**Calendar of Events: Friends Events**

**April 24, 2017,** 1:00pm, Snyder Auditorium
Friends regular meeting. **Phyllis Root,** “Discovering MN: Learning about the Diversity of Habitats, the Inhabitants, and Phenology.”
Children’s books will be available for purchase and signing. *At the beginning of the meeting Peter Moe will introduce Alan Branhagen, the Arboretum’s new Director of Operations.*

**June 9, 2017,** 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Snyder Auditorium
Joint CBHL-Friends of AHL Luncheon. **Speaker:** Mira Nakashima
Invitation to follow.

**July 24, 2017,** 1:00pm, *Tashjian Bee & Pollinator Discovery Center
Friends annual meeting. **Heather Holm,** “Common Native Bees: Their Life Cycles and Foraging Behaviors.”
Books will be available for purchase and signing.

**October 5, 2017,** 3:30pm - 6:30pm, *MacMillan Auditorium
Friends of the AHL Annual Book Sale - Friends preview.

**October 6-8, 2017,** 10:00am - 4:00pm, *MacMillan Auditorium
Friends of the AHL Annual Book Sale

**October 23, 2017,** 1:00pm, Snyder Auditorium
Friends regular meeting. **Dylan Hannon,** The Huntington, Curator of the Conservatory & Tropical Collections

* Note change of venue!

**Library Exhibits & Events**

**May 2 - September 4, 2017**
AHL and Library Corridor
**Exhibit:** *Seed Stories: The Minnesota Chapter*
Seed & nursery catalogs and artifacts focus on Minnesota firms.

**June 6-10, 2017**
**Event:** *49th CBHL Annual Meeting*
Hosted by AHL. More on page 6.

**August 31 - November 15, 2017**
Rampway between Snyder Building & Oswald Visitor Center
**Exhibit:** *1st Flora and Fauna Illustrata (FFI) Show*
Original watercolors of Arboretum trees and flowers.

**September 19, 2017,** 1:30-3:00pm
**Exhibit talk and opening reception:** Artist Karen Gustafson pairs textiles and rare books. More information to follow.
OMG! Pondering time again already! (“OMG!” is my attempt to appear like I’m not really behind the times, a difficult task for someone who still uses a flip phone. But I digress.)

I hope you had a good winter. Ours was fine but we were again disappointed we could do very little snowshoeing. I was out on Medicine Lake several times with another volunteer trying to discover the winter whereabouts of 22 softshell turtles that researchers had attached transmitters to last summer. Curt drilled holes through the ice with a power drill and 6” ice augur and I dropped a 40-foot coaxial cable through each and listened for signals in my headphones. Unfortunately, a signal only travels about 15 feet at those depths so we drilled and listened every 30 feet over the deepest parts of the lake. One morning we drilled 57 holes, leaving behind a long evenly spaced line of small ice mounds that probably caused people to wonder later if there were ice gophers in the lake. Never did find the softshells but it was a fun and interesting winter project. I hope you found fun and interesting things to do, too.

We don’t normally take winter vacations but this year did go to Florida and visited friends who recently retired to Marco Island. It was very pleasant and I get why people go south for extended periods but we decided it’s not for us. We just like the seasonal variety that Minnesota offers, including winter, even with its challenges. We’ll see if we still think that way in ten years but for now we like being here when cold starts to ebb and warm teases in, when maple sap starts to run and new feathered migrants appear almost daily. Even so, I’m not sure Judy and I are mentally ready yet to plunge into all that needs doing to store winter away and pull spring out, but each nice day helps us change our winter mindset and look forward to the warm months to come. It is the season of change in many ways. Speaking of change, I should probably include some presidential stuff in these missives. Your Board met recently and among other things approved moving this year’s Members’ Luncheon forward to June 9th to coincide with the CBHL conference luncheon with Mira Nakashima as the speaker. The Friends will co-host the luncheon and fund Mira’s travel expenses. Watch for an invitation and I hope many of you will be able to attend. Membership Chair Barb Spannaus is working with the Auxiliary and Arboretum staff on a joint piece that will be included in the packets sent to new and renewing Arb members to make it easier for them to join the two organizations. We are also updating our membership card for display in the card racks and for handing out to prospective members. When it’s finished, we will send you one to use when encouraging your friends to join our Friends.

And speaking of membership, Barb Spannaus has been doing yeoman duty for several years as both Membership Chair and Treasurer. She has expressed a desire to “retire” from her membership duties at the end of June 2018 so we will need someone to take her place. I realize Barb is a tough act to follow but I also know the Friends is loaded with competent people, so if you are interested in helping out please let us know. Groups like ours depend on people who volunteer their time and talent.

That’s enough for now. Go Spring!
The Council on Botanical & Horticultural Libraries (CBHL) and the Andersen Horticultural Library (AHL) share an interwoven history stretching back more than 45 years. With AHL hosting the CBHL's 49th Annual Meeting this June, we take the opportunity to share that story with Friends members.

In 1968 Elisabeth Woodburn, owner of Elisabeth Woodburn Books, concerned with the lack of support many librarians faced from their institutions, invited a few librarian friends to her home in Hopewell, NJ, to talk over common problems.

It was such a success that Muriel Crossman (Massachusetts Horticultural Society) sent out a general invitation to librarians for a November meeting in 1969 in Boston. CBHL was born! Here was an opportunity for “book people” to share and discuss topics and problems they faced in their professions. Forty participants from more than thirty institutions attended.

Andersen Horticultural Library’s connection with CBHL began when June Rogier, our first librarian (1970-1985), joined CBHL. In 1972 June toured both the National Agricultural Library and Dumbarton Oaks Library during the CBHL conference in Washington, DC. Talks on the preservation of library materials, including seed and nursery catalogs, greatly influenced June and led to AHL's Historic Seed & Nursery Catalog Collection. The Harrington Hotel, otherwise unmemorable, was also the hotel of choice for several hundred junior high school students.

Years before Richard Isaacson became AHL's second librarian (1985-2008), he was Librarian at the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland. Attending his first CBHL meeting in 1973, he was a bit shocked to discover he would be hosting CBHL the following year!

Ever a problem solver, Richard announced at the Cleveland meeting that a questionnaire would be going out to members to establish a registry of consultants on various subjects. And ever a visionary, this conference focused on non-book materials, such as slides and herbaria. Highlights of the conference included museum visits, an orchestra concert, and trips to the Holden Arboretum as well as the baronial Gwinn estate on Lake Erie. In reminiscing, Richard said, “CBHL is such a congenial group. I gained so much from this organization through the years and the annual conference was always a place where I learned things that I used in my own libraries.”

In addition to the report on the successful Cleveland conference, the May 1974 CBHL Newsletter announced “the exciting and long awaited dedication ceremonies for the new Education–Research Building [later renamed the Snyder Building] which includes the Andersen Library.”

1979 was a busy year for AHL as June hosted the 11th annual CBHL conference in mid-May, successfully avoiding both snow and mosquitoes. The theme was continuing education, both for and by librarians. Tours of AHL, the Arboretum, Gray Freshwater Institute, and the Betty Crocker Kitchens were part of the program. For a change of pace, the conference also featured dinner theater with a bluegrass musical and a buffet supper at the Arboretum Director’s house (Francis de Vos). One of the highlights was a “slide-sound presentation” by Richard Isaacson presenting his Flowering Plant Index, which lives on today as part of Plant Information Online. Another show-stopper was the tussie-mussies given to each attendee by the Minnesota Herb Society. (The girl in the top left image, opposite page, is creating a tussie-mussie.)

(continued on next page)
June also spearheaded a regional survey of seed and nursery catalog collections to be included in the national survey CBHL was undertaking. *Report of Nursery & Seed Catalog Collections in the Upper Midwest* was published in 1980 and includes an inventory of catalogs held by AHL at that time. The report was presented to high praise at the 1980 CBHL meeting and acclaimed by Elmer L. Andersen: “Congratulations on your publication…This is very impressive and a tribute to you and the Andersen Horticultural Library…It is just a splendid job.”

June retired in 1985 and Richard Isaacson was hired the same year as our second librarian. In May 1992 he received CBHL’s most prestigious award, the CBHL Charles Robert Long Award of Extraordinary Merit. The citation stated: "For outstanding publications and service in the fields of botanical and horticultural literature.” Special mention was made of the publications *Andersen Horticultural Library’s Source List of Plants and Seeds, FPI: Flowering Plant Index*, and *Gardening: A Guide to the Literature*. Richard was only the third recipient of this award.

In 1996 Kathy Wern (now Kathy Allen) started as Plant Librarian at the St. Paul Campus Central Library (now Magrath Library). After graciously giving her a few months to settle in, Richard recruited her to help compile the *FPI: Flowering Plant Index*. He warned her that it would be a lifelong job. She thought he was kidding, but, as usual, he was correct! Shortly after, Richard’s vision moved him to make use of “this Internet thing” so the FPI and Source List would be more widely available. Out of his vision <plantinfo.umn.edu> was born.

Early on, Richard encouraged Kathy to join CBHL, and she is very grateful that he did. At the 1998 meeting Richard and Kathy presented the brand new *Plant Information Online* to great excitement.

As June approaches, AHL is excited to be hosting CBHL once again, this time for its 49th annual meeting. The theme is the ABC’s of CBHL, highlighting the amazing Art, Books, and Collections of our library. From the beginning, one task Gov. Elmer Andersen asked of the library was that it be known for something. Having a well-respected collection of over 73,000 nursery and seed catalogs spanning centuries and continents certainly fulfills that mission. Newly published catalogs form the basis of *Plant Information Online*, which is still going strong after nineteen years. It was recently updated and improved, thanks in part to Kathy’s efforts and will again be presented to CBHL. -Renee Jensen, Lib. Assistant

Kathy Allen, 2013
CBHL 2017

AHL is excited to host the 49th annual meeting of the Council on Botanical & Horticultural Libraries (CBHL) this June. The meeting will highlight AHL’s collections of rare books, seed & nursery catalogs, and art, including the remarkable Nakashima furnishings. At a special luncheon event for both CBHL participants and Friends of AHL members (June 9), guest speaker Mira Nakashima will talk about her father and his work.

Featured speakers at CBHL 2017 include Arboretum Director Peter Moe, Arboretum Director of Education Tim Kenny, David Bedford (aka The King of Minnesota Apples), and plant breeder and University of Wisconsin professor David Zlesak. Tours of AHL, the Arboretum, HRC, and two campus libraries are planned (Wangensteen Historical Library and the Elmer L. Andersen Library).

Preconference workshops offer specific training: Creating a Custom Book Cradle for Exhibits and Contributing to a National Digital Infrastructure – with help every step of the way.

Postconference tours will visit Mill City Museum, Como Park, Birchbark Books, Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, and the Minnesota Center for Book Arts. Information about the conference can be found at <http://cbhl.libguides.com/2017annualmeeting>.

Book Reviews


Renowned British garden writer Noel Kingsbury focuses on 90 tree species in this celebration of the giants in our midst. Stunning photographs accompany the text. Kingsbury not only tackles the history of each tree but also its utility and religious or spiritual significance.

The American elm was revered by Native Americans as a “council tree” and to New England colonists it was known as the “liberty tree” – a place to meet and discuss politics. They were not aware that this tree would become the most popular boulevard tree in America (Minneapolis alone had over 600,000 elms). With the appearance of Dutch elm disease in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1930 – the population was decimated. Today new disease-resistant elms are on the market, although the success of these new cultivars has been mixed. In 2001 Prince Charles planted an avenue of ‘Princeton’ elms. The trees became infected and had to be removed.

Kingsbury’s research turns up many fascinating facts, such as the importance of the English oak in expanding the British navy. Its leaves and acorns have long symbolized patriotism and loyalty. Festivals are held in Japan when the Japanese cherry tree blooms each spring. Because their blossoms last for ten days they are a symbol of transient beauty. In WWII kamikaze pilots were known as “cherry blossoms” – their lives beautiful but doomed. India’s Neem tree is known as the “village pharmacy” because it has so many medicinal uses (anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties, use as a contraceptive, ability to lower blood pressure and treat ulcers). In 1995 the Indian government successfully sued an American pharmaceutical company for “bio-piracy”. It was claimed that a multinational company was benefiting from local knowledge and making products that were similar to ones already manufactured in India.

What are your favorite trees? This book will take you on a journey to discover the crucial role these remarkable plants play in our lives.

--Christine Aho, Library Assistant

Beyond the Owl and the Pussycat

Who has not loved and laughed at Edward Lear’s nonsense poems? He pokes fun at the stodgy mores of the Victorian era, often picturing adults in peculiar situations (an old man with a collection of birds nesting in his beard) or with exaggerated features (a woman with a nose so long she needs help holding it up) or in comical situations (a courageous young woman from Norway, squeezed flat by a doorway). However, there is a serious side to his life which is explored in *The Natural History of Edward Lear*.

Edward Lear was born in 1812, the 20th of 21 children – most of whom died in childbirth and infancy. He was raised by his sister, Ann, who was twenty years older. Ann and Edward were interested in art from an early age. Young Edward tried to sell his sketches and anatomical drawings, later making illustrations for natural history books and trying his hand at anatomical drawings for medical use. His first major work, published in 1832, was a folio volume of lithographic prints of parrots. The success of this work caught the attention of Edward Stanley, the 13th Earl of Derby. Lear was hired to illustrate the menagerie of animals that Lord Derby kept on his estate. Lear’s work became popular among the aristocracy and he met famous artists of that era, such as John James Audubon. Despite encouragement to accompany Audubon to America to paint wildlife, Lear’s health (problems with asthma, epilepsy, and poor eyesight) influenced his decision to go to Rome instead to study landscape painting. In Rome, Lear wrote many of his nonsense poems, illustrating them and putting several to music.

Lear spent the remainder of his life travelling and illustrating foreign landscapes, rarely returning to England. His poetry was an inspiration to Beatrix Potter, Edward Gorey, and modern day author and illustrator, Jan Brett. The author notes that Lear’s paintings of wildlife “rank among the greatest natural history paintings of all time.” (p. 178) They continue to charm and hold his place as a prominent artist. --Christine Aho

AHL has a number of works by and about Lear, including the wonderfully weird *Flora Nonsenseica*, which features imaginative plants such as *Manyeeplia Upsilonia*. *A Monograph of Ramphastidae, or a Family of Toucans* (1834), was written by ornithologist John Gould and largely illustrated by his wife Elizabeth. It also has ten exceptional portraits of toucans by Lear, including this newsletter’s cover image and the one at left. [Ed. note]


Want to know how to protect yourself from witches and warlocks? What is the world’s smelliest fruit? Which plant has two leaves and can live for 500-600 years? Did you know some species of snowdrops and daffodils contain galantamine, which can relieve some of the symptoms of Alzheimer’s? All this and more is packed into short snippets in this entertaining and fascinating book. --Christine Aho
49th Annual Meeting
The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries

The ABCs of CBHL
Andersen Horticultural Library, Chanhassen, MN
June 6-10, 2017

Read about the interwoven history of AHL and CBHL, page 4, and a bit about the upcoming conference, page 6.