

CBHL Literature Awards Recognize Excellence in Botanical and Horticultural Literature

May 4, 2023—The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, Inc. (CBHL) presented its twenty-fourth Annual Literature Awards on May 4, 2023. These awards were presented during CBHL's 55th Annual Meeting hosted by the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. The CBHL Annual Literature Awards, created to recognize significant contributions to the literature of botany and horticulture, this year honored seven remarkable works.

Honored with the 2023 CBHL Annual Literature Award was *Orchid Muse: A History of Obsession in Fifteen Flowers* by Erica M. Hannickel and published by WW Norton & Company. Recognized as “a delight, a beautifully organized exploration” and for its “fascinating stories told with enthusiasm,” Hannickel’s research and storytelling abilities shine in this work. With stories spanning the globe, the author highlights “the richness and importance of orchids as well as the fascinating and sometimes eccentric people who grow, study and love the plants.”

Luschiim's Plants: Traditional Indigenous Foods, Materials, and Medicines by Luschiim Arvid Charlie and Nancy J. Turner and published by Harbour Publishing was presented with the Award of Excellence in Field Guides. This work is recognized as it “captures Luschiim's extraordinary knowledge of botanical, cultural, environmental uses of plants and documents this heritage for future members of the Cowichan community.” In this work over 140 plants are described including trees, shrubs, flowering plants, ferns, and lichens. In addition to the descriptions, the cultural uses of the plants are also recorded. This work is an important addition to ethnobotanical literature.

Trees of the West: An Artist's Guide by Molly Hashimoto and published by Skipstone received this year’s Award of Excellence in Botanical Art and Illustration. Described as “a contemporary artists journey into the world of trees,” Hashimoto provides intimate portraits of 46 of her favorite species of trees in this beautiful work. In addition to her distinctive illustrations and descriptions of the selected trees, she includes mini lessons on topics including iron gall ink, graphite pencils, and tinted paper.

Honored with the Award of Excellence for Gardening and Gardens was *The View from Federal Twist: A New Way of Thinking about Gardens, Nature and Ourselves* by James Golden and published by Filbert Press. Richly illustrated, Golden takes the reader on the journey of the transformation of his garden, Federal Twist, using a naturalistic and ecological approach. Part memoir, this work was recognized for how it will inspire a gardener to “consider how their garden fits in with the larger, surrounding environment.”

When the Sahara Was Green: How our Greatest Desert Came to Be by Martin Williams and published by Princeton University Press was honored with an Award of Excellence in Plants and Environmental Change, a new category. This work was recognized for how Williams laid “the foundation for a more complete understanding of how the Sahara lands came to be arid, what they may have been like before, and what they might be like in the future.” Once a verdant land, Williams takes the reader on a Saharan journey exploring why its climate changed and the impact on human populations.

Humongous Fungus illustrated by Wenjia Tang and written by Lynne Boddy and published by DK was presented with the Award of Excellence in Literature for Young Adults, a new category. Described as a book that a budding mycologist would love, this richly illustrated work accompanied by engaging text takes the reader to a deeper level of understanding of the fungal world. Glow-in-the-dark mushrooms, shining lichens, and zombie ants will all intrigue and engage the young reader.

Published by Big Picture Press, this year's Award of Excellence in Literature for Children was presented to Emma Carlisle and *What Do You See When You Look at a Tree?* Written and illustrated by Carlisle and in association with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, this picture book will invite and inspire the reader to look beyond a tree's leaves, twigs, and branches to reconnect with nature.

The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries strengthens its membership; addressing emerging issues, and providing expertise and value to our respective organizations. For more information, visit its website at <http://www.cbhl.net>.

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