

## Unprecedented: Collecting for COVID-19

Kathryn Downing  
Technical Services Librarian  
The Helen Fowler Library at Denver Botanic Gardens

“Unprecedented” should be something of a trigger word for those managing their institution’s history, such as archivists and librarians. “Unprecedented” means adapting quickly to circumstances beyond your control. “Unprecedented” implies the need to document now what could be useful again in the future.

“Unprecedented” is a good word for 2020. Bushfires raged across Australia. A country withdrew from the European Union. A United States President was impeached (and acquitted). The murders of Ahmed Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd sparked global protests against racial injustice.

But I have yet to mention what is perhaps the most unprecedented event of 2020, something that has been following us through everything mentioned above and more: the coronavirus.

In these unprecedented times of COVID-19, decisions being made by a museum, library, or archive have the potential to inform future practices. For many institutions, the effects of those decisions are still unfolding. Simply because we have not yet settled into a “new normal,” however, does not mean we should be waiting to document what that new normal is. And many of us aren’t.



*Signs are placed throughout Denver Botanic Gardens to remind visitors of the safety measures necessary to keep the Gardens open to the public.*

## From the President

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

Dear CBHL,  
I keep thinking of words to try and describe 2020 so far: epidemic, momentous, terrifying, bizarre, riotous, heartbreaking ... and additionally for me: wonderful.

As Anita wrote in her last From the President column, this has been an extremely challenging year. Libraries across the world have closed their doors, and many of us have had to quickly adapt to working remotely. Many of us have also felt the financial impact of this global pandemic, with furloughs, layoffs, and uncertain futures. I am hopeful that we will get through this stronger than before.



I want to sincerely thank Robin Everly and Barbara Ferry from the Smithsonian Libraries for all the work they put into planning the 2020 CBHL conference that was to be held in Washington D.C. and to thank them for adapting the meeting to a virtual platform. I enjoyed seeing many new and familiar faces at the virtual meeting earlier in May and hope that even more CBHL members attend next year. While the board is saddened that we will not meet in person, we look forward to a dynamic, interesting, and engaging virtual meeting in 2021.

I look forward to working with you all. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the board if we can help support you.

You might wonder why I included "wonderful" as a personal descriptor for 2020. As many of you know, in February I welcomed a new addition to my family, a happy and healthy baby boy. He is a constant reminder for me to live in the moment and continually strive to be better. I hope that this current civil rights movement will ensure that our future world is a better, more just, place.

Sincerely,  
Brandy

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

October 15-18, 2020  
Special Library Association 2020 Annual Conference  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
<http://www.sla.org>

November 2-6, 2020  
Charleston Conference-Issues in Book and Serial  
Acquisition  
Virtual  
<https://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com>

November 2020  
Annual Museum Computer Network Conference  
Virtual  
<http://mcn.edu/>

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*The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, Inc., Newsletter* is an official publication of CBHL, an international organization of botany and horticulture libraries and others supportive of CBHL's goals. ISSN 1543-2653 (print version, to June 2019); ISSN 1545-5734 (electronic version); published on the Council's website: <http://www.cbhl.net/>. The CBHL LibGuide is <http://cbhl.libguides.com>.

Submissions are welcome according to the following schedule: March issue (copy due 1/15), June issue (copy due 4/15), September issue (copy due 7/15), and December issue (copy due 10/15). Articles may be submitted to Newsletter Editor Judy Stevenson, [jstevenson@longwoodgardens.org](mailto:jstevenson@longwoodgardens.org). Newsletter team: Communications Committee Chair Meg Eastwood, [meg.eastwood@du.edu](mailto:meg.eastwood@du.edu), Editor Judy Stevenson, Proofreaders: Staci Catron, [scatron@atlantahistorycenter.com](mailto:scatron@atlantahistorycenter.com), Jennie Oldfield, [joldfield@atlantahistorycenter.com](mailto:joldfield@atlantahistorycenter.com), Kathy Allen, [kallen@umn.edu](mailto:kallen@umn.edu), and Jodi Shippee, [jodi.shippee@gmail.com](mailto:jodi.shippee@gmail.com).

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*Adjustments made by Denver Botanic Gardens to ensure the safety of its visitors include timed ticketing, footprint stickers for social distancing, and required face coverings.*

You have probably heard in one way or another about the collecting efforts in libraries and archives at larger-scale institutions and universities. Days after COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, a professor at the University of Virginia was already encouraging his students to maintain a record of how their daily lives changed.<sup>1</sup> By the end of March, the National Museum of Finland had employees collecting photographs and conducting interviews.<sup>2</sup> A collaborative Google doc listing the various collecting efforts being made in North America is, as of writing this article, nearing 13 pages (you can view it, and contribute to it, here: <https://bit.ly/doc-covid19>).

Many in-person conferences, lectures, and seminars that were derailed by the pandemic went virtual and re-focused energies on discussing and sharing collecting strategies. I have been a virtual attendee at many of these events and can attest to the quick-thinking and ingenuity present among information professionals, many of whom had been separated from their colleagues and collections with little to no notice. Unfortunately for me – a librarian at a botanical garden – most of the ingenious efforts and strategies discussed were focused on documenting public or student life more generally during the pandemic. Which means it is time to stop and ask, what role does a rather niche botanical or horticultural library play in documenting the effects of a global pandemic? It may be a larger one than you think.

Here at Denver Botanic Gardens, we were the first – and, for a time, the only – cultural institution granted a variance in Denver to reopen. Our large, outdoor garden spaces, newly controlled with timed ticketing, provided a safe venue and a breath of fresh air for those nearing their limits in self-quarantine. As excited as we were to have our visitors return to the Gardens, we also felt the enormous pressure to do it right – our successes and our failures would affect decisions about reopening other local cultural institutions. (Spoiler alert: it went well, and other museums in Denver are now carefully reopening.)

That Denver Botanic Gardens emerged as a leader in the Denver cultural sector amidst what was essen-

1 Anne E. Bromley, “Write it down’: historian suggests keeping a record of life during pandemic,” *UVA Today* online, March 17, 2020, <https://news.virginia.edu/content/write-it-down-historian-suggests-keeping-record-life-during-pandemic>.

2 Lisa Abend, “Museums scramble to document the pandemic, even as it unfolds.” *The New York Times* online, March 31, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/31/arts/design/museums-coronavirus-pandemic-artifacts.html>.

tially a lockdown is an important piece of our history. The effort is already underway to have our archives reflect exactly how it happened, as well as its foreseen and unforeseen effects.

Luckily for our Archivist, Angela Naumov, management at Denver Botanic Gardens is very transparent when it comes to health and safety. Employees of the Gardens were kept informed with weekly updates from the CEO about the plans and efforts in motion to keep the Gardens running. Naumov's goal is to track down departmental communications in addition to the aforementioned larger updates, saving digital copies and printing physical ones. Reopening plans submitted to the city and state – plans that were so important for other Denver museums to use to develop their own – will be requested for our archives. We have also discussed gathering more anecdotal evidence and thoughts from staff upon their return, which will be solicited digitally and saved both digitally and physically for future consultation.

Overall, Denver Botanic Gardens has a wealth of information to pull from if another public health crisis arises. Our archives will have a precedent for the previously unprecedented. Gathering this sort of documentation now means it will be ready and waiting for further research as soon as we gain the time and ability to step back and assess, quite frankly, what the heck happened this year.

Similar action is being taken in other CBHL libraries, too. Archive Manager Judy Stevenson at Longwood Gardens reported that over 3,000 images have been taken by or gathered from staff, depicting how the plants and facilities are being cared for while the institution itself is closed. They will also be utilizing an existing oral history program to document the perspectives of those working onsite, working from home, and of those who were or are involved in leadership decisions regarding the pandemic.

Like Denver, Longwood Gardens is also saving official communications, new safety policies, and reopening plans. The Sheffield Botanical Library at Atlanta Botanical Gardens has already shared their reopening plans with CBHL members. Its librarian, Clara Williams, reports that while the focus is currently not on chronicling staff or visitor impressions, she is still tracking library use while (mostly) working from home. Those coming into the library are being asked to record names, dates, times, and optional comments or thoughts.

Janet Evans at the McLean Library & Archives of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) is participating in a larger, collaborative collecting effort through the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCL). They are using Archive-It to create a web archive of how various institutions are responding to the pandemic. The McLean Library contributes captures of its own site and those of local community gardens and their social media; partnering libraries contribute web captures in accordance with their own scopes. For September 2020



*Longwood has been documenting their COVID closure through more than 3,000 images, including this one showing their orchid grower standing in an empty Orchid House.*




example, the Philadelphia Museum of Art Library archives web material from arts organizations, and the College of Physicians Library contributes web materials about its Fellows. Additionally, PHS has its own web archive through a tool called Conifer<sup>3</sup> that is better for capturing social media, according to Evans.

By the time this article reaches the eyes of CBHL readers, I am certain there will be even more efforts to report. As important as these collecting efforts are, however, they are not any less important than your own personal well-being.

Eira Tansey's blog post, "No one owes their trauma to archivists, or, the commodification of contemporaneous collecting,"<sup>4</sup> has been circling among archivists and librarians since it went live at the beginning of June. Although Tansey is largely discussing collecting related to the protests against police brutality, the article opens with the pandemic and contains valuable insights that should be mentioned anytime we discuss documenting traumatic events, especially as they are unfolding.

Each story is different, which is a good reason for why we have been seeing efforts to collect anecdotal material in addition to official communications about COVID-19. But we must remember that each archivist's and librarian's story is also different. Information professionals across the globe have not been spared the effects of the pandemic; having them dive right in to documenting possibly traumatic events without first having time to process any trauma they may have experienced themselves is an unreasonable expectation.

In the blog post, Tansey also points out how those with the most compelling examples of how COVID-19 has disrupted their lives are also the ones likely to be the most exhausted, the most unwilling to relive their experiences by contributing survey responses or journal entries to an archive. Although my graduate school program spoke of compassion fatigue and secondary trauma in the archival profession, we received no training in trauma-informed approaches to collecting. At Denver Botanic Gardens, we plan to mitigate these concerns by starting with official documents which fall within our collection scope and developing a completely voluntary response system for employees to submit anecdotal information in the future, after they have had more time to process the situation.

Our approach to collecting is certainly not the best, and far from the only – the numerous examples of fellow CBHL-ers listed above are evidence of such. It should also be clear from this article that not yet having an approach is also okay. Part of why collecting efforts are being outlined here is to help others develop theirs if needed. In such times, it can be helpful to look at what colleagues are doing (or not doing) as a way to find a starting point for your own plans. All said and done, I hope that members of CBHL do not fear the unprecedented, especially with such fast-acting and hard-working archivists and librarians standing behind them. 

*Special thanks from the author: I would like to extend my thanks to Clara Williams (Atlanta Botanical Gardens), Janet Evans (Pennsylvania Horticultural Society), Judy Stevenson (Longwood Gardens), and Angela Naumov (Denver Botanic Gardens) for sharing insights into how their individual institutions are responding to the pandemic. The information they provided was invaluable to the generation of this article.*

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3 You can take a look at it here: <https://conifer.rhizome.org/PHSPFS2019/pennsylvania-horticultural-society-covid-19-collection>

4 Eira Tansey, "No one owes their trauma to archivists, or, the commodification of contemporaneous collecting," *Eira Tansey* (blog), June 22, 2020, <http://eiratansey.com/2020/06/05/no-one-owes-their-trauma-to-archivists-or-the-commodification-of-contemporaneous-collecting/>

# The New Normal: Our Animal Companions

Robin Everly

Branch Librarian, Smithsonian Libraries

Thousands of years ago, dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) and cats (*Felis catus*) began to form a bond with us. First, dogs, which are believed to have been domesticated about 15,000 years ago. Until recently, their roles with us were utilitarian in nature: hunting, protecting us, and service. Cats are believed to have “decided” they wanted to live amongst us—that sounds like a cat! Cats began hanging around farming communities around 8,000 years ago and provided rodent control for our grain storage.

However, in today’s world, cats and dogs, are providing another needed service to their human companions in the form of emotional support as a ‘once in a century’ global virus pandemic rocks our world. And these wonderful companions, who don’t understand why we are home all the time right now, have become video stars that invade our zoom calls and decide they control the computer mouse, not us. Let’s first meet some of the breakout stars we have seen on our screens so far.



*Thor, our CBHL video breakout star.*

**Thor**, whose companion, Kathy Allen, Librarian, Andersen Horticultural Library in Minnesota, has been seen several times on the CBHL wide zoom calls. Here’s his story:

*Six-year-old Thor and his sister Lady Sif were adopted from a shelter when they were six months old. They originally served as companion animals for our daughter Adina shortly after the devastating loss of her 22-year-old brother to natural causes. Part of the family, they both enjoy appearing on Zoom when they can drag themselves away from napping all day. As a kitten, Thor would thunder across the upstairs floor all night long, hence his name. Lady Sif is named after the Marvel character closely associated with Thor. Thor is a “fraidy-cat” and extra-cautious; Lady Sif is brave and matter-of-fact; both are sweethearts.*

Living in the lovely Brandywine Valley area of Pennsylvania with David Sleasman, Director, Library & Information Services at Longwood Gardens, **Fritz**, loves being a zoom star. David tries to not schedule zoom calls between 3 to 5 pm Eastern time, hence Fritz will want to make an appearance. Here’s Fritz’s story:

*Fritz is one of a feral brother and sister pair that I adopted from a shelter in nearby Delaware a year ago. Fritz’s sister is Willa and she is quite shy. She is almost never in the mood to be photographed. Both have been very slow to adapt to me and living in an apartment. I think that COVID helped quite a bit on this front. They have grown much more comfortable because I have been working from home. Fritz loves*





to wake me at 6 am (Get up! Pet me! Don't be late to start work!). After breakfast, Fritz usually sleeps most of the day or monitors the birds and squirrels on the patio. He enjoys being on camera during Zoom meetings (annoyingly so). He thinks that he is very handsome and makes appearances whenever possible which is why I try not to schedule Zoom calls between 3-5 pm. Even with that annoyance, both cats have been a terrific source of companionship throughout this pandemic.



Sylvia (right) just being glamorous with her buddy Shelby

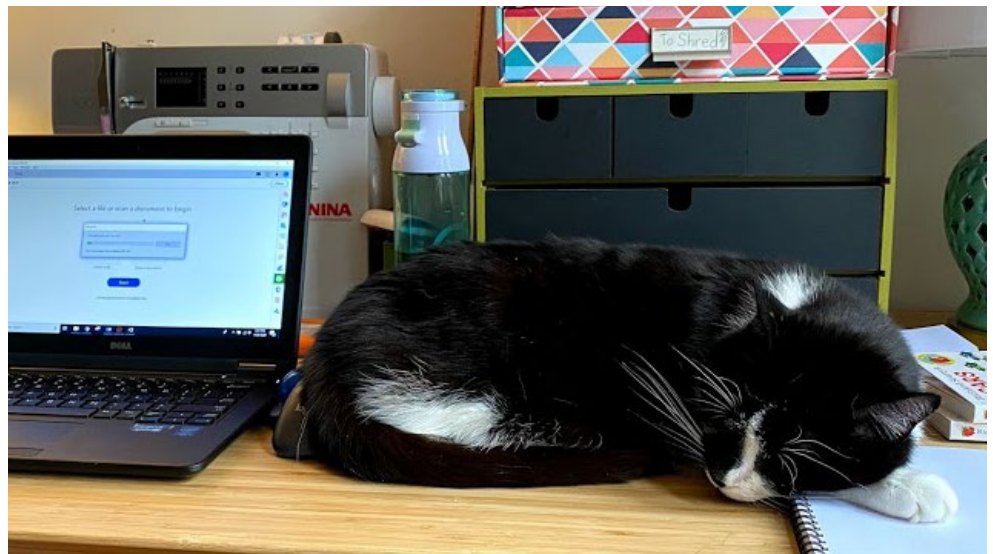
Next is **Sylvia**, my constant companion these days and the inspiration for this piece. Before the pandemic, I had a two-hour daily commute using Washington D.C.'s metro subway, and Sylvia didn't see that much. The first week or so, I swear, she gave me looks, "like you are still here" when she emerged from a nap.

*Sylvia, a long hair tuxedo, doesn't appear on the video screen willingly. She is shy and what I call a 'mimic cat'. She picks up behavior and habits from other cats around her and adopts them—some are charming and others annoying, but she has done it all her life. Sylvia lost her cat sister, Shelby, in February 2020 due to a stroke and old age, so she really*

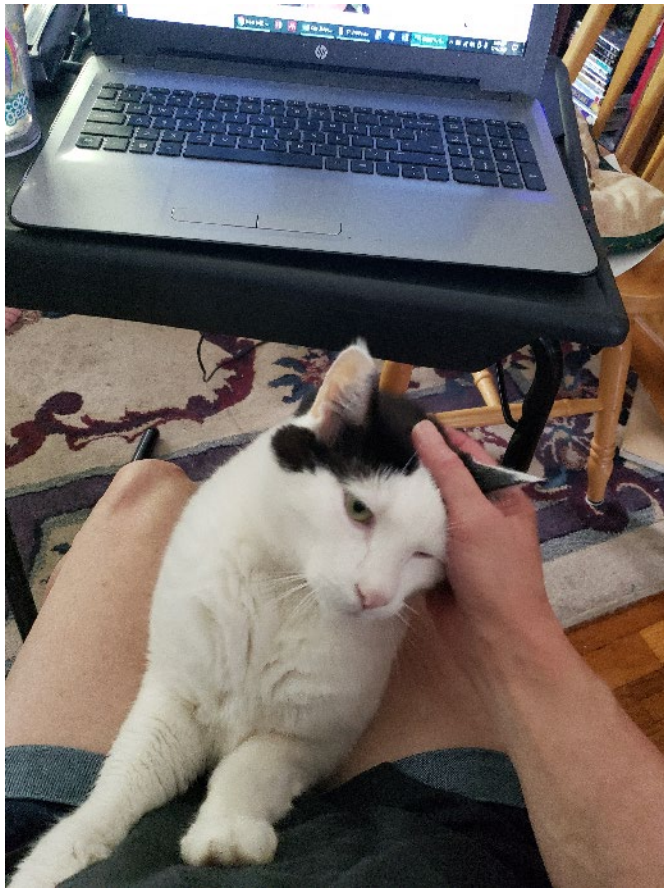
*has become my buddy. And I don't know what I would do without her, despite the 6 am wake up call, the meowing for food, like she hasn't eaten in days, and hanging out with me constantly. While I work, she sleeps under my dining table and always is nearby.*

**Steve**, a handsome tuxedo, who lives with Judy Stevenson, our CBHL newsletter editor and Archive Manager, at Longwood Gardens. Here's his story:

*My cat Steve loves to lay on my desk (preferably on top of my mouse hand!) while I work from home. We adopted Steve seven years ago – he showed up at a picnic at a friend's house, scrawny and covered with ticks, but incredibly affectionate! He was voracious, and after hand-feeding him many bites of pizza, we decided he needed a home, so he came home with us!*







*Pepe, the video star in the Teghtmeyer household*

Next up are **Chessie, Pepe, Sandy, Mistoffles, and Kalamazoo** who live in Lansing, Michigan with Suzi Teghtmeyer, Agriculture, Botany, Forestry, Natural Resources, Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Studies Librarian at Michigan State University, and her two sons, Elliot and Leo. Here are their stories:

*Working from home hasn't been easy in my family. For my two sons, who like school, it's missing their friends, and extracurricular activities. For me, I'm missing my co-workers and students. However, one aspect we three have enjoyed is spending time with our furry co-workers. Our five cats, from our neurotic Sandy to long-haired mystery girl Mistoffles, they are their own people who like having their caretakers around during the day. The happiest of the five is Chessie, my 18-year old who loves lap time, a never-empty food bowl, and a warm sunbeam. For me, being home with her in what can be anticipated as her last year is such a wonderful blessing for both of us. Unexpectedly, the second blessing is Pepe, our big panda-bear who has come to realize that Mom (me) sits a lot in this one chair and is willing to hold him! Not as affectionate as the others, he's overcome his shyness and comes asking for pets and cuddles at inopportune times (i.e. Zoom sessions) much to the enjoyment of distant co-workers. The downside to furry co-workers is that they're constantly asking for food,*

*wanting attention, shedding on the keyboard, and stealing your chair when you get up. Bet these nuisances are tolerable when considering the alternative. I'm happy to share my office with them as long as they will have me.*

Laura Blumhagen, Information Specialist at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library in Seattle, Washington tells us about her life with **Agate, Dash, Dot, Louie, and ZuZu**, one of three 'mixed' households featured in our article.

*My husband and I both feel fortunate to be able to work from home, especially because our office space (also the guest bedroom) is also shared with these five companion animals: Agate the orange tabby (age 15), Dash the black shorthair (age 9) and her large littermate Dot, Louie the other tux (15 years old and on a higher plane of existence), and ZuZu the fluffy shih-tzu (nearly 6). They keep us in touch with what's really important, including sleep and peaceful coexistence.*





Laura's co-worker, Tracy Mehlin, Information Technology Librarian at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library as two cats, **Wompus and Spooky**. Tracy and I would discuss our cats when we saw each other at various CBHL annual meetings—remember those good times! And it sounds like they are not only fulfilling an emotional role for Tracy, but a traditional one as well hunters. Here is her story:

*They are 12 years old and were feral rescues. Wompus loves dry food and getting brushed. Spooky is on a pure "catkins" diet and must not eat carbohydrates. He loves to sharpen his fangs on catnip stuffed toys. Both are accomplished ratters. Apparently, Seattle is prime habitat for rats and clearly does not have sufficient cats on patrol!*



*Wompus and Spooky keeping up with the news*



Gillian Hayward, Library Manager, Longwood Gardens at Longwood Gardens submitted this paragraph about her dogs, **Benny and Junebug**—can I say I love the name Junebug!

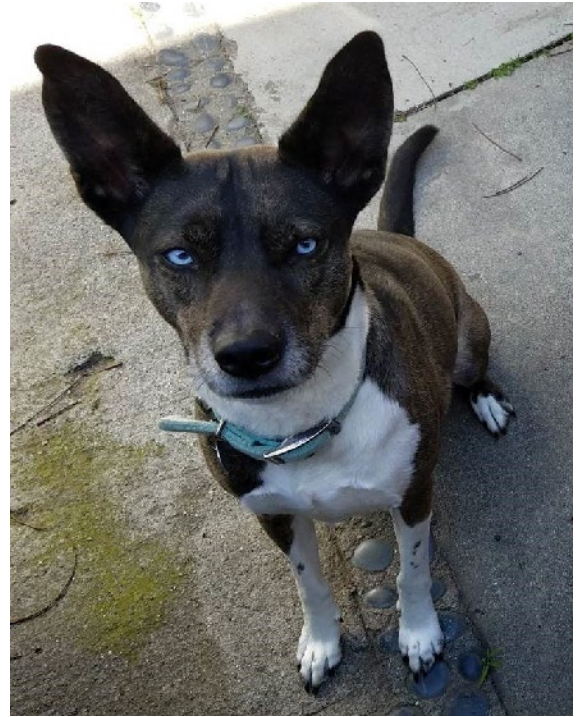
*When working at home, Benny (a Miniature Pinscher) and Junebug (Dachshund & Cocker Spaniel mix) have been my constant companions. They are always either asleep at my feet or next to me on a chair, scouting for birds or – most exciting – the UPS truck. They are a senior bonded pair from Imperial County, CA that came on a rescue flight to a local shelter here in Delaware three*

*years ago. We were told they were nine years old at the time and were from the same home. They have been the best dogs ever (already trained!), and the best company and therapy for all of us during COVID.*



Our second dog-cat combo, Susan Eubank, Arboretum Librarian at Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, lives with one camera-shy cat, **Adobe**, and two lovely dogs, **Red and Ronan**, which are considered mostly coated Xoloitzcuintlis, known for being a hairless dog breed. Xoloitzcuintlis also known as xolo, are considered genetically related to dogs of the Old World, before dogs had contact with Europeans. As you can see from the photo below, Ronan's eyes are incredible. He could be a YOUTUBE star Susan, just saying.

*We believe Red and Ronan are mostly coated xoloitzcuintlis. Ronan was plucked out of the Visalia Humane Society by our human offspring for her blue eyes and thinking there was part-huskey in there. The blue eyes are a fault for a pure-bred, but her behavior is pure Xolo. Red was advertised as half Australian Shepherd. I believe that because of her very different behavior from Ronan. Red is eager to please, loves her human and herds the cat, Adobe, who will not deign to have her picture taken. Ronan believes she rules the world and doesn't need any human guidance.*



*Red (left) being botanical. Ronan (above) showing off his beautiful blue eyes.*



Finally, I leave the best for last, from our de facto CBHL therapist and Public Services Manager at the Lenhardt Library of the Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG), Stacy Stoldt. In her piece, she features **Jericho** the dog, **Boots and Darwin**, both cats. I think Stacy's piece speaks for all of us why our animal companions are so important to us during this time along with the support of friends and family.

*Before I even have my first cup of coffee, my day starts with letting our rescue Schnauzer Jericho out, and then feeding both him and the kitties, Boots and Darwin. The kittens, Boots and Darwin,*

*showed up with their entire family one Labor Day through a hole in the wall of our garage.*

*In the first weeks of coping with COVID, I got up at my regular time, 5:18 am, and set about tending to my regular tasks. I was actually somewhat excited to have two weeks working from home, and all this extra time before work started at 8:30, so I began de-cluttering my home office and working out. Yoga at first, then I'd get out and take a brisk walk with Jericho, as it was still March, and we were still having to bundle up with chances of snow and bitter Chicago wind.*

*As the COVID cases increased and the death tolls rose, the weeks wore on it was obvious we weren't returning to work or any sense of normalcy any time soon. I was less optimistic about accomplishing my getting fit and decluttering goals and was no longer waking up at 5:18. I felt afraid, freaked out, isolated; there was*





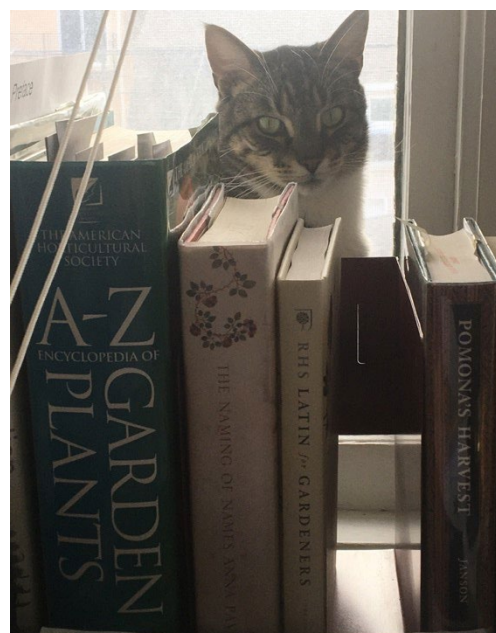
*a slow-moving depression and anxiety seeping in. I still got up and fed the pets and walked Jericho.*

*As our CBHL and CBG colleagues were being laid off, and the CBG Library staff lost half their hours and half their pay, there were no resolutions or assistance from unemployment in sight. We muddled through the anguish of the pandemic with lack-luster government leadership, social unrest, demonstrations albeit peaceful, and riots over an awful and senseless murder that encapsulates the systemic racism and polarity of these divided states of America.*

*Fortunately, technology has allowed our CBG Library and Plant Information staff*

*to work from home and meet regularly via Zoom and have conversations about the world around us. It also delivers endless research requests and reference questions from colleagues and the public that give my days' structure.*

*Of course, apart from all that, the companionship of Jericho, Boots, and Darwin has helped and is helping me weather the storm. Their little visits to my upstairs office, with tails wagging and, and soulful eyes begging for food, sitting in boxes, and walking across my bookcases, always cheer me up. The kitties occasionally walk across the keyboard during a Zoom meeting that seems to get all the participants laughing. And once when I was attending an important Town-hall meeting, Jericho began barking ferociously at the mailman and it made me laugh hysterically – having to hurriedly mute myself.*



*The thing is, Jericho, Boots, and Darwin were there before COVID, and they've been dealing with me being home and probably interrupting their naps and walking Jericho way too much - just because it suits me. Every day I get up and start my day with the pets and give thanks to the universe for these wonderful companions, and every day when I turn on my computers I see these hilarious screensavers – maybe even life savers. 🍀*

*Top: Jericho working at Chicago Botanic Garden with Stacy. Middle: Darwin in the stacks. Bottom: Boots and Darwin as screensavers*



# Arboretum Library Libguides: Thwarting the Stranglehold and Taking Advantage

Susan C. Eubank

Arboretum Librarian

Arboretum Library, Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden

According to Springshare, the company that owns LibGuides, LibGuides “is an easy-to-use content management system deployed at thousands of libraries worldwide. Librarians use it to curate knowledge and share information, [and] organize ... subject specific resources... [It can i]ncrease the usage of your library’s resources and content by showcasing them...” **And it is available to every CBHL member to use as part of your membership benefits.** It is a platform to show off the things you are proudest of in your Library.



CBHL / LibGuides / Arboretum Library, Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden / Arboretum Library / Curbside Pickup!

## Arboretum Library: Curbside Pickup!

The Arboretum Library contains a comprehensive collection of resources on gardening, botany, California native plant life, environmental issues, and some agriculture as these subjects relate to the plants native to and planted in Southern California.

About the Arboretum Library

General Information about the Library Collections

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden Publications Online

E-Books Lists and How-to

Reading the Western Landscape Book Club 2020

For Children & Families at the Arboretum Library

Arboretum 圖書館中文簡介

Acerca de la Biblioteca Arboretum

Other Library Catalogs, Resources & the Used Book Store

New & Featured Books, & Wish List Books

Climate-Appropriate Gardening Resources for Southern California

Plant Information Blog

Arboretum Library Classes & Events

Arboretum Library Art Exhibits

Arboretum Library Used Books For Sale

My Favorite Things: A Bibliography of Library Materials.

About Curbside Pickup and Directions

Arboretum Library Curbside Pickup

The Arboretum Library is pleased to announce curbside pickup service at the loading zone in the main Arboretum Parking lot! **Arboretum members** may now place orders of up to 7 items for curbside pickup.

**How to Place an Order:**

- Call (626) 821-3213 or email, Susan.Eubank@Arboretum.org, on Tuesday-Friday and every other Saturday (6/27, 7/11, 7/25, 8/8, 8/22, 9/5, 9/19, etc.) from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p. m. to place your order and schedule your appointment. Please include your telephone number in your email.
- The Arboretum Librarian will take your order and work with you to schedule a 10-minute curbside pickup appointment. If items turn out not to be available, the Librarian will inform the customer.
  - Curbside Pickup takes place on Tuesday through Friday and every other Saturday (6/27, 7/11, 7/25, 8/8, 8/22, 9/5, 9/19), from 1:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
- You will need to let the Librarian know the color and make/model of the vehicle in which you expect to be picking up your items.

The Arboretum Library’s guide had 1932 views during the 5 months of COVID Library closure. View the guide here: <https://cbhl.libguides.com/LAArboretumLibrary/AbouttheArboretumLibrary>

How many of you have gone to the marketing department at your institution and have been told that you can’t present “that” on the website with a look of disdain or lack of comprehension. It’s too complicated, nobody wants to look at book covers and the public won’t understand. I’ve lived through that at two organizations and it would have happened at the third if the internet had existed then. It’s not their fault, really. How many of us have experienced a marketing person devoted to the library world?

At the 2013 Michigan State University CBHL meeting, I remember the hotel conference room and all of us struggling to make our own LibGuides sites. I was excited. Finally, finally, I had a place where I could document the history of the [Reading the Western Landscape Bookclub](#) and market it with the fullness that





# What was Next for the CBHL annual meeting? A virtual meeting.

Robin Everly

Branch Librarian, Smithsonian Libraries



Because of the COVID-19 world pandemic, on March 11, 2020, the hosts of the 52nd annual Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL) meeting had to cancel the in-person event in Washington D.C. and Beltsville, Maryland. I think I speak for the conference members, when I say it was one of the saddest and toughest decisions to make. I was looking forward to showing members and their guests, the city I was born in, and while I have never lived there, how it has influenced my life. I was also looking forward to hosting another stellar conference, after Beth Brand's wonderful and magical one in Phoenix, Arizona. It was heartbreaking to say the least.

But soon, many of us have had more to worry about than a cancelled conference. Many of us went to working from home if we were lucky, and many of us have not returned to our library spaces as of July 2020. Many of us continue to worry about our health and the health of our families and friends. There is still a lot we don't know about the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 and the personal and economic turmoil we might face in the future.

Who would have thought the annual meeting theme of *What's Next? The 21st century Botanical and Horticultural Library* would turn out to be so relevant. In the ensuing months, many of us have discovered how fortunate we are to have the CBHL and EBHL network to share copyright materials electronically and emotional support during these unprecedented times. And there is no mistake, this pandemic will drive and shape how we work and provide literature in the botanical and horticulture libraries we work in for many years to come.

In order to comply with the CBHL bylaws, the 2020 annual meeting was abbreviated and moved to the ZOOM platform via a license held by the Smithsonian Institution. It was decided to only hold essential meeting items required in the bylaws, such as committee meetings, a business meeting and member news. On Tuesday, May 19, 2020, the meetings for the following committees: Financial Advisory, Ad Hoc

for Future Conferences, Membership and Communications were held over the Zoom platform. Stacy Stoldt, Chair of the Long and Steering Committees, held those meetings by conference phone.

On Wednesday, May 20, 2020, two business meetings were held, one at noon EDT and the other at 5:00 pm EDT. At one point a total of 45 members joined the business meetings virtually during the two one and half hour sessions. Highlights from the business meeting, officiated by President Anita Kay, were Allaina Wallace, Head Librarian



CBHL's Business Meeting was held via Zoom.

ian, Denver Botanic Garden, becoming second vice-president of CBHL, the discussion of the bylaw change to eliminate the second vice president position beginning in 2021, and a discussion of what type of meeting to hold next year. The 2021 meeting will also be hosted by Smithsonian Libraries and Archives (SLA).

Committee Chairs should have posted their meeting notes to the CBHL LibGuide pages. SLA meeting host committee (Barbara Ferry, Robin Everly, Leslie Overstreet and Allie Alvis) will be organizing another virtual meeting to be held Wednesday, May 5 and Thursday, May 6, 2021. We are reserving Friday, May 7, for possible in person visits from members who live close by or want to make their own arrangements and visit Washington D.C. that day. If we can, we will schedule the trip to Oak Spring Garden Foundation in Upperville, Virginia, for that day as well.

I want to thank the 40 members who filled out the survey and provided feedback on the virtual meeting we held in May. Those comments, along with what our host committee is learning working in a virtual environment, will be used to plan the 2021 meeting. Tentative ideas for 2021 annual meeting are a keynote speaker, member presentations, pre-recorded presentations and tours. Planning will begin this fall.

*So What's Next? Stay tuned.* 

## CBHL 52nd Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Esther Jackson

Scholarly Communication Technologies Librarian

Columbia University

Part 1

### Remote Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 – 12:00pm EDT

Call to order 12:03pm - 45 attendees

### Welcome

- Thanks to Robin Everly for setting up Zoom.
- Board introductions (Anita Kay, President; David Sleasman, Past President; Brandy Kuhl, First Vice President; Mark Stewart, Second Vice President, Betsy Kruthoffer, Treasurer; Esther Jackson, Secretary)
- Parliamentarian - Suzi Teghtmeyer
- Move to accept meeting minutes from 51st annual meeting – Leora Siegel moved; seconded by John Reed; no discussion. Motion passes.

### Officer Reports

#### Secretary's Report

- Esther Jackson noted that for the general election, 39 ballots were received on time through the online voting system. This is a lower response rate than last year's online vote, where 47 members voted. Allaina Wallace was elected to the position of Second Vice President.
- A reminder that all board meeting minutes are shared through the LibGuides in the Members Only section, here: <http://cbhl.libguides.com/cbhl-board>.

#### Treasurer's Report

- Betsy Kruthoffer shared the report through the listserv and on the CBHL LibGuides here: [https://cbhl.libguides.com/ld.php?content\\_id=54765865](https://cbhl.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=54765865)
- The report was generated using QuickBooks.

*(continued on page 38)*



# CBHL Members' East News

Compiled by Shelly Kilroy

Librarian, Peter M. Wege Library

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

## Pennsylvania Horticulture Society

### McLean Library Update

Janet Evans

Associate Library Director

McLean Library, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

On the COVID front, library staff and most of the rest of our staff are working at home until September at the earliest. All PHS events will be held virtually through December. This includes our book discussions, which are held monthly via Zoom. See our reading list at <https://pennhort.libguides.com/McLeanLibraryBookGroup>

We are pleased to announce that we were awarded an Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This is a 24-month project, set to begin in September. Ours will be a community memory project. The Pennsylvania Horticulture Society McLean Library will support the documentation, preservation, and dissemination of Philadelphia's community gardens histories to curtail the loss of an important part of city history. As neighborhoods shift and stewardship of gardens change, histories and stories that reflect the historical and social significance of the gardens are fading. PHS has been engaged with community gardeners for nearly four decades. Building on this long-standing relationship, in collaboration with community gardeners, the library will develop a series of digital preservation and archiving workshops to support local gardeners in the preservation of garden histories, artifacts, and related narratives. We will also train community garden webmasters in web archiving via the Conifer web archiving platform. Content created by local gardeners will be shared via the Smithsonian Gardens Community of Gardens digital archive and will also be uploaded onto a state digital repository. Reclaiming weed-ridden and trash-strewn vacant lots is a form of resistance against blight and against food insecurity. This is important work and deserves to be documented.

September 2020

We are also working in a collaborative fashion with other members of PACSCL (Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collection Libraries) to jointly web archive local websites which have COVID information on them. As a horticultural library, we are web archiving our own site and Philadelphia-area community garden websites with COVID information. Archive-IT has graciously provided us with an account to accomplish this. The working list of participating libraries can be found at <https://archive-it.org/home/PACSCL>.

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## Arnold Arboretum Launches New Mobile Tour App

Contributions by Lisa Pearson and Amy Heuer Arnold Arboretum

The [Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University](#) is pleased to announce the launch of its new *Expeditions* mobile tour app of our grounds. This free app helps users to explore the 281 acres of the Arboretum's landscape. Featuring over 60 plants and sites, *Expeditions* shares stories about botany, horticulture, conservation, and Arnold Arboretum history through photos, text, and audio segments. The app also tells the story of 150 years of Arnold Arboretum plant collecting expeditions, illustrating how—and why—these plants were brought here, whether they were gathered on remote mountainsides on the other side of the world, or just a few miles away. Along with informative audio segments, there are over 50 interviews with staff members, telling stories about their work and the Arnold Arboretum's plants.

The app highlights a spectrum of narratives—from plant collecting, to children's education, to research science—demonstrating that anyone can develop a deep connection with plants.

Try *Expeditions* for yourself!

- The app is available in English, Spanish, and Simplified Chinese/Mandarin.
- Download the app in the Apple and Google Play app stores.
- You can also view *Expeditions* through your smartphone's web browser. Look for signs with the *Expeditions* logo throughout the Arnold Arboretum, and go on an expedition of your own!

# The Atlanta Botanical Garden Library Continues to Bloom On

Dr. Clara R. Williams  
Librarian  
Atlanta Botanical Garden

Mitigation measures were implemented, patrons were contacted, and services never ceased...not even for a moment!

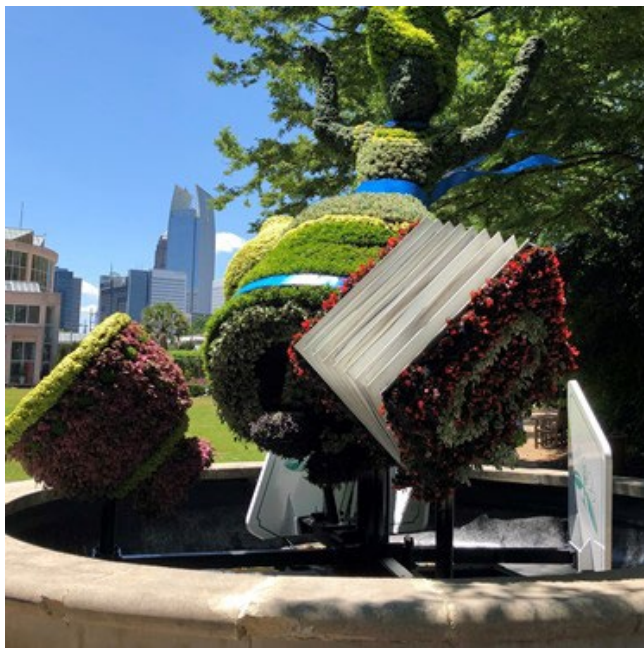
The Librarian, Dr. Clara R. Williams, rolled out the "Library Preparedness Operating Plan (per COVID-19)" in May to ensure that patrons were informed of the mitigation measures implemented by the Library. Popular services such as ProQuest eBooks, Plant Hotline (PH), book circulation, and responses to library reference questions continued to be met with prompt handling by the Librarian and Master Gardeners (MGs) of the PH.



*Clara in the Library office.*

The COVID-19 pandemic threw the world into a state of emergency, resulting in an urgency for libraries to communicate procedural matters to patrons for their protection. Garden patron input and overall team collaboration with Garden staff were critical to the formulation of an actual operating plan that would safeguard Library patrons, while maintaining the continuance of needed library services. Due to the serious residual fallout of the pandemic, the Garden's Library protection measures were immediately identified and shared with management for approval to rollout across the Garden.

There was an urgency for the Librarian to browse through the tremendous amount of scientific data, published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and other notable health agencies, and to then redefine the Garden's Library operating procedures, restructure basic library services, and so forth. The Library continued to work closely with the Education team, for example, to garner input that would help design ease of access to the Library, in support of Children's Programming, Outdoor Kitchen events, in particular, and other Garden happenings.



*Alice's Wonderland Reimagined, on view at Atlanta Botanical Garden through November 1.*

The Library and PH Volunteers contribute an enormous support that undergirds the services offered by the Library. Twenty volunteers serve in various capacities in the Library and on the PH. Members of this network, via several scheduled Zoom meetings, expressed their dedication to assist the Librarian in any way possible to guarantee that communication lines would not be impaired between the Library and patrons' emails and telephone inquiries. Several MGs, for example, continued their work remotely on the PH, while others offered procedural recommendations for library services.

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Indeed, the Atlanta Botanical Garden Library continues to bloom on! 🌿



# CBHL Members' West News

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

## New Name / New World

Irene Holiman  
Librarian  
California Botanic Garden

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden is now known as California Botanic Garden. The name was changed for a variety of reasons, the main one is that the public would often confuse the name Santa Ana for the city of Santa Ana which is in Orange County, about 30 miles west of Claremont. It is also the same general area where the original garden began. The new name also reflects the mission of the garden "to promote botany, conservation and horticulture to inspire, inform, and educate the public and the scientific community about California's native flora. The Garden is devoted to the collection, cultivation, study and display of native California plants and to graduate training and research in plant systematics and evolution. Through all its programs the Garden makes significant contributions to the appreciation, enjoyment, understanding and thoughtful utilization of our natural heritage." California, with over 6,000 taxa of native plants, has the richest flora of any state in the continental United States. California Botanic Garden is an appropriate name for who we are.

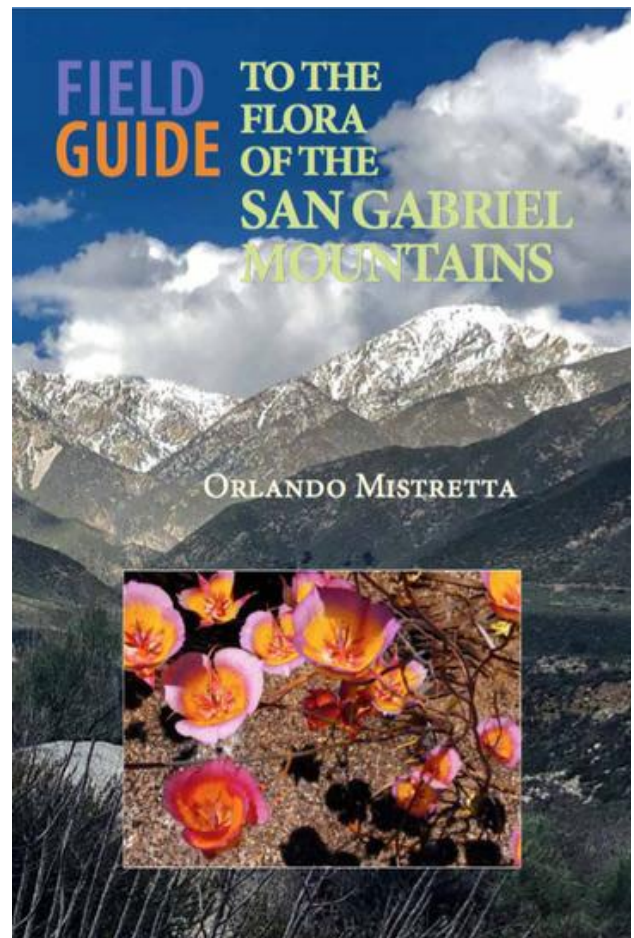
To announce and celebrate the new name and branding, a grand "re-opening" was planned for March 25, 2020, with all the custom celebratory regalia. Then the world changed. The celebration was canceled and the Garden closed its gates. Many staff were furloughed and an unfortunate few were laid off. As weeks went by, we all settled in to a new way of working, the garden moved forward with the name change, branding and getting comfortable with its new identity.

Now, we are into our second month of a phased opening. No longer are we open seven days a week, nor are we able to welcome visitors to the

Library, Herbarium or Art Gallery. The Administration Building that houses these areas, as well as restrooms, is closed to the public and open only to staff members. Garden volunteers, many who are at the high-risk level, are not able to continue their work indoors, but those who are able and want to, have been a welcome help to the Horticulture team as they help weed the garden's 86 acres.

Although I am not an archivist, I do provide care and preservation of the archives, and have become very familiar with founder, Susanna Bixby Bryant, the concept behind the institution and the Garden's early development. Bryant set aside 200 acres of her Santa Ana Canyon Ranch near Yorba Linda, CA, as a native plant garden in memory of her father, John W. Bixby. I imagine that she would be pleased with how her garden has "grown" and would be honored to have her garden known as California Botanic Garden.

We are also pleased to announce: *Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Occasional Publications*, no. 18. *Field Guide to the Flora of the San Gabriel Mountains*, by Orlando Mistretta.



- Series: *Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Occasional Publications* (Book 18)
- Paperback: 340 pages
- Publisher: Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (2020)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0960580859
- ISBN-13: 978-0960580859

Orlando Mistretta has lived his entire life in the shadows of the San Gabriel Mountains. As a graduate student at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, he discovered a manuscript by Joseph Ewan in the Garden's archives that first sparked his interest in the plants of this exceedingly rugged mountain range located in close proximity to Greater Los Angeles, California. For the past four decades, his botanical career has taken him all over the San Gabriel Mountains, including the most remote corners and in all seasons. The result is this field guide that is at once a personal and entertaining account of the region's botanical context and history of exploration, and a long-awaited inventory of its flora.

Contact Irene Holiman, [iholiman@calbg.org](mailto:iholiman@calbg.org) to place an order. \$29.95 plus postage, CA shipments include tax.

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## Moving the Helen Fowler Library: A Summary

Allaina Wallace  
Head Librarian  
Denver Botanic Garden

*There are years that ask questions and years that answer.* -- Zora Neale Hurston

*You got to look on the bright side, even if there ain't one.* -- Dashiell Hammett

As Denver Botanic Gardens kicked off a new construction (and large renovation) project, the Helen Fowler Library was the first department to pack up and move out. The library's public services officially ceased in February 2019. The library closed to all visitors in April 2019. The final collections were moved to offsite storage in June 2019 and the librarians moved into their temporary office space at that time as well. Without our library, we continued working while seeking new ways to provide services to our community. We also made the most of our forced downtime by visiting other libraries in the area, hiking Mount Goliath where Denver Botanic Gardens oversees the highest cultivated garden in the U.S., and holding strategic planning meetings and brainstorming sessions to discuss potential new programming ideas, outreach, and other services in the new library.

We kicked off 2020 by welcoming Kathryn Downing to the team as our new Technical Services Librarian. She was welcomed (by Anna Kongs, Public Services Librarian and Angela Naumov, Archivist) with open arms but no collections. Expectations and enthusiasm about the new library were only heightened by our many tours of the construction site as the building took shape. The challenges we'd faced and overcome in 2019 during the move out gave us confidence that the move in would be smooth, exciting and fun.

In some respects, by the time of the COVID-19 shutdown (March 2020) the librarians had already been working remotely for about 9 months. Without our collections, we'd found ways to provide services to our users, mostly Gardens staff, by locating and sharing online resources and reaching out to our CBHL colleagues and other library and museum colleagues in the area. Our community had become accustomed



to getting what they needed without necessarily seeing us in person. When the time came for remote work to become standard for most Gardens' employees, we were perhaps more prepared than others to make that leap.

Our meetings moved to Microsoft Teams; we'd been early adopters of the software. We'd acquired mobile devices during the move that became necessary for some of our work from home tasks. We'd experienced the challenges of having our work flows interrupted during the move out which gave us confidence that we could communicate our needs to each other effectively. We trusted each other to be flexible and supportive. And we knew we had enough work to keep us busy such as, cleaning up catalog records, making final decisions about where collections would be housed, updating and creating policies and procedures, creating a move in plan, etc.

The move out had been very time sensitive. The start of the renovation project hinged on our ability to expeditiously vacate the old library. As the timeline moved up, certain tasks (assessment for weeding the circulating collection, for example) were set aside to be picked up after the move in. This list continued to grow as the move out progressed. We hoped to have enough time to restart these delayed tasks after moving in and before we would reopen. Be careful what you wish for, as they say.



As the weeks of the shutdown progressed, a picture of our new reality began to form. Working from home was the ideal, but social distancing at work was also possible, even more so in our shiny new building. In our temporary office space, four, sometimes five, of us shared a 14' x 14' space with no ventilation or air circulation. Our new library provided a private office for myself, spacious accommodations for two librarians to share, and semi-private processing room for our archivist, not to mention two small private study rooms, a larger reading room, and a new private Gardening Help office space with two desks and room to spare. The main public area of the library is quite expansive as well, more than enough room to work while remaining six feet apart. By the end of April, we were permitted to move our offices into the new library.

Another problem that occupying the new library would solve was the expense of offsite storage. But to do that, we had to be able to move in. This move would not only require coordination of Gardens staff on site and remotely, but also the staff at the university where our collections were housed and the moving company who would not get to see the new location before doing the work. Each party was working on a different timeline for getting back to work and most didn't exactly know what that timeline really was or how it applied to their employees. There were many questions.

- If the city and county of Denver lifted the stay at home but the county where I live did not, could I still go to work?
- The university was in Denver but the storage facility was not. Were their employees treated the same as their Denver counterparts?
- How many movers were allowed in a truck and would we need to pay for an extra vehicle?

- If a moving cart required two people to handle it safely, could they still social distance while moving it?
- Would the restrooms be available in the new building so everyone could wash their hands?
- What other departments would be moving and how do we social distance from them?
- How would we eat chocolate with masks on?

We are fortunate in Denver to have a CEO who is unafraid of challenges, who seeks out opportunity where others might see misfortune or failure. Because of his and the Gardens' leadership team's vision, we were able to act as soon as the stay at home order was lifted. I'd been in constant contact with our movers and with the manager of the storage facility. Through conversations with them and with our Director of Operations, the move in plan took shape and dates were set. In mid-May, the first library collections began to move onsite. On June 11, 2020, the final phase of the move in was completed exactly one year to the day that the last collections had been moved out.

As of this writing, we do not yet have a plan or timeline to open to the public. The Gardens are slowly reopening the outdoor spaces with plans to hold classes onsite in the Freyer-Newman Center in the next week and to open the new galleries later this summer. The library hopes to follow sometime after that. We have the luxury to learn and adjust as other spaces open first. We have more time to unpack, arrange and organize, work on backlogged projects, become familiar with our new space, and reimagine our new spaces.

Our excitement has not waned. Online programs have been successful and we are staying engaged through social media. We appreciate our good fortune even as we respect the need to postpone sharing our new library with all of you and with our community. With battered budgets and a more cautious management of visitors it won't be as grand an opening as we once imagined. But we continue to look ahead with hope and optimism to when we can once again connect people with plants through our library services.





# Digitizing the Anderson Slide Collection

Beth Brand

Head Librarian, Schilling Library  
Desert Botanical Garden

Before this past spring, I could not have imagined doing library work without access to the physical collection. Then came the pandemic and orders to work from home. These stressful and unsettling times, have required many of us to consider new possibilities for serving our missions, colleagues and library users. It was a relief knowing that no matter where I would be working, I could count on our network of skilled CBHL librarians to assist with resource requests. With that aspect of work covered (thank you wonderful colleagues), I set out to initiate a new project that could be accomplished at home. On April 1st 2020, I packed up a scanner, laptop, monitor and several sleeves of slides and launched the Anderson 35mm slide digitizing project on my dining room table.

Photographed over several decades by Dr. Edward F. Anderson, the collection of approximately 16,000 images documents cacti in habitat and botanical gardens around the world. Anderson was Desert Botanical Garden's senior research botanists from 1992 to 2001. Among his many books, Anderson completed the outstanding monograph *The Cactus Family* in 2001, shortly before his death. Many of the images from his slide collection are featured in the book. His thorough labeling of each slide with plant name, place and date, has allowed me to capture valuable metadata for this project. In addition to his collection of 35mm slides, the Schilling Library Archive is also home to Anderson's research files and field notes.

A key goal of this project is to digitally preserve the collection. Another important goal is to upload and make the images discoverable while enhancing the Garden's online plant database, [livingcollections.org](http://livingcollections.org). Before scanning commenced, a priority list of species was generated in consultation with Raul Puente, Curator of Living Collections. Prioritizing images needed for the database is helping make the task of digitizing the vast number of slides a bit more manageable.

It took a pandemic and the isolation it would bring to initiate this project. It is satisfying to know that digitizing Anderson's extensive collection of cactus images will achieve an essential goal for our Garden and that it can potentially benefit botanists worldwide who study the cactus family.



*Beth Brand digitizing the slide collection at home.*

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

The Little Gardener

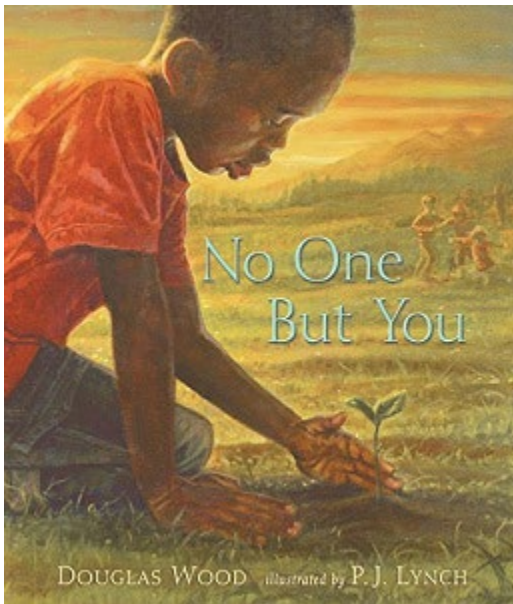
Emily Hughes

Flying Eye Books

A collection of children's books and activity guides, including 'Early Sprouts', 'Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf', 'Celebrate Nature!', 'One Leaf, Two Leaves, the Wind!', 'Bring Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie', and 'BUG ZOO'. The books are scattered on a wooden surface, showing various covers with illustrations of children, nature, and seasonal themes.

September 2020

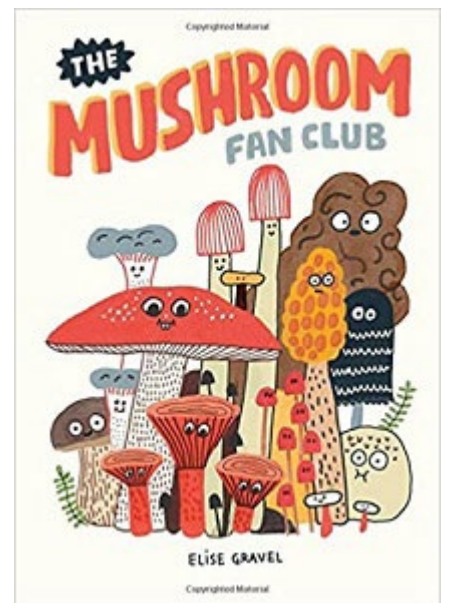
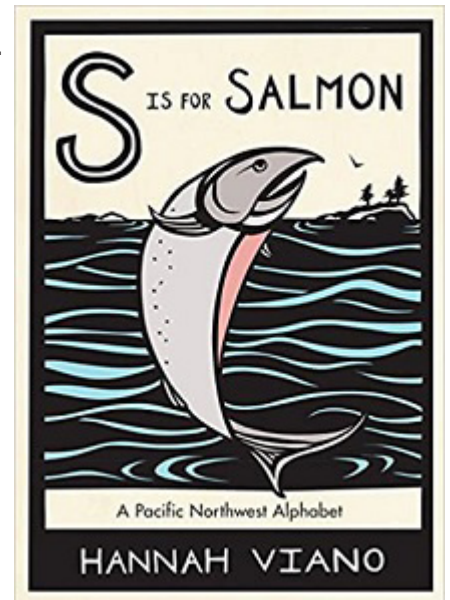




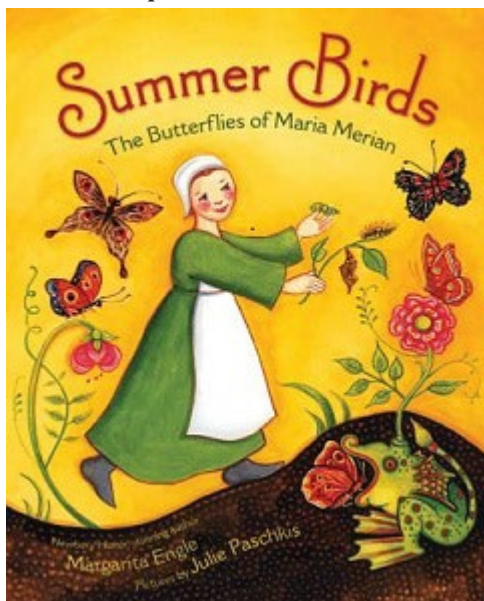
Meanwhile, Summer Camp Manager Cait McHugh and Supervisor Kim Daniel had prepared curricula for three separate day camps, all for ages 6-8: Aquatic Adventures, Nature Spies, and Quercus Academy of Nature Magic. It was so much fun selecting books for these themes! The first two were familiar from previous years, and Cait mentioned particular books the teachers wanted to use again: Doreen Cronin's *Diary of a Worm*, Lynne Cherry's *The Great Kapok Tree*, Jannell Cannon's *Stellaluna*, and Susan Grigsby's *In the Garden with Dr. Carver*. I added some

new items as well, including *Water is Water* by Miranda Paul and *Pond Circle* by Betsy Franco for the aquatic adventurers and George Shannon's *White is for Blueberry* and Margarita Engle's *Summer Birds: the Butterflies of Maria Merian* for the nature spies, who would be looking for birds and insects during their time at the Arboretum. For the nature magic theme, I chose enthralling favorites old and new: Donald M. Silver's *Cave*, Cicely Mary Barker's *Flower Fairies of the Summer*, Holly Grant's *Wee Sister Strange*, Elise Gravel's *The Mushroom Fan Club*, and Eliza Wheeler's *Miss Maple's Seeds*, among others. The Summer Camp teachers also gave me a list of suggested books for purchase.

Getting Health and Safety clearance for my day in the library took longer than anticipated. Summer programs started June 29, the day before my building access was granted. It was great to be back in the stacks, and collecting the whole summer's worth of books in one day was a fun challenge. I dropped off the boxes at the Arboretum June 30. The teachers expressed their excitement and gratitude about being able to



use the books the following week, after the required quarantine period had elapsed. It's satisfying to know that now they can read aloud to their young participants and enrich their outdoor lessons with valuable resources from the Miller Library. In all, we delivered 97 books to the Arboretum's outdoor education programs this summer.



When summer programs end, the teachers will box the books and let them sit unopened for the required 72 hours. Library staff can collect them and check them back in. Another summer's outreach work will be done collaboratively at UW Botanic Gardens—this time in the face of extraordinary challenges! 🌿



# Book Reviews

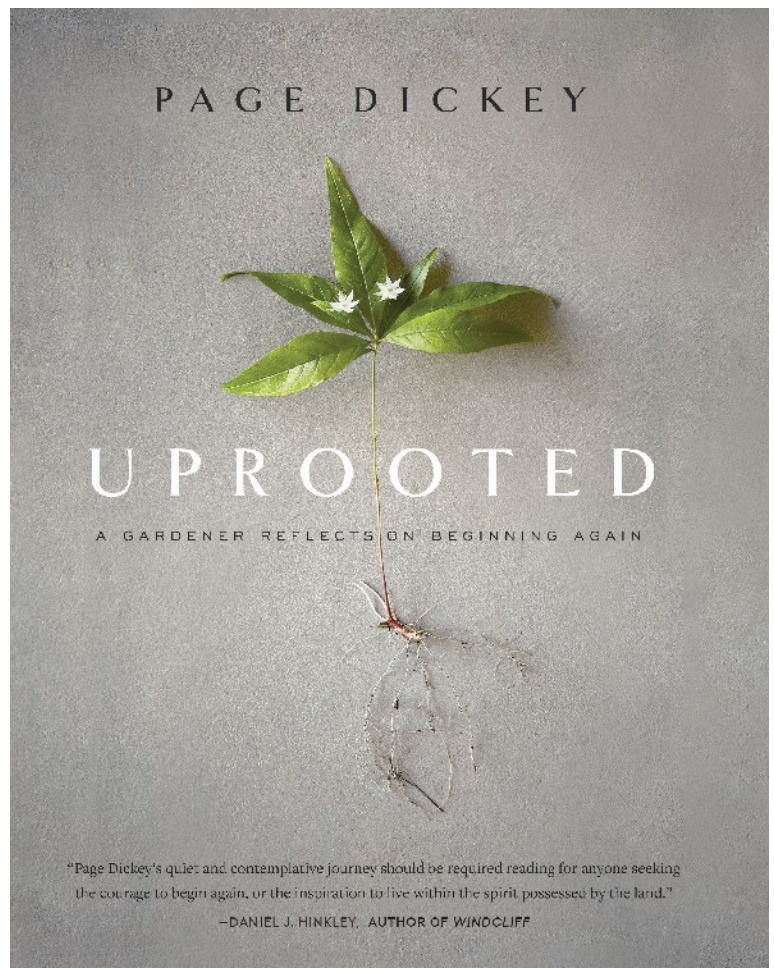
Compiled by Gillian Hayward  
Library Manager  
Library and Information Services  
Longwood Gardens

*Uprooted: A Gardener Reflects on Beginning Again* by Page Dickey. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 2020. 244 pages. Hardcover, \$27.95. ISBN 978-1-60469-957-9  
Reviewed by Patricia Jonas  
New York, New York

I have been anticipating the publication of *Uprooted: A Gardener Reflects on Beginning Again* and I know I am not alone. Page Dickey's many devoted readers will be eager to find out what's next in her gardening life. Although she has been writing about gardens for nearly three decades, all but two of eight books, and her countless articles, are about other people's gardens, not about Duck Hill, where she gardened for thirty-four years. Those books, both memorable, are—*Duck Hill Journal: A Year in a Country Garden* (Houghton Mifflin, 1991) and *Embroidered Ground: Revisiting the Garden* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011). When she was writing *Duck Hill Journal*, Dickey had been gardening there for just nine years. And although she thought she would always live at Duck Hill, in her mid-70s she is uprooted and a young gardener, beginning again. From the epigraph ("[I am] in the condition of a transplanted tree which is hesitating whether to take root or begin to wither." --Anton Chekov), to the last page, the reader wants to know which it will be.

When I consider a book for review, it helps me to put it in the context of other works—probably my publishing background and instincts—and it gives me an excuse to thumb through well-loved books again (although I often find words and sentiments that don't resonate well today). With a thoughtful, gracefully written book like *Uprooted* that reflects years of gardening experience, I think first of favorite literary writers like Katharine White and Eleanor Perényi. But this book is not like *Onward and Upward in the Garden* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1979), a collection of White's dated but still urbane *New Yorker* pieces, or *Green Thoughts* (Random House, 1981), Perényi's collection of wide-ranging, erudite essays, all arranged alphabetically from "Annuals" to "Woman's Place." (A few facts don't make the authors kindred, but Perényi's husband was Hungarian as is Dickey's; Perényi's second garden was in southeast Connecticut on the coast and Dickey's is in the northwest corner of the state; both writers grieved the loss of their first gardens.) I thought next of Nancy Goodwin and her lovely book *Montrose: Life in a Garden* (Duke University Press, 2005), organized by month, and then of Wayne Winterrowd's and Joe Eck's *A Year at North Hill: Four Seasons in a Vermont Garden* (Little, Brown & Co., 1995). Both showcase their celebrated gardens as they unfold over a year.

The comparisons didn't quite fit. "A writer who gardens is sooner or later going to write a book about the subject—I take that as inevitable," writes Perényi, "One acquires one's opinions and prejudices, picks up





a trick or two, learns to question supposedly expert judgments, reads, saves clippings, and is eventually overtaken by the desire to pass it all on.” That describes most writers (except who saves clippings anymore?) who write about their gardens and, in fact, describes Dickey. *Uprooted* is different. Yes, it is about gardening, but it is also about un-gardening: “I feel no need for a showcase now,” she writes in the last chapter. Horace Walpole famously said of William Kent, “He leapt the fence, and saw that all nature was a garden.” In *Uprooted*, Dickey explores the limits of gardening and pushes her new, more modest, gardens back within Walpole’s fence. Three acres of intensive plantings at Duck Hill were traded for 17 acres with a magnificent view (“What took our breath away, was the view of distant hills. The house looked out onto Canaan Mountain, part of the southern Berkshires, which rose dramatically above the woods in soft swoops and was painted that late October afternoon in lavender and burnt sienna.”)

The first three chapters are about the wrenching experience of making the decision to leave Duck Hill; finding and renovating what they dubbed Church House (it had been a meeting house built in 1793 and the first Methodist Church in New England); discovering that the landscape designer Nancy McCabe had left her imprint on the property (Dickey had featured McCabe in another of her books, *Breaking Ground*); creating three new gardens near the house (a front border, a pool enclosure and a cutting garden); and, taking a cue from five old, existing apple trees, planting a new orchard. That may sound like a lot of gardening, but not in contrast to Duck Hill where every inch of the “3 acres was cultivated and contrived.”

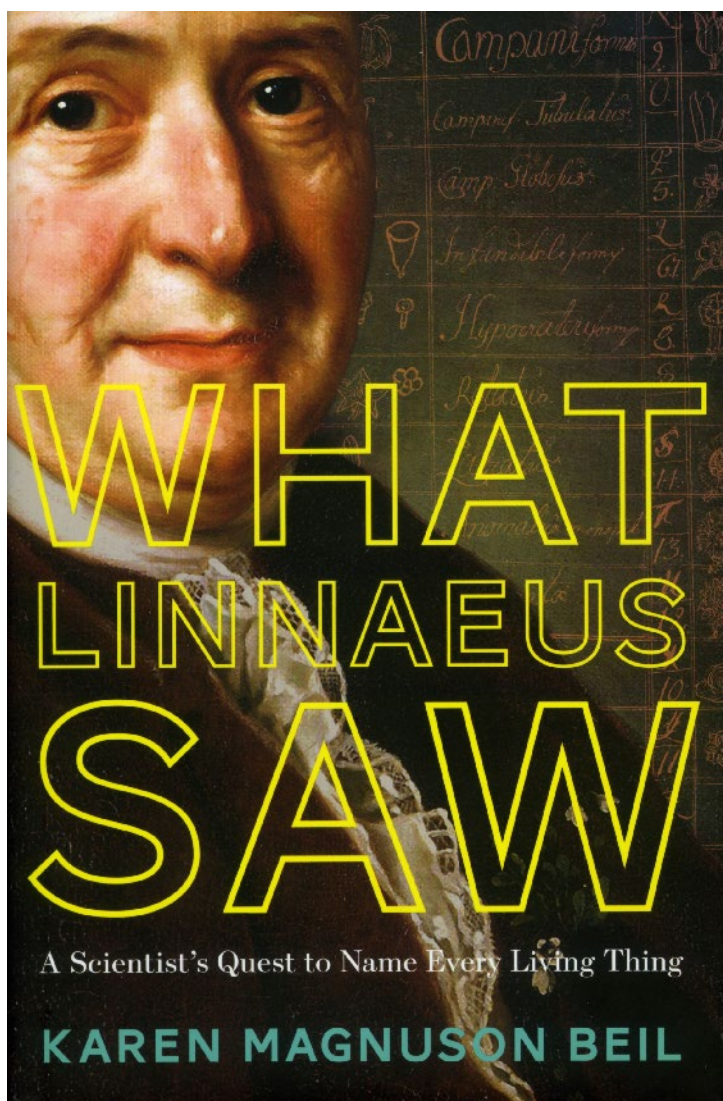
“The mystery at Church House happens as you walk away from the gardens, down the sun-filled meadow paths into the dark of the woods, and there are astonished to come upon bluffs and a ravine, vernal pools, lichen rock outcroppings, sheets of native sedges, and delicate wildflowers, unexpected and sometimes unknown, at least to me.” In the chapter “Wild Lands,” she categorizes the mostly uncultivated land as “The Fields,” “The High Wooded Bluffs,” “The Low East Woods,” and “The Fen.” Mostly uncultivated because she does battle invasives on the ten acres of second growth woods: “There is no time of year when we’re not pulling and cutting the vines. It is July as I write this, and suddenly new, fresh green tendrils of bittersweet are rising up from the ground everywhere, looking for, and often finding, something to wrap around.” Putting aside the ways she has gardened for her lifetime, she becomes open to letting the land she now lives on guide her: “For our small stretches of forest have a character of their own, and it became clear to me that I wanted to listen to the land, discover its denizens, thrill to what it offers, nurture it—not make it into something else.”

Near the conclusion, Dickey writes “Here, at Church House, we’ve stumbled on a landscape rich in ecological value thanks to its diversity of natural habitats. Deep, rich woods feeding into wetland; low, damp meadow rising to fields high and dry; upland, rock-littered forest. Yes, our 17 acres have been monkeyed with over the centuries, first possibly by Indians burning and clearing, then by settlers, and finally by farmers. But only traces of their inhabitation are apparent now, and the young woods show inspiring signs of regeneration. This is as close as I’ll be in my lifetime to stewarding a piece of land in its wild state. And it has changed me as a gardener.” Of course there are still gardens to care for and plan, and as Dickey stands in them she still tries to make pictures—smaller ones, I suspect—but “daily I find I am drawn away from the gardens to the wild land. I cannot easily explain why the fields and woods we’ve inherited call to me in a way the flower gardens do not. Perhaps it is precisely because they’re not cultivated, they hold mysteries, they offer discoveries unknown to me.”

*Uprooted* is a memoir of discovery—deeply personal and poetic. Open about missteps and modest about successes, it is strikingly free of a gardener’s vanity and rich in wonder. She gives credit to teachers new and old, and is generous to friends. She describes one evening in her west meadow: “I suddenly realized fireflies were sparking the foggy night with their flashes of light, dancing above the grasses. Lightning bugs, we called them as children. As though this silent tableau was not captivating enough, all the while the air vibrated with the music of spring peepers, sometimes described as sounding like hundreds of

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sleigh bells. I lingered for a long time watching the misty field with its tiny fireworks, serenaded by the chorus of frogs.” Although richly complemented with photographs by Ngoc Minh Ngo and Marion Brenner, the rewards of this book are in the reading.



*What Linnaeus Saw: A Scientist's Quest To Name Every Living Thing* by Karen Magnuson Beil. New York: Norton Young Readers, an imprint of W. W. Norton & Company, 2019. 256 pages, color illustrations, including portraits and maps. ISBN 9781324004684 (hardcover), \$21.95. Also available in other formats: 9781324004691 (ebook), 9781980051657 (audiobook).

Reviewed by Charlotte A. Tancin  
Librarian, Hunt Institute for Botanical  
Documentation  
Carnegie Mellon University

[Disclaimer: Karen Beil has done research for this book in our library on-site and remotely, among many other resources consulted.]

This is not Karen Beil's first book for children. In addition to several books for younger kids, back in 1999 she published one for elementary and junior high school-aged kids about fighting wildfires: *Fire In Their Eyes: Wildfires and the People Who Fight Them*. That vivid book was keyed perfectly to her target audience, and now she has used her skill to introduce a historical, scientific superstar to readers age 10-16 and up in *What Linnaeus Saw: A*

*Scientist's Quest To Name Every Living Thing*, the story of Swedish botanist and naturalist Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778).

A botanist at heart, Linnaeus was also a naturalist interested in all of the natural world. He lived at a time when European scientists were trying to identify many new plants and animals from around the world, brought back from voyages of exploration. The book's introduction begins with a Linnaeus quote – “If you do not know the names of things, the knowledge of them is lost too” – and with the story of Linnaeus's pet raccoon Sjupp, a strange North American animal sent to the Crown Prince of Sweden by Pehr Kalm, a student of Linnaeus's who was off exploring in North America. The Crown Prince gave the raccoon to Linnaeus, with the request that he figure out what this animal was. The story of how Linnaeus let the raccoon live in his house as a pet so that he could observe him gives a good first glance at the scientist and his methods.

Young Carl loved plants as a child and spent a lot of time in the garden, where his father taught him plants' names and how they grew. His parents wanted him to become a clergyman and sent him away to school for that training, but the boy would skip classes and roam the woods looking for interesting plants. His grades were not good, but a doctor who also taught at the school saw Linnaeus's strong interest in plants



and convinced his father to let him train as a doctor instead, since doctors also learned about plants and their medicinal uses. This was the first of several mentors who would help Linnaeus learn to use his talents and follow his star.

Beil takes readers on a journey to 18th-century Sweden using an engaging and kid-friendly narrative style and an unerring eye for persons, places and events that can intrigue readers. In addition to Sjupp the raccoon, she recounts stories such as Linnaeus's Lapland journey, debunking the seven-headed hydra, getting Clifford's banana tree to flower, the popular student field trips, the strange Peloria plant, the pet monkey Diana, monkeys-apes-humans, Linnaeus and his dog Pompe at church, and the voyages of some of Linnaeus's students.

We see his strong friendship with fellow university student Peter Artedi – both were pushed by their parents to train for the clergy, but all they wanted to do was explore the natural world, the “three kingdoms”: animal, vegetable, mineral. “The two met daily. When one made a thrilling discovery – a new mushroom, a new bird, a new idea – he'd try to keep it to himself. After a few days, though, he would be bursting to share his news with his best friend. Each was the other's sounding board. The friendly rivals worked independently but also compared notes. Fierce competition energized their ideas.” (p. 47)

In his second year at university, Linnaeus was given the job of botanical demonstrator – showing students in the botanical garden how to identify plants and how they were used in medicine. He was such a knowledgeable and interesting speaker that classes that previously numbered 70 or 80 students now had several hundred. Thinking about life after graduation, he was planning to become a doctor and pursue his naturalist studies on the side. He got engaged to Sara Lisa Moraea, 18-year-old daughter of a wealthy doctor, but her father would not let her marry Linnaeus until he was a practicing physician. So Linnaeus went to Holland to get a medical degree and spent three years there, also visiting several other countries, publishing his manuscripts (mostly botanical) that he had brought along, meeting scientists, and working for a while for the wealthy George Clifford, who had an exotic garden and menagerie. Clifford's plant and animal collections showed Linnaeus how different and amazing the natural world was beyond his familiar country. He also enjoyed an occasional tankard of ale at the famous tavern near the Amsterdam wharf called Blue John's, where ships returning from world travels sometimes brought exotic animals for Blue John's menagerie. Customers could enjoy food and drink while they watched the animals, including monkeys.

Returning to Sweden, Linnaeus was now a doctor and a naturalist and author with international recognition. He opened a medical practice and married Sara Lisa. Two years later he was hired as professor of medicine at Uppsala University, and he spent the rest of his career there, teaching medicine at first and then soon switching to botany and natural history and managing the Botanical Garden. He taught, researched, experimented, wrote books, corresponded, mentored students, and continued to have new insights and ideas throughout his life. Beil highlights three key ideas that Linnaeus focused on in his work.

**Plant reproduction:** As a child, Linnaeus saw his father remove all of the male flowers of his pumpkin plants one year, and saw the mystifying lack of pumpkins that resulted. Later when he was a new university student, his mentor Dr. Johan Rothman introduced him to French botanist Sébastien Vaillant's controversial paper on plant sexuality. Linnaeus began to see the critical importance of a plant's ability to sustain life by making more plants. “Flowers, he was beginning to see, were all about sex.” (p. 42) Eventually Linnaeus would come to use plant reproductive organs as the key feature of his classification system.

**Binomial names:** At the time, scientific names for plants and animals were long strings of nouns and adjectives in Latin, a “universal language” that allowed scientists and scholars from different countries to communicate with each other. Different scientists would give the same plant different Latin names, be-

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cause there were no universal rules. The long names were also a problem for Linnaeus's students in their fieldwork as they struggled to write (with quill and inkpot) the plant names quickly in their notes. He decided to make a unique, short, two-word name for each plant (and later, each animal). Others had tried using binomials in the past, but no one had ever made a full system that used them. His students were grateful, and the system was later expanded and first published in his 1753 *Species Plantarum*.

**Differences and similarities among organisms:** Linnaeus created a simple, four-step system to group, classify and identify plants based on their reproductive parts. He compared Sjupp to other kinds of animals to figure out which ones raccoons might be related to. And early in his career he classified humans with apes and monkeys rather than seeing people as separate from the rest of the natural world. He was the first naturalist to do this, and it angered critics and clergymen.

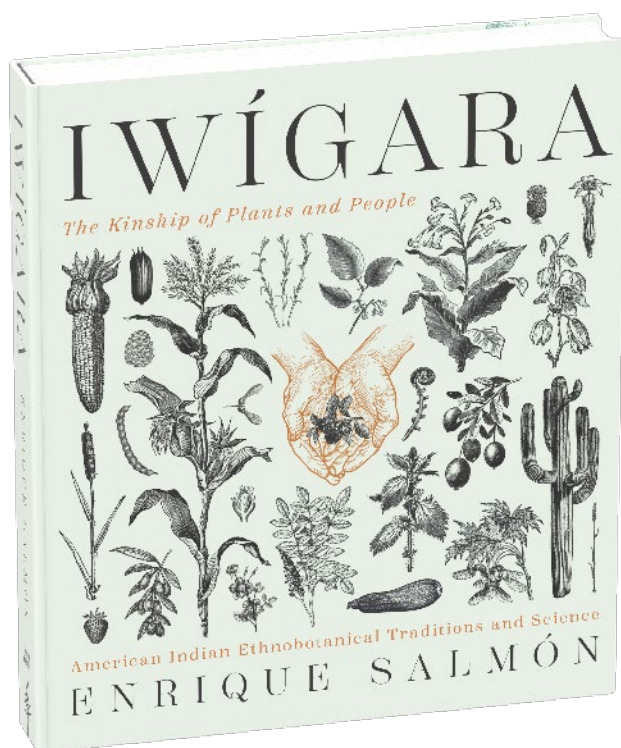
Meanwhile, home life was interesting. The family lived in Uppsala during the school year and at Hammarby in the summer. "Some animals even lived with the family in their big yellow house. Sara Lisa had a full, busy household and a farm to oversee, five children to raise, live-in students to care for, other students tramping in and out for lectures, plus several servants and farmhands to supervise," (p. 183-184). Linnaeus seemed to make himself available to everyone: family, students, colleagues, correspondents. He helped his students in many ways, writing: "A professor can never better distinguish himself in his work than by encouraging a clever pupil, for the true discoverers are among them, as comets amongst the stars." (p. 188) He taught several hundred students, and 17 of them, his "apostles," went on to become naturalists and explorers. Beil highlights seven of them, describing where they went, what they did there, and what resulted from their explorations.

The final chapter describes the later years of Linnaeus's life. In summer, foreign students would rent a house near Hammarby and at 6:00 a.m. would join Linnaeus for breakfast, talking in Latin about natural science for hours. The whole family would spend Sundays with those students at their lodgings, hiring a local farmer to play dance music, the students dancing with Linnaeus's unmarried daughters. Before that, on Sunday mornings Linnaeus and his dog, Pompe, would often walk together to church in the next town. Linnaeus walked out early if the sermon went on too long, Pompe at his side. On days when Linnaeus couldn't attend, Pompe would go alone, sitting on the Hammarby pew and leaving after an hour. These idyllic descriptions of rural life are followed by a brief summarizing of what happened after Linnaeus's death, especially regarding his collections, ending with thoughts on his legacy, noting that, "The rule-breaker had become the rule-maker," that Linnaeus knew that he would be followed by new scientists with new ideas, and that science would always be a relay race.

*What Linnaeus Saw* is liberally illustrated. The text is enhanced by ten blue text boxes expanding on topics that include "Nothing funny about the four humors," "Measuring temperature," "Innovations in paper technology" (about notes and lists), and the Linnaeus children. A two-page chart explains how Linnaeus organized plants into classes. The volume ends with a Linnaeus timeline, a glossary of botanical and scientific terms, notes, sources, and an index.

Beil is a skillful storyteller with a good sense of her audience and how to pitch a narrative to them. Her writing is engaging without being cute, and interweaves anecdotes with the overall story line. The fact that the story she tells here is historical and not fictional should appeal not only to kids interested in science and/or history but also to teachers, librarians, and parents looking for something interesting and inspiring for kids to read.





*Iwígara: American Indian Ethnobotanical Traditions and Science* by Enrique Salmón. Portland, OR: Timber Press, September 15, 2020. 248 pages, color photographs and illustrations. Hardcover, \$34.95. ISBN: 9781604698800.

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

Author Enrique Salmón has written an informative and very accessible book about plants traditionally important to North American indigenous peoples. In *Iwígara: American Indian Ethnobotanical Traditions and Science*, he thoroughly covers uses, identification and harvest, and health benefits of each of the 80 plants featured. In addition, he provides fascinating stories from Native American traditions as to why the plants are important to various tribes.

No dilettante, ethnobotanist Salmón is uniquely qualified to write this book. He is one of the Rarámuri – an indigenous Mexican people. He describes his family members as “living libraries of indigenous plant knowledge” who saw plants as relatives and encouraged him to follow their traditions. He is the head of the American Indian Studies program at Cal State University-East Bay, with a PhD in anthropology. He was a scholar-in-residence at the wonderful Heard Museum in Phoenix, and he has been on the board of the Society of Ethnobiology. Salmón clearly incorporates his love for plants and American Indian tradition into his writing.

At first glance, *Iwígara* (a Rarámuri idea that “all life, spiritual and physical, is interconnected and...shares the same breath”) may seem like simply a reference book. It certainly does contain elements of that and is laid out from A to Z like an encyclopedia, sorted by common name. Each entry begins with the botanical name, family, parts used, season of use, and region of use. Salmón has defined his own geographic/cultural North American regions based upon his studies, and gives appropriate warning that plants and people do not always conform to boundaries. Abundant color photographs enhance the writing.

*Iwígara* departs from being purely for reference in the stories that Salmón interweaves throughout. He shares both personal stories and traditional American Indian stories, making this book fascinating to dip into. In the entry for sweetgrass (*Hierochloa odorata*, syn. *Anthoxanthum nitens*), for example, the author starts by discussing the strongly-scented sweetgrass braids displayed in his office, followed by a telling of the Blackfoot story of a young man rejected by a beautiful girl that demonstrates how sweetgrass came to be used in their sweat lodge ceremonies.

Indigenous peoples made use of as many parts of a plant as possible, reinforced here by the many described uses for each plant. Uses for Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*) include wood for bows and ceremonial objects, dye from the bark, decoction of the root for sore eyes, and fruits for a natural fungicide and insecticide. The health benefits listed in each entry come with warnings as needed. In the entry for blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*), for example, Salmón warns that it is “toxic in large doses.” Perhaps he might have given a more obvious warning at the start of the book about employing caution before trying any listed uses (e.g., consulting with a doctor about possible harmful interaction with prescription

or over-the-counter pharmaceuticals).

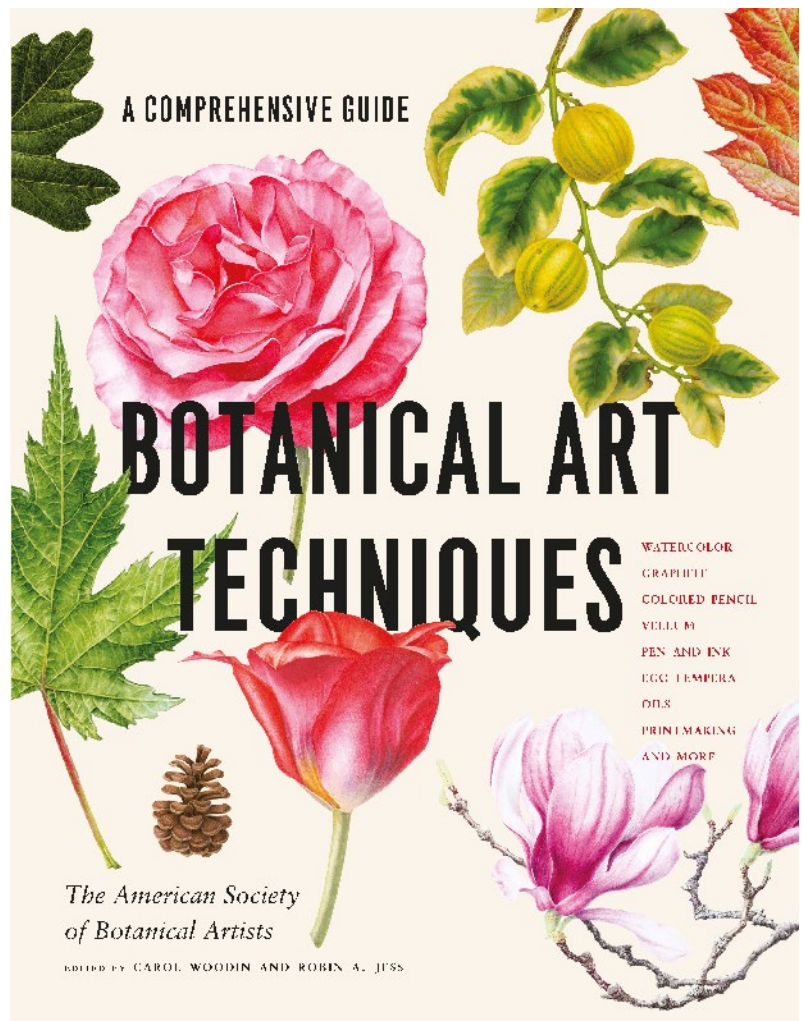
*Iwígara* shines a light on our loss of connection to plants and the natural world. It would be an excellent companion to read with Robin Wall Kimmerer's lovely and poetic 2013 memoir *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*. Both Kimmerer and Salmón have the passion to share their knowledge of the important relationship between plants and North American indigenous people and, while they are very different authors, both do so with clear love for their subject.

*Botanical Art Techniques: A Comprehensive Guide to Watercolor, Graphite, Colored Pencil, Vellum, Pen and Ink, Egg Tempera, Oils, Printmaking, and More* by American Society of Botanical Artists; edited by Carol Woodin and Robin A. Jess. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 2020. 416 pages, 900 color photographs. Hardcover, \$40.00. ISBN 978-1-60469-790-2

Reviewed by Patricia Jonas  
New York, New York

The *American Society of Botanical Artists' website has a page devoted to how-to books*. As with any creative pursuit, practitioners continually seek to improve their technique and conquer what holds them back, and there are lots of books offering help. Many of them are very good. A few have been relied on for decades. Not one of them comes close to approaching the originality and staggering scope of *Botanical Art Techniques*—a tour de force that its prosaic title doesn't begin to hint at. It is by far the most significant contribution to the how-to category in memory and a book that is essential for all collections held at institutions that offer classes and instruction in botanical art. It should also be in libraries where botany and horticulture are taught because of the many ways of seeing and understanding plants demonstrated by the more than fifty contributing artists. Some of the artists have written their own how-to manuals, but having many artists' perspectives, not just one, and many media, including some infrequently used, are what make this book so valuable for artists broadening their practice. It would also be useful to put it in the hands of art curators and historians, and it is engrossing even for a reader like me who appreciates botanical art but is not an artist.

The "Introduction," by editors Carol Woodin and Robin A. Jess, defines botanical art (from the ASBA's perspective—that is, "works created by hand in traditional media") and is an eloquent summation of the current state of the genre. They write: "Botanical illustrations are not dispassionate records; they are both artistic and documentary. This is what is at once fresh and lasting about botanical art: It communicates the intrinsic value of plants and their centrality to human existence, both contemporaneously and through history." The introduction is followed by a section, "Getting Started," that includes advice for beginners








als” and three “Advanced Tutorials.” Two of the advanced tutorials are by Wendy Hollender and Ann Swan, both of whom have written books, do online instruction, and will be familiar names, especially to artists working in colored pencil. As popular as this medium has become, “watercolor has historically been the most used medium for creating botanical artworks, and it continues to be so today,” and so “Watercolor on Paper” and “Watercolor on Vellum” are more than three times the length of “Colored Pencil.”

The first essay in this part—“Properties of Watercolor Paints” by Susan Fisher—covers what goes into paints and how they act. She has an important caution: “Change happens in a lively market, and artists should be aware of the changes paint manufacturers sometimes make to their products.” An example—illustrated by a dramatic color swatch—compares two identically labeled paints of the same brand: “A tube of new gamboge purchased two years ago may not contain the same color ingredients as one purchased this week. This is a critical bit of knowledge to have at hand, because the revised combination of ingredients may affect the paint’s characteristics, such as transparency and permanence.” This is followed by “Palette Philosophies” by Marilyn Garber, who teaches color theory. She contrasts a six-color limited palette (“A select palette of six colors, featuring warm colors and cool colors, can create an infinite number of colors when they are mixed in various pigment combinations and tints,”) with an unlimited color palette.

Even with varying levels of specificity of colors by the contributors, the materials lists make for instructive comparisons. So, for example, Jean Emmons and Lizzie Sanders (two widely celebrated artists and very much in demand teachers—neither of whom has written a how-to book) are very specific about their colors: Jean Emmons lists twenty-six colors she used for her dazzling 4 x 4 inch painting of a dahlia on vellum (“Forty layers of paint is not unusual. Think of the plant as being held in fine spider webs of color.”), while Lizzie Sanders lists a limited palette of only seven colors for the serpentine vine of a vanilla orchid. In her tutorial, “Drybrush Watercolor and Color Mixing,” Sanders advises students to “Mix and test colors along the way, rather than working with a premixed pool of color,” and demonstrates her use of a few colors to produce the diverse and complex greens of her painting.

Another much in demand teacher is co-editor Carol Woodin, who has been a leader in the revival of enthusiasm for painting on vellum. She, too, has not written a how-to on the subject, so her tutorials on vellum as a surface for painting—“A Brief Overview of Vellum,” “Techniques of Watercolor on Vellum”—are particularly noteworthy. Her “Achieving Deep, Rich Color in Watercolor on Kelmscott Vellum” is a knockout, as are other tutorials in this section. Something that has seemed to me as mysterious as a magic trick whose secret I can’t guess, is bloom depicted on fruit. The secret is illuminated by two artists: Denise Walser-Kolar, in an applied tutorial in this section on vellum, demonstrates with a single persimmon and Karen Kluglein, in an advanced tutorial in “Watercolor on Paper,” demonstrates with two bunches of grapes. There is some repetition, but the tutorials are never repetitive, and anyway, not everyone will read cover-to-cover.

Part 3, “Specialized Techniques and Composition,” includes sections on field sketchbooks, etching, metalpoint and painting with gouache, egg tempera, casein, acrylics and oils. The last section is devoted to composition: “Composition in Practice,” “Elements and Principles of Composition in Botanical Art,” and “Different Approaches to Botanical Composition.” This is how techniques learned in the previous pages become art.

There are an index, an abbreviated list of additional reading, and short biographies of artists who contributed tutorials or whose work appears in the book. Considering how impressive a gathering of experts this is, it is no surprise to see the heaps of awards they have accumulated for their art and the prestigious collections in which they are represented. A glossary might have been useful, but its absence is hardly notable in a reference of this importance. 



# Schools of Gardening for Ladies

By Judith M. Taylor

*Originally posted on English Historical Fiction Authors (EHFA). Reprinted with permission of the author.*

<https://englishhistoryauthors.blogspot.com/2020/07/schools-of-gardening-for-ladies.html>

“Ladies” are rather thin on the ground these days but in the late Victorian and Edwardian eras middle- and upper-class women were usually known as ladies. We are all staunchly just “women” now. That had nothing to do with any sort of special title but was purely a matter of upbringing and status. As such they were largely unable to do many things we all enjoy today because it is was not “ladylike.” Only men were supposed to earn the family’s living. Overcoming that taboo began gaining traction during the time that women’s suffrage was on the horizon. I do not believe that was coincidental.



*Frances, Viscountess Wolseley*

Until the recent past an unmarried woman of the more refined classes could not look forward to a rich and fulfilled life. If she lacked a dowry she was out of luck. The work open to her was very restricted. All that the Bronte sisters could do officially was to become teachers or governesses. The other choice was to become a companion to a wealthy woman, as a “gofer.” Both occupations were lonely and considered declass  . These women were invisible. Think of the poignant scene in “Jane Eyre” when the county ladies and their guests from London visit Mr. Rochester in their elegant riding habits. Jane simply shrivels up.

An alternative title for this essay could be “Headstrong Women of Means.” Two such characters emerged in England at about the same time with very similar goals. Both had the idea that training women of that sort to be gardeners would allow them to find rewarding work.



*Countess of Warwick, circa 1895.*

Frances, Viscountess Wolseley, 1872 – 1936, viewed these women with a very sympathetic eye. She did not hesitate to call them bluntly surplus but unlike some of her consœurs she took action. In her case she saw salvation for them through horticulture. Although she had been presented at court she never wanted to marry but instead devoted her life to horticultural education. She wrote several books but “Gardening for Women” and “Women on the Land” are the best known and most germane. Her father, General Sir Garnet Wolesley, was elevated to the peerage for his services to the country. She was his only child and quite unusually was allowed to inherit the title. After her death it went into abeyance.

Frances Evelyn Maynard, Countess of Warwick, always known as “Daisy,” 1861 – 1938, inherited very large fortunes from both her father and grandfather at the age of three, providing an income of £30,000 per annum, an astronomical sum back then. When she married Lord Brooke, who became the Earl of Warwick, this money was combined with that of her husband,

also a very wealthy man.

At first, she used the money to enjoy herself, throwing extravagant parties and disporting herself with men like the Prince of Wales. Contemporary portraits show her to be a very lovely young woman. She also wanted to create beautiful gardens and displayed her skill at the family estate at Easton in Essex.

A severe scolding by the editor of the Socialist newspaper *The Clarion*, Robert Blatchford, about her wastefulness and how the money used for such a party could have fed hundreds of poor people or helped to educate some of them in the 1890s opened her eyes. She had naively thought that the classic “trickle down” system would help to alleviate poverty in her area. It is eternally to her credit that she took the criticism to heart and mended her ways. Countess Warwick became a card-carrying Socialist and thus an enemy of her class.

In a strange echo of Ellen Willmott’s fate she too ended up quite poor but for different reasons. The bulk of her income came from the products of her lands. When the agricultural depression hit in 1893 and lasted for several years her income dropped sharply. Huge quantities of grain from Ukraine and Canada were a glut on the market, driving down prices. She also spent very freely but not as wantonly as Miss Willmott. She used her money to benefit others less fortunate than she was. Her younger son only inherited the rather paltry sum of £37,000 when she died.

Among her significant projects were a school for fine needlework to encourage young women to earn a living and the school for agriculture and gardening which she began in Reading but later transferred to her husband’s estate at Studley in Warwickshire. This was not too far from Birmingham. The countess campaigned for better housing and many basic improvements in the Darwinian world of late Victorian Britain.

From about 1890 to 1930 schools of this type thrived. They were not unique to the British Isles but could be found on the Continent and to a lesser extent in the rest of the English-speaking world. Some graduates did indeed go on to find work but it took time to overcome built-in prejudice. Sir William Thiselton-Dyer, who took over direction of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew from his father-in-law Sir Joseph Hooker, grudgingly hired a small group of women as general gardeners in about 1900. To keep prurience at a minimum he insisted they wear long brown knickerbockers and strong boots while they worked. This policy backfired. It is said that trainloads of frisky men would travel down to the gardens and leer at the women as they worked.

Dyer expected the women to do exactly the same work as the men and gave them the same pay. In the evenings they had to join study groups and improve their education. It could be a very long day. The experiment lasted for a few years. Some women left to get married, some found gratifying work but a small number stayed on to enjoy tiny promotions. They came back into their own very strongly once World War I got under way. The men all left to sign up for the forces and women became essential to keep the garden running.

Eventually it was no longer bizarre for women to hold important gardening positions both private and public and the schools started to merge with colleges and universities or other large organizations which now would accept their candidates.

In all there must have been between twenty-five and thirty schools. The number is not exact as some schools run out of her own house by an amateur only lasted two or three years and were not counted. Some graduates left to found their own schools in the United Kingdom and abroad. A graduate of the



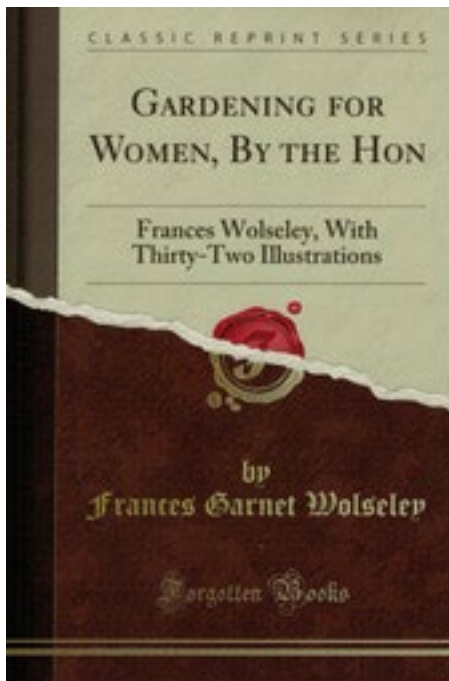
Studley School, Miss Judith Waldron-Skinner, founded the California School of Gardening for Women in Hayward, California, not far from San Francisco. It lasted from 1921 to 1936 when it merged with Stanford University. The premises are now a shopping mall with its parking lot.

One of the most famous of these schools, Waterperry, near Oxford, was started in 1932 by Miss Beatrix Havergal, a graduate of Studley. She was taken on as the groundskeeper at a private boarding school for girls where she laid out the tennis courts. While there she became friends with the woman in charge of the housekeeping. They left together and pooled their savings to start their own school of gardening. Vita Sackville West, 1892–1962, creator of the astonishing gardens of Sissinghurst Castle in Kent, managed to snag two of Miss Havergal's best students, Pamela Schwerdt and Sybille Kreuzberger. They ran Sissinghurst for more than thirty years after Vita's death. Waterperry closed at the end of 1970 and Miss Havergal died in 1971.



*Beatrix Havergal*

Lady Wolseley opened her school in 1901 at her own estate in Sussex, Glynde. At first, she ran it from her house but two years later took on property about five miles away to be the college proper. All the schools required a certain level of discipline in order to function but the pupils were there by choice, paying hard-earned money and not likely to mess about. Lady Wolseley came from a military background and set up much stricter rules with rewards and punishments for good or bad behaviour. She created a board of very prominent honorary directors to indicate the high level of her aspirations. They included Gertrude Jekyll, William Robinson and Ellen Willmott. The latter was rather a joke as Ellen Willmott wanted no part of women gardeners at any time.



The curriculum at each school tended to be much the same but there was a broad range of optional subjects which varied with the vision of the principals and what was available in their districts. Apart from botany and all the requirements to pass the examinations of the Royal Horticultural Society, young women could learn how to manage a market garden, keep bees, keep poultry or run a dairy farm. Market gardening was an important reality. In some cases selling their produce at local market helped to fund the school. That was the case with Miss Havergal at Waterperry. Formal landscape architecture was also taught by specialists like Edwin Lutyens who came just for those sessions.

All these private schools required a fairly substantial fee for several reasons. It could be up to £100 per annum which was a lot in those days. One reason was simply to pay the expenses. The other was to keep the clientele at a distinct social level. The daughter of a farm labourer or cook could never save up enough money to enroll in such a


school.

In 1870 Parliament passed the Education Act. While it had many shortcomings it was the first step in making public education free for all children up to the age of fourteen. Previously elementary education  
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had been solely in the hands of the Church of England which only let go kicking and screaming. Groups like the Fabians were also busy trying to get adult education adopted as a principle.

The London County Council was an enlightened body and set up institutes for adult learning at strategic points across the city. It was there that a shop assistant or solicitor's clerk could go after work and learn enough to get a better job. Gardening and horticulture were taught at some of these places, mainly in the south of London. For a fee of five shillings rather than many pounds they could learn botany, nature study, elementary gardening skills and other necessary subjects. As it stays light until 10 pm in the summer such classes were possible.

Another public institution accepted women graduates very early. The University College at Reading had an agricultural department whose classes were open both to men and women over sixteen years of age from 1893. The director was the highly qualified John Percival from Cambridge. This college had very extensive grounds and also took advantage of its proximity to a major seed company, Messrs Sutton and Son. The field trips were very educational. Eleven acres were devoted to orchards and the curriculum was broad. Students were prepared for the higher horticultural examinations. The cost was intermediate between the expensive private schools and the subsidized LCC classes.

Recalling this era is a labour of love. Women were really getting into their stride. If you wanted to earn your own living in an honorable and productive way what better than to become a professional gardener. Its freedom compared very favourably with working in a shop or an office. The results were very rewarding in so many ways and quite often included a nice cottage on the bigger estates. 

## REFERENCES

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Way, Twigs. *Virgins, Weeders and Queens*. Gloucester: Sutton Publishing Limited, 2006.

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(CBHL Annual Business Meeting Minutes continued from page 16)

- We have \$50 more this year than last year!
- We will vote to approve this report in the afternoon.

## Committee Reports

### Annual Literature Award Committee

Committee did not meet today.

The committee will not be making awards presentation at this year's annual meeting.

Statistics for 2020 awards:

- There were 41 nominations for the 2020 award from 12 members of CBHL
- Of those, 38 review books were received by the committee members
- The three missing books reflect lack of remaining inventory by publishers, partially because of COVID-19 reduction of printing from Chinese sources
- The 38 books considered for awards listed on CBHL website
- Includes 10 books for children and young adults

Future date for announcement of 2020 awards:

- Abrupt closure of libraries in March separated some committee members from the review books
- Committee decided to postpone making decisions about awards until all books could be reviewed by all members
- When this is done, hopefully by late June, a presentation will be made by committee to the membership



--Brian Thompson, committee chair

### **Charles Robert Long Award Committee**

Stacy Stoldt reported that the committee met, and is not presenting any award this year, but we do have a candidate for the future.

### **Communications Committee**

CBHL Communications Committee Report for 2020 Annual Meeting

May 20th, 2020

The Communications Committee was formed this year as a result of the merger of the Public Relations, Publications, and Electronic Communications Committees -- this merger was approved by a vote of the CBHL membership in November 2019. We had 21 people attend the first meeting of the new "Com Com" via Zoom on 5/20/2020, and Meg Eastwood became the new committee chair in an uncontested vote.

#### *CBHL Website 2019-2020*

Website editor: Céline Arseneault

From mid-May 2019 to May 19, 2020, CBHL website received 5,000 visitors, for a total of 6,8 k sessions. After homepage, the pages most consulted were: Plant Libraries, Annual Meeting and Literature Award; followed by CBHL Newsletter (archives), Become a Member and Annual Award Nomination Form. Note the Newsletters are usually consulted from direct links received through email or from the homepage. Access was mostly direct (with URL) or Google Search, although 45 Facebook and 10 Twitter references happened. Users are mostly from US and Canada. 20% of users consulted the website through their phone or mobile device. Assistance was regularly provided for the membership database and posting/updating CBHL info and discussion events.

The Annual Literature nomination form, winners, press releases and actual nominees were also uploaded. Adding instructions for filling the database through forms both for managers and members is an on-going project.

The new objectives for next year include updating the Plant Libraries section with membership renewed status and implementing a search tool for the Newsletter archives.

Finally, gathering new statistics through Google Analytics for the Online Directory and the Newsletter downloads would be useful.

#### *LibGuides Summary from May 1, 2019 to April 30th, 2020*

Intranet/LibGuides Manager: Tracy Mehlin

- 83 guides, 12,341 views.
- 34 Guides had zero views; many of these are either unpublished or are not linked from anywhere.
- 60 members have accounts.

Top 5 Guides, by number of views:

- Arboretum Library, 2085 views
- 51st Annual CBHL 2019 Meeting, 1687 views
- 52nd Annual CBHL 2020 Meeting, 1406 views
- Tower Hill Botanic Garden Library, 1254 views
- CBHL LibGuides Homepage, 1011 views

LibGuides Use Analysis

- 27% of Guides are "members only" and used as intranet in support of committee work, archives of documents and resources for members.
- 19% of Guides have been updated in 2020.
- 32% of Guides have not been updated since the November 2017 migration.
- 56% (47) of Guides had fewer than 20 views in prior 12 months.
- CBHL user "groups" who have their own individual sets of guides: Los Angeles, BRIT, Mt Cuba, Tower

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Hill, Toronto, Chicago.

### *CBHL Newsletter*

Judy Stevenson took on the role of Newsletter Editor in summer 2019.

In 2019-2020, we produced four quarterly newsletters – June, September, December, March. In 2021, we anticipate the newsletter schedule will be the same – June, September, December, March.

Deadlines for content submission will be July 15 (Sept. issue), October 15 (Dec. issue), January 15 (March issue), April 15 (June issue).

Newsletter will continue to feature the following sections:

- From the President (Anita Kay, Brandy Kuhl)
- Member News East (Shelly Kilroy)
- Member News West (Beth Brand)
- Book Reviews (Gillian Hayward)
- Member Spotlight (Judy Stevenson)
- Calendar of Events (Rita Hassert)
- Preservation (Chuck Tancin, Kathy Crosby)

Thank you to newsletter proofreaders Staci Catron, Jennie Oldfield, and Kathy Allen!

### *Public Relations*

Rita Hassert, Public Relations Manager

The CBHL social media campaign continued via Facebook (Susan Eubank and Rita Hassert, moderators) and Twitter (Meg Eastwood, moderator). (As of 5/19/2020, 429 FB followers.) Finishing her second year as the CBHL Twitter moderator, Meg indicated that she'd like to spend less time with Twitter and contribute to other CBHL efforts. During the Communications Committee meeting, Robin Everly volunteered to take the Twitter lead and Meg will become chair of the Communications Committee.

Press releases were created and distributed for:

- 2019 CBHL Annual Literature Awards.
  - 2020 CBHL Annual Meeting – including various affiliative organizations as well as library programs.
- During our 2019 PR Committee meeting, a need to increase the visibility of the Annual Literature Awards was discussed. During this past year, Gillian Hayward led an effort to revise and update OCLC master records to identify Annual Literature Award nominees and winners. Like Caldecott and Newbery Award winners, CBHL Annual Literature Award nominees and honorees are now visible to a greater audience and are part of the bibliographic record. Phrases that were added to the master records were in this style: "Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL) Annual Literature Award - Nominee, 2018" or "Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL) Award of Excellence in Gardening & Gardens, 2019." To view these enhanced records, use this search statement - "Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries" AND "award" in WorldCat.

### *CBHL Listserv*

Listsrv manager (outgoing): Anita Kay

Listsrv manager (incoming): Susan Eubank

Listsrv activity, May 2019 - April 2020

CBHL Listsrv summary, 2019-2020

month	total messages	total threads
May 2019	58	32
June	50	26
July	40	30
August	48	30
September	68	35
October	69	37
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November	40	24
December	42	24
January 2020	75	45
February	53	36
March	77	42
April	80	35
Sum	700	396
Average	58.33	33

## Financial Advisory Committee

Minutes on CBHL Financial Advisory Committee - 5/19/2020

The Financial Advisory Committee met by Zoom on May 19, 2020, including committee members Amy Kasameyer, Betsy Kruthoffer (CBHL treasurer), and Brian Thompson (committee chair). The meeting included six other attendees, including Robin Everly as Zoom host, and Mark Stewart from the CBHL board.

**Treasurer's Report**  
The voting members of the committee (Amy and Brian) had already received a draft of the Treasurer's Report for 2019 from Betsy. The committee accepted the Report as presented and praised it for clarity and professionalism, finding the introductory notes and the comparison with income and expense items from 2018 especially valuable. The Report will now be presented to the Board and the membership.

**Change Fiscal Year?**

Betsy presented for review the proposal to change the CBHL fiscal year, possibly to July-June. This idea was considered by then treasurer Bill Musser in July 2017 and reviewed at that time by past treasurers John Reed and Brian Thompson. It was agreed that the original IRS related reasons for the January-December fiscal year, to maintain non-profit status, no longer existed because of changes in IRS policy. However, the IRS should be advised of any fiscal year change.

**Advantages/reasons in favor:**

- Aligns membership year with fiscal year for easier and more transparent review of income from memberships
- Facilitates easier EBHL affiliation collection/payments
- Makes the annual Treasurer's Report a more accurate reflection of the organization's annual cycle
- Recommended by current and three past treasurers to ease report preparation

**Process/concerns:**

- Betsy will consult with CPA on IRS issues, advantages/disadvantages
- Treasurer's Report at annual meeting will be well after close of fiscal year
- Requires a Bylaws change
- Requires changes in Procedures Manual
  - \* Closing of annual meeting account required by end of fiscal year; this may need adjusting
  - \* Treasurer's report to the board at the mid-year includes discretionary spending for next fiscal year – timing would need to be adjusted

**Fundraising**

The CBHL board asked the Financial Advisory Committee to discuss fundraising options for CBHL. This was an open discussion and the following are ideas for the board to consider:

**Donations**

- Have been consistently given, especially by some members, every year with their membership renewals
- \$850 in 2019; between \$1,000-\$1,500 based on sampling in 2008, 2010
- Records of donations are not kept, other than in the treasurer's ledger records
- One can't just donate on membership form without also renewing a membership, or by using an awkward work-around
- Donations can only be done at renewal time, or by sending a check at other times

- What are the costs of modifying the form to be used year-round?
- Or is this a function of the Communications committee?
- Or should this be part of the interactive directory?

Thank you and acknowledgement letters

- This used to be done and Betsy would like to resume this practice.
- Brian will send sample letter and stationery/envelopes to Betsy when he is able to access those supplies
- Should donors (with permission) be publicly thanked (on website, in newsletter)?

Promotion of donations

- Letter from President or Board with membership renewal announcement
- Targeted appeals (e.g., “please give to the Founders Fund”) especially effective in past
- Recommend also promoting in newsletter, website, social media

Who should oversee fundraising?

- Many organizations have this as a board position.
- In the possible reorganization of the board, is this a Vice President responsibility? Past President?
- Or could this be a manager position?
- This person could consider organizations for sponsorships or philanthropic grants
- An ad hoc committee could be formed to find funding for specific projects, or to increase specific services for members

## Founders Fund Committee

As the 2020 meeting was remote, no Founders Fund scholarships were given this year.

## Membership Committee

Membership Committee Annual Report 2019-2020

- Chair: Stacy Brody
- Membership Manager: Janis Shearer
- Member Recruitment: Suzi Teghtmeyer

Stacy is stepping down from her role as Membership Committee Chair as of this annual meeting. There is an immediate need for a Membership Committee Chair.

Current Membership: 174 members

\*Note: Data is current as of May 13, 2020\*

New Members: 22

### *Member Categories*

- Institutional 90 (down 9 from 2018-2019)
- Individual 50 (down 1 from 2018-2019)
- Commercial 11 (down 1 from 2018-2019)
- Lifetime 10 (stable)
- Retiree 12 (down 1 from 2018-2019)
- Student 1 (down from 6)

### *International Representation*

- Australia 4 (stable)
- Canada 7 (down from 9 in 2018-2019)
- Germany 1 (down from 2 in 2018-2019)
- Netherlands 1 (down from 2 in 2018-2019)
- Singapore 1 (down from 2 in 2018-2019)
- South Korea 1 (stable)
- Switzerland 1 (new in 2020)
- United Kingdom 10 (down from 12 in 2018-2019)

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### *Member Professional Titles*

#### Access Services

- Access Services Librarian

#### Technical Services

- Technical Services Librarian
- Serials Librarian
- Knowledge Resources Manager
- Information Resource Steward
- Cataloger
- Information Technology Librarian
- Database and Catalogue Specialist
- Library Technical Services Manager

#### Rare Books, Archives & Special Collections

- Archivist
- Archives Manager
- Special Collections Librarian
- Book Conservator
- Curator, Natural History Rare Books
- Museum Specialist
- Horticultural Research Archivist

#### Librarians & Information Specialists

- Assistant Librarian
- Collection Development Librarian
- Collections Manager
- Research Librarian
- Science Librarian
- Plant Answer Line Librarian,
- Manager of Reference and Technical Services
- Horticulture Librarian
- Library Assistant
- Public Services Librarian
- Turfgrass Projects Librarian

#### Institutional and Organizational Leaders

- Assistant to the Director of the Gardens
- Associate Director
- Associate Librarian
- BHL Program Director
- CEO
- Deputy Director

- Director of Collections
- Director of Conservation
- Director, JSTOR Forum
- Director, Library & Information Services
- President
- Vice President for Botany
- Head Librarian
- Executive Director
- Head of Data and Digital
- Owner
- Partner
- Manager
- Head of Library, Art & Archives
- Head of Science
- Head of the Library and Archives
- Head, Collection Development & Digital Collections
- Head, Natural & Physical Science Libraries
- Head, Physical Collections Unit
- Proprietor

#### Scientists, Botanists, and Plant People

- Botanist
- Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany
- Plant Records Manager
- Curator of Living Collections

#### Digital Specialists

- Digital Asset Manager
- Digital Projects Librarian
- Digital Resource Specialist
- Digitization Specialist

#### Historians

- Documentarian
- Historian
- Seed Historian
- Curator

#### Other

- Publisher
- Volunteer

### *Expertise of our Members*

- Agriculture and agricultural history
- Agronomy
- Horticulture and horticultural history
- Arid land plants
- Desert ecology and plant evolution
- Taxonomy, systematics
- Book conservation
- Botany of California and Hawai'i
- Ethnobotany
- Green roofs
- Seed industry and catalogs
- Cataloging, rare books, serials
- Children's literature and programming
- Collection Development

### *Committee Activities*

- Garden and landscape history
- Garden historian and writer
- LibAnswers
- Rare gardening books
- Gardening literature
- Book groups
- Mediterranean climate plants and gardens, cactus, succulents
- Plant pathology
- Microbiology
- American gardening history and native plants in the Mid-Atlantic
- Wordpress and web development
- Database design
- Koha

When notified via email alert, the committee emailed welcome and welcome back emails to all renewals and new members. Sample emails are available on the Committee LibGuide.

The committee wrote two newsletter articles.

### ***Future Activities***

The committee will re-assign roles and responsibilities within the group.

The committee will continue to gain familiarity with the new membership directory.

The committee will continue to maintain the membership list.

The committee will focus on member recruitment to connect and reconnect with institutions that may not be aware of CBHL. This may include non-library organizations and associations. The committee will collaborate with the Communications Committee to create recruitment materials, including a brochure. The committee will explore options for membership engagement and recruitment via quarterly webinars, Q&A's, or other virtual gatherings. These would be open to non-members.

### ***Action Items***

Céline will update the list of plant libraries on the CBHL website, to be cross-referenced with the membership database. Céline will contact Janis to send reminders to those libraries that have not renewed their membership as of 2020.

### **Nominating Committee**

Included as part of Secretary's Report.



## **Preservation and Access Committee**

Reported by Chuck Tancin: Kathy Crosby and I have continued to share information with CBHL members on preservation, conservation, and various ways of working with special collections and materials in various formats, through a newsletter column that appears more or less regularly -- we published articles in the June, September and December 2019 issues -- we missed the March 2020 issue, but there is an article in the June 2020 issue. I had thought about trying to organize some preservation/conservation-related programming for this year's annual meeting, but I had some other things going on in my life that prevented me from pursuing that with our hosts.

## **Steering Committee**

The CBHL Steering Committee met for one hour via Zoom.

On the call: Anita Kay, Céline Arsenault, Brian Thompson, Leora Siegel, Kathy Crosby, Mark Stewart, Betsy Kruthoffer, Rita Hassert, Brandy Kuhl, Judy Stevenson, Suzi Teghtmeyer, Tracy Mehlin, Esther Jackson, Donna Herendeen, John Reed, Stephen Sinon, Stacy Stoldt (chair)

Participants will upload their reports to CBHL LibGuides, Listserv, etc.

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Future Conferences**

Meeting minutes – Tuesday May 19, 2020 – 1PM EST

Attending the Zoom meeting: Robin Everly, Barbara Ferry, Stephen Sinon, Esther Jackson, Brandy Kuhl, Mimi Jorling, Jessica Moskowitz, Jodi Shippee, Donna Herendeen

*SS:* Meeting began with review of hosting schedule as follows: Washington DC (2021), Denver (2022), Fort Worth (2023). Toronto may be a potential host for 2024 but that has not been discussed. Toronto was to have hosted for 2021.

*BF:* DC will be hosting in 2021 and has concerns about an in-person meeting given there could be a resurgence of COVID and many members have travel concerns getting to DC not to mention recent budget cuts and staff losses. Instead proposed is a robust, dynamic, interesting virtual conference for 2021 with keynote speakers, member presentations, and online collection and site tours.

*RE:* The Washington METRO is running on a reduced schedule and may not return to full service until summer of 2021. A virtual conference will save money for CBHL and encourage new members to attend the annual conference.

*DH:* A virtual conference shows great thoughtfulness and will require good planning. We could charge a small registration fee and save loads on accommodations and transportation.

*EJ:* Many conferences are not happening at all or have been scaled back.

Noted in the chat box for the meeting: Mark Stewart has been furloughed and is only checking his personal email inbox.

Also JM noted that there is a hosting service for conferences used by many at <https://iclr.cc>.

*BF:* BHL's Martin Kalfatovic suggested that CBHL could participate as part of the BHL conference scheduled for Paris. It was asked if the conference generates revenue and it was answered that breaking even is usually the best scenario.

*DH:* Related her daughter's recent experience in travelling to Japan, stating that it is difficult for air travelers these days and there are many travel bans in place for institutions.

*EJ:* The Board would need to discuss a strategy for travel.

*SS:* We are in agreeance then that this is a good idea to present to the membership at the annual conference tomorrow.

*BF:* We will need to discuss the elements and figure out the dates but BHL is meeting next year the week before Easter. In any event there will be no worries about cherry blossoms and hotels.

*EJ:* Members on other committees may like to help with conference planning and offer their expertise.

*BF:* Speakers can come from anywhere not just the DC area. We will continue the same theme and perhaps survey members for content they would be interested in.

*BK:* We will need feedback from the Board first.

*DH:* Second Vice President does a post conference survey.

*EJ:* Allaina will be doing that for this year.

*DH:* It is valuable for the next year's host and usually has the same kinds of complaints from year to year.

*[JS:* chat box message stating as a new librarian she would be interested in having an in person meeting to meet people.]

*RE:* It was considered holding a meeting in a lower density area that would be cheaper but travel to the location is still a problem. It may be possible to hold smaller regional meetings.

All agree that it is best to return to a physical meeting as soon as possible.

*SS:* Any word from Susan Fugate at NAL?

*RE:* We have had no contact from Susan and we know that NAL has its share of problems these days. Not sure if they are reopened or not.

*BF:* Planning and unplanning has been stressful but we are learning together and have developed new skills.

*RE:* Smithsonian policy states we cannot record Zoom meetings.

*BF:* Using other meeting software might allow recordings. The issue is about comments being removed.

*DH:* You would have to tell participants up front they are being recorded but also you are producing one more thing that needs to be preserved and made accessible.

### **Ad Hoc Committee on Board Restructuring**

This was reported on later in the meeting.

### **Vote to renew Ad Hoc Committee on Future Meetings**

Motion to renew the Ad Hoc Committee on Future Meetings. Moved by Stephen Sinon, seconded by Stacy Stoldt. The motion passes.

### **Planning for 2021 Conference**

- Conclusion that we should plan for an online meeting
- BHL also offers this group a session for the meeting in Paris, 2021
- Discussion
  - \* John Reed: If there is a virtual software that will meet our needs for conference meeting, maybe we should sign up for it as CBHL and not individual institutions
  - \* Suzi Teghtmeyer: Currently planning an online conference and can share her findings with the hosts.
  - \* Esther Jackson: As discussed at the committee meeting yesterday, it would be great to open the planning committee up to other members who may want to participate.
  - \* Beth Brand: Did the idea come up of doing an in-person meeting every other year? Not in that particular meeting, but it is an idea to consider.
  - \* John Reed: Suggests that we spread out the activities over different parts of the day so that we can accommodate different people being able to attend.
  - \* Upcoming meeting schedule: 2021 virtual, 2022 Denver, 2023 Ft Worth, 2024 undecided
  - \* Motion to accept the virtual 2020 meeting Leora Siegel; seconded by Suzi Teghtmeyer; motion passes.

### **Recess**

- Move to recess the meeting until 5pm EDT. Moved by John Reed; seconded by Leora Siegel; motion passes.



## Part 2

### Remote Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 – 5:00pm EDT

Call to order 5:02pm – 42 attendees

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Thanks to David Sleasman and to Betsy Kruthoffer for doing the work of balancing the budget!
- Pat Jonas moves to accept report; Stacy Stoldt seconds. All in favor! Passes.

### **Committee Reports Feedback**

- No feedback on committee reports
- Motion to accept committee reports? Kathy Crosby moves to accept committee reports. Donna Herendeen seconds and reminds the board they should be in the business meeting minutes.

### **Board Reorganization Committee Presentation & Discussion**

- The proposed board reorganization requires a bylaws change.
- The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL) Ad Hoc Committee on Board Structure was agreed to by the membership at the 2019 annual meeting and formed by the Board in July 2019.
- The committee's purpose was to review CBHL board structure to ensure effective board organization.
- Calls for volunteers to serve on this committee were sent out on the listserv in July with a second call in August 2019.
- Committee members are Donna Herendeen; CBHL President Anita Kay; CBHL Past-President David Sleasman; and Chair, Leora Siegel. Robin Everly was a member at the outset.
- The proposed changes are to reduce the number of board members from 6 to 5; to reduce the term limits for Vice President, President, and Past President from 4 years to 3 years, and to reduce the term limits for Treasurer and Secretary from 5 years to 4 years.
- Reasons:
  - \* To save the organization some money.
  - \* To have an odd number for voting purposes; five members will still have diverse opinions and backgrounds.
  - \* Term limits to shorten service as 3 years is more attractive to more interested people.
  - \* With more turnover, there is more involvement by CBHL members.
  - \* Three years is somewhat typical of library boards in general.
- All of the Second Vice President tasks have been separated between the Vice President, President, and Past President. Past President has more duties, including liaison to the meeting host and also updating the meeting manual. The Vice President position will become the Parliamentarian and undergo online training.
- Process: Met August through March every two weeks. Took it seriously and took their time to get to this proposal. Board approved early March, and sent to the members for review on March 16th. Membership requested that we expand the discussion time, so the time has been extended. The vote will open June 19th.
- Clarification that each new cycle will go into effect as each office turns over. So, for example, we have an incoming Second VP this year. Next year we will not have another Second VP. When the Secretary finishes her term in 2021, the newly elected Secretary would have a three year term.
- Question: Will Board members continue to be liaisons to committees? Yes.
- Discussion: Can we use "they" instead of "he/she" in the new language to be more inclusive.
- Comments from online discussion:
  - \* Esther Jackson: As current CBHL Secretary, I support this change.
  - \* Maureen McCadden: Thanks for this information. It's obvious that the Board is working hard, and

members should get more involved at every level. The Board positions are well-defined, even to task level ('what will I have to do?' answered), the CBHL Bylaws restructuring is necessary, the proposed changes make sense, and the 'Thought Process' info adds transparency. Thanks for all this work.

- \* Tracy Mehlin: First I want to say thank you to the ad hoc committee. I know this was a ton of work and I appreciate it! Second, as a past board member, I support the new structure. The VP will now be given jobs to do right from the start and the Past President will be tasked with getting them up to speed. Not only will the smaller board be more efficient and cost effective, it should be a little easier to recruit officers because the time commitment is shorter. Perhaps some former board members might even agree to serve again.
- \* Beth Brand: The proposed changes were well thought through and are appropriate for CBHL moving forward. Thank you to committee members for all your work on this!
- Comments from the live meeting
  - \* Great job to the committee! John Reed, Suzi Teghtmeyer, and Pat Jonas all are supportive and congratulate the committee.
- John Reed proposes we vote on this... Kathy Crosby seconds. All approve. No oppose. The motion Passes.
- Motion from Alena McNamara to change pronouns from he/she to something else. John Reed seconds.
- Discussion:
  - \* They/Them or She/He/They. They seems to encompass all the pronouns.
  - \* Writers should use the singular "they" when the gender is unknown or irrelevant to the context, or when to a specific person who uses they as their pronoun.
  - \* Motion to change the bylaws to replace all the pronouns so there is no gender bias, changing "she/he" to "they." Kathy Crosby motions. David Sleasman seconds. All approve! The motion passes.
- The online form to give feedback on the proposed changes is still open! Please share your comments. And please vote when the vote opens.

## LibGuides

- Discussion about if we should renew the CBHL LibGuides subscription or not, if we should charge members who would like to use it, etc. We renewed for 2021. We did not decide either way before our renewal for 2021.
- Discussion
  - \* If someone would like to use LibGuides, Tracy Mehlin is the contact person!
  - \* We need to make the resource more widely known. Not a lot of people know about it.
  - \* Susan Eubank: We need to be sure that people know about it as a benefit. It has helped augment the LA Arboretum website.
  - \* Alena McNamara: Does use LibGuides, and although it would be fair to ask some members who use them to pay for them, they had to do a budget recast... if it is possible to do a cost share in future years, that would be better than this year.
  - \* Robin Everly: Was on the board when we were using a free software, and doesn't want to see CBHL go back to those days. We need to get away from free products. Feels strongly that this is a good product and people seem happy with it. Seems secure, and this is an important product and resource.
  - \* Anita Kay: Stresses that this was not a cut that we were eager to make, but we were looking at cutting it to reduce costs. But as of now it is very valuable.
  - \* Céline Arseneault: Two comments. Only Robin's email has created problems on the listserv. The LibGuides is difficult to use and proprietary... We have to pay every year to subscribe.
  - \* Leora Siegel: Chicago Botanic has an institutional membership because of LibGuides access.


## **General Financial Discussion**

- Question: Is CBHL going to go bankrupt? There were calculations done prior to the increase of dues, prior to the cessation of the print newsletter... We were spending over a prolonged period of time, substantially more money than the annual revenues brought in. That increasingly reduced the cash reserves. Then, when we put other policies in place, we leveled out the cash reserves. If we would have kept going at the same burn rate, exceeding our revenues, we would have quickly gotten into a very bad situation. But thankfully we have stopped the bleed. We are not in danger of going bankrupt.
- Esther Jackson - There was a procedural change made for committees to request their funds [when?] in order to create an annual, balanced budget.
- Anita Kay - We have also reduced costs for the board attending fall board meeting.

## **Members' News**

- Suzi Teghtmeyer: Last summer, she was part of a committee that got money to start a seed library. Was distributed through farmer's market.
- Erin Aults: Also started a seed library but then shut down due to COVID. Now doing contactless pick-up.
- Brandy Watts: All staff has returned to BRIT. Following careful protocols. BRIT is not open and the garden is not open. Barney Lipscomb is alive and healthy. Collection is now by appointment for everyone. BRIT in the process of merging with the Garden and approved by City Council yesterday. Working to open the collection to circulation to members, but slowing this down in light of COVID. Coping with COVID panel was very helpful. No date has been set as to when BRIT or the garden open to the public. City has stipulated until there are 14 consecutive days of dropping cases, there are no cases.
- Beth Brand: Considering opening mid-June for some visitors. Beth has to return once or twice a week, and leave the door open. Has to create rules and regulations around using the space.

## **Closing remarks & Passing of the gavel**

- Board composition: David Sleasman is rolling off the board as Past President! We thank him for his service. He's been wonderful. Welcome to Allaina Wallace as incoming Second Vice President. Anita Kay passes the gavel to Brandy Kuhl, the new CBHL President.
- Do we have a motion to adjourn the meeting? Robin motions. Donna Herendeen seconds. The motion passes. Meeting is adjourned at 6:34pm EDT. 



## CBHL Conference Collaboration Grant Program

During the 2010 mid-winter CBHL Board Meeting, the Board established a grant program to encourage CBHL members' participation in other like-minded organizations' conferences. Currently, there is already a wonderful reciprocal relationship with the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Group (EBHL). To expand collaboration, this "CBHL Conference Collaboration Grant" will pay up to \$500 towards conference fees (not including accommodations, travel expenses, or meals) for a CBHL member to go to the conferences of GardenComm (formerly Garden Writers Association), American Public Gardens Association, Special Libraries Association, Internet Librarian, or similar organizations.

The grantee would receive the funds before the meeting (up to \$500) with the agreement the participant would present a report to CBHL (either through the CBHL Newsletter or as a presentation at the Annual Meeting). The report should include useful aspects of the conference that will help other CBHL members. The report is intended as continuing education for the CBHL members. The grantee is also intended to serve as a CBHL ambassador to the conference and is required to register as the CBHL representative.

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

- Name of conference
- Date of conference
- Amount of grant request
- URL of the conference website
- Reason for choosing the conference, including the benefit to CBHL
- The date when you will submit your report about the conference to either the CBHL Newsletter or as a talk at the CBHL Annual Meeting

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

Submission address and/or email: CBHL Secretary, Esther Jackson, ([contact email available through LibGuides](#))

## Join us!

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Country \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone/Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions?

Contact CBHL Membership Manager  
Janis Shearer, [janisjshearer@gmail.com](mailto:janisjshearer@gmail.com)

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

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Return to:

Betsy Kruthoffer, CBHL Treasurer  
Lloyd Library and Museum  
917 Plum St.  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
[betsy@lloydlibrary.org](mailto:betsy@lloydlibrary.org)