



Montréal Botanical Garden Library Connecting Locally & Globally

by Céline Arseneault, *Botanist, Librarian*

When I took charge of the **Montréal Botanical Garden** library in 1981, I did not have a clear idea of what a botanical garden's library should resemble. Although the collections were exceptional, their development had been neglected for 10 years by the administration and they had never been managed by a librarian. It was an abandoned library, empty of new books and also of users. I discovered in an article published in the *AABGA Bulletin* by **Ian MacPhail**, then librarian at the **Morton Arboretum**, that I was not on my own, that there were others like me in this vast botanical and horticultural world. As Ian had written, "a great garden ... is matched by a great library and that is no accident. It is a necessary connection." But wasn't the Montréal Botanical Garden, which was on the verge of becoming more a world renowned botanical garden, being disadvantaged by its lackluster library?

So connection or, more aptly, connections have been particularly crucial for our "bibliotheque." We are, after all, the only francophone library in an otherwise English-speaking continent, and we are required to maintain and organize a majority of English-written documents in a catalog filled with French keywords. This is where the differences stop. We accomplish the same goals as other libraries in a similar setting, i.e., putting

the needs of our users first. Also, like many others, we're forced to do a lot with almost nothing and try to make it happen with innovation and creativity.

There was no plan for our Garden to have a library in the original project of the "ideal botanical garden" written by its designer Henry Teuscher in 1933. The Botanical Institute that belonged to the Université de Montréal had its nucleus of a library and it had been planned that **Marie-Victorin**, who was both the Institute's and the Garden's director, would build on this collection located in the administrative building. But it became quite clear that the needs of a graduate school in botany did not coincide with the growing demands of horticulturalists confronted with the challenge of cultivating plants arriving from all over the world. The School of Horticulture and educational programs also had specialized needs. So books were bought, shelves installed, and the library was born. In the 1950s, the library expanded exponentially through the acquisition of a private library belonging to a French horticulturalist and many beautiful rare European books because of the dedication of the second director of the Garden, **Mr. Jacques Rousseau**, who was an ardent bibliophile and the first ethnobotanist in Quebec.

During the last 30 years, the objective has been to augment collections along the lines of conservation, education and research at the Garden. The result is a library that welcomes more than 18,000 users annually, from a wide array of interests and backgrounds: employees, who constitute our core users, but also patrons and



*The Pavilion of Infinite Pleasantness in the Chinese Garden
Photograph by Michel Tremblay, Jardin botanique de Montréal*

From the President

Robin Everly
Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Washington, D.C.

Hi All,

Welcome 2012!

Like many people, a new year is a time when I reflect on how things are going in my life. I have learned over the years to make only one new year resolution for self improvement.

This way it is focused and achievable. However, for CBHL,

I made five resolutions. I hope you will help me achieve them in the coming year. They are the following:

1. Be a cheerleader for CBHL, promote and do outreach however the opportunity lends itself to the library / botanical / horticultural community.
2. Keep CBHL moving forward and being a useful organization to its membership.
3. Provide financial opportunities to our members that meet both CBHL and members' goals.
4. Update our documents that are CBHL's backbone (procedures manual, meeting manual, strategic plan, website, etc.).
5. Recruit new members to CBHL. If you have time to volunteer for CBHL and currently don't do so, please consider joining a committee or helping on a short term project. There are always more projects than we have members volunteering for, so just speak up or email.

At our mid-year board meeting in **Montréal**, the Board discussed goals for the coming year and many are included in the resolutions above. We discussed using social media tools as a way to promote ourselves and get new members. Reviewing our strategic plan will allow us to evaluate what we do right and how we need to improve in serving our membership. With regard to monetary opportunities, I'm pleased to announce we gave the first **CBHL Collaboration Grant Program** award to **Leora Siegel** to attend the **Society of American Archivists (SAA) Archives**

360 meeting in Chicago. She will be reporting on what she learned at this meeting in the future to CBHL. This program was established to promote and publicize CBHL to similar organizations. The grant also serves to provide

professional development for the recipient. So please consider applying if you want to attend a meeting that meets the criteria and you need financial support. Thanks to **Susan Eubank** for getting this program off the ground.

So here's to a safe and healthy 2012—

Happy New Year

Robin



CBHL Board Meeting, Montréal October 2011. Photograph by Brian Thompson

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families from the Friends of the Garden as well as other local horticultural societies, City of Montréal horticultural workers, students from primary to university level, and the general public. We still work closely with the Botany Library, a branch of the Université de Montréal's network that is located on the 3rd floor of our building. Our collections complement each other and, combined, we are the largest information center on botany and horticulture in Canada, with each holding approx. 30,000 monographs and 3,000 titles of past and current periodicals. We allow university students to borrow books through immediate inter-library loans, and are also the primary documentation center for the professional school of horticulture (approx. 150 students) located at the Garden.

As for connecting globally, our Library via the Garden has nurtured exchange programs since the 1930s. There are periodicals, for example some published by Soviet institutions in the 50s and 60s, for which we are the sole Canadian depository. Our collections are full of hidden treasures such as a locally-published Brazilian manual of tropical agriculture that was discovered by the author's great-great-granddaughter after we had catalogued it and returned it in an electronic form to the same Brazilian village.

Since 1985, the Image Library has joined the Library. As the visual memory of the Garden, it is a collection of more than 300,000 original documents, including archives and images of plants, gardens and events at the Garden. The Fotoware software is now used to manage both physical and digital images in an innovative way. Virtual exhibits present part of our archival material and make it accessible for researchers and the public interested in our institutional history.

Since 1999, the Library has also been instrumental in developing the Garden's website and implementing an electronic line of information, with nearly 6,000 information requests filled per year, in cooperation with the Plant Information Department.

The Montréal Botanical Garden's Library hosted CBHL in 1997. Sometimes, it is tough to top something that was a great success. This is the challenge that my staff and I have undertaken for 2012, welcoming you once again June 26 to 29, with a post-conference study tour to Metis Gardens, June 30 to July 2. We hope you

will discover that the Montréal Botanical Garden is indeed one of the most beautiful and exciting gardens in the world. You will also participate in professional learning and in sharing expertise with colleagues. Most of all, we promise that you will have ample opportunities to connect and reconnect with new and old friends.

Members' News East

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

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

**Hunt Institute Presents
Native Pennsylvania,
A Wildflower Walk
March 2–June 29, 2012**

Native wildflowers of Pennsylvania will be featured in a collaborative exhibition between the **Hunt Institute** and the **Botany Department at Carnegie Museum of Natural History**. Thirty-six wildflower watercolors by **Richard Crist** (1909–1985) from the Institute's collection illustrate the simplicity and beauty of our native species. Coupled with Carnegie's significant herbarium specimens,

these pieces combine to create a visual wildflower walk through Pennsylvania's blooming seasons with a focus on endangered, rare and threatened species within our state. Additional watercolors by artists **Lyn Hayden** and **Andrey Avinoff** (1884–1949) also underscore the exhibition's emphasis on the importance of herbaria and their contributions toward research, education and conservation.

A walk in the woods, along a trail or in an open field places us in an ever-changing world, removed from the everyday experience of information bombarding us from a click of the mouse to a glance at a smartphone screen. Through focused observation and careful study, the kingdom of plants slowly reveals itself. We find a world teeming with activity and a complex network of supportive relationships—a butterfly, bee or fly finding nourishment from a flower and, dusted with pollen, fertilizing that plant, and then a bird or mammal



*The children's corner at the
Montréal Botanical Garden Library.*

finding its own nourishment from the insects, the plant's leaves or its ripening seeds. In our modern environs it is easy to lose track of the cycles of nature. In which month does a flower appear, when does it fade or go to seed, and which animals does it attract or repel? A wildflower may appear for only a day, a week or a month, but looking forward to that ephemeral miracle of nature is exhilarating. By late February in Pennsylvania we all yearn for a sign that spring is near with its resurgence of the plant life that lay dormant over the cold winter months. In moist habitats, such as bogs, ponds or streams in that month, you may encounter the

emergence of the skunk-cabbage, *Symplocarpus foetidus* (Linnaeus) Salisbury ex Nuttall, a plant that generates its own heat to warm the surrounding soil so that it may flower and release an odor that attracts the first small flies of spring.

Native Pennsylvania, A Wildflower Walk allows visitors to take a virtual walk through a southwestern Pennsylvania growing season and become more familiar with some of the native wildflowers that are integral to so many relationships. Information on our region's many parks, woodlands and wetlands provided throughout the exhibition encourages visitors to follow their visual walk with a physical one in many of our area's wildflower habitats.

Additional talks and tours

Learn more about Pennsylvania's native plants through a series of free talks that are open to the public at the

February 2012



Habenaria fimbriata peramoena, Large purple fringed [sic] orchis [Platanthera peramoena (A. Gray) A. Gray, purple fringeless orchid, Orchidaceae (orchid family)], watercolor on paper by Richard Crist (1909–1985), HI Art accession no. 6615.309.

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Hunt Institute on Sunday afternoons at 2pm throughout the spring and early summer.

March 18, 2012

Steve Grund, "Why do plants bloom when they do? Spring ephemerals and other seasonal flowering patterns"

Spring is a wonderful time of year in western Pennsylvania for a variety of reasons. Prominent among those reasons is the magnificent profusion of beautiful and intriguing wildflowers in our forests and in other habitats. Why do so many plants bloom early in the spring? Why do others bloom in the fall or at other times? We will illustrate some of our native plants with the paintings of **Richard Crist** as we focus on the diversity of flowering strategies exhibited

by our native plants, emphasizing species that will be coming into bloom locally during the next few months. Grund studied botany at the **University of Michigan** and since 1995 has been botanist for the **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy** and the **Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program**. His work is focused on the conservation of the flora of Pennsylvania with emphasis on rare species.

March 25, 2012

Jeanne Poremski, "Pressing and mounting specimens for a personal herbarium"

Jeanne Poremski will demonstrate the process of pressing plants for preservation in a personal herbarium. From the selection of the plant to its pressing, arrangement and gluing, Poremski will cover all aspects of plant preserva-

tion for both simple and complex specimens. Poremski is owner of **Jeanne Poremski Gardens** in Uniontown, Ohio, a landscape firm that uses appropriate native plants in its designs.

April 15, 2012

Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, "Wildflowers of Pennsylvania"

As an educator, Dr. Haywood believes that learning and teaching about our wildflowers in Pennsylvania is critical today as so many of our plant communities are being destroyed by coal mining, Marcellus Shale drilling and other environmental issues. In her presentation, photographs of plants, such as the rare shrub *Pyrularia pubera* Michaux, buffalnut; the noxious, but beautiful, *Rosa multiflora* Thunberg; and the rare globeflower, *Trollius laxus* Salisbury, will be shown. She also will include many of her favorites, such as violets, gentians, lupines, loosestrifes and the prickly-pear cactus that can be found in the Jennings's Prairie. Many other plants will also be shown and discussed in relationship to the environmental areas where they are located, including bog plants, such as the pitcherplant, *Sarracenia purpurea* Linnaeus, and the many sundews, *Drosera Linnaeus* spp. Haywood is a botanist and plant pathologist and professor emeritus of the Biology Department at **Carlow College**. She is the co-author of the book *Wildflowers of Pennsylvania* (2001), published by the **Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania**, of which she served as president for twenty years.

April 22, 2012 (Earth Day)

John Totten, "Wildflowers in the home garden"

Native Pennsylvania, A Wildflower Walk is a wonderful combination of the painter's art and the science of botany. Your garden can be another place where art and science meet. Native plants and their wild haunts are powerfully evocative, and, with care, we can create home landscapes that celebrate this beauty and emotion. Totten is a partner in the garden management and development firm, **Gardens! LLC**. He is an adjunct faculty member at **Chatham University's** Landscape Architecture graduate program and **Penn State University's** Sustainable Landscape Program.

June 24, 2012 (Hunt Institute Open House)

Bonnie Isaac, "Rare plants of Pennsylvania"

Nearly one quarter of the native flora of Pennsylvania is considered rare or endangered. Plants are considered rare for a variety of reasons. Find out what some of our rare plants are, why we consider these plants to be rare and what factors we use to classify a plant as rare in Pennsylvania. Isaac is the collections manager of the Botany

Department at **Carnegie Museum of Natural History** and co-curator of this exhibition.

Leora Siegel
Director, Lenhardt Library
Chicago Botanic Garden
Glencoe, Illinois

Chicago Botanic Garden's Lenhardt Library Awarded National Endowment for the Humanities Grant

Supporting the digitization and preservation of 45 rare botanical volumes

The **Chicago Botanic Garden's Lenhardt Library** was recently awarded a \$172,000 grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities** to fund a project that will digitize and preserve 45 rare and unique botanical volumes, dating from the late sixteenth to the early twentieth century, which will be made publicly accessible via the **Illinois Digital Archives**. This project will enhance access to a unique cultural treasure by contributing rare volumes of educational value and public interest to the nation's collection of digital works in the humanities. Previously owned by the **Massachusetts Horticultural Society (MHS)**, this collection of books and journals encompasses five centuries of research on botany, gardening and landscape design. In 2002 the Chicago Botanic Garden purchased these rare books and journals, ensuring the heart of this historic collection will remain together and preserving the cultural history and literature of its discipline.

These volumes present an outstanding opportunity for researchers and students to map the history of ideas as well as chart the evolution of the modern science of botany, and discover the relationships between science and art, botany and medicine, and humans and nature. **The Woman's Board of the Chicago Horticultural Society** established the Lenhardt Library in 1951. In 1959 it contained 584 volumes. With the opening of the Chicago Botanic Garden and its Education Center in 1976, the Library's growing collection of 6,000 books moved to a new facility to better meet the needs of its users.

Today the collections of the Library hold approximately 110,500 volumes in 32,500 book and periodical titles. This includes 2,800 periodicals, 3,300 rare books, 750 DVDs and videos, 10,000 slides, 1,000 nursery catalogs, and the archives of the **Chicago Horticultural Society**. The Lenhardt Library is located in the Regenstein Center. Hours are 10am to 4pm, Monday through Friday, from noon to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday, and by appointment; closed on holidays. Members have borrowing privileges.

For more information and to search the library collections, visit < <http://www.chicagobotanic.org/library> >.

Suzi Teghtmeyer
Agriculture, Botany & Forestry Librarian
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

The **CBHL Annual Meeting** for 2013 has been moved to **Michigan State University Library** in East Lansing, Michigan. The program is still in the planning stages but themes and presentations will likely have more of an academic slant. The date will be the first week in May. If you have questions, please ask. Be prepared to celebrate the **"Green in 2013!"**

In early 2011 we presented an exhibit of botanical works in our **Special Collections Department (SPC)** featuring some of the rare and beautiful books featuring plant drawings and artworks through the ages. The head of SPC wanted an online exhibit created, too, so I worked with a photographer and website creator (both in the library) and the exhibit, **"Vibrant Treasures - Botanical Illustrations from the 16th to 20th Centuries,"** was made. The link to it is: < <http://www.lib.msu.edu/exhibits/vibrant> >. Please let me know what you think.

Dorothy DeSimone, Library Volunteer
Lawrence Newcomb Library
New England Wild Flower Society
Framingham, MA

The **Lawrence Newcomb Library** at the **New England Wild Flower Society** recently named its Reading Room in honor of longtime volunteer librarian and CBHL member **Mary M. Walker**.

Mary was instrumental in the establishment of our library collection in 1971. The dedication on September 28 was in honor of her 40 years of service to the Library and the Society.

You can read all about it and see a photo of Mary with her family at < <http://www.newfs.org/learn/lawrence-newcomb-library/mary-m-walker-reading-room.html> >.

Mary's email is < marymw@aol.com > if you would like to offer your congratulations.

Janet Woody, Librarian
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
Richmond, Virginia

We've had a lot of excitement here at the **Lora M. Robins Library** at **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden**. We are one of five museums to receive the 2011 National Medal awarded by the **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**. Let me quote from the official press release issued jointly by the Garden and IMLS:

"Each year, the federal IMLS, in coordination with the White House, awards the national medal to five libraries and five museums that have helped make their communities better places to live. This is the first time a Virginia museum has been recognized."

Additionally, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden joins an elite group as only two other botanical gardens in the country have received the honor: Chicago Botanic Garden (2005) and New York Botanical Garden (2010).

The National Medal is the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries for extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions. Recipients must demonstrate innovative approaches to public service and community outreach. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden was nominated by U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA).

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden was selected based on its work growing fresh produce for the hungry; actively participating in urban greening and water management initiatives; contributing to economic development and work-force training; and educating diverse youth and adult audiences about critical issues related to the interdependence of people and plants."

We are honored to be recognized in the museum community, and especially honored to stand alongside Chicago Botanic Garden and New York Botanical Garden. We are both humbled by this award, and inspired to work even harder to be worthy of the award.

In other slightly less exciting news, the library acquired new software in the spring of 2011 that will allow us to create and manage databases, and to incorporate social media elements into our information resource offerings. As long-time customers of Inmagic and their Genie library catalog for many years, it was a fairly easy decision to acquire their Presto product. This platform integrates very well with our existing library catalog and enables us to import our plant records from an aging Access database into Presto.

A major impetus for acquiring this software was to impose organization and accessibility to our ever-growing photo collection. Presto makes it easy to add and catalog photos, and to retrieve them using keyword or descriptor field searching. We have created a photograph database, and can link photos from it to plant records.

Several years ago we used Genie to create an art database to create records for our Descubes botanical drawings, and have migrated that over to Presto. We are now cataloging other Garden art as time allows. Photos can be linked from the photograph database to records describing art works, or images can be stored in the art record itself.

Presto also allows us to create a home page of our own design to offer access to these resources and any external resources to our visitors. Some of the external resources currently linked are the **USDA Plant Database**, **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**, and **Plant More Plants**. You can take a look at our guest view here: < <http://lgbglibs.lewisginter.org/Presto> >. The guest view allows access to the library catalog and **Artbase**; the other databases are not on public view at this time. Please let me know if you have any questions about our databases and I will give you a personalized tour.

Members' News West

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

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

HCRL Receives Grant

A new \$75,000 capacity-building grant from the **S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation** will support hiring an Assistant Librarian and allow the Library to open six days a week. The grant also funds summer internships for our Youth Education Program.

These funds will allow the Library to hire a half-time Assistant Librarian to collaborate with the Youth Education Program, assist teachers in selecting books to incorporate into classroom discussions, coordinate special story time readings for school groups and manage and develop the Library's Story Time program. The grant will also make it possible for the Library to circulate, for the first time, our 1,600-volume children's collection.

Hot off the Presses!

Treasures from **San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum: Watercolor Paintings** by **Mary L. Harden** and her Master Artists, on view in the **Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture** through December, is now commemorated in a handsome catalog. Enjoy these

wonderful paintings and accompanying plant descriptions and learn more about our extraordinary Garden.

New Art Exhibit featuring Wild Mushrooms

From January through April the library will host **Secrets of the Forest: Portraits of Wild Mushrooms**, an exhibition of paintings in gouache and watercolor by **Lucy Martin**. Lucy's artwork reveals her love of mushrooms and other fungi and their forest habitat. In contrast with the more familiar tradition of botanical art in which the subject is shown as an isolated specimen, her paintings show mushrooms in their natural setting, along with leaves, moss, bark and fir cones. Lucy paints the mushrooms with scientific accuracy, but says "my goal as an artist is to awaken a sense of the mystery, strangeness and beauty of the natural world." In addition to the original paintings to be exhibited there will be prints offered for sale.

**Laurie Hannah
Librarian and Archivist
Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological
Restoration, University of California
Santa Barbara, CA**

Laurie Hannah is working with UCSB Environmental Studies professor **Dr. Peter Alagona** on a new NSF-funded project to inventory and catalog the archives of the **University of California Natural Reserve System (NRS)**. The UC NRS is the largest and most diverse network of university owned biological field stations in the world. The first reserve was founded in 1937, the reserves were brought together as an administrative unit in 1965, and today the system includes 36 sites covering 135,000 acres. The NRS holds thousands of documents, maps, photographs, and other primary source materials that speak to its cultural, administrative, and scientific histories as well



*Lucy Martin's Secrets of the Forest: Portraits of Wild Mushrooms.
LEFT: Emerging from the Underworld. RIGHT: Found on a Log.*



Lucy Martin's *Secrets of the Forest: Portraits of Wild Mushrooms*.
LEFT: Winter Fruiting RIGHT: On the Forest Floor

as broader questions related to land use, natural resource management, and environmental change in California. With a few important exceptions, these irreplaceable materials have not been inventoried or described, and there are no system-wide plans for permanent preservation and access. Other individuals and institutions around the state hold additional materials related to the NRS that should be preserved, and dozens of faculty and staff who are now in or approaching retirement have perspectives and experiences that should be recorded in the form of oral histories. The NRS Archive Project seeks to address these urgent needs.

The five-year project will result in several products: an online database of historical materials related to the NRS and the California sites it encompasses, a training methodology for teaching undergraduate and graduate students how to undertake inventories and catalog resources, the creation of new content about the reserves, such as oral histories, and the preservation of these valuable materials through best practice recommendations and working with university archivists to find homes for inactive records and orphaned collections. **The Cheadle Center** will be accepting new archival collections from UCSB's reserves as well as any collections that cannot be housed at other campus libraries. Hannah will arrange and describe these collections and add their finding aids to the Online Archive of California.

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

A Mushroom Story: Resources for the Public in the Arboretum Library

During the middle 1990s the **American Library Association** had a public relations campaign where the tagline

was "Libraries Change Lives." That always stuck with me. I imagine my day-to-day customers and their inner lives: the lives I don't probe into, because librarians have been taught that they shouldn't invade the privacy of a customer. We are taught to not ask why the customer wants to know something, only to tentatively probe their motivations so you can help clarify the request for information. Has my library or my work as a librarian really changed someone's life?

I was in the hospital recovering from surgery when the Arboretum's Senior Biologist, **Jim Henrich**, and former Youth Education Coordinator, **Colleen Biles**, asked me if I was interested in a library exhibit on mushrooms. As I was lying there with tubes and monitors, I didn't have much will to ask questions, so I think I answered, "Sure, fine, as long as you two set it all up."

When I finally returned to work, the reading room of the Arboretum Library had been transformed. Underneath the plexiglass exhibit cases there were forty-one plaster-of-paris, life-like models of mushrooms. These had been a donation to the Arboretum in the 1960s from the family of the artist, **Arthur G. Barr**. We believe they were created in the late 1930s. They had occasionally been exhibited at the Mushroom Fair that takes place here in late winter, but never displayed at the Arboretum in any other context. The models show incredible detail. I always imagined that they were created by a Hollywood set designer.

As I slowly began to feel accustomed to being back at work, I watched the exhibit get richer and richer with all things mushroom: posters, food items and an unusual display of dried mushrooms that had been collected here at the Arboretum. They had enlisted the help of another participant. **Walter Woodside**, a first year **Occidental College** student, was looking for a summer internship and Jim had enlisted him to help with the interpretative material for the exhibit. I remember him poring over our mushroom books, working with him to



TOP LEFT: The oyster mushrooms grown in Cameroon. TOP RIGHT: Austin Helms showing off the oyster mushrooms grown in a Peace Corps project in Cameroon. BOTTOM LEFT: Putting the oyster mushroom inoculum in the sterilized forest waste used as a growing medium. BOTTOM RIGHT: Women tending the fire used to sterilize the forest waste which will be used as the mushroom growing medium.

find internet sources of current mushroom names and all this information flowing into a database that would be used to create the labels for the exhibit. He also collected and dried mushrooms from the Arboretum for the exhibit and one day he brought in oyster mushrooms he had grown at home as part of the project. The exhibit was a great success and a pleasure to be surrounded by for three months. Walter is now pursuing a degree in biology. This direction was formed that summer.

Colleen Biles had told her son, **Austin Helms**, about Walter's experiment with growing oyster mushrooms for the exhibit. Austin was studying ethnobotany. The requirements for the mushroom growing project were essentially a 5-gallon bucket, some green waste (which the Arboretum has in copious quantities) and some oyster mushroom inoculum. After her son graduated he joined the **Peace Corps** and has been stationed in **Cameroon**. From our mushroom exhibit he was inspired by the clear-cutting of the forest he saw and the desperately poor living conditions of the people in his village. He created a

program that taught mostly women villagers how to grow huge oyster mushrooms using material that they could acquire for free; the clear-cut forest waste. He now travels around Cameroon showing villagers and other Peace Corps volunteers how to grow mushrooms and teach others to grow mushrooms. Because people in this country like mushrooms so much, the mushroom growers are able to buy food and clothing for their children.

When I became a botanical garden librarian, I don't think I had ambitions to have international impact with my work in these libraries. When I started I thought the impact I had was directly answering a reference question or letting a customer check out a book, or perhaps telling them about my favorite books on agaves. My years of experience now show me that libraries and the librarians who work in them, in addition to acquiring and making accessible public resources on various subjects, also create an environment where learning is constant and you never know where that learning will take the world.

Book Reviews

Compiled by
Patricia Jonas, Book Review Editor
New York, New York

New England Wildflower Society's Flora Novae Angliae : A Manual for the Identification of Native and Naturalized Higher Vascular Plants of New England. Arthur Haines. Illustrated by Elizabeth Farnsworth and Gordon Morrison. New England Wild Flower Society; Yale University Press, 2011. 973 pages, illustrated. 978-0-300-17154-9. \$85.00. Hardcover.

Prints and the Pursuit of Knowledge in Early Modern Europe. Edited by Susan Dackerman with essays by Susan Dackerman, Lorraine Daston, Katherine Park, Suzanne Karr Schmidt and Claudia Swan. Harvard Art Museums; Yale University Press, 2011. 442 pages, illustrated. 978-0-300-17107-5. \$60.00. Paperback.

Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature. Joyce Sidman. Illustrated by Beth Krommers. Houghton Mifflin, 2011. 40 pages, illustrated. 978-0547-31583-6. Ages 4 to 8. \$16.99. Hardcover.

It doesn't surprise me that **Arthur Haines**, author of *New England Wildflower Society's Flora Novae Angliae : A Manual for the Identification of Native and Naturalized Higher Vascular Plants of New England*, has taken **Harry Ahles** as one of his botanical heroes. Although born nearly fifty years apart, their stories have much in common. Both amassed encyclopedic first-hand knowledge of plants through tireless field work and herbarium research. Neither career followed a typical academic track: Ahles became assistant curator of the **University of Illinois** herbarium with only a recently awarded high school diploma and Haines became assistant curator at the **University of Maine** herbarium before being awarded his bachelor's degree. While teaching courses at the **University of Massachusetts** at Amherst, Ahles lived in a rustic log cabin on **Horse Mountain**; and while Haines holds a position as research botanist at the **New England Wild Flower Society**, he lives in a remote area of western Maine where he teaches about plants, foraging and "primitive living skills" at his **Delta Institute of Natural History**.

Haines may not resemble a traditional academic botanist, but his scientific output is impressive: numer-

ous contributions to *Rhodora* and other peer-reviewed journals, the treatment of *Euthamia* for the *Flora of North America* and four books, including *Flora Novae Angliae*—an important new flora, long needed and sure to be welcomed by New England botanists. The mistake would be to think that it doesn't belong in every CBHL library with temperate flora in the collection.

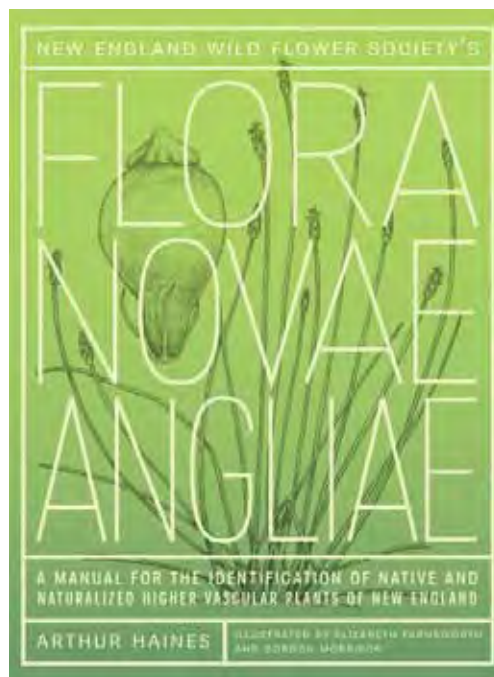
It has been decades since New England's flora was given a fresh, comprehensive taxonomic overhaul. The project began as a research initiative of the **New England Wild Flower Society** to search out and verify names and identities of rare specimens in regional herbaria, but soon, as a result of Haines' work, the Society saw the need for a new flora. *The Flora of New England* (1982, 2nd ed.) by **Frank Conkling Seymour** and *Flora of the Northeast* (2007, 2nd ed.) by **Dennis Magee** and **Harry Ahles** have been the primary resources and have "made impor-

tant contributions to the knowledge of the region's plants," Haines writes in his introduction, but "the former relied heavily on the taxonomy set forth by Fernald (1950) and the latter used plant distributions generated primarily from herbarium surveys performed in the 1970s." (*Flora Novae Angliae* plant distributions are to the state level and in all but a few instances vouchered by herbarium specimens surveyed by Haines.)

This flora is exceptionally well organized and user friendly. The black and white illustrations are copious and the stippled drawings by **Elizabeth Farnsworth** are especially dramatic. It is easy to jump into the keys at any level: with a completely unknown plant one starts with the key to the families, but if one knows that the plant is in the aster family, for example, it is easy to flip to a key

for the *Asteraceae* because the families are in alphabetical sequence within Lycophytes, Monilophytes, Gymnosperms, Magnoliids, Monocots and Tricolpates. If one is certain the plant is in the genus *Eupatorium* (or maybe *Eutrochium*), it is easy to key out to the species level by going directly to that page, even without using the index (which is also very good especially if you know exactly what plant you have and are looking for ecology and distribution information). Here is what Haines has to say about the dismantling of the genus *Eupatorium*:

Most authors' treatments of Eupatorium suffer from poor taxonomy—they repeatedly treat hybrid-derived taxa as a variety of one of the putative parents, a system that creates obvious conflicts due to its non-monophyletic and arbitrary



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

compiled by Rita M. Hassert

February 16-20, 2012

Vancouver. AAAS Annual Meeting. "Flattening the World: Building the Global Knowledge Society"
< <http://www.aaas.org/meetings> >

March 21-23, 2012

Washington, DC. 27th Annual Computers in Libraries Conference. "Creating Innovative Libraries"
< <http://www.infotoday.com/cil2012> >

March 21-25, 2012

New Orleans. 13th Information Architecture Summit
< <http://www.iasummit.org> >

April 8-14, 2012

National Library Week. "You belong @ your library"
< <http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek/index.cfm> >

April 11-14, 2012

San Diego. Museums and the Web 2012
< <http://www.archimuse.com/conferences/mw.html> >

April 11-14, 2012

Denver. 35th Annual Conference of the Society of Ethnobiology. "Conservation and Communities"
< <http://ethnobiology.org> >

April 29-May 2, 2012

Minneapolis / Saint Paul. AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo. "Creative Community"
< <http://www.aam-us.org/am12> >

April 29-May 2, 2012

Minneapolis / Saint Paul. 13th Biennial USAIN Conference. "Soil, Water, Food and Energy: Agriculture in an Era of Global Climate Change"
< <http://plant.lib.umn.edu/USAIN2012> >

June 19-22, 2012

Columbus, Ohio. APGA Conference. "Garden Paths"
< <http://www.aabga.org> >

June 21-26, 2012

Anaheim, California. ALA Annual Conference.
< <http://www.ala.org> >

June 26-29, 2012

Montréal. CBHL 44th Annual Meeting. "Making Connections Locally & Globally"
< <http://www.cbhl.net> >

July 7-11, 2012

Columbus, Ohio. Botany 2012 – The Next Generation. Annual meeting of the Botanical Society of America, American Bryological and Lichenological Society, Canadian Botanical Association/L'Association Botanique du Canada, American Fern Society, American Society of Plant Taxonomists and the International Association for Plant Taxonomy.
< <http://www.2012.botanyconference.org> >

July 15-18, 2012

Chicago. SLA Annual Conference.
< <http://www.sla.org> >

nature (i.e., which parent should the hybrid be allied to, and on what basis?).

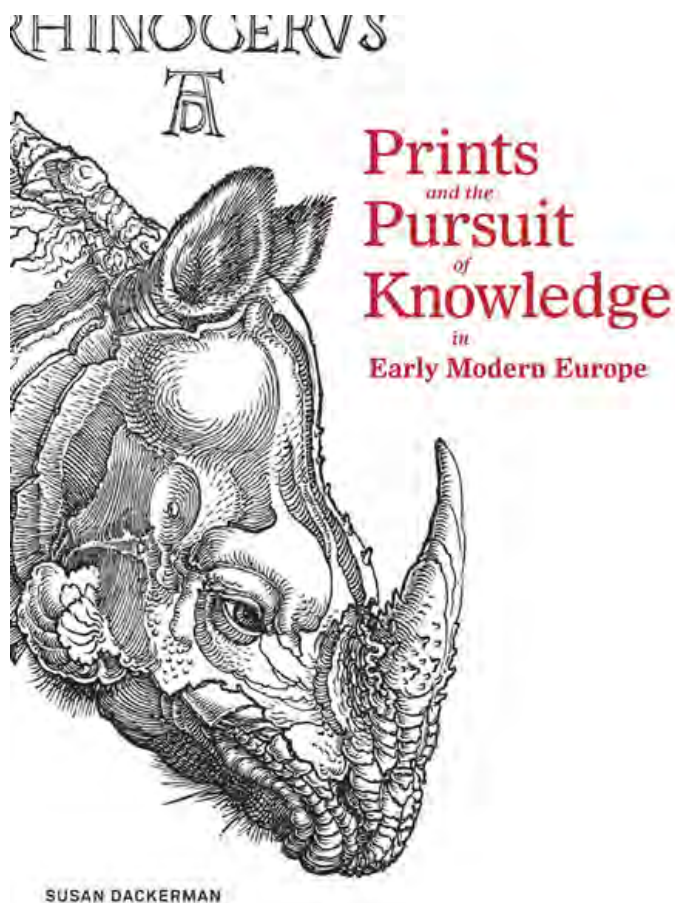
Haines has some very strongly stated and occasionally prickly opinions (like **Michael Dirr** on woody plants) and has probably had more than his share of disagreements with other botanists. He offers an apology in the introduction (“No work is perfect and the mention of an author’s erroneous report is not intended as insult or suggestion that the work is without merit”), but he doesn’t hesitate to lay it on the line if a herbarium specimen has been misidentified or if nomenclature fails the test of “monophyly; non-arbitrariness; and consistency.” Sometimes it’s a major database that doesn’t include a new but accepted genus like *Eutrochium* and other times it’s an unresolved name, particularly of rare native hybrids like *Viola* × *subaffinis* and *Nabalus* × *mainensis*. But then, there will always be disagreements between lumpers and splitters. Haines is clearly the latter and it’s appropriate that he have the final word on those challenges:

The taxonomic concepts presented are the result of the biosystematics data that have been collected. This type of information should drive what we recognize. How easy or difficult it will be to remember, what the traditional circumscription of the taxa has been, or how an authority in a group prefers to present the material have nothing to do with the evolutionary history of a group of plants or the evolutionary processes that are occurring today.

Okay, so maybe we should stop grumbling about *Symphyotrichum*.

While *Flora Novae Angliae* is easily recommended for all CBHL collections, *Prints and the Pursuit of Knowledge in Early Modern Europe* will be outside the scope of many collections, but it will be a sound acquisition for those libraries with the *Art of Natural History* edited by **Therese O’Malley** (also *Keywords in American Landscape Design*, the 2011 winner of the CBHL Literature Award in the technical category < <http://www.cbhl.net/litaward/litaward.htm> >) and **Amy Meyers** (also *Knowing Nature: Art and Science in Philadelphia, 1740-1840* due early 2012); and especially for those with collections that include 16th century herbals and early modern botanical treatises. Even though the title of this lavishly produced exhibition catalog emphasizes prints over natural history, the authors of several of its scholarly essays are familiar names in the history of art and science: **Lorraine Daston** and **Katherine Park** (co-authors of *Wonders and the Order of Nature, 1150-1750*) and **Claudia Swan** (*The Clutius Botanical Watercolors: Plants and Flowers of the Renaissance*).

The exhibition and catalog explore the singular moment in European history when the artist was a vital participant in the acquisition and production of knowledge about the natural world. Daston writes in her essay

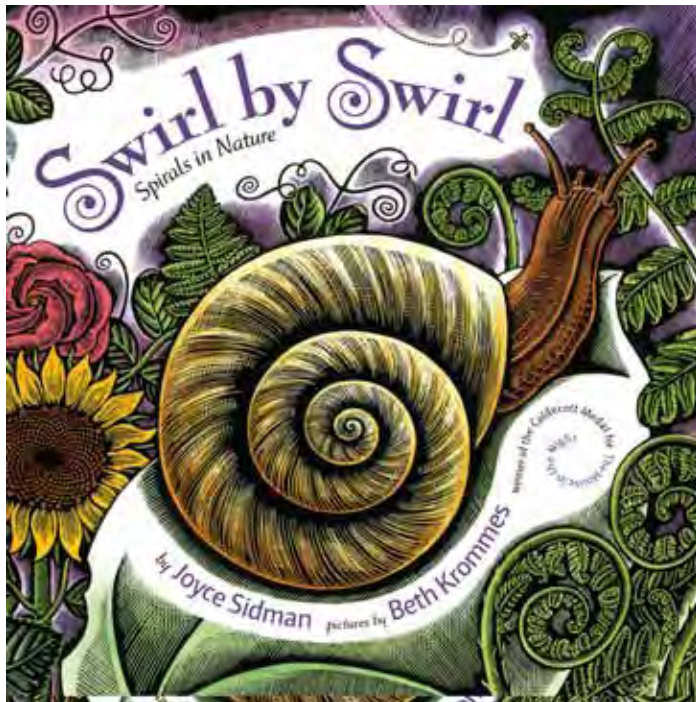


of the radical transformation of observation: “To turn observation and experiment into forms of learned experience, meant not only that natural philosophers attended more closely to forge and field but also that artisanal trials of materials and techniques widened to test hypotheses about causes and explanations.” She, who in an *American Scientist* interview, offered that her “favorite places to be are rare books rooms,” continues in *Prints* “the library remained (and still remains) as important as the laboratory or the field in the pursuit of natural knowledge.” Indeed.

Since botanical treatises played such a key role, there are many familiar reproductions like woodcuts from the canonical *Herbarum vivae icones* and *De historia stirpium commentarii insignes*; the engraving of **Jacques de Gheyn**’s portrait of **Carolus Clusius**; and **Swanenburg**’s engraving of the **Hortus Botanicus of Leiden University**. There are less familiar (to me) reproductions of maps, globes and sundials (**Dürer**’s work includes not only the famous rhinoceros, but the first printed directions for a sundial); anatomical “flap” prints; and printed paper scientific instruments. The catalog also incorporates an extra pull out-copy of globe gores to cut out and assemble—not a feature that will appeal to most librarians.

An unfortunate corollary of the decision to have graduate students write the caption text is that the differing depths of their knowledge of the specific

subjects has led to repetitiveness, inconsistencies and at least a few errors. Nevertheless, this ambitious, interdisciplinary work establishes a broad intellectual context for the early botanical works with which our libraries are familiar.



Swirl by Swirl is also not a book for every CBHL collection, but those with children's literature should not miss this one. The opening line—"A spiral is a snuggling shape"—doesn't seem to promise anything more than a cozy bedtime story; but for very young readers, **Sidman's** simply told poem opens a door on the natural world that books for this age rarely do. On each page the child will spot spirals, and observe how this shape provides plants and animals with strength to grow (ladyferns push up through the soil), protection (millipedes roll into armored balls) and ways to reach out (the tentacles of an octopus) and grasp (prehensile trunks of elephants and tails of monkeys). **Krommes'** exquisite scratchboard illustrations are graphically bold and densely detailed landscapes: creatures curled up in winter in underground burrows; a pond and meadow with a spider spinning a web and swallowtail butterflies feeding; and the starry arms of galaxies expanding through space.

Although the publisher describes this as appropriate for children four to eight, try reading it with younger listeners, who will probably be spellbound. Flora, fauna and natural phenomena are helpfully labeled for the adult reader and there is a two-page spread at the end that offers more, but still very basic information.

If Joyce Sidman hadn't recently won a **Newberry Honor** and Beth Krommes a **Caldecott**, I would bet they are a shoo-in for a Caldecott with what will surely become a classic.

CBHL Newsletter Contributors Guidelines (revised)

Deadlines

December 15 for February issue = earlier CBHL annual meeting feature
 March 15 for May issue = General features, late-additions/updates re: meeting
 June 15 for August issue = meetings coverage and proceedings
 September 15 for November issue = Next Year's Host

Please send your columns and graphics to <larissa.glasser@gmail.com>. Please put *CBHL* somewhere in the subject line.

Formatting

MS Word files (attachments), are preferred. Please "Save As..." the .doc extension, rather than .docx (latest version of MS Word defaults to the latter, which can be problematic). Otherwise, plain text will do, but please let Larissa know if there are any formatting considerations (italics, bold, captions, callouts).

••• Please include all picture captions / credits in the MS Word file you send. If you send this data within the body of your accompanying email, it runs the risk of becoming lost in the shuffle. •••

When saving your image or text file, please use the following naming convention: "yourlastname.filename.fileextension"
 Example = "Glasser.articlename.doc" or "Glasser.articlename.jpg"

- for text files: Times New Roman, 10point with ragged right edge.
- put websites and e-mail addresses between triangular brackets <>.
- Name of the article's author and title at workplace (if applicable)
- The name and location (city, state) of their institution
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- include as much illustrative matter (graphics) as possible, along with captions and intellectual property designation

Graphics files should be high-resolution scans or photos. 300 dpi is ideal for print.
 It's ok to send big files to <larissa.glasser@gmail.com>, she can always edit the image down if needed.

On the Web: An Interest Based Networking Site, Paper Conservation, and Some Lists of Fictional Fantasy Plants

Stan Johnston
Mentor, Ohio

Art Tucker forwarded me a link to **Pinterest** < <http://pinterest.com> >, an online clipboard where members can search under various categories, including gardening, for what other members post on that topic which you can then pin onto your own online pinboard where you can follow other people and they can follow you. Ever changing, Art warns that it is addictive. At the moment there appears to be a delay in being allowed to join.

Recent discussions on the CBHL List focused on the debate over the number of species of plants, and led to the posting of several sites dealing with the subject including that at **Botanic Gardens Conservation International** < <http://www.bgci.org/ourwork/1521> >, the Proceedings of the **Royal Society: Biological Sciences** < <http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/early/2010/07/07/rspb.2010.1004> >, and the **Angiosperm Phylogeny Website** < <http://www.mobot.org/mobot/research/apweb/welcome.html> >.

A discussion on book and paper preservation on the **Ex Libris List** led to the citation of the following helpful sites: **Cornell University** < <http://www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/operations/bookconservation.html> >,

Library of Congress < <http://www.loc.gov/preservation/care/paper.html> >, **Northeast Document Conservation Center** < http://www.nedcc.org/resources/leaflets/2The_Environment/05ProtectingCollections.php >, and **Wikipedia: Preservation (Library and Archival Science)** < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preservation_%28library_and_archival_science%29 >.

Plant Collections < <http://www.plantcollections.org> > is a collaborative database project with the **Chicago Botanic Garden** (project director) aimed at providing easy public access to information on plants, including their locations, in living and herbaria collections through a searchable database of institutional plant records. Unfortunately when I tried the search engine,

it just kept searching without indicating any results or there was no result. Hopefully this was just an off day since this should be an important tool for locating plants for research purposes.

Turning to Native American ethnobotany, **First People—the Legends** < <http://www.firstpeople.us/FP-HTML-Legends/ThePrimacyOfPlants-Ojibwa.html> > has a charming Ojibway story of how the rose got its thorns. **Internet Sacred Text Archives** < <http://www.sacred-texts.com/nam/cher/motc/motc126.htm> > provides an online account of Cherokee plant beliefs and stories. Finally, **Native American Ethnobotany at the University of Michigan, Dearborn** < <http://herb.umd.umich.edu> > provides a searchable database of Native American plants and their uses.

Turning to libraries who are CBHL members and their institutions, **Olbrich Botanical Gardens** < <http://www.olbrich.org> > in Madison, Wisconsin featuring sixteen acres of plants hardy to the Midwest coupled with the **Bolz Conservatory** featuring tropical exotic plants and visitor center, contains our member **Schumacher Horticultural Library** < <http://www.olbrich.org/visit/schumacher.cfm> >.

The Sarah P. Duke Gardens < <http://www.hr.duke.edu/dukegardens> > are located on 55 acres in the middle of the **Duke University** campus in Durham, NC. They are composed of the original terraces and their immediate surroundings, the **H.L. Blomquist Garden of Native Plants**, the **William L. Culbertson Asiatic Arboretum**, and the **Doris Duke Center Gardens**. Within the Duke Center is our member **Harrison Jackson Phelps Horticultural Library** < <http://www.hr.duke.edu/dukegardens/library.htm> >.

One interesting nonmember garden is the **Sherman Library and Gardens** < <http://www.slgardens.org/> > occupying 2.2 acres in Corona del Mar, CA. Although the grounds are relatively small, the library < http://www.slgardens.org/the_library/ > is extensive, featuring a 25,000 volume research collection centering on the history of the Pacific Southwest.

In the past, we have noted numerous sites dealing with legendary and mythological plants. We now turn to some listings of plants created by recent writers of fantasy and science-fiction. First is **Wikipedia's List of Fictional Plants** < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fictional_plants > which covers the widest range of authors. More detailed and more specialized is **Wikipedia's List of Middle Earth Plants** < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Middle-earth_plants > which details all the plants in the canon of **J.R.R. Tolkien** including references to where they appear.



CBHL Lite: Singapore

David M. Lane
Biological Sciences Librarian
University of New Hampshire
Durham, New Hampshire



We all know how important long-range planning is, so I think I may have found the perfect hotel for our **50th anniversary meeting**. It's the **Marina Bay Sands (MBS) Hotel** in Singapore. I just returned from the **20th World Orchid Conference and Show** that was hosted there.

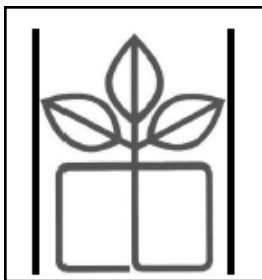
Marina Bay Sands (see image) is actually an integrated resort with a number of features of interest to CBHL members. First and foremost are gift shops. There are two, right in the lobby, not to mention the large upscale shopping mall which occupies three floors adjacent to the hotel. One gift shop is for the hotel and the other is for **SkyPark** which connects the tops of the three 50-story-tall towers. The second feature is boating. Several of our recent annual meetings included boat trips. MBS has two choices: inside, gondolas travel the length of the mall, and outside, water taxi tours run around the bay.

The third feature is restaurants with a view overlooking the city. The SkyPark includes a park with palm trees, a celebrity chef restaurant, lawn furniture, Jacuzzis, and a long pool. The pool is the highest hotel rooftop pool in the world. It's called an **Infinity Pool** because you can see the Singapore skyline in the distance reflected in the pool. You can swim right up to the narrow edge of the building 600 feet above street level. This feature is probably not of interest to all members.

As for committee meetings, business meetings and such, with 250 meeting rooms available in the adjacent exposition center, every session can be in a different room. In between sessions there are plenty of gardens to visit. Across the street, accessible by footbridge from the hotel, are two large conservatories: a cloud forest and Mediterranean climate plants. Let's not forget the 100-year old botanical garden in the center of Singapore.

Our 50th anniversary meeting in Singapore would be a great occasion to start a new project: **ABHL, Australasian Botanical and Horticultural Libraries**.

How would we pay for all this? The Marina Bay Sands has a four-level casino. Please feel free to send feedback in any format to me at: < david.lane@unh.edu >. Image: David Lane.



CBHL Newsletter, c/o Stacy Stoldt, Secretary
Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, Inc.
Lenhardt Library, Chicago Botanic Garden
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Glencoe, IL 60022

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Questions?

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< suzirt@gmail.com >

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