

## CBHL Members' West News

Edited by Beth Brand  
Head Librarian, Schilling Library  
Desert Botanical Garden

### Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, and San Francisco Botanical Garden Merge

Brandy Kuhl  
Library Director, Helen Crocker  
Russell Library of Horticulture  
Gardens of Golden Gate Park

Legislation introduced by the mayor and approved by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to combine the admissions, education, and outreach programs of the San Francisco Botanical Garden, Conservatory of Flowers, and Japanese Tea Garden under the

Gardens of Golden Gate Park went into effect July 1. This merger sets the stage for the gardens to become one of the top botanical institutions in the US. All three gardens are now free for San Francisco residents.

While all three sites are overseen by the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department and are located a short walk from one another, their admissions, fundraising, and visitor experience functions have historically been operated by different organizations. Under the new agreement, the three gardens will have a campus feel while keeping their individual legacy names. Together, they will be recognized and marketed as the Gardens of Golden Gate Park, a regional organization with national and international recognition and partnerships. Combining the organizations will eliminate nonprofit redundancies, while allowing visitors, volunteers, and school children a combined educational and cultural experience and attracting greater philanthropic support for capital improvements at each location.

Gardens of Golden Gate Park seeks to establish itself as a "Top-10" botanical garden in the country over



*Helen Crocker Russell Library, part of the new Gardens of Golden Gate Park, celebrates 50 years of serving staff, volunteers, and the public.*

the next five to ten years through new collections and exhibits, expanded public programs, and a larger role in worldwide conservation efforts, including:

- More diverse gardens with new plant collections such as an Afromontane collection
- Expanded global plant conservation efforts protecting biodiversity in the face of climate change and the extinction crisis
- Upgraded accessibility and improved garden designs, pathways, and maintenance
- More public programs like Flower Piano at the Botanical Garden and Night Bloom at the Conservatory of Flowers with existing and new community partners
- Improved interpretation and educational resources, including new digital tools
- Major capital projects such as a new Children's Garden in the west end of the Botanical Garden – building off momentum of recent projects like the pagoda restoration at the Japanese Tea Garden and the renovated Celebration Garden and new plant nursery at Botanical Garden
- A smoother, more cohesive experience for visitors and volunteers at each location

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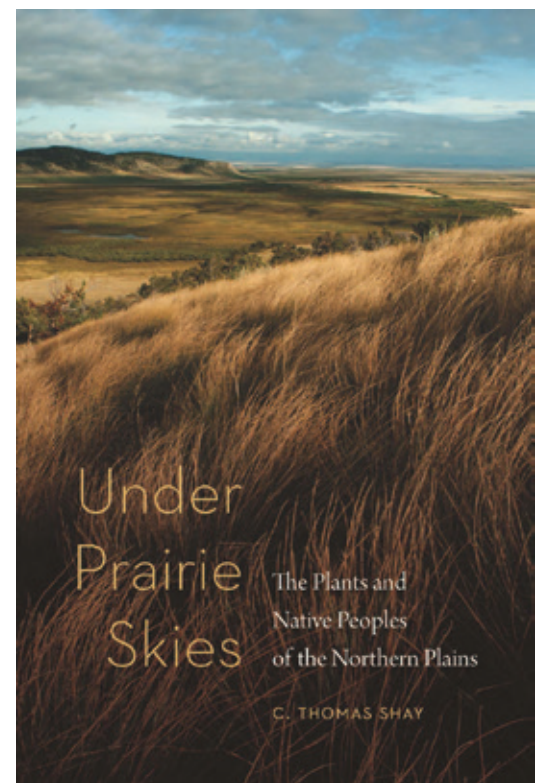
## Book Announcement: Under Prairie Skies: The Plants and Native Peoples of the Northern Plains

C. Thomas Shay  
Senior Scholar, Department of Anthropology  
University of Manitoba

Flanked by humid forests on the east and high plains on the west, the northern Great Plains stretch over some 220,000 square miles of the mid-continent, across parts of two Canadian provinces and four American states, mainly between the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. *Under Prairie Skies* explores the relationships between plants and this region's many Native groups. Aided by useful maps and graphs, it is filled with appealing color photographs of plants and landscapes. A helpful glossary of common and scientific names is included, along with an extensive bibliography.

*Under Prairie Skies* falls into three parts. The first sets the stage by looking at the region's glacial history and capricious climate, factors that influence the abundance and distribution of plants and animals. It closes with a virtual tour across today's prairies, woodlands, and marshes, as well as places of Native heritage. The middle chapters cover the science behind the story, including technical advances such as AMS dating and analysis of ancient DNA. They go on to show how early peoples managed the land and domesticated crops such as maize. The last part focuses on daily life as it was long ago, examining how plants were used for food, medicine, spiritual practices, and crafting material goods.

The author, C. Thomas Shay, grew up in Minneapolis and earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Minnesota. He taught at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg for 32 years, during which time he researched the environmental and human history of the northern plains in partnership with his late wife Jennifer, a professional botanist. Tom's team has analyzed thousands of plant remains from several dozen archaeological sites in the region. He has authored two books, contributed a number of book chapters, and published thirty articles. In 1997, Tom was awarded the Prix Manitoba Award for Heritage Education. He is currently a Senior Scholar. He now lives in Welton in East Yorkshire.



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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

January 27-30, 2023  
The Library Learning Experience  
New Orleans, LA  
<https://alaliblearnx.org>

March 15-18, 2023  
Association of College & Research Libraries  
ACRL 2023  
Pittsburgh, PA  
<https://acrl2023.us2.pathable.com/>

March 28-30, 2023  
Computers in Libraries 2023  
Arlington, VA  
<https://computersinlibraries.infotoday.com/>

April 23-29, 2023  
National Library Week  
<https://www.ala.org/conferenceevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek>

May 2-6, 2023  
Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries  
CBHL 55th Annual Meeting  
Fort Worth, TX  
<http://www.cbhl.net>

June 5-8, 2023  
American Public Gardens Association  
APGA 2023 Conference  
Fort Worth, TX  
<http://www.publicgardens.org>

June 22-27, 2023  
American Library Association  
ALA Annual Meeting  
Chicago, IL  
<https://2023.alaannual.org/>



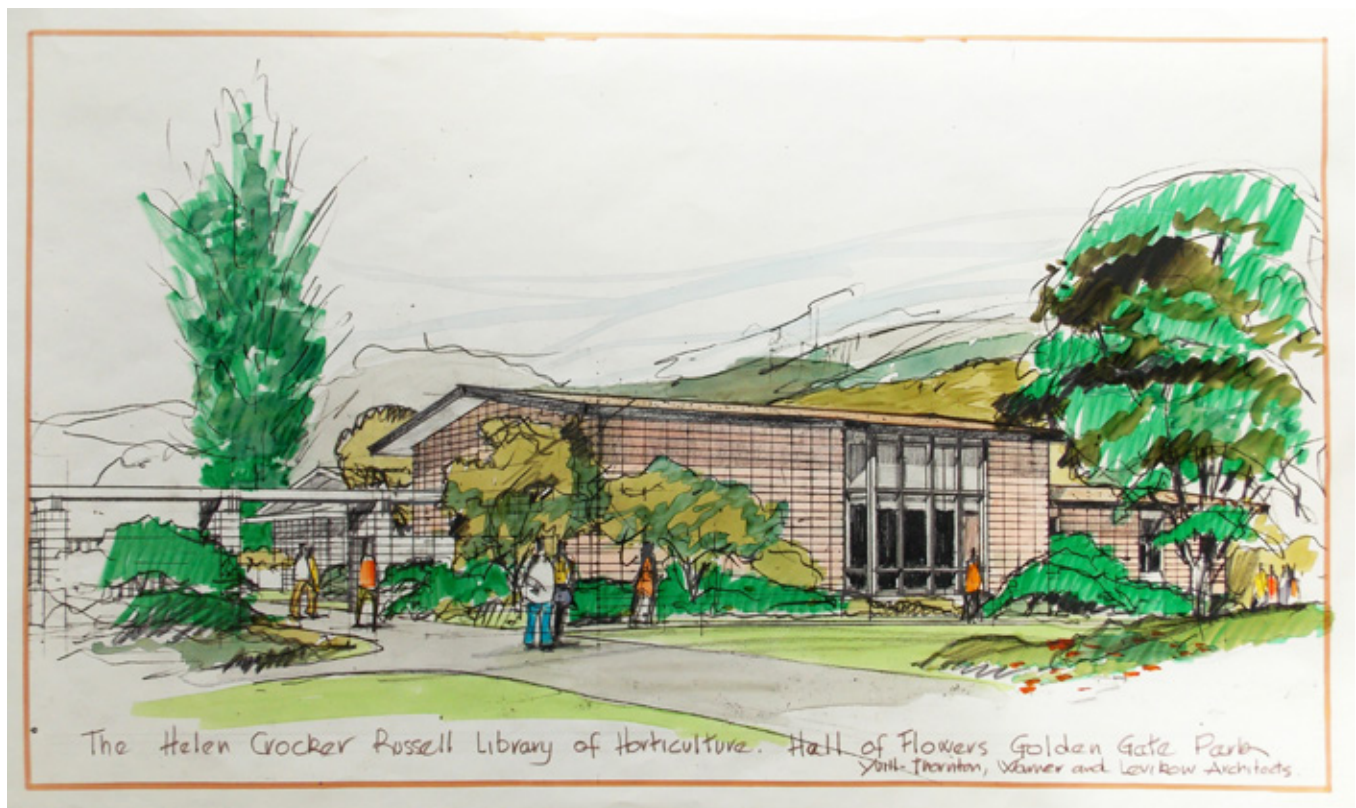
# The Helen Crocker Russell Library Turns 50!

In September 2022, the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture celebrated its 50th anniversary. To celebrate this golden anniversary, the library hosted an array of events, including a special story time, a book sale, a new art exhibition, free craft activities, hourly raffles, and a photo booth.

## Library history

In 1966, three determined Garden volunteers established a library committee and raised \$200,000 to build a new library. The Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture was dedicated on April 11 and opened to the public on September 12, 1972.

The building was designed by architect Daniel Warner of Yuill-Thornton, Warner & Levikow. The interior was designed by Blair S. Bowen and the entry courtyard was designed by celebrated landscape architect Thomas Church. The library was named for Helen Crocker Russell, a member of the pioneer Crocker family, who was a member of SFBG's executive committee and board of directors.



*Drawing of the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture by Yuill-Thornton, Warner & Levikow Architects.*

## How far have we come in 50 years and where is the library today?

In 1972, the original collection consisted of 3,000 volumes. Today, library collections include over 40,000 print and digital volumes, journals, images, nursery catalogs, and archives, making it one of the foremost horticultural-botanical libraries on the West Coast.

The original goals, which included service to garden staff and volunteers, the public, horticulture students, teachers, and children, are still being met. Gardening in our Mediterranean climate continues to be the focus of the collection, with emphasis on native and drought-tolerant plants.

Today, we are working to broaden our community-building programs and partnerships. We share our passion for nature education through botanical art exhibits and events, children's programs, author talks



and workshops, book sales, research help, and more.

We are thrilled to partner with Master Gardeners to host a weekly helpline desk in the library, and co-hosted two events during Litquake, San Francisco's annual literary festival, in October. The library is also celebrating the botanical history of Golden Gate Park with a specially curated art exhibition, *From Sand Dunes to Forest: Canopy Trees of Golden Gate Park*, on display through January.

As we continue to grow, we look forward to expanding and deepening these essential relationships with our community. With the exciting establishment of the Gardens of Golden Gate Park, there is new opportunity for growth and innovation to serve our community for the next 50 years.

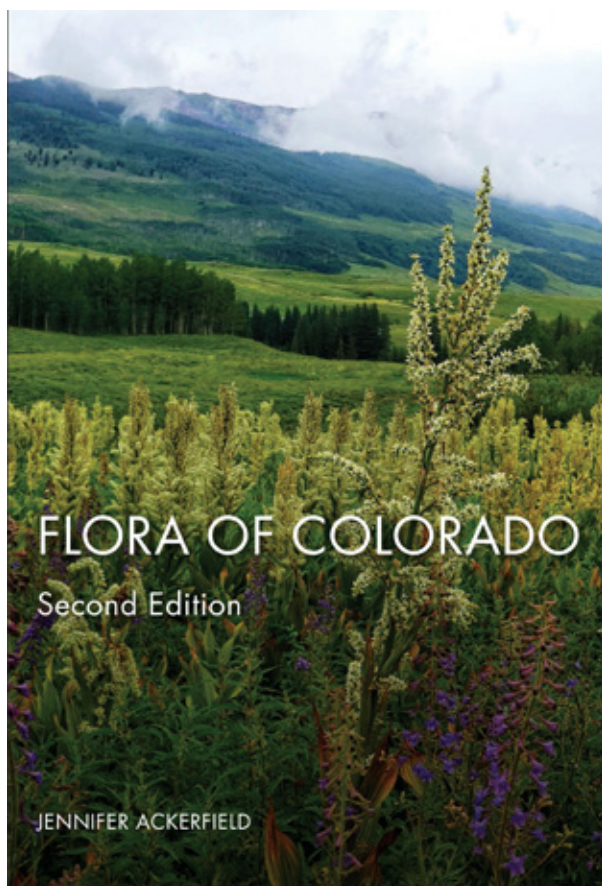
*Left: Cypress Above the Polo Field, watercolor by Katie Sellergren, is part of the exhibition From Sand Dunes to Forest: Canopy Trees of Golden Gate Park.*

## Two New Publications from BRIT Press

Barney Lipscomb  
Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany  
Botanical Research Institute of Texas

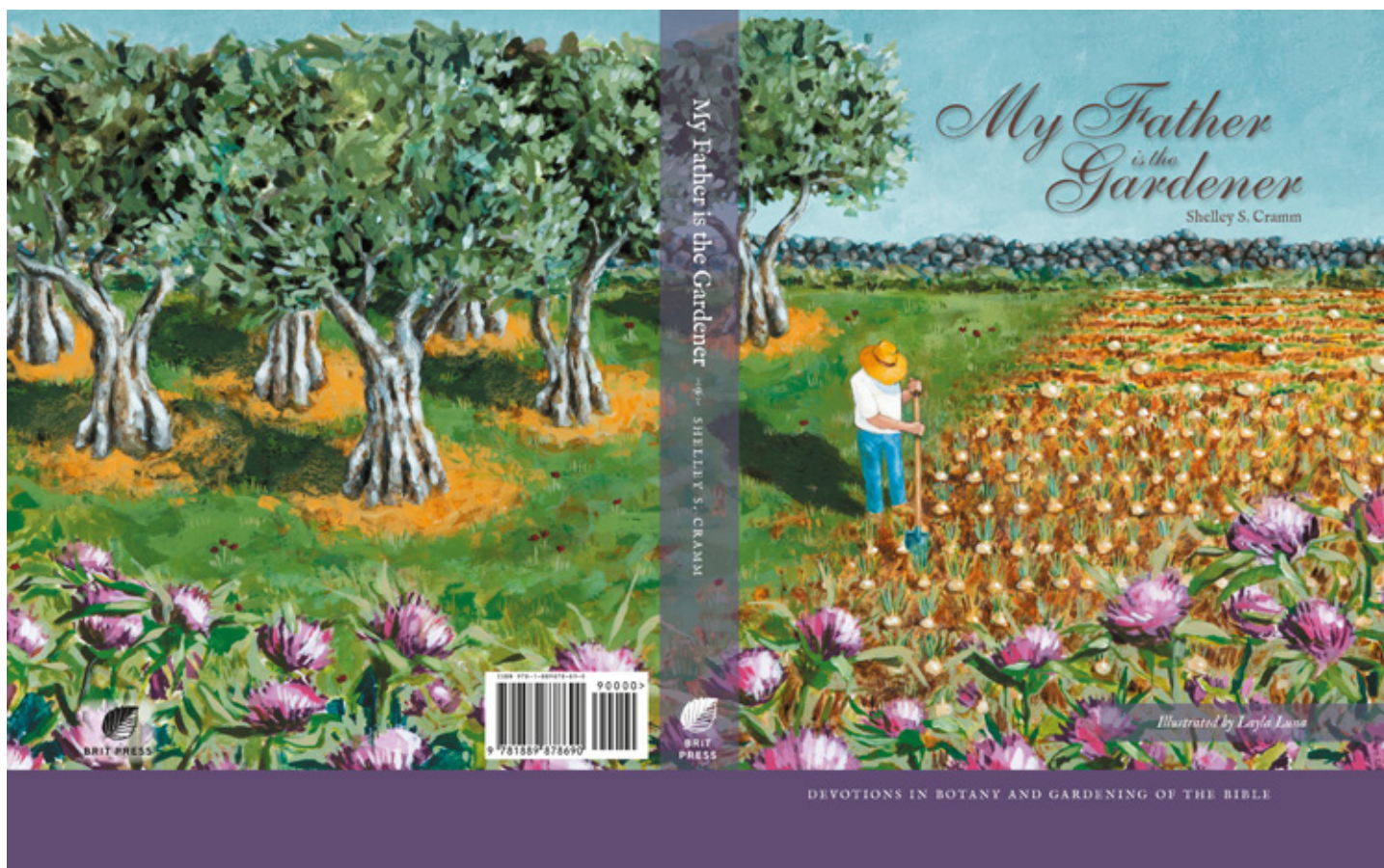
***Flora of Colorado, Second Edition*** by Jennifer Ackerfield.  
Published by the Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press.

Colorado has a rich diversity of ecosystems and vegetation communities, ranging from 3,500 ft. to over 14,000 ft. in elevation and ultimately supporting nearly 3,200 vascular plant species. This book is a comprehensive dichotomous key to the vascular plants of Colorado, complete with detailed descriptions, distribution maps, habitat information, flowering times, and elevation ranges for all species. Color photographs for 40% of the species are also included. The aim of this book is to enable students, researchers, amateur and professional botanists, or anyone interested in the flora of Colorado to successfully identify the plants they encounter with confidence and satisfaction.



To purchase *Flora of Colorado, Second Edition*, visit [shop.brit.org](http://shop.brit.org) or call 817-332-4441 ext. 264. The price is \$80.00, plus shipping. ISBN-13: 978-1-889878-89-8, Publication Date: 17 Oct 2022, Specifications: 6.5"×9.5" (flexbind), 872 pp, color figs., maps





***My Father is the Gardener: Devotions in Botany and Gardening of the Bible*** by Shelley S. Cramm, illustrated by Layla Luna. Published by the Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press.

*My Father is the Gardener* digs into the plants, gardening, and landscapes of the Bible, unearthing inspiration in the routine ways of caring for plants and keeping a garden. Shelley S. Cramm leads you through the gardener's work—chores like preparing soil, watering, weeding, cultivating, and composting—to understand these practices as enriching garden metaphors full of wisdom and meaning in daily life. Her selection of Biblical plants, from flower bulbs to vegetables to shade and fruiting trees, connects horticultural subtleties to the deeper purposes of God.

Pleasing-to-the-eye pages await you, marrying classic botanical illustrations with mesmerizing macro-photography of pressed plant specimens from the BRIT Herbarium and supporting institutions. Artist Layla Luna offers original drawings with an earthy, playful style, stirring God's Word to whirl off the page and into your heart.

Whether you are a seasoned gardener and confessed plant geek, or you are starting a garden and budding in faith, you will gather much from this delightful look at the world's oldest gardening book. A wonderful gift for your favorite gardener!

To purchase *My Father is the Gardener*, visit [shop.brit.org](https://shop.brit.org) or call 817-332-4441 ext. 264. The price is \$32.00, plus shipping. ISBN-13: 978-1-889878-69-0, Publication Date: 17 Oct 2022, Specifications: 6.5"×8.25" (Hardcover), 272 pp, color throughout

# CBHL Members' East News

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

## Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Update

Janet Evans  
Associate Director, McLean Library  
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

We celebrated Archives Month in October by posting two virtual exhibits and launching our new website on the history of Philadelphia community gardens, all based on archival projects here in the library.

### Latest Virtual Exhibits

[\*The Chinatown Community Garden\*](#), founded by neighbors in 1974 and active for a decade, succumbed to the Vine Street Expressway expansion project in 1985. This exhibition focuses on the garden's early years, its intergenerational focus and health benefits to the community, and its introduction of plants indigenous to China to the wider community of Philadelphia gardeners.

[\*The Geranium Files: Ken-Watt Court and the Neighborhood Garden Association\*](#) traces the history of an early urban greening project undertaken by the NGA, the Ken-Watt Court Community Club, and the United Neighbors Association. In 1953-1954, court residents collaborated on improvements that included replacing outside privies with indoor plumbing, building restoration and maintenance, and, at the request of the Ken-Watt Community Club, declared Ken-Watt as the first Philadelphia Garden Court. The Court, located at Kenilworth and Watts Streets, was demolished along with other South Philadelphia blocks to make way for the high-rise housing project Hawthorne Square (later renamed Martin Luther King Plaza). The housing project was imploded in 1999.

These virtual exhibits, created by archivist Penny Baker, are part of the deliverables for our project "The Genius of Place: Images of Gardens and Landscapes from America and Around the World 1920-1984," which is funded under an NEH Sustaining the Humanities Through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) award.

### Community Memory Website

[\*Philadelphia Community Gardens Memory Collection\*](#) is a digital archive hosted by our library and created to support community gardeners and urban farmers throughout Philadelphia. The collection includes images, videos, and audio stories created to preserve the long history of community gardening in Philadelphia and to help others to better understand the meaning and value of gardens – today and in the future. The Philadelphia Community Gardens Memory Collection is the digital home for sharing and preserving the stories of gardens and the gardeners who make them grow. This project is funded by an IMLS grant.



*1970s Chinatown Community Garden, 10th and Vine Streets, Philadelphia. Philadelphia Green Files. McLean Library. Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.*

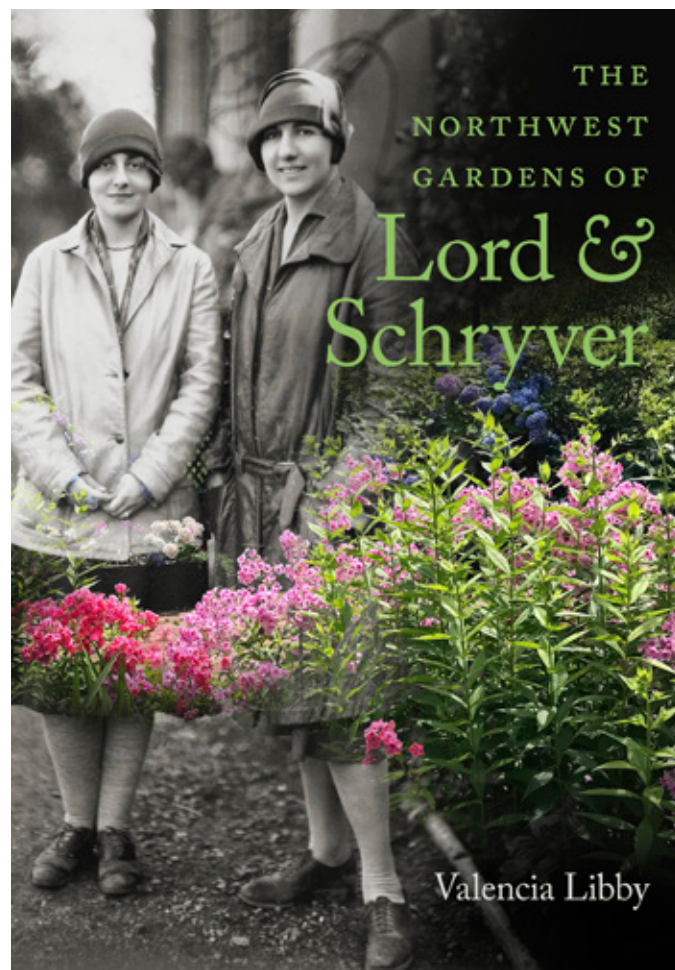


## Annual Literature Award Book Raffle

Brian R. Thompson, MLS  
Manager and Curator of Horticultural Literature  
Elisabeth C. Miller Library  
University of Washington

The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, Inc. (CBHL) presented its twenty-third Annual Literature Awards at the annual meeting this past May. Following the announcements of the Literature Awards, Susan Eubank and Brian Thompson were joined on stage by Gayle Bradbeer and Samantha D'Acunto to conduct the Book Raffle. In years past, this was an opportunity for the review copies of nominated books to be given out to the attendees of the annual meeting, with names drawn from a hat. However, this year there were nearly 300 copies of review books because of three years of accumulation, and less than 30 attending in person.

The Annual Literature Award committee decided to open up the raffle to all members, whether in atten-



ANN TIENUP-RIORDAN, ALICE REARDEN, MARIE MEADE, AND KEVIN JERNIGAN  
Yungeautnguuq Nunam Qainga Tamarmi • All the Land's Surface is Medicine  
**Edible and Medicinal Plants of Southwest Alaska**

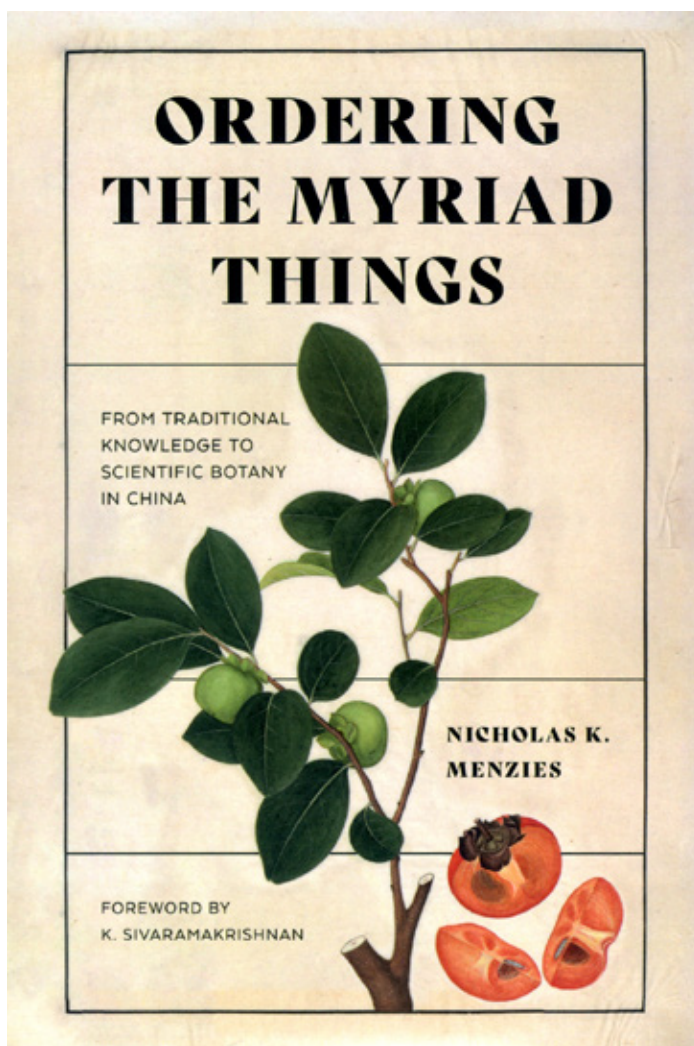


dance or not. This was in part recognizing that many member libraries lost their book buying budgets because of COVID. More than two dozen member libraries submitted their preferences from the list of books available. For many titles, there were not enough copies to go around. To resolve this, a sorting hat (Susan's) was used. By the end of an hour or so, all the books were claimed.

Many, many thanks go to Allaina Wallace and the staff and volunteers of the Helen Fowler Library for receiving and storing many boxes of books from Literature Award Committee members, and after the meeting, shipping the books to the lucky recipients! We also appreciated the help from CBHL members in sorting and making an inventory of the books earlier in the week.

Best of all were the many notes of appreciation sent by members after their boxes of books arrived. There is nothing like receiving a box of great botanical and horticultural books to excite CBHL librarians!





## Book Reviews

Edited by Gillian Hayward  
Library Manager  
Library and Information Services  
Longwood Gardens

*Ordering the Myriad Things: From Traditional Knowledge to Scientific Botany in China* by Nicholas K. Menzies. Seattle: University of Washington, 2021. xx, 288 pages, illustrations. \$99.00 hardback, \$30.00 paperback. ISBN 9780295749457 (hardback), 9780295749464 (paperback), 9780295749471 (ebook).

Reviewed by Charlotte A. Tancin  
Librarian  
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation  
Carnegie Mellon University

From the mid-19th to mid-20th centuries, Chinese people studying Chinese plants became modern scientific botanists. *Ordering the Myriad Things* by Nicholas Menzies recounts the intricate and engrossing story of how this was accomplished. He bookends

his telling with a first chapter on historical and modern descriptions of the Southern Mountain Tea Flower (*Camellia reticulata*, the largest *Camellia*), and an ending chapter on the 1948 discovery of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, the Dawn Redwood. Traditional Chinese plant writings included lists of plant names, classic pharmacology, use of selected and evocative plants as poetic symbolism, garden plant manuals, and encyclopedia entries, seen together as the body of past (and then-current) knowledge. But in the 19th century, external commercial and political events began to make it clear that China might not be the world power it felt itself to be, and that the West's global commercial enterprises and imperial/political ambitions were taking advantage of China (and Asia more broadly) and enjoying powers and benefits that China was shut out from. Menzies describes the sequence of geopolitical upheavals in this period and shows how they led to (among other things) an overwhelming desire for China to have a modern science that could lead to greater societal modernization and the benefits it would bring. At the beginning of this tale, there was an enormous chasm between past and future China, and no obvious path to bridge them. Menzies tells the story of how botany came to be a bridge.

Menzies outlines the history of China's exposure to the West and the series of geopolitical conflicts that the formation of scientific botany had to work around, all of which served to impress upon China the need to modernize society.

19th-century Chinese botanists had begun to see how botany was studied and practiced in the West. In 1858 a translation of John Lindley's *Elements of Botany* (London, 1847) by Li Shanlan, Alexander Williamson, and Rev. Joseph Edkins was published. The first original scientific botany text (illustrated) by

a Chinese author, Ye Lan's *A Verse Primer of Botany*, appeared in 1898. Some students were sent abroad to study, and in 1914 a dozen Chinese students studying in America met at Cornell University, seeking ways to help modernize China. They formed The Science Society (Kexue She), renamed Science Society of China the next year, and a journal, *Science*, and in 1918 the Society moved to Shanghai.

Nationalist imperatives fueled the determination to make Chinese science Chinese. China's first research center dedicated to botany opened in Nanjing in 1918, in 1921 the first account of a Chinese botanical collecting trip was published, and in 1926 the Science Society of China sent its first representative to the Fourth International Botanical Congress in Ithaca. In 1927 China was unified and educational and scientific research were brought under central control. The Academia Sinica was founded that year. Most botany students studying abroad had now returned to China and a number of them are considered founders of scientific botany there. Then invasion and civil war disrupted all of it. The People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, and institutions that came under the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1950 were a foundation for a new order of science.

With this history as background, Menzies introduces the reader to the traditional ways of describing nature in China, based on a classical cosmology framed in terms of processes and patterns of change and transformation from which the myriad things of the world emerged. Early writers did not identify a group of organisms as "plants"; the term *zhiwu* was used for "things that grow." Plants were first referred to collectively in China in 1848, and in 1858 during the translation of Lindley's *Elements of Botany* the translators coined the term for botany as *zhiwuxue*, creating a new field of science in China. The use of a traditional term as part of this new word was a cultural reference linking modernity to the past. The creation of an approved botanical dictionary in 1918 endorsed the formation of a new language and vocabulary that would enable botanists to systematically study China's flora.

The various European languages used in botany were useless in terms of Chinese vernacular. Menzies notes three previous times when an all-new language was needed in China: for the introduction of Buddhism, for Jesuits translating European scientific works into Chinese, and for bringing in foreign knowledge after the Opium Wars to discuss the economic development of industrialized nations. Now Chinese scientists had to figure out how to deal with the Western scientific lexicon, along with botanical taxonomy. New regulations in 1904 rejected the use of non-Chinese words and constructions. Vocabularies and glossaries were being compiled, working toward finding a consensus on principles for translating existing terms and creating new ones. By the turn of the century, Chinese students returning from Japan and Europe got involved in this project, and there was a growing openness to using terminology from Japan, including new words coined there in Chinese characters. In China, a term was coined for "distinguishing families," and for showing whether a traditional term was being used or a new term created. Meanwhile, around this time the international botanical community struggled to agree on nomenclatural rules, first codified in 1905 at the International Botanical Congress in Vienna. The Science Society of China took the lead in ensuring that nomenclature in China would converge, not clash, with international norms. The previously mentioned 1918 *Dictionary of Botany* (*Zhiwuxue da cidian*) was a vital tool in this effort, with 1,002 illustrations and descriptions of 1,700 species with Chinese, Latin, Japanese, and sometimes German names given, and family, genus, and species given according to the International Code.

Aside from the linguistic challenges, the new practice of plant science in China would be based on field work and observation. By the time Chinese scientists were doing their own field work, they ran into problems with the one-way flow of knowledge from China to the West: were the plants they were collecting new species, or were there specimens of them in European or American herbaria? So many of those specimens in the West were labeled with the name of a Western collector, not naming any Chinese collectors involved. So many specimens had been sent to Europe and America and had to be consulted there, and there was little direct interaction between Chinese botanists and the Western plant hunters. From



the first generation of Chinese field botanists, Menzies gives four biographical sketches with portraits for Zhong Guanguang (1868-1940), Hu Xiansu (1894-1968), Chen Huanyong (1890-1971), and Cai Xitao (1911-1981).

Once plants had been collected, they had to be identified, grouping them by commonalities and distinguishing them within groups by their differences. Standardizing botanical names in Chinese was problematic. China had a rich and ancient record of named plants, and it was not easy to match literary, common, and botanical names but this process was begun by first using the 7,000 named plants found in Chinese writings before 1850. Menzies briefly discusses several historical Chinese taxonomies, such as *The Rites of Zhou* from the third century BCE, and Li Shizhen's *Bencao Gangmu* from 1596. In 1916 *Science* published an introduction to the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature, with 81 examples. It was difficult to decide where to place Chinese plants within the scheme, and how to match vernacular names with Latin binomials, complicated by the fact that type specimens might be in a foreign herbarium. Menzies describes the creativity and tenacity that went into this project, and for me it is one of the most interesting sections of this very interesting book.

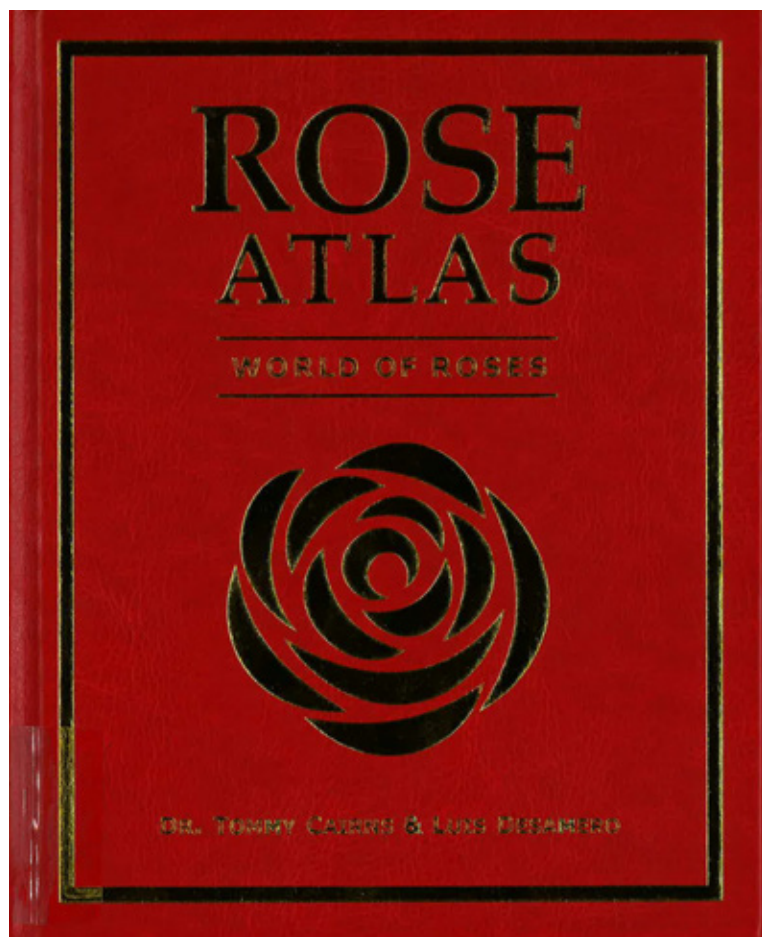
A chapter about botanical illustration emphasizes its critical importance as a scientific tool. Menzies provides a survey of the historical depiction of plants in classical China and then how international artistic practices came to China. Three artists are discussed, with examples of their work: Cai Shou (1879-1941), Feng Chengru (1896-1968), and Kuang Keren (1914-1977).

Two chapters discuss how publications, societies, and associations were formed – with details on how work was conducted during World War II – and the creation of museums, exhibitions, and botanical gardens, so important for sharing botanical work and knowledge with the public, and for gaining public understanding and support of the work of these Chinese plant scientists. The final chapter recounts the finding of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* in Szechuan and Hupeh in 1948. The astounding thought that this was a living relative of a *Metasequoia* found in Pliocene fossils near Tokyo captivated the attention of the world – the San Francisco Chronicle coined the name “Dawn Redwood,” referring to its ancient lineage and the dawn of time. It was of prime importance that the tree was found by Chinese botanists and credited to them, not to Western plant collectors looking for exotics for gardens or institutions. Also, chronologically this was the last botanical discovery and identification to involve Chinese/Western collaboration before the resumption of cooperative research programs with the People's Republic in the 1980s.

The text ends with thoughts on the long process in China of moving from traditional knowledge about plants to scientific botany. Correctly matching names to things in the world was important to Confucians and was critical for modern botany. The concept of ordering and organizing was also longstanding but traditionally different from what was eventually devised for purposes of Chinese botany and for communication and collaboration with Western botanists. However, what was truly new for botany in China was a scientific practice rooted in field work and collecting material to study, which Menzies asserts could be the most essential practice of botany. This field work was unprecedented for China's botanists, and that newness gave them a sense of openness that extended to other aspects of life they encountered: rural life, local economies, crops, land uses, other natural resources - developing an affinity for Chinese landscapes and plants and a sense of pride about them. A strong sense of nationalism grew up around this century-long process of developing scientific botany – inspired by and then moving beyond the humiliation of seeing Western plant collectors appropriate Chinese nature for their own purposes, their gardens, their science, their commercial interests, their self-aggrandizement. Knowing that foreign naturalists knew more about Chinese nature than the Chinese did was a strong spur to inventory the Chinese flora and reclaim it, and to extend China's own knowledge of itself. As Menzies writes, in the end, the collective Chinese scientific vision for learning about its natural world would prove to be important not only for China but for collaboration in a new global and connected world.

This study is augmented by a 4-page timeline of botany in China, a 14-page glossary, 20 pages of notes, and an index. This is a well-researched and well-written study of an important part of the history of botany, and of the resourcefulness and determination of Chinese botanists. It belongs in botanical and horticultural libraries everywhere, and as a story, it is recommended to anyone with an interest in plants and how they are studied.

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*Rose Atlas: World of Roses* by Dr. Tommy Cairns & Luis Desamero. Beverly Hills, CA: Beverly Hills Rose Society, ©2022. xii, 387 pages, illustrations. \$50.00 (hard-back). Order from Beverly Hills Rose Society [beverlyhillsrose@aol.com](mailto:beverlyhillsrose@aol.com) . ISBN 9781685244422.

Reviewed by Gillian Hayward  
Library Manager  
Library and Information Services  
Longwood Gardens

Oxford Languages defines an atlas as “a book of illustrations or diagrams on any subject.” *Rose Atlas: World of Roses* is so much more than just a book of illustrations and diagrams (although it is chock-full of terrific illustrations, charts, and photos). In the preface, the authors describe the book as an educational compendium – defined by Oxford as a “collection of concise but detailed information about a particular subject” - which more aptly encompasses the wealth of informa-

tion found here. The thoroughly enjoyable *Rose Atlas* most certainly contains concise, detailed information about the world of roses – from history to science to selection and care.

Authors Dr. Tommy Cairns and Luis Desamero are both rose experts. Their experience includes longtime participation in the American Rose Society and other international rose organizations, each previously writing rose books, and as rose exhibitors and judges. They are uniquely qualified to write this book, which seeks to be an authoritative text – one which new or veteran rose gardeners can use to increase their knowledge about the world of roses.

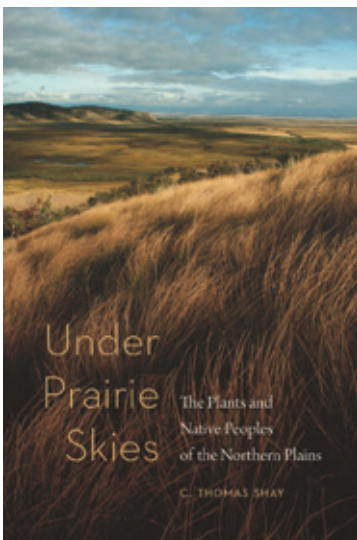
The book’s design has been thoughtfully planned. There are twenty-five sections, each focusing on a specific topic and introduced by an overview of the topic. These topics flow from general interest/history to selection to cultivation/care to rose science. Most subtopics within the sections are concisely written to fit within 1-2 pages, and most pages contain at least one colorful photo or illustration. This layout is pleasing to the eye and makes the sections easy to dip into.

Even though the subtopics are concise, each contains a surprising amount of in-depth information. This is not an A-Z description or listing of thousands of rose species, varieties, and cultivars - although there are multitudes of lush and colorful photos and illustrations of examples from all the rose classes here. Bet-



ter choices for that type of comprehensive listing are Cairns' own *Modern Roses XI* or the *American Rose Society Encyclopedia of Roses*. In the *Rose Atlas*, the authors instead arm the reader with the knowledge of where roses came from, how to choose and care for them, how to breed or propagate them, how to exhibit them, how they are classified, and so much more. There is even a section on where to visit U.S. rose gardens honored with the World Federation of Rose Societies' Award of Garden Excellence. These include the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Garden and the Biltmore Rose Garden in Asheville, North Carolina.

Readers would be hard-pressed to find a question about roses unanswered here. Want to know how rose water is made? Check. What about how to prune a miniature rose or how to spot and treat nutritional deficiencies? Check. Where is the world's largest rosebush, and who is it named for? Check. Readers are in good hands with these two experts. Their passion comes through in the care they have taken in assembling this book, ensuring readers an accessible, informational, and enjoyable experience.



*Under Prairie Skies: The Plants and Native Peoples of the Northern Plains* by C. Thomas Shay. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press. ©2022. 312 pp., 52 color photographs, 5 b&w photographs, 14 illustrations, 11 maps, 1 table, 1 graph, 1 glossary, 1 appendix, index, 6.5" x 9". \$29.95 US (paperback). Order from [nebraskapress.unl.edu](http://nebraskapress.unl.edu). ISBN-13 978-1-4962-2338-8.

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In a book that synthesizes archaeological, botanical, ecological, and traditional knowledge, C. Thomas Shay's *Under Prairie Skies* runs readers through the history of the North American Great Plains, the land's plants, and its people.

Shay has loosely organized his work into three main sections that seamlessly transition into one another. First, Shay covers the glacial geology and climactic history of the region and its present-day ecosystems. He transitions into recounting specific archaeological and botanical explorations of the region and the scientific techniques used to date and process excavated materials. Finally, he details how Native inhabitants of the Great Plains used plants in their daily lives.

Exploring the geographic area comprised of present-day Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, Shay sets the stage of his book by situating the plains in their geologic context—detailing the slow sculpting of the region through the melting of glaciers and ice masses after the Ice Age. The glacial melt resulted in the transportation, compounding, and dumping of sediment that would lead to the formation of soil for much of this region. The Great Plains' landlocked location places it squarely in the crosshairs of icy drafts from the Canadian Arctic and moist upward drafts from the Gulf of Mexico, creating volatile weather patterns that manifest as droughts, floods, severe thunderstorms, and tornadoes. Shay points to how Native Americans, as observant inhabitants of these plains for thousands of years, recorded weather, celestial, and climactic events using winter counts, or pictorial calendars painted on tanned bison hide.

Shay's personal field and lab work experiences as an archaeology graduate student and a professor are woven throughout the book, shedding light on the scientific processes behind archaeological excavation and the processing of finds. In searching for evidence of plants used by Native peoples over the millennia, Shay and his colleagues engaged in a variety of extraction methods at various field sites. One method was the collection of soil samples near riverbanks. Archaeologists then place the soil samples in water flotation tanks to separate lighter plant remains like charred seeds and charcoal from heavier soil material. Another method Shay used to track the distribution of plants living in the Plains was extraction of plant pollen grains from frozen lakes. He runs through a quick and easy-to-follow explanation of radiocarbon dating and points to how innovations from light microscopes to scanning electron microscopes have facilitated the identification of seeds. Through his various accounts, Shay reveals how archaeological excavation relies on both bulky machinery like earth augers and the art of tender trough digging by hand, and the interpretation of the contents often relies on the expert consulting by botanists, arborists, and anthropologists. Recovered seeds, charcoal, and shards of tools and ceramics serve as the earthly archives of the Indigenous peoples of the Plains—offering glimpses into foods eaten in the past, supplies used to make heavily insulated clothing, and ceramic containers for holding food and wares.

I enjoyed reading accounts of how various Plains Native peoples incorporated the earth into their hunting practices. In 1864, for instance, a band of Lakota hunters encountered flocks of locusts swarming the prairie, and the hunters' response was to dig various holes throughout a field, lighting them afire and later extinguishing them to flash-bake the captured locusts in the hot earth. Another Native hunting tactic mentioned throughout was the driving of bison to valleys, cliffs, and snowbanks to entrap and kill them.

The visuals strewn throughout *Under Prairie Skies* captivate by adding context to Shay's passages. Images include eleven maps of the region, various line drawings of plants and agricultural tools, a microscopic view of oak tree rings to demonstrate periods of flooding, and captivating photographs of bison, storms, and prairie flora in both color and monochrome.

This book would make an excellent addition to universities with archaeology, ethnobotany, paleobotany, anthropology, and Native American Studies programs. Beyond the academic audience, this book would appeal to anyone interested in learning about the ins and outs of archaeological digs as well as the history of the people and plants of the Great Plains region.

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Issues published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

***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>.

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