

## From the CBHL President: 2024 Conference Recap

On behalf of the CBHL Board, I would like to thank Michigan State University for hosting the joint USAIN CBHL 2024 Conference. The presentations were thought-provoking and downtime allowed opportunities for networking and connecting around topics brought up during the conference.

A special shout out to CBHL members who served on conference planning committees, including:

- Suzi Teghtmeyer, Conference Co-Chair, Michigan State University Libraries
- Kathy Crosby, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Contributed Papers and Posters Committee
- Kristen Mastel, University of Minnesota, Invited Speakers Committee
- Leora Siegel, Chicago Botanic Garden, Sponsors and Exhibits Committee
- Gillian Hayward, Longwood Gardens, CBHL Board liaison to Local Arrangements Committee

CBHL members who presented included:

- Remembrance and Resilience: Documenting the History of African Americans through Plants, from the Slave Trade to Present Day, Rhonda Evans (New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther T. Mertz Library), Lucas Mertehikian (New York Botanical Garden, Humanities Institute)
- Exploring Inclusivity: A Diversity Audit of Life Science Library Exhibits, Janis Shearer (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Yanling Liu (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)
- CBHL Overview, Allaina Wallace (Denver Botanic Gardens)
- Unearthing the Past: Preserving and Utilizing Historic Data for Research, Kristen L. Mastel et al. (University of Minnesota)
- Seed Library: Dig Into Seed Growing and Saving, Leora Siegel (Chicago Botanic Garden)
- Beyond Blooms: Exploring the Multi-Faceted Significance of Seed and Nursery Catalogs in Historical Research, Erin Aults (Royal Botanic Gardens), Kristen Mastel (Andersen Horticultural Library, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum), Jocelyn Mehle (Andersen Horticultural Library, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum)
- Communication, Collaboration, and Calibration: Steps Toward Materializing the Carlquist Extended Specimen Network, Ana Niño (Fort Worth Botanic Garden), Krishna Shenoy (Fort Worth Botanic Garden), Samantha Ekberg (Fort Worth Botanic Garden), Jason Best (Directory of Biodiversity Informatics)



Conference posters and papers will soon be available in the USAIN Conference repository with Cornell.

We had 29 CBHL members register for the conference. The Board's approval of a registration discount assisted 13 members in attending the conference virtually or in person.

Thank you all for your participation in the 2024 USAIN CBHL Conference. As we announced at the CBHL Business Meeting, next year's conference will be held virtually May 6-8, 2025.

Respectfully,  
Kristen Mastel  
CBHL President

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### Correction:

In our June 2024 issue, number 173, we misspelled Beth Brand's name in the photo caption on page 6. Our apologies for the error and thank you to Beth for catching it!

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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



### October 6-9, 2024

American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)  
Conference on Landscape Architecture  
Washington, DC  
<https://www.asla.org/annualmeetingandexpo.aspx>

### October 7-10, 2024

Natural Areas Association  
2024 Natural Areas Conference  
Manhattan, Kansas  
<http://www.naturalareas.org>

### October 17-19, 2024

American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA)  
30th Annual Meeting & Conference  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
<https://asba-art.org/>

### October 18-19, 2024

American Horticultural Therapy Association  
Annual Conference  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
<http://www.ahta.org>

### October 22-24, 2024

Museum Computer Network  
Annual Conference  
Lawrence, Kansas  
<http://mcn.edu/>

### November 11-15, 2024 (in-person)

### December 9-13, 2024 (online)

Charleston Conference  
Charleston, South Carolina  
<https://www.charleston-hub.com/the-charleston-conference>



American Society of  
Landscape Architects



American Horticultural  
Therapy Association.



CHARLESTON HUB  
CHARLESTON CONFERENCE



advancing  
digital transformation  
in museums

# CBHL Members' East News

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

## Solo Librarians Unite: A Movement Towards Mutual Support and Recognition

Marisha Sullivan  
Librarian  
Holden Forests & Gardens

"Hello! My name is Marisha, and I run two libraries as a solo librarian." By the end of our recent joint USAIN/CBHL conference, this was how I was introducing myself. Not as a point of pride or that strange one-upmanship of "I've got it worse than you do," but as a way of explaining that my job is just a lot. I run libraries at both Cleveland Botanical Garden and Holden Arboretum, each of which has a full general collection that circulates to staff, volunteers, and members; an organizational archive of over 5,000 items at each location; and a special collections area, one of which is a rare books collection with items going back to the late 1400s. Don't get me wrong, my job is so fulfilling and fun, my colleagues are amazing, and I am blessed with a supportive supervisor and administration. But I am still only one small librarian, albeit with an army of 30+ volunteers to help me not drown in the books. And while this is an extreme example, it's not uncommon for our libraries to be run by a skeleton staff.

Over the last several years, we've seen long-standing librarian positions replaced with part-time or outright eliminated in our field, and the cuts during the COVID-19 pandemic were stark. We know that CBHL is smaller and our librarians less well-sourced than ever before. This is the organization I came into and that has supported me and answered all my silly questions over the last two and a half years. I am eternally grateful for the work of everyone who has kept me sane as I do as one person what should be a three-person job. A special thank-you to everyone who helped me ID a Catesby print

that I impulsively held up to the camera during a break between sessions at the 2023 conference. We'd just found it tucked between maps of the Arb in our archives, and I was definitely not equipped to know what to do with it.

I was extremely lucky during our virtual 2023 conference to find some great colleagues who quickly became friends, especially Erin Aults, formerly of Royal Botanical Gardens, and Ana Niño of Botanical Research Institute of Texas. Erin recommended we meet up via Zoom to talk about solo librarianship (a term I had never heard before despite being one) and learn from each other.

Since then, we have met roughly monthly and our group has grown to a respectable dozen, usually with half of those attending. Each month we have a loose topic like Volunteer Management, Collections, or Time Management, but we're encouraged to bring whatever stubborn questions we need to talk with folks about. As solo librarians, we often find that we have no one in our organization or our local community who can be our sounding boards, so we have become each other's. We celebrate our successes, commiserate over our troubles, and support each other.

In reaching out to our local networks and pulling in other archivists and librarians whose collections are intricately connected to the world of plants but are not served by other organizations, we are slowly building a community. If you are a solo librarian, archivist, or historian working with a botanical or horticultural collection, you are welcome in our little group. It's an informal gathering, but I have found it to be a lifeline over the last year.

As part of figuring out how our group could help CBHL, we've created [this survey](#) to figure out how many solo librarians are out there and what everyone's needs are. If you are the only permanent paid librarian/archivist/historian with a horticultural/botanical collection in your organization and there's no plan to add more permanent staffers, congrats—you're a solo librarian! Please fill out the survey. If you're not sure if you count as a solo librarian, our definition is pretty wiggly, so fill it out anyways. And if you have any questions about the Solo Librarians group, please feel free to reach out to me at [msullivan@holdenfg.org](mailto:msullivan@holdenfg.org)

# Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Updates

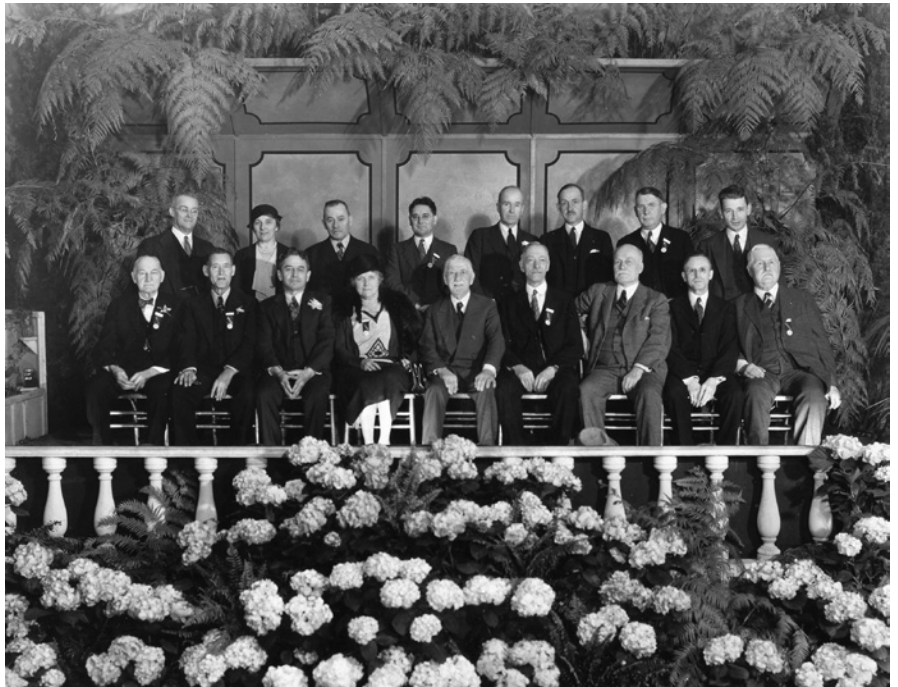
Janet Evans

Associate Director, McLean Library  
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

## Grant Announcement

We are pleased to announce that we've received funding from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation to fund our project: "Who Was Mrs. John B. Smith: Reparative Authority Work on Women's Names in PHS Digital Collections."

This project will identify full name attributions for approximately 150 women previously referred to only by their husbands' names or surnames in the digital collections of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's McLean Library.



*1927 Philadelphia Flower Show Organizers.  
McLean Library & Archives. Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.*

Approximately 150 women who played critical roles in the history of PHS and horticulture in the United States during the 19th and 20th centuries will finally be properly credited and discoverable in PHS digital collections. Reparative work will update approximately 2,000 PHS records and contribute 150 authorized names to the Library of Congress/Name Authority File through participation in the Name Authority Cooperative Program (NACO). A LibGuide on how to research women's names will be produced and published.

This 12-month project will be carried out by PHS archivist Penny Baker with some assistance by Janet Evans.

I'm very excited about this project and am grateful to the CBHL "Brain Trust" who've volunteered their expertise in advising on reliable sources for researching women's names and locating biographical information on them.

## PHS Mclean Library Book Group

We are now in Year 23 of our Book Group! See our Subject Guide that lists books for our current reading year and a complete list of all reads over time, online here: <https://pennhort.libguides.com/McLeanLibraryBookGroup>

# Down a Rabbit Hole: “Lizards SC” From Tiny Victorian Gift Books to Audubon Elephant Folios

Donna Herendeen  
Manager, Library Public Services  
Lenhardt Library  
Chicago Botanic Garden

You never know where you will end up when researching a topic. Last summer, the Lenhardt Library of the Chicago Botanic Garden chose language of flowers genre books for our *Literature in Bloom* exhibit to complement a garden-wide summer theme of *Love in Bloom*. The language of flowers publications flourished in the Victorian age and provided one of the few outlets for women to publish. The publishers tended to emphasize the decorative aspects of books over content. They had lovely colorful bindings, gilt edging, and decorated covers, and were intended to be given as gifts. The inside contents varied from popular poetry and floral dictionaries to mini-lessons on botany. The language of flowers genre publishers copied, duplicated, and borrowed from each other, to create confusingly similar decorative products – frequently titled *The Language of Flowers*.



Lenhardt Library of the Chicago Botanic Garden  
Exhibition, *Literature in Bloom*, Summer 2023



There was one small (15 cm) book, *Language of Flowers*, published in 1850, that I dubbed the “mouse book.” I began mentally labeling books as I made exhibition selections by the frontispiece illustration because the same book was republished several times with different covers and frontispiece illustrations, my favorite being an elegant little example with a field mouse and primroses.

When creating the exhibition caption signs, I included text on illustrations, and noticed that the tiny engraving was captioned “Lizards SC.” I discovered that this was the engraver of the illustration. I reviewed other printer’s abbreviations; they are very useful. “Sc., sculp., sculpt., sculpsit;” these all mean “image engraved by.”<sup>1</sup>

So, who was the creator of the detailed and charming little mouse and primrose print in this tiny book?

*Lizards* is William Home Lizars (1788-1859), a member of

*Frontispiece of of Language of Flowers  
published in 1850*

a famous engraving and publishing family in Edinburgh, and one of the finest engravers and etchers of the early 1800s. He was hired to create the engravings for the double elephant folio of John J. Audubon's *Birds of America*. Unfortunately, he was only able to produce the first 10 birds; the Lizars' plate coloring staff went on strike, Audubon had to move his business from Edinburgh to London, and the plates were continued and reworked by Robert Havell Jr. <sup>2</sup> Lizars engraved a portrait of Linnaeus for *The Naturalist's Library* by Sir William Jardine (Jardine was married to Lizars' sister). The portrait and a chapter on Linnaeus are in volume six, *Ornithology*. <sup>3</sup> The Lizars family commissioned a portrait of John J. Audubon, a family friend, in 1826. This portrait, by John Syme, was donated to the White House collection in 1962. <sup>4</sup>



Engraved by W.H.Lizars Edin:  
Retouched by R.Havell Jun<sup>r</sup>.



Upper left: William Home Lizars, 1788-1859, Artist self-portrait, from the collection of the National Galleries of Scotland.

Lower left: Audubon portrait commissioned by the Lizars family from the White House Historical Association collection website.

Upper and lower right: Full image and closeup of corner from *Birds of America* plate 1 from University of Pittsburgh digital copy.

Christine Jackson, in her book, *Bird Etchings: The Illustrators and Their Books 1655-1855*, ends her discussion on Lizars with this: “When Lizars died in 1859, the greatest of the bird illustration engravers passed away, the use of the metal to produce those illustrations died with him.” From then on, lithography was in vogue.

Except as background for his birds, I’ve encountered no botanical illustrations by Lizars, but I think he is someone you may encounter anywhere, from 15 cm Victorian gift books to Audubon elephant folios.

#### Endnotes

- 1 See more printmakers abbreviations from Princeton here: [https://www.princeton.edu/~graphics/2009/02/printmakers\\_abbreviations.html](https://www.princeton.edu/~graphics/2009/02/printmakers_abbreviations.html)
- 2 *The Birds of America*, Vols. I-IV, 1827-1838, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System. The first 10 plates were by Lizars, but many were reworked, and his name was removed in the process. <https://digital.library.pitt.edu/islandora/object/pitt%3Aaud0001>
- 3 *The Naturalist’s Library: Ornithology*. University of California Libraries. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/22997110>
- 4 John James Audubon by John Syme, 1826, oil on canvas. The White House Historical Association. <https://www.whitehousehistory.org/photos/photo-1-21>. More about the relationship between Audubon and the presidency here: <https://www.whitehousehistory.org/john-james-audubon-and-the-american-presidency>

#### Other Resources:

- Jackson, Christine E. 1985. *Bird Etchings: The Illustrators and Their Books 1655-1855*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. p. 32.
- Jackson, Christine, E. 1991. “The Changing Relationship between J. J. Audubon and his friends P. J. Shelly, Sir William Jardine and W. H. Lizars.” *Archives of Natural History* 18(3): 289-307.
- Jardine, William, W. H. Lizars (engraver), Charles Hamilton Smith (ill), James Stewart (ill). 1833-. *The Naturalist’s Library*. Edinburgh: W. H. Lizars. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.title.17346>
- Jardine, William and W. H. Lizars (engraver). [184?]. *Leaves from the Book of Nature...* Edinburgh: W. H. Lizars. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/40655667>
- *The Language of Flowers*. London: Milner and Company, (Halifax : Milner). 1850. Frontispiece engraved by W. H. Lizars. 15 cm.
- “Scientist of the Day: John Syme.” The Linda Hall Library <https://www.lindahall.org/about/news/scientist-of-the-day/john-syme/>
- William Home Lizars. Self portrait. The National Galleries of Scotland. <https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/3017>





# CBHL Members' West News

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

## The Book Burrow

Allaina Wallace  
Associate Director of Education and Library,  
Head Librarian  
Helen Fowler Library, Denver Botanic Gardens



This spring, the Helen Fowler Library at Denver Botanic Gardens updated its children's area. This refreshed space is now officially branded as the Book Burrow and features artwork from the Gardens' creative services team, with brightly colored murals that bring joy and spark curiosity among our youngest visitors. Educational toys with plant and garden themes invite children to be creative and share that creativity with others. A quiet corner within the "burrow" offers respite as needed. Board books are shelved within reach of little hands. Chapter books and novels allow the kids to grow with the collection. Our regular visitors share their excitement with "Miss Patty," Public Services Librarian Patty Wright. Families sing along during Nature Tales Story Time each Saturday morning. The Book Burrow has quickly become one of the most popular spots in the library!



## Europa Rosarium, Sangerhausen, Germany

Judith Taylor  
Horticultural Historian  
[www.horthistoria.com](http://www.horthistoria.com)

Beth Brand asked us to record any interesting trips we had made lately and I hope that my visit to this hallowed spot might interest the members. It was the rarest of treats and only whetted my appetite for returning again and again. How can one do justice to a living museum that has 8,700 different varieties of roses spread over 13 hectares in a two-hour visit?



*'Sangerhauser Jubiläumsrose', bred by Wilhelm Kordes for the 2003 jubilee beds at Europa Rosarium.*

As a snapper-up of unconsidered horticultural trifles, murmurs of this place have been swirling around me for years. The late, much-lamented, Bill Grant used to take rose lovers on special tours there. Several friends who are skilled rosarians had visited Sangerhausen and recalled it lovingly.

Finally, this year the chance came for me to go there. My granddaughter was graduated from a master's program at Bard College and as a gift I offered to take her to Europe. On Memorial Day my son and I carried her off with us and ended up in Weimar. It is the nearest town in that region with comfortable accommodation. Part of my overall agenda for this trip was to meet the people who had helped me with my history of German floriculture under Communism, "A Five Year Plan for Geraniums." The journey was confined to the Eastern section of Germany, the former DDR.

In 1897 Peter Lambert, the prominent German rose breeder from Trier (think R. 'Frau Karl Druschki', the gorgeous white climber still in commerce) approached a number of his colleagues and proposed they set up a place to save specimens of all the roses known up until that time before most of them were lost and forgotten. The field was already almost overwhelmed even back then, and he was concerned that many important roses would disappear. Roses would need to be imported from all over the world to fulfil this goal.

By a very significant coincidence a wealthy German amateur rose lover, Albert Hoffmann, had a piece of land to spare in Sangerhausen and he offered it to the group, with his own collection of 1100 roses as the nucleus. It was a godsend. The garden was opened to the public in 1903. Since then, the organization set up to manage the garden museum acquired more land and the site has expanded to its current 13 hectares.

My eldest grandson lives and works in Berlin and he had arranged for an English speaking guide to take us around because we had become a group of more than five by the time we reached the rosarium. Andreas could not have been more helpful. The entrance is very unobtrusive, tucked into a corner of a small provincial town, Sangerhausen. Even the driveway is fascinating. The borders are cleverly planted with a variety of plants such as aquilegias but small roses are scattered among them.

How do you display hundreds of different types of rose to their best advantage? There are climbers, ramblers, shrubs, bush roses, standards and many more. One of the novel features of the rosarium is the use of tripods for the climbing roses, much like the structures used to support scarlet runner beans. This sets

them off very well.

At the rosarium, the displays are grouped together much as they were in each important era of the garden. It is a sort of time capsule. Fairly near the entrance Andreas showed us the jubilee beds, created in 2003, a classical square divided into four quadrants, each one containing the roses of a quarter century. The oldest were the species roses and the youngest the latest hybrids of that time. Wilhelm Kordes bred a special cultivar for the occasion.

We were fortunate to visit in 2024. The garden had been through some very dark times and it took a huge amount of work to restore it. Going back to World War II, there was no manpower left to do such trivial things as ornamental gardening and the place simply sat neglected. After the war the region became part of the Deutsche Demokratische Republic, a Communist controlled nation which also had no time for such frivolous activities. Almost nothing was done for about fifty years.

Luckily there was no active sabotage and roses are amazingly resilient. As long as there is some sunshine and water they can continue to grow without the intervention of humans. This was seen on Alcatraz in the San Francisco Bay after the prison was closed in 1963. Twenty years later the roses planted by prisoners and guards were still flourishing.

In 1989, when the Berlin Wall came down and Germany was reunited, the citizens emerged from their political stupor and started to think about restoration. The only serious damper on our enthusiasm was the fact that the former concentration camp, Buchenwald, is only a few miles from Weimar and about twenty miles from the rosarium. German history is still very complex and not fully explored.

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## Metroplex Archivists Spring Meeting at Botanical Research Institute of Texas

Ana Niño  
Librarian  
and  
Krishna Shenoy  
Project Archivist  
Botanical Research Institute of Texas  
Fort Worth Botanic Garden



*Metroplex Archivists Spring Meeting attendees gather in the Main Lobby of the Botanic Research Institute of Texas*

The Spring meeting of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex Archivists was held at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden's Botanical Research Institute of Texas. Forty-eight archives and records professionals, students, interns, volunteers and other persons allied with the archives, records management, and preservation fields attended the meeting.

The meeting began with a lively update from members about repository news, new acquisitions, grants, leadership achievements, and projects.

As the host institution, BRIT staff delivered a presentation about a National Science Foundation



*Ana Niño, BRIT Librarian, describes the carefully curated library collection for those studying systematic botany, horticulture, natural history and ethnobotany.*

grant-funded digitization project to preserve and provide access to the archival and biological collections of Sherwin J. Carlquist (1930-2021), an American botanist and photographer well known for his contributions to the fields of island biogeography, evolutionary ecology, and wood anatomy.

After the presentation, members were treated to tours of BRIT's imaging studio, library, rare book room, children's library, and herbarium.

These bi-annual meetings are a great opportunity for networking, camaraderie, and supporting the development of archive and records management.

For more information about BRIT Library, contact Ana Niño at [anino@fwbg.org](mailto:anino@fwbg.org).



*Barney L. Lipscomb, Director of BRIT Press and Library, Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany, highlights the rare and unique bibliographic materials in the collection.*



*Tiana Rehman, Director of the BRIT Philecology Herbarium, gives a tour of the herbarium, which contains approximately 1,445,000 plant specimens from around the world, making it one of the largest herbaria in the United States.*

## New Publications from BRIT Press

Barney Lipscomb  
Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany  
Botanical Research Institute of Texas

***Legumes of Arizona: An Illustrated Flora and Reference*** by Michelle M. McMahon, Matthew B. Johnson, Kirsten N. Lake, Martin F. Wojciechowski, and Mark W. Bierner. Published by the Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press.

The *Fabaceae* is one of the most ecologically, economically, and agriculturally important plant families in the world. These plants are particularly significant in Arizona as many species are native and adapted to arid lands. Desert-adapted plants will become increasingly important as water issues of the state become more critical. Additionally, legumes are important and sometimes dominant components of the many biotic communities in Arizona. This manual meets a critical need for a reference on these plants in Arizona.

Because this flora describes all legume taxa in Arizona, including those that are commonly cultivated, it is truly a comprehensive resource. All genera, including cultivated only genera, are included in one key, to simplify identification for users who may encounter cultivated plants as well as native and naturalized plants.

Another unique feature of the flora is the inclusion of information on cultivation, landscaping potential, ethnobotany, and current uses. As a result, this flora will serve as a guide for informed selection of legume plants with the greatest potential for success in a variety of projects. Projects might include landscaping, habitat improvement, revegetation, and bioprospecting.

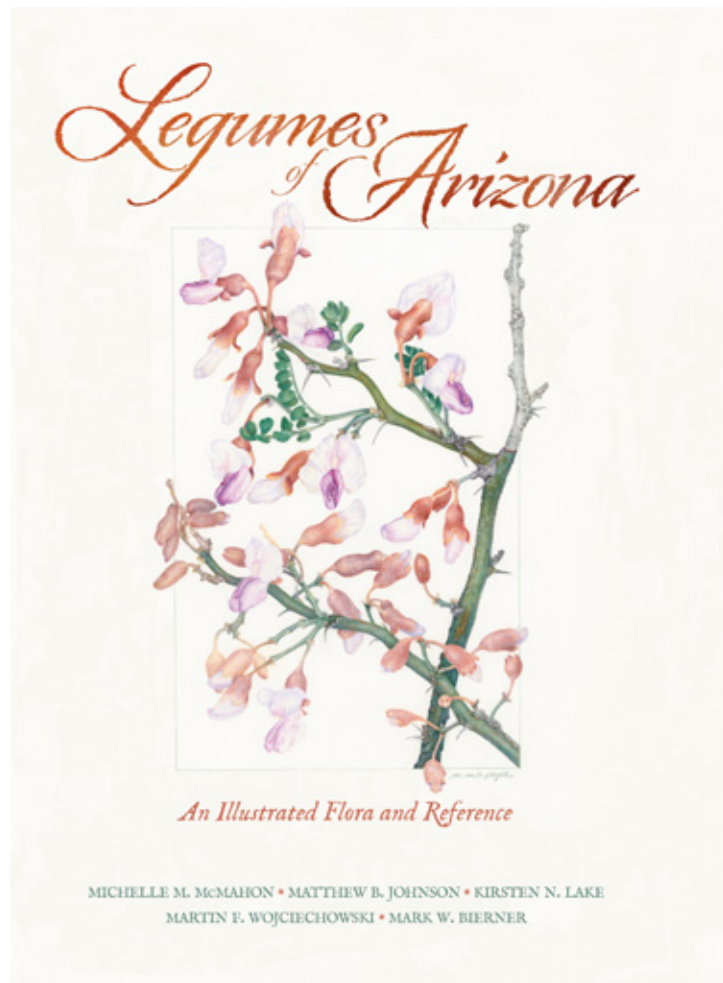
*Legumes of Arizona: An Illustrated Flora and Reference*. Sida, Bot. Misc. 64. (ISSN: 0883-1475; ISBN-13: 978-1-889878-77-5, flex-binding). 540 pp., b/w photos, index, 6.5"×9.5". \$45 US. Orders: 817.546.1847, <https://shopbritpress.org>.

***Introduction to Plants in Central Somaliland***. *Hordhac ku saabsan dhirta ka baxda badhtamaha Soomaaliland, Second Edition* by Ahmed Ibrahim Awale, Faisal Jama Gelle, and Helen Pickering.

This book is a guide for the non-specialist to some of the native and naturalised plants of Central Somaliland including the coastal plain, Golis mountains and the Hargeysa plateau. This second edition contains several additions.

Somali: Buuggani waxa uu hage u yahay dadka aan takhasuska gaarka ah u lahayn aqoonta dhirta ka baxda Soomaaliland qaybaheeda kala duwan sida Xeebta, Buuraha Golis iyo Oogada Hargeysa. Daabacaaddan labaad waxa lagu soo daray sawirro dheeraad ah waxana lagu saxay khaladaad yaryar oo ku jiray daabacaaddii koowaad.

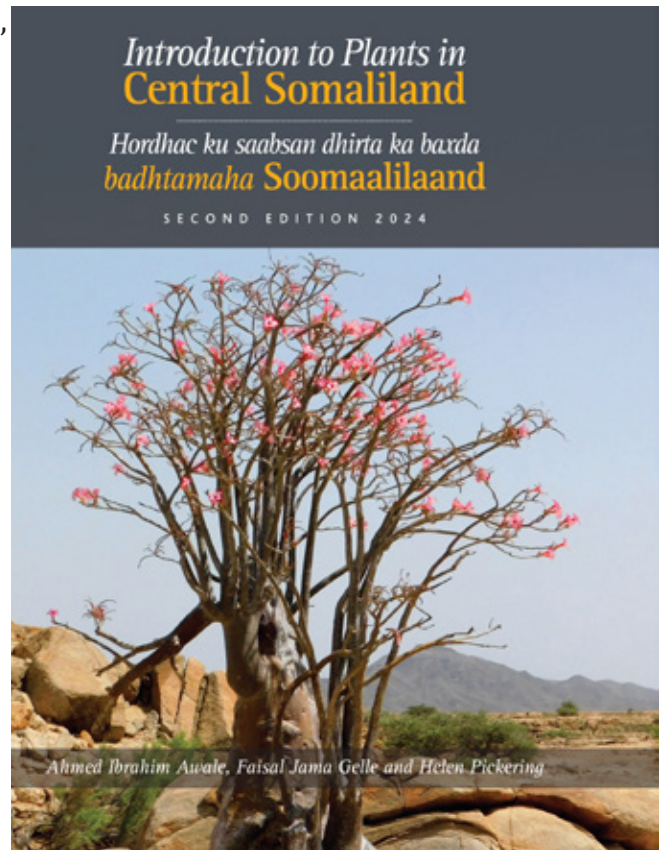
September 2024



A small book but with a beautiful design, stunning photos, and bilingual text will greet you on every page. All sections are illustrated with high quality color images. This second edition contains several additional photographs and corrects a few errors that were over looked in the first edition.

There is no other illustrated guide to Somaliland's plants nor any other guide for the region in Somali, the first language of many people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya.

The book starts with a short paragraph summarizing Somaliland's recent history. This is followed by a summary of the country's climate, landforms, and ecological zones. The 13 pages of introductory material are followed by 120 pages illustrating the 150 species treated. All include at least one, color photograph, a brief, non-technical description and a statement of the species' habitat and global distribution plus three names for each species, an internationally understood scientific name, and a Somali name.



*Introduction to Plants in Central Somaliland*. (ISBN 978-1889878-76-8, flex binding). 148 pages, color photos, glossary, index, Somali/English, 5.512" × 8.268". \$29.00. Orders: 817.546.1847, <https://shopbritpress.org>.

## CBHL Board of Directors, 2024-2025

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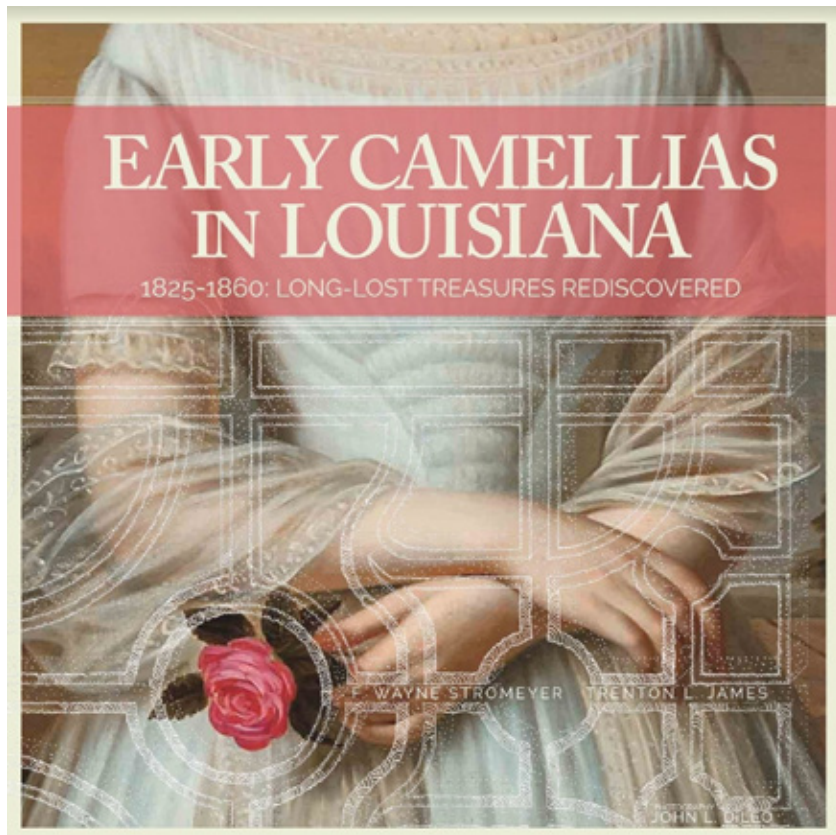
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# Book Reviews

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

*Early Camellias in Louisiana 1825-1860: Long-Lost Treasures Rediscovered* by F. Wayne Stromeyer and Trenton L. James, photography by John L. DiLeo. New Orleans, LA: Vellischor Press, 2022. 149 pages. \$55.00. ISBN 9798218085322.

Reviewed by Hannah Rutledge  
Director  
Library and Information Services  
Longwood Gardens



*Early Camellias in Louisiana 1825-1860: Long-Lost Treasures Rediscovered* has something for everyone. Not only is it a beautifully printed book, but it is also a trove of personal stories, world history, and, naturally, botany. The authors, F. Wayne Stromeyer and Trenton L. James, provide detailed descriptions of early-blooming camellia varieties, including their origins, characteristics, and growing requirements, grounded in both historical research and practical experience.

The book is structured into several sections, each delving into different aspects of camellia history and cultivation. The authors combine historical records, botanical research, and personal anecdotes to create a comprehensive narrative. The initial chapters provide a historical overview, detailing how camellias were introduced to Louisiana, their early cultivation, and the societal impact of these plants. Subsequent sections focus on the different varieties that were popular during the period, the gardening techniques used, and the cultural significance of these plants in Southern society. There are many awesome aspects at play in this publication. Let me address them one at a time.

**The history.** The historical research that went into this book is remarkable. Drawing from a wide array of primary sources, including letters, diaries, maps, and horticultural records, the authors reconstruct the early history of camellias in Louisiana while also building an impressive foundation for understanding these flowers throughout the centuries. This thorough approach not only adds depth to the narrative but also highlights the meticulous care and expertise the authors and photographer bring to the publication. It is a treasure trove for historians and horticulturists alike, providing insights into how camellias were perceived and cultivated in the 19th century.

**The stories.** Focusing on the history of camellias in Louisiana may initially be considered limiting; the American Camellia Society is headquartered in Georgia and states across the South and Southeast are known for impressive and established collections. Nevertheless, Louisiana proves to be, in my opinion, the perfect backdrop. The selected gardens are a compelling lens through which to understand the flower itself and its impact, both historically and current. The interviews and perspectives of the owners and

caretakers of the gardens add the personal touch, so much so that the reader may feel as if they were walking around the gardens alongside them.

**The botany.** Intermixed with the history and the stories, the authors cover the science of camellias and some practical guidance on growing them. Soil preparation, planting techniques, and maintenance strategies make it a handy guide for those looking to grow these beautiful plants. Additionally, tables comparing the petal structures, color blocks showing the different shades, and detailed descriptions of various camellia cultivars serve as a visual guide for readers interested in the specific characteristics of the camellias discussed.

**The photography.** Photographer John L. DiLeo's images of the flowers, the people, and the gardens are all so stunning you have to tear your eyes away from them to read the fascinating text. And yet, you return to the photographs to lose yourself in their impressive clarity, color, and detail. At the back of the book is "a note from the photographer," in which DiLeo describes the process and means by which he was able to capture and develop the images, which includes a bucket truck.

**The design.** The practicality of this book extends beyond its text and images – it also includes multiple pages for "garden notes" at the back, and a well-documented bibliography, clearly identifying unpublished manuscripts and web sources. And oh, the indices! A camellia index and subject index, followed by a visual spread of the cultivars so you can see them side by side. Starting with the marbled design on the inside of the covers, the graphic designer, Chanler Holden Mittendorf, gives us clean, crisp, and simply lovely page designs and elements, keeping the reader's eyes and mind engaged throughout.

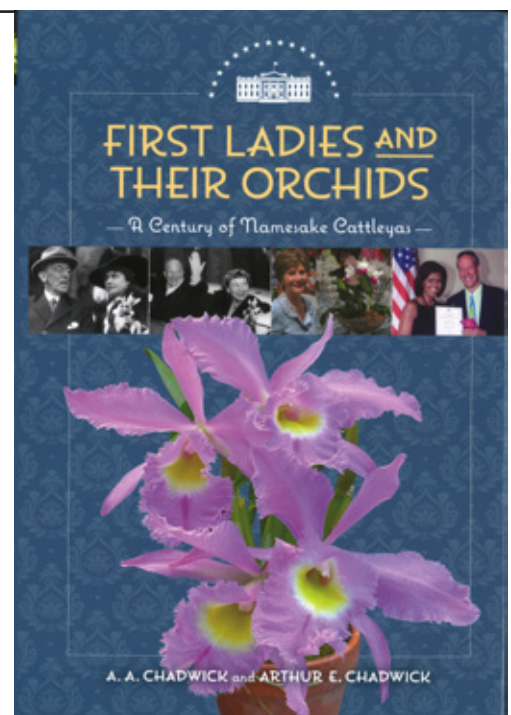
In conclusion, *Early Camellias in Louisiana 1825-1860: Long-Lost Treasures Rediscovered* is a well-crafted, informative, and visually appealing book that will be of great interest to anyone with a passion for gardening, history, or Southern culture. This cultural exploration adds depth to the book, making it not only a botanical study but also a reflection on Southern heritage and society. All involved in the creation of this book have succeeded in bringing to light the rich history of camellias in Louisiana, making it accessible to both scholars and general readers. This book is a valuable (and quite beautiful) addition to the literature on horticultural history and a tribute to the enduring beauty of camellias.

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*First Ladies and their Orchids: A Century of Namesake Cattleyas* by A. A. Chadwick and Arthur E. Chadwick. Powhatan, VA: Chadwick & Son Orchids, Inc., 2024. 285 pages. \$49.95. ISBN: 9798218385866.

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

Orchid growers and hobbyists will certainly be familiar with Chadwick & Son Orchids. Arthur A. Chadwick opened the successful growing and boarding business in Virginia in 1989 with his son Arthur E. Chadwick. Their first book together was *The Classic Cattleyas*, first published in 2006, with a second expanded edition in 2020. *First Ladies and their Orchids: A Century of Namesake Cattleyas* is





described on their website as a sequel to that book and was again written by father and son – but sadly A. A. Chadwick died in 2021 and did not see its publication.

Cattleyas are a passion for both Arthur A. and Arthur E. The younger Chadwick came up with the idea to name a hybrid Cattleya to honor a First Lady after hearing from his dad that there were already several examples among orchid growers of naming orchids (usually Cattleyas) after First Ladies. Arthur A. was not so keen on the idea: “Absolutely not! Never mix business with politics.” Arthur E. persisted, however, and their first Cattleya named for a First Lady was given to Hillary Rodham Clinton in 1995. They’ve continued the practice with all First Ladies since (and some retroactively, to family members), so combined with the previous First Lady namesake Cattleyas there have been 19 consecutive First Ladies bestowed with the honor. The book is chronological, starting with Edith Wilson (wife of President Woodrow Wilson), First Lady from 1915-1921 through to Dr. Jill Biden.

Chadwick & Son “acquired, bred, named, or presented the hybrids, got them awarded, corresponded with the First Lady (or her children or grandchildren) then donated the entire collection to the Smithsonian for safe keeping.” In the introductory “Note About Nomenclature,” the book is described as a historical reference highlighting early growers, hybridizers, and explorers. Therefore, the Chadwicks have chosen to use the nomenclature from their first book *The Classic Cattleyas*, because it is familiar to everyone - even though many names have been changed since 2006.

There is a chapter for each First Lady, with a brief history of her time in the role – especially as it relates to any association with horticulture and/or orchids. Many of the First Ladies graciously received their namesake orchids in person. The authors give a thoroughly researched and detailed description of the lineage of the Cattleyas chosen for each First Lady, including the history of the hybrid and its parentage, and previous contributing breeders, growers, and plant explorers. Each chapter contains many colorful photos of the First Lady and her namesake orchid, the plants in the lineage, and historical photos or artwork of the breeders and/or discoverers of those plants. Many chapters also contain beautiful illustrations of plants in the hybrid’s lineage from the *Orchid Album* (11 volumes sold by subscription beginning in 1881). Also included are illustrations from *Reichenbachia*, which portrayed orchid flowers life-sized, and *Dictionnaire Iconographique des Orchidees* – both from the late 19th century. Each chapter ends with a colorful and informative infographic of the composition and lineage of each named hybrid.

There is content here to interest many audiences, from the casual reader to passionate orchid enthusiasts and professionals. The historical information about the First Ladies and orchids, and the beautiful photos and illustrations will interest the mainstream reader. The detailed orchid hybrid information and history will satisfy and please the orchid enthusiasts. A sampling of the details from *First Ladies and their Orchids* illustrates the change in fashion for Cattleyas over the past century:

- Mamie Eisenhower “was the greatest advertisement for cattleya corsages that anyone could hope for. Her enthusiasm spoke volumes about her love of orchids.”
- Fashionable Jackie Kennedy didn’t wear corsages but carried a pocketbook corsage attached to her handbag.
- Dr. Jill Biden received her two blooming Cattleya samples from Arthur E. on July 19, 2022, and said “I’d like one on my desk and one on my husband’s desk.”

Of note to CBHL members is that the Eleanor Roosevelt Cattleya was sent to Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens and New York Botanical Garden at the request of her granddaughter Anne Roosevelt.

The book ends with a few short sections: other notable women and their orchids, a photo gallery of each of the First Lady Cattleyas side by side (making for a fascinating comparison of their differences), a Cat-

tleya wheel showing when different species bloom, and an extensive bibliography. This book would make a wonderful addition to botanical and horticultural libraries and is sure to please a wide variety of readers.

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*The Vasculum or Botanical Collecting Box: Symbol of the Nineteenth-century Botanist, Now an Obsolete Relic* by Régine Fabri, foreword and translation by Henry Noltie. Meise, Belgium: Meise Botanic Garden, 2024. 269 pages. 30 EUR. ISBN 9783823618201.

Reviewed by Nicole Hanquart  
Head of Library, Art and Archives  
Meise Botanic Garden

This work traces the history of an object that was once emblematic of the collecting botanist but now largely forgotten: the vasculum, also known as the collecting box. Through a metal box and its various representations, Régine Fabri sketches the history of botanical fieldwork practices spanning over two hundred years.

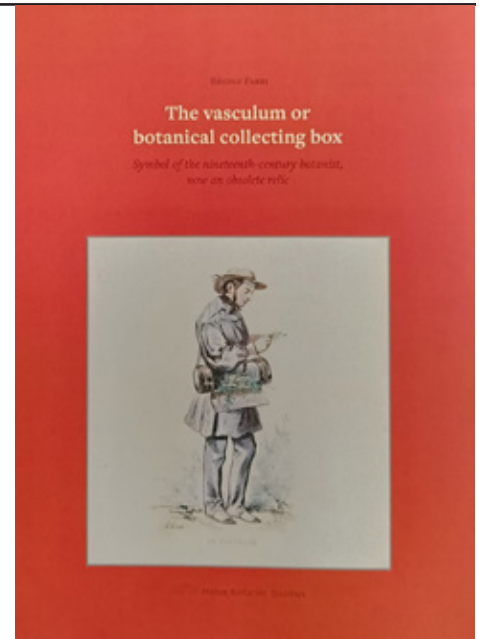
In the foreword to the French edition, the author, a botanist and retired librarian from the Meise Botanic Garden, recalls the memory of her grandmother: 'As a child, I remember seeing her collect plants in a pretty tin box, before drying them in a press and putting them in her herbarium'. Through an aunt, the collecting box came into her possession. It was the first object in a collection of boxes and representations of vascula, built up for over ten years with great passion and meticulousness.

The richness of Fabri's work lies in the vast array of sources that she gathered over years of research. These sources span several Western countries and languages, including French, English (covering the United Kingdom, North America and even Oceania), Dutch, German, Italian, and Spanish. They include the vascula themselves, of course, but also visual media and literary sources.

The book is illustrated with some 300 images, a varied and visually appealing mosaic that charts the history of the collecting box since the eighteenth century. From photographs of vascula, including that of the greatest naturalist of the nineteenth century, Charles Darwin, to beautiful boxes designed for children, to old engravings, reproductions of advertisements (inserted in flora, periodicals, and catalogs), postcards, advertising chromos, paintings, caricatures, portraits and photographs of botanical excursions, all these illustrations immerse us in a world of history and culture that has now disappeared.

In addition, the author has found numerous references to the vasculum in literature but also in botanists' accounts and letters, from which she concludes that this accessory was commonplace and widely used by botanists.

This book demonstrates that botanical field enthusiasts have long been present in all sectors of society, long before the advent of PlantNet or iNaturalist. It also reveals that this box, now largely ignored by field botanists, whether scientific researchers or amateurs, was once a familiar and widely recognizable object. This illustrated history of the vasculum highlights the significant role botany played in the science, leisure, and education of previous generations, offering a fine contribution to the sociocultural history of botany.



# CBHL 56th Annual Business Meeting Notes

Edited by Brandy Watts  
CBHL Secretary

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

10:00am Pacific / 11:00am Mountain / 12:00pm Central / 1:00pm Eastern

## Welcome and Official Commencement

Welcome, everyone. It is Tuesday, May 7, 2024, and I'd like to call the 56th Business Meeting of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries to order.

- We'll start by having the members of the board introduce themselves. My name is Allaina Wallace and I am serving as the current President of CBHL. I am also the Associate Director of Education and Library and Head Librarian at Denver Botanic Gardens.
  - Gillian Hayward, CBHL Treasurer, Library Manager, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA.
  - Leora Siegel, CBHL Past President, Senior Director, Lenhardt Library, Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago, IL.
  - Kristen Mastel, CBHL Vice President, Head Librarian, Andersen Horticultural Library, UM, Minnesota.
  - Brandy Watts, CBHL Secretary, Director of the Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS), UAA, Alaska.
- Quorum. There were 29 registered CBHL individuals and we have xx joining us in person and virtually. I'd like to note that we have a Quorum (at least 15 members per bylaws).
- Vice President Kristen Mastel will serve as Parliamentarian for this business meeting.
- The minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> annual business meeting, hosted by BRIT on May 2-4, 2023, were shared via email on May 2nd. Are there any corrections? Is there a motion to approve the minutes? Is there a second? Is there any discussion? All in favor? All opposed? Motion adopted.
- Does anyone have additions to the agenda?
  - No additions to the agenda.
- We would now like to recognize our first time attendees and new CBHL members. Please raise your virtual or in person hand.
  - Jennifer Idema, Wayne State University
  - Jen Simms, Indiana University
  - Hannah Rutledge, Longwood Gardens
  - Kristine Paulus, NYBG
  - Hannah Barton, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
  - Jocelyn Mehle, University of Minnesota

We would also like to acknowledge Jocelyn Mehle and Brittany Stark as recipients of CBHL awards.

Jocelyn was awarded the CBHL Founders' Fund Award to attend the 2024 USAIN-CBHL Conference. Jocelyn is a Library Assistant at the Andersen Horticultural Library at the University of Minnesota.

Brittany was awarded the CBHL Conference Collaboration Grant and will be attending the Special Library Association 2024 Conference in July. Brittany is the Technical Services Librarian at the Helen Fowler Library, Denver Botanic Gardens.

## Officer Reports

- Secretary, Brandy Watts  
THE CBHL Board retreat was held on January 17-19, 2024, and hosted by Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. The first two days of the retreat took place at Longwood Gardens and the third day was held virtually due to winter weather.

Discussion by the Board focused on the value and function of CBHL past, present, and future. In-depth consideration was given to CBHL's structure, organization, strategic plan, financial outlook, sustainability, challenges, opportunities, and potential models for CBHL to look to as it moves into the future. Time was also

devoted to the 2024 USAIN/CBHL conference.

#### USAIN/CBHL Attendance Estimate Membership Survey Summary

Thank you to our members who completed the 2024 USAIN/CBHL Conference survey in January, which had a response rate of 25%. A key takeaway from the CBHL conference survey in response to reasons why members may not attend included in rank order: (1) personal reasons, (2) schedules, and (3) cost. Based on the attendance indicators of in-person and virtual, the Board brainstormed options to alleviate constraints to our members.

The Board will continue discussion over the coming months about the best conference model for CBHL as it moves into the future. We will also consider alternative formats, venues, focus, function, and frequency, with input from membership.

In light of this invaluable time together analyzing CBHL, the Board views the retreat as the beginning of a comprehensive evaluation process of CBHL, which the Board is committed to completing through regular monthly meetings. The Board wants to honor CBHL's past while remaining strong and relevant into the future.

Likewise, one of the outcomes of our Board retreat was to create clearer, more consistent language for the CBHL Awards. We also wanted to make it easier for members to find the information about each award and create a web-accessible application form.

Lastly, the Board will take the next year to review the Procedures Manual, making long overdue updates across the manual.

- Nominating Committee, Past President, Leora Siegel  
The 2023-2024 CBHL Nominating Committee was chaired by CBHL Past President Leora Siegel, with committee members Marisha Sullivan and Hannah Rutledge.

Two board position vacancies required filling this year.

For the Vice-President vacancy, the committee's work began in October 2023 and was completed in February 2024.

The process involved review of the Bylaws and Procedures Manual, discussions of criteria for candidates, identifying potential candidates, adhering to the CBHL timeline, compiling spreadsheets of former board members across the past 10 years, and updating the Procedures Manual with new processes.

Kristine Paulus was nominated as the next Vice-President to serve on the board.

For the Secretary vacancy, the current CBHL Secretary, Brandy Watts, agreed to serve another term, as allowable per the Bylaws. She was nominated to do so.

The 2023-2024 Nominating Committee has completed its work.

- 2023 Treasurer Report, CBHL Treasurer, Gillian Hayward  
Gillian trained with outgoing Treasurer Betsy Kruthoffer through regular Zoom meetings.

Secure online password manager Bitwarden has been employed to store CBHL logins and account information. CBHL Secretary Brandy Watts has been added as emergency access user.

Operating expenses and income were lower in 2023 because there was no in-person conference.

There is a new line item for Xero software, which is the replacement accounting software that former treasurer Betsy chose when switching from Quickbooks.

#### Committee Reports

Prior to the business meeting, all committee chairs provided the Board Secretary with copies of their reports, who sent

them to the listserv with a written copy of their report. There will be time for feedback and discussion when we get to new business.

### **New Business**

- 2025 Annual Meeting

I would like to briefly present about the upcoming 2025 annual meeting.

- 2026 Annual Meeting

Hannah Rutledge and Gillian Hayward of Longwood Gardens informally invited CBHL in 2026.

- Committee Report Discussion

Committee chairs have posted their reports on the listserv. Are there any questions or discussion topics related to the committee reports?

Suzi: Will the Charles Long Award be awarded at the awards ceremony tonight?

Response: Not this year, see Charles Long Award Committee Report.

Thank you. The reports will be placed on file and included in the business meeting minutes.

- New agenda items

Are there any new agenda items to discuss?

### **General Announcements from the Membership**

The next item on the agenda is general announcements from the membership. For those on Zoom please use the raised hand feature if possible. Or the chat function.

Suzi Teghtmeyer:

Will go on sabbatical in the fall for six months (Oct-Mar).

Will focus on writing the history of William Beale.

Tracking down 1200 publications of Beale. Will build a full-text repository of all of Beale's publications.

Robin Everly:

Smithsonian Collections have merged and will work on collaborations.

Janet Evans:

Received funding for a project that will start this summer. Project will identify full names for women who were previously referred to as their husbands' wives.

Donna is surprised that this hasn't been thought of before.

Marisha is excited for this as an intern project for students.

Ana Niño:

Will be switching from Aleph to Alma ILS.

Ten years from now will be the 100th anniversary of the FWBG (Fort Worth Botanic Garden).

Allaina Wallace:

APGA (American Public Gardens Association) is in Denver next year; please send your folks to the library.

Marisha Sullivan:

Almost completed a full inventory of the rare book room and will be making it available to the public.

Beth Brand:

Project to digitize and describe metadata taken by Ted Anderson, total of about 12,000 images. Team of volunteers working on the metadata. They have logged about 8,000.

We are also scanning the binders of our living collection, the accession sheets.

Marisha Sullivan:

A small group of small librarians has been meeting, to bring a small sense of community and knowledge sharing.

The Board would like to acknowledge the libraries and library positions that have recently been reduced or eliminated. The CBHL Board would like to share our support for all and also underscore the supportive CBHL community and network of professionals that we work with.

### **Closing of Annual Meeting**

- Thank you to our Host

At this time I would like to say thank you to Suzi, Andrea and MSU for hosting us this year. We want to recognize and appreciate all of your efforts to make this joint conference a success! As a token of our appreciation we would like to present both of you with a gift.

- Recognition of outgoing/incoming Officers

Thank you Leora Siegel for stepping in this year to serve as Past President and last year as vice president. We have greatly enjoyed working with you on the board these past two years. You have been an inspiration to each of us and we appreciate your dedication to and knowledge of all things CBHL.

We also want to welcome Kristine Paulus. Congratulations on your appointment as Vice President of the CBHL Board. Thank you Brandy Watts for continuing to serve a second term as CBHL Secretary.

Allaina: It's been a real learning experience and has been wonderful to serve for CBHL.

- Adjourn  
Do we have a motion to adjourn the meeting?  
Motion: Kathy Crosby  
Second: Kristine Paulus  
All in favor: Yes  
All opposed: None  
The meeting is adjourned.

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## 2024 CBHL Annual Meeting Committee Reports

Edited by Brandy Watts  
CBHL Secretary

### Membership Committee

The Membership Committee consists of Betsy Kruthoffer, chair and listserv manager, and Robin Everly, membership manager.

- The Committee met on May 1, 2024, and went over the list of membership benefits written by the Board.
  - We had questions about who gets to vote since it's stated that institutional and commercial members "name two voting representatives." Is this in the by-laws? If an institutional or commercial membership contains more than two members, doesn't everyone have a vote?
  - We looked at the list of plant libraries on the website and there are several libraries that are not members. Since this is a benefit of membership those who are not current members need to be removed.
- We discussed the lifetime membership awarded to BHL, since Martin Kalfatovic is leaving his position as director. We agreed that we shouldn't replace Martin with BHL's new director or anyone else on staff and that in the future the Long Award should not be given to an organization or group. We need board input about this.
- Betsy compiled some statistics about membership and listserv participation:
  - Current memberships: 107, including 10 lifetime members
  - Total number of people: 151
  - Not renewed, October 2023- 17 memberships / 20 people
    - Reasons for not renewing: Retirement, positions eliminated
  - New members, October 2023- 11 (8 individual, 2 student, 1 institutional, 1 commercial)
  - EBHL memberships: 44
  - Listserv members: 159, awaiting 5 confirmations
- We don't have a current list of EBHL members who paid for a CBHL membership so EBHL affiliate names in the membership database and the listserv may not be current or correct.

### Nominating Committee

The 2023-2024 CBHL Nominating Committee was chaired by CBHL Past-President, Leora Siegel, with committee members Marisha Sullivan and Hannah Rutledge.

1. Two board position vacancies required filling this year.
  - a. For the Vice-President vacancy, the committee's work began in October 2023 and was completed in February 2024.
  - b. The process involved review of the Bylaws and Procedures Manual, discussions of criteria for candidates, identifying potential candidates, adhering to the CBHL timeline, compiling spreadsheets of former board members across the past 10 years, and updating the Procedures Manual with new processes.
  - c. Kristine Paulus was nominated as the next Vice-President to serve on the board.
  - d. For the Secretary vacancy, the current CBHL Secretary, Brandy Watts, agreed to serve another term, as secretary.

2. The 2023-2024 Nominating Committee has completed its work.

### **Annual Literature Award Committee**

The 2023-2024 CBHL Annual Literature Award Committee was co-chaired by Susan Eubank and Brian Thompson. Other members included Céline Arseneault (who managed the webpage for the committee), Janet Evans, Rita Hassert (who will prepare the press release), and Hannah Rutledge. Susan Eubank announced this will be her last year on the committee.

1. Nominations
  - There were 40 nominations
  - From 16 CBHL Members
  - Nominees were from 37 different publishers
  - 6 books were designated as for children or young adults by the nominators
  - Publishers were unable to provide review copies for 3 nominees
  - The remaining 37 were read by the committee members and considered for awards.
2. Awards
  - Committee met virtually on 4/23/2024 for nearly 2.5 hours to decide on awards
  - One book was chosen as the Annual Literature Award winner
  - Five books were selected for Awards of Excellence in different categories
  - One new category for Awards of Excellence was added: “Garden and Nature Writing.”
  - The awards will be announced at the annual meeting on May 7, 2024.

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

Santa Barbara BG Archivist Hannah Barton wrote that they are interested in hosting a CBHL meeting but have the unusual issue of being restricted by the county to a limited number of visitors each day March through July as a conservation measure. They offered to host outside of that time. I asked Hannah if we might be able to partner with UC Santa Barbara and tour the garden after hours. Sometime in late February or August might be best.

Hannah replied that she spoke with the SBBG Director again about the possibility of hosting CBHL in the spring and it seems like the consensus is that it is just not possible for them to do so given the many visitation restrictions. Late February/early March is actually when the busy season starts ramping up for them.

Additionally, being a solo archivist/librarian she feels that she does not currently have the bandwidth to organize an offsite meeting for 2025, though perhaps she would have more time to do so for an offsite/joint meeting in the coming years, after 2026 (which is the Garden’s centennial). If there were some other Southern CA Garden interested in hosting CBHL, she is happy to try to organize a visit to SBBG. She asked to let her know if CBHL Board has any further questions or suggestions as she would love to be able to be a part of hosting a future meeting, but it may never be possible for them as a springtime host.

So for the time being, Santa Barbara remains a potential option for a future meeting site probably hinging on partnering with nearby UCSB, which needs to be explored.

Hannah Rutledge, Library Director, wrote that Longwood is (still) happy to host the 2026 CBHL Conference and would charge CBHL only for food/drinks. An additional offer is for a fountain show at the opening or closing of the conference at no cost. They are working on drafting a host letter of commitment which will not be ready to be read at this year’s conference.

We did have an interest from Olbrich Gardens to be a future host, but that option is not viable now that their Library has closed. The same interest was elicited from the Royal Botanical Garden, Ontario yet they too have closed their library.

There are a number of members who have never hosted and areas of the country we have never been to, yet there are four members who seem to host each decade. Recently, the Board announced that the annual conference for 2025 would be held virtually as there were no members offering to host for that year. The next hosting year we have available is 2027 and forward.

### **Financial Advisory Committee**

The Financial Advisory Committee consists of Gillian Hayward (CBHL Treasurer), Betsy Kruthoffer (former CBHL Treasurer), and Brian Thompson (chair and former CBHL Treasurer).

Treasurer’s Report for 2024 Annual Meeting

- The committee met on May 1, 2024, to review the Treasurer’s Report for fiscal year 2023.
- The committee agreed that the report is complete and ready for presenting to the membership at the Annual

Business Meeting on May 7, 2024.

- The committee noted that 2023 was a “quiet” year financially for CBHL, with limited expenses, primarily because the annual meeting was virtual.
- The chair (Brian) was quite impressed with the diligence and time that Betsy (as former treasurer) and Gillian (as new treasurer in 2023) committed during the last year with monthly meetings to assure an easy transition.
- Brian announced he is stepping off the committee after the Annual Meeting and will ask the incoming president to appoint a new member.

### **Charles Long Award Committee**

The CBHL Charles Robert Long Award for Extraordinary Merit Committee

The Award was founded to honor outstanding contribution and meritorious service to CBHL or to the field of botanical and horticultural libraries or literature. The Charles Robert Long Award of Extraordinary Merit is the highest individual honor CBHL bestows.

Bob Long was a member and a former president of CBHL, editor of the CBHL Plant Bibliography series, and was for many years on the staff of The New York Botanical Garden. At the time of Bob’s death he was Assistant Vice President and Director of the Library and Plant Information Services at The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

The Award is inspired by memories of Bob’s commitment to professional development, his support of high library and bibliographic standards, his interest in the collaborative efforts of libraries, and his continued search for professionalism in librarianship. The award is not given every year.

Two recent awardees were Judy Reed, former Conservation Librarian of The LuEsther T. Mertz Library of the New York Botanical Garden, whom we miss greatly, and Susan Eubank, former Arboretum Librarian at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden.

The members of the Committee—Allaina Wallace, Brandy Watts, Stacy Stoldt, Beth Brand, and Kathy Crosby, Chair, met and held discussions via e-mail thread earlier in the year. Given the challenges of this year’s joint meeting, we decided not to take on an award presentation this year.

That being said, we nonetheless enjoyed thinking about potential awardees. Anyone who has an idea for a potential nomination can contact me or access the nomination form via LibGuides. Potential nominees include CBHL members, persons who are not members of CBHL, and organizations.

The Committee’s page on LibGuides has been updated.

### **Founders’ Fund Committee**

The purpose of the Founders’ Fund Travel Fellowship Award is to provide limited financial support to assist applicant(s) in attending the CBHL annual meeting. Established in 1991, the Founders’ Fund Travel Fellowship is a memorial to deceased CBHL members.

Jocelyn Mehle was awarded the CBHL Founders Fund Award to attend the 2024 USAIN-CBHL Conference, May 5-8, 2024. Jocelyn is a Library Assistant at the Andersen Horticultural Library, UMN.

### **Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee oversees all publications, printed or digital, publicity, social media, press releases, member-to-member communication (currently email listserv), intranet, public website, and any other channel or platform desired for communication by CBHL. The committee consists of Judy Stevenson (chair), Rita Hassert, Céline Arseneault, Gillian Hayward, Danielle Scheidt, Betsy Kruthoffer, Robin Everly, Kristen Mastel, Jodi Shippee, and Esther Jackson. Susan Eubank stepped down as listserv manager and has cycled off the committee; Betsy Kruthoffer has taken on the listserv manager role.



- **Webmaster report by Céline Arseneault**
  - **Website maintenance**
    - We migrated the public website to a standalone server this year. Our server was the norm at the launch 10 years ago as a multi-site environment. We have since then acquired an SSL certificate (https) but taking the website out of a multi-site environment offers more advantages in terms of backup, maintenance, security, and performance. We updated the plugins and deployed the new version this spring.
    - We also implemented the new G4 Google Analytics property. Because we were a little late, consultation stats are incomplete for this past year.
    - In 2024-2025, I would like to update the WordPress environment with a Divi builder, which is more intuitive and user-friendly for future development by the member who will become the next webmaster (2026?). This will probably require a small budget. After this is done, a complete review of the website design and content should be done.
  - **Annual Literature Award**
    - Annual updates to the nomination form, nominees, and awardees on the website. The nomination form for the 2025 Annual Literature is now available (May 1st).
  - **Table of Contents for CBHL Newsletter**
    - All new issues are now described. It is an ongoing project for past issues not yet done (2007 and before).
  - **CBHL directory**
    - No report
- **Newsletter report by Judy Stevenson**
  - The CBHL Newsletter continues to be published four times annually, in electronic (pdf) format exclusively. The newsletter is distributed to the membership via the listserv and is available freely to members and the public on the CBHL website (cbhl.net). All CBHL members are invited to submit content for the newsletter through [newsletter@cbhl.net](mailto:newsletter@cbhl.net)
  - 2024-2025 publishing schedule:
    - June issue (content deadline April 15)
    - September issue (content deadline July 15)
    - December issue (content deadline October 15)
    - March issue (content deadline January 15)
- **LibGuides Report by Danielle Scheidt**
  - In 2023, CBHL LibGuides (105 in total) generated 12,299 page views cumulatively, decreasing by 22% from 2022. The top five most viewed guides of 2023 were:
    - 55th CBHL Annual Meeting 2023 - 2,795 views
    - Horticulture Library Consortium E-books - 1,414 views
    - CBHL LibGuides Homepage - 1,265 views
    - Lenhardt Library of the Chicago Botanic Garden Digitized Collections - 1,109 views
    - Arboretum Library (LA County) - 1,070 views
- **Public Relations Report by Rita Hassert**
  - Activities and projects:
    - Press releases were created and distributed for the 2023 CBHL Annual Literature Awards.
    - Meeting announcements featuring the CBHL/USAIN 2024 Annual Meeting were sent to various affinitive organizations as well as library programs.
    - The CBHL social media campaign continues via Facebook with 500+ followers.
    - To increase the visibility of CBHL and the Annual Literature Awards, Gillian Hayward identified Award nominees and winners within their OCLC master records. Like Caldecott and Newbery Award winners, details about the 2023 CBHL Annual Literature Award nominees and honorees were added to the Awards note within the bibliographic records. Gillian's efforts to increase the visibility of CBHL, as well as these awards, are greatly appreciated!

## Steering Committee

The purpose of this committee, from the LibGuide:

The Steering Committee was created to serve as a coordinating body among CBHL's committees, managers, and Board. The committee includes all CBHL committee chairs, the CBHL managers (Newsletter Editor, Membership Manager, Webmaster, Online Distribution List Manager, Non-book Collections Database Manager, Wiki/LibGuide Manager(s), Archivist, Historian), and the Board.

- Included in this report is the report from the CBHL Collections Database Manager, Kathy Crosby.

- A number of years ago, the then-adhoc Preservation and Access\* group created a number of surveys to gather information about non-book collections available at member institutions.
  - This information was entered in a searchable database available to members, but not widely used, Google and other browsers having, for the most part, superseded our efforts.
  - While the data is still available on Brooklyn Botanic Garden's ILS, the various updates to the system have impacted the search access to that information.
  - I have since disabled the link to the PAC database and provided a short explanation on LibGuides.
  - The details of the reports from the PAC surveys are intact.
  - Céline Arseneault and I have discussed the potential for making the data from PAC available on the CBHL website.
  - \*PAC became a standing committee for a period of time under the leadership of Charlotte Tancin
- The Steering Committee met 9/29/2023, 12/8/2023, 2/9/2024
  - The meetings are held to help coordinate with the Board:
    - 8/29/2023, the first meeting is after the Annual meeting to have the new Board members have a face-to-face meeting with all committee chairs and managers, some who may also be new. It's a starting point for the year.
    - 12/8/2023, the second meeting is a check-in point during the year with the committees and board. This year this was complicated by the Board changing meeting schedules and a scheduled retreat, but the committee met anyway because keeping in contact is useful.
    - 2/9/2024, the third meeting was after the rescheduled board meeting and included a Board request to change the nature of the committee and reporting flow.
- A discussion of the Board Steering Committee reporting and meeting change was held at the third meeting and the change will be implemented after the annual meeting.
  - The committee member comments are recorded in the LibGuides and are too long to include in this report, the comments were neither positive nor negative, but focused on how it would be implemented and the logistics. The Board indicated that the changes would be discussed at the Annual Meeting.
  - The Board's requested changes to the Steering Committee are:
    - In the interest of efficiency, transparency, and access, the CBHL Board has several requests regarding committees, reporting, and LibGuides. Please see below.
    - All CBHL Committees will update and revise all information available on their designated LibGuide pages so that they are current to 2024. All updates and revisions should be completed by no later than the end of the first quarter, March 31, 2024.
    - All CBHL Committees will actively maintain their designated LibGuides pages on a quarterly basis.
    - All CBHL committees will provide quarterly committee reports by no later than the 31st of March, June, September, and December of each year. This will necessitate sending the reports to both the Steering Committee Chair as well as uploading to their respective LibGuides pages.
    - The quarterly reports will largely take the place of Steering Committee meetings throughout the year and streamline committee reporting to the Board.
    - Quarterly committee reports will be sent out to the membership via the listserv by the Steering Committee Chair.
- I, Donna Herendeen, with regret, will step down from the Committee Chair after the Annual Meeting. As the current Chair of the Steering Committee I have enjoyed scheduling and reporting on the discussion and interaction of the Steering Committee face-to-face meetings, it was an easy and informal way to keep in touch with members and the Board between Annual Meetings.
  - The new proposed format, to be successful, will require more time that I currently spend on this Committee. I cannot commit the time that will be needed to successfully implement and monitor the new Steering Committee written report workflow and distribution format in a way that will ensure the continued coordination and interaction of everyone on the committee and the Board.
  - My concern is that this reporting structure, unlike the discussion meetings, is a one way flow of communication. From the Steering Committee Members to the Board, with no feedback, or discussion, from the Board to the Steering Committee Members.
- The members of the Steering Committee are the CBHL Managers, CBHL Committee Chairs and the Members of the CBHL Board; there is overlap.
  - Current Steering Committee Chair: Donna Herendeen
  - CBHL Managers
    - Archivist, Stephen Sinon
    - Electronic List, Betsy Kruthoffer
    - Historian, John Reed

- LibGuides, Danielle Scheidt
- Membership, Robin Everly
- Newsletter, Judy Stevenson
- Non-book Collections Database, Kathy Crosby
- Public Relations, Rita Hassert
- Webmaster, Céline Arseneault
- CBHL Committee Chairs
  - Ad Hoc Committee on Future Conferences Chair: Stephen Sinon
  - Annual Literature Award Committee Co-Chairs: Brian Thompson & Susan Eubank
  - Charles Robert Long Award Committee Chair: Kathy Crosby
  - Communications Committee Chair: Judy Stevenson
  - Financial Advisory Committee Chair: Brian Thompson
  - Founders' Fund Committee (No Chair; committee is board members)
  - Membership Committee Chair: Betsy Kruthoffer
  - Nominating Committee Chair: Leora Siegel
- CBHL Board Members
  - Past-President, Leora Siegel
  - President, Allaina Wallace
  - Secretary, Brandy Watts
  - Treasurer, Gillian Hayward
  - Vice President, Kristen Mastel
- The Committee's Page on LibGuides has been updated with this report.



# CBHL Newsletter, Issue 174, September 2024

## Newsletter Team

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## Submissions Welcome!

Articles may be submitted to Judy Stevenson, Editor, [newsletter@cbhl.net](mailto:newsletter@cbhl.net).  
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## Join us!

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, [membership@cbhl.net](mailto:membership@cbhl.net)

Please use the subject line "CBHL Membership"

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