



CBHL Members' West News

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

California Botanic Garden Storm Damage Update

Irene Holiman
Librarian
California Botanic Garden

As I reported in an email to the CBHL network in January of this year, California Botanic Garden suffered a great loss during an unusual wind-storm the evening of January 21st and into the early morning of January 22nd, 2022. Thankfully, no one was on the grounds at the time; however,

power was lost for about three days. Dedicated staff, led by our Executive Director, Lucinda McDade, arrived on site to assess the damage done by the winds. Since entry gates to the Garden are electric, staff had to be resourceful when trying to enter the grounds, including some who climbed over the fence!

Department heads needed to make sure generators were running properly, providing essential power to deep freezers, which house the seed collections. The Seed House freezers and

Above: Executive Director Lucinda McDade surveying damage. Right: Looking out from our Administration Building.





Nursery structure damage.

refrigerators became temporary storage for samples and supplies from the Molecular Lab for safekeeping until power to the garden was restored. There was enough room to store everything essential.

Staff then began to assess the damage on the grounds and were horrified to see the many magnificent trees laying on their sides, blocking paths, or barely remaining upright. Most buildings remained intact; however, some of the nursery buildings had damaged roofs and shade coverings.

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Locals often refer to the city of Claremont, where the Garden is located, as the 'City of Trees and PhDs' because of the numerous beautiful tree-lined streets and the prominent Claremont Colleges. Many of the city's trees were completely downed or heavily damaged. Streets throughout Claremont were blocked with debris as were the streets in neighboring cities. Due to the damage, it was determined the Garden had to close to the public and would not open until it was deemed safe for everyone. From day one, staff came together to clean up, remove debris, and clear paths as much as possible. The major work of tree removal would have to wait until professionals could be onsite. Due to the needs in surrounding areas, tree work at the Garden would have to wait for a while.

The Garden remained closed throughout the month of February and re-opened the first week in March although some paths, mostly in the less-traveled garden areas, remained off-limits as the removal of trees and branches continued.

This incident gave staff an opportunity to reflect upon all aspects of the Garden, both the grounds and the services we provide, and frankly, one another. We learned how important the Garden is to members,

visitors and our volunteers. When it was announced that the Garden sustained significant damage and that we needed to close temporarily, offers of help flowed in from the community. Many wanted to assist with clean up, but the horticulture staff established a workable clean-up system in certain areas of the garden that could be handled by office staff and a handful of dedicated volunteers. A significant way in which people could help was through funds, so a fund-raising campaign was started and immediately donations were sent in. We heard from members and visitors about how much they missed time spent in the Garden and the solace it brings during these troubling times. Volunteers, many already on hiatus due to COVID-19, were concerned that this would delay their return and possibly affect Garden events and



Top: One of the many downed trees. Above: A heavy load.



other opportunities they had previously participated in. Staff members worked alongside one another, spending a significant amount of time getting to know each other as we raked, piled up debris, and cleared pathways for visitors and carts.

All in all, even though this was a very difficult experience to work through, staff and management learned many lessons about dealing with a garden emergency, about how to rely on others, how to ask for help, and how important the Garden is to the community. Personally, I learned that, after all these years as a staff member (going on 23...), this wonderfully inspiring place where I get to spend my days is an extension of family, it nurtures my soul, and I am truly blessed to be here.

Top: The main parking lot became a staging area for debris. Bottom: Arctostaphylos, one of our popular Manzanitas.



*Photo credits:
Cheryl Birker
J. Travis Columbus
Lucinda McDade
Ming Posa
Muriel Replogle
Alejandra Soto
Anissa Zuniga*

National Science Foundation Grant Awarded!

Ana Niño

Librarian

Botanical Research Institute of Texas

The National Science Foundation recently awarded the Botanical Research Institute of Texas and the California Botanic Garden nearly \$1 million to support the digitization and linking of plant specimens and other archival materials.

Through the Infrastructure Capacity for Biological Research Program, botanists, herbarium staff, and library staff will curate and digitize the biological and archival materials of renowned American botanist



American botanist Sherwin Carlquist's biological and archival materials will be digitized through an NSF grant.

Sherwin Carlquist. This four-year collaborative project, “Advancing the Extended Specimen Network: Curating and Digitizing the Sherwin Carlquist Collection,” aims to create an Extended Specimen Network with Carlquist’s collections. The concept of the extended specimen encompasses various linked components relating to an individual specimen, including the physical specimen, its digitized specimen record, and other associated biological preparations and data types, such as field notes, images in situ of the specimen and its habitat, and genetic samples.

Dr. Carlquist’s esteemed career included tenure as a botanist at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, professor emeritus at Claremont Graduate School and Pomona College, being named a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow and earning awards from the Smithsonian Institution and California Academy of Sciences.

Kudos to Brandy Watts, CBHL Secretary and former librarian at BRIT, for penning up an exceptional proposal!

Andersen Horticultural Library Presents Three Special Exhibits

Jocelyn Mehle
Library Assistant
Andersen Horticultural Library
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

The Art of Flying:

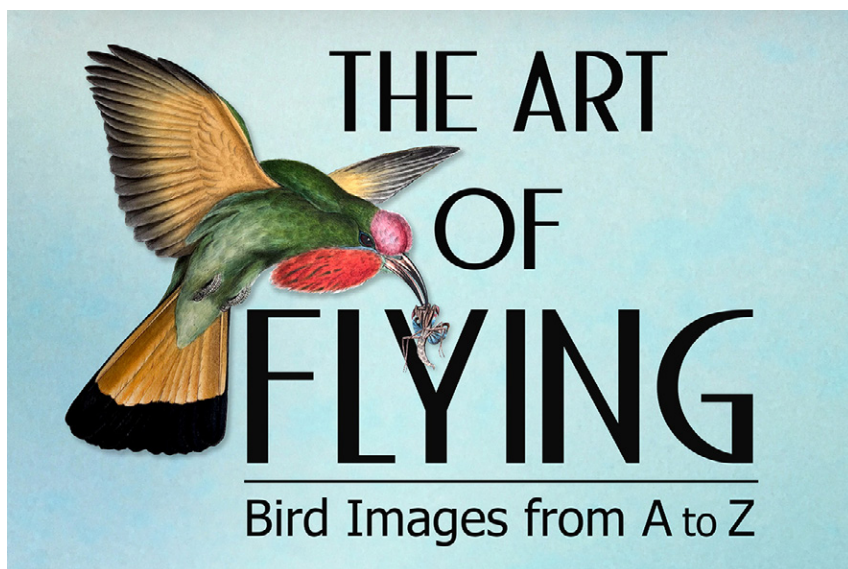
Bird Images from A to Z

March 26 - August 12, 2022

Location: Skyway Gallery and Library,

[Minnesota Landscape Arboretum](#)

Curator: Kathy Allen, Librarian, Andersen Horticultural Library



From auks to zic-zacs, there are over 10,000 species of birds, inhabiting virtually every corner of the earth. Nearly 250 species breed and nest annually in Minnesota alone. Birds have long captured the hearts of humans. Their beautiful feathers, flights, and songs inspire art, music, and dress, and simply watching or listening to them can bring joy and even healing. Beyond their aesthetic and emotional appeal, birds also play incredibly important roles in their ecosystems.

The images in this exhibit are scans of pages from the Andersen Horticultural Library’s rare book collection. Most are from John Gould’s *Birds of Asia*, a seven-volume set of books published in London from 1850 to 1883. Birds from India, China, Japan, Russia, Southeast Asia, and the Himalayas are depicted in hand-colored lithographs. Images from *American Ornithology* and other rare publications are also featured. Birdsong and flying bird cutouts add to the ambience. Related bookmarks and coloring books are available in the library.

Journey through Japan: Traditional woodblock prints from the Edo Period (1603-1868)

Through August 12, 2022

Location: Andersen Horticultural Library, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Open [library hours at the Andersen Horticultural Library](#)

Curator: Kathy Allen, Librarian, Andersen Horticultural Library



Samurai refined themselves into artful human beings in a variety of ways, not just through mastery of warfare. Come take in works created by Japanese botanist and samurai Iwasaki Tsunemasa (1786-1842), who printed under the pseudonym Kan-en. Feast your eyes upon brilliant Japanese woodblock flora and fauna art from the Edo Period (1603-1868), a time in Japanese cultural and political history of relative peace and stability. This period provides the inspiration for the Arboretum's Japanese Garden and is characterized by the innovation of artistic techniques, such as colored woodblock printing. Kan-en created this gorgeous and scientifically accurate set of plant prints in the early 1800s. This set of books, "Honzō Zufu" ("Illustrated Manual of Medicinal Plants"), was published between 1916 and 1922. All prints in this exhibition are from the Andersen Horticultural Library's rare book collection, and many are by Kan-en. Wood-block prints by prominent Japanese artists from the Shijō School of Painting in Kyoto also are featured.

Come take a trip to Japan in the Andersen Horticultural Library, located on the [Minnesota Landscape Arboretum](#) grounds, near Chanhassen. The Arboretum charges admission; please visit the website for a reservation.

Flora and Fauna Illustrata

April 11 – August 26, 2022

Location: Elmer L. Andersen Library, first floor main gallery

Open during building hours - [Elmer L. Andersen Library](#)

Curators: Kathy Allen and Adrienne Alms, Andersen Horticultural Library

The Flora and Fauna Illustrata [FFI] collection is the Andersen Horticultural Library's ongoing project to document all the species of plants, animals (including insects), and fungi living at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum through scientifically accurate fine art.

The FFI collection is currently made up of over 90 juried, two-dimensional works of art donated by over 30 different artists, many of whom are local. This exhibition features selected outstanding works from the FFI collection, from aspens and butterflies to turtles and water lilies, as well as process materials from FFI artists.



CBHL Members' East News

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

Staff News from the LuEsther T. Mertz Library

Stephen Sinon
William B. O'Connor Curator of Special Collections, Research and Archives
The New York Botanical Garden

The LuEsther T. Mertz Library welcomes Shea Wert as the new User Services Librarian. Shea will work closely with other members of the Library team to ensure coordination, collaboration, and optimal use of library resources and collections. Shea previously worked at Penn State's Engineering Library and Stevenson Library at Bard College while completing their MLIS from Wayne State University. They also worked for many summers as a gardener in the hills of rural Pennsylvania and the Hudson Valley of New York. Being a librarian at NYBG is a dream merger of their two loves: information access and the natural world.

Our second staff announcement is Rose Octelene, the Mertz Library's new Resource Sharing Librarian. Rose says, "My role entails a few things such as being the key person who is responsible for processing, borrowing and lending requests from NYBG's Mertz Library collection and outside libraries for affiliated members and NYBG patrons (staff, visiting researchers, scholars and students), administer and revise Interlibrary Loan policies/procedures, provide oversight for document delivery services, and ensure safe returns of borrowed materials. I also collaborate with the public services team to support and promote library services and collection awareness. I am excited to be a part of the CBHL organization and happy to assist users find the proper resources for one's research needs."

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Update

Janet Evans
Associate Director, McLean Library
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

JSTOR Open Community Collections

The McLean Library is now sharing selections of its digitized images on the JSTOR platform via JSTOR's Open Community Collections. These images are openly accessible, not behind a pay wall, and are discoverable through JSTOR and Google searches. To date, we've uploaded five collections on this platform, which can be searched individually or on a combined search of all of PHS's images. Look for more additions as we add more collections over the next several months.

[The collections may be viewed here.](#)

Latest Virtual Exhibit

[Mapping the Oasis Garden Club, 1954-1967](#) follows the news coverage of the Club by the *Philadelphia Tribune* and is documented by images from the [Louise Bush-Brown Neighborhood Garden Association Image Collection](#).

Under the leadership of Elizabeth J. Forrester, director of Women's and Girls' program at Western Community House, 1613 South Street, the Oasis Garden Club was organized in February 1954. At its height, the Club's African-American membership numbered more than 50 blocks and operated in roughly the area of Pine Street to Washington Avenue, and west of Broad Street to the Schuylkill River.

This virtual exhibit, created by archivist Penny Baker, is part of the deliverables for our project "The Genius of Place: Images of Gardens and Landscapes from America and Around the World 1920-1984," which is funded under an NEH Sustaining the Humanities Through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) award.

(continues on next page)

Community Memory

Our community memory project activities continue with monthly workshop participation and the creation of a collection of oral histories and digitized material documenting the activities of Philadelphia community gardeners. [Listen to our growing collection of oral histories on YouTube here.](#) This project is funded by an IMLS grant.

Books in Bloom in the Peter M. Wege Library

Shelly Kilroy

Librarian, Peter M. Wege Library

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

This past March, the Peter M. Wege Library started a pilot Books in Bloom display in the library. Four times per year, a member of Meijer Gardens horticulture staff chooses a book from the library and uses it as inspiration to create a floral arrangement that is displayed in the library for about a week. The first arrangement, shown here, was inspired by the children's book *Song of La Selva: A Story of a Costa Rican Rain Forest* by Joan Banks.

Text from Books in Bloom display sign, shown at right in orange:

From Shelly Kilroy | Librarian

Children's books are delightful for many reasons: They teach children, make them laugh, open up new worlds to them, and even inspire them. For these reasons and more, children's books are great for children—and they're great for adults in these same ways! That is why we chose a children's book to inspire the first Books in Bloom display.

From Mandi Stade | Horticulturist

*We've selected the children's book *Song of La Selva* to inspire this tropical floral arrangement for Books in Bloom. I'd like all who view it to feel connected to nature and tropical rainforests. La selva means "The Jungle" in Spanish and is the name of a biological research station in Costa Rica, operated by the Organization for Tropical Studies. I hope this tribute arrangement to *Song of La Selva* creates awareness of the necessity to preserve our tropical rainforests around the world from destruction. Rainforests are being destroyed at an alarming rate, and the biggest threat to all rainforest species is habitat loss. Trees are cut down for lumber and the forests are cleared for farms, plantations, and mining. Please help protect the existing rainforests and the natural habitats near where you live. You can make a difference to this world we live in—whether large or small.*

*If you wish to immerse yourself in a tropical oasis, please visit our Fred & Dorothy Fichter Butterflies Are Blooming exhibition in the Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory. We also encourage you to read *Song of La Selva* to see if you can spot which flowers and plants are in the floral arrangement and the book. Can you spot a tropical butterfly species in the book that is also found in our Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory?*



Photo courtesy Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

Book Reviews

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

[*The Well-Gardened Mind: The Restorative Power of Nature*](#) by Sue Stuart-Smith. New York, NY: Scribner, 2021. 352 pages, illustrations. \$18.00 (trade paperback). ISBN: 9781476794488.

Reviewed by Nitzan Watman
Public Services Librarian
Denver Botanic Gardens

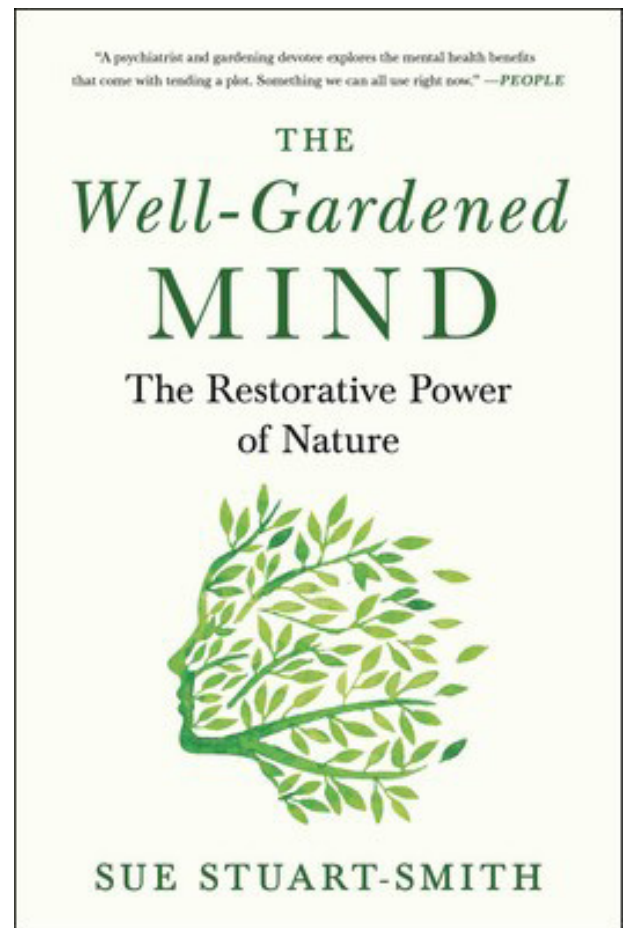
Sue Stuart-Smith's *Well-Gardened Mind* is its own garden, a varied and rich collection of evidence all in support of getting our fingers back in the dirt. The beginning of the book plants seeds, so to speak. Stuart-Smith opens with the story of her grandfather, a veteran who barely made it back from the First World War alive and was not only rehabilitated but thoroughly transformed through his work in the garden.

From the personal narrative, a theory emerges. Stuart-Smith suggests that our relationship to the garden finds parallels in many in-between spaces in our psyche and in our physical environment. She explores, for example, the child's early relationship with their mother, and their ability to be both alone and together with the mother figure at the same time, an important dynamic that encourages experimentation but that still feels safe. For her, the garden allows us to be in a similarly crucial sort of in-between space: between shelter and wilderness, between order and chaos. In this space, we thrive, through the in-between position of control over our environment and of allowing nature to take its course around us.

As the book progresses, a number of psychological theories and theorists are discussed. We learn about the importance of having green in our field of vision. We learn about correlations between gardening and well-being. Interestingly, we learn that some influential figures in the history of psychoanalysis had passionate relationships with plant life, like Freud and his love of orchids.

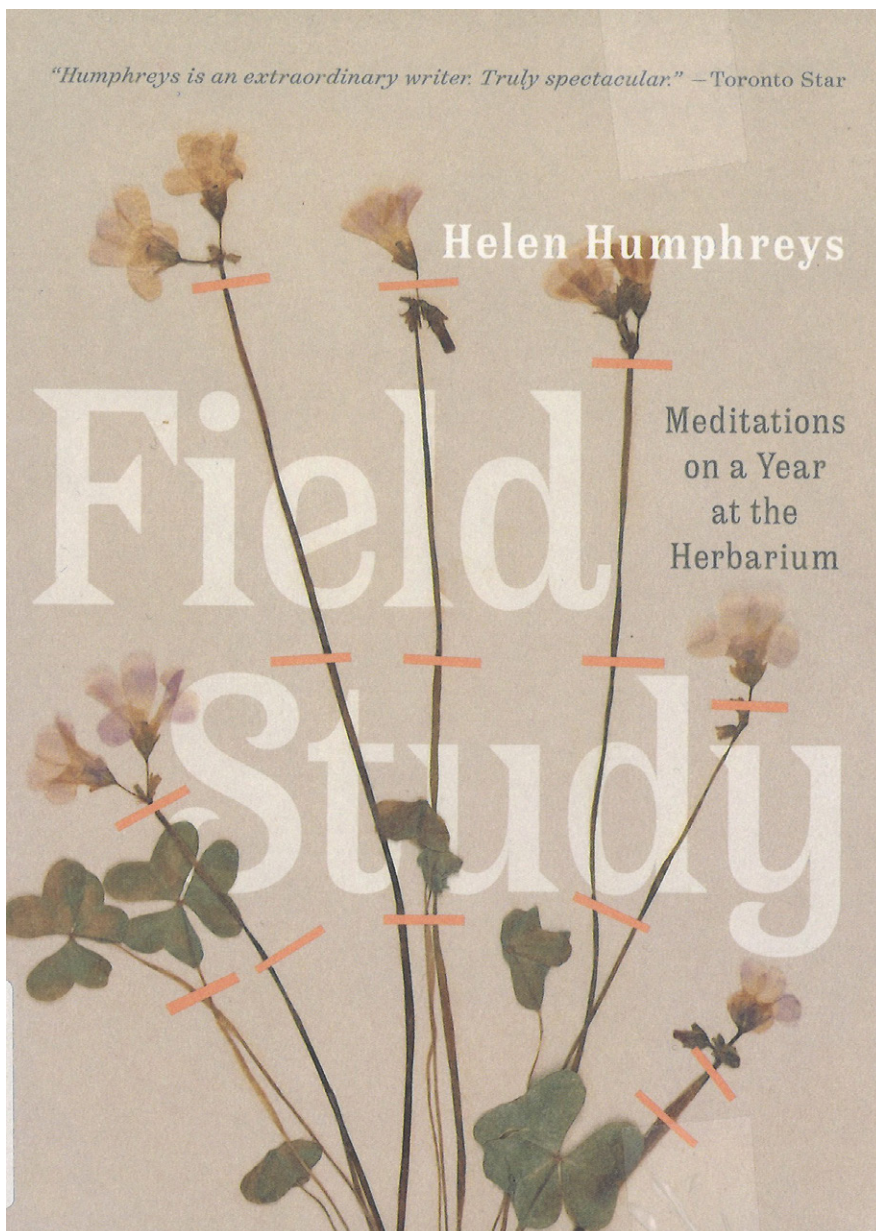
Anecdotes about the impact of therapeutic horticulture are also prevalent throughout the book. Stuart-Smith offers several stories of those suffering from mental and physical illness. She describes her conversations with these storytellers as they reveal how their relationship with gardening has changed them, invariably for the better. By the end, the reader is thoroughly convinced about the power of the garden to rehabilitate.

The most compelling parts of the book, though, are those in which Stuart-Smith adds something new to concepts that have been written about extensively. The most intriguing of these instances are in the sections of the book that attempt to piece together the impact of gardening on our ancestors, or that discuss gardening's place in the mythologies that have shaped our world.



The author's coining of the term "hunter-gatherer-cultivator," for example, is a fascinating departure from the usual discussions of our "hunter-gatherer" predecessors. Similarly exciting is her short but effective exploration of the microbiological benefits of gardening. When she describes the differences in the microbiomes of gardeners as compared with their non-gardening counterparts, the urge to hover over a raised bed is strong. Another tidbit that feels revelatory is Stuart-Smith's commentary on the first gardens. She explores anthropological theories that challenge our assumptions about the first gardens and posit that the earliest gardens were sites of symbol and ritual, of art and ornamentation, not simply practical sites of staples and day-to-day cooking. If gardening started for culture and not for survival, she seems to suggest, it is as important for our mental health and sense of self as it is for our diets.

Stuart-Smith spends much of the book highlighting the benefits of gardening and warning about the ways that disconnection from nature has harmed us. She sows hope in her overviews about therapeutic or rehabilitative gardening initiatives all over the world that are doing wonders to help us heal. Most readers will find a section or a topic within the book that is especially interesting to them personally, and Stuart-Smith's range is broad. All readers, though, will come away with an appreciation of what gardens can do for their lives, and ultimately, what gardens can do for the world.



[Field Study: Meditations on a Year at the Herbarium](#) by Helen Humphreys. Toronto, ON: ECW Press, 2021. 232 pages, illustrations. \$25.95 hardcover. ISBN: 9781770415348

Reviewed by Janet Evans
Associate Library Director
McLean Library
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

(Review originally published on [Goodreads.com](#))

If the author's name sounds familiar, it may be that you've read her historical fiction, such as *The Lost Garden*, about the "Land Girls" who farmed the land during WWII, or her highly original *The Frozen Thames*, an exploration of the 40 times the Thames froze over, and how that phenomenon affected the lives of those who lived along the river.

In *Field Study: Meditations on a Year at the Herbarium*, Humphreys spends her year examining all 144,000 herbarium sheets that reside in the Fowler Herbarium, Queen's University Biological

Station, Ontario, Canada. She writes about the plant collectors who contributed the specimens, and comments on the plants and the condition and presentation of the specimens themselves. Some, she observes, seem to be mounted on the archival paper with an artistic, eye-pleasing sensibility, while others are treated in a more utilitarian fashion.

After looking at many thousands of sheets, she gets to know the collectors through their hand-written or typed label entries. Some botanists are chatty and informative in their descriptions; others were almost poetic. One collector, she notes, “often wrote labels that were like small poems, kind of haiku-ish. For his specimen of climbing grape, he writes:

At edge of old quarry.

Wild grape. Riverbank grape. Frost grape.

And for a sample of sugar maple, his little label poem reads:

Near beech, amongst ironwood, bracken

Fern, asters, goldenrod.

Sugar maple. “

For Humphreys, her “interest is in showing the intersection between nature and people, between the plant and the collector.” She wants “to show how exploring an archive can be a journey, as thrilling as any taken in an actual landscape, and that no two journeys are alike.” Her aim is not to be comprehensive, but to write meditative responses to the collectors and plants that capture her imagination. The result is a truly enjoyable reading experience in a pleasingly illustrated and well-designed book, that is just about diary-sized, which is appropriate because so much of the work consists of Humphrey’s own thoughts as she makes her way through this collection.

While this is not how herbarium sheets are usually studied by scientists, her musings capture experiences familiar to anyone who does archival research. For example, she writes how “in 1830, in a chalk pit, in Denbies, Surrey, England, a Miss Parker collected a specimen of the low-growing shrub Aaron’s beard (*Hypericum calycinum*) for the herbarium of botanist Sir Charles James Bunbury.” She bemoans the fact that there is no research trail for Miss Parker. Who among us, who spend time in archives has not also bemoaned this absence of information about the “Miss Parkers” and the “Mrs. John Jones, Jr.” who populate archival records but remain silent and unknown amongst the papers and photographs?

[*Urban Lichens: a Field Guide for Northeastern North America*](#) by Jessica L. Allen and James C. Lendemer. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2021. 158 pages, illustrations. Paperback flexbound; \$26.00. ISBN: 9780300252996

Reviewed by Janet Evans

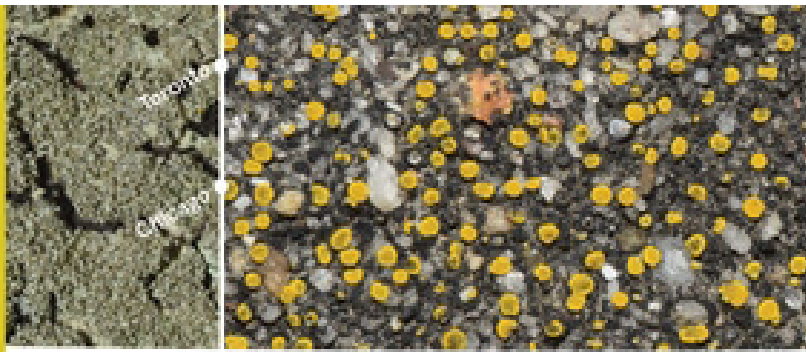
Associate Library Director

McLean Library

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

(Review originally published on [Goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com))

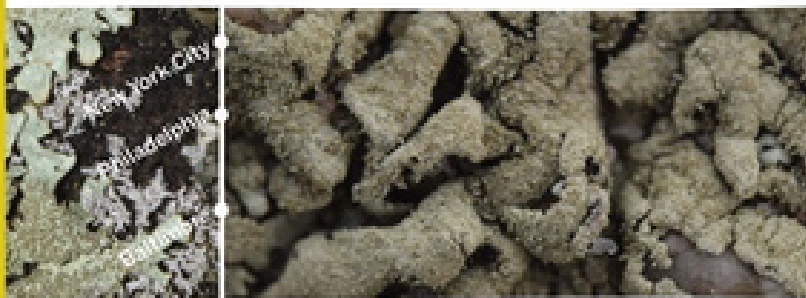
Lichens are so sensitive to air pollution that they disappeared from cities from the beginning of the Industrial Revolution through the 1960s. As environmental protection regulations took effect, lichens have



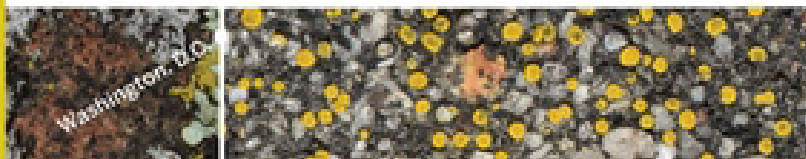
URBAN LICHENS



A Field Guide for Northeastern North America



Jessica L. Allen and James C. Lendemer
Illustrations and Selected Photographs by Jordan R. Hoffman



been slowly coming back to urban environments and are, in fact, indicator species of air quality assessment.

The authors describe basic lichen biology and appearance, and cover lesser known facts; did you know they've been used as a source for natural dyes, such as purple, a color hard to find in nature? Lichens provide food and nesting material to mammals and birds; there are insects that camouflage themselves to look like lichens. The bulk of the field guide consists of descriptions and photographs of 61 lichen species, organized by form and color. Each entry has at least one color photograph with text that includes common and Latin name, description, where to find the lichen, how common or rare the species is, and notes referencing similar species.

While the book is New York City based, giving the urban naturalist specific locations in the 5 boroughs to find lichens, these species can be found within the entire Northeastern megalopolis, from Boston to Washington, D.C. (basically all the stops on Amtrak's Northeast Corridor) as well as in Chicago and Toronto.

In reading this guide, the first entry that spoke to me was Board Dweller, *Trapeliopsis flexuosa*. It's found on old wood, including fencing, and occasionally on bark. I wondered if this was the lichen I'd seen on a former wooden fence in my yard,

now replaced by something newer. It certainly had its distinctive gray-green color. After a recent storm brought down several branches from a tree in my yard, I consulted the field guide to identify the Common Greenshield lichen (*Flavoparmelia caperata*) which I detected on the fallen branches.

This attractive paperback field guide is conveniently small enough and light enough to carry around and to consult when you happen upon a lichen you'd like to identify. I've spent a few lunch hours wandering around downtown Philadelphia with field guide in hand, on the lookout for lichens, and plan to continue this enjoyable activity.

My only quibble is that the font size is smallish, making it a bit hard to read for aging eyes. Recommended for libraries in the Northeast.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

June 20-24, 2022
Annual Conference 2022
American Public Gardens Association (APGA)
Portland, OR
<https://virtualllearning.publicgardens.org/76-annual-conference-2022>

June 23-28, 2022
Annual Meeting
American Library Association (ALA)
Chicago, IL
<https://2022.alaannual.org/>

July 24-27, 2022
Botany 2022
Anchorage, AK
<https://2022.botanyconference.org/>

July 31-August 2, 2022
2022 Annual Conference
Special Libraries Association (SLA)
Charlotte, NC, and Virtual
<http://www.sla.org>

August 24-27, 2022
86th Annual Meeting
Society of American Archivists (SAA)
Boston, MA
<http://www.archivists.org>

September 6-9, 2022
2022 Natural Areas Conference
Duluth, MN
<http://www.naturalareas.org>

September 9-10, 2022
Annual Conference
American Horticultural Therapy Association
Kansas City, MO
<http://www.ahta.org>

October 12-15, 2022
Conference
GardenComm (Garden Communicators International)
Virtual
<https://gardencomm.org/>

October 19-22, 2022
28th Annual Meeting & Conference
American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA)
Tarrytown, NY
<https://www.asba-art.org/>

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CBHL Newsletter, Issue 165, June 2022

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Submissions Welcome!

Articles may be submitted to Judy Stevenson, Editor, jstevenson@longwoodgardens.org.

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

Join online at:

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

Questions?

Contact CBHL Membership Manager

Robin Everly, robin.everly@verizon.net

Please use the subject line "CBHL Membership"

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