Annual Meeting Evaluation Summary

DOUGLAS HOLLAND, CURATOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

As those of you who attended the meeting know, we had a slight problem with the mail service and the timely arrival of the evaluation forms. The forms I mailed to Chuck a week before the meeting finally arrived in Pittsburgh, about two weeks after the meeting! So despite the reprinting and late delivery of the forms to the meeting attendees, we had 41 evaluations returned. That is 59% of the 70 attendees at the meeting. The overwhelming number of comments and general feeling of the results were that this was a really interesting and well-run conference.

Business meetings

The vast majority of respondents felt that the topics of the business meeting and the time allotted for them was just fine. There were a couple of comments indicating that the length of the business meetings could and should be made shorter with one suggestion of publishing the Committee Reports in the newsletter rather than reading them at the meeting.

One entire session of this year’s business meeting was devoted to presenting the changes in the bylaws. The majority of those who responded felt the time allotted to this was “about right.” One who felt it was too short commented that it was a bit rushed and there was not time to comment on small things or ask questions.

Programs

Strictly by the numbers, the most popular event was the trip to Preservation Technologies. 34 of the 39 who rated this event gave it a number one, with comments such as “So interesting” and “Found this visit very informative, learned a lot and enjoyed seeing the enthusiastic staff.” The popularity of this program was closely followed by the topical program on “Exhibitions.” Though the rating numbers were not as high, there were many positive comments about the talk by Irene Jacob and tour of the Rodef Shalom Biblical Botanic Garden. There were also many encouraging comments about the large number and high quality of presentations by CBHL members. Also of note was the number of positive comments about the keynote speaker Stephanie Flom on “Persephone’s Gardens,” including “the perfect after dinner speaker” and “Really Great!”

Facilities

The general meeting facilities were almost unanimously rated “Excellent.” The meals and breaks were evenly split between “excellent” and “good” with a few comments on the morning continental breakfasts, suggesting both not having them at all, and having more “healthy” foods. There were several comments about the banquet. Though folks enjoyed themselves, many felt that the food and service were not up to the quality of the rest of the meeting. One complaint mentioned several times was the lack of wine at the banquet.

Everyone agreed that the hotel and dorm facilities were either “excellent” or “good.” One omission Yours Truly made on the form was forgetting to separate the questions for dorm and hotel accommodations. Ten people were clever enough to scratch out “hotel” and write in “dorm” to let me know which they were rating.

Post Conference Tour

Despite a lost bus driver and a light rain shower at Falling Water House, 13 out of 14 responses gave the post conference tour their highest rating. One person did feel the bus ride verged on being a bit too long at almost two hours in each direction.

It was unanimous, the open house reception at Bernadette and Joe’s was rated #1 by 10 out of 10. Thanks to them both for such a hospitable and wonderful occasion.

Please visit the CHBL website member-only section to see the complete evaluation results and comments. Thank you all for you input and ideas. Next year’s meeting planners will take all comments into consideration.

CBHL Distribution List

Members are encouraged to use the distribution list to keep in touch and discuss aspects of library service as well as other topics of interest to all concerned with the literature of botany and horticulture. To subscribe contact Bernadette Callery in Pittsburgh at: <bcallery@flounder.com>.
From the President
LAURIE HANNAH, CBHL PRESIDENT
SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

Warm greetings,

Summer has arrived and it is again a time of transition. For some, this will be the start of a new fiscal year. Having recently returned from an idea-packed, event-full annual meeting in Pittsburgh, I have numerous items to follow up on and new ideas to try in my own library. I always feel so motivated after a CBHL meeting! On the other hand, summer is also a time to recharge one’s batteries. Many of you will be taking well-deserved vacations and slowing down the pace in your lives for a little while. However you do this, either through new discoveries or by rest and relaxation, I hope you will find yourself energized and renewed, as exciting new possibilities in CBHL await you.

This year, there will be several extraordinary opportunities to become involved at various levels of governing CBHL. Our Treasurer, Mary Ellen Armentrout, will be finishing a five-year term and will step down in June, 2005. Similarly, Secretary Chuck Tancin would be interested to know if other members would like to become Secretary of CBHL in 2005 or 2006, as she has been in this position for over five years as well. Both women would be happy to discuss the job requirements with anyone interested. The elected board positions are a great way to contribute to CBHL on a larger level but do require a significant yearly commitment to attend the annual meeting and midyear board meeting (although CBHL will pay for travel expenses to the fall board meeting, but not hotel or food costs), in addition to ongoing work throughout the year. And if you haven’t heard it enough already, it is a great honor and lots of fun to be a board member with such stellar personalities as CBHL members. If you are interested in either of these positions, don’t hesitate to let Judy Warnement, Chair of the Nominating Committee, know, as the committee will have its work cut out for them in the next year!

Finally, there are several new committee changes to report. At our annual meeting, a new Archives Committee was created through the Steering Committee to oversee and assist in the collecting of CBHL documents and memorabilia, kept by CBHL Archivist Susan Fraser. In addition to Susan and several board members, David Lane, Steering Committee Chair and member-at-large Sheila Connor will join the committee. Gretchen Wade and Brian Thompson have joined the Annual Literature Award Committee for four-year terms. We welcome and thank these members for their generous gift of time and hard work in CBHL.

Opportunities abound! Get involved!

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The quarterly Newsletter is sent by mail to all current members of CBHL. Submissions to the Newsletter are welcome. The schedule for 2004 is: February (Copy due 1/15), May (Copy due 4/15), and August (Copy due 7/15) November (10/15). Publications Committee Chair, Susan Eubank <Susan_Eubank@nps.gov>

Newsletter Editor, Leora Siegel <lsiegel@chicagobotanic.org>
Calendar of Upcoming Events


CBHL Board of Directors

Laurie Hannah, President, 2004-2005 Librarian
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
1212 Mission Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, California 93015
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805-682-4726

Douglas Holland, First Vice-President Curator of Library Services & Technology Missouri Botanical Garden Library
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St. Louis, Missouri 63110
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314-577-0842

Susan Fraser, Second Vice President Director
LuEsther T. Mertz Library
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718-817-8879

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671-496-1025

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Mary Ellen Armentrout, Treasurer
Library Manager
Dr. Joseph M. Strong Medical Library
630 East River Street
Elyria, Ohio 44035
<marmentrout@emhrhs.org>
440-324-7588

Tree ferns conjure up images of dinosaurs, and with good reason. The extensive fossil record indicates they were around long before and, obviously, long after the age of dinosaurs. Tree ferns also evoke the image of lush jungles. This book makes it clear that many of these plants will survive in gardens that don’t meet your normal jungle conditions.

Mark Large has authored many fern publications and has acted as botanical consultant for the television series Walking with Dinosaurs. He is a botany professor and heads the School of Landscape and Plant Studies at UNITEC Institute of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand. Co-author John Braggins taught botany at the University of Auckland for more than thirty years, publishing extensively (and serving as Mark’s dissertation supervisor), and is now a botanical consultant based in Auckland.

The jacket blurb reads, “This volume is the source of information on the living tree ferns.” I would not disagree. Large and Braggins offer up a wealth of information on these fascinating plants. The bulk of the volume (250 pp.) describes the hundreds of species of the two main families (Cyatheaceae and Dicksoniaceae), followed by four families of tree fern-like plants. Each species description includes the author name and date, taxonomic synonyms, common names (if any—English and other), botanical description, distribution and habitat, the person commemorated by the specific epithet (if any), and other pertinent information. As with many groups of plants, the taxonomy of tree ferns is often a quagmire, with more research being needed. Large and Braggins give us the latest updates, indicating molecular work being done on particular species.

The introduction discusses the botany of these plants in very layman-like terms, as well as the distribution, evolution, conservation, and uses (e.g., carvings and embalming compounds). The chapter on cultivation and propagation includes information on landscaping uses. This, together with an appendix listing which species do well in which conditions, will whet the appetite of many a gardener. Also included are a list of ferns by geographic region, a glossary, bibliography, and index.

The sixty pages of color photographs, many of them remarkable close-ups, add immensely to the book’s value. The foreword by David Mabberley aptly describes Tree Ferns as a “scientifically accurate yet accessible book.”

[Anyone interested in reviewing botanical or horticultural books for the newsletter, please contact me. If there is a particular book you would like to see reviewed here, please let me know! – Kathy Allen, <kallen@umn.edu>, 612 624-4751]
The Spanish Flora is a fascinating collection of bird species and their sparkling plumage, incredibly small dimensions, and aerial expertise. Visitors can learn about 16 North American hummingbird species and their sparkling plumage, incredibly small dimensions, and aerial expertise.

**Larry Currie, California Academy of Sciences Library, San Francisco**

By the time you read this, the California Academy of Sciences Library will have moved its entire collection from its home in Golden Gate Park to temporary quarters at 875 Howard Street in downtown San Francisco. The 210,000 volume collection was moved over a period of about 15 weeks and also entailed the merging of eight departmental library collections into a single Main Library and a Naturalist Center on the public exhibit floor. The temporary museum on Howard Street had its grand opening on June 19th with a relocated aquarium as well as exhibits devoted to the subjects of ants and astrobiology. The Academy and its Library will return to Golden Gate Park in 2008 in a new facility designed by Pritzker Prize winning architect Renzo Piano.

**From the Chicago Botanic Garden Library**

The Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Dominican University in River Forest (IL) selected Edward J. Valauskas as Follett Chair and Visiting Associate Professor in the School.

Endowed in 2001, the chair was established by Ross Follett, president and CEO of Follett Corporation, and is one of only four in the field of library and information science in North America. The appointment as Follett Chair is for one year, renewable for up to three years.

Edward has been Senior Fellow in the School, teaching a variety of courses, including Reference Sources in the Sciences, History of the Book, Internet Fundamentals and Design, Web Design, Internet Publishing, and Information Policy. In addition to teaching these courses, he will develop new courses for students on scholarly communication. Edward has been Visiting Professor at the International Centre for Information Management Systems and Services at Copernicus University in Torun, Poland; Guest Lecturer at the School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas; and, Guest Instructor at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Currently Manager of the Library at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Edward will become Curator of Rare Books at the Library of the Garden, and will continue to edit the Library’s online review journal, *Current Books on Gardening and Botany*. He is also Chief Editor of *First Monday*, one of the first Internet-based, peer-review journals solely about the Internet. Since its start in May 1996, *First Monday* has published 526 papers in 96 issues; these papers were written by 626 different authors. In the year 2003, users from 816,912 distinct hosts around the world downloaded 5,385,649 contributions published in *First Monday*. *First Monday* is recognized as one of the leading journals about the Internet; Clifford internet elements have been completed. Of particular note will be a large study table in the reading lounge created by Urban Hardwoods, a Seattle based company that uses urban trees removed because of disease or construction for the crafting of fine furniture. The purchase of all furnishings were made possible by the successful efforts of the Northwest Horticultural Society to raise $200,000 for their Furnish the Miller Library Fund.

**Stephen Brueggerhoff, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin, Texas**

The Wildflower Center will host the Texas Plant Conservation Conference on September 15 – 17, 2004. This conference brings together private landowners, botanists, professionals, and academics working with Texas’ rare and endangered plant species from all regions of the state. This year speakers will discuss the global, national, and regional status of plant conservation. For more information, visit www.wildflower.org/?nd=tpcc.

The Center’s Native Plant Information Network is now providing an on-line service for answers to plant related inquiries to our national audience. Services include an online form for inquiry submission, as well as dynamic fields enabling keyword and topic searches through our database regarding frequently asked questions. For more information about this service visit www.wildflower2.org and choose the “Ask the Expert” link.

The Wildflower Center will be hosting the exhibit Hummingbirds: Jewels in the Sky from September 28 to October 31, 2004 featuring the finest high-speed, micro-sharp photographs of the tiniest birds in the United States. The exhibit is the work of husband and wife team Robert A. Tyrrell and Esther Tyrrell, who have traveled more than 80,000 miles across North and Central America photographing and studying hummingbirds. Visitors can learn about 16 North American hummingbird species and their sparkling plumage, incredibly small dimensions, and aerial expertise.

**Edward has been Senior Fellow in the School, teaching a variety of courses, including Reference Sources in the Sciences, History of the Book, Internet Fundamentals and Design, Web Design, Internet Publishing, and Information Policy. In addition to teaching these courses, he will develop new courses for students on scholarly communication. Edward has been Visiting Professor at the International Centre for Information Management Systems and Services at Copernicus University in Torun, Poland; Guest Lecturer at the School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas; and, Guest Instructor at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.**
CBHL Members’ News, cont.

Lynch, Executive Director of the Coalition of Networked Information, called First Monday a “phenomenon.”

Member of the Council of Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, American Library Association, Palaeontological Association (UK), Palaeontological Society (US), Geochemical Society, Caxton Club, and Grolier Club, Edward is the author of several books about the Internet and a wide variety of papers and articles in magazines, journals, and newspapers.


Since December 2003 we have been cataloging the rare print collection (ca. 9,500 items) in the Suzette Morton Davidson Special Collections of the Morton Arboretum. The Library’s print collection currently is used primarily by students in classes that are part of the Certificate Program in Botanical Art and Illustration and by the library in exhibits. Pomegranate Communications have printed both a desk calendar for 2005 with over 20 images of paintings by Barbara Regina Dietzsch and a set of four notecards, distributed to Pomegranate’s clientele. The Morton Arboretum owns 72 watercolors by this remarkable 18th-century Nuremberg artist. The 2005 calendars were so popular with dealers that Pomegranate has asked us to give them the rest of the 39 images to use for a 2006 calendar.

The catalog project is funded by an LSTA grant from IMLS, administered within Illinois by the Illinois State Library under the Office of the Secretary of State. With the grant we hired one full time project director (Carol Line) and four part time catalogers. They work closely with Rita Hassert, Technical Services Librarian, and with Nancy Hart Stieber, Curator of the Rare Prints & Staff Artist. Like all LSTA grants, ours expires on August 15th, at which time all the contracted catalogers will cease to work on the project. However, Peter Wang, rare book cataloger for almost 20 years and general librarian for an additional 13 years, retired on April 2nd. We hope to announce a replacement for him by August 15th. That person will continue cataloging the prints that remain to be done and will also assume the duties of the main reference librarian. Rita remains technical services librarian adding the cataloging of rare books to that of current acquisitions.

By September, the online catalog will be accessible for searching the circulating collection, a large segment of the rare book and rare print collection, and many of the cataloged landscape plans of O. C. Simonds and Jens Jensen. Our catalog uses Innovative Interfaces software and is housed at SWAN (System Wide Automated Network) of the Metropolitan Library System of northeastern Illinois (MLIS). The URL is http://swan.sls.lib.il.us/search~S99 and may be accessed via the Arboretum’s website under the general information section of the Sterling Morton Library.

From Robin Everly at the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington D.C.

The U.S. National Arboretum now has two new sections on our web site. If you won’t be able to visit our National Bonsai and Penjing Museum in person, you can now visit it virtually, by checking out our bonsai virtual tour web pages at http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/collections/VirtualTours/index.html. We also have expanded information on our web site about our herbarium. Go to http://www.usna.usda.gov/Research/Herbarium/index.html to learn more about our herbarium and other projects ongoing at the U.S. National Arboretum.
On the Web: CBHL Annual Meeting Sights, Taxonomic Information, Weird Food, and the Victoria Water Lily

STANLEY JOHNSTON
THE HOLDEN ARBORETUM
KIRTLAND, OHIO

For those of you who missed this year’s annual meeting, or those of you who attended and just want to reminisce, the following sites provide views of some of our program highlights. Selections from the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation’s art exhibit of botanical watercolors from the National Herbarium Nederland which was on when we were there, as well as samples from coming exhibits, can be found at: huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/HIBD/Exhibitions/Exhibitions.html.

Our Wednesday activities included a trip to Preservation Technologies, Inc., in Cranberry, PA, www.ptlp.com where we were treated to an exhibition of the Bookkeeper Deacidification Process which is also demonstrated on their site. Afterwards we were treated by the firm to a reception at the Andy Warhol Museum www.warhol.org.

Thursday amid some rain we were able to tour Rodef Shalom Biblical Garden. Although www.rodefshalom.org/biblicalgarden.asp is the official site, a better description of the garden including a picture Irene Jacob, is provided in a column by Suzanne Martinson, the food editor of the Post-Gazette www.post-gazette.com/food/20030622suz0622fnp3.asp.

Friday was marked by a visit to Phipps Conservatory which can be visited online at www.phipps.conservatory.org/index1.html. The day concluded with the banquet at the hotel with the keynote address by Stephanie Flom which discussed the Persephone Project moncon.greenmuseum.org/papers/persephone1.html, her Mayfly projects telstar.ote.cmu.edu/envir0n/main/flom.html, and Magic Penny Gardens www.persephoneproject.org/MagicPennyGardens.html.

One of the more interesting aspects of the Phipps Conservatory was the former home of the Victoria water lily which is now an indoor pond where visitors can play with various lighting and fountain effects. Although the Victoria can no longer be found at the Phipps, it can be found on the web at a handsome site called the Victoria Index www.victoria-adventure.org/victoria/victoria_index.htm compiled by Kit and Ben Knott, a dressage horse trainer and a family physician, who have become Victoria enthusiasts. The site discusses the two varieties of giant water lilies. It has an image gallery of them, information on identifying the varieties and on cultivating them, a list of gardens that display them, and a wonderful article on the history of the plant by Kit with clickable links in the article and links to a number of historical articles on the plant at the end.

ITIS: Integrated Taxonomic Information System www.itis.usda.gov is a taxonomic verification system searchable by common name, scientific name, and taxonomic serial number covering the animal, plant, fungal, and monera (bacteria) kingdoms.

On the lighter side, befitting Summer, Flickclip.com www.flickclip.com provides suggestions of major movies containing sequences which can be shown to science classes to promote discussion of various points – such as the giant bee sequence in Honey I Shrunk the Kids! to interest the students in pollination. Its sister site, Bad biology www.flickclip.com/badindex.htm provides examples of the careless use of biology in movies such as fully leaved trees and leaved ivy at Wrigley Field in Chicago on what is supposed to be an April day in Ferris Bueller’s Day Off.

Finally, Weird Foods: Vegetable www.weird-food.com/weird-food-vegetable.html provides an arbitrary list of what the author regards as odd foods including poke, gingko seeds, fiddlehead fern food poisoning, and poutines.
Minutes of the Business Meeting at the 36th Annual Meeting of CBHL, held in the Giant Eagle Auditorium at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

First session: June 16, 2004

At 11:00 a.m., Judy Warnement opened the meeting and called roll. Five Board members were present: President Judy Warnement (Harvard Botany Libraries), Second Vice-President Doug Holland (Missouri Botanical Garden), Past President Barbara Pitschel (Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens), Treasurer Mary Ellen Armentrout (Dr. Joseph M. Strong Medical Library), Secretary Charlotte “Chuck” Tancin (Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation). First Vice President Laurie Hannah (Santa Barbara Botanic Garden), had a prior commitment and so would not arrive in Pittsburgh until late that evening.

Judy introduced Suzi Teghtmeyer (Paul Evans Library of Fruit Science) as this year’s meeting parliamentarian, and thanked John Reed (New York Botanical Garden, retired) for his advice on using the 10th edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised as the official parliamentary authority for CBHL. Judy reminded the attendees of a few basic rules of parliamentary procedure, and then determined that a quorum was present. She asked for approval of the minutes of last year’s business meeting, which had been published in issue no. 90 of the CBHL Newsletter in August 2003. She reminded those assembled that Chuck Tancin had sent notes to the CBHL online distribution list asking members to please review those minutes and to be prepared to approve them or to suggest needed corrections. John Reed moved that the minutes be approved, Kathy Fescemyer (Pennsylvania Horticultural Society) seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Chuck Tancin gave the Secretary’s report. Ninety-three ballots were received for the election of officers, the votes were tallied and verified by the Treasurer, and the results reported to Barbara Pitschel, chair of the Nominating Committee. Fifty-five proxies were also received, the count verified by the Treasurer, and the proxies were in hand for this week’s meetings.

The CBHL Procedures Manual has been updated, and so has the Meeting Manual. Copies of both have been distributed to Board members, and the Meeting Manual has also been sent to Janet Evans and Jane Alling (both of Pennsylvania Horticultural Society), next year’s meeting hosts. Electronic copies have been sent to webmaster Celine Arseneault (Montreal Botanical Garden) for the CBHL website, and will be posted on the members only section of the site. Also, the Board has agreed on a shift in duties, so that now the First Vice President will maintain the Meeting Manual.

Since last year’s Business Meeting, the Board has passed one resolution, which was read for the record:

At the October 25, 2003, mid-year Board meeting at Hunt Institute in Pittsburgh, the Board discussed what might constitute reasonable guidelines for the gift that is given with the Charles Robert Long Award, and unanimously approved this resolution:

In an effort to ensure the long-term stability of the Charles Robert Long Award fund, the Board RESOLVES THAT all donations will be applied to the principal of the fund. The amount of the award will not exceed the interest earned by the fund in the previous 12 months. The committee may recommend that additional funds be allocated from other sources, subject to approval by the Board. The award may be presented in the form of an object, a donation, or a cash award.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Mary Ellen Armentrout was asked to give the Treasurer’s report. She has moved the accounts from Ohio Savings in Cleveland to Farmer Savings in Wellington, and has switched the funds into a money market account. Mary Ellen also noted that there has been no official audit yet, because there is a figure of $1,400 still to be accounted for. The audit will be completed by the end of the summer and the results will be published in the Newsletter. Mary Ellen reported figures for 2003, correcting those reported at the May 25th Board meeting. Income (including dues and gifts) totaled $18,916, and expenses totaled $17,280. Our balance at the end of the year in the general fund was $36,695. The Founders’ Fund Travel Fellowship account had a closing balance of 14,083.25. The Charles Robert Long Award account had a closing balance of 13,856.54. The Annual Literature Award account had an ending balance of $1,346.88.
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Doug Holland reported that meeting evaluation forms were prepared in advance and sent to Hunt Institute in time for the meeting, but somehow they have been lost in the mail. They will be distributed to attendees as soon as possible, using new photocopies if necessary.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Judy read Laurie Hannah’s report. Laurie liaised with the 2004 annual meeting hosts, a light duty since the head of the planning committee, Chuck Tancin, is also a member of the Board. Laurie was also liaison to the Annual Literature Award and Resource Sharing committees. She helped to proofread the CBHL Procedures Manual and the members-only portion of the CBHL website, and she updated the GAC directory.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Judy Warnement reported that she had written a number of letters of support on behalf of CBHL in the past year. In addition to her work with the CBHL Board, she also was an ex officio member of all of the committees, including the Bylaws Committee.

PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Barbara Pitschel reported that she chaired the Nominating Committee in the past year, was a member of the Bylaws Committee, and functioned as Board liaison to both.

EBHL REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT: Gina Douglas (Linnean Society of London) attended this year’s meeting both as a representative of the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Group (EBHL) and an affiliate member of CBHL. She reported that she is glad that there is a good connection between CBHL and EBHL, and that the potential for information sharing between the two groups is enormous and should be used whenever possible. She also noted that EBHL would welcome news of CBHL members’ exhibits and other events and developments, and that EBHL Secretary John Flanagan (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) will be happy to act as a link to distribute information of relevance to both groups.

The 2004 EBHL meeting was attended by 41 people from 11 countries and 23 institutions. The next EBHL meeting will actually be a joint meeting with whatever CBHL members attend the International Botanical Congress in Vienna in 2005. The 2006 EBHL meeting will be held in Tallin, Estonia.

CBHL REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT ON EBHL MEETING: Susan Fraser (New York Botanical Garden) represented CBHL at the EBHL annual meeting in Dublin, Ireland on May 13-14, 2004. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to do so, and noted that she enjoyed the meeting very much, adding that everyone is grateful for the connections between our groups and for the utility of Internet networking.

LINNAEUS LINK PROJECT UPDATE: Gina Douglas gave an update on the Linnaeus Link Project. A group representing several libraries with large Linnaean collections is working to build a mass catalog of Linnaean materials on the web. Chuck Tancin has been posting results from the survey of Linnaean collections on the Linnaeus Link website, hosted at the Natural History Museum in London. Cathy Broad (Linnean Society of London) is doing cataloging for the project, working with the Natural History Museum’s collection. A digitizing project being considered will require more funding.

FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES: People who are attending their first CBHL annual meeting were asked to stand and introduce themselves. The following did so:

Jamie Shriver (Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation)
Marie Long (New York Botanical Garden)
Gretchen Wade (Harvard Botany Libraries)
Carol Brittacher (University of Washington)
Hope Long (Birmingham Botanical Gardens)
Elsa Althen (University of Wisconsin, Madison)
Jan MacDougal
Carol Traveny (University of Pittsburgh)
Gina Douglas (Linnean Society of London)
Suzanne Thomas (Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Garden)

A few others were also attending for the first time but were not present during
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL LITERATURE AWARD - Chair Pat Jonas (Brooklyn Botanic Garden) reported that the 2004 Annual Literature Award was announced on June 15, and presented in the General Interest category to *Gardens and Historic Plants of the Antebellum South* by James R. Cothran, published by the University of South Carolina Press; and in the Technical Interest category to *Slipper Orchids of Vietnam* by Leonid Averynov, Phillip Cribb, Phan Ke Loc and Nguyen Tien Hiep, published by Timber Press.

The committee sent letters to over 200 publishers to solicit suggestions, and 20% responded. Initially the committee had a list of 39 titles suggested by CBHL members (35 new, and 4 repeated from last year), from which review copies of 27 titles were received from publishers and evaluated by the committee in a lengthy review process. Pat noted that the General Interest winner was not an original member nomination, but was brought to the committee’s attention by the publisher and then was nominated by a member, which shows that the system that the committee has developed is working. The Technical winner was an original member nomination. Pat emphasized the importance of member input and nominations, and also thanked CBHL webmaster Celine Arseneault and her staff for getting information about the nominated titles up on the website.

Pat noted that they had 35 new nominations, but submitted by only 12 CBHL members. The committee would like to see nearly universal participation by CBHL members. With half of the year over, they encourage members to begin thinking now about works to nominate for next year’s award. For anyone who has not nominated a work before, it is very easy: ask a committee member if you have questions.

The committee has now designed slit cards for the winning titles, to help members display and publicize the winners, and the design will soon be put on the web for members to download and print onto card stock. The committee is also going to produce seals for publishers to affix to winning publications.

On behalf of the hardworking committee, Pat recognized Celine’s work in maintaining the beautiful Award pages of the CBHL website and for making sure that all nominated titles flow through to Pat as chair of the committee. She also thanked former chair Kathy Allen (Magrath Library, University of Minnesota), who is going off the committee this year, for all of her work in the crucial first six years of the life of the committee.

AUDIT - Chair Brad Lyon (Elisabeth Woodburn, Books) reported that the committee has requested more detailed information from Mary Ellen Armentrout regarding transfers and deposits, and so the committee’s report will be postponed until the end of the summer.

CHARLES ROBERT LONG AWARD - Acting chair Rita Hassert (Morton Arboretum) noted that the Award was founded to honor outstanding contribution and meritorious service to CBHL or to the field of botanical and horticultural libraries and literature. It is the highest individual honor that CBHL bestows. The Award was inspired by memories of former director of the library at the New York Botanical Garden Charles Robert (Bob) Long’s commitment to professional development, his support of high library and bibliographic standards, his interest in the collaborative efforts of libraries, and his continued search for professionalism in librarianship. The Award is given from time to time, and has only been awarded ten times since it was begun. Rita named all ten recipients and gave the dates of their awards. Finally, she reported that the committee will not be giving the Award this year.

FOUNDERS’ FUND TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP - Chair Judy Warnement reported that Carol Brittnacher from Seattle is the winner of this year’s Fellowship award. The Board has worked to publicize this award, and this year we had four applicants. The winner was chosen from among those four by blind lottery. The award consists of $500 and a waived registration fee for one person to attend the meeting who does not have adequate institutional support to do so.

NOMINATING - Chair Barbara Pitschel praised her “excellent and effective” committee: Stan Johnston (Holden Arboretum),
Leora Siegel (Chicago Botanic Garden), and Connie Wolf (Missouri Botanical Garden, retired). They presented two candidates, Gayle Bradbeer (Distance Education Librarian, Auraria Library, serving Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State College of Denver, University of Colorado at Denver) and Susan Fraser (Director, LuEsther T. Mertz Library, New York Botanical Garden). Susan has been elected the new CBHL Second Vice President. Gayle was thanked for her candidacy and her unfailing willingness to help in many ways to implement the work of CBHL.

Barbara noted that the committee developed a fair, unbiased, and systematic procedure for its work that will be written up for the procedures manual as a sample of how one committee approached the task of selecting candidates to run for office.

PUBLICATIONS - Chair Susan Eubank (Grand Canyon National Park Library) thanked her committee members, and thanked Chris Robson (Harvard Botany Libraries) for getting an ISSN for the electronic version of the Newsletter. Susan noted that the committee produces CBHL’s print publications: the Newsletter, the Membership Directory and the brochure that describes the organization. In the past year, $4,075.01 was spent on publications.

Christine Liebson (Herb Society of America) was thanked for her work as Newsletter editor. Now Christine would like to turn her energies to other things, and so the work of producing the Newsletter is being handled by several people. Harvard Botany Libraries staff will take care of the printing and mailing; Christine will continue with the desktop publishing; Leora Siegel will do the information and text gathering; Laurie Hannah will be added to the small group of proofreaders.

Susan also thanked Lisa DeCesare (Harvard Botany Libraries) for producing the Membership Directory, and she noted that many members are not filling in all of the blanks on membership renewal forms. It would be helpful to CBHL if everyone submitting a new or renewing membership form would fill in the form in the interest of completeness and consistency of data in the membership database.

The committee is also working with the Electronic Communications Committee, both in terms of having an electronic version of the Newsletter accessible on the CBHL website and also in working together to identify a new web host server. And the committee is working with the Public Relations Committee to produce a new brochure for publicizing CBHL.

Board liaison Mary Ellen Armentrout commented that the Audit Committee feels that the Publications Committee’s expenses are normal and that this committee is doing a good job on saving money.

Judy Warnement added that in last month’s teleconference Board meeting, we learned who has been working on the Newsletter scanning, namely Gayle Bradbeer and Kathleen Fisher (Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens). Attendees were encouraged to contribute back issues of the Newsletter to this project, with the caveat that the copies would likely be destroyed in the process.

Finally, Susan noted that she still needs some reporters to write about the annual meeting for the Newsletter.

At 11:54 a.m. Judy recessed the business meeting until Thursday, June 17th at 11:10 a.m. in the Giant Eagle Auditorium.
The third session of the business meeting was called to order by Judy Warnement on Friday, June 18, 2004 at 10:42 a.m. in the Giant Eagle Auditorium in Baker Hall, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA.

**AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS** - Chair Stan Johnston reported that within the next year the committee expects the CBHL web site and electronic list to migrate to a new location on a private server where we can finally use the CBHL domain name of <cbhl.net>. The hosting service selected is Nidhog, a Pittsburgh-based company. List manager Bernadette Callery (Carnegie Museum of Natural History) is familiar with this company and will help to make a smooth transition. Other advantages of this new arrangement include the fact that we will actually own the site and that we can hope to gain a better online identity via our domain name.

Stan also noted that the membership directory will eventually go online, possibly accessible via individual user names and passwords. The committee will explore various security options before moving the directory to electronic form.

A number of new features have been identified as being desirable for the website. On the public side, a map with symbols indicating locations of CBHL member institutions has been discussed (any suggestions on creating it would be welcomed by the committee). On the members-only side, a calendar has been suggested showing deadlines for publication and for membership renewal, dates of board meetings and teleconferences, etc. Stan said that the committee would welcome some new members and asked attendees to consider joining.

In Celine’s absence, Stan transmitted her webmaster’s report. The public section of the CBHL website is fully operational and hosted by the City of Montreal under the Montreal Botanical Garden’s website. This past spring Treasurer Mary Ellen Armentrout renewed the domain name for the next five years. The advantages to changing to another ISP and web server include FTP access for different members if needed, and access to a forum from the members-only section (with archives).

Celine reported that she received and handled about 30 requests for information from the general public, along with queries from publishers and CBHL members. The Montreal Botanical Garden Library staff answered the horticultural and botanical requests. A few publishers asked to be listed on the Publishers and Booksellers list, and were added only if they were CBHL members. Many members requested a reminder of the members-only password.

Current issues of the *CBHL Newsletter* (except issue 91) in PDF format have been provided by Newsletter editor Christine Liebson and put online. Gayle Bradbeer has scanned and put online issues 64 through 83 (also in PDF format), so online archives are now complete from issue 64 (November 1996) to 90, plus 92 (February 2004). More issues will be put online as they become available.

The Annual Literature Award section has been updated and used both for nominations (members) and suggestions (publishers).

The members-only section is completed and now online at Montreal as of June 10, 2004. The same user name and password will still be valid up to the move to a new server. Thanks to Laurie Hannah for revising pages before connecting them and to Chuck Tancin for continuing to host the members-only section since the general website was transferred to Montreal. Updates of both procedures and meeting manuals should be online soon. New documents resulting from the Annual Meeting will be put online as needed during the summer. Celine encourages the use of the members-only section for committees’ information (and surveys, listings, directories, etc.). Having a new web server may be helpful in future development and for more security / interactivity (e.g., using a database accessible through individual passwords, updating membership information and dynamically generating the directory online). Also, after a call for resources, Celine thanked Joan DeFato (L.A. County Botanic Garden, retired) for sharing her compilation of previous online distribution list discussion information (rare books, photographic collections, mission statements), which will be gradually added to the site. Other compilations are welcome.
In the Resources section, “Useful information for plant libraries and archives resources” has been enlarged and includes links to digitized books, virtual exhibits, and annotated lists of links. Celine recommends using this section for sharing links useful to members and the larger community interested in horticultural and botanical information.

Celine asks that members send more news “about your own realizations, publications, event hosting, etc.” These can be added to the homepage to keep it dynamic and updated. Comments and suggestions are always appreciated.

Then the online distribution list manager Bernadette Callery reported that the list continues to serve CBHL’s needs, including such uses as duplicates lists, reference questions, exhibition announcements, job ads, annual meeting updates, and other uses. The list currently has 207 members, and last year generated 572 messages posted by 121 individuals.

Sally Williams (Garden Literature Index, EBSCO) asked how we might better identify CBHL messages by their subject lines. Chuck Tancin noted that EBHL members put “EBHL:” at the beginning of any postings to their list, and so perhaps we could do the same with “CBHL.” Bernadette added that it’s possible that the new system will allow that to be done automatically.

MEMBERSHIP - Chair Kathy Fescemyer reported that the committee had many accomplishments in 2003-2004. In Fall 2003 they created, distributed and compiled the results of an online survey to seek members’ views on implementing the commercial membership, the results of which were used by the Board to finalize a proposal to members about the new membership category. Membership manager Lisa DeCesare maintained the membership database, created and distributed renewal notices, and compiled and distributed the Membership Directory. Kathy welcomed new members with a packet consisting of a welcome letter, the Membership Directory and the current newsletter. At the Annual Meeting, she set up a display focusing on CBHL Committees to help recruit members into committees. The committee has a buddy program to help orient new members who are attending an annual meeting for the first time.

Plans for the upcoming year include the annual duties already described. In addition, the committee will create an invitation letter to distribute with the CBHL brochure to potential commercial members, to be mailed in the fall. Another invitation letter will be written for potential new individual members and will be distributed in the winter. Kathy had Lisa DeCesare distribute cards during the report to elicit suggestions from attendees regarding potential new members to contact.

Lisa then reported on membership statistics. We currently have 253 members, of whom 221 are in the U.S. and 32 are non-U.S. We have 132 institutional members, 65 individual members, 29 retiree members, 11 student members, 9 life members, 6 EBHL affiliate members, and 1 complimentary member. Overall we have 6 more members than last year. 42 CBHL members have affiliate memberships in EBHL.

PRESERVATION AND ACCESS - Chair Donna Herendeen reported that the committee is pursuing two projects. Susan Fraser and Kathy Crosby (Brooklyn Botanic Garden) are compiling and analyzing the results of the archives survey, and will eventually make the results accessible on the CBHL website. The hope is that eventually one will be able to query results from all of the surveys at once. Kathy has expressed interest in giving a presentation about the database at the next annual meeting.

Chuck Tancin is reworking the draft survey form for seed and nursery catalogs to be compatible with the format used in the archives survey, for ease of databasing. This survey was put on hold pending a discussion on form and methods used for the archives survey. Standardizing as much as possible in each survey would facilitate combining results into one large data pool.

Susan Fraser is now chairing a new Archives Committee and is seeking one volunteer to join the committee as an at-large member.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - Chair Rita Hassert thanked the committee members: Barney Lipscomb (Botanical Research Institute of Texas), David Lane, Doug Holland, Carol Line, as well as liaison Chuck Tancin. The committee has produced and distributed several press releases for the Annual Literature Award, the Charles Robert Long Award, and the annual meeting. They are now reworking the draft of the new membership brochure, and will share it with the Board and the Membership and Publications committees soon.

It was suggested that members who participate in exchange programs enclose a CBHL brochure with every exchange publication sent out. Doug Holland added that they would like to try to produce text for a sidebar on CBHL to run in some of the major horticultural magazines. Rita noted that the committee would welcome both additional ideas and new members to the committee.

RESOURCE SHARING - Chair Kathleen Fisher reported that last year the committee met with the Preservation and Access Committee to talk about potential overlap, duplication, and collaboration between these committees. A database is being created of information on CBHL members’ expertise. Lisa DeCesare was asked to add a question about areas of expertise to the membership application and renewal form. She included the information in the membership database, and the results are...
being printed in a separate section of the Membership Directory. Kathleen exhorted members to fill in the blanks when renewing their membership. She also noted the value of sharing expertise at our annual meetings, and commended the planning committee for this 2004 annual meeting for including so many CBHL members on the program.

The committee hopes to develop a resource center on the CBHL website, wherein various policy documents developed by CBHL members can be posted on the website and shared with others. Policies on collection development, gifts and exchanges, displays and other subjects can be included. Kathleen asked that copies or links be sent to her for inclusion.

She reported that Larry Currie (California Academy of Sciences) has been investigating the possibility of a CBHL union catalog. The Academy has just migrated its catalog to ExLibris and they are moving their site to downtown San Francisco. Larry is collecting more information now from ExLibris and will share it with the committee.

Gayle Bradbeer has been working on scanning back issues of the CBHL Newsletter, and is now looking for disposable copies of pre-1996 newsletters.

Kathy Fescemyer will compile information on awards and grants to make it available to CBHL members, possibly in a column in the Newsletter.

Kathleen Fisher and Barbara Pitschel have asked for and received advice from other CBHL members on migrating their catalogs. They will compile and redistribute the results. Kathleen also offers to help others who are involved in similar migration projects.

GAC WORKING GROUP - Laurie Hannah reported that the Group Access Capability or GAC has two new member libraries, the Herb Society of America and the Grand Canyon National Park Library. There are now 23 member libraries that are members of the GAC.

GAC members’ records are searchable in OCLC’s WorldCat via the code BH#L. GAC members share books and photocopies at no charge when possible. Sharing is typically done via OCLC, but is sometimes also done less formally. Laurie distributed statistics reports to the GAC members present, and read the list of participants to the meeting attendees.

Borrowing and lending activity dropped this year. In 2002-2003, CBHL libraries loaned 452 items and borrowed 443 items. In 2003-2004 they loaned 365 items and borrowed 348 items. This may be due to the fact that several GAC members lost staff librarians due to retirement, but activity was down at the largest libraries as well.

STEERING COMMITTEE - Chair David Lane reported that the strategic plan worksheets have been collected and given to the Board. The committee worked on scheduling meetings for all CBHL committees at the annual meeting. They also worked with the hosts to publicize the schedule in advance to facilitate members’ attending meetings of interest.

The committee updated and distributed the list of CBHL committees, committee members, chairs and liaisons. At their recent meeting the committee decided to track and distribute information on changes to committees. They also agreed that a calendar of CBHL deadlines and events was desirable. The committee has facilitated the establishment of an Archives Committee, to be chaired by CBHL archivist Susan Fraser.

Then David posed the questions: “Who’s on the CBHL Steering Committee, and who needs recognition? Is it the Board? No. Is it the Chairs? No. The volunteers? No.” At that point he encouraged “everyone else” to please stand and be applauded, and added, “you folks are all future members of the CSC in some capacity.”

This ended the committee reports.

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS:

2005 - Janet Evans and Jane Alling of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society invited us to “Yo, come to F’lelphya” (Philadelphia) on June 8-10, 2005. Janet called the Delaware Valley the gateway to America’s gardens, saying that it has been rated the no. two gardening hot spot of the U.S., after Santa Barbara. The meeting theme will be “The Philadelphia Story.” Possible sites to visit include the American Philosophical Society, Longwood Gardens, the Hagley Museum and Library, Chanticleer, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and Historic Bartram’s Garden.

Jane noted that for the past three years the PHS library has had a book discussion group on garden-related books, and they are considering having a preconference session on starting a garden book club. They are considering a possible Saturday trip to Cape May, the oldest (1761) seashore resort in the U.S. and a national historic landmark city. Other trip ideas include Winterthur, Mount Cuba, the Wyeth Museum, and a walking tour of center city Philadelphia. Janet noted that Philadelphia is the oldest planned city in the U.S.
2006 - Judy Warnement reported that the Board has received a tentative invitation for 2006, but it can’t be confirmed yet.

2007 - Doug Holland reported on the plans to hold a CBHL meeting at the Missouri Botanical Garden. He said that they didn’t want to host in 2006 because that would be his presidential year and he had received advice from numerous past officers to the effect that he should avoid hosting during that year. Missouri last hosted a CBHL meeting in 1989. Their new library will be 10 years old in 2007. There are lots of new gardens to see, and an arboretum/nature reserve outside the city. There is a butterfly house we might enjoy visiting, as well as Herman and nearby wineries. He is considering using a hotel in the Central West End. Also under consideration is a possible optional overnight trip to New Harmony, Indiana, which has connections with Michaux and Thomas Say. He mentioned “toasted ravioli” as a regional delicacy.

2008 - Judy read an invitation letter from Shelly Kilroy, inviting CBHL to meet at the Frederik Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 2008, possibly in early June when the gardens will be in full bloom. Judy Reed (New York Botanical Garden, retired) moved to accept the invitation, Ruth Schallert (Smithsonian Institution Libraries) seconded it and the attendees voted unanimously to accept. Incoming President Laurie Hannah will write to accept the invitation.

Several other possibilities were mentioned. Betsy Kruthoffer (Lloyd Library and Museum) and Laura Chace (Cincinnati Historical Society) are considering hosting a meeting in Cincinnati at some point, and Mary Ellen Armentrout said that Inniswood Metro Gardens in Columbus would like to host a CBHL meeting sometime.

OLD BUSINESS:

INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS, 2005 - Gordon McDaniel (New York Botanical Garden) reported on the collaborative effort between CBHL and EBHL to develop and present a symposium at the IBC in Vienna next year. Their proposal has been accepted, and members of both CBHL and EBHL will present papers. Gordon will present the keynote address. The theme is “Collecting and Preserving Electronic Resources.”

NEW BUSINESS:

UNCAPPING THE AWARD FUNDS - Mary Ellen Armentrout introduced the idea of uncapping the Charles Robert Long Award and Founders’ Fund Travel Fellowship Award funds. On reviewing the procedures manual, she recalled that in 1999 CBHL members voted to cap these funds so that they would not accumulate funds in excess of what was needed for the awards. Since interest rates are now very low, Mary Ellen moved to retroactively uncap these funds to 2002. Brad Lyon and John Reed both seconded the motion, and attendees approved it unanimously.

REMEMBERING RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS - Judy Warnement asked that we take a moment to remember Richard Williams, who was a retired librarian from the New York Public Library and a longtime CBHL member. His 2004 renewal form was returned as “undeliverable” and his phone number was reassigned. Judy contacted NYPL to no avail and emailed the CBHL list. Joan DeFato located a death notice of one Richard C. Williams in New York City in August of 2003 in the SSN Death Index. While this is not conclusive, it does seem that Mr. Williams is lost to CBHL and his gentle nature, his wonderful sense of humor, and his company will be missed.

Barbara Pitschel asked us to remember Phil Nesty, another longtime CBHL member. Phil died on March 11 after having suffered a heart attack. As the owner of Brooks Books, he was known to many CBHL members. He was a knowledgeable book lover and a good person to do business with, and he will be missed by many.

With no other new business, Judy thanked the 2004 meeting hosts, Chuck Tancin and Bernadette Callery and the planning committee and staff. She also thanked our “silent angel,” Carol Johnston, who provided transportation and impromptu medical assistance during this meeting. Judy presented the customary gift of $100 to host, Chuck Tancin, for the Hunt Institute. Bernadette Callery was presented with a beautiful glass and stone bead necklace made by Mary Ellen Armentrout. Another necklace made by Mary Ellen was given to Past President Barbara Pitschel who was leaving the Board. Barbara thanked CBHL for giving her the opportunity to serve on the Board. Thanks were given to Judy for her President’s year, along with a promise of a framed print from the current exhibit at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Susan Fraser was invited to come up and join the Board as its newest member, and Judy gave the gavel to Laurie Hannah. Judy thanked CBHL for the opportunity to serve on the Board and thanked her staff for their support. Laurie said that she looks forward to the coming year and thanked CBHL for the opportunity to serve as President.

Laurie adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Charlotte Tancin, Secretary
Translating an onsite exhibition into a virtual one
Reported by Kathy Allen

Leslie Overstreet, Curator of Natural History Rare Books, Smithsonian Institution Libraries, gave an informative and thought-provoking talk, *Exhibitions: On-site to On-line—Learning as We Go at the Smithsonian Institution Libraries.* She gave tips for exhibit preparers—have the virtual exhibit available when the physical exhibit opens and make it easy to navigate. She noted differences and similarities between the two formats, e.g., it’s hard for the audience to maintain a sense of the whole in an online exhibit. On-site exhibits are three-dimensional—they are a physical experience and a public one. Virtual exhibits offer a more cognitive and private experience (even though the audience may be much larger) and tend to have an older audience, allowing one to present more sophisticated information. Leslie recommended the 2002 ALA publication, *Creating a Winning Online Exhibition* by Martin Kalfatovic (136 pp, ISBN 0-8389-0817-9, $40, $36 ALA members) and *Library and Archival Exhibitions: a project of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries*, featuring links to online exhibitions (http://www.sil.si.edu/silpublications/online-exhibitions).

June 16, Session Two: Serial Publications

Presentation on the free e-journal *Current Books on Gardening and Botany.*
Reported by Robin Everly

Edward J. Valauskas and Leora Siegel from Chicago Botanic Garden presented what they refer to as an “electronic publishing experiment,” their free, internet only e-journal which provides book reviews of new botanical related books called *Current Books on Gardening and Botany.*

Begun in 1999, their “experiment” is an overwhelming success. Both presenters gave a lively and informative presentation about this project. Some statistics that were provided include the following: 29 issues published since January 1999, 491 book reviews written with an average of 17 reviews per issue, and 61 staff members and volunteers have contributed reviews. Plus, 190 publishers have been represented with 70% of the books requested from publishers received for review. So far, a total of 1,250 books have been received with a total value of $55,583. Publishers are providing these books to the library free of charge. Once the reviewer is done with reading the book and writing a review, they are asked to kindly donate the book to the library. It’s a win/win situation in so many ways!

Ed Valauskas discussed how this project has served as a public relations tool for the library, as well as a creative way to save on book purchasing. The book reviews also provide a great resource for horticultural librarians purchasing books for their library. The e-journal can be found at http://www.chicagobotanic.org/library/index.html which is the main page to the library. Scroll down and you will see the link to *Current Books on Gardening and Botany.*

June 16, Visit to Preservation Technologies

Preservation Technologies
Reported by Mary Ellen Armentrout

The group boarded buses for the short drive to Cranberry Township. We were greeted at the Cranberry Township Municipal Building by Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Robert Strauss, who gave us an overview of the company. Preservation Technologies provides deacidification products and services for books, documents, and valuable materials to clients worldwide. The ten-year-old company does work for The Library of Congress and The National Library of Canada plus many large, small and medium-sized libraries, archives, and museums. We then traveled to the plant where the deacidification process takes place.

Company President, James Burd, gave us a tour of the actual deacidification process. Books and materials are placed into special packing boxes by the client. Upon arrival at the facility they are inspected, collated, barcoded, and the condition of each item is noted. Depending on size and format, materials are then processed with magnesium oxide pellets that are suspended in an inert liquid. Most books are placed in a metal
carrier that is then submerged into a vat containing the liquid. The liquid is then drawn off under vacuum pressure leaving a completely dry book. Large books and single sheets are treated manually with a spray solution that quickly evaporates. The odorless process leaves no harmful chemicals or residue. Materials are then repacked and shipped to the client, along with a pH and alkaline report for each item. The entire process from start to finish takes about two hours. Materials are insured against loss and damage while in the plant and in transit.

A new treatment center will open this summer in Gatineau, Quebec, Canada.

Preservation Technologies sponsored a reception following the tour at the Andy Warhol Museum in downtown Pittsburgh.

**June 17, Topical Session 3: Cataloging, Bibliography, and Indexing**

**Arizona’s local floras & plant lists: A bibliography with locations and maps**
*Reported by Rita M. Hassert*

Aaah! Would that every state had this resource created by Diane Moore (Arizona State University) and (in spirit) Jane Cole (Desert Botanical Garden, retired) two tenacious bibliographic sleuths! Recognizing the need for a comprehensive bibliography of local Arizona floras, our intrepid CBHL colleagues, Diane and Jane created just such a tool. Searching both usual and unusual sources, they’ve included floras, checklists, guides, a few vegetation and ecology reports, plant keys, and complete floral studies of the state. This resource will appear in print (as a special issue of the *Journal of the Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science*) and in the future at the website called SEINet at [http://seinet.asu.edu](http://seinet.asu.edu). The website will also include a clickable map of Arizona with hyperlinks to the citations from the bibliography. The print resource will contain a comprehensive bibliography of citations for Arizona’s local floras arranged in alphabetical order by author or title, a list of herbaria where major Arizona plant collections are deposited, a geographical list of Arizona flora and checklist localities, and computer generated maps showing the localities.

Diane also shared the personal stories behind creating this project. Completed when work and personal responsibilities allowed, this resource is a reflection of their shared passion for the flora of Arizona. At the end of Diane’s presentation she challenged each of us to create a similar resource for our respective states. (We missed you, Jane!)

**Presentation of Garden Literature Index**
*Reported by Stanley Johnston*

Sally Williams, of EBSCO Publishing, discussed the exciting ramifications of EBSCO putting out an online version of *Garden Literature Index*. This allows Sally to greatly expand the range and numbers of journals covered and to provide an archive of material cited in the past. Over 150,000 articles are currently covered from 243 core titles and 40 interdisciplinary journals that often contain relevant material. The enhanced bibliographical records include abstracts of the documents, information on author affiliation, and increased access through both subject headings and author supplied keywords. In addition the full text of the abstract is searchable for word combinations.

**Compiling a descriptive bibliography: Purposes and processes**
*Reported by Stanley Johnston*

Stanley Johnston discussed the difference between enumerative and descriptive or analytical bibliographies and how both were driven by the purpose of the specific works. The talk focused on his descriptive bibliography which treats books as artifacts and seeks to present a description of a perfect copy. It drew on his experience compiling *The Cleveland Herbal, Botanical, and Horticultural Collections …* describing the pre-1830 botanical and horticultural holdings of three Cleveland, Ohio, libraries. He described how each book had to be gone through leaf by leaf three to four times transcribing titles and colophons; recording signatures, signings, and pagination and reconciling them with an actual count of leaves; recording the illustrations; and taking measurements of leaves and bindings. These then had to be compared with other copies and descriptions, augmented by references and notes, and finally encoded in the dread semi-colon code since the printing machine of the publisher could not read Word code. Finally, pictures had to be selected and text written for the more readable *Cleveland’s Treasures from the World of Botanical and Horticultural Literature.*

**Alternatives for cooperative cataloging**
*Reported by Stanley Johnston*

Gordon McDaniel, New York Botanical Garden, discussed the various aspects of cooperative cataloging including original cataloging, downloading and adapting records contributed by others, and the new possibilities for cooperative projects, searching, and listing made possible by the Z39.50 technology.
June 17, Topical Session 4: Creative Collection Building

Reported by Brian R. Thompson

Despite the rigors of a long day, a good crowd showed up for Topical Session #4 on Creative Collection Building. Moderated by Bernadette Callery, she and Barney Lipscomb began by presenting the successful programs of serial exchanges at both of their institutions (Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Botanical Research Institute of Texas). Close cooperation with your own Publications Department can develop a strong trading surplus in journals from other institutions, and is an effective and politically savvy approach to expanding your collection.

Suzi Teghtmeyer (Paul Evans Library of Fruit Science at Southwest Missouri State University) followed and shared many of her self-developed (and quite clever) approaches to stretching the acquisitions budget by being opportunistic and not afraid to ask for what you want of publishers, authors, researchers and other libraries.

Barbara Pitschel (Strybing Arboretum) looks at ways to increase the inflow of acquisition funds, through donor development options in a competitive environment often within your own institution. Throughout her presentation, she provided creative ideas to acquire books and money and the pros and cons of implementing various strategies. One idea she discussed in detail was the “Adopt a Magazine Program.” She mentioned it can be very labor intensive because publications, subscription, binding costs, and donor circumstances are constantly changing. If this idea is implemented, enough staff is needed to maintain annual tracking on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Finally Angela (Angie) Todd of our host, the Hunt Institute, discussed how she has reconsidered the worth of what she has found in her collections or potential donations. In her archive “repository of alternate resort” many items previously dismissed as being of little value are proving their worth reflecting an expanding importance of personal papers and other ephemera in botanical research.

June 18, Session 5: Preservation for Access

Visit to Phipps Conservatory
Reported by Barbara Pitschel

Although the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation is not affiliated with a botanical garden, it is certainly situated at the heart of a rich green area. The campuses of Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh are a stone’s throw from the Rodef Shalom Biblical Garden and are directly adjacent to 456-acre Schenley Park, one of Pittsburgh’s four great parks (along with Frick, Highland, and Riverview). The final session of the CBHL business meeting was followed by an easy stroll across the street and over a grassy hill to the horticultural center of the park, Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens. We did not spend much time in the small outdoor gardens, but we were treated to docent-led tours of the 13-rooms of this Victorian crystal palace which was designed by Lord and Burnham and opened in 1893.

(1) The Palm Court in the heart of the conservatory features tropical palms with an herbaceous understory, statuary, and park benches to permit rest and reflection. (2) The Serpentine Room, which features changing exhibits, currently features the entire Phipps collection of tropical bonsai. (3) The Fern Room focuses on primitive land plants. (4) The Orchid Room highlights the Phipps collection of more than 3000 orchids and bromeliads. (5) Despite its heat and humidity (which was...
Visit to Pittsburgh Parks Conservatory
Reported by Barbara Pitschel

Our conservatory tour was followed by lunch at the historic Visitor Center, now managed by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, the private half of the public-private partnership formed in 1998 with the City of Pittsburgh to restore urban parks. We were treated to a brief talk by a Conservancy restorationist about ecological restoration currently being undertaken in Schenley Park. The information she presented was encouraging and inspiring, indicative of a positive trend.

“Faded Flowers: Researching Pittsburgh’s Garden History”
Reported by Barbara Pitschel

Originally an art historian, Dr. Barry Hannegan began pursuing his interest in garden history more than 15 years ago, when the Pittsburgh Parks and Landmarks Foundation persuaded him to embark upon a groundbreaking endeavor to document the history of landscape and garden design in the Pittsburgh area. Although there had been no continuing horticultural society in the region and no previous systematic effort to sort and organize the information, Dr. Hannegan’s determined sleuthing turned up several collections of data, much of it photographic, in such places as in the archives of the University of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Room of the Carnegie Library, our own Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation at Carnegie Mellon, government records, and several lesser sources.

The survey encompassed all types of designed landscapes, including lost sites, estates, and gardens. Dr. Hannegan created and refined a survey form to capture the data, and devised a descriptive vocabulary to describe designed landscapes in a way that would enable accurate visualization. (According to Dr. Hannegan, this is the only such survey not government funded.) The process of defining, compiling, and organizing the data was even more challenging than data collection itself.

In the course of his research, Dr. Hannegan ferreted out and worked with the small coterie of people in the Pittsburgh area focused on garden history. He involved his students in the work. Our own Chuck Tancin was of inestimable assistance to him. In addition to archives, she was able to provide Mrs. Hunt’s slides, as well as an enlightening introduction to database searching.

The discovery of a large collection of important blueprints by western Pennsylvania landscape architect Ezra Stiles pointed out the need for a permanent home for such archival materials, leading to the creation of the Archives of the Landscape Records of Southwestern Pennsylvania at the University of Pittsburgh, which is growing rapidly with support from the Garden Club of Allegheny County.

Although the original goal of the project was merely the accumulation of historic information, it ultimately helped to inspire the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, whose mission, in partnership with the City of Pittsburgh, is to restore, revitalize, and preserve the four great parks of Pittsburgh—Frick, Highland, Riverview, and Schenley. Restoration efforts are being conducted with environmental sensitivity and respect for the parks’ historic landscape design, as well as the recreational needs of modern users.

-Continued on page 23
Board Reports
CHARLOTTE “CHUCK” TANCIN, CBHL SECRETARY
LIBRARIAN, HUNT INSTITUTE, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Report on the CBHL Board Meeting via teleconference on May 25, 2004 - Charlotte Tancin, CBHL Secretary

At 1:07 p.m. EST, Judy Warnement opened the meeting. Doug Holland called roll. Five Board members were present: President Judy Warnement, First Vice-President Laurie Hannah, Second Vice-President Doug Holland, Past President Barbara Pitschel, and Secretary Charlotte “Chuck” Tancin. Treasurer Mary Ellen Armentrout was unable to attend.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Chuck Tancin gave the Secretary’s report. She is working to finish updating the procedures manual and meeting manual. Both will be sent to the Board for review and, when approved, will be sent to Celine Arseneault for the members only section of the CBHL website. The meeting manual will now be maintained by the First Vice President. Judy suggested that we get a small “continuity committee” together to review all of our existing documentation (manuals, website, etc.) for consistency.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Judy gave the Treasurer’s report for Mary Ellen Armentrout.
Closing balances for 2003:
- Long Award Money Market account - $14,356.45
- Literature Award Money Market account - $1,296.88
- Founders’ Fund Money Market account - $14,356.45
- General fund - $63,694.80

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Laurie Hannah reported that as Board liaison to the annual meeting host this year she had little to do since the head of the host planning committee, Chuck Tancin, is on the Board. Laurie also noted that she has updated the GAC directory.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Doug Holland reported the Electronic Communications Committee. Chair Stan Johnston had sent a note to the membership via the online distribution list to get feedback on choosing an ISP (internet service provider) for CBHL. Doug had suggested that the committee consider working toward a migration of CBHL’s electronic services and resources in September or October.

Doug also reported on the collaboration between CBHL and EBHL to produce a symposium for the 2005 International Botanical Congress (IBC) in Vienna. The Board finalized the wording of a resolution on providing support for CBHL to participate in International Botanical Congresses.

RESOLVED, that CBHL will endeavor to participate in International Botanical Congresses by allocating funds to support one or more CBHL members involved in the development and presentation of a program at the Congress. The amount contributed by CBHL will be determined by the Board in advance of the meeting.

With regard to this resolution, the Board has outlined a set of procedures. Members interested in developing and presenting a program at an International Botanical Congress would submit a proposal to the Board. If the proposal is approved, the presiding President of CBHL would then appoint the member(s) to represent CBHL at the Congress. Costs to support program development might include, but not be limited to: expenses related to reproduction (photographic or digital), display materials like poster boards or easels, and other supplies used to create exhibits for poster sessions. If some or all of the money is used as a travel subsidy, it must be applied directly to costs incurred while attending the IBC on behalf of CBHL. The Board agreed to allocate a total of $500 to support members who participate in the 2005 IBC.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Judy Warnement gave the President’s report. She first mentioned that we will need to determine how much time the items on the June 2004 business meeting agenda will take, so that we can manage the meeting sessions accordingly.

Nadia Auferheide, who recently retired from the Holden Arboretum, chairs the Long Award Committee and her term expires this year. Ideally Judy would like to appoint someone in June. Judy noted that Rita Hassett’s term expires in 2005, and Richard Isaacson’s term expires in 2008.

PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Barbara Pitschel gave the Past President’s report. As chair of the 2003-2004 Nominating Committee, Barbara found her work with the committee to be a good experience. She would like to add the process they used to the procedures manual as a sample approach to consider. Regarding the current election, Laurie will write to both candidates after the annual meeting, thanking them both for their service in running for office and welcoming the newly elected officer to the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - STANDING COMMITTEES:

ANNUAL LITERATURE AWARD - There is some confusion with regard to the current members’ terms of office, but this is in the process of being resolved. Once this is straightened out, the correct information will be added to the procedures manual.

AUDIT - Judy gave Mary Ellen’s report in her absence. Mary Ellen submitted her financial reports to the committee in early May and has heard back from Brad Lyon and Joanne Fuccello that the report seems fine, but has not yet heard from John Reed. Also, it has been suggested that CBHL form an investment advisory committee, perhaps with at least some handpicked participants, i.e., members who are knowledgeable about finances and investing. This would be an ad hoc committee to advise the Treasurer and the Board. Judy will ask Mary Ellen to draft a job description and will ask Steering Committee chair David Lane to add this item to the SC agenda.

CHARLES ROBERT LONG AWARD - Judy reported that there will be no award given this year. The committee will meet in Pittsburgh to discuss criteria for selection, and will
continue the discussion by e-mail following the annual meeting. Chair Nadia Afderheide will not be attending the annual meeting this year, and Rita Hassert will serve as acting chair at the meeting. Judy also noted that the fund was capped several years ago, but now that we’re passing a resolution to apply gifts only to the principal of the fund, we need to uncap the fund in order to generate enough income to support the award. This item will be added to the business meeting agenda.

FOUNDERS’ FUND TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP - Judy and Chuck reported that this year we had four applicants, from among whom one awardee was chosen by blind lottery.

NOMINATING - Barbara reported, recapping her Past President’s report.

PUBLICATIONS - Judy reported for Susan Eubank in Mary Ellen’s absence, noting that the committee wants the Board to review their expenses, as itemized in the ledger of the general account that Mary Ellen has distributed to the Board.

STEERING - Chuck reported that Judy had requested that the committee track the terms for the Annual Literature and Long awards and advise the Board of upcoming changes. Chair David Lane had reported that the committee has completed collection of committee worksheets from last year’s meeting; extracted committee purposes from the worksheets and sent them to the Board; worked out a schedule of committee meetings for the annual meeting; updated and distributed the list of committee members, chairs and liaisons; and proposed an agenda for the Steering Committee meeting in June.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - AD HOC COMMITTEES:

BYLAWS - Barbara reported that chair John Reed will write up the most recently suggested changes to the bylaws draft, and then Judy will add them with comments to the PowerPoint presentation she is putting together for the June 17th bylaws discussion.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS - Doug recapped his Second Vice-President’s report.

MEMBERSHIP - Judy reported that membership manager Lisa DeCesare has submitted a report for 2003-2004. The membership renewal form now includes a section for “Areas of Expertise,” and the data collected is available in the Membership Directory. The rest of the directory was also updated. Lisa sent her schedule of duties to the Board for review. Statistics were gathered and sent to the Board, and Membership and Publications chairs were contacted about issues to be discussed at the committee meetings in June. Judy has also been in touch with committee chair Kathy Fescemyer regarding implementation of the new commercial membership.

PRESERVATION AND ACCESS - Doug reported that Kathy Crosby has been working on survey data tabulations from the committee’s archives survey. Chuck is developing a seed and nursery catalog survey form and will bring it to discuss with the committee in light of Kathy’s database.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - Chuck received a report from chair Rita Hassert. Rita sent out an update of PR committee projects to the committee members in April, including the redesign of the membership brochure and pursuing linking opportunities for our website.

RESOURCE SHARING - Laurie received a report from chair Kathleen Fisher. Kathleen noted the membership expertise listings in the Membership Directory, a result of working with Lisa DeCesare on soliciting that information via the membership application and renewal form. Gayle Bradbeer has been scanning back issues of the CBHL Newsletter, and additional issues will be sought. Kathleen has been collecting policy documents from member libraries for the CBHL website. Further action on the idea of a Z39.50-based union catalog for CBHL members will wait until after the California Academy of Sciences moves to their new temporary location. The Resource Sharing and Preservation and Access committees have been collaborating on surveying CBHL members about collections and resources, and Kathy Crosby is creating a database for the survey data.

OLD BUSINESS:

FOUNDERS’ FUND - The Board agreed that the current procedure seems to be working well.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE - Judy suggested that we ask for a brief recess whenever there’s a motion made, so that it can be formulated correctly.

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS - We still don’t have a meeting host for 2006, although a few options are being explored. For the 2006 meeting we may have to plan a meeting without a host. In 2007 we will meet at the Missouri Botanical Garden, and in 2008 we have been invited by Shelly Kilroy to meet at the Frederik Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

E-MAIL DISCUSSIONS - Judy had suggested in advance of this meeting that we may be moving as a group toward having more discussions by e-mail or online distribution list about controversial or large issues, and she wonders whether, if we start to conduct informal business this way, we’ll have to record it as part of the record of the work of the organization? This has been tabled for now.

NEW BUSINESS:

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP - We should add something to the bylaws to clarify the criteria used to ascertain student status, such as a valid student identification card.

ELECTRONIC VOTING - Rather than put this in the bylaws now, we should wait until we’re actually going to implement this (if and when), and then amend the bylaws as needed. There are a number of issues to resolve when the time for this comes.
Board Reports, continued.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA FOR ANNUAL MEETING IN PITTSBURGH - There followed a quick discussion of the agenda for the upcoming business meeting. It was agreed that committee reports would be just the reports, and that any items of committee business that require discussion and/or voting would be held until New Business.

Judy adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m. EST.

Fuller minutes will be available on the CBHL website, in the members only section.

Report on the CBHL Board meeting, June 14, 2004, at Foster’s Bar and Grill, Holiday Inn Select University Center, Pittsburgh, PA - Charlotte Tancin, CBHL Secretary

Judy Warnement opened the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Chuck Tancin called roll. Present: President Judy Warnement, Past President Barbara Pitschel, Treasurer Mary Ellen Armentrout, Secretary Charlotte “Chuck” Tancin. Absent from the meeting were First Vice-President Laurie Hannah and Second Vice-President Doug Holland, neither of whom had arrived in Pittsburgh.

Chuck reported that she had yet to submit the minutes from the May 2004 teleconference Board meeting to the Board, having been preoccupied with preparations for hosting the annual meeting.

Mary Ellen said that she would consult with former Treasurer John Reed and then make a motion at the business meeting with regard to uncapping the Charles Robert Long Award fund.

A question was introduced: should the Nominating Committee let potential candidates for office know who they would be running against? After some discussion the question was tabled until later.

The President needs to appoint a new member to the Charles Robert Long Award Committee, and several new members to the Annual Literature Award Committee. The Steering Committee will be asked to assist in resolving discrepancies in the Annual Literature Award Committee’s history in terms of when the various members’ terms expire.

The question of where we might hold the annual meeting in 2006 is being tabled until later.

Leslie Overstreet has been asked whether she might consider working with Suzi Teghtmeyer who is learning the ins and outs of Robert’s Rules of Order so that she can serve as our meeting parliamentarian.

Judy will ask for a timekeeper to help keep discussion moving at the business meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Charlotte Tancin, CBHL Secretary

Report on the CBHL Board meeting, June 18, 2004, at room 154A, Baker Hall, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA - Charlotte Tancin, CBHL Secretary

A little after 5:30 p.m., Laurie Hannah called the meeting to order. Present were: President Laurie Hannah, Past President Judy Warnement, First Vice-President Doug Holland, Second Vice-President Susan Fraser, Treasurer Mary Ellen Armentrout, Secretary Charlotte “Chuck” Tancin, and 2005 annual meeting hosts Janet Evans and Jane Alling.

The 2005 annual meeting was the first item of business. Janet reported that she and Jane shared all of their current plans during the business meeting. They will rely on meeting spaces at the Holiday Inn because the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society does not have enough space to accommodate the group. Finance issues and hotel contracts were discussed.

Janet and Jane left the meeting, and the Board continued discussion. All felt that the business meeting during the past week had gone smoothly, and that the evolving mechanism for preparing us and the other members for business meeting discussions is streamlining the meetings and making it easier to conduct CBHL business. There is still some room for improvement but it is going well.

Board liaisons to committees were discussed and assigned:

Doug: Electronic Communication; working with 2005 annual meeting host
Chuck: Steering Committee; Public Relations
Mary Ellen: Publications; Audit
Judy: Bylaws; Archives; Nominating
Susan: Preservation and Access; Resource Sharing
Laurie: Annual Literature Award; Membership, Charles Robert Long Award.

Old Business:
Annual Literature Award Committee appointments: Chair Pat Jonas is ready to make new appointments to the committee. It was asked whether Celine still has one year to go for her second term? Laurie will check on the terms and report to the Board.

Charles Robert Long Award: Judy has appointed Susan Fugate as the newest member of this committee.

Possible future annual meeting hosts: Hope Long, Brian Thompson, and Susan Eubank have all expressed interest in hosting an annual meeting, as has Betsy Kruthoffer (not 2006 for Betsy, but sometime later). Other possibilities mentioned were Columbus, Ohio in a few years, and also Charleston, South Carolina. We will try to have the question of where the 2006 annual meeting will be held resolved by October 1, 2004.

Audit: The accounting/reporting discrepancy mentioned by Mary Ellen at the beginning of the business meeting earlier in the week will be resolved by the end of the summer. Mary Ellen also announced that next year will be her last year as CBHL Treasurer.

Archives Committee: Susan Fraser said that Sheila Connor and Susan Fugate have both expressed interest in being involved with this committee. One of them will be appointed soon.

Calendar: Laurie will make a template for a CBHL Calendar that can be used by the Board and others to track deadlines and events relating to CBHL.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Fuller minutes will be available on the CBHL website, in the members only section.

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**CBHL Annual Meeting: Session Reports**

**June 18th, continued from p. 19**

**Stephanie Flom, “Persephone’s Garden”**

*Reported by Susan Eubank*

After a delightful dinner, where Barney Lipscomb regaled me with his family history, Stephanie Flom gave a wonderful talk about her transformation from a non-profit arts administrator to an artist and back to an administrator on a public arts and garden project in the city of Pittsburgh and then back to an artist.

As all of us with gardens know, they suck you in, grab you by the neck, and transform your world view. This started happening to Stephanie and she realized her garden was an expression of beginnings of her transformation to an artist. Her gardening helped her along the road to discovering her methods of artistic expression. Her initial medium, besides her garden was papercuts reminiscent of Henri Matisse.

Simultaneously, as her artistic skills developed, she also wanted more from gardening. She desired to create public art and community through public art installations that focused on gardening. She was given a neglected public park along a heavily used road near downtown Pittsburgh (which we saw as we got lost on our way to dinner one night). In that park she asked artists to create installations that were garden related. There was a project where trees were grown and pruned to create intertwining archways. There was a sunflower project that greeted commuters on their way to work and on their way home, because the sunflowers follow the sun. In addition to these individual artist installations she also created Magic Penny gardens where she asked the community to bring plants and plant a common space. The participants were encouraged to share their stories about their plants on paper and on video.

As she was continuing to work on the public gardens and art installations, her own paper art surfaced again. After reading an article in the paper about the mayfly emergence, she realized some of her papercuts resembled the mayfly. She flew with that idea and created an installation of many mayflies in a gallery in Pittsburgh. After the exhibit was over she was asked to incorporate her mayflies into the Three Rivers Arts Festival. I swear I saw mayflies the next day on our trip to Kentuck Knob at another artist’s installation there. Stephanie Flom’s work and talk were inspiration to all the banquet attendees.
Join us!
Receive the CBHL Newsletter, Membership Directory, e-mail discussion list, members only web pages, and annual meeting materials.

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