



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND THE GIRL SCOUT MOTTO

By Charlotte Tancin, CBHL 1st Vice-President
Librarian, Hunt Botanical Institute, Pittsburgh

The Girl Scout motto, "Be Prepared," used to seem corny to me [even when I was a Girl Scout], but I have to say that lessons I have learned in recent years have changed my way of thinking. When I was in library school in 1982, I heard very little about disaster preparedness. It was mentioned briefly in 2 courses.

Several years later Sally Buchanan, a well known library disaster recovery expert, moved to Pittsburgh. My first encounter with her was at an SLA chapter meeting where she was the featured speaker.

We had our usual meeting, exchanging information, talking and laughing over dinner, and then it was time for Sally's presentation. The lights went down, the slides came on, and she talked about various library disasters she had seen, helped with, heard about. We sat there and watched slide after vivid slide of flames shooting out of buildings, scorched books on burned shelves, swollen water-damaged bound serials, mold-covered stacks, mud-covered floors being mopped after sodden rugs had been removed. When the lights came back on, there was total quiet in that room. For me and for many of us there that night, this was our initiation to the concept of "disaster preparedness."

Now our CBHL members have a great opportunity to learn about or brush up on disaster preparedness by attending our upcoming annual meeting. I'm really looking forward to it and I hope you are too. It's good to review the basics of disaster preparedness from time to time, and there are always new issues, new options, new people in the field, new twists on old recovery methods, and new services and supplies to learn about.

In February I had the opportunity to help colleagues in Pittsburgh in the aftermath of two water disasters: one caused by natural flood waters and the other by an indoor sprinkler break. These disasters reminded me that while there are basic disaster recovery concepts, every disaster is different and all present learning opportunities. Having these recent experiences fresh in my mind, I want to put in a plug for taking advantage of the sessions that Barney Lipscomb has set up for us in Fort Worth.

Those Girl Scouts are smart. You just never know.

BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS, FORT WORTH, WELCOMES CBHL MEMBERS
Theme: Emergency Preparedness and Recovery

April 10-12, 1996 CBHL Annual Meeting-and-April 13, 1996 CBHL Saturday Field Trip
In addition to scheduled sessions, the 1996 Annual Meeting offers an opportunity for members to tour the beautifully renovated BRIT buildings which house the Sida editorial offices, the herbarium, classrooms, and an extensive library in two downtown Fort Worth historic buildings. Headquarters for the CBHL Meeting are nearby at the Remington Hotel, 600 Commerce Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060. Hotel reservations: (817)332-9017. Contact Barney Lipscomb at (817) 332-4441/ e-mail: barney@brit.org to request registration materials for the meeting in Fort Worth.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear CBHL member:

By the time this letter appears in print, I will be very close to finishing my year as president of CBHL. I want you to know what a pleasure this term has been, chatting with and working with all of you wonderful CBHL members. A special thanks to those of you who have volunteered to serve on committees. If you are thinking of getting more involved, do consider serving on a committee. You'll get a chance to get to know some marvelous people. And please, please, if you are asked, consider serving on the CBHL Board.

When I was approached, over three and a half years ago, to accept a four year commitment to the CBHL Board, I was initially reluctant to do so. But now, I can tell you that I'm so glad I did. I got to meet some wonderful folks and got a chance to help steer this organization on its course.

So, if you get a phone call, fax or e-mail from a fellow member asking you to give a little of your time, please consider this: you will get back so much in return for your efforts -- the opportunity to work with fun, intelligent, warm people, as well as the opportunity to keep this valuable organization alive and well and moving into the twenty first century.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president. It was my pleasure.

Sincerely,



Janet Evans
President
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
215/625-8261; FAX 215/625-8288
jevans@hslc.org

Jane P. Gates
Secretary
National Agricultural Library
USDA, 10301 Baltimore Blvd.
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351
301/504-5724; FAX 301/504-6409
jgates@nalusda.gov

Charlotte A. Tancin
1st Vice-president
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412/268-7301; FAX 412/268-5677
ct0u@andrew.cmu.edu

John F. Reed
Treasurer
New York Botanical Garden Library
200th Street & Kazimiroff Blvd.
Bronx, NY 10458
718/817-8728; FAX 718/817-8956
jfreed@nybg.org

Nadia Aufderheide
2nd Vice-president
The Holden Arboretum
9500 Sperry Road
Kirtland, OH 44094-5172
216/256-1110; FAX 216/256-1655
holdlib@ohionet.org

Jane B. Cole
Immediate Past-president
Desert Botanical Garden Library
1201 North Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, AZ 85008-3490
602/941-1225; FAX 602/481-8124
adjbc@asuv.inre.asu.edu

ADDRESS CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

Karin Agosta

The Dictionary of Art, 150 5th Avenue, Ste 916, New York, NY 10011, U.S.A.
212/647-0182; FAX 212/647-0290; E-Mail dictart@pipeline.com

Mary Ellen Armentrout

Inniswood Metro Gardens, Phone # addition: 614/823-1164

Kimberly Buck

Native Seeds/SEARCH Library, 1447 E. 8th Street, Tucson, AZ 85719, U.S.A.
520/884-8355; E-Mail buck@u.arizona.edu

Bernadette Callery

Museum Librarian, The Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.
412/622-8870; FAX 412/622-8837; E-mail: calleryb@clpgh.org

Tessa Davies

Bolus Herbarium Library, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7700,
South Africa E-mail: Tessa@uctlib.uct.ac.za

Sharon Duffy

The Dictionary of Art, 150 5th Avenue, Ste 916, New York, NY 10011, U.S.A.
212/647-0182; FAX 212/647-0290; E-Mail dictart@pipeline.com

Blanche Farley

Cherokee Garden Library, 130 West Paces Ferry Road N.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30305

Laurie Hannah

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, E-mail: Lhannah@rain.org

Sally J. Lane

12060 Caminito Rvone, San Diego, CA 92128, U.S.A.
619/675-3744; FAX 800/408-4925; E-Mail slane@wahoo.s.isu.edu

Barney Lipscomb

Botanical Research Institute of Texas
E-mail addition: barney@brit.org

Pamela MacKenzie

78. Cheritan Ave. Toronto, Ontario, M4R 1S6, CANADA, 416/486-1225; FAX 416/484-4306

Elizabeth P. McLean

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 139 Cherry Lane, Wynnewood, PA 19096-1208,
610/642-4196; FAX 610/642-6257

Mrs. Ethel D. Manard

1137 Delachaise Street, New Orleans, LA 70115-2404

Walter Punch

358 Marlborough, Boston, MA 02115, U.S.A., 617/536-6079

John F. Reed

The New York Botanical Garden, FAX # change: 718/817-8956

Kathy Wern

4770 Centerville Road, Apt. 302, White Bear Lake, MN 55127, U.S.A.
612/624-4751; FAX 612/624-9245; E-Mail wernx001@gold.tc.umn.edu

Sally Williams

Publisher/ Editor Garden Literature Press, 398 Columbus Ave., Suite 181, Boston, MA
02116
617/424-1784; fax 617/424-1712

CBHL MEMBER NEWS-WEST

Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT), Fort Worth, Texas

Barney Lipscomb, our 1996 annual meeting host, announces two recent publications in the SIDA, Botanical Miscellany series (SBM), ISSN: 0883-1475:

1) *The El Cielo Biosphere Reserve, Tamaulipas, Mexico: An Annotated Bibliography of the Botanical Literature* by J.D. Perrine and D.L. Gorchov; SBM#12, 1994; 58 pp; 4 b7w figures and line drawings, full color paper cover, 7x10, list \$20, discount \$10.

El Cielo Botanical Reserve lies along the Tropic of Cancer in the southwest corner of the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico. It is of great botanical and ecological interest because it includes the northern limit of tropical deciduous forest in Mexico, one of Mexico's few localities of mesophyll cloud forest, as well as pine and oak forests and desert scrub. The present work includes citations and summaries of 68 journal articles (in Spanish, English, French, and German), 4 doctoral dissertations (English), 4 masters theses (English, Spanish), and 12 other manuscripts (English, Spanish).

2) *Flora de Manantlan: Plantas Vasculares de la Reserva de la Biofera Sierra de Manantlan Jalisco-Colima, Mexico* by J.A. Vasquez G., et al; SBM#13, 1995; 358 pp; 22 maps; 64 b&w and color photos; paper cover, \$45.00. This work provides an account of 2,575 species of flowering plants and ferns in one of Mexico's biologically richest protected areas...This is a thorough and complete description of the rare and endangered elements of this extremely diverse flora and a preliminary listing of the cultivated species useful to the rural population of people who live in this protected area. It should be of enormous value to educators and researchers interested in Mexico's vegetation.

Botanica, Wichita, Kansas

Librarian Amy Kaspar Woolf tells us Botanica is currently developing activity carts for the Garden, designed to help interpret the Garden and inform visitors, especially families with children. Advice or comments from other CBHL members who have activity carts or other on-the-spot interpretive guides or activities in their gardens would be appreciated.

Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri

Librarian Connie Wolf reports that the Missouri Botanical Garden Library catalog is now available on the Internet through Telnnet. It should also be available on World Wide Web some time soon. Anyone who wishes to access the library catalog should email a message to Connie or to the library at <molib@mobot.org>.

Yakima Area Arboretum, Walker Horticultural Library, Yakima, Washington

Cathy Peters and Rose McCarthy have both sadly resigned from the Library. They had a most exciting three years setting up the new library, but in the end ran into management difficulties with the arboretum director.

Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library, University of Washington, Center for Urban Horticulture, Seattle, Washington

The Library has received a \$40,000 grant for 1996 for operating funds from the Pendleton and Elisabeth C. Miller Foundation. In addition, the Foundation awarded a challenge grant to the library for matching funds up to a total of \$10,000. Valerie Easton has been chosen to serve on the newly formed American Horticultural Society Book Awards Committee which will select its first awards in 1997. Steven Lorton, *Sunset Magazine*, is chair.

Berry Botanic Garden, Portland, Oregon

Janice Dodd reports that the Garden has received an educational grant from the Collins Foundation for a multi-media PC which will be housed in the Garden library. This will enable staff to develop programs that will bring the Garden experience to people who are physically unable to walk in the Garden. Another PC will make it possible to computerize the library collection, connect the library to Berry's local area network(LAN), and eventually give Janice email access to the CBHL listserv.

Denver Botanic Garden, Denver, Colorado

Susan C. Eubank, whom many of you know from her tenure as Associate Librarian at the Garden, has been selected to fill the position of Head Librarian that was vacated by the retirement of charter CBHL member/past CBHL president Solange Gignac. Most recently, Susan worked as librarian at the American Alpine Society library in Golden, Colorado.

The Arboretum of Los Angeles County, Arcadia, California

Joan DeFato, Plant Sciences Librarian, reports progress in forming a California Garden History Society. At a meeting on September 23, 1995, at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Arboretum, the California Garden History Society came into being....about 20 people discussed the need, and 30 others expressed interest, with eight of the interested parties librarians. Others were writers, landscape architects, horticulturists, teachers, and students.

At the second meeting, February 18 at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, a new name emerged: *California Garden and Landscape History Society*. A tentative meeting for fall 1996 in San Diego was agreed on, with plans for continuing alternate meetings between northern and southern California.

CBHL was well represented by Joan DeFato (Arboretum of Los Angeles County), Bea Beck (Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden), Janet Eastman (Lotusland), Virginia Gardner (VLT Gardner Botanical Books), and Laurie Hannah (Santa Barbara Botanic Garden) who hosted and chaired the business meeting on February 18...On Saturday some of the attendees toured Lotusland and were hosted for dinner at Virginia Gardner's house/bookstore in Santa Barbara. On Monday there was a tour of the *International Center for Earth Concerns* in Ojai, California.

Boddy Library, Descanso Gardens, La Cañada/Flintridge, California

Yana Ungermann-Marshall, Boddy Library Chair, writes that "Boddy Library is beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel." Although the Descanso Guild Inc. has taken over management of the Gardens, along with many other changes, the Library has managed to stay open and serve the public. "In June we will be seeing a new director and a new Guild president" which may bring them some renewed interest and ability to spend money on new books. The library is totally operated by volunteers. "But we see hope and I think we will survive.. We are tenacious as weeds!"

Strybing Arboretum Society, Helen Crocker Russell Library, San Francisco, CA

Head Librarian Barbara Pitschel is pleased to report that Brian Lym has accepted a permanent, part-time position with the library. In light of Brian's background, the position was upgraded from *Assistant* to *Associate Librarian*. Many of you know Brian from the Annual Meeting in Phoenix and his time at the California Academy of Sciences Library. Since then, Brian has managed the U.S. Forest Service Library at the Pacific Southwest Research Station for several years and has done extensive post-graduate work. He is a skilled and knowledgeable horticulturist, active orchid grower, past board member of the San Francisco Orchid Society, and has been active for many years on the Strybing's Library Committee.

When the Helen Crocker Russell Library embarked on preparing a collections development and management policy a few years ago, many CBHL librarians shared copies of policies and offered advice. The Strybing policy has finally been completed and approved. Any CBHL library that wants one may have one by sending a request to Barbara by email <bphcrl@ix.netcom.com>, phone 415/661-1514, or mail.

Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, Arizona

The Desert Botanical Garden is developing priorities for automating their research collections and has employed Bernadette Callery to assist in the project. Bernadette, Museum Librarian, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, has assisted both The New York Botanical Garden and The Morton Arboretum libraries in planning to automate their collections, prior to taking on this project in Phoenix.

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Santa Barbara, California

Laurie Hannah tells us that *A Flora of Santa Cruz Island* by Steve Junak and others was co-published in 1995 by the Garden and the California Native Plant Society. Laurie offers it by mail from their bookshop for \$24.95 plus postage if you call Gail Milliken at 805/682-4726, extension 113.

The Carlingford Botanic Parkland Inc., Carlingford, New South Wales

Elizabeth Boesel of Carlingford writes to request publicity for the plight of the Lokrum Botanical Gardens, Dubrovnik, Croatia, and the loss of their library. Their plight was brought to her attention during the *4th Botanic Gardens Conservation International Congress* in Perth, Australia, September 1995. The island of Lokrum is not far off the Coatian coast from the city of Dubrovnik, and was heavily damaged. She encloses a letter from Sanja Kovacic at Lokrum requesting help to restore the library:

" Our problem is very complicated, not only because of the war, but also because of unsettled property relations...Now, after the war, we have to restructure possessions; what belongs to the State, Town, or is in private hands. This (botanical garden) in Dubrovnik still belongs to - nobody...maybe you could find some horticultural literature (old books, magazines). Our whole (over 100 years old) library burnt down during the one of Serbs attacks. Today I'm the only employee in the Gardens, finished my studies three years ago (I'm 26) and on my first job I have to start all over again!..." Sanja Kovacic, Lokrum Botanical Gardens, P.O. Box 39, HR-20001, Dubrovnik, Croatia.

-B.M.P.

 CBHL MEMBER NEWS-EAST
Elisabeth Woodburn, Books

1996 marks the 50th anniversary of *Elisabeth Woodburn, Books*, which began operation in 1946 -- a result of Elisabeth's vision that there was indeed a future in

antiquarian horticulture books. CBHL members Bradford Lyon and Joanne Fucello plan to celebrate the anniversary by issuing a catalogue later this year on American horticulture books to honor Elisabeth's special work and achievements in this area.

New articles about The New York Botanical Garden Library and collections:

Fraser, Susan. 1995. Every picture tells a story. *Field Notes--The New York Botanical Garden*. Fall/Winter 1965: 3.

Reed, John F. 1995. The Library of The New York Botanical Garden: a great library in a beautiful Garden. *American Rose* 34(12)[*American Rose Annual 1995*] : 20-22.

The Hunt Institute has published *Catalogue:8th International Exhibition of Botanical Art and Illustration, 13 November to 29 February 1996*. The 178 page catalog was compiled by James White, Autumn Farole, and Sharon Tomasic. It includes 109 beautifully reproduced samples of 87 artists and provides a cumulative artist index for parts 1-8. You can order a copy from the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890 [ISBN 0 913196 63 0 pb] . The cost is \$22 plus shipping and handling.

The Missouri Botanical Garden will host AABGA's annual meeting at the Adams Mark Hotel in St. Louis from May 29 through June 1. Contact AABGA for details.

The American Society of Landscape Architect's Annual Meeting and Exposition will be held from October 19-21 in Los Angeles. For more information, contact ASLA at 4401 Connecticut Ave., N.W. 5th fl. Washington, DC 20008-2369.

Patricia Pilfrey, National Library of Australia, Canberra ACT, 2600, Australia, is trying to locate collections that include original botanical illustrations by Australian artist (Marian) Ellis Rowan. Rowan's illustrations were used in three books written by Alice Lounsbury, published by Frederick Stokes and Co., New York.

The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University will annex 24 acres of city-owned wetlands in Jamaica Plain, marking the Arboretum's first expansion in 101 years. The addition will allow creation of a footpath from the Forest Hill subway station to the Arboretum's South Street gate. The site will also be used in educational programs with Boston schools.

Ann Lubrecht announces that thanks to "The IRS" Harry Lubrecht, President of Lubrecht & Cramer, LTD, is heading up the new division of Lubrecht & Cramer Appraisals. The new service is offered to libraries receiving donations of books, which under IRS rules must be appraised by an expert for the donor to take a tax deduction. Lately Harry has appraised collections for the New York Botanical Garden, the Farlow Herbarium of Harvard University, Colorado State University, Missouri Botanical Garden, and others.

Ann notes that an invaluable tool used for botanical appraisals is Stafleu & Cowan's TL-2 that has expanded with 3 supplements. The entire 10 volume work is available from Lubrecht & Cramer and standing orders are accepted for the supplements in preparation.

The European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Group published its first newsletter in October 1995. The four-page issue contained items of interest about Kew's aspirations for the 21st century, new services at CAB, a description of the German Horticultural Library, and an announcement of the next meeting of EBHL, which will be hosted by Monika Ivarsson Almgren from Goteborg, May 9-10, 1996.

Information is available from EBHL Newsletter editor, Liz de Keyser, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England TW9 3AE; email:E.keyser@rbgkew.org.uk.

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society has signed an agreement with the Metropolitan District Commission for the development of a 40-acre horticultural education and information center. The site will be Elm Bank Reservation in Dover, MA. The MDC has leased the land to MHS for 99 years at \$1 a year. MHS will raise \$6 million over the next 5 years for improvements to the buildings and grounds.

Walter Punch reports that the MHS rare book collection met with disaster a few weeks ago when a water pipe burst above the stacks in the rare book room. Approximately 1,200 volumes were shipped to a contractor in Rochester, N.Y. where they are being freeze-dried. Walter is grateful to the local conservation community for its assistance in managing the disaster. He is also willing to share the wisdom of his experience with those in need. Walter is no longer associated with MHS, but can be reached at the address shown on page 3 of this newsletter.

Katherine Powis, the Horticultural Society of New York, announces that the 3rd Annual Library Benefit will be April 17, 1996 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Mary Brawley Hill, art historian and author of *Grandmother's Garden* will present the lecture. Last year's event, which raised over \$7,000 for the Library, featured CBHL members Bradford Lyon and Joan Fuccello of Elisabeth Woodburn, Books. For additional information contact Katherine Powis at the Society, 212/757-0915; fax 212/246-1207.

The Watkinson Library of Trinity College, Connecticut, will hold its spring exhibition, on 19th century botanical illustration from March 18 until June 28. CBHL member Bernadette Callery will be the guest speaker at the Open House on Wednesday, April 17, at 5 pm in McCook Auditorium. Bernadette's talk is entitled "The Explorer and the Marketplace: Plant Hunting and Introduction in the Nineteenth Century." Alesandra M. Schmidt, 203/297-2267, has additional information.

The Lloyd Library & Museum, Cincinnati, has begun a Friends' drive. Librarian Michael A. Flannery reports that membership benefits include four issues of *Lloydiana*, a 10% discount on all Lloyd bulletins, and free admission to lectures. Membership is \$20 to: Friends, Lloyd Library, 917 Plum St., Cincinnati, OH 45202.

The CBHL Group Access Capability (GAC) logged 169 interlibrary loans among participants in 1995. Interested in joining? Contact Nadia Aufderheide at Corning Library, Holden Arboretum, 9500 Sperry Road, Kirtland, OH 44094-5172.

Barbara Trippel Simmons, formerly librarian at Tower Hill Botanical Garden, Boylston, MA, is now an archivist at Smith College, Northhampton, MA.

L.H. Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University has received a major gift of a palaeobotany library from Dr. Harlan P. Banks, professor emeritus. According to Peter Fraissinet the collection includes 500 monographs, is especially strong in Devonian fossils and spans 170 years of literature. About half the monographs have been cataloged so far.
-J.A.W.

RECENT TITLES IN BOTANICAL AND HORTICULTURAL LITERATURE

Jacobson, Arthur Lee; drawings by Michael C. Lee. 1996. *North American Landscape Trees*. Berkeley: Ten Speed Press. \$39.95.

While national in scope, describing 5,000 exotic and native cold hardy trees, it will

have special interest to gardeners in the Pacific Northwest, as more than 250 color photographs are of trees in the Washington Park Arboretum and around Seattle. The excellent line drawings illustrating fruit, leaf and flower are by northwest American artist Michael Lee, and serve not only to highlight the text but to make such lengthy work less intimidating.

What distinguishes this volume from *Hortus III* or the *RHS Dictionary* is its currency, local flavor, and especially Jacobson's informed and sometimes opinionated writing. He includes fascinating biographical information on the people the plants were named after and such memorable descriptions as, in the case of the osage orange, *Maclura pomifera*, "the weird, brain-like fruits which are inedible, contain milky juice, and repel cockroaches." Arthur did his research at libraries up and down the west coast of the United States and thanks several CBHL librarians in his acknowledgments.

Stevens, David. 1995. *The Garden Design Sourcebook: The Essential Guide to Garden Materials and Structures*. London: Conran Octopus.

Stevens has written an updated, less complete version of *Decorating Eden: A Comprehensive Sourcebook of Classic Garden Details* (E. Wilkinson and M. Henderson, Chronicle Books, 1992). They are both guides to the elements of garden design, with Stevens focusing on more contemporary western style, while the latter title draws on many cultures over centuries. Fences, arbors, patios, pools, furniture and paving are covered in both, with Stevens' title providing many color photos.

Kellaway, Deborah, editor. 1995. *The Virago Book of Women Gardeners*. London: Virago Press.

Opinions, anecdotes, advice and experience are all compiled from women's garden writing over the last hundred years. Travelers, visionaries, designers and weeders are all represented here, from the lovely lady Victorians to Germaine Greer.

- V.E.

INTERNET: NEW SITES

Gopher access

As web pages become simpler to build and more popular, they appear to gradually be making the old trusted gopher client obsolete. One occasionally sees notices of various long-standing gophers which are going to shut down in favor of a web site and new gopher sites which used to bring up five to twenty new sites a day now may only find eight or ten in a week - at least this is what seems to be happening.

While the friendly little rodents are still around, we should take note of PEG, an acronym for Peripatetic Eclectic Gopher <gopher://genome-gopher.stanford.edu:70> which leads to a host of botanical gophers and is a good starting point for those still without access to web pages and graphical interfaces.

Internet Directory for Botany

The 'List of WWW Sites of Interest to Botanists' has been renamed *Internet Directory for Botany - Alphabetical List*, and is accessible via <<http://meena.cc.uregina.ca/~liushus/bio/botany.html>>. 'A Collection of Botany Related URLs' is now the *Internet Directory for Botany - Subject Category List* and can be reached from this address: <<http://meena.cc.uregina.ca/~liushus/bio/subject/botmenu.htm>>. This is by far the richest source for botanical, rather than horticultural, material that I have yet come across and I have only had a chance to sample a few of the subject listings. Both of

these lists are searchable, frequently updated, and there are also pages indicating the latest additions and changes. There are now over 1500 links in the *Internet Directory for Botany*. Additional information, such as additions and corrections to the *Directory*, can be found at <<http://meena.cc.uregina.ca/~liushus/bio/info.html>>.

The subjects covered are: Arboreta and Botanical Gardens; Botanical Societies and International Botanical Organizations; Biologists' Addresses; Botanical Museums, Herbaria, and Natural History Museums; Checklists, Floras, Taxonomical Databases, and Vegetation; Conservation and Threatened Plants; Economic Botany and Ethnobotany; Listservers and Newsgroups; and Vascular Plant Families. A true treasure trove to explore.

Directories and Database Sites

Turning to reference material, a *Directory of Canadian Botanical Gardens and Arboreta* <<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/Biology/CBCN/garden>> provides a check list of these and their addresses. A more extensive web site is that of the Harvard University Herbarium <<http://www.herbaria.harvard.edu>>. It provides information on the various Harvard Botanical Libraries, a web based searcher for HOLLIS PLUS, a Telnet connection to HOLLIS (the main Harvard Libraries catalog), as well as useful public information on the nature and purposes of herbaria. It also provides access to a number of databases including the Harvard University Herbarium type specimen database, the Gray Herbarium card index, an experimental Treebase leading to bibliographical citations for trees and numerous others, as well as a list of the most endangered bryophytes in the world.

A major searchable reference work is the on-line version of *A Synonymized Checklist of the Vascular Flora of the United States, Canada, and Greenland* <http://www.mip.berkeley.edu/bonap/checklist_intro.html> which is a joint effort of the Biota of North America Project of the North Carolina Botanical Garden and the Museums Informatics Project of the University of California, Berkeley. Currently on-line is information from the 1994 edition, but this is to be replaced by information from the 1996 edition by the end of June. It is searchable in a browse mode and a phytogeography and synonymy mode. Using either mode you can enter the common or scientific name of a plant, with the browse mode this will bring up a display of the hierarchical classification for the plant; using the phytogeography and synonymy mode, the result will be a map with sites marked where the plant is found as well as a list of synonyms for the species.

-S.H.J.Jr.

MEMBER NEWS-EAST

News from Jim White is that The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation of Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh will present the exhibition ~Japonica Magnifica~, 85 original botanical paintings and drawings of English artist Raymond Booth, from 1 April through 31 May 1996. The exhibit will also appear at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, Illinois, after it leaves Pittsburgh.

Kris Fenderson and his fellow members of the Education Committee at the John Hay National Wildlife Refuge announce that through the generosity of the Library and staff of the New York Horticultural Society, the nucleus of an important library of about one hundred volumes has returned to the site where it was once housed. In the first half of this century Clarence Hay, (son of American writer and diplomat John Milton Hay), and his wife Alice Appleton Hay, created a series of extraordinary gardens in their summer estate in Newbury, N.H. Their passion for gardening also

included collecting many of the classic reference works on roses, garden design, and growing alpine plants.

When Alice Hay died in the late 1980s, the library was bequeathed to the New York Horticultural Society. Since then, however, the former home and gardens have become a major natural history and horticultural resource for the state of New Hampshire. To have the volumes back, including Clarence Hay's notes and annotations, is an exciting and invaluable resource in authenticating the plants and designs made by Hay. The John Hay National Wildlife Refuge is located in Newbury, NH on the shores of Lake Sunapee. The grounds and gardens are open to the public during the summer months. For information call 603/763-4789. -J.A.W.

BOTANICAL COLLECTIONS: CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

TIPS

I suspect that many librarians have faced the nightmare of discovering that an exquisite plate has been quietly and secretly removed from one of their treasured publications. As a conservator, I am certainly not the person to give any advice on what to do upon making such a discovery. However, there is one area that gives me enough concern that I'd like to offer a few words of caution.

Very likely each librarian will know particular identifying "marks" on valuable materials in his/her collection. I would suggest not making such information publicly available. This information would, of course, be the librarian's way of proving the library's ownership, should the plate be found.

Perhaps just as important is the fact that the "thief" would then know exactly what identifier to remove, cover up, or change. There are people who are very good at removing a bookseller's label, replacing a missing page corner, obliterating a signature, or flattening an embossed seal. Although the thief might figure some of these things out on his/her own, it would probably be better not to give him/her any help.

REFERENCES

Photocopying of Library and Archive Materials. National Preservation Office, The British Library, London. 1994.

This pamphlet has useful information (and charming and humorous illustrations). It may be had free of charge by writing:

National Preservation Office
The British Library, Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3D6, ENGLAND FAX: 01-71-412-7796

Don't be discouraged if it takes a while to arrive--it does come eventually, and the price is right.

Gaylord Preservation Pathfinder, Pamphlet No.4 "An Introduction to Book Repair," Gaylord Bros., Syracuse, New York. 1995.

In the July 1994 issue of the CBHL Newsletter I listed this series of pamphlets. Number 4 has recently become available and can be ordered free of charge by calling 1-800-428-3631. My information says to order the pamphlets by number.

QUESTIONS

What should be used to keep the pages of a book open and flat when the book is on exhibit?

Polyester or polyethylene straps should be used. They are both inert, clear materials. You can cut Mylar (polyester film) into strips yourself, but this is a nuisance to do. The edges of Mylar are also quite stiff and even a bit sharp, risking damage to page edges. A softer polyethylene strap is available in 100' rolls in three different widths (3/16", 3/8", and 2") from:

Benchmark
PO Box 214
Rosemont, New Jersey 08556 609/397-1131; FAX 609/397-1159

Benchmark is a small company which primarily carries supplies for exhibiting books and artifacts. The people are very pleasant to deal with and will send you their catalog upon request.

A few points to remember when strapping book pages open are:

- Pages with fragile paper should never be strapped down.
- Let the page "tell" you how much strain to put on it without causing damage.
- Generally try to bring the strap around the cover of the book, thus causing less strain on the page.
- If the page is somewhat weak, slip a piece of card stock, cut very slightly longer than the page, underneath the page to be exhibited; this will keep the pressure of the strap on the card stock, rather than the page itself.
- The two ends of the strap can be brought together with self-adhesive tape, but remember that if your materials will be on exhibit during a hot, humid period, the adhesive is likely to "ooze" beyond the edges of the tape and cause damage to materials on exhibit. To avoid this problem, try slipping the tape BETWEEN the two ends of the strap and well inside the edges of the strap. Double-sided tape is useful for this purpose.

—J.A.R.

Note: In the *CBHL Newsletter* Number 61, February 1996, the address for TALAS, archival supplies company, was inadvertently omitted. That address is: TALAS, 568 Broadway, New York, NY 10012-9989, phone 212/219-0770.

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