2014 Annual Meeting Host

Moonlight and Magnolias: a Celebration of Southern Gardens

Janet Woody <janetw@lewisginter.org>
<http://cbhl.libguides.com/content.php?pid=534653>

Highlights include:
Kent-Valentine House • Flora of Virginia Exhibit and collections • Gillette Garden • Colonial Williamsburg with Rockefeller Library tour • Maymont: An American Estate • Jefferson Hotel • Carytown • Library of Virginia • Mark Catesby Exhibit • CHBL Literature Award • Edgar Allan Poe Museum

Members’ News East

Compiled by Shelly Kilroy, Librarian
Peter M. Wege Library
Frederik Meijer Gardens
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Nadine Phillips
Interlibrary Loan Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi, Petal, MS

I was selected to be one of 10 participants in the Exhibiting Skills: Exhibition Development for Informal Educators at The Huntington this past November. It was quite exciting to learn how to create educational exhibits with live plants and the fact that it was all grant funded and therefore free was great. For more information: <http://www.huntington.org/WebAssets/Templates/content.aspx?id=10190>.

Stephen Sinon, Head of Information Services and Archives
The LuEsther T. Mertz Library
New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY

The New York Botanical Garden Announces Creation of New Humanities Research Institute

Grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Launches New Academic Initiative

The New York Botanical Garden is pleased to announce the creation of a new Humanities Research Institute within its renowned LuEsther T. Mertz Library. This major initiative, the first of its kind at a botanical garden, will strengthen and formalize the Botanical Garden’s academic role among humanities museums and libraries and also serve scholars who wish to do research in a plant-based institution. In November 2013, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded a generous three-year grant in the amount of $635,000 to the Botanical Garden to assist in developing the Institute.

The fundamental purpose of the Institute is to form an intellectual community of staff, visiting scholars and graduate student fellows whose research involves innovative interdisciplinary approaches to areas such
Writing this final president’s letter makes me feel reflective. I feel honored to have been elected to serve on the Board. I feel proud of our organization. I really value the people who make up CBHL because we collectively have so much expertise and give so generously of our time.

While I still have another year to serve on the Board, this is my last opportunity to recount a few CBHL accomplishments from the recent past. When I first went on to the Board in 2011 I had one ambition for CBHL: online membership renewal. Yes, I’m a technology focused person and we had already solved online meeting registration thanks to Lucy Fisher and Doug Holland in 2009, so why not renewals? I researched options, recruited the Membership Chair, Membership Manager and the Treasurer (Sue Swisher, Suzi Teghtmeyer and Brian Thompson) and we accepted our first online renewal in late 2012. Mission accomplished! The other notable technology accomplishments are the transition to LibGuides for the CBHL intranet and hiring a vendor to redesign and host the CBHL web site. The things we do every year are no less worthy of mention: an inspiring annual meeting, literature awards, travel scholarships, four newsletters, plus hundreds of article requests filled via the listserv.

I had the good fortune to take a week’s vacation in Kauai in February. What a beautiful island! It’s referred to as the Garden Island and true to name there are a number of public gardens. After I strolled the McBryde Garden I paid a visit to the National Tropical Botanical Garden headquarters and toured the Loy McCandless Marks Botanical Library housed in a LEED gold certified building built to withstand a category 5 hurricane. Perched on a cliff side the formidable building has a fantastic view of the Lāwaʻi Valley. The staff were getting ready to open an exhibit of the copperplate prints from the Banks Florilegium that included some of Hawaii’s rarest endemic plants. This was a surprisingly pleasant mixing of business and pleasure.

Warm regards,
Tracy

as landscape and garden design and history, art history, cultural anthropology, environmental policy, urban social history, and the study of urban ecology and the changing nature of cities. Participants will be given unfettered access to the collections of the Garden’s LuEsther T. Mertz Library and William and Lynda Steere Herbarium. The goal is to create a forum for stimulating discourse and promote new thinking about humankind and our relationship with nature and the environment.

Garden’s Acclaimed Mertz Library
To Be Home of Institute

The Institute, which will be a new division of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, will formalize the structure of existing humanities and academic programming in the Library, and make the Garden’s resources more extensively available to scholars in a wide range of interests from the history of art and the history of science to emerging fields such as landscape urbanism, environmental ethics, and eco-criticism.

“By establishing a Humanities Research Institute, we hope to create a dynamic, new paradigm for how researchers think about issues concerning landscape, nature, and the environment,” says Susan Fraser, Director of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library. “The Library’s comprehensive and historic collections document how science, art, and culture intersect.

“The academic life of The New York Botanical Garden has always been centered on the plants of the world, both in the wild—through botanical studies—and in cultivation—through horticulture,” said Gregory Long, the Botanical Garden’s Chief Executive Officer and The William C. Steere Sr. President. “With this new Institute, we are expanding our scope to include broader research topics that the Library is fully equipped to support, and we are looking forward to interacting with scholars in disciplines that sit adjacent to our traditional interests.”

Andrew W. Mellon Fellows and Visiting Scholars

Over the next three years, the Institute will sponsor year-long Mellon fellowships for emerging pre- and post-doctoral researchers from a broad range of disciplines. The Mellon Fellowship Program will be open to advanced graduate students from around the world and will facilitate the completion of dissertation research that will make significant and original contributions to research in the humanities. A Visiting Scholars program will make available several short-term residencies for established scholars seeking to advance their research.

The Institute will develop and host symposia—one in each year of the program. These symposia will broaden the Garden’s public role in humanities scholar-ship and discourse, and further the public’s understanding of the importance of nature, plants, and the landscape to their lives, to history, and to the development of the built environment that surrounds them. The symposia topics, which are to be further developed, include Women and the City: From the Landscape Perspective, scheduled for June 20, 2014 and tied to the Garden’s exhibition Groundbreakers: Great American Gardens & The Women Who Designed Them (May 17–September 7, 2014), and The Changing Nature of Nature in Cities, scheduled for November 7, 2014.

NEH Chairman Recognizes the LuEsther T. Mertz Library as Critical Humanities Resource

Long renowned for its preeminence as a science library, the Mertz Library has recently been recognized as an essential humanities resource. According to James A. Leach, former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, evaluators who reviewed the Garden’s successful request for a NEH Challenge Grant characterized The New York Botanical Garden’s LuEsther T. Mertz Library collections as “a critical humanities resource that has an impact on individuals, scholars, and students, and...one of the most important resources for scholars studying human life in relation to plants.”

The Mertz Library holds more than one million items in 85 languages and covers 800 years of botanical and horticultural history, dating from the 12th century to the present. These comprehensive collections on plant science, horticulture, agriculture, landscape architecture, garden history and design, and the history of botany and exploration, represent more than 75 percent of the world’s literature on systematic botany and approximately 82 percent of the world’s published floras. In addition to the core disciplines of botanical science and horticulture, the collections cover a wide range of topics that provide humanities researchers and the general public with resources to understand the impact of nature on human history.

Highlights include the Rare Book Collection, which spans nearly 600 years of history, from 1190 to 1753. These collections contain the earliest manuscripts and printed books as well as some of the most rare and historically important botanical and horticultural works ever produced. They range from medieval herbals to Baroque and Romantic-era descriptions of the princely gardens of Europe. The Folio Collection has exceptional holdings of 18th-and 19th-century books featuring fine botanical plates from paintings and drawings by renowned artists. The Art and Illustration Collection contains more than 25,000 original works encompassing a broad range of media including line drawings, watercolors, oil paintings, and sculpture, and the Archival Collections contain irreplaceable primary documentation on
the history of the fields of botanical science, horticulture, gardening, and landscape design in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Library has an active digitization program and continues to add content to its existing online offerings in its “Mertz Digital” portal and through the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL), the world’s largest database of natural history literature. The digital library contains curated collections such as the Nursery and Seed Trade Catalogs and Parks, Gardens and Plants of New York City and New York State. Ongoing projects that explore the use of emerging technologies to link content from various sources to serve humanities research include the creation of study guides, digital publications, and visual collections.

Related Garden Resources

In addition to its collections, the Garden develops programs that expand the public’s understanding of the social and historical importance of plants while advancing interest in the sciences and humanities. The scholarly exhibitions that are held in the Mertz Library’s Rondina and LoFaro Gallery are central to the Garden’s special exhibition program, which annually mounts institution-wide, interdisciplinary shows that merge humanities themes with science and horticulture. With topics ranging from plant evolution in Darwin’s Garden: An Evolutionary Adventure to the cultural significance of the Spanish Paradise: Gardens of the Alhambra, which explored the history and culture of Spain’s Andalusian region through plants, art, and literature, these exhibitions provide an interdisciplinary look into nature that is unique to the Garden.

The Garden also maintains active public education programs including the Landscape Design Portfolio Lecture Series, in which outstanding designers from around the world discuss their signature landscapes; the Winter Lecture Series in which speakers share their insights on design and conservation of gardens; and the Andrew Carnegie Distinguished Lecture which provides a forum for internationally recognized speakers to address a topic of global interest to a wide and diverse audience.

Support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

In addition to the three-year grant awarded to the Garden to assist in developing the Humanities Research Institute, the Mellon Foundation has awarded several important grants to the Botanical Garden over the last few years, resulting in increased access to the Garden’s collections. In 2012 the Mellon Foundation awarded the Garden a major grant to support an endowment for humanities activities in the Mertz Library. For five years, ending in 2012, the Mellon Foundation helped fund digitization of the globally important holdings of Latin American botanical literature in the Mertz Library, making them available online to the international scientific and conservation communities.

The Mellon Foundation stated: “As part of its mission to advance meaningful work in the humanities and the arts, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in 2012 launched an initiative, ‘Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities,’ to support scholarship and higher education at the intersection of architecture and the humanities. The initiative emphasizes contributions these disciplines may make to the spatial and humanistic understanding of the processes and effects of burgeoning urbanization.

One of thirteen grants made so far to major institutions of higher education and research, this grant in support of The New York Botanical Garden’s research focusing on human experience as it relates to the natural environment will bring a unique and important perspective to the initiative.”

Charlotte Tancin, Librarian
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA

Hunt Institute presents Duets, 20 March–30 June 2014

As with duets in music, this exhibition creates new, harmonious couplings of botanical art with items created between the 16th and 21st centuries from the Hunt Institute collections. The subjects of these pairings explore the parallels between works created for numerous botanical applications. They include works painted during expeditions and in native environs; plants of the Americas and introductions now cultivated for the garden; works that showcase the Eastern aesthetic and its modern influence; work of a classical style and more experimental and evocative processes; plants illustrated for agricultural and economic purposes and for their pure aesthetic; and work by historical masters and the contemporary artists they influenced.

The duets include works by the following artists: Pierre-Jean-François Turpin (France, 1775–1840) and Irina G. Gai (Russia); Pierre-Joseph Redouté (Belgium, 1759–1840) and John Pastoriza-Piñol (Australia); an unknown artist (United States, 20th century) in the Hitchcock-Chase Collection of Grass Drawings and Marcel Jomphé (Canada); a work attributed to either Barbara Regina Dietzsch (Germany, 1706–1783) or Johann Siegmund Dietzsch (Germany, 1707–1779) and Damodar Lal Gurjar (India); Imogen Cunningham (United States, 1883–1976) and Olivia Marie Braida (United States); John Tyley (Antigua/England?, early 19th century) and Martin J. Allen (England); Jean-Louis Prévost (France, 1760–1810) and Roderick McEwen (Scotland, 1932–1982); Georg Dionys Ehret (Germany/England, 1708–1770) and Marilena Pistoia (Italy); Priscilla Susan Bury (Mrs.
Edward, England, 1793–1869) and Margaret Ursula Mee (England, 1909–1988); Joseph Prestele (Germany/United States, 1796–1867) and Elisabeth Dowle (England); Lou E. Hurst (Mrs. Albert W. Lamb, United States, 1883–1949) and Regine Hagedorn (France); Andrey Avinoff (Russia/United States, 1884–1949) and Albert G. Richards (United States, 1917–2010); Gerard van Spaendonck (France, 1746–1822) and Rose Pellicano (Italy/United States); Kokei or Kodo Yoshikawa (Japan, 19th century) and Aurora Tazza (Italy); Leonardo Parasole (Italy, late 16th–early 17th century) and Elliot Offner (United States, 1931–2010); John Curtis (England, 1791–1862) and Anne Marie Trechslin (Italy/Switzerland, 1927–2007); James Bolton (England, 1735–1799) and Raphael Henri-Charles Ghislain (Belgium); Balthasar Cattrani (Italy, 1770–1810) and James M. Shull (United States, 1872–1948) in the USDA Forest Service Collection; Andrey Avinoff (Russia/United States, 1884–1949) and Albert G. Richards (United States, 1917–2010); a work attributed to Atanasio Echeverría y Godoy (Mexico, 18th century) in the Torner Collection of Sessé & Mociño Biological Illustrations and Lois Martin Povall (England/South America, 1905–1984); J. Watts (England, 19th century) and Ruriko Kato (Japan); unknown artist (India, 19th century) and Bernard Pertchik (United States, 1924–1992) and Harriet Pertchik (United States, 1925–1998); unknown artist (France?, 18th century) and Lilian Snelling (England, 1879–1972); Pierre-Joseph Redouté (Belgium, 1759–1840) and Timothy C. Angell (United States).

Open House 2014

In conjunction with Duets, the Hunt Institute will hold its annual Open House on Sunday, 29 June. We will offer a talk, a gallery tour and opportunities to meet one-on-one with our staff to ask questions and see items in the collections. “Botanical exploration in the Americas” by Assistant Librarian Jeannette McDevitt, Curator of Art Lugene Bruno and Archivist J. Dustin Williams will include curatorial conversations about three explorers to the Americas who were interested in medicinal and economic plants and ethnography. Displayed will be related publications, original artwork and archival materials from the Hunt Institute collections. McDevitt will feature Spain’s 16th-century court physician Francisco Hernández (1514–1587), the first scientific explorer in the New World (1570–1577), with resulting publications; Bruno will discuss the physician Martín de Sessé y Lacasta (1751–1808) and his work with Jose Mariano Mociño (1757–1820) during the Spanish Royal Expedition to New Spain (1787–1803) that explored the Caribbean, Mexico and northern Central America, showing the resulting illustrations intended for a published flora; and Williams will talk about the botanist and plant collector William Andrew Archer (1894–1973) and his explorations in Mexico and Central and South America for the USDA in the 1930s, with field diaries, reports and photographs.

Cabinet of Curiosities

On display during spring 2014 in our cabinet of curiosities located in the lobby will be the field notebooks of Emma Lucy Braun (1889–1971), author of the influential Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America (1950), from our Archives collection.

Hours

The exhibition will be on display on the 5th floor of the Hunt Library building at Carnegie Mellon University and will be open to the public free of charge. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 AM–noon and 1–5 PM; Sunday, 1–4 PM (except 18–20 April, 4 May and 25–26 May). Because our hours of operation are occasionally subject to change, please call or email before your visit to confirm. For more information, contact Curator of Art Lugene B. Bruno <lbruno@andrew.cmu.edu> or visit Hunt Institute’s website at <http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/HIBD/Exhibitions/Exhibitions.shtml>.
Ian MacPhail (1923-2014)

Rita M. Hassert, Sterling Morton Library
The Morton Arboretum

Ian MacPhail was born in Malaysia and educated in Scotland where he earned an M.A. in philosophy at Aberdeen University. He took his postgraduate diploma in librarianship and archives at the University of London and served in libraries in Ireland, Sweden, Canada, Barbados, and the United States. From 1961 to 1964 he was Bibliographer at the Hunt Botanical Library (now known as the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation) in Pittsburgh, and from 1964 to 1967 he was at Yale University. He became Librarian of the Sterling Morton Library, The Morton Arboretum in 1969. He retired from the Library in 1993 as Research Fellow and Curator of Rare Books. Recognized for his keen intellect and dry humor, Ian brought to the Arboretum “an enthusiasm for books as complex creations for which there is no equal and no substitute.” In addition to his responsibilities within the Library, he studied and lectured widely on antiquarian books and nineteenth century American natural history. His presentations were legendary and his publications were numerous. Within CBHL, he served as President, annual meeting host, colleague and advisor. In 1990, he was recognized by CBHL for his contributions to botanical and horticultural libraries as the second recipient of the Charles Robert Long Award of Extraordinary Merit. Erudite, affable and unerringly passionate about books and libraries, Ian introduced eager audiences to the world of Robert Owen, William Maclure, Thomas Say and the utopian community of New Harmony, Indiana. More importantly, he was in the vanguard for the importance of scholarship, research and the value of botanical and horticultural libraries.

In 1981, Ian presented a paper at a joint meeting of CBHL and the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (now known as the American Public Gardens Association). His essay was republished in AABGA’s Bulletin and I’d like to end this note in Ian’s own words:

“Books and gardens. They make a happy combination, appealing to the love of knowledge and the love of beauty. The botanic garden and the library have always been civilizing and peaceful oases in a turbulent and threatening world. Neither exists by chance or is maintained by neglect. Let us then, like Candide, “cultivate our gardens,” but let us not forget to cultivate our libraries. In the end, gardens as we know them today would not exist if it were not for libraries.”

Members’ News West

Compiled by Beth Brand
Librarian, Schilling Library
Desert Botanical Garden
Phoenix, Arizona

Barney Lipscomb
Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany
Botanical Research Institute of Texas
Fort Worth, Texas

BRIT Press publishes a new book about Texas ferns

The Ferns and Lycophytes of Texas
by George M. Diggs, Jr. and Barney L. Lipscomb. Published by the Botanical Research Institute of Texas

Texas has a surprising number of native ferns and lycophytes—127 in all, the most of any state in the continental U.S.A. This is particularly unexpected given that most people associate ferns and related plants with humid, even tropical conditions, just the opposite of much of Texas. This book explains why and looks at the fascinating world of Texas ferns, ranging from the swamp forests of far East Texas, to the hidden canyons of the Edwards Plateau, and even to the high mountain “sky islands” of such places as Big Bend National Park. Each species has an illustration page with a color photo, a line drawing, and detailed maps. Be ready to be surprised by this special group of Texas plants!

From the driest desert to the wettest valley, from the Gulf Coast to the top of Guadalupe Peak, ferns and other spore-producing vascular plants exist in virtually every habitat in Texas. These adaptable plants are both diverse and attractive, and searching for the various kinds around the state can be a pleasant challenge that can grow into an addictive passion. As it turns out, based on the careful research by two outstanding botanists and authors—George Diggs and Barney Lipscomb—Texas has more species of ferns than almost any other state.
What a wonderful thing that plant enthusiasts now have this remarkable, beautiful, and authoritative book to use in getting to know these unusual plants! — George Yatskievych, Curator, Director — Flora of Missouri Project, Missouri Botanical Garden.

The Ferns and Lycopophytes of Texas is a masterpiece of organization and presentation featuring all of the ferns and fern allies known to occur in the state. This is the first comprehensive treatment of Texas ferns since D.S. Correll’s “Pteridophyta” in 1955 (vol. 1, C.L. Lundell’s Flora of Texas). The new fern book includes updated taxonomy, new discoveries, distribution maps, line drawings, thoughtfully composed color images, and loads of additional information about each species, including literature reference sources, clearly written keys and descriptions, and highlighted characters useful for identification in the field. — A. Michael Powell, Emeritus Professor, Director of the Herbarium, Sul Ross State University.

To purchase your copy of the The Ferns and Lycophytes of Texas, visit the BRIT Press webpage at <http://brit.org/brit-press/books/texasferns> or call 817-332-4441 ext. 264. The price is $29.95, plus $4.50 shipping. ISBN: 9781889878379, Publication Date: 28 February 2014, Specifications: 7”×10” (flexbound), 392 pp, color.

Irene Holiman
Library Specialist
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
Claremont, California

Bequeathed Gift

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Library was recently gifted with the personal library of landscape architect and Cal Poly Pomona Professor Emeritus, Jeff Olson. Professor Olson, who passed away earlier this year, had frequented our library many times in the past and wished for his collection to be given to either Cal Poly Pomona or Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. After some discussion with Jeff’s good friend and fellow professor, Robert Perry, (also a landscape architect and author of the popular book, Landscape Plants for California Gardens), it was decided that the garden would be the ideal place for Jeff’s library. It took a flat-bed truck, a mid-size truck, as well as four staff members to pick-up, load and unload, not to mention carry eighty (80!) boxes of books up two flights of stairs! We were given an inventory of Jeff’s collection beforehand so we knew more or less what Jeff collected, however doing a quick scan inside a few of the boxes, we were delighted that the garden library was chosen as recipient of Jeff’s library. Jeff’s family was advised of our library’s gift policy, (we’re happy to receive donations, however, due to limited shelf space and scope of our collection, items added to the collection will be determined by the library staff). Even though his collection would not be kept intact, Jeff’s friends and family were happy that his books would benefit not only our staff and students, but through our many book sales and giveaways, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden volunteers, members, visitors and others as well.

Elaine Zummer
Assistant Librarian
Helen Fowler Library
Denver Botanic Gardens
Denver, Colorado

Our new Head Librarian, Allaina Wallace, joined our staff in late February. She previously worked at the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado - Boulder, and we are delighted to have her here at the helm. Due to previous commitments, she will not be at the CBHL Annual Conference this year.

Library projects that were begun in 2013 by April Miller are continuing with the help of several dedicated volunteers—the rehousing of historical seed catalogs, the cataloging of DBG blueprints, and the cataloging of a botanical postage stamp collection donated to DBG.

Outside the Library, several construction projects are underway at the York Street campus—serious updates to our seasonal outdoor café, construction of a new garden which will replace the parking lot behind the historic Waring House, and a brand new structure called “The Science Pyramid” which will house interactive science displays. Hopes are high that all will be completed before the opening of the Chihuly exhibit in June 2014, which we are told will break all previous attendance records at the Gardens.

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

Art Exhibit: Etchings of Eden

I am pleased to share details about our next art exhibition, Etchings of Eden: Plants from California’s Native and Cultivated Gardens, which will be on display and for sale in the Library from May to August. Art-
ist Stephanie Martin’s intaglio etchings depict some of the state’s most exquisite native and cultivated flora—their lovely architecture and design rendered in fine detail. The exhibition will feature botanical portraits of plants such as Douglas iris, wild ginger, sweet peas, and pomegranates, as well as images integrating California flowering plants and the birds that depend on them. Stephanie is a painter and printmaker on the California coast. Her etchings, “explore the relationships between people and the natural world across time and cultures.”

Richard E. “Rick” Hanna  
NTBG Librarian and Collections Curator, 1946–2014

David H. Lorence, Ph.D., Co-Director of Science and Conservation / Senior Research Botanist  
National Tropical Botanical Garden, Kalaheo, HI

Rick Hanna came to work for the National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG) [Kalaheo, Hawaii] in September 1991 as Librarian and Historical Collections Curator, but his role was much, much broader than that. His scholarly background was in biology, computer science and library studies, with a B.A. in Biology from the University of California, San Diego, a Master’s in Biology from San Diego State University, and a Master’s in Library Studies from the University of Hawai’i, Manoa. Rick’s diverse background included graduate studies in computer science, oceanography, and marine biology. Before moving to Kaua’i he served as director of an electron microscopy facility in California and held positions as Science Reference Librarian in California and at the University of Hawai’i.

During Rick’s tenure at NTBG the library grew from 7,000 volumes to its current size of 30,000 books, journals, botanical prints, slides, and digital media resources including 1,200 rare books housed in a special room in the new Botanical Research Center. Rick’s dedication to the Garden was exhibited by his courage during the 1992 Hurricane Iniki, when he chose to “ride it out” with the books he watched over when they were housed in the Administrative building.

Rick lived in the Allerton House for many years and served as NTBG’s Allerton Garden Historian and Curator. As NTBG’s de facto marine biologist, he would often wait up on moonlit nights to watch the green sea turtles nesting on the beach, and weeks later the monitor the hatchling turtles as they emerged from the sand under the cover of darkness. After hours he loved to entertain friends, listen to music, and play volley ball, tennis, croquet, or Ping-Pong. Rick’s passion for the Garden did not end with the library but extended deep into the very essence of who we are. We miss him greatly.


When the Harvard Forest was established in 1907, Richard Fisher, its founding director, had “a place where he could learn about the growth and death of trees over centuries and in the absence of human activity.” By 1930, his research led him to write that in the upland forest of New England hemlock was “a more or less constant element,” but “There was a tendency to fluctuation in dominance between softwoods and hardwoods. The natural adapt-abilities of species to site were intermittently upset by lightning, fire, windthrow, ice storms, and sometimes insects or disease.” The impact of one disease—Chestnut blight—on the hardwood American chestnut was already clear by then, but the hemlock wooly adelgid wasn’t even getting started. The “lineup of arboreal foes” also includes Dutch elm disease, gypsy moth, white pine blister rust, beech bark disease, winter moth, emerald ash borer and Asian long-horned beetle. How does any forest stand a chance? The story told in Hemlock: A Forest Giant on the Edge is harrowing, but also reassuring if, like the passionate scientists who contributed to this collection, one is able to take a very long view of forest dynamics.

In the shorter term, there seems to be little hope for the doleful hemlock (“the grim reality in the woods pays no attention to the promises of researchers, managers or their spokespersons”), but there is hope for the persistence of healthy, species-rich forests albeit without this iconic foundation tree as a “constant element.” The Northeastern forest has proven remarkably resilient through natural processes, agricultural deforestation and industrial logging as well as the onslaught of exotic pests like wooly adelgid. As David Foster, current director of the Harvard Forest and editor and principal contributor to Hemlock puts it: the forest “copes.” The meticulous research he and his colleagues and their predecessors have conducted in the 3700-acre forest “laboratory” has led to insights into just how forests cope. Their work is presented with literary flair and very little jargon, making Hemlock accessible to non-specialists as well as to ecology, conservation and forestry professionals (“For those who seek reassurances that our statements are grounded in solid science, we provide references to our sources in the bibliographic essays and accompanying citations.”).

The authors describe fifty-year projects of the Harvard Forest Long Term Ecological Research program and equally patient coring of ponds and bogs to get a picture of New England’s prehistory from pollen grains in sediment. Scientists discovered that there were short-lived declines of hemlock 6,000 to 8,000 years ago, and then, around 5,500 year ago, a collapse and near disappearance of the species before it began to rebound 3,500 years ago. So, since hemlock recovered from calamity in the distant past, it could return to dominance again. In several thousand years.

Meanwhile, our lives will be diminished. One of the numerous archival photographs included is of Richard Fisher and his dog leaning back against a hemlock.
Donald Culross Peattie described such an experience in *A Natural History of Trees of Eastern and Central North America*: “When you settle your back into the buttresses of the bole and look up under the boughs, their shade seems silvery, since the under side of each needle is whitened by two lines. Soon even talk of the tree itself is silenced by it, and you fall to listening. When the wind lifts up the Hemlock’s voice, it is no roaring like the Pine’s, no keening like the Spruce’s. The Hemlock whistles softly to itself. It raises its long, limber boughs and lets them drop again with a sigh, not sorrowful, but letting fall tranquility upon us.”

In his evocative foreword, Robert Sullivan (*The Meadowlands: Wilderness Adventures at the Edge of a City*) writes about a very different sound, all too common in hemlock forests today: “The last sounds it offers us, its final words. It is the sound of a thousand dying needles falling. It is the sound of gentle rain, and it is steady.” His foreword appears in *Orion* [http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/8047]. In the last chapter, “Lament,” Foster asks: “How does one argue the value of a slow-growing tree of marginal commercial value that excludes the bulk of species in the region from the dense, dark habitats it creates?” This scientist answers by stepping beyond “the values that many conservationists, scientists, landowners, and wood producers bring to their work,” and asserting the intellectual and emotional value of this “dark, solemn tree” to our species. And no one who has walked in a hemlock forest would argue.

Science may not be the subject strength that first comes to mind, but Yale University Press, as most of us know, consistently publishes important and occasionally landmark works in science, environmental studies and landscape studies—books like *Hemlock* and *CBHL Annual Literature Award* winners, *The Ambonese Herbal* (2012), *Keywords in American Landscape Design* (2011) and *Lichens of North America* (2002). Yale has also become one of the world’s leading publishers of art books and although *André Le Nôtre in Perspective* was published by Hazan in France, it is distributed in North America by Yale. It is the catalog for an exhibition in honor of Le Nôtre’s 400th birthday that was at Château de Versailles from October 2013 to February 2014. Too late to catch the exhibition, but we have the gift of this book and at $65.00 it does seem like a gift. Thank you, Yale.

How often can a publisher justifiably describe a work as “magnificent” and “definitive”? This is one of those rare instances where those adjectives seem almost understated. From the elegant embossed jacket to the lavish reproduction of paintings, prints and sculpture that Le Nôtre collected, to documents, maps, design drawings and plans, this is the most comprehensive and visually rich study of Le Nôtre—his world, his art, and his reception and influence—that there is likely to be in a very long time. Indicative of the extraordinary attention to the physical detail are the two “Designs and Drawings” notebooks in the section “Le Nôtre’s Art and Work.” Unlike the rest of the book, these sections are printed on very heavy, uncoated paper that is perfect for the reproduction of the sketches and drawings.

The scholarship is impressive. In addition to the editors, Patricia Bouchenot-Déchin and Georges Farhat, there are thirty-one contributors—experts in a wide range of fields including archeology, art, history, hydraulics, optics and, of course, landscape. The essays are as short as two pages, but are typically around ten to twenty, liberally illustrated pages. Although the text is occasionally abstruse and some translations are made more difficult to follow by garbled sentences with redundant or missing words, the reader’s efforts will be rewarded by many new insights and fresh perspectives with hardly a mention of Descartes.

Outside the scope of CBHL collections, perhaps, but the chapters devoted to Le Nôtre’s paintings for his cabinet, which included works by Nicolas Poussin, Claude Lorrain and Francesco Albani, are fascinating for the portrait of Le Nôtre that emerges; and because “the provenance and eventual fate of the works in his collection remain something of a mystery.” Throughout the book scholars cite new archival material and research that questions, if not debunks, previous work. In the chapter “Looking for the Meaning of the Gardens at Ver-
sailles,” Gérard Sabatier, using a manuscript laying out the official circuit with Louis XIV’s handwritten corrections, demonstrates “the gardens were the emblem of power; the chateau merely its residence.” He also skewers over-interpretation and reprimands writers: “Rather than basing themselves on historical sources and documents, these authors all put forward personal interpretations. Some know the sources but distort them…”

In addition to Sabatier, this section—“Elsewhere and Afterward”—has essays by Eric de Jong (Nature and Art: Dutch Garden and Landscape Architecture, 1650-1740) who views the development of historic gardens in terms of networks of exchange of knowledge and techniques rather than transposition of forms and styles; Mark Laird (The Flowering of the Landscape Garden: English Pleasure Grounds, 1720-1800) who also looks at networks, the notion of influence and the role women played in the culture of flowers; and Monique Mosser (The Architecture of Western Gardens: A Design History from the Renaissance to the Present Day) who writes that “Politics had come to stay in the debate about aesthetics, and the garden had been turned into an ideological battlefield.” The last essay in this section is one of three by Georges Farhat and it is a provocative coda that considers modernism, twentieth-century avant-garde movements and modern architecture and urban planning. This bricolage includes images as varied as Andre and Paul Vera garden projects; an aerial view of Rockefeller Center drawn in 1935 in which rooftop gardens are laid out in a unified design like parterres; and a photograph of the 9/11 Memorial by architect Peter Walker, who was “inspired by Le Nôtre’s work on emptiness.”

One of Patricia Bouchenot-Déchin’s chapters, “Le Nôtre at Work,” reconsiders “an array of elements, published and unpublished, to get a better sense of [his] daily existence” and many fields of activity. There are quotidian documents like a receipt signed by Le Nôtre for plants supplied to the Tuileries and a period map of a portion of the Tuileries annotated by the author to show royal residences occupied by Le Nôtre (and colleagues) and his “small greenhouse” and shed. Bouchenot-Déchin gives the reader a sense of Le Nôtre’s ability to balance his royal projects and private commissions and his problems getting paid for his services. Georges Farhat’s other chapters concern Simon Vouet, with whom Le Nôtre studied, and anamorphosis in seventeenth-century visual arts; and the optics and perspectival tricks of Le Nôtre’s great vistas. In addition to period plans and engravings, he illustrates the principle of collimation with contemporary photographs and diagrams based on his measurements. He writes that, at Versailles, “between the château and the western end of the Grand Terrasse, attentive walkers can experience ten collimations.” I was clearly not attentive enough or perhaps I was distracted by sculptures, waterworks, parterres and groves, all subjects well examined in other chapters, and not just about Versailles. There is so much stimulating scholarship here that André Le Nôtre in Perspective certainly deserves to become the primary reference on the subject.

•••

Then I returned to reading Deep-Rooted Wisdom by Augustus Jenkins Farmer. I had put it down in dismay at seeing Gertrude Jekyll’s name misspelled in the first chapter (and in the index, too). On the same day, André Le Nôtre in Perspective came in a shipment of CBHL Annual Literature Award nominations and it immediately claimed my attention. But now this Southern sweet tea of a book appealed to me after the complex world of Le Nôtre and I was glad I returned to it.

Farmer, who does in fact farm (crinum lilies) in South Carolina, also designs sophisticated gardens...
In New York City, where development occurs at a blistering pace and often radically alters neighborhoods, it’s hard to think of a public project with as much impact on its immediate area as the High Line.

When *On the High Line* by Annik LaFarge was originally published in May 2012, the first two sections of the park had opened and change to the industrial and residential areas nearby was in full swing. Buildings by Shigeru Ban, Frank Gehry and Jean Nouvel had been completed by then, but the area has since become a showplace for other celebrity architects. Most of the auto repair shops, car-washes and garages, which LaFarge dubbed Automobile Row, are gone or soon will be. Two years on, the area is more aptly named Pritzker Mile and now includes Friends of the High Line headquarters designed by Renzo Piano at the southern end of the park; and in 2015, attached to these headquarters, Piano’s new Whitney Museum will open as will Zaha Hadid’s first building in New York, near the current northern end.

Groundbreaking on the High Line’s last section was in 2012, and it is scheduled to open this year, offering visitors a walkway through a length of self-seeded landscape as well as highly designed sections and entirely new views of the Hudson River and the city. The “Other High Lines” part of the book has been updated to include Chicago’s elevated park also opening in 2014. LaFarge’s revised edition incorporates many changes, large and small, including those wrought by Hurricane Sandy.

There is new material by Rick Darke and more than fifty new photographs, including archival, contemporary, and aerial shots of the park and, of course, the surrounding architecture. The first edition was reviewed in *CBHL Newsletter*, No. 125, May 2012.

*Elizabeth Lawrence* took her inspiration from the specific Southern place where she gardened, as does Farmer. His strength, like hers, is an ability to listen to particular dirt gardeners but tell a universal story. If you are not in the South, the soil and climate may not be the same; the pests different (armadillos are not likely to be part of most IPM programs); and the plants unsuited to your garden, but, Farmer encourages readers to find the spirit of the place and tell personal stories through the garden. Try to discover a distinctive voice as he has done—like a Southern iced tea, his is sweetened, but definitely refreshing.
Shopping Therapy

Susan C. Eubank, Arboretum Librarian
Arboretum Library
Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden, Arcadia, CA

I had spent my year’s book budget by November last year. Our fiscal year goes to June 30th so that was fairly early, but $2500 goes in the blink of an eye in the botanical and horticultural library book world, especially if you have a wish list with 1171 items just for the main collection. Fortunately, usually, there are donors for children’s books. This month we did *Cat in the Hat* in the Garden for our story time. The retired teachers who do the programs were touting the books on science that had come from the franchise. Our children’s education department was willing to foot the bill for those; instantaneous gratification. I just followed the suggestions on Amazon, looked at WorldCat to see if I had covered all the appropriate ones and didn’t look at SB & F (formerly *Science Books & Films*, a review journal for science related children’s materials) The volunteer had convinced me that there was one on gardening. Turns out that with all that searching she had meant the one we already had, *O Say Can You Seed*, but I bought eight others to round out the group. The Youth Education director thinks they will do well with his nature camp crowd. I don’t think the poetry is to Dr. Seuss’ standard. The science seems okay, but as with the “common core” standards we are all hearing about, non-fiction is necessary, but how are you going to interest the kids in the books if the reading is turgid? Oh well. The kids like the pictures of the *Cat in the Hat* and Thing 1 and Thing 2.

My next acquisition therapy was a donation for Spanish language children’s books about plants and nature. I had the impression I had to do it quickly, so I called up our friend Google and searched “Spanish language children’s literature” and quickly got to librarian sites recommending books. Quickly scanning for plants and nature and employing our friend Google Translate when it was all in Spanish, I spent about two mornings in amongst all my other duties as a solo librarian and came up with a list of 25 books. Turns out the donor didn’t want as many as I chose, so I had to reselect for the “best” books. Six of the “best” books came yesterday. What a delight! My favorites are *Cactus, texto e ilustraciones* by **Yoko Kitami** (Mexico, D.F.: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2005) about how not to treat a cactus and **Eileen Browne**’s *La Sorpresas de Nandi*, traducción, María Cecilia Silva-Diaz, Tercera edición, (Caracas, Venezuela: Ediciones Ekaré, 2011) about an escapade carrying fruit to Nandi’s friends. Here is multiculturalism at its best with plants at the center.

My last acquisitions therapy is to buy about 25 Chinese language children’s books on plants and gardens in the simplified script used primarily on mainland China. We had already purchased about that many in the traditional script, but our constituents have informed us that we need both, so I again enlisted my wonderful volunteer, **Erin Chen**, to begin the quest. She’s doing the leg work of searching for vendors and enlisting Google translate to summarize the books and I’m looking forward to the picking and choosing.

Well, I don’t like going to malls, but shopping for books, I can get into that anytime. Stretch those budget dollars with an appeal to donors with an interest in children. It works!
On the Web:
Botanical Wall Charts, Early Virginia Gardens, and the Historical Blogs of Barbara Wells Sarudy

Stanley Johnston, Mentor, Ohio

As usual, the CBHL list has provided us with a number of interesting sites. Longwood Gardens has expanded the popular library book discussion group into Community Read <http://longwoodgardens.org/community-read> a multi-library community effort. Rita Hassett’s query about some of the Morton’s botanical wall charts elicited a well researched reply by Eugene Bruno, Curator of Art at the Hunt, which included extensive documentation. A sampling of some of these on the web include:


Since this issue of the newsletter is expected to reach our membership just prior to the annual meeting in Richmond, Virginia, which concludes with an optional field trip to Williamsburg, I have decided to focus on sites having to do with historic Virginia gardens and some other relevant material.

- Colonial Williamsburg <http://www.history.org/index.cfm> has several subpages on its site dealing with its gardens including A Williamsburg Perspective on Colonial Gardens <http://www.history.org/almanack/life/garden/garintro.cfm> and Colonial Williamsburg Gardens <http://www.history.org/history/cvland/index.cfm> which includes links to a map, a downloadable brochure, and information on their programs.

Virginia is one of the states hailed as a mother of presidents. As such it is home to the estates of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe who were among the founding fathers of the United States. George Washington’s Mount Vernon <http://www.mountvernon.org/gardens> features a page on his gardens which notes that he was apparently influenced by the works of Batty Langley <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batty_Langley>, the English garden designer whose works remain in Washington’s library. The Founding Father’s Library Consortium <http://mv.ptfsinc.com/cgi-bin/koha/opac-main.pl> contains a searchable catalog of the Mount Vernon libraries and that of Gunston Hall, the home of George Mason <http://gunstonhall.org/george-mason/index.html>.

Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello <http://www.monticello.org/site/house-and-gardens/historic-gardens> garden page has links to subpages describing the flower garden, fruit garden, and vegetable garden as well as the Center for Historic Plants <http://www.monticello.org/site/house-and-gardens/thomas-jefferson-center-historic-plants> established in 1987 to collect, preserve, and distribute historic plant varieties. The University of Virginia <http://www.virginia.edu>, where part of the meeting will be held, was founded by Jefferson and is the current home of the Rare Book School <http://www.rarebookschool.org>. Other nearby sites associated with Jefferson include Virginia’s Natural Bridge <http://www.naturalbridgeva.com> which he at one point bought to preserve and Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest <http://www.poplarforest.org>, his retreat in his later years.

James Madison’s Montpelier <http://www.montpelier.org/mansion-and-grounds/annie-dupont-garden> does not contain a reproduction of his garden which was designed by Bizet, but a restoration of the formal garden installed by Annie Dupont after her husband, William, purchased the property in 1901.

Ashlawn-Highland <http://ashlawnhighland.org/plan-your-visit/explore-ashlawn-highland> is the estate of James Monroe.

Botany Spreads to the Common Man in the Early Republic and Flowers Reappear <http://american-gardenhistory.blogspot.com/2013/05/botany-spreads-to-common-man-in-early.html> is a nicely illustrated article on the rise and fall and rise of the flower garden in America, which then meanders into a discussion of other historical European and American gardens by Barbara Wells Sarudy, the Maryland historian. It is part of a series of blogs headed Early American Gardens which are well worth reading. The full range of Ms. Sarudy’s historical blogging may be traced from the Barbara Wells Sarudy page <http://plus.google.com/101247028128428915771/about> and include a more wide-ranging blog called It’s About Time, individual blogs on seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth century American women and one entitled Early British Public Gardens and Grounds which currently is dealing with Horse Racing in Early America on Public Grounds <http://publicpleasuregarden.blogspot.com/>. They are well worth exploring.


A more general botanical historical source is the Colorado Wildflower Biographies of Scientists and Explorers Honored in the Names of Plants Shown on this Web Site <http://www.swcoloradowildflowers.com/biographies/2000/b000aturalists.htm>. For those interested in the history of knowledge and books, Jeremy Norman, the antiquarian book dealer specializing in medical and scientific texts, currently operating from a store in Novato, CA, has put together an elaborate interactive timeline of the history of knowledge on Jeremy Norman’s BookHistory.net <http://bookhistory.net/?utm_source=Bookhistory.com+mass+email&utm_campaign=Bookhistory.net+email&utm_medium=email&utm_id=85-2500/2011> which is searchable by themes such as archives, book history, organization of information/taxonomy, etc..


### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<td>Dubrovnik, Croatia. 21st EBHL Annual Meeting</td>
<td>May 15-17, 2014</td>
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<td>Vancouver. SLA 2014 Annual Conference</td>
<td>June 8-10, 2014</td>
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<td>Las Vegas. ALA Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>Columbus, Ohio. National Children &amp; Youth Garden Symposium</td>
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<td>Washington, DC. SAA Annual Meeting</td>
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