

CBHL 52nd Annual Meeting Preview

What's Next: The 21st Century Botanical and Horticultural Library, May 19-22, 2020



By Robin Everly
Librarian, Smithsonian Libraries

After 20 years, Smithsonian Libraries (SIL) and the National Agricultural Library (NAL) welcome CBHL members back to Washington, D.C. and Beltsville, Maryland, respectively. The Host Committee — Barbara Ferry, Robin Everly, Susan Fugate, Leslie Overstreet, Allie Alvis and Martin Kalfatovic — is pleased to be hosting and excited to share “What’s New” in our libraries as well as the Smithsonian museums.

Three days at the Smithsonian will include a special “Get to know CBHL and its members” meet and greet on Tuesday morning, behind-the-scene tours of the U.S. National Herbarium, plant mounting room, and botanical illustration, and in-depth tours of the Joseph F. Cullman 3rd Library of Natural History, which holds the Smithsonian’s collection of rare books in anthropology and the natural sciences, and the Botany and Horticulture Library, completely renovated in 2013. Smithsonian Gardens staff will be providing tours of the Archives of American Gardens, and the Enid A. Haupt and Mary Livingston Ripley Gardens. There will also be a tour of the completely renovated U.S. Botanic Garden conservatory and outdoor gardens.

Keynote Speaker W. John Kress, Ph.D. Emeritus, Department of Botany at the National Museum of Natural History, will be discussing the complexity of nature and botanical libraries in the Anthropocene, a term for a proposed geological epoch the human race is now entering. Dr. Kress is a tropical botanist who has authored many books, including *Living in the Anthropocene: Earth in the Age of Humans* and *The Weeping*

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Goldsmith: Discoveries in the Secret Land of Myanmar.

Two social events will 'bookend' the conference and allow you to enjoy being in the 'heart of Washington, D.C.' in the springtime. On Tuesday evening, in the Haupt Garden, a memorable reception is planned to welcome attendees. The Friday night banquet will be an evening cruise down the Potomac River, providing spectacular views of the Nation's Capital monuments and historic buildings.

Above and below: The Haupt Garden, where the Tuesday evening reception will be held.

Our day at the National Agricultural Library will include guest speakers Melanie Schori, Ph.D., the botanist for the Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN), an expert in botanical nomenclature, on how she uses the scientific literature, and well-known author Peter Hatch, who has written several books on Thomas Jefferson's garden at Monticello. Our popular Annual Literature Award presentation and reception will also be held at NAL, along with tours of the rare books and a visit to the U.S. National Arboretum plantings in Beltsville called South Farm.

Saturday, there is the option for a post-conference tour to Oak Springs Garden Foundation in Upperville, Virginia, the former home, garden, and library of Rachel "Bunny" Mellon. Visiting this foundation is by appointment only and should be another highlight of your visit to the D.C. area.



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The conference has been designed to be walkable and make the most use of Washington, D.C.’s premier subway system, METRO. Most venues are within a ten-minute walk or less from a METRO subway stop. Exceptional accommodations will be provided at the Holiday Inn Washington Capitol, which is located near the National Mall. It is a five-minute walk from the L’Enfant Metro stop and a twenty-minute walk to the National Museum of Natural History, where the meeting will be based.

We hope you’ll join us this May!

Right: The National Museum of Natural History Building viewed from the Urban Bird Habitat Garden. Below: The Natural History Library, flagship library in the Natural History Building.



In This Issue	
Annual Meeting Preview by Robin Everly.....	1
From the President by Anita Kay.....	4
Harvard Botany Libraries by Danielle Castronovo.....	5
Adventures with the BHL API by Tracy Mehlin.....	6
CBHL Board of Directors	8
Membership Directory Update by Stacy Brody.....	9
CBHL Conference Collaboration Grant Program	10
Calendar of Events compiled by Rita Hassert.....	11
CBHL Members’ East News compiled by Shelly Kilroy.....	12
Join us!	13
Book Reviews by Gillian Hayward.....	14
Member Spotlight	15

From the President

Anita Kay

Reference & Instruction Librarian
Iowa State University

Hello CBHL!!!

Since the last newsletter, the board held its fall board meeting in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian. In attendance were me, vice-president Brandy Kuhl, and the 2020 meeting hosts Robin Everly and Susan Fugate. The remaining board members: David Sleasman (past president), Mark Stewart (2nd vice president), Esther Jackson (secretary), and Betsy Kruthoffer (treasurer) joined us via video-conference. This was the first time CBHL has tried doing a video conference for a fall board meeting that I know of.

Overall, I think we all agreed that this worked out pretty well and we saved the organization some money. We are hoping this setup can continue into the future for fall board meetings, where only the president and vice-president are in person with the meeting host and the rest of the board joins via video-conference.

From the host hotel, it was about a fifteen-minute walk to get to the Smithsonian so it isn't far at all. It is a nice little walk and crossing The National Mall was pretty cool, I have to say. I had never been to D.C. before so I tried to explore a little bit while I was there. It was a vibrant place to be, and of course, the Smithsonian was nice, but we didn't get a chance to explore beyond the meeting room and the Botany Library that Robin manages. We did see the auditorium where presentations and a board meeting will be at. It is an awesome setup and I think everyone will like it! We were also shown a few of the other meeting locations by Robin.

Discussed at the board meeting were committee updates in addition to a discussion on the budget. We are looking to have a balanced budget prepared by the next meeting and will begin doing this annually so that CBHL can more easily stay on track. On this same topic we had further discussions on our LibGuides access and what (if anything) we should do about this. Reducing the direct costs to CBHL of LibGuides would give us a balanced budget. We have made no decisions yet on this front.



Left to Right, Robin Everly, Brandy Kuhl, and Anita Kay, at the Smithsonian Botany Library during the Fall Board meeting in Washington D.C.

Harvard Botany Libraries Digitizes Botanical Illustrations

Danielle Castronovo

Archivist, Harvard Botany Libraries

The Harvard Botany Libraries is working on a multi-year project to describe, conserve, and digitize over 7,000 original botanical illustrations from over 35 collections in our archives. We are more than halfway through the project and recently launched a website to showcase these collections: <https://curiosity.lib.harvard.edu/botanical-illustrations>

These original works of art date from the early 1800s to the mid-1900s and include works by Harvard botanists, professional artists, “amateur” women who studied plants, and others. We are excited that this project will increase access to these unique and important research collections.

Each archival collection has a catalog record and finding aid. The finding aids include thumbnails and links to individual images so users can get a feel for an



entire collection. The website allows a different kind of access because users can search across the project collections and view similar images together. For example: searching “cranberry” gets results for images of cranberries from several collections and they can be viewed side by side.

Funding for conservation and digitization was generously provided by Harvard University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Following on this project will be the digitization of 18 titles (66 volumes) of nature-printed books, where actual specimens were used to make the image.

For more information please contact botref@oeb.harvard.edu.

Above: *Strelitzia reginae*. Wehdemann, Clemenz Heinrich, 1762-1835. Drawings of plants collected at Cape Town, 1817-1820. Botany Libraries, Gray Herbarium Library, Harvard University. Left: Watercolors of potato plants, approximately 1820. ecb00003. Botany Libraries, Economic Botany Library of Oakes Ames, Harvard University.

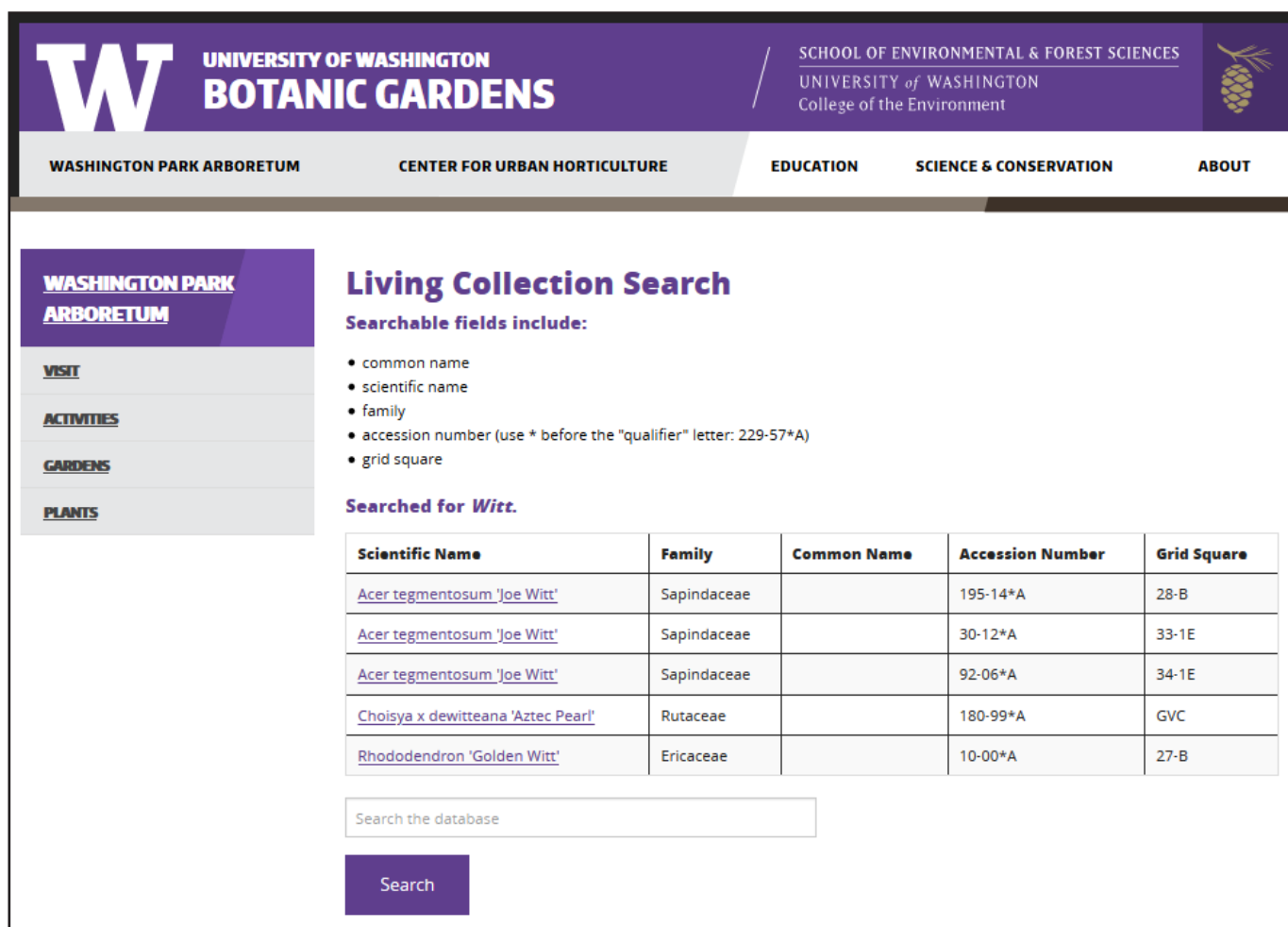
Adventures with the Biodiversity Heritage Library API

Tracy Mehlin

Information Librarian, Elisabeth C. Miller Library,
University of Washington Botanic Gardens

Like a number of our fellow CBHL member libraries, we took advantage of a grant Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) and the New York Botanical Garden received in 2015 to digitize our institution's and local horticultural organizations' literature. What a treasure trove of content we now had at our digital fingertips! How could we share this literature with our local plant-loving community? We wrote blog posts and Facebook shares, of course, but I wanted to integrate the content into our already existing collection database that we offer on our website. <https://depts.washington.edu/uwbg/gardens/bgbase.php>

I imagined a curious tree-lover first searching for a particular tree such as that beautiful striped-bark maple named after a former Washington Park Arboretum curator, Joe Witt. The database would return three records for *Acer tegmentosum* 'Joe Witt.' Now that we have a verified scientific name how could they be pointed to the issues of the local scanned publications that mention that tree? This is not as easy as it sounds!



The screenshot shows the 'Living Collection Search' page of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens. The header includes the university logo and navigation links. The left sidebar has links for 'VISIT', 'ACTIVITIES', 'GARDENS', and 'PLANTS'. The main content area displays search results for 'Joe Witt'.

Searchable fields include:

- common name
- scientific name
- family
- accession number (use * before the "qualifier" letter: 229-57*A)
- grid square

Searched for Witt.

Scientific Name	Family	Common Name	Accession Number	Grid Square
Acer tegmentosum 'Joe Witt'	Sapindaceae		195-14*A	28-B
Acer tegmentosum 'Joe Witt'	Sapindaceae		30-12*A	33-1E
Acer tegmentosum 'Joe Witt'	Sapindaceae		92-06*A	34-1E
Choisya x dewitteana 'Aztec Pearl'	Rutaceae		180-99*A	GVC
Rhododendron 'Golden Witt'	Ericaceae		10-00*A	27-B

Search the database

Search

(continues on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

I should note that it is easy to append a plant name as a search parameter to a BHL URL, such as “[https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/name/Acer tegmentosum 'Joe Witt'](https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/name/Acer_tegmentosum_'Joe_Witt')” or “<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/search?searchTerm=Acer+tegmentosum+%27Joe+Witt%27&stype=F#/titles>” (the %27 is code for the single quotes used in cultivar designation.)

However, in the first case, the “Bibliography for [plant name] by Page” doesn’t handle cultivars, while in the second case, issues of the *Arboretum Bulletin* and other publications are returned that contain each of the terms, not only that specific maple.

Ideally, I want to limit the search to the three titles of the Arboretum’s AND also the three titles from the Northwest Horticultural Society. I discovered I couldn’t construct a URL that allowed me to select one OR the other creators AND a plant name. Also, the BHL search result page is a wee bit verbose. There are lots of metadata and options to narrow the results by various other criteria, which advanced researchers love, but I worried would overwhelm my imagined curious tree-lover. Was there anything else I could try?

What about the API? That means “Application Program Interface,” which is a method for one website to access data offered by another website. I had only worked with Google’s various APIs before and not without difficulty. Happily, BHL developer tools are very well documented. I ended up using JavaScript and PHP to pull in citations from BHL and display them on my website. I still couldn’t do a Boolean OR query in one API call, however, it was straightforward and fairly quick to make two calls: one asking for Arboretum Foundation’s publications and another for Northwest Horticultural Society’s. Then those results get displayed under a header for each publisher. Easy!

Actually, it took me a while to learn how to navigate the various nested data that contained my citation through the raw JSON text returned from the API call. I wanted to keep it clean, so I only display the issue title and volume (which includes the year) and this citation is linked directly to the item in BHL.

So now my curious tree-lover can search for a plant name in the Living Collection Database, get a list of verified names that are growing in the Arboretum and then click on a name to run a literature search that lists issues from local publications that mention that plant. From there my tree-lover can click into a digital version of the issue and read about that maple. So effortless!

Literature Search for "*Acer tegmentosum* 'Joe Witt'"

1. Click a Citation to open the issue in the [Biodiversity Heritage Library](#).
2. Find the page that mentions your plant with the yellow "Search Inside" button (top right).

Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin Issues

[Washington Park Arboretum bulletin. v.73: no.1 \(2011\)](#)
[Washington Park Arboretum bulletin. v.72: no.3 \(2010\)](#)
[Washington Park Arboretum bulletin. v.68: no.4 \(2007\)](#)

Northwest Horticultural Society Issues

[Garden notes : Northwest Horticultural Society. Spring 2014](#)

Bibliography by page in full BHL database

Search Collection Database again

Note that some taxonomic databases treat nomenclature syntax in different ways. Subspecies may be abbreviated "ssp." or "subsp." Some do not contain cultivated varieties.


Experimental Search - for plants or any word/person's name

Search

Other select database searches

[Miller Library Knowledgebase](#)
[Royal Horticultural Society](#)
[Encyclopedia of Life](#)
[Plant Information Online](#)
[Google Image Search](#)
[Google Book Search](#)
[Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder](#)
[Tropicos](#)
[Garden, Landscape, Horticulture Index \(Restricted to UW\)](#)

ELISABETH C.
MILLER LIBRARY



Public welcome to
borrow books.

(continues on page 8)

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Except the intrepid tree-lover must now either use the “Search Inside” tool to find the pages with ‘Joe Witt’ maple or else page through the issue and look for it manually. No biggie! Tree-lover has come this far and I hope is now motivated enough to do a bit more work to find the page that mentions Joe Witt’s stripy maple.

I believe there are other BHL API calls that could be made to get right to a specific page within an issue that could be done after a specific issue was selected or perhaps as a two-part call. However, right now I think we’ve found a nice balance between giving our patrons direct access to select publications without information overload, not to mention testing the limits of my coding skills. (Special thanks to Susan Lynch for her encouragement on this project!)

The screenshot shows the BHL website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'About', 'Help', 'FAQ', and 'BHL Store'. Below this, the main content area is titled 'Washington Park Arboretum bulletin'. On the left, there's a 'Pages' sidebar with a list of pages from 'Cover' to 'Page 11 (Text)'. The 'Page 9 (Text)' is highlighted. Below this, there's a 'Scientific Names on this Page' section showing 'Acer lementosum'. The main content area features a large image of a tree trunk with the title 'A Tale of Three Great Plants (and Seven Plant Collectors)'. Below the image, there's a text block starting with 'While researching fact sheets for the 2006 Great Plant Picks, I noticed that three had strong Washington Park Arboretum connections...'.

I'm happy to share my code with anyone who wants to take a look. Send your request to tmehlin@uw.edu.

CBHL Board of Directors, 2019-2020

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Membership Directory Update: Have you used the Online Membership Directory?

Stacy Brody

CBHL Membership Committee Chair

When we launched the online member directory (membership.cbhl.net) in fall 2018, we asked you to log on and update your profile. For our 2019 and 2020 membership drives, we asked you to renew your membership using the directory. Now we ask, have you used the directory to search for other members and organizations?

1. Search for members by name, title, or affiliation.

Wondering where so-and-so works now? Interested in who might be working at the nearby botanical garden or university? Wondering what a certain job title really entails? Search the online membership database by name, title, or institution and find the contact information for fellow CBHL members.

2. Showcase your expertise and find out more about CBHL members. Click "More info" to view a CBHL


Members

Filter

Type here...

Search for members by name, title, or affiliation

Last name	First name	Title	Affiliation	Email	Phone number	Membership	Renewal	See more
Abdul Karim	Nura	Natural Parks Board	Natural Parks Board	NURA_ABDU L_KARIM@nparks.gov.sg	666-471-9866	Institutional	2019	More info.
Ainsworth	Fiona	Head of Library, Art & Archives	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	f.ainsworth@kew.org		Institutional	2019	More info.
Alexander	Rebecca	Plant Answer Line Librarian, Manager of Reference and Technical Services	University of Washington Botanic Gardens	rebalex@uw.edu	206-897-5268	Institutional	2019	More info.
Allen	Kathy		Andersen Horticultural Library	kallen@umn.edu	612-301-1239	Individual	2019	More info.
Alling	Jane W.	Retired		jwalling4@verizon.net		Retiree	2019	More info.



Suzi Tegtmeyer

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Contact

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City : East Lansing

Country : United States

Zip code : 48824

State / Province : Michigan

Long / Lat : 42.731158, -84.483195

Phone work : 517-884-0894

Phone home :

International phone :

Affiliation & Expertise

Title : Plant Sciences Librarian

Affiliation : MSU Libraries

Library : Main Library

Expertise : Agriculture, Horticulture

Libguides Expertise : Expert

Special collections : Have some collections here at MSUL

Social media account(s) :

Type of commercial :

Principal commercial representative : No

Website : http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/prf.php?account_id=10358

Catalog : <http://catalog.lib.msu.edu/>

Membership Details

Membership category : Institutional

Membership Status : Active

Principal Institutional member ? Yes

Additional Information

Renewal status : 2019

Donor status :

EBHL membership : Yes

Amount due :

Listserv : Yes

Newsletter : No

Current CBHL title : Membership Recruiter

List of committees : Membership, Electronic Communications, Publications

CBHL Involvement : Former president, Membership committee, Strategic Planning Committee

member profile. Membership profiles include full contact information, as well as affiliation, expertise, and other details. Members can add links to social media accounts, individual or institutional websites, and library catalogs. Fill in expertise so others can contact you with specific questions and collaborative research ideas. Don't forget to showcase your involvement in CBHL - this organization is built on the hard work of its members.

If you have any questions about accessing the online member database or building your own profile, please contact Membership Committee Chair Stacy Brody at sbbrody90@gmail.com or Membership Manager Janis Shearer at janisjshearer@gmail.com.

This is one of the valuable resources supported by CBHL membership. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so now!

<https://membership.cbhl.net/membership/>

Meet the CBHL Membership Committee!



Stacy Brody
Membership Committee Chair



Janis Shearer
Membership Manager



Suzi Teghtmeyer
Recruitment Coordinator

CBHL Conference Collaboration Grant Program

During the 2010 mid-winter CBHL Board Meeting, the Board established a grant program to encourage CBHL members' participation in other like-minded organizations' conferences. Currently, there is already a wonderful reciprocal relationship with the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Group (EBHL). To expand collaboration, this "CBHL Conference Collaboration Grant" will pay up to \$500 towards conference fees (not including accommodations, travel expenses, or meals) for a CBHL member to go to the conferences of GardenComm (Garden Writers Association), American Public Gardens Association, Special Libraries Association, Internet Librarian, or similar organizations.

The grantee would receive the funds before the meeting (up to \$500) with the agreement the participant would present a report to CBHL (either through the CBHL Newsletter or as a presentation at the Annual Meeting). The report should include useful aspects of the conference that will help other CBHL members. The report is intended as continuing education for the CBHL members. The grantee is also intended to serve as a CBHL ambassador to the conference and is required to register as the CBHL representative.

To receive the grant, the prospective grantee needs to submit a letter addressed to the CBHL Secretary including:

- Name of conference
- Date of conference
- Amount of grant request
- URL of the conference website
- Reason for choosing the conference, including the benefit to CBHL
- The date when you will submit your report about the conference to either the CBHL Newsletter or as a talk at the CBHL Annual Meeting

Please give the Board one month prior to the conference registration deadline to make a decision about the grant. Funding will be awarded based on the amount of funds made available by the Board during that particular fiscal year.

Submission address and/or email: CBHL Secretary, Esther Jackson, ejackson@nybg.org, LuEsther T. Mertz Library, The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458-5126

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Compiled by Rita M. Hassert
Library Collections Manager
Sterling Morton Library
The Morton Arboretum

May 19-23, 2020
CBHL 52nd Annual Meeting
Washington, D.C., and Beltsville, MD
<http://www.cbhl.net>

March 24-27, 2020
Visual Resources Association's 36th Annual
Conference
Baltimore, MD
<http://vraweb.org>

June 6-9, 2020
Special Libraries Association 2020 Annual
Conference
Charlotte, VA
<http://www.sla.org>

March 31-April 2, 2020
Computers in Libraries 2020
Arlington, VA
<http://computersinlibraries.infotoday.com/2020/default.aspx>

June 22-26, 2020
American Public Gardens Association 2020
Conference
Portland, OR
<http://www.publicgardens.org>

March 31-April 4, 2020
Museums and the Web 2020
Los Angeles, CA
<https://mw20.museweb.net>

June 25-30, 2020
American Library Association Annual Meeting
Chicago, IL
<http://www.ala.org>

April 19-25, 2020
National Library Week
<http://www.ala.org/nlw>

July 5-11, 2020
Guild of Natural Science Illustrators Conference
Salt Lake City, UT
<https://gnsi.org>

May 4-10, 2020
Children's Book Week
<http://everychildareader.net/cbw>

July 18-21, 2020
Botany 2020
Anchorage, AK
<http://botany.org>

May 17-20, 2020
American Alliance of Museums 2020 Annual Meet-
ing & MuseumExpo
San Francisco, CA
<http://www.aam-us.org/events/annual-meeting>

The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, Inc., Newsletter is an official publication of CBHL, an international organization of botany and horticulture libraries and others supportive of CBHL's goals. ISSN 1543-2653 (print version, to June 2019); ISSN 1545-5734 (electronic version); published on the Council's website: <http://www.cbhl.net/>. The CBHL LibGuide is <http://cbhl.libguides.com>.

Submissions are welcome according to the following schedule: March issue (copy due 1/15), June issue (copy due 4/15), September issue (copy due 7/15), and December issue (copy due 10/15). Articles may be submitted to Newsletter Editor Judy Stevenson, jstevenson@longwoodgardens.org. Newsletter team: Publications Committee Chair Amy Kasameyer, akasameyer@berkeley.edu, Editor Judy Stevenson, Proof-readers: Staci Catron, scatron@atlantahistorycenter.com, Jennie Oldfield, joldfield@atlantahistorycenter.com, and Kathy Allen, kallen@umn.edu.

CBHL Members' East News

Compiled by Shelly Kilroy
Librarian, Peter M. Wege Library
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

NatureServe: A New Non-Profit Member Institution

Mary Faith Pankin, Amanda Treher Eberly, and
Anne Frances
NatureServe
Arlington, VA

NatureServe (<https://www.natureserve.org>), a non-profit conservation organization based in the Washington, D.C., area, joined the CBHL in 2018. The NatureServe Network is a public-private partnership that includes 80 independent member programs, commonly known as Natural Heritage Programs, in the United States or Conservation Data Centres in Canada. Together with our network, we provide scientific information, expertise, and information technology tools that connect science with conservation. We are best known for our conservation status assessments, or Ranks, which are widely used by

partners to implement conservation policies (find them at <http://explorer.natureserve.org/>). NatureServe is one of the few conservation nonprofits with a dedicated botany team, employing five botanists in our headquarters office in the Washington, D.C., area. The botany library supports this team of botanists, and indirectly, the larger NatureServe Network.

The NatureServe library currently holds over 2,700 books and is maintained mostly by volunteer Mary Faith Pankin. Two office moves in the past nine years prompted NatureServe's botanists to seek volunteer help from professional librarians. When Mary Faith retired from George Washington University after many years as a cataloger in the Gelman Library, she was looking for a volunteer opportunity and found a good one in the NatureServe library. She started in 2011 and has continued ever since. She says, "Time goes fast if you are having fun!" She has an interest in horticulture, so this was a nice intersection.

Most of NatureServe's library comprises floras and taxonomic treatments of North America, with a focus on the United States. Before the office moved in 2011, the library was not cataloged and roughly

The screenshot shows the LibraryThing website interface. At the top is a dark navigation bar with the 'LibraryThing' logo and links for Home, Your books, Add books, Groups, Talk, Local, More, and Zeitgeist. Below this is a lighter navigation bar with links for Home, Profile, Connections, Recommendations, Reviews, Stats/Memes, Clouds, and Authors. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a main panel. The sidebar contains sections for 'Dashboard' (Recent News), 'Yours' (About you, Recommendations), and 'Discover' (Books, Reviews, Community, Lists, Helpers, Folly, Unused). The main panel features a 'Your books' section with statistics (2,731 books, 6 collections, 1,651 tags, 1,907 authors, 0 reviews, 0 ratings, 55 series) and a search bar. Below this is a 'Recently Added' section showing a list of books with their titles, authors, and dates. The books listed are: 'Flora North America : checklist of species : full file printout with synonyms' by Stanwyn G. Shetler (Dec 17, 2019), 'The ethnobotany of Aublet's histoire des plantes de la Guiane Françoise (1775)' by Mark J. Plotkin (Nov 26, 2019), 'Orchidaceae IV Tribu Maxillarieae : Amparoa, Brassia, y Comparettia' by Jiménez-Machorro (Nov 26, 2019), 'Memecylaceae' by Gonzalo Castillo-Campos (Nov 26, 2019), and 'Saxifragaceae' by Carlos Durán-Espinosa (Nov 26, 2019).

(continues on page 13)

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organized by broad subjects like geographic region, taxonomic group, and textbooks. The botanists had memorized locations of books on shelves. With the office move, we needed a basic inventory to make sure we did not lose any books and a system for finding and arranging the books in the new office space. We decided to use LibraryThing to catalog our holdings. LibraryThing is a low-tech but affordable software option that meets our needs. Currently it costs \$25 for an organizational lifetime membership, with a limit of 20,000 books. Anyone can view our cataloged holdings here: <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/NatureServe>.

We use the Library of Congress for classification, in part because of Mary Faith's experience. Our cataloging process starts with a search in LibraryThing to check our current holdings and search for existing classification. Often, we find an existing record in LibraryThing from another user that can be used as a starting point. Editing an existing record for our purposes includes adding our internal library codes, additional authors, series information, and modifications to Library of Congress call numbers. Occasionally we use the "Add Manually" feature, especially for pamphlets. (The smaller it is, the more time it takes!) Generally, we classify holdings by location (a state or region), even if the Library of Congress uses a different number. There are some exceptions for plant groups like orchids, cacti, grasses, lichens, and fungi that are organized by call numbers associated with genus. Sometimes we need to use the Library of Congress schedules, available at <https://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeLCC/freelcc.html> or WorldCat (<https://www.worldcat.org/>). The Smithsonian Library is an especially helpful resource for call numbers.

In Spring 2019, NatureServe's office moved again. This time, we were more prepared! The bulk of the library had been cataloged and labeled. The move gave us the initiative to finally rearrange the library by call number. Perhaps the best part is that the library is a featured part of our open office space and the books are arranged on new, built-in shelves.

Contact information: Mary Faith (mfpankin@gmail.com), Amanda (Amanda_treher@natureserve.org), and Anne (anne_frances@natureserve.org).

Join us!

Receive the CBHL Newsletter, Membership Directory, email discussion list, members-only web pages, and annual meeting materials.

Name _____
Title _____
Institution _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
ZIP/Postal Code _____
Country _____
Telephone/Fax _____
Email _____

Questions?

Contact CBHL Membership Manager
Janis Shearer, janisjshearer@gmail.com

Student.....\$50
Regular Individual.....\$80
Retired.....\$50
Institutional.....\$130
Additional Institutional Member.....\$75
Commercial.....\$175

Amount enclosed \$ _____

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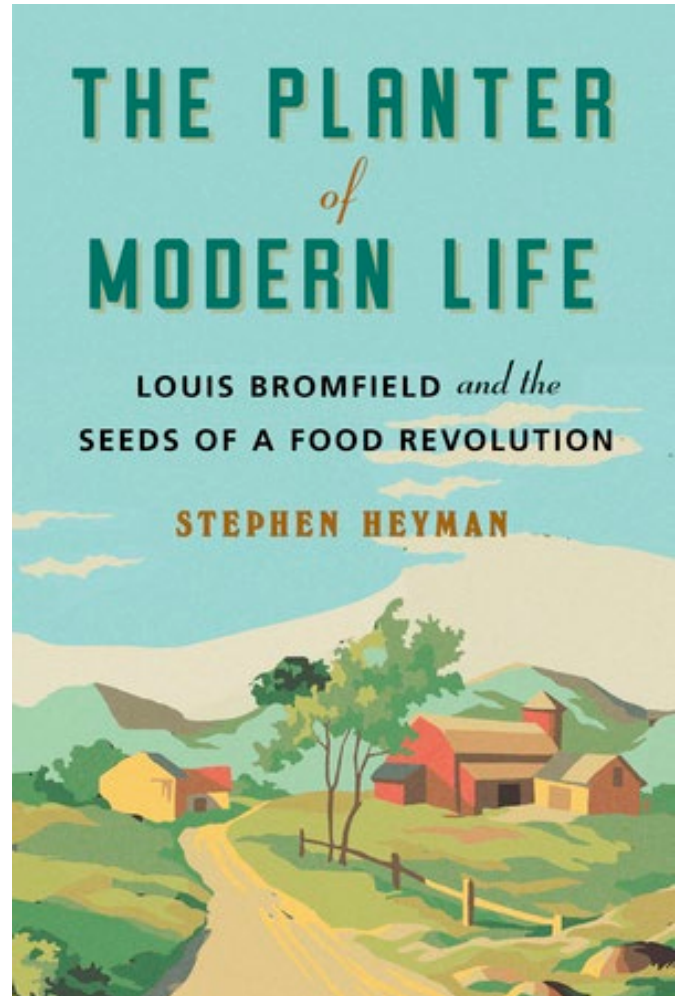
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Book Reviews

Gillian Hayward, Book Review Editor
Library Manager
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The Planter of Modern Life: Louis Bromfield and the Seeds of a Food Revolution by Stephen Heyman. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, April 2020. 352 pages, illustrations. Hardcover, \$26.95. ISBN: 9781324001898

Louis Bromfield is not well-known today, yet he was extremely famous as a best-selling writer, bon vivant, and evangelist for the land in the first half of the twentieth century. Stephen Heyman has written an interesting biography of a man some credit as a father of the land conservation, organic farming, and local food movements. *The Planter of Modern Life* is a reflection of the complicated Bromfield himself, illustrating his many facets in equal measure - writer, celebrity, farmer, gardener, traveler, evangelist. Don't be surprised that Edith Wharton sails through his French garden, Bogie and Bacall get married in the middle of his Ohio utopian farm experiment, and tobacco heiress Doris Duke appears to romance him and bond over their love of the land.



Part one ("Garden") of the book focuses on Bromfield's years in France. This section is filled with details of the path to fame Bromfield took while living in Paris in the 1920s and in a suburban French village in the 1930s. He was a very successful part of that golden age of Paris-based authors that included Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Gertrude Stein. We are also shown the roots of his passion for the land and gardening. In 1931 Bromfield moved his family to Senlis, a village 30 miles north of Paris. Already famous for his writing and extravagant lifestyle, he became equally famous for his garden there, next to an 18th century renovated rectory. Stemming from his newfound love of restoring his lovely French garden under the training of a local gardener, Bromfield wrote to a friend that, "I have half a suspicion that I shall end up a horticulturalist rather than a novelist" (p. 60).

In part two ("Farm"), Heyman chronicles Bromfield's passionate restoration of Malabar, a 600-acre farm in Ohio near where he grew up. Bromfield moved his family there in 1939 as World War II was gearing up in France. Many of Bromfield's literary peers were gentleman farmers, but Bromfield's farm was more than a pastime: "Farming became for him a calling, a platform, almost a religion. He wanted not just to farm for himself but to change the idea of what the farmer was or could be" (p. 153). The landscape of the property was practically worthless. Many of Bromfield's then novel ideas to turn the farm around show how forward-thinking he was and have informed horticultural and agricultural practices today.

(continues on page 15)

(continued from page 14)

Heyman's attempt to give a complete picture of a complex and fascinating man is quite successful and makes for worthwhile reading. It will perhaps inspire readers to seek out Bromfield's writings that prominently feature the ideas for horticulture, organic agriculture, and land conservation that were so important to him. While his name may not be well-known today, his legacy does live on. Heyman states that J. I. Rodale was inspired in part by Malabar to start his organic farm and magazine, and that environmental activist Wendell Berry was influenced by Bromfield. Malabar Farm is now an Ohio State Park and attempts to replicate Bromfield's dream for current visitors.

If you are interested in writing a book review for an upcoming issue of the CBHL Newsletter, please contact Gillian Hayward at gghayward@longwoodgardens.org.

Member Spotlight

Editor's note: This new section is intended to help all of us in CBHL get to know our fellow members better. We hope to feature a different CBHL member in each issue. To suggest a member to feature, please contact newsletter editor Judy Stevenson at jstevenson@longwoodgardens.org.



Mary Faith Pankin

Volunteer Librarian
NatureServe

I started working as a volunteer librarian at NatureServe in May of 2011 in preparation for a move to a new headquarters. Two other volunteers were already hard at work cataloging the library. We used LibraryThing as the software. While not as sophisticated as systems I had used before, it worked well for the purpose of quick cataloging. When the move happened a few months later, we still needed to catalog some remaining books. Thus, we moved to the new space, and after a brief hiatus, started work again. After some time, the two other volunteers took regular jobs in libraries, but I decided to continue, as the subject matter was chiefly botany, and I have an interest in gardening.

So here I am in 2020 still very much enjoying this work. In the intervening years, under the supervision of two botanists I have continued cataloging and assisting with several other short-term projects. We acquired several hundred volumes left in the house of a deceased staff member, adding relevant older materials. We sold some duplicate books through Amazon, thus producing funds for

new books or other projects. New botany books are continuously added to the library. We still have many duplicate books to manage, and we welcome your suggestions on deciding whether to sell, gift, or simply recycle them.