

Brookside Gardens Library **More Than Just Books**

Jared Ashling

*Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
and*

Marca Woodhams, Silver Spring, MD

The Brookside Gardens Horticulture Reference Library is a one-room library located inside the **Visitor Center of Brookside Gardens**, a botanic garden in Wheaton, Maryland, which is part of the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Our Library serves as a resource center for staff, volunteers, and our surrounding community, with a collection that emphasizes the interests of the home gardener. While over the years we have remained a one-room library, we have learned the meaning of “multipurpose” as the services we provide to the public have evolved and our visitation has grown. With the combination of growing public interest in horticulture and the continued development of new technologies, it is an exciting time to be in the Library at the meeting points of horticulture and knowledge.

Brookside Gardens

When Brookside Gardens opened on July 13, 1969, it was the culmination of four years of planning and construction by the **Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC)**. The Commission began development of a display garden in 1965 in **Wheaton Regional Park** on a site formerly owned by **Stadler Nursery**.

The original design of the garden was developed by Commission landscape architect **Hans Hanses** who trained in Germany and Switzerland. His goal was to bring inspiration to visitors by displaying plants that were readily attainable and suitable for the region. Both formal and informal areas were divided into intimate “rooms” defined by walls, shrubs, or trees. Color contrasts were used in building materials as well as plants for dramatic effects.

The original grounds of Brookside Gardens were divided into three formal gardens that lead to a Wedding Gazebo, an Azalea Walk on the brow of a hill, and



photograph by Marca Woodhams

plantings around the garden entrance and the Conservatory. The Conservatory complex housed office space, a horticultural library, a sub-tropical display house, and a smaller propagation glasshouse that produced plants for indoor and outdoor displays. At that time, Brookside Gardens occupied about 25 acres, an area roughly one-half its current size, and employed a staff of ten. Popular from the beginning, visitation was 35,000 the first year.

A new phase of development began in 1972 when new gardens were installed over several years. **The Fragrance Garden** and the **Rose Garden** were added. The **Gude Garden** (dedicated by Congressman **Gilbert Gude** to his father, nurseryman **Adolph Gude**) included a Japanese Tea House. A **Trial Garden** (for testing new annuals) and the **Aquatic Garden** were later additions.

A **Viburnum Collection** featured superior selections of this diverse species, and the **Winter Garden** was created to display plants with winter interest. A **Camellia**

From the President

Robin Everly
Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Washington, D.C.

Each year, the Board faces new challenges and opportunities, but it is also driven by the same year to year responsibilities such as planning the Annual Meeting at a member's library. While I write this column in September, you will be reading it in November. By then the Board will have met with **Celine Arseneault** on planning next year's meeting in Montreal at the **Jardin Botanique de Montreal Library** and have conducted our mid-year business as well.

One of CBHL's challenges this year is to review and update our Strategic Plan, written in 2001. **Charlotte (Chuck) Tancin** was Chair of the original effort, and she has offered to assist whoever is named to head the next round of planning. Chuck was actively involved in the strategic planning process ten years ago. We are lucky she is willing to bring her knowledge and skills again to our 2011/2012 review. To learn more about the Strategic Plan, please visit our web site at: < <http://www.cbhl.net/about/stratp.htm> >.

Finally, I had a professional career chance of a lifetime when **Smithsonian Institution Libraries** asked me to present at the **18th International Botanical Congress** in Melbourne, Australia. I also met with librarians at **Royal Botanic Gardens** in Melbourne and Sydney. Both library staffs were very generous with their time and provided me with wonderful tours of their libraries. I hope to present more about the conference and my library visits in Montreal, but for right now I leave you with a great photo of the **National Herbarium of Victoria** at the **Royal Botanic Gardens** taken by **Judy Blood**.



I hope everyone has a wonderful autumn and holiday.

Robin

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CBHL Newsletter Transitions

The **CBHL Newsletter** is a valued source of information about trends in our fields of interest, and our members and their collections, and it is a vehicle for us to stay connected while we promote our organization. One thing that has always impressed me in my twenty-plus years as a CBHL member is how new members come forward to replace members who move on. **Judy Reed** has recommended that we “retire” the **Retirees News** column and **Marca Woodhams** has resigned from her role as “**Member Profile**” coordinator. Both Judy and Marca have worked cheerfully and reliably in their roles for several years so please add your thanks to my own for their generous contributions of talent and time. The **Publications Committee** will determine how we move forward, but we welcome your suggestions and contributions so please do not hesitate to volunteer.

Emails among members of the **Newsletter** and **Electronic Communications** committees have been flying fast and furiously in recent weeks in an effort to breathe life into the **CBHL blog** < <http://cbhl-online.blogspot.com> > by selectively posting newsletter content and creating an **RSS feed**. Meanwhile, CBHL members are sharing wonderful stories on Facebook < <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Council-on-Botanical-and-Horticultural-Libraries-CBHL/115328078502485> > and tweeting away < <http://twitter.com/#!/CBHLTweets> >. Our opportunities to swap stories, work as a community, and promote our organization are evolving and the definition of “publication” blurs with the new media. Since my term expires in 2012, the time is right for the Publications Committee to be led by a member who has embraced social media. Please consider coming forward to chair the committee and champion these efforts.

**Judy Warnement, Chair
Publications Committee**

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Garden, decimated by severe winters in the '70s, has been undergoing restoration with hardier camellias developed by the **U.S. National Arboretum**. In 1978, **William** and **Virginia McCrillis** donated their Bethesda, Maryland garden to MNCPPC. The Conservatory displayed its first annual **Chrysanthemum Show** in October 1978. **Wings of Fancy**, a live butterfly exhibit, and the **Garden of Lights**, a holiday light show in December, both opened in 1997.

Today Brookside Gardens encompasses 54 acres with 32 acres of cultivated gardens. It has 29 career staff, 50 part-time staff, and over 1,000 volunteers. They welcomed 414,150 visitors last year.



photograph by Marca Woodhams

cation department. The “Co-Horts” program volunteers were trained to answer horticulture-related questions that would come in by phone. A very popular resource of the Library at that time was the development of horticulture fact sheets. Handouts were developed by the librarian and staff, and covered a wide range of the most commonly asked horticulture questions. This was an important resource at a time when horticulture information was difficult for the average home owner to find.

In 1990, a large bequest from volunteer **Elizabeth Turner** made possible the construction of a new Visitor Center. The new building opened in June of 1998, and the Library was relocated into a much larger space. The Library space in the new Visitor Center was not huge, only measuring 25 feet by 36 feet, but the building now also included designated space for the adult education programs, along with office space, an auditorium, and a children’s classroom.

In 2003, **Ellen Hartranft** was hired as a full-time staff member to manage the Library and the growing

History of the Library

In the early years, the Library was located in a small, 15 x 25-foot room attached to the Conservatory. In addition to books and periodicals, the Library served as a classroom for lectures and workshops run by the Adult Edu-

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photographs by Marica Woodhams

volunteer program for Brookside Gardens. Having a full-time staff presence in the Library brought more continuity to library services, and a customer service-driven atmosphere. Ellen was promoted to Visitor Services Supervisor and **Jared Ashling** was hired in 2009 as her replacement. Jared's professional background in urban agriculture, local food systems and edible landscaping brings a unique flavor to the library that coincides with Brookside Gardens' [current] three-year theme and focus on "Food."

Resources

Currently, the Library has over 6,000 books and 87 periodicals in the collection. Thirty-seven of these periodicals are local horticulture related newsletters, such as **The Eastern Spine** from the **National Capital Cactus and Succulent Society**, **The Dahliagram**, from the **National Capital Dahlia Society**, and **The Capital Rose**, from the **Arlington Rose Foundation** and **Potomac Rose Society**. A small portion of the Library's collection (225 books), resides off-site at the **Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (MNCPPC) Pope Farm Nursery** location, which, like Brookside Gardens, is part of the **Horticulture, Forestry and Environmental Education Division** of MNCPPC.

Staffing

Fourteen volunteers support the Library with 1,100 hours of service a year. These volunteers are the main point of contact for visitors to the library. Volunteers assist library patrons with searching the library catalog, locating printed and online resources, and providing copies when requested. Volunteers also catalog books and periodicals, read shelves and assist with any special projects or mailings. Because the volunteer program and library are so closely intertwined, library volunteers are also the point of contact for all of the gardens' volunteer applications,

existing volunteers, and staff volunteer supervisors.

The Library is open 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. **Master Gardener Plant Clinics**, in collaboration with **University of Maryland Extension**, are held in the Library. Plant Clinics provide visitors with an opportunity to ask trained Master Gardeners their plant questions. Plant clinics run on weekends year round, and an additional two days a week during the growing season, April through October. Staging these plant clinics in the Library provides visitors with an opportunity to sit and talk with experienced gardeners who are surrounded with an abundance of resources and literature to support them in providing helpful and relevant information. The Library is also a distribution point for county-sponsored free compost bins, and coupons for discounted purchases of native trees at local nurseries.

Youth library volunteers staff a **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)** distribution every Wednesday. Members sign up at the beginning of the year and receive a box, or share, each week through the growing season. Eighty-nine individuals pick up shares of local seasonal organic produce each week. These high school volunteers assist members at the distribution by identifying some of the traditional items in a weekly share (kohlrabi, dandelion greens, radicchio, etc.), share recipes, and answer questions from curious visitors.

Visitation

In the Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010), the Library had 5,214 visits. From this number, 3,620 of these were recorded as the general public, with 1,163 instances of staff use. There were 793 individuals who came to the Plant Clinics, and library volunteers answered 225 phone calls. The FY 2011 numbers show an increase of visitation by the general public to 4,084 visitors, not including staff uses.

Members' News East

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

**Linda Oestry
Research Librarian
Peter H. Raven Library
Missouri Botanical Garden
St. Louis, Missouri**

Sacred Seeds Program Launches Website to Unite Ethnobotany Gardens from Around the Globe

Sacred Seeds, an international non-profit that supports plant conservation and addresses the rapid loss of biodiversity and cultural knowledge, has extended its reach to the online community via the recently launched website < www.sacredseedssanctuary.org >. For countless communities around the world, the presence of medicinal plants and the traditional knowledge of their properties and uses are the crucial factors for ensuring health and prosperity.

Plants provide humankind with our most basic resources—food, medicines, fiber and an array of other useful products. Relatives of wild crops and traditional varieties – the repository of genetic diversity within and among food plants—have been the foundation of crop domestication, plant breeding and the modern agriculture that feeds Earth's six billion people.

Plants provide the molecular basis of many pharmaceuticals that can alleviate or cure certain diseases. The Sacred Seeds website will help link colleagues around the world. Across the globe, countless communities, families and organizations are working to preserve traditional plant use and safeguard their most important species or varieties of plants used for medicine, food, building and craft, ceremony and adornments. This type of integrative conservation work requires significant innovation and planning; many of these communities are starting from scratch using only local knowledge, resources and experience. The website will enable people around the globe to better communicate: sharing and learning from each other and from the scientific community.

Participants will help further the project by posting videos, photos, questions, and solutions to the issues they face such as programming, education, volunteer recruitment, plant conservation, reforestation, documentation of traditional knowledge, and basic horticulture. Website visitors will gain access to the collections of books, databases and scientific articles that may help people to create their own Sacred Seeds sanctuaries. Stewardship of such valuable plant resources requires rigorous science combined with an approach, such as the

newly launched website, which values traditional knowledge systems and includes methods to ensure culturally sensitive solutions.

With economic development empowering a greater percentage of the world's people, urban areas continuing to expand and human populations projected to double in the next 50 years, it seems certain that natural resources will face increasing threat. Habitat loss, unsustainable extraction of plants, spread of invasive species, climate change and other human activities will have tremendous impact. Plant species will be lost, genetic diversity of surviving species will be diminished and traditional knowledge associated with plant use will be eroded.

Perhaps never before in human history has there been a more pressing need to discover, understand, conserve and sustainably use the plant resources that are essential for the benefit of humanity.

"There is no one solution to halt the rapid loss of biodiversity and traditional knowledge," said Sacred Seeds Program Manager, **Ashley Glenn**. "The solution will be thousands of people in thousands of ecosystems, mixing the collective knowledge of the world with their own ingenuity to save their own local knowledge and plants. Every person, every plant, and every innovation is valuable, and Sacred Seeds connects this global community to raise all of our efforts to a higher level."

Sacred Seeds is managed at the **William L. Brown Center** at the **Missouri Botanical Garden**, one of the largest and most active botanical research institutes in the world. Creating a global model of sustainable development through botanical research programs, the WLBC works closely with communities in host countries and has long-term success in finding practical solutions to conservation issues. Visit < www.sacredseedssanctuary.org > to learn more.

For general Missouri Botanical Garden information, visit < www.mobot.org > or call (314) 577-5100. Toll-free, (800) 642-8842.

**Charlotte Tancin
Librarian and Principal Research Scholar
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

Hunt Institute presents: Botany and History Entwined: Rachel Hunt's Legacy (16 September–15 December 2011)

To celebrate our 50th anniversary, **Hunt Institute** presents rare gems from the original collection of our founder **Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt** (1882–1963). Her early love of nature and books grew into a lifelong pursuit of rare or historical works about plants, gardens and botany. She became fascinated by the people associated with these books and also collected their portraits, letters,



Inset: Rachel Hunt standing at her garden gate at Elmhurst, HI Archives
Hunt Collection no. 252, box 52, portrait no. 19.

Background: *Iris d'Espagne and Iris Florence*, etching by Berrurier after an original by an unknown artist for Jean Francau (fl.1615), *Jardin d'Hyver ou Cabinet des Fleurs* (Douay, 1616, [pp. 150–151]), HI Library call no. DG23 F826j. Rachel Hunt purchased this early gardening manual at the first book sale that she attended.

manuscripts and original artworks.

Elmhurst, the home and gardens of **Rachel and Roy Arthur Hunt** (1881–1966) on Ellsworth Avenue in Shadyside in Pittsburgh's East End, housed her collection of rare books, artwork, antique furniture, tapestries and sculpture and reflected her love of plants and their history. Throughout her life Rachel welcomed visits from scholars, hosted garden clubs and entertained publishers, book collectors and authors at Elmhurst, and also shared her collection through talks and gallery and museum exhibitions. By the 1950s Rachel Hunt's collection was widely known for its excellence and was sought by some of the country's leading universities and botanical centers. Under the editorial stewardship of her personal librarian, **Jane Quinby**, and with essays from leading authorities on her collection and the historical background of the items in it, work commenced on the **Catalogue of Botanical Books in the Collection of Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt** (Hunt Catalogue; 1958–1961). Wanting the collection to remain in Pittsburgh, the Hunts decided to donate it, and a building to **Carnegie Institute of Technology** (now **Carnegie Mellon University**) to house both her collection and a campus library.

Dedicated in 1961, the **Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library** was envisioned as a research center focusing on the history of botany and the history of botanical publication and as a repository where her collections would be preserved, curated, augmented and made accessible to researchers. By 1971, the organization had so diversified that it was renamed **Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation** with four programmatic de-

partments of Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library. In the last fifty years, Rachel Hunt's original collection has been substantially augmented in all four departments. In accordance with the Hunts' original vision of a living collection with public availability, the Institute maintains a regular exhibition and publication program and accessibility for research on a variety of scientific and cultural subjects related to the plant sciences.

Beginning with Rachel Hunt's early interest in books, bookbinding and collecting, the materials on display in this exhibition are divided by subject and reflect her interests in the history of the herbal, the development of gardens and garden plants, the foundation of botany as a science and the botanical discoveries made through travel and exploration. The exhibition concludes with the foundation of the **Hunt Botanical Library**, its evolution to **Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation** and descriptions of key aspects of the four departments. A color-illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition.

The exhibition will be on display on the 5th floor of the Hunt Library building at Carnegie Mellon University and will be open to the public free of charge. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 A.M.–noon and 1–5 P.M.; Sunday, 1–4 P.M. (except November 20 and 24–27). Because our hours of operation are occasionally subject to change, please call or email before your visit to confirm our hours. For further information, visit our website < <http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/HIBD/Exhibitions/Exhibitions.shtml> > or contact the Hunt Institute at (412) 268-2434.

Additional talks and tours

We will also offer several talks and tours during this exhibition. All talks and tours will take place at 2:00 P.M. on the respective days.

On Sunday, September 18, Archivist **Angela Todd** will present "**USDA botanist B. Y. Morrison and his forward-thinking secretary, May Blaine.**" Morrison's sketches and ink drawings of private and public gardens in Asia date back to 1915 when he received a travel fellowship from Harvard, but his lively drawings are extant due solely to the encouragement of his secretary, May Blaine. As women entered colleges and universities but did not rise to the ranks of scientists, those degreed women taught high school botany and worked as secretaries, lab assistants and wives. The women in the USDA secretarial pool all had post-secondary schooling, including Blaine. She was secretary to the head of the Department of Plant Exploration and Introduction from 1918 to 1955, serving eight different heads, including Morrison. Blaine not only sent her private correspondence with and short biographies of USDA explorers and botanists to Hunt Botanical Library but also convinced Morrison,

who saw no need to preserve his legacy, to send his drawings, too.

During Carnegie Mellon's **Cèilidh Weekend**, Curatorial Assistant **Catherine Hammond** will give a gallery tour on Saturday, October 29, and Publication and Marketing Manager **Scarlett Townsend** will give a tour on Sunday, October 30, of the antique furniture in the reading room, which was designed to capture the essence of Rachel Hunt's personal library. The herbals, the autographed letters and the Redouté paintings were important elements of her original collection, but equally important to her was the setting in which these items were enjoyed. She did not want her new library to look common or commercial. With the help of **Harold LeBaron**, her longtime interior decorator, and **George H. M. Lawrence**, our founding director, she chose items reflecting her tastes and personality.

Curator of Art **Lugene Bruno**'s talk, "**Pierre-Joseph Redouté and his collaboration with botanists**," is on Sunday, November 6. **Pierre-Joseph Redouté** (1759–1840) is considered to be the most famous flower painter of the 19th century. He exhibited his floral bouquets in the **Paris Salon** and illustrated some of the most beautiful color-plate folios ever produced. What is less known is the work that Redouté created for many important botanists of his era. This talk will include his work for **Charles Louis L'Heritier** (1746–1800), who was the first to recognize that Redouté's talent could be channeled into creating scientific illustrations that would complement botanical texts, which helped to launch Redouté's multi-faceted career. Prints by Redouté from a selection of publications will be on temporary display during the talk.

Librarian **Charlotte Tancin**'s talk, "**At the center of the network: Dutch botanist Carolus Clusius (1526–1609)**," is on Sunday, December 4. Botanist, traveler, writer, correspondent and exotic plant and animal enthusiast Clusius used his vast personal network to gain and spread information, exchange seeds and plants, and advance knowledge of the natural world. His career touched all

four subject areas of our 50th anniversary exhibition: herbals, gardens, botany and travel and exploration. His stature and legacy made him a major figure in the history of botany and plant introduction and thus a natural subject of interest for Rachel Hunt.



Watercolor on vellum by **Pierre-Joseph Redouté** (1759–1840), 1839, HI Art accession no. 2202. This bouquet was painted by Pierre-Joseph Redouté in his final year and was acquired by Rachel Hunt in the last year of her life, capping a history of collecting Redouté items one at a time over decades, including portraits and handwritten letters.



Members' News West

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

The Arboretum Library Legacy of Brian L. Norbury

**Susan C. Eubank
Arboretum Librarian and James Henrich, Senior
Biologist
Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden
Arcadia, CA**

"Susan, I need a book with great color photographs and descriptions of all the acacias, both African and Australian."

Now that was an intimidating reference question, even for a botanical librarian with almost 20 years of experience. It came from a robust, white-haired, sometimes red-faced gentleman with a beguiling British accent. Of course, I didn't have that book even if it existed. My first reference interactions were none too successful. I feared

failure. I hadn't learned enough about southern California ornamental trees. How quickly could I learn in order to help the customers? Slowly I had a glimmer about what Brian was up to. He spent most of eight years of Wednesdays here finding trees that needed identification labels. He would then submit a request for labels to the Senior Biologist to make the labels (his requests generally went to the top of the request list). When the labels were ready, with drill driver, screws and mallet in hand he placed the engraved plastic labels on the nameless trees. Brian was nearly single-handedly responsible for labeling the entire tree collection! Another, more challenging task, was working through problem tree identifications, which he relished. He methodically compared printed descriptions with specimens from several locales before making a recommendation to staff about what he thought the tree might be.

Slowly, I was able to help with his reference questions. It wasn't really a question of me learning more about the possible plants that could grow here. It was a question of us deciding to work through all our preconceived notions of the reference librarian/library customer interaction. What Brian taught me over and over is that reference always works better if it is not a one shot, "Tell me the answer to this question" sort of deal. His work enabled me to really explore the collection here as well



as help him explore online resources. He was a reluctant adopter there, but in our last interaction he was the one who prompted me to look at the *Flora of China* online when we weren't finding the answer he needed.

We learned that Brian had died on a Wednesday. **Jim Henrich**, the Arboretum's Senior Biologist, and I had both just assumed that we had missed him early in the morning and that we would see him later in the day. We learned about his death from our colleague at the **South Coast Botanic Garden**. Brian hadn't shown up there on Monday, his normal day there. One of the many things that was incredible about Brian was that what he did for us he also did at South Coast Botanic Garden in Rancho Palos Verdes, the **Mildred E. Mathis Botanical Garden** at the University of California, Los Angeles, **Lacy Park** in San Marino, **Old Santa Monica Forestry Station** (established in 1887, now abandoned) in Rustic Canyon, and the **Huntington Botanical Gardens**. He had a busy week going from garden to garden.

Brian had started his career in the wood products industry at a firm in Great Britain, but had moved onto the insurance industry when he had moved to southern California. When he retired he took up trees again. One day he brought me a list of his books on trees. I gulped and had a volunteer go through the list to see what we had in the Library and what could be potential purchases to augment the Library collection. There was a preponderance of books that we needed to purchase. Brian had traveled extensively to Great Britain and Mediterranean climate areas to see gardens, botanical gardens and especially arboreta. He loved to chide us with the belief that **Kew Gardens** spaced their trees so that each individual tree was allowed to show off its full potential. He felt the Arboretum's were, in many cases, too closely spaced for their ultimate beauty. He had also browsed the book stores wherever he was to find any books that would help with his volunteer work. That's where the gulp came from.

The legacy to the Arboretum Library is that when he died, I saw the list again. It had been carefully photocopied and the appropriate sheet had been placed in each



Howard S. Gentry at work in the Desert Botanical Garden Herbarium
(see next page)

box of books. His niece and executor of the estate, **Jenny McQueen**, decided that the Arboretum Library was an appropriate recipient of all the books. About half of the books were new to the Arboretum Library. Those generally were tree books, including identification guides of specific genera, from South Africa and Australia, as well as a good selection from Great Britain. When we started to catalog them we were astonished at how he used them. Some of the books were literally worn out and taped back together. He underlined in red pen appropriate distinguishing characters on the sticky identification problems. The red pen also disputed photograph identifications as well as some textual problems. I showed the author Brian's copy of *The Exceptional Trees of Los Angeles* (Donald R. Hodel, Arcadia: Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation, 1988) and both he and I were astonished that Brian had been to see every tree and had marked the date and any outstanding features he had noticed on his visit. That was one of the books that had been taped back together.

Brian Norbury's volunteer work left an incredible legacy to the public gardens in the Los Angeles area and his book collection will benefit many generations of Arboretum Library customers. To peruse his Arboretum Library legacy use this link < <http://69.63.217.13/L92007Staff/OPAC/Search/TitlesDisplay.asp> > and click on "New Books, Late Summer, 2011" and know that all the trees books were his, well-loved and well-used.

Gentry's books return to the Garden

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

Dr. Howard Scott Gentry's books are back at home at the **Desert Botanical Garden**. One of the world's foremost experts on agaves, Dr. Gentry spent 12 of his 17 years at the Garden completing his authoritative book *Agaves of Continental North America*. Gentry's other areas of research included ethnobotany, plant exploration for the USDA, and the study of desert plants with potential economic value.

The books that once lined the walls in his herbarium office have returned to the Garden thanks to his daughter **Rita Gentry**. Since his death in 1993, Rita has looked after the books. Recently she decided they needed to be in a place where they would be valued and used. The Garden's **Schilling Library** is just that place, and we are very pleased to receive the collection of a man who contributed so much to the Garden and to the world of botany.

Kathy Allen, Librarian
Andersen Horticultural Library
University of Minnesota Libraries
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Chaska, MN

The three seedswomen of Minneapolis—**Emma White**, **Carrie Lippincott**, and **Jessie Prior**—all had thriving flower seed businesses that catered to women at the end of the 1800s. **Andersen Horticultural Library** owns dozens of their seed catalogs. Before retiring, AHL librarian **Richard Isaacson** received a grant to digitize all of these catalogs cover-to-cover. They are now available free to the public through the **UMedia Archive**, a **University of Minnesota** repository < <http://umedia.lib.umn.edu/> >. The text is fully searchable and the zoom application allows incredibly detailed access to the images.

Richard also digitized images from a 2005 University of Minnesota Libraries exhibit, "**Transfer of Knowledge: The Art of Botanical Illustration**." These images are now in the UMedia Archive, along with hundreds of additional botanical art images from the Andersen Horticultural Library collection.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

compiled by Rita M. Hassert



November 2-5, 2011. Charleston, South Carolina. Charleston Conference. "Something's Gotta Give!"

< <http://www.katina.info/conference> >

November 14-15, 2011. Chicago. Life and Literature Conference.

< <http://www.lifeandliterature.org> >

November 16-19, 2011. Atlanta. Museum Computer Network Annual Conference. "Making Museums Work, Together: Innovation, Agility, and Collaboration"

< <http://www.mcn.edu/conferences> >

December 6-8, 2011. Chicago. 6th International Digital Curation Conference. "Participation and Practice: Growing the Curation Community through the Data Decade."

< <http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/conferences/6th-international-digital-curation-conference> >

January 20-24, 2012. Dallas. ALA Midwinter Meeting.

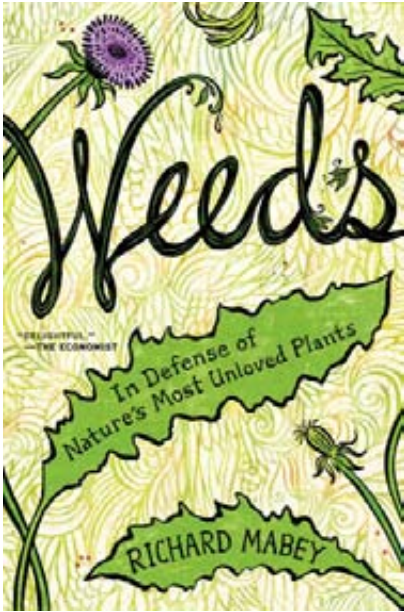
< <http://www.ala.org> >

April 11-14, 2012. San Diego. Museums and the Web 2012.

< <http://www.archimuse.com/conferences/mw.html> >

Book Reviews

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



Mabey, Richard. *Weeds: In Defense of Nature's Most Unloved Plants*. New York: Ecco/Harper-Collins Publishers, 2011. 336 pages. 12 b&w line drawings. ISBN 9780062065452. \$25.99 (hardcover).

Richard Mabey is a popular and prolific science writer who is probably known by CBHL librarians with general collections. His newest book, *Weeds*,

seems to be resonating with readers and reviewers on both sides of the Atlantic. In the United States, it has been reviewed in most of the major news dailies, which is astonishing considering the subject. But then, what gardener hasn't been vexed and outmaneuvered by what Mabey calls "the battery of survival techniques" and "the evolutionary wiles of the most aggressive species?" From seed dormancy ("Dock seeds still germinate freely after sixty years. Fat-hen's have sprouted after being recovered from deep within an archeological site 1,700 years old.") to the curious fact that the weed invasion of the Americas was one-sided ("Although large numbers of American plants have become naturalised in waste places in Britain . . . not a single North American species has become a troublesome weed"), there are few aspects of his subject that Mabey doesn't tackle with verve.

A fault of *Weeds* is that Mabey chooses to use mostly common names in the text and only includes a glossary of botanical names in the back matter. This might be less of a problem for British readers (it was first published in 2010 by Profile Books Ltd, London), but in far too many instances vernacular names in North America are different and unfortunately the publisher chose not to Americanize the text. So, for example, one of the most common global weeds appears early in the book: fat-hen. I had to turn to the glossary to discover its botanical name is *Chenopodium album* and it took several occurrences of fat-hen for me to remember that is what most of us know as lamb's-quarters. *Flora of North America* and The PLANTS Database don't even list fat-hen as

an alternate common name, so North American readers may be justifiably confused.

Mabey's often anglocentric view of his subject prompted me to pull out *My Weeds: A Gardener's Botany* by Sara B. Stein, author of *Noah's Garden*. It was one of the first contemporary books to consider weeds from an ecological perspective and to ponder the co-evolutionary relationships of these plants and humans. Originally published by Harper & Row in 1988, Stein's book was reissued in paperback in 2000 by the University Press of Florida and is still currently in print (ISBN 9780813017396), for those libraries that do not have copies in their collections.

As gardeners, both Mabey and Stein have keen personal observations to share with readers, but Stein is more fascinated with the botany and Mabey the cultural history of weeds. He recounts his unsuccessful attempt to get a license to grow hemp because that is what grew in his meadow two centuries earlier (surveyors had labeled it "Hemplant"); but when a single plant appeared of its own accord, it proved that a license was irrelevant and that "weeds always find their ways back to places they like." Mabey is eloquent on weeds in art and literature, and his chapter "Triffid" on modern weed plagues is chilling.

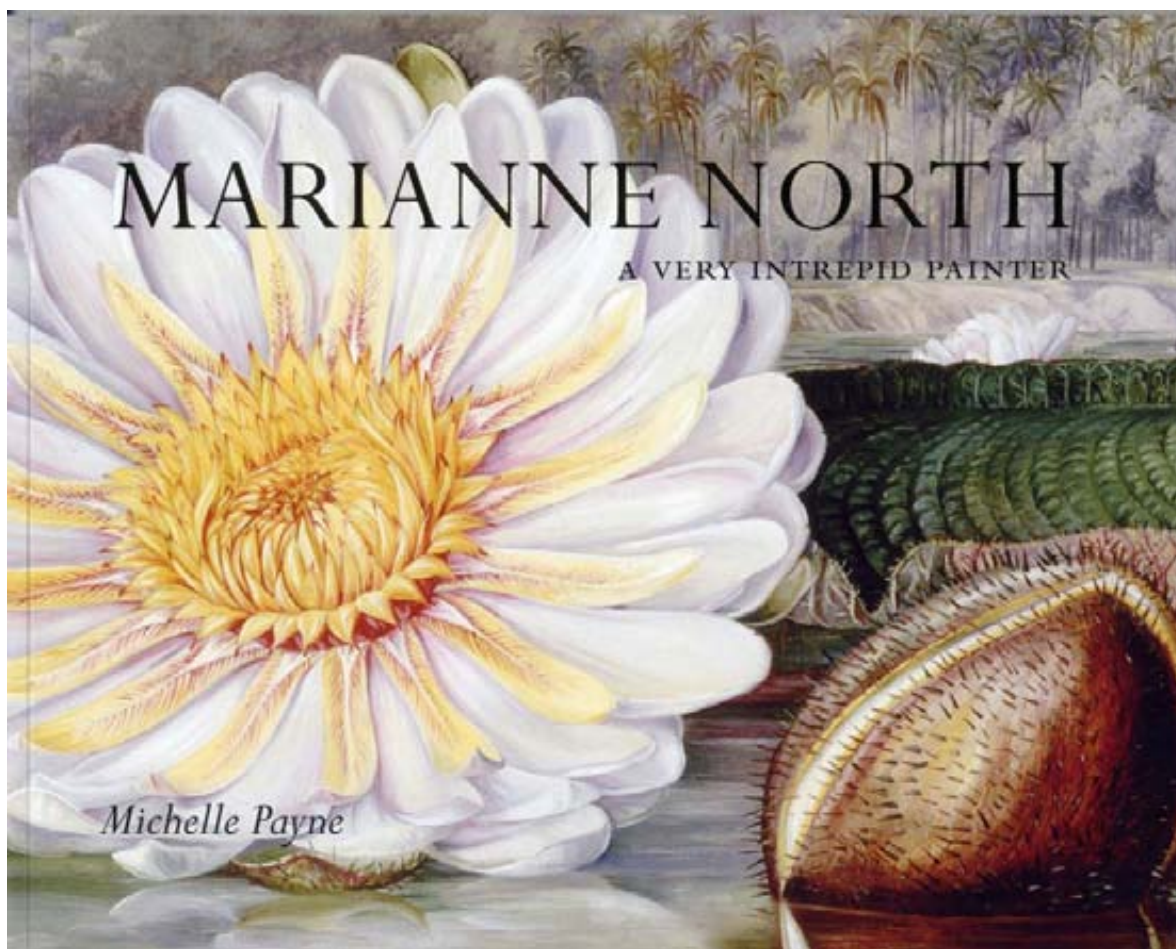
Mabey's message that "every single weed nuisance . . . has been the consequence of thoughtless and sometimes deliberate disruptions of natural systems" and that "weeds are our most successful cultivated crop" may be familiar, but this is an often humorous, always engaging and erudite book. It should have great appeal to readers of Michael Pollan (particularly fans of *The Botany of Desire*) and prove a provocative candidate for book club discussions.

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

Payne, Michelle. *Marianne North: A Very Intrepid Painter*. Richmond, Surrey: Kew Publishing, 2011. 96 p., 130 images (chiefly color; including maps and portraits). ISBN 9781842464304. \$17.00 (paperback). Available from Kew Publishing and from Chicago University Press.

Michelle Payne has produced a pleasing and informative overview of Victorian naturalist-artist **Marianne North's** (1830-1890) life, work and travels. This book includes reproductions of numerous paintings; chapters on North's work with particular categories of plants (Economic crops, Essential palms, Fantastic fruits, Sacred plants, Medicinal plants, Useful plants) in 15 locales worldwide; and a chapter on the newly reopened Marianne North Gallery at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

North was one of a kind: a woman who broke out of the mold late in life to become a strong-willed



artist who traveled on her own throughout the world, documenting the local flora in lush, densely painted plant portraits that flouted the artistic conventions of the day. Born in 1830, she traveled throughout Europe with her parents as a child. After her mother's death she continued to travel with her father, with whom she was very close. He died a few years later in 1869, and North was deeply depressed for several years, having lost in him both a father and a convivial traveling companion. In 1871, at age 40 she roused herself to accept an offer to go to North America with an old friend, and during that trip she broke away and began to travel on her own, finding her own way to sidestep social conventions that would otherwise hinder her. She continued traveling all over the globe until 1885, and produced hundreds of paintings depicting unusual plants either in their natural habitats or in the context of colorful cultural views. She typically worked on paper, with vividly colored oil paints and bold brushstrokes. North even discovered plants that were new to science; Payne documents four that were later named for her.

While in England between trips in 1879, she wrote to **Sir Joseph Hooker** at the **Royal Botanic Gardens** at Kew (his father **Sir William Hooker** had been a

friend of her father) and offered to pay for and have built a gallery and rest house in which to permanently house and exhibit her paintings so that they could be enjoyed in the botanical garden. Hooker accepted the offer, and North chose the site and engaged her friend **James Fergusson** to design the gallery and supervise its construction. In 1881 she spent a year framing and organizing the paintings for installation, and the gallery opened in mid-1882 with an

astonishing 627 of her paintings on display. Press coverage was positive, for both the quality of her work and the generosity of her gift to the nation. The number of paintings grew with later trips, and has stabilized at 832 paintings on display in the recently restored gallery.

North's health declined in the 1880s, and in 1883 she suffered a breakdown. She found a place of rest in a cottage with flower garden in Gloucestershire. Here she worked in the garden and wrote her memoirs. She died a few years later, leaving as her legacy the gallery, her art, and two published memoirs.

The book is 20 x 24 cm. and has foldout covers both front and back, the front inside cover giving an expanded view of the interior of the gallery and the back inside cover containing a map of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew marked with relevant sites. Between the pictures with their captions, the essays, and a number of informative sidebars that include timelines and notes on various related topics, there is a lot of good information packed into this volume, available at a very affordable price.

On the Web: On-Line Exhibitions, Some Gardens, and Herbal Medicine Sites

**Stan Johnston,
Mentor, Ohio**

We begin with **Library and Archival Exhibitions on the Web** < <http://www.sil.si.edu/SILPublications/Online-Exhibitions/intro.htm> >, a collection of over 3000 links to library and archival exhibits originally started and maintained by **Andrea Bean Hough** at the **University of Houston** in 1995, and maintained by **Diane Shaw** at the **Smithsonian** since 1998. It provides a database of exhibit links searchable by title of exhibit, name of institution, and subject terms. It also has a list of updates posted in the last 31 days.

Charles Darwin's Library < <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/collection/darwin-library> > is one of the latest offerings from **Biodiversity Heritage Library** with a goal of eventually putting online the complete texts of all 1,480 books known to have been in Darwin's library, using his annotated copies whenever possible. The 2011 release includes 330 of the titles.

Linnaeus, Prince of Botanists: His Work and Legacy < <http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions/linnaeus/index.html> > is the web form of the extensive exhibit originally mounted by the **University of Otago** in New Zealand in 2007 with extensive information on both Linnaeus and his disciples.

The Magic and Myth of Alchemy < <http://www.lloydlibrary.org/exhibits/alchemy/index.html> > contains material from the 2011 exhibit mounted by the **Lloyd Library** in Cincinnati, Ohio, in honor of the international year of chemistry. It includes a brief history and description of alchemy, a page of brief accounts of the alchemical authors and books in their collection accompanied by portraits and/or illustrations from the books, and a very helpful page of links to online alchemical resources, including a listing of alchemists from **Wikipedia** < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_alchemists >.

Milestones of Science < <http://milestones.buffalolib.org/intro.htm> > provides access to the history of science col-

lection housed at the **Museum of Science** at Buffalo, New York, via a book browser searchable by author and/or discipline (botany is searched as biology). Basically it shows what is there and provides an image of the title-page.

Given the large number of natural disasters that continue to befall our members, **Disaster.Net** < <http://www.disaster.net> >, a commercial site offering all sorts of material for coping with the various types of disaster, may be of some interest.

Those interested in naturopathic medicine will find the **Council on Naturopathic Medical Education** < <http://www.cnme.org/index.html> > of interest. This is the accrediting body of naturopathic schools and contains a list of those institutions which meet its standards.

SHARP: Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing < <http://www.sharpweb.org> > is the site for a society for book historians in a wide range

of disciplines. Besides information on membership and its publications, it contains extensive links to research tools for those interested in the history of printing and publishing.

Finally, turning to more gardens which I knew nothing about, **Mt. Cuba Center, Inc.** < <http://www.mtcubacenter.org> > is a non-profit horticultural center located on 600 acres of land, the former estate of **Mr. and Mrs. Lammot du Pont Copeland**, designed by Thomas Sears in northern

Delaware. It is dedicated to the study, conservation, and appreciation of plants native to the **Appalachian Piedmont Region** through garden display, education, and research. Among the site's features are a clickable garden map linking to images and descriptions of the different areas, information on their education and internship programs, and their conservation, plant evaluation and research programs. Online gardening resources include suggested reading, a collection of links, and their native plant finder.

Finally, our CBHL member site for this issue is **The Fanny Dwight Clark Memorial Garden** < <http://www.clarkbotanic.org> >, a 12-acre living educational facility in Albertson, New York, including collections of native spring wildflowers, conifers, roses, perennials, wetland plants, rock garden plants, herbs, butterfly plants, medicinal plants, and over a dozen collections of plant families. One of their special strengths is their daylily collection, which has won them recognition by the **American Hemerocallis Society** as an official Daylily Garden.



The Magic and Myth of Alchemy





CBHL Lite: Feedback

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



After 13 columns it's time to go over the feedback—not that there's been a lot of it. It's always dangerous to solicit feedback as the accompanying image shows.

The first comment that I received was from a member who wrote that her husband always started with my column because it was the part of the newsletter he could most relate to. The rest was a mystery, I guess.

There have been several suggestions for future columns: mostly books. Thanks for those. I also get the hint that several members would like to see more graphs.

Another comment that I received was from a member who wrote that she had no idea what to get two men on her holiday gift list. After reading my column however, she was going to get them both the *Flattened Fauna* field guide. She wrote that it required a certain type of humor to appreciate it. By the way, there was a third book from the same publisher that I didn't mention: *That Gunk on My Car, a Guide to Common Insects of North America* by Mark E. Hostetler which was published in 1997 (Berkeley: Ten Speed Press).

Only one member tried to guess the dates for the meeting bags. He was right and swore that he didn't use the CBHL Archives. Since I had no prize to offer him, I wrote back that I would feature his name prominently in this column: *** STEPHEN SINON ***.

The column about the book, *Parallel Botany*, generated the most interest, also some criticism. One member thought that I had oversold the book. Well, I checked the federal regulations on newsletter columns and it's clear that the standards for humor columns are much lower than the standards for book review columns. So I'm in compliance.

I wonder what our EBHL colleagues think about all this?

Please feel free to send feedback in any format to me at: < david.lane@unh.edu >.

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).

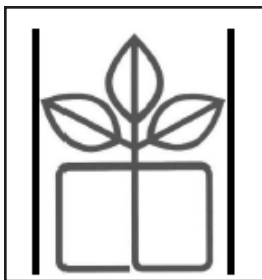
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Graphics files should be high-resolution scans or photos. 300 dpi is ideal for print.

It's ok to send big files to < larissa.glasser@gmail.com >, she can always edit the image down if needed.



CBHL Newsletter, c/o Stacy Stoldt, Secretary
Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, Inc.
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