more at < [sunsetpiano.com](http://sunsetpiano.com) >). From July 9-20 twelve pianos were placed throughout the Garden and everyone was invited to play and listen. Scheduled performances were held on weekends. The event was a huge success with record attendance, incredible media coverage and heartwarming community support.

### Summer Reading Club Success

The Library's third annual **Summer Reading Club** was a hit with young readers and their families. Children aged two months to 12 years enjoyed eight weeks of themed programming, from "dirt & decomposers" to "weird & wild plants." (The two-month-old received helpful assistance from her big sister!) Participants tracked books read in their log books, received seeds to plant for meeting weekly reading goals, and got outdoors to explore the **San Francisco Botanical Garden** via scavenger hunts and activities included in the log book. This summer's program drew the highest participation to date, and we've received enthusiastic feedback from families and the Garden community. The Summer Reading Club has been a fantastic way to engage with more families while highlighting the Library's children's book collection.

### September-December Art Exhibit

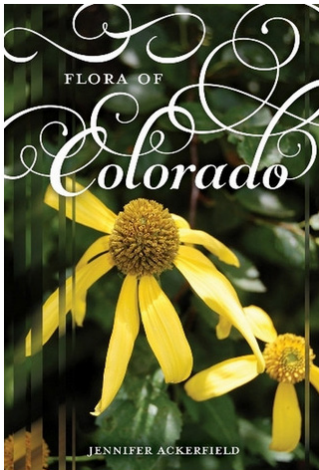
We are pleased to announce our new art exhibit, **The Legacy of Luther Burbank: Botanical Art by Sonoma County Colored Pencil Artists**. Thirteen artists are exhibiting paintings of plants from the **Luther Burbank Experiment Garden** in Sebastopol and the **Luther Burbank Home & Garden** in Santa Rosa, California. The paintings are done in colored pencil on a variety of papers and films presenting botanically accurate portraits of selected plants, fruits, vegetables, flowers, and trees created through Burbank's experiments or currently growing in his Experiment Garden. The artists worked directly with specimens from both locations and have created a "Florilegium" of Burbank's work in Sonoma County.



Barney Lipscomb  
Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany  
Botanical Research Institute of Texas  
Fort Worth, TX

#### BRIT Press Publishes *Flora of Colorado*

Publication Date: May 2015  
6.5" × 9.5" | pbk | 819 pp. | 978-1-889878-45-4 | \$65.00 |  
color figs., maps. Jennifer Ackerfield



Colorado has a rich diversity of ecosystems and vegetation communities, ranging from 3,500 feet to over 14,000 feet in elevation, and ultimately supports over 3,300 vascular plant species. This book is a comprehensive guide to the vascular plants in Colorado and contains descriptions, distribution maps, habitat information, flowering times, and elevation ranges for all species. Color photographs

for nearly 1/3 of the species are also included. The aim of this guide is to enable students, researchers, amateur and professional botanists, or anyone interested in the flora of Colorado to successfully identify plants with confidence and satisfaction.

To order your copy of the *Flora of Colorado* go to < [shop.brit.org](http://shop.brit.org) > or call 817-332-4441 ext. 264.

#### BRIT Press Publishes *Flora of Oregon. Volume 1: Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, and Monocots*

7.5" × 10.5" | hbk | 606 pp. | 978-1-889878-46-1 | \$75.00  
| 73 color photographs, illustrations, maps.  
Stephen C. Meyers, Thea Jaster, Katie E. Mitchell, and  
Linda K. Hardison, eds.



The Oregon Flora Project, Oregon State University, and Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press have collaborated to publish the *Flora of Oregon*, the first comprehensive flora of Oregon in over 50 years—with illustrations! *The Flora of Oregon* is a three-volume reference that will be the only state flora published in the

past half century and the first illustrated floristic work that exclusively addresses Oregon. Volume 1 presents treatments of the pteridophytes, gymnosperms, and monocots—1,054 taxa, or 23% of all native and naturalized vascular plants of Oregon. The taxonomic treatments include dichotomous keys, family and generic synopses, full taxon descriptions, and illustrations. A dot map depicting vouchered occurrences and highlighted ecoregions that host the taxon accompanies each description. There are pen and ink illustrations of over 520 plants, including 86 new works by artist **John Myers**.

Color photographs accompany chapters describing the state's ecology and sites for exploring botanical diversity. Also included are biographical sketches of notable Oregon botanists and appendices emphasizing plant taxa of interest to conservationists.

A valuable reference for land managers, policy-makers, naturalists, wildflower enthusiasts, historians, teachers, and students of all ages, the *Flora of Oregon* is a welcome resource for all who appreciate the natural beauty and biodiversity of Oregon. To pre-order your copy of the *Flora of Oregon, Volume 1* go to < [shop.brit.org](http://shop.brit.org) > or call 817-332-4441 ext. 264.

**Dr. C. Thomas Shay**  
Manitoba, Canada

#### Plants and People: An Enduring Relationship

Even though we praise their beauty, savor their taste, rely on their healing powers, and crave them as intoxicants, we often take plants for granted. We respect some as sacred; we revile others as weeds. Plants add emotional depth to our lives. A wedding bouquet elicits hopeful joy from family and friends while a funeral wreath taps into shared grief.

A captivating new book by **Dr. Tom Shay** traces the historical links and enduring collaborations among people and plants across the Northeastern Plains. Flanked by humid forests to the east and high plains to the west, the region includes southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, western Minnesota, the eastern Dakotas, and northern Iowa. This is where "big sky" country begins, with wide vistas, golden sunsets, and whispering winds. Yet, in spite of its beauty, it is also a land plagued by dust storms, wildfires, tornadoes, blizzards, floods, and droughts. Historically, it is the land of prairie, a habitat nearly vanished but perpetually inspiring to scientists and sages, storytellers and poets, really anyone who has ever sunk down into a sea of grass and gazed at a broad prairie sky.

Readers curious about the interplay of human and natural history over time will enjoy this book. Its easy-to-understand language, photographs, and graphics tell the story of this region's colorful past through ethnobotany, the science of plants and people. The book opens with chapters on geology and climate, factors that

shape the abundance and variety of plant resources on the Northeastern Plains. The author takes readers on a virtual “road trip” from the Saskatchewan prairies to the Iowa woodlands. He shares how he and other researchers have uncovered the past through field, laboratory, and archival work. He explores early Aboriginal people of the region and how they have been sheltered and transported by plants as well as sustained through edible, medicinal, and sacred plants. Through oral tradition and archaeological finds, the author artfully pieces together what prairie life was like long before the Europeans came. The last chapter considers the untapped potential in continuing to study the enduring relationship between plants and people.

Guided by dozens of research assistants and professional reviewers, this book is a culmination of Tom’s expertise and life-long passion for plants and people. Tom also draws upon historical records, eyewitness accounts, and up-to-date studies of how ancient plant use is revealed through fossil and chemical analysis. The book is a captivating and satisfying blend of history, science, guidebook and memoir.

Tom knows the Northeastern Plains well. He grew up in Minneapolis and earned his PhD in Anthropology at the **University of Minnesota**. He lived in Winnipeg for 30 years, teaching at the **University of Manitoba** while analyzing plant remains from archaeological sites across the Northeastern Plains. His publications in-

clude 30 articles, book chapters, and two books, *The Itasca Bison Site* (1971) and *The Story of Corn* (2003), designed as lesson plans for grade school students of natural history. For inquiries about this book, please contact Dr. Tom Shay at < tomshay666@gmail.com > .

### Biography of C. Thomas Shay

Dr. C. Thomas Shay received his B.A. (1960); M.A. (1965); and Ph.D. (1970) from the University of Minnesota in Anthropology. In 1967, Shay took an appointment as a Lecturer at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, and became an Assistant Professor in 1970 upon completion of his doctorate. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1972 and held this position until his retirement in 1993, when he was made a Senior Scholar of the University. Tom has undertaken research in a diversity of areas of anthropology over his career, including studying the northeastern prairies and plains of Canada and the United States. His career has included numerous monographs and articles for refereed journals and local publications. Many of his written works were co-authored with his wife, **Dr. Jennifer Shay**, a former Botany professor at the University of Manitoba and recipient of the **Order of Canada** for her work on environmental causes. Tom was awarded the **Manitoba Prix Award for Heritage Education** in 1997.

## Social Media News: CBHL is back on TWITTER so follow us!

by Robin Everly

It was decided at the **Public Relations Committee** meeting in Decorah, Iowa to reestablish our twitter account originally set up in December 2010. **Robin Everly** and **Susan Eubank** have agreed to “tweet” as CBHL representatives, so the account was launched again in July 2015. They will try to post 2 to 3 original tweets a day and retweet interesting items from other Twitter accounts. Currently, here is how the account is being managed.

Certain hashtags have been created to reflect certain themes of interest to members.

Mondays are **#cbhlnewbks** where new books from CBHL member libraries are featured with a link to a book review.

Wednesdays are **#cbhlshelf** when older books with visually pleasing dust or book covers are featured and their stories are told. If the book is in public domain and in the **Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL)**, a link to the full content will be provided.

Thursdays are **#TBThursday** or “**throw back Thursdays**,” a traditional day on TWITTER, where items from the past are featured.

Currently, photos from past annual meetings are being highlighted with a hashtag using **#cbhl** and the year the meeting was held. Also, if a CBHL member library is having a special event in their library space, we are trying to capture that as well. These tweets will have “**Member Shoutout!**” at the beginning of a link to the special event. We think we are off to a great start.

Please follow us at **@CBHLTweets** and email us at [cbhltwitter@verizon.net](mailto:cbhltwitter@verizon.net) if you want to contribute to content.



## On the Web

### Sculpted Trees, Peonies, Some Liquor Plants, and The Hunt Institute's Register of Botanical Biography and Iconography

Stanley Johnston, Mentor, Ohio

**Gezimanya.com** < <http://www.facebook.com/Gezimanya/videos/606100986158371/?fref=nf> > features a short lyrical film of shaped trees with text in a language that I am not able to read. The comments that follow include an image of a tree shaped as a running human female and another comment leading to the page of **Pooktre Tree Shapers** < <http://pooktre.com> >, featuring the work of the Australian artists **Peter Cook** and **Becky Northey**.

**The Secret Meanings of 11 Common Trees** < [http://www.housebeautiful.com/lifestyle/gardening/g2373/secret-meaning-behind-common-trees/?src=spr\\_FBPAGE&spr\\_id=1443\\_184990906](http://www.housebeautiful.com/lifestyle/gardening/g2373/secret-meaning-behind-common-trees/?src=spr_FBPAGE&spr_id=1443_184990906) > is a brief slide show from *House Beautiful* by **Brie Dyas** purporting to show the meaning of trees, with no supporting documentation.

Somewhat more edifying is **15 Beautiful Gardens** < <http://www.sunset.com/travel/botanical-gardens> >, *Sunset's* slide show of 15 of the western United States and Canadian botanical gardens and arboreta with brief commentary, although it does not really do any of them justice. I suspect Susan was less than thrilled to see the peacock as the central image for the **Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Garden**.

Three quick encompassing peony sites: **The Peony Society** < <http://www.peonysoc.com/index.htm> >, home to the organization formerly known as the **British Peony Society**, seems aimed mainly at Europe with its list of suppliers, but also includes a substantial index of peonies (most with illustrations), discussions of the peony

flower forms and types, peony links, and a section where members can submit photos of mystery plants for input on their identification. **The American Peony Society** < <http://www.americanpeonysociety.org> > provides information on their organization, their annual gold medal and peony of the year award winners, seed sources, a directory of regional peony societies, and forms for the online submission of new cultivars. Finally, **Tree Peony Garden** < <http://www.treepeonygarden.com/english/lit/lit-eng.htm> >, a nursery in State College, PA, provides this succinct history of the tree peony.

**Vermouth 101** < <http://vermouth101.com> > discusses the fortified and aperitif wine which name derives from the fact that it was originally infused with wormwood. **Spirits of Mexico** < <http://www.thespiritsofmexico.com> > deals with tequila, mezcal, sotol, and becora, their differences and their distillation from different varieties of agave and includes a handy glossary of agave from A to Z.

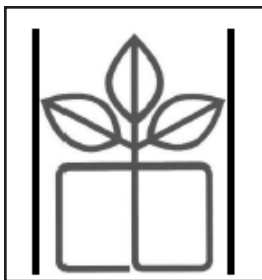
**The International Fossil Plants Name index** < <http://fossilplants.info> > is an open source registry which will serve as the authority for all fossil plant names and their attendant literature.

**The Smithsonian Libraries Artist's Books Collections** < <http://library.si.edu/collection/artists-books> > provides on-line access to information about all the artist's books (book art) in their collections.

For researchers into the history of botany, **Category: Botanists** < <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Botanists> > provides the starting point for exploring **Wikipedia's** wealth of botanical and biographical material. Finally, **The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation** has put their **Register of Botanical Biography and Iconography** < <http://huntbotanical.org/databases/show.php?9> > online, providing a major tool for historical scholars to its treasure trove of archival material and portraits.







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

## Join Us!

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

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### Return to:

Bill Musser, CBHL Treasurer  
Seed Savers Exchange  
3094 North Winn Road  
Decorah, IA 52101

### Questions?

Contact Laura Soito, CBHL Membership Manager  
< [lsoito@unm.edu](mailto:lsoito@unm.edu) >

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**Past President:** Suzi Teghtmeyer  
**Treasurer:** Bill Musser  
**Secretary:** Stacy Stoldt (term expires 2016)