

## CBHL Members' East News

Edited by Nicole Font  
Shelby White & Leon Levy Processing Archivist  
LuEsther T. Mertz Library  
The New York Botanical Garden

### CBHL at the 2025 American Public Gardens Association Conference

Anne-Marie Parrish  
Director of Library and Archives  
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden



*CBHL members Hannah Rutledge, Allaina Wallace, and Anne-Marie Parrish present at APGA.*

The annual conference of the American Public Gardens Association (APGA) took place in Denver, Colorado the first week in June 2025. I was a first-time attendee and represented the Council of Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL) in presenting along with my colleagues Hannah Rutledge from Longwood Gardens and Allaina Wallace from Denver Botanic Gardens.

The theme of the event was “Elemental” with keynote speakers denoting Air, Fire, Earth, and Water. Dr. Mike Hannigan is a professor of both Mechanical and Environmental Engineering at the University of Colorado, and he presented on air quality. His research explores the complexities of carbon and its atmospheric effects on human and environmental health. Anna Kaye is an artist whose work reflects the natural world, and her medium of charcoal and ash represents the fire element. Her work invokes the duality of fire with both its destructive and rejuvenating aspects in nature. Dr. Breigh Jones-Coplin is the author of *Soil to Self*, and her keynote emphasized the power of soil. Her words encouraged us to reflect on how we are preparing our soil for professional and personal growth and to explore whether our choices are building a stable foundation and resiliency. Teal Lehto is a water rights activist based in Colorado. In the western United States, water resources and allocation are complex and a critical piece of environmental and river health. Teal has successfully advocated on digital platforms like TikTok (as Western Water Girl) to inform her audience about the impact of climate change and water scarcity and to create policy change.

Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG) are stunning, and I loved exploring the winding paths with varied plant collections. My garden, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden (LGBG), is in central Virginia, so I was surprised by blooming lilacs, peonies, and iris at DBG and thus got to experience a second springtime in June! What a treat! Time in a garden is always well spent in my opinion and the diminutive alpine plants and combinations of scents and stones were a delight. The Freyer-Newman Center for Science, Art & Education is an

amazing building that combines multi-disciplines in a unique museum setting. The herbaria collection was impressive, and I learned about the global sharing of specimens for research and how new discoveries are ongoing. An (uncaptured source) note from a field journal stated, “there can be no biodiversity research without natural history collections and specimens.” This quote reinforces the value of these collections, often hidden in the basement, and gave me a new perspective on herbaria use.

An overarching message that I heard repeated during the week was that public gardens are uniquely positioned to be a respite from the world, to be a soft place to land, and to address the mental health needs of the community. There was an open and collaborative tone from the start with lots of information sharing and learning. It was a great conference atmosphere!

All of the sessions I attended offered interesting information and allowed for the discovery of new perspectives and ways of thinking. Of particular note to me were sessions revolving around the concepts of creative constraints, curiosity, and communication, all of which are applicable to librarianship. Professionals from the Merwin Conservancy (Hawaii) and Sonoma Botanical Garden (California) presented “The Elemental Art of Overcoming and Embracing ‘Creative Constraints.’” The session used museum models and storytelling to creatively problem-solve and boost membership and community impact. Both gardens have unique sites and conservation challenges but leaned into these constraints in order to grow and develop. For example, the Merwin Conservancy has a total of five parking spaces and thus has engaged in digital outreach and storytelling in order to share its message. The idea of creative constraints is applicable in every library in which I have worked. Librarians have the skill set to adapt and apply new methods, and the creativity to showcase materials and services to reach new and existing audiences. This session also reminded me of how literary components can be used to tell a garden’s story. For example, a travel journal or botanic record can highlight a plant collection or garden founder/donor to produce a broader context and layered experience.

Another session I attended, “The Art of Curiosity in the Garden: Exploring the Intersection of Approachable Art, Science and Horticulture,” involved using plant materials to make art. This session aligns mission objectives to connect people to plants while also encouraging play and engagement to enrich guest experience. The presenters provided us with a pouch of supplies, including butterfly pea plant, baking soda, lemon juice, foil, and cotton swabs, and we explored the changes to plant-based ink we made and then used the ink to make mini artwork. The importance of play for younger audiences is documented, however a case can be made for the benefits of play and curiosity for adults. Lifelong learning as a tenet of librarianship reinforces this concept. Reading and learning for fun provides entertainment, can relieve stress, and offers respite from the pressures of “adulting.” The overall message to slow down and reconnect with nature applies generationally and can be adapted to all garden settings to highlight benefits and drive membership.

For librarians who do programming and outreach work, there is a great resource from the University of Florida called Therapeutic Horticulture Activities Database or THAD. This resource compiles hands-on gardening activities that can be sorted by audience and goal and can assist in developing educational wellness outreach programming tailored to local partners. After a brief look at THAD, <https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/therapeutic-horticulture-activities-database/>, I knew that this resource would provide exciting possibilities for the majority of education and engagement staff at my garden.

These sessions about curiosity and wellness and the resources they highlighted sparked a collection audit at my library, with a subsequent add-to-cart purchasing spree. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden has a botanical illustration certificate program, and the library collection is extensive on that subject matter, however I wanted to find “lighter,” more approachable works about using plant materials and foraging for art and play. Other subjects I searched for were forest bathing, sensory nature experiences, nature therapy, and

therapeutic horticulture. The CBHL survey responses for the top library inquiries also provided data about general patron interests across the board which is helpful for collection management strategies. Using these responses, we made a word cloud for our presentation and our audience enjoyed the variety of answers for the “where is...” question. The library is a valuable information center, though we often do not know where your wife or family are in the garden!

Communication plays a critical role in all aspects of work, play, and life, and as a librarian, I strongly believe in the power of storytelling and advocacy. Botanical and horticultural libraries have the information that can be used to elevate events and projects, that support development goals, and that document collections both non-living and living. Library advocacy work shares not only our collections but how the presence of libraries impacts the mission of our gardens and can drive community engagement and membership.

Our session, “Going Beyond Google: How Botanical Libraries Can Help You” was in the 4 pm time slot, on the final day of the conference. What we encountered during and after our presentation was a fully engaged audience overflowing with questions and seeking specific process-oriented information on garden libraries! Amazing! As Allaina Wallace said in an email to the CBHL Board, “Many of the attendees were non-library professionals who have been tasked to care for or even establish a library at their gardens. We hope those folks will follow up with us so we can connect them to CBHL directly!” Our presentation included a map of CBHL locations, [CBHL story map 2025](#), and input from our survey regarding most widely used and trusted resources. As we already know, our botanical and horticultural libraries are special. It would appear based on our presentation that the need for our services is increasing, and that our mission impact is gaining awareness.

Library work is inherently advocacy work; we share information. Please feel free to reach out to Allaina Wallace at DBG, Hannah Rutledge at Longwood Gardens, or myself with questions or for further discussion. APGA 2025 was elemental to my professional development and was a tremendously valuable experience. I look forward to future growth with CBHL!

## We're not your typical librarians!





### ■ Top 10 most requested topics:

- Garden/Landscape Design
- Native Plants
- Botanical Illustration
- Garden History
- Plant/Animal/Pest Identification
- Class/Lecture/Exhibit
- Edible Gardens
- Foraging
- New Books
- Where is...?

*Libraries are information resource centers. We get a lot of questions! This pretty word cloud in the shape of a tree represents the wide range of topics that librarians/staff or volunteers may be asked about on any given day.*



# CBHL Members' West News

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

## Rebecca Alexander Retires from Elisabeth C. Miller Library

Brian Thompson  
Manager and Curator of Horticultural Literature  
Elisabeth C. Miller Library  
University of Washington Botanic Gardens

Rebecca Alexander retired at the end of June after 20 years with the Elisabeth C. Miller Library of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens in Seattle. Those of you who attended the CBHL annual meeting in 2010 may remember meeting her during your tour of our library. *continues on page 5*



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Rebecca has been invaluable in her role as Manager of Reference and Technical Services. Her contributions have included overseeing our Plant Answer Line reference service, Facebook page, and many of the links, book reviews, and other resources in our Gardening Answers Knowledgebase available on our website.

Rebecca has also been a Contributing Editor for the past decade for the *Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin*, using that quarterly venue to feature in-depth stories based on reference questions received by the Miller Library. She has also curated our very popular, monthly art shows, bringing in local artists working in a variety of media to represent plants, gardens, and their environments. She will be missed!

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## Bringing Nature, History, and Storytelling to Life: Andersen Horticultural Library's Innovative Grant Projects

Kristen Mastel

Lead Librarian

Anderson Horticultural Library

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

The Andersen Horticultural Library recently completed three impactful grant-funded projects that enhance public engagement with nature, history, and storytelling. The Nature Curiosity Cabinet transformed a vintage card catalog into an interactive exhibit filled with preserved plant and insect specimens, sparking curiosity and learning among visitors of all ages. The Minnesota Seedswomen 1890s–1900s traveling exhibit, created in partnership with the Minnesota Digital Library, highlights the overlooked contributions of three pioneering women in the state's seed and nursery trade and is available for loan to libraries and museums. Lastly, the AHL+Wangensteen Historical Libraries Arboretum Map project used historical materials to create a digital StoryMap that explores plant humanities and place-making, connecting library collections with the Arboretum and encouraging deeper conversations about human-nature relationships. Check out the StoryMap: <http://z.umn.edu/planthistories>



## From the CBHL President

Kristine Paulus  
Head of Acquisitions and Technical Services  
LuEsther T. Mertz Library  
The New York Botanical Garden

My first year on the CBHL board, serving as vice president flew by, and my first few months as president are passing just as fast. I thought I would take this moment to introduce myself to new members and those who were unable to join our virtual annual meeting (our 57th!) in May.

In addition to serving on the CBHL board, I work as the Head of Acquisitions & Technical Services at the New York Botanical Garden's LuEsther T. Mertz Library, where I oversee collection development, serials, electronic resources, and cataloging. I've worked in the Library for a little over three years and prior to this, I worked in the Plant Records department, where I documented the living collections. I've been at NYBG for a total of 12 years, though longer if you count my years as a volunteer and horticulture student.

I look forward to my second year on the CBHL board. I would also like to welcome our newest board member, Erin Aults, who was elected as vice president during our annual meeting in May. Erin is a processing archivist in the special collections department at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario and the former librarian and archivist at Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) in Burlington, Ontario. At RBG, Erin stewarded the library and two archival collections, developing a keen interest in historical horticultural and botanical literature. One of the archival collections at RBG was the Centre for Canadian Historical Horticultural Studies, a collection of 30,000 seed catalogues and archival materials from plant breeders, horticulturists, and others who have contributed to the history of horticulture in Canada. Erin recently worked on processing the archival collection of Marjorie Harris, famous Canadian garden writer and garden designer. An MLIS graduate from Kent State University, Erin also identifies as a white settler immigrant in Hamilton, Ontario which is situated on the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. Welcome to the CBHL board, Erin!

I would also like to say thank you to my fellow board members Kristen Mastel (Andersen Horticultural Library), Brandy Watts (Alaska Resources Library and Information Services), and Gillian Hayward (Longwood Gardens), for their dedication and hard work and for showing me the ropes. I'd like to give a special shout out to Allaina Wallace (Denver Botanic Gardens), who recently cycled off the board after putting in many extra years and immeasurable efforts – thank you, Allaina!

In other news, the annual meeting of the American Public Gardens Association took place at Denver Botanic Gardens in June, where CBHL members Allaina Wallace (Denver Botanic Gardens), Hannah Rutledge (Longwood Gardens) and Anne-Marie Parrish (Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden) presented their talk: "Going Beyond Google: How Botanical Libraries Can Help You." Conference-goers very much appreciated the presentation!

Kristine Paulus, CBHL President



# Save the Date!

## 2026 CBHL Annual Meeting at Longwood Gardens



Mark your calendars for the CBHL 2026 Annual Meeting at Longwood Gardens, May 12-15, 2026! Come to Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, for a meeting centered on the theme of “Books | Blooms | Brandywine Valley: Celebrating Libraries, Archives, and Gardens”

As many of you may know, [Longwood Gardens](#) has a long history with CBHL. Librarian Florence Roberts helped organize the first CBHL annual meeting in 1968. We hosted the 1976 annual meeting in partnership with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society during our country’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. And now, we feel it is only fitting to invite you back in 2026, the year of our country’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

Spanning more than 1,100 acres, our Gardens showcase horticultural splendor, intricate fountain systems, architectural grandeur, and so much more – all with conservation and learning at the core of our mission. With the realization of [Longwood Reimagined: A New Garden Experience](#) – a sweeping renovation of 17 acres – we are honored to enhance, steward, and preserve one of the world’s most important and beautiful collections of gardens and greenhouses. Longwood Reimagined also includes new Library and Archives spaces, including our Plant Records archives.

Nestled in [America’s Garden Capital](#), Longwood Gardens is one of more than 30 gardens within 30 miles of Philadelphia. This CBHL meeting will include the opportunity to tour some of these gardens, as well as art museums, revolutionary-war era history, and the local beauty of the Brandywine Valley. Fun fact: Kennett Square is the [mushroom capital of the world](#), so you can also tour mushroom farms (one of the favorite outings of our professional horticultural students!).

The Library and Information Services (LIS) team is excited to welcome you to Longwood and to Pennsylvania’s breathtaking Brandywine Valley.

In celebration,  
Gillian Hayward, Cheryl Cordingley, Connor Munzert, Hannah Rutledge, and all of LIS

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

## **October 7-9, 2025**

Visual Resources Association  
Annual Conference  
Portland, Oregon  
<http://vraweb.org>

## **October 10-13, 2025**

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

## **October 16-18, 2025**

American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA)  
31st Annual Meeting & Conference  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
<https://asba-art.org/>

## **October 9-11, 2025**

American Horticultural Therapy Association  
Annual Conference  
Virtual  
<http://www.ahta.org>

## **October 20-22, 2025**

MCN 2025  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
<https://mcn.edu/annual-conference/mcn-2025/>

## **November 3-7, 2025-in-person**

## **December 17-21, 2025-online**

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

## **CBHL Board of Directors, 2025-2026**

### **President**

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# Greetings from Dijon: *Book of Nature, Nature of Books* Conference Recap

Nicole Font

Shelby White & Leon Levy Processing Archivist

LuEsther T. Mertz Library

The New York Botanical Garden

This past June, Reference Archivist Ashley Aberg and I traveled to Dijon, France, to present at the Book of Nature, Nature of Books, Practices of Female Botanists international conference at the University of Burgundy. The conference was organized to highlight the role of women in the development of botany as part of visual, manuscript, and print cultures – from the Middle Ages to the present – and featured discussions on gender studies, nature writing and illustration, crafting, archives, print material, and book history.

Over two days, we heard many wonderful presentations showcasing the work of female botanists, botanical illustrators, and the often-overlooked role of women in the botanical field. A few highlights included Zara Kesterton's paper on women's involvement in the artificial flower industry in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century France; Laura Briscoe's talk on the botanical legacy of Ellen Hutchins, Ireland's first female botanist; and Zilkia Janer's presentation on "Botánica antillana," an unpublished work by Ana Roqué documenting thousands of plants from Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. The keynote speaker, Anne Hodge, Curator of Prints and Drawings at the National Gallery of Ireland, spoke on environmental sustainability in museums and the related exhibition *In Real Life*, which celebrated the beauty and fragility of nature through drawings and paintings from the Gallery's permanent collection, featuring artists including Yanny Petters, Jennifer Lane, and Paula Pohli.

Ashley and I gave a talk titled "Her Husband's Lifelong Collaborator: Differences in the Collection and Description of the Archival Papers of Botanist Couples." We explored the role of archivists in shaping the historical record, the presence of archival silences, and how archivists work to combat them. Focusing on two collections – the Elizabeth Gertrude Knight Britton records and the Otto and Isa Degener records – we examined how wives in botanist couples are often overlooked in the collection and description of archival materials, especially compared to their male counterparts. We also discussed how reprocessing can challenge the persistent undervaluation of women scientists' archival materials – and women's archives more broadly. Although this wasn't an archives-focused conference and we were the only botanical garden represented, we received a lot of engagement and interest in the work librarians and archivists are doing to make their collections accessible to all.

Participating in this conference was a great opportunity to share our work and learn how others are studying, researching, and celebrating the contributions of women in natural history collections. Hearing from scholars, botanists, curators, and historians gave us a deeper appreciation for the many ways women have shaped the field of botany – and strengthened our commitment to increasing their visibility, representation, and access through archival practice.



Ashley Aberg (left) and Nicole Font (right) present at the Book of Nature, Nature of Book conference in Dijon, France.

# Paris, Plants & People: Perfect for EBHL's 2025 Annual Meeting

Leora Siegel

Senior Director, Lenhardt Library  
Chicago Botanic Garden

In May 2025, I had the privilege of attending the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (EBHL) conference, in Paris, France. Colleagues from across Europe and the United States gathered to learn and share together. It was a magnificent combination of lectures, library tours, and conversations about botanical and horticultural literature with an international group of librarians and allies, all dedicated to our subject area. The organizing committee and hosts planned an exceptional program. The overall conference theme was plant sources, and each day had a specific focus.



*CBHL colleagues at EBHL.*

## **Day 1, May 14: New Tools For Botanical and Horticultural Documentation**

First day sessions were held at the [Museum National D'Histoire Naturelle](#) (MNHN), where Alice Lemaire, Director of Libraries and Documentation greeted us with a warm welcome. Captivating talks followed on "Preserving botanical illustrations in Bonpland and Humboldt's herbarium" presented by Lisa Black, "Cataloging and indexing botanical iconography" by Alice Laforêt, and "World Flora Online" by Visotheary Ung. Two talks on AI provided food for thought: "Mining floras and herbaria with AI" by Nicolas Turenne and "Gallica Images: AI for iconographic research" by Jean-Philippe Moreux and Jennifer Ward. In the afternoon, we visited Jardin des Plantes Central Library, which is open to the public with general collections on the ground floor. The Special Collections department, located on the second floor, is impressive! Tours of the herbarium and Bibliothèque de Botanique followed soon after.



*Jardin des Plantes Special Collections tour.*



## Day 2, May 15: *Private Herbaria and Sources For Botany*

Morning talks and tours were held at the [Institut de France](#). Established in 1795, today the Institute is a non-profit umbrella organization for five academies working together for the advancement of the arts, humanities, and sciences. Yann Sordet, Director of [Mazarine and Institut de France libraries](#) welcomed our group to the libraries. Their incredible collections include more than 50,000 volumes.

Fascinating morning talks on herbaria included “Benjamin Delessert (1773-1847) and his herbarium” presented by Sabrina Castandet-Le Bris; “Rousseau’s “Historical” herbaria from the collection of the Girardin’s family: Conservation issues in an historical monument” by Anne-Claire de Poulpique; “The life of the botanist-voyager Auguste Pervillé (1820-1853) through his herbarium and correspondence” by Mathieu Gardère; and “Sébastien René and Mélite Lenormand’s herbarium” by Florence Tessier. Following the talks, we were treated to a tour of the historic building and rare book viewings of treasures.



*Institut de France, Mazarine Library.*

For the afternoon, EBHL held their annual general meeting. With permission, I’m sharing brief notes with the CBHL membership.

- EBHL has 30 current members with more on their mailing list.
- Félix Alonso Sánchez, Real Jardín Botánico, Madrid, was elected the new 2nd Vice President, and Audrey Lumière, Société Nationale d’Horticulture de France, as the new Treasurer. Pierre Boillat, Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques de Genève, completed his term as 2nd Past President. Florence Tessier, MNHN, completed her term as President, and Nicole Hanquart, Jardin Botanique de Meise will serve as the next president.
- EBHL’s board structure differs from that of CBHL. EBHL board member positions are 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President, 1st Past President, 2nd Past President. Board members serve 2



years in each position, making it a 10-year cycle.

- All EBHL members were warmly invited to attend the next CBHL conference in 2026 at Longwood Gardens by CBHL's Past President, Kristen Mastel, University of Minnesota.

Following the EBHL meeting, a Linnaeus Link (LL) Partners' meeting was next on the agenda. It was bittersweet to learn the LL Union Catalog will permanently close at the end of June 2025. However, LL will continue as a network for its 21 partners on three continents. Importantly, the post-Soulsby bibliography of Linnaean works will continue to be maintained by the [Linnean Society of London](#).

After a full day, conference attendees enjoyed a lovely evening event at a botanical barge bookstore, that is, a shop on a barge that is moored on a canal, which has inventory with botanical books and more!

### **Day 3, May 16: *Understanding French Horticulture: Using and Interpreting Sources***

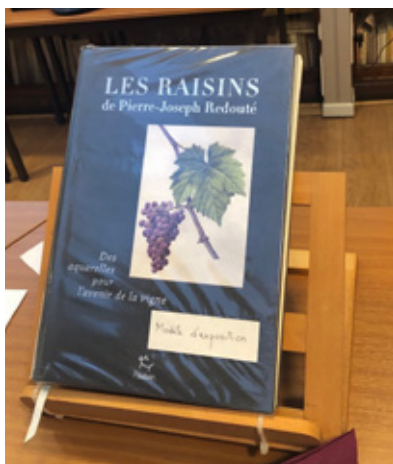
[Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France](#) (SNHF) (National Horticultural Society of France) was the day's host, and we met at the Academie d'Agriculture building. SNHF, founded in 1827, unites more than 220 horticultural societies and associations from all over France.

Morning sessions began with a welcome address by Anne-Marie Slézac, Vice-président, SNHF Library and Mégane Pulby, head librarian. Engaging presentations included "Between scientific publication and institutional discourse: the SNHF through its historical bulletins" by Pascale Heurtel; "Identifying and mapping players in the horticultural world: the use of digital sources in the practice of genealogy" by Aliénor Samuel-Hervé; "The fascination maps: Teaching and searching 19c and 20c gardens' history" by Stéphanie de Courtois; "When color takes over horticultural photography... Albert Kahn gardens" by Luce Lebart; and "Botany, Inspiration for Ornament: The Collections of the Decorative Arts Library" by Anne-Laure Charrier-Ranoux.



French Senate Archives.

The afternoon visit to the archives of the French Senate, or "Senat," in the Luxembourg Palace had wonderful botanical surprises in store for us.



A captivating evening conference on the story of Pierre-Joseph Redouté's "lost" grapevine vellums was presented by André Fougeroux, head of Académie d'Agriculture de France Library. Lost to time, 83 vellums of grapevines by Redouté, were rediscovered in 2017 at the French Academy of Agriculture and now reproduced in a book, *Les Raisins de Pierre-Joseph Redouté: Des Aquarelles Pour L'avenir de La Vigne* by Pierre Joseph Redouté and Jean-Michel Boursiquot (Paulsen, 2021). The accompanying wine and cheese was delicious and added to the ambiance.



## Day 4, May 17: Versailles

For our last morning, Versailles was the destination for tours of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure De Paysage Library, and the King's Kitchen Garden or Potager du Roi. Chiara Santini, Sophie Jaeglé, Hanna Sorsa-Sautet, presented on the [National School of Landscape Library](#) and its historic collections.

A tour of the Potager du Roi with a knowledgeable guide completed the conference. The Potager du Roi, created in 1683 by Jean-Baptiste de La Quintinie at the request of Louis XIV, is now a historic monument and UNESCO World Heritage Site. With over 750 varieties fruit and vegetables, it has the look and feel of a classical French formal garden yet dedicated to growing food.

What an amazing opportunity! I learned so much about French and Parisian history and horticulture and networked with over 30 librarians and colleagues dedicated to our profession. I'm grateful to be the 2025 recipient of the CBHL travel award that provided financial support so that I was able to attend the EBHL conference. I encourage my CBHL colleagues to apply for the same award in future years!



Above: Quintinie title page.

Below: EBHL Paris conference group photo.





# Four Gardens in the Netherlands

Judith M. Taylor

*Editor's note: CBHL member Judith Taylor visited four gardens in the Netherlands at the height of their spring bulb display. By the time our September issue went to press, our tulips in North America are long past their bloom time. However, autumn is a great time to plant your bulbs for next spring, so we hope Judith's article will inspire you and your patrons to start planning now for a fabulous and colorful spring!*

## Keukenhof

In *The Botany of Desire*, Michael Pollan suggested light-heartedly that plants manipulate humans into furthering their needs. It is a charming thought but probably unlikely. Still there is one genus in which I can see how it might work and that is the tulip. The blossom is so gorgeous that many people of very strong character have become utterly obsessed by the flower. I am not yet of their number but getting very close. Witness, I dragged my long-suffering family to Lisse in The Netherlands to see the Keukenhof Tulip Gardens at their peak this spring.



*Author in front of mounded tulip bed at Keukenhof.*

The place, Keukenhof, which means “kitchen,” is the residual garden area of a great medieval estate. After World War II Dutch nurserymen and the owners of great seed houses decided to develop that property into show gardens as a way of advertising their bulbs. They succeeded beyond anyone’s wildest imaginings. The garden opened in 1950. Since then, they receive up to one and a half million visitors a year during a brief season of six weeks, from the end of March to mid-May. We were there on May 1. Even though it was the tail end of their working year the place was immaculate. All the flowers we saw were in perfect condition.

Keukenhof employs forty gardeners year-round but in the spring they add dozens more so that their final tally is one thousand workers. That includes catering staff and other peripheral services. The level of organization is breathtaking. In spite of the fact that there were several thousand other visitors from all over the world crowding the paths, one had no feeling of pressure.

Four large cafeterias ensure one can get lunch without waiting more than one or two minutes. The women’s restrooms have so many stalls there was no line, an unheard-of achievement in the annals of public spaces.

Having disposed of the mundane but essential foundations one can now turn to the flowers themselves. It is hard to give a blow-by-blow account of seven million bulbs. but one can try. First of all, although we think of Keukenhof as a place for tulips, they plant lots of the other spring bulbs such as narcissus, snowdrops, crocus, and hyacinths. There are flowering fruit trees and ornamental shrubs such as rhododendron and azalea (yes, I know they are now all considered to be in the genus *Rhododendron*). The narcissus and hyacinths were on their last legs by the time we got there but the shrubs were in full bloom.



In laying out the tulip beds the designers use every dimension available to them: height, color, texture, and petal shape. They also use clever companion planting to heighten the effect. As you enter there are two gigantic beds mounded up to show the tulips from all aspects.

As you walk along the paths the beds seem to be very much alike until you get closer and see the detail. In one bed there may be three heights of flower, small, medium and tall, all the same color but showing charming variation.

Over the past decades in which tulip crossings have been accelerating, a large number have been bred with double petals. Some of them are known as “peony” tulips.

There are also lily-flowered tulips. Incredible mixtures of color have also appeared. The fundamental color for a tulip petal is white or yellow. Other pigments then develop, often taking over completely but sometimes not, leaving an opportunity for more than one color per blossom.

During the famous 17th century “tulipomania” bubble in The Netherlands, the white base would be streaked with unpredictable random stripes and shapes of red, causing the owner’s heart to beat faster. The uncertainty of this appearance led to huge bets being placed on the same pattern recurring and the resulting “futures” market that arose. At that time, they did not know that these patterns were due to a viral infection of the plant and thus unique to that particular specimen. They were all doomed to fail to predict the next year’s patterns. When a single bulb cost more than your house the game was up!

Some beds at Keukenhof were laid out with “hot” colors such as red, orange, and yellow. Other were “cooler” colors like pale pink, lavender, and hints of white. There are even a few which remain white but have green stripes. The only color tulips cannot provide is true blue. They do not have the correct anthocyanin pigment in their gene base to do that, just as roses do not have it either. The underplanting also assisted in the overall gestalt. White-headed wild garlic and bluebells set the scene for the cooler beds. Stately fritillaries in a soft orange provided very effective accents throughout the beds. Dark purple alliums also decorated some of the beds. One allium alone is rather dull to my eyes but massing them together is bold and exciting.

A separate small section is set aside for historical specimens, rare species plants not usually cultivated. I have a terrible weakness for antique tulips with pointed petals and fringes



*Top to bottom: Peony tulips, parrot tulips, streaked tulips, Tulipa acuminata.*



like *Tulipa acuminata* (currently being renamed because of DNA studies).

Everything I have tried to say feels rather inadequate. The only thing to do is to go and see for yourself.



### De Theetuin

Through a helpful connection, I was introduced (online) to one of the landscape architects who designed some of the tulip beds. Jacqueline van der Kloet built her own garden on the site of a disused fort at the far perimeter of old Amsterdam's defense system in the small town of Weesp. She laid out a tantalizing set of beds with winding paths taking the eye so far and no further until you walk along to the next section. In spring the garden is highly romantic with soft blue and white bulbs, accentuated by the occasional orange meconopsis poppy or a species tulip chosen for the architecture of its petals. "De Theetuin" is the name of her destination garden and well worth a visit just for itself. She created the garden intentionally for visitors and has a small café on site to enjoy refreshments.

### Rijksmuseum

The Rijksmuseum is surrounded by three gardens, one of which is devoted to children's education. It is broken down into radial strips and each lucky child can plant seeds in the spring and watch the vegetables grow and develop. In the other section, very subtle planting highlights the joys of green

Above: De Theetuin. Right: Pale yellow *Gladiolus tristis* at entrance to Hortus Botanicus.

hellebores, a few fugitive bulbs, and other perennials. Tight planting was, in fact, a feature of all the gardens we visited. Almost no open soil is visible, giving weeds no opportunity to take hold.

### Hortus Botanicus

Hortus Botanicus is one of the oldest botanical gardens in Europe, founded in the mid-17th century and still has a gate from 1715. It originated as a medical teaching garden at the time when herbs were the basis of all medical treatment. When modern chemicals took over therapeutics the garden reverted to a more general function, displaying rare specimens from all over the world. The garden is very small and unpretentious, and one is apt to look down at it until you examine the beds closely. Then its extraordinary nature hits you and you gasp for breath time after time.

Very close to the entrance is *Gladiolus tristis*, a pale yellow







species plant I had only ever seen as a picture in books. Off in the distance I saw a fragile pink mist. It turned out to be a tamarisk tree, something else I had never seen.

In the palm house there is a thousand-year-old pair of cycads. The garden maintains a butterfly house and puts out saucers of fresh fruit each day for charming creatures to eat.

About two dozen pots each planted with species tulips way past their prime but very important, nevertheless. Wild garlic and bluebells filled in any spaces under the ancient trees.

### **Kröller-Müller Museum**

A fifth place we visited is not billed as a garden but is an outdoor sculpture museum. The Kröller-Müller Museum is in the center of De Hoge Veluwe National Park. Helene Kröller-Müller and Anton Kröller were a married couple who owned the Müller Shipping Company and could afford to buy any painting that caught their eye in the early years of the twentieth century.



Mrs. Kröller-Müller was an expert in then contemporary painting and bought Impressionists, Expressionists, Van Goghs, and other modern masters as the work was introduced. The museum owns more paintings by Van Gogh than almost any other collection in the world. In the early 1930s they transformed a small hunting lodge they owned in the park into a museum. The paintings were safely stored away during World War II.

Floor to ceiling plate glass windows allowed the light to filter in through the leaves of the trees, creating a scene which can never be forgotten. I first visited the museum in 1958. Sixty years later I took my grandson to see it in 2018. By then the building had been extended and a sculpture garden added.

Great masters of the twentieth century are represented as well as many contemporary works. The setting of a rich woodland garden is not discussed as such but contributes to the magical effect of so much amazing work. Many tall trees and mid-sized flowering shrubs provided background and scale. The ground was covered with spring bulbs. Once again bluebells and wild garlic predominated.

There are doubtless many other marvelous gardens in The Netherlands but these are just a sample I had the good fortune to visit.

*Top: Pink tamarisk tree at Hortus Botanicus.*

*Bottom: Saucer of fresh fruit put out for butterflies at Hortus Botanicus.*

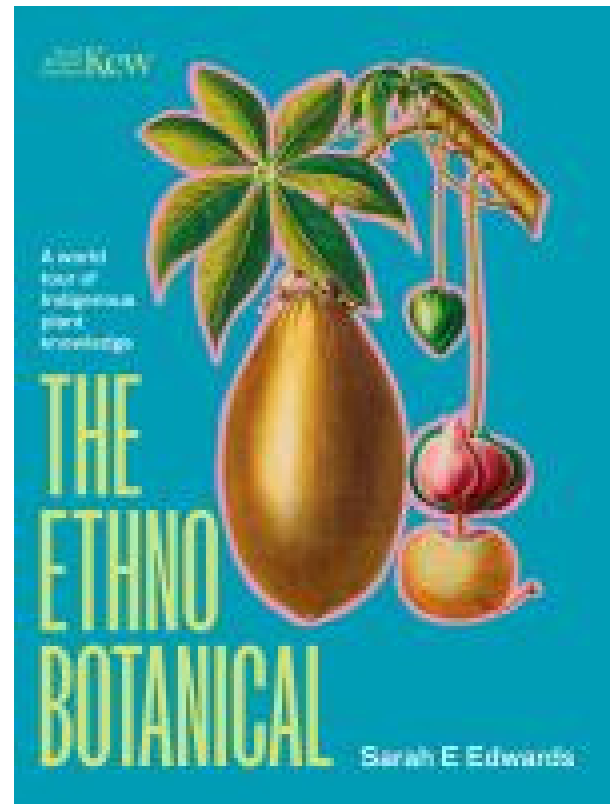


# Book Reviews

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

*The Ethnobotanical: A World Tour of Indigenous Plant Knowledge* by Sarah Edwards and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. London, England: Greenfinch, 2023. 256 pages, illustrations. \$40.00. ISBN: 9781529427400 (hardcover).

Reviewed by Genelle Schuler  
Librarian Supervisor, Shirlington Branch  
Arlington Public Library, Arlington, VA



Those who are lured in by *The Ethnobotanical's* vibrant cover featuring the fruit of the baobab tree, a keystone species,\* will be richly rewarded when they crack open the book. Inside, readers will find a compelling work that extends beyond the traditional flora. What the work provides instead is a concise but thorough introduction to ethnobotany, tracing its evolution from colonial-era plant collecting—often exploitative and dismissive of Indigenous knowledge—to a modern, interdisciplinary field focused on collaboration and respect. Ideal for educators, citizen scientists, and the curious generalists, it's a perfect next read for those who enjoyed Enrique Salmón's *Iwígara* and Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

With six culturally significant plants featured per continent, this distinctive and artfully designed book offers an accessible introduction to a “world of Indigenous plant knowledge.” The layout is efficient and attractive —chapters are organized by continent and color-coded with culturally inspired patterns, making it easy to browse and navigate. These visual cues enhance the reading experience and reflect the diversity of the cultures represented. Each continent's section begins with a brief history of that region's human migration patterns and an overview of the cultural values and philosophies of the native peoples of that region.

Plant entries include: a stylized illustration of the plant (compliments of the Kew Botanic Gardens' archives), scientific and common names (in English and Indigenous languages), native range and habitat, life form and physical description, traditional plant uses, and current threats and conservation issues affecting the plant.

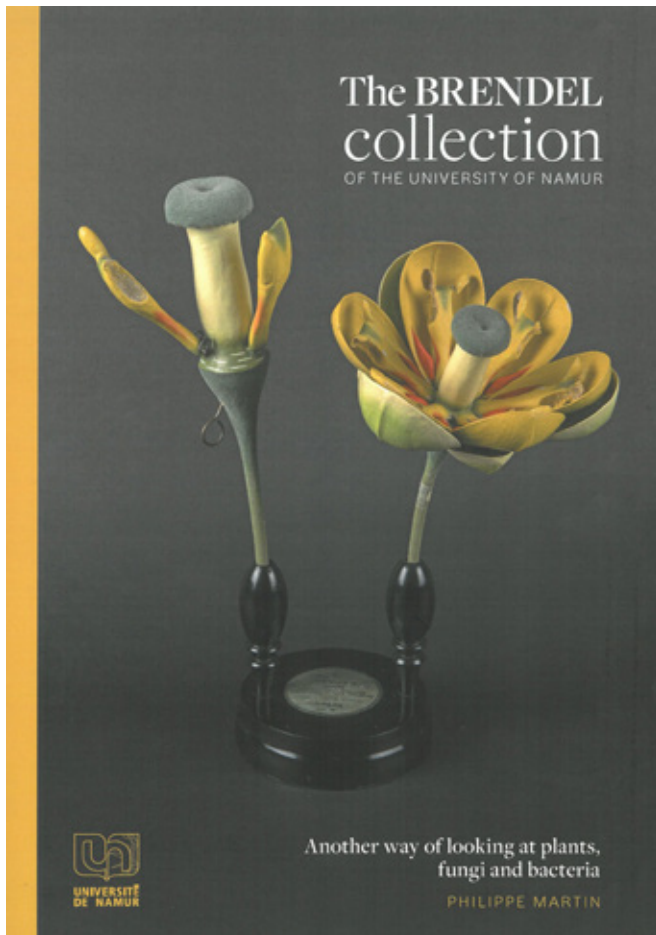
While it would have been helpful to learn why each plant was chosen to represent its continent, and while much of the information included is no doubt available in greater detail elsewhere, the title still succeeds in igniting curiosity and engendering respect for the ways in which humans have engaged with the plant kingdom.

The strength of this work lies in its eye-catching presentation, thorough introduction to ethnobotany and

related terminology, and its thoughtful framing of the value of Indigenous plant knowledge. It will prove a useful resource for readers interested in the intersection of culture, ecology and history and those looking to expand their understanding of Indigenous plant knowledge beyond North America.

More than a plant guide, *The Ethnobotanical: A world tour of Indigenous plant knowledge* pays tribute to the resilience of Indigenous cultural wisdom and lays plain the value of contributions that First Peoples across the globe have made to botany, humanity, and lifekind.

\* *Keystone species* was defined by zoologist Robert Paine, in the 1960s, as a species that has a disproportionately large effect on its environment related to its abundance.



The Brendel Collection of the University of Namur: Another Way of Looking at Plants, Fungi and Bacteria by Philippe Martin. Namur, Belgium: Presses Universitaires de Namur, 2024. 353 pages, illus. (Collection Patrimoines, 22). 50 EUR. ISBN 9782390291930. (Translated from the new enriched French edition, 2024)

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

Brendel's didactic models have enjoyed remarkable success since their creation at the end of the nineteenth century. After decades of use in teaching botany, they eventually fell out of use. Their undeniable artistic value, however, now makes them an exceptional heritage that many collectors compete for, and forgotten collections in scientific institutions are now being carefully inventoried, dusted off, and restored.

Philippe Martin, a member of the Biology Department at the University of Namur and curator of the university's botanical collections, has just published the catalogue of 190 plant models, as well as fungi and bacteria, that make up the UNamur collection. This is one of the finest in Europe, and Martin has played a key role in expanding and promoting it. This publication is the result of his long-standing engagement with the collection.

In the introduction, after describing the context in which the didactic models were created, Martin highlights the limited information available about the Brendel company. The bibliography on the subject consists almost entirely of the catalogues printed by the firm, as no archival material has been found to date. Therefore, the history of the company and the production of the Brendel models is reconstructed primarily from these catalogues and the models themselves.

Each of the 190 Brendel models preserved at UNamur is compared with its natural reality on two facing pages, illustrating how the Brendel father and son were able to combine scientific accuracy with the poet-

ry of floral structures, demonstrating remarkable talent.

It is both a beautiful book, showcasing through the photographs of Christophe Swijsen the delicacy and precision of these papier-mâché objects, and a practical catalogue that helps collection managers better understand and appreciate the treasures they hold.

*Afterlives of the Plantation: Plotting Agrarian Futures in the Global Black South* by Jarvis C. McInnis. Columbia University Press, New York, 2025. 458 pages, illustrations. \$17.95. ISBN 9780231215749 (hardcover).

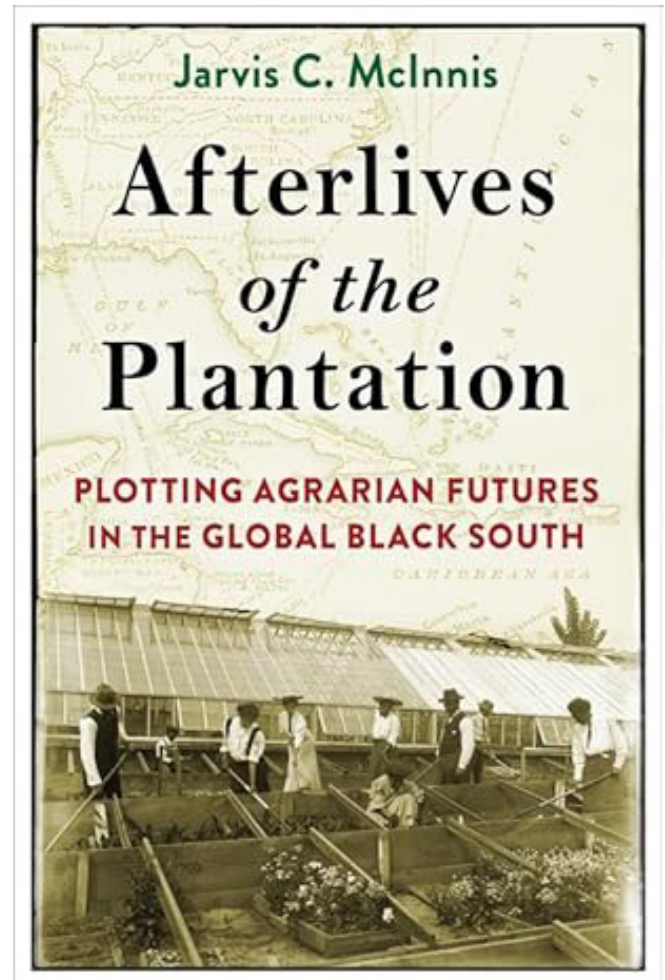
Reviewed by Kristine Paulus  
Head of Acquisitions and Technical Services  
LuEsther T. Mertz Library  
The New York Botanical Garden

In *Afterlives of the Plantation: Plotting Agrarian Futures in the Global Black South*, author Dr. Jarvis C. McInnis offers a novel reinterpretation of Black modernity, rooted not in the industrialized cities of the North, but in the soil of the rural South and its diasporic extensions. An interdisciplinary scholar of African American & African Diaspora literature and culture and Associate Professor of English at Duke University, McInnis delivers a groundbreaking and intellectually stimulating reexamination of Black modernity through the lens of agriculture, land stewardship, and the transformative educational vision of the Tuskegee Institute. Now Tuskegee University, the Institute, founded in 1881 by Booker T. Washington on the grounds of an abandoned cotton plantation in Alabama, lies at the heart of McInnis's narrative. McInnis explores how its vision of agricultural and industrial education became a transnational model for Black modernity that extended across the U.S. South, Caribbean, and Latin America (the "Global Black South"). Charting how Tuskegee became a crucible for global Black agrarian thought, resistance, and creativity, *Afterlives* reimagines the plantation not just as a site of enslavement and trauma, but as a potential locus of regeneration, reclamation, imagination, and worldmaking for Black communities. Coining terms like "eco-ontology," McInnis describes how formerly enslaved people regenerated both land and personhood, with Tuskegee as a model of ecological recovery from the devastation of monoculture and slavery. By offering practical, trade-based education including soil science, floriculture, and engineering, Tuskegee equipped Black communities with sustainable skills. Ecological regeneration is both material and metaphysical: healing the land while reclaiming Black personhood and futurity.

The book is composed in three thematic "plots," a clever play on the dual meanings of "plot" as both a story structure and agricultural "plots" of land that were once worked by enslaved people.

Plot 1 reconsiders Tuskegee itself, often dismissed as a conservative or accommodationist institution. McInnis challenges the reduction of Tuskegee to Washington's conservative politics and reframes it as a

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radical aesthetic and ecological project, revealing a deeper vision embedded in its agrarian and aesthetic practices, where regeneration of land and self were key to post-slavery survival and dignity. He highlights figures like George Washington Carver, agricultural scientist and one of Tuskegee's first professors, whose innovations in soil restoration are represented as both ecological and spiritual renewal for Black communities.

Plot 2 shifts to the international impact of Tuskegee's agrarian vision, particularly in the Caribbean and Latin America, traveling abroad as a model for thinkers like Jean Price-Mars in Haiti and Rafael Serra in Cuba. These intellectuals adapted Tuskegee's agrarian strategies within their own post-emancipation contexts, contributing to wider movements of Black self-determination and educational reform. McInnis reveals both the possibilities and contradictions of Carver's agrarian vision in these regions. While some saw Tuskegee's methods as a pathway to empowerment, economic independence, and cultural revitalization, others, particularly during the U.S. occupation of Haiti and Tuskegee's transplantation to the German colony in Togo in West Africa, critiqued the model for its exploitive structures and colonial overtones.

Plot 3 follows Tuskegee's legacy into the Harlem Renaissance and the New Negro Movement, showing luminary figures such as Zora Neale Hurston, Claude McKay, Marcus Garvey, and Arturo Schomburg—some of whom studied at Tuskegee or were inspired by it. By engaging with, critiquing, or repurposing the Institute's ideas, they reimagined the plantation's cultural, political, and symbolic afterlife. By using rural aesthetics and agrarian values to construct modern Black identities, their work continued to transform the plantation from a site of trauma into one of possibility.

McInnis is careful not to romanticize, however. He acknowledges the limitations and contradictions of Tuskegee's paternalism and class biases, and he critiques the ways in which the school's model was sometimes co-opted to reinstate plantation logics under a colonial guise. Ultimately, *Afterlives of the Plantation* argues for a paradigm shift to understand Black modernity – that the plantation's post-slavery legacy is not only one of subjugation, but also of resistance, adaptation, and imagination. Carver, with all his complexities, emerges in McInnis's account as an ecological thinker—someone who understood that the regeneration of Black personhood and dignity was intrinsically tied to the regeneration of the land. Through Tuskegee and its vast networks, McInnis offers a vision grounded in the land and in the transformative power of education, self-determination, and collective action.

# CBHL 57th Annual Meeting Minutes

Edited by Brandy Watts  
CBHL Secretary

## 57th CBHL Business Meeting Notes

Thursday, May 8, 2025

11:00am Pacific / 12:00pm Mountain / 1:00pm Central / 2:00pm Eastern

### 1. Welcome and Official Commencement

Welcome, everyone. It is Thursday, May 8, 2025, and I'd like to call the 57<sup>th</sup> 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 Kristen Mastel and I am serving as the current President of CBHL. I am also the Head Librarian and Curator at Andersen Horticultural Library at the University of Minnesota.

Allaina Wallace, Past President, Associate Director of Education & Library, Head Librarian, Denver Botanic Gardens

Kristine Paulus, Vice President, Head of Acquisitions & Technical Services, New York Botanical Garden

Gillian Hayward, Treasurer, Library Manager, Longwood Gardens

Brandy Watts, Secretary, ARLIS Director, University of Alaska, Anchorage

We have 108 registrations to join us virtually. I'd like to note that we have a Quorum (at least 15 members per bylaws).

\*Vice President Kristine Paulus will serve as Parliamentarian for this business meeting.

The minutes of the 56<sup>th</sup> annual business meeting, hosted by Michigan State University on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, were shared via email on April 4, 2025. 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.

Marisha: Motion

Leora: Second

Approved.

Does anyone have additions to the agenda? No additions to the agenda.

(Kristen) Acknowledgement of first-time attendees and new members and volunteers.

The next item on the agenda is the officer reports.

### 2. Officer Reports

A. Secretary, Brandy Watts

In an effort toward streamlining and reimagining CBHL towards a more efficient, effective, and sustainable future, this past year the Board met on a monthly basis, sometimes even twice a month. Consideration was given to how CBHL can better support its members as well as a more equitable distribution of responsibilities across the Board.

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The CBHL Board retreat was held on January 22-24, 2025, and hosted by Denver Botanic Gardens in Denver, Colorado.

Discussion by the Board focused on CBHL's structure, organization, strategic plan, sustainability, challenges, opportunities, and potential models for CBHL to look to as it moves into the future. The Board also discussed the uncertain future that many of us face and how CBHL as an organization might better support its members.

Time was also devoted to the 57th CBHL Annual Conference with discussion focusing on priorities we see as critical and fundamental to CBHL, our profession, and our institutions: discovery, diversity, advocacy, and sustainability.

The Board views the retreat as the continuation of a constructive collaborative evaluation process of CBHL that began last year. The Board will continue to meet on a monthly basis.



On March 6, 2025, the Board proposed bylaws changes to the membership. The Board sees these as integral to CBHL better serving its membership and optimizing members' time.

The online discussion forum was open from March 6, 2025 - May 2, 2025. On May 6, 2025, the CBHL Board presented the proposed changes to the bylaws, allowing time for questions and further discussion. Voting for the bylaws change will begin on May 9, 2025, and be open for two weeks until May 23, 2025.

Are there any questions about the secretary's report? No questions.

B. Nominating Committee, Past President, Allaina Wallace  
Members: Allaina Wallace, Marisha Sullivan, Kathy Crosby  
The committee began meeting in November last year.

We began to reach out to prospective members in December.

1. Initial emails were sent and follow up emails or calls made.
2. Acceptance came in February.
3. Voting opened March 17 and closed April 14.
4. 33 votes were received, reaching a quorum.

Thank you to Marisha and Kathy and to the membership for their participation in the process.

Are there any questions about the nominating committee report? No questions.

# Income Statement (Profit and Loss)

## Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries

For the year ended December 31, 2024

|   | 2024              |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Income</b>   |                   |
| DONATIONS:Donations - General   | 131.27            |
| DONATIONS:Donations - Restricted:Donations - Founders Fund                | 305.00            |
| DONATIONS:Donations - Restricted:Donations - Lit Award Fund               | 85.00             |
| DONATIONS:Donations - Restricted:Donations - Long Award Fund              | 195.00            |
| MEMBER DUES:Dues - Add'l Cmcl Member                                      | 20.00             |
| MEMBER DUES:Dues - Add'l Instit Members                                   | 1,575.00          |
| MEMBER DUES:Dues - Commercial   | 1,050.00          |
| MEMBER DUES:Dues - EBHL   | 960.00            |
| MEMBER DUES:Dues - Individual   | 2,960.00          |
| MEMBER DUES:Dues - Institutional  | 5,590.00          |
| MEMBER DUES:Dues - Retiree  | 500.00            |
| MEMBER DUES:Dues - Student  | 150.00            |
| OTHER INCOME:Interest Income  | 10.63             |
| OTHER INCOME:Royalties  | 135.31            |
| <b>Total Income</b>   | <b>13,667.21</b>  |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>   | <b>13,667.21</b>  |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>   |                   |
| GENERAL & ADMIN COSTS:Bank Fees   | 448.07            |
| GENERAL & ADMIN COSTS:Board Meeting (Mid-year)                            | 3,711.75          |
| GENERAL & ADMIN COSTS:Insurance (Board Liability)                         | 923.55            |
| GENERAL & ADMIN COSTS:Office Supplies (Board)                             | 200.00            |
| GENERAL & ADMIN COSTS:Other   | 11.40             |
| PROGRAM COSTS (GENERAL)   | 250.00            |
| PROGRAM COSTS (GENERAL):Annual Meeting Costs                              | 1,300.00          |
| PROGRAM COSTS (GENERAL):Annual Meeting Costs:Ann Mtg - Board Registration | 1,800.00          |
| PROGRAM COSTS (GENERAL):Annual Meeting Costs:Ann Mtg - Host Gift          | 200.00            |
| PROGRAM COSTS (GENERAL):Annual Meeting Costs:Ann Mtg - Insurance          | 385.00            |
| PROGRAM COSTS (GENERAL):Online Resources                                  | 90.00             |
| PROGRAM COSTS (GENERAL):Online Resources:Adobe                            | 417.95            |
| PROGRAM COSTS (GENERAL):Online Resources:LibGuides                        | 2,808.00          |
| PROGRAM COSTS (GENERAL):Online Resources:Website                          | 1,365.31          |
| PROGRAM COSTS (GENERAL):Online Resources:Wufoo                            | 184.97            |
| PROGRAM COSTS (GENERAL):Online Resources:Xero                             | 185.00            |
| PROGRAM COSTS (GENERAL):Online Resources:Zoom                             | 89.49             |
| PROGRAM COSTS (RESTRICTED):Annual Literature Award                        | 315.83            |
|   | 2024              |
| PROGRAM COSTS (RESTRICTED):Founders Fund                                  | 1,200.00          |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b>   | <b>15,886.32</b>  |
| <b>Operating Income</b>   | <b>(2,219.11)</b> |
| <b>Net Income</b>   | <b>(2,219.11)</b> |



## 2024 CBHL Treasurer's Report notes

- Income for 2024 from member dues, donations, interest, and royalties totaled \$13,667.
- Expenses for 2024 totaled \$15,886.
- Expenses exceeded income by \$2200.
- Expenses were doubled because of the in-person annual meeting, and the board retreat at Longwood (which we didn't have the previous year).
- Most other expenses went up.
- Membership Income for 2024 (\$11,845) is a little higher than 2023 (\$11,755).
- EBHL membership fees were not transferred in 2023 or 2024 due to changes in EBHL Treasurer and bank accounts. They were recently transferred for those years.
- End of 2024 Balances:
  - Checking - \$68,329.13
  - Long Award - \$7,538.12
  - Founders Fund Award - \$8,135.72
  - Literature Award - \$879.65
  - TOTAL: \$84,882.62

Are there any questions about the treasurer's report? No questions.

Thank you. The reports will be placed on file.

The next item on the agenda is the standing committee award reports.

### 3. Standing Committee Award reports

A. Charles Robert Long Award (Kathy Crosby- on hold this year per the revision of the bylaws)

This award was paused for this year due to the proposed bylaws change. Thank you, Kathy! The Board welcomes nominations and will send out a reminder to solicit nominations in the fall.

B. Annual Literature Award (Brian Thompson; announcement of when awards will be given later in the meeting)  
Brian is the co-chair with Stacy Stoldt.

### 4. Committee Reports

We will now continue committee reports.

All committees have provided the membership with a written copy of their report, posted on the listserv, and there will be time for feedback and discussion when we get to new business. We've had feedback from newer members and first-time conference attendees that they would like to know more about committees. Much of CBHL's work is done through committees and all CBHL members are encouraged to participate and join committees. Committee chairs, could you please say a few words about the purpose of your committee, and if you haven't yet, you are welcome to give a verbal report now. A summary of the annual committee reports is available in a separate document.

Steering Committee

Nominating Committee

Membership Committee

Financial Advisory Committee

Communications Committee

Charles Robert Long Award Committee

Founders' Fund Travel Fellowship Award Committee

Annual Literature Award Committee

Ad Hoc Committee on Future Conferences

Thank you. Are there any questions about the committees?

Again, there will be time for member feedback and discussion of the written committee reports when we get to new business.

### All submitted as written reports for review and discussion

### 5. Unfinished Business

In full honesty, since I lost my husband unexpectedly this year this fell off my plate. I will work on this with Communications and Kristine over the coming months. I cannot thank the rest of the Board enough for stepping up and

being of assistance so much over the past year. If you are interested in being a part of our website updates team, please reach out to any of our board members.

## **6. New Business**

The next item on the agenda is new business.

### **A. 2026 Annual Meeting**

Gillian Hayward, will you please give a report on the 2026 annual meeting?

Longwood Gardens will host for 2026. Video of Hannah Rutledge, Director of the Library.

Are there any questions? No questions.

### **B. Committee Report Discussion**

Committee chairs have posted their reports on the listserv. Does anyone have any questions or comments on the committee reports? No questions.

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

### **C. New agenda items**

Did we have any new agenda items to discuss? No new agenda items.

## **7. General Announcements from the Membership**

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

## **8. Closing of Annual Meeting**

### **A. Thank you to our Host**

At this time I would like to say thank you all for contributing to a vibrant virtual conference this year.

### **B. Recognition of outgoing/incoming Officers**

As many of you know Allaina Wallace has completed an extended term of service as past president. She is now stepping off the board. Thank you, Allaina, for your 6 years of dedicated service to the CBHL Board through COVID and other challenges!

Erin Aults, which many may know from her time helping lead the solo librarians group has been appointed to the Vice President position. Welcome to the board, Erin!

I personally want to thank the Board for continuing to step up this year. We all have seen so many challenges from funding to staffing to personal challenges, especially with the loss of my husband and family challenges. I cannot thank you all enough for your love and support. If there is anything the challenging times have taught me it is how vast and big my network is, and when we ask for help, folks step up. Truly, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Are there any questions? No questions.

I would like to thank Kristine Paulus for stepping up this year when I was unable to be attentive. While I did not have time to bedazzle the gavel at the conclusion of the conference it is my pleasure and honor to hand the baton over to you. We are in great hands.

Marisha Sullivan: Announcement about solo libraries.

Brandy Kuhl: San Francisco Botanical Garden undergoing renovations. Hosting APGA 2026.

Stephen Sinon: TikTok star, 50,000 views-250,000. The next one will be on sunflowers. New grant for processing institutional archives collections. Looking for a part-time digitization technician.

Kristen: Please share any news via social media.

### **B. Adjourn**

Do we have a motion to adjourn the meeting? Second? All in favor? All opposed? The meeting is adjourned.

Erin Aults: Motion

Second: Stephen Sinon

All in favor: Adjourned



## 2025 CBHL Annual Meeting Committee Reports

### Membership Committee

1. Members: Betsy Kruthoffer (Chair), Robin Everly, Gillian Hayward
2. The Committee met on Friday, April 25, 2025, and discussed the following:
  - a. Robin sends out welcome letters but has had some difficulty in making sure they are accurate (for example, we lost our LibGuides coordinator and she needed a new contact before sending out letters). She recommended posting the renewal letter on LibGuides so that all members have access to it. On April 28, 2025, she sent Gillian a copy of the membership letter template to share with the Board. Robin will continue sending out the new membership letter via email to new members.
  - b. Robin reported receiving the occasional question about membership benefits, mostly to do with LibGuides and the membership directory.
  - c. Robin offered to do an occasional, casual Zoom meeting to answer membership questions. To keep momentum going she can schedule one in early June, following the Annual Meeting.
  - d. We discussed member retention and how we could interact with new members.
    - i. Betsy reported that sending out monthly reminders is helping with retention. Sometimes people share why they are not renewing (usually retirement or position elimination). We lose students more often than any other category.
3. Keeping accurate records for EBHL members who pay for a CBHL affiliate membership continues to be difficult. We have just recently received a spreadsheet from the interim EBHL treasurer and Betsy will soon begin to update the database.
4. Membership numbers for 2024:
  - a. 81 renewals; 15 new; 144 members
    - i. Commercial: 5 (7 representatives)
    - ii. Individual: 38
    - iii. Institutional: 42 (79 representatives)
    - iv. Retiree: 10
    - v. Student: 1
    - vi. Lifetime: 9
  - b. EBHL affiliate memberships: 54 (including 3 lifetime members)
  - c. Non-renewals: 13 (3 individual; 6 institutional (7 representatives); 3 retiree; 1 student)
5. The Board is looking at the membership structure and will follow up with the membership.

### Nominating Committee

1. Members: Allaina Wallace, Marisha Sullivan, Kathy Crosby
2. The committee began meeting in November last year.
3. We began to reach out to prospective members in December.
  - a. Initial emails were sent and follow up emails or calls made.
  - b. Acceptance came in February.
  - c. Voting opened March 17 and closed April 14.
  - d. 33 votes were received, reaching a quorum.
4. Thank you to Marisha and Kathy and to the membership for their participation in the process.
5. Are there any questions about the Nominating Committee report? No questions.

### Annual Literature Committee

1. Members: Céline Arseneault, Janet Evans, Rita Hassert, Hannah Rutledge, Stacy Stoldt (co-chair), Brian Thompson (co-chair).
2. Nominations for 2025 Awards
  - a. 15 CBHL members nominated books.
  - b. 45 books were nominated; 41 were validated with review copies sent to committee members from publishers.
  - c. 33 books intended for general audiences (by nominators) and 12 for children or young adults.
3. Awards process
  - a. Committee members met on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, to decide on awards.
  - b. Awards will be announced at CBHL annual meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2025, in the third hour of that day's sessions.
  - c. Awards will include one overall Annual Literature Award and ten Awards of Excellence in different categories.
4. Book Raffle
  - a. The committee decided that this year's review books will be held over for a grand book raffle next year with the

2026 nominees.

b. Hannah has generously offered to provide storage space at Longwood until next year's annual meeting.

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

We have a potential new host for 2028. Lewis Ginter in Richmond, VA. They have expanded the gardens and glass houses. It would be a wonderful time to go there.

### **Financial Advisory Committee**

1. Members: Betsy Kruthoffer (Chair), Gillian Hayward, Stephanie Powers, Alex Wicker
2. All members of the Committee met via Zoom on April 29, 2025.
3. The new members of the Committee were given background information about the Committee, and CBHL's banking and accounting software.
4. We discussed the complicated issue of wiring EBHL affiliate dues to EBHL and the 2024 tax form Gillian recently filed.
5. We also discussed managing the finances for next year's in-person meeting at Longwood and making sure we avoid conflict of interest and maintain transparency.
6. Betsy brought up the idea of possibly raising dues in the near future, since it's been about 5 years since we last did it. The Board would have to address this and we would want to make sure it wouldn't adversely affect anyone.
7. Gillian went through the Treasurer's Report and explained all the income and expenses. The Committee agreed that it's ready to present to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

### **Charles Long Award Committee**

- Kathy Crosby, chair
- Allaina Wallace
- Brandy Watts
- Donna Herendeen
- Beth Brand

At the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025, Kristen Mastel reviewed the members according to the terms they had served. Stacy Stoldt rotated off the committee and later Donna Herendeen agreed to serve on the Committee.

On February 26th, 2025, after some discussion with the Board and members of the Committee, I, as chair, e-mailed the Charles Long nomination related documents to the committee members with some accompanying discussion. In that same letter, I also noted some possible candidates, a number of which had been discussed previously. Given that the standards for nomination were created a number of years ago, I suggested ways of translating those standards into the library climate we experience today.

At the same time the Board was considering changes to the process and given other challenges, we did not have time to engage in the discussion that was developing about the award regarding its reflection of bibliographic expertise and service to CBHL. I also reviewed the archival files at the New York Botanical Garden to consider the same two themes.

For reasons related to the above-mentioned discussion, the award will not go forward this year.

While there was some discussion via email at other times last year, most of that related to the discussion about the award prior to the 2024 annual meeting.

### **Founders Fund Committee**

No award this year since the annual meeting is virtual.

### **Communications Committee**

- Judy Stevenson, Chair (also Newsletter editor)
- Gillian Hayward (Board liaison)
- Céline Arseneault (Website editor, outgoing; Instagram co-manager)
- Betsy Kruthoffer (Listserv manager)
- Rita Hassert (Public relations manager)
- Robin Everly
- Jodi Shippee
- Kristen Mastel



- Connor L. Graham (Instagram co-manager)
- Kristine Paulus (Instagram co-manager)
- Ana Niño (LibGuides co-manager)
- Suzi Teghtmeyer (LibGuides co-manager)

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.

1. LibGuides
  - a. Danielle Scheidt stepped down as LibGuides manager; Ana Niño and Suzi Teghtmeyer will serve as LibGuides co-managers. Thank you to Ana and Suzi for taking on this important role!
2. Website
  - a. Céline Arseneault plans to retire as CBHL webmaster over the coming year, with a tentative end date in 2026. Thank you to Céline for her more than 20 years of service as CBHL's webmaster! The Communications Committee, in partnership with the Board, seeks a new webmaster or webmasters – any members interested in being involved with the website should contact Kristen Mastel.
3. Social Media
  - a. The Committee added several new roles for co-managers of our new CBHL Instagram account, @plantlibraries. Connor Graham, Kristine Paulus, and Céline Arseneault jointly manage our Instagram account. Thank you to all three for making @plantlibraries a success! As we spin up Instagram, we've also decided to sunset CBHL's Twitter/X account. Thank you to Robin Everly for managing that account over the years, and for taking the lead in closing it out.
4. Newsletter
  - a. The CBHL Newsletter continues to be published four times annually, in electronic (pdf) format exclusively. Our 2025-2026 schedule is:
    - June issue (content deadline April 15)
    - September issue (content deadline July 15)
    - December issue (content deadline October 15)
    - March issue (content deadline January 15)

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](http://cbhl.net)). All CBHL members are invited to submit content for the newsletter through [newsletter@cbhl.net](mailto:newsletter@cbhl.net). Thank you to our Newsletter team, Beth Brand (Members' West News Editor), Shelly Kilroy (Members' East News Editor), Gillian Hayward (Book Review Editor), Rita Hassert (Calendar of Events Editor), Kathy Allen (Proofreader), Staci Catron (Proofreader), Jennie Oldfield (Proofreader), and Jodi Shippee (Proofreader). An especially big "Thank You" to Shelly for her many years of service as she retires from the Newsletter! The role of Members' East News editor is currently vacant; any member interested in becoming involved can contact [newsletter@cbhl.net](mailto:newsletter@cbhl.net). We are also always looking for volunteers to write book reviews for our book review segment - anyone interested in volunteering should contact Gillian Hayward, [ghayward@longwoodgardens.org](mailto:ghayward@longwoodgardens.org).

5. Public Relations
  - a. Press releases were created and distributed for the 2024 CBHL Annual Literature Awards. 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 2024 CBHL Annual Literature Award nominees and honorees were added to the Awards note in the bibliographic records. Gillian's efforts to increase the visibility of CBHL as well as these awards are greatly appreciated!

## Steering Committee

1. Members FY 2024-2025: Committee Chairs, Managers, and Board Member Committees:

- a. Ad Hoc Committee on Future Conferences Chair: Stephen Sinon
- b. Annual Literature Award Committee Chair: Co-chairs, Brian Thompson and Stacy Stoldt

- c. Charles Robert Long Award Committee Chair: Kathy Crosby
- d. Communications Committee Chair: Judy Stevenson
- e. Financial Advisory Committee Chair: Betsy Kruthoffer
- f. Founders Fund Committee (No Chair; committee comprised of board members)
- g. Membership Committee Chair: Betsy Kruthoffer
- h. Nominating Committee Chair: Allaina Wallace
- i. Steering Committee Chair: Leora Siegel

#### Managers:

- a. Archivist, Stephen Sinon
- b. [Historian, vacant and not needed as the Archivist is also the Historian]
- c. LibGuides, Co-chairs, Suzi Tegtmeyer and Ana Niño
- d. Listserv, Betsy Kruthoffer
- e. Membership, Robin Everly
- f. Newsletter, Judy Stevenson
- g. Non-book collections database, Kathy Crosby
- h. Public Relations, Rita Hassert
- i. Webmaster, Céline Arseneault

#### Board Members:

- a. President, Kristen Mastel
- b. Vice President, Kristine Paulus
- c. Secretary, Brandy Watts
- d. Treasurer, Gillian Hayward
- e. Past President, Allaina Wallace

2. The Steering Committee's new process this year is for each committee chair to complete brief quarterly reports in a shared Google Doc. The reports state actions and activities completed, in-process, or on the horizon. Reporting dates this year are September 15, 2024, January 15, 2025, April 15, and July 15. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WecWDOAX3hPWw5mGyqUrIIW6ufNTVF\\_K13t57oHRHM0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WecWDOAX3hPWw5mGyqUrIIW6ufNTVF_K13t57oHRHM0/edit?usp=sharing)
3. The committee met via Zoom twice this year, on dates just before the quarterly report due dates. It is extremely challenging to find dates to meet on Zoom due to many differing schedules and time zones.
4. The LibGuide roster was kept up-to-date with new Steering Committee appointees.
5. Leora Siegel, Steering Committee Chair, attended CBHL monthly board meetings throughout the year in an advisory capacity, per the bylaws.

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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 online at:**  
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**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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| Student.....                         | \$50  |
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| Retired.....                         | \$50  |
| Institutional.....                   | \$130 |
| Additional Institutional Member..... | \$75  |
| Commercial.....                      | \$175 |

