**Calendar of Events: Friends Events**

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

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

**October 23, 2017, 1:00pm, Snyder Auditorium**  
Friends regular meeting.  
**Dylan Hannon, Tropical Begonias at the Huntington.**  
Hannon is Curator of the Conservatory & Tropical Collections at the Huntington, San Marino, CA. More information, page 5.

**January 22, 2018, 1:00pm, Snyder Auditorium**  
Friends regular meeting. Speaker TBD.

**April 23, 2018, 1:00pm, Snyder Auditorium.**  
Friends regular meeting. Speaker TBD.

**Library Exhibits & Events**

**August 31 - November 15, 2017**  
Rampway between Snyder Building & Oswald Visitor Center  
**Exhibit: Flora and Fauna Illustrata (FFI) Inaugural Exhibition**  
Original art featuring Arboretum trees and flowers.

**October 1, 2017, 4:00-5:00pm**  
Snyder Building Lobby  
*Flora and Fauna Illustrata* Artists’ Reception. Friends of the AHL are welcome.

**September 8, 2017-February 26, 2018**  
Andersen Horticultural Library  
**Exhibit: Foraging for Sustenance: an exhibition by Karen Gustafson**  
Embroidered drawings depicting medicinal plants are paired with rare herbals and medical receipt (i.e., recipe) books from the collections of the AHL and the Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine.

**Cover: Junonia coenia** (Buckeye Moth), watercolor on vellum, by Wendy Brockman. Part of the FFI collection. More information, p. 8.
The approach of fall means it’s pondering time again, so here goes! I love autumn. Its cooler days and nights beckon the return of fires and fleece, its migrating birds spread across the sky while its awesome display of reds, yellows, and purples spreads across the landscape. But summer was nice, too, and I hope you had a good one. It rained often enough that our lawn looked like we have a sprinkler system. We didn’t suffer any harsh weather and after the recent tragic events in the South it would be unseemly to complain about the weather anyway, regardless of harshness. We hope those people recover as quickly as they can.

For our 30th anniversary (we’re 30-0!) Judy and I spent 10 days in northwest Oregon in the Willamette Valley and along the coast, including a visit to Portland’s renowned Chinese garden. We later trekked to Medora, ND, to explore the Badlands, have a pitchfork fondue dinner—with steaks on real pitchforks dunked into drums of boiling oil—and watch the Medora Musical under the stars. We enjoyed both trips immensely.

This was “summer of the owl” for me. I wrote previously about the raptor survey that I coordinate every year in Elm Creek Park Reserve, where we locate and monitor active raptor nests. On occasion, The Raptor Center (TRC) will have an orphan juvenile that still needs adults to teach it raptor skills (if a young raptor makes young raptor begging noises, adults of its species that hear it will adopt it as their own). Since 2004 we’d helped them place eight juvenile hawks and one eagle into new families, but no owls. In June, TRC contacted me about a juvenile Barred Owl (BDOW) that could fly but needed adult supervision. It was late in the nesting season and this year’s young had fledged from our sites, so I needed to know if a BDOW family was still around. I hiked into a woodlot that harbored a nest tree and waited … and waited. I pulled out my smartphone—yes, I finally gave up the flip phone—and at intervals played BDOW calls from Cornell Lab’s AllAboutBirds.org website. Fifty minutes after I arrived an adult flew in and perched above me. Yes! Two days later we placed the juvenile onto a leaning tree trunk and watched it hop and flutter up into the canopy. It was seen in the area a couple days after with the native adults and juveniles nearby.

In September TRC contacted me again, this time about a juvenile Long-eared Owl (LEOW). LEOWs nest in this area but it is one of four MN owl species that are strictly nocturnal so is rarely seen. Our survey has never located a LEOW nest but this juvenile had been trained to hunt on its own and just needed good habitat. We released it in a suitable area where I had seen an adult roosting in 2015. It quickly flew into the nearby woods and on to its new life.

The arrival of autumn also portends something else—Book Sale! Judy and her boisterous band of book boxers have been sorting and boxing all year. We’re excited to try out the more spacious MacMillan Auditorium and I hope you can make it. We can always use more sale volunteers, too!

And speaking of volunteers, Treasurer Barb Spannaus will retire at the end of her term in July 2018. We will need to elect a new Treasurer so please consider it if you’re able. Barb will be around to help you learn the job.

Keep in touch,
Joan Behrendt

You may have seen her at a back table in the library or on the grounds helping Ted Pew’s Wednesday crew. A retired research chemist, Joan Behrendt has been volunteering on the Arboretum grounds since the summer of 1996, and in the library since 2001. She signed up as a Minnesota Landscape Arboretum volunteer the same day she and husband Mike became Arboretum members. Since then, she has devoted not only her time and energy, but also her extraordinary expertise.

On a fateful day in 2001, Joan met Wayne Gartland at the Volunteer BBQ. Mentioning she matted and framed art work and was also into book binding, making her own journals, photo albums, etc., Wayne suggested she might like to join his library volunteer group making preservation boxes. Wayne mentored Joan when she joined the group later that fall. The “Book Pres” group meets monthly to create sturdy, lined “clamshell” boxes for books with detached covers, loose pages, and other maladies. It is exacting work. One box can take many hours to complete, which can mean several months before completion of a single box.

In a way it’s sad there are so many books needing this special attention, but wonderful that there are skilled volunteers who provide help. Joan’s 100th box, completed in July after four months of very careful work, houses a recently donated book: *Eden, or, A Compleat Body of Gardening* (see page 5).

In May 2014, Joan fractured her left fibula and had to give up gardening for the summer. The library benefitted greatly from Joan’s bad luck. Needing to limit her movement, she happily embarked on a major project involving the historic seed and nursery catalogs housed in the rare book room.

Working backwards from companies starting “Z” she is now on the “F”s. She inventories the catalogs against the database, puts the catalogs in order, measures them, finds all kinds of interesting tidbits related to company history, and identifies problems such as missing pages, misfiled items, etc.

We are indebted and full of gratitude for Joan’s efforts, time, and expertise.

The Council on Botanical & Horticultural Libraries’ 2017 meeting, hosted by AHL, was a huge success! CBHL Newsletter #146 <http://www.cbhl.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/72/2014/04/news146.pdf>, also in hard copy at the library, includes detailed descriptions and photographs of the meeting.
**FEATURED DONATION**

*Eden: or, A Compleat Body of Gardening: containing plain and familiar directions for raising the several useful products of a garden, fruits, roots, and herbage...* London: for T. Osborne, et al., 1757. 714 pages, 60 plates.

We were very pleasantly surprised when Arboretum Director Pete Moe delivered a large old book that CFANS Associate Dean Dr. Michael White had given him for the library. *Eden: or, A Compleat Body of Gardening*, from Dr. White’s parents’ estate, is a real treasure! A quick perusal of this heavy tome revealed more than a year’s worth of weekly guides to garden tasks coupled with exquisite black & white engravings of hundreds of flowers. Many of the images are copied from *Hortus Floridus* (1614) and *Paradisi in Sole* (1629), both of which are in AHL’s collection. The subtitle – longer than this article – explains in great detail what is included in the book.

**EXHIBITION**

*Foraging for Sustenance: an exhibition by Karen Gustafson.* Through February 26, 2018 Andersen Horticultural Library

Embroidered botanical drawings, along with related ancient herbals and domestic recipe books from the collections of Andersen Horticultural Library and the Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine are on display. The exhibition commemorates and provides a contemporary perspective on the ancient Greek pharmacopoeia by Dioscorides, known by its Latin name, *De Materia Medica*. Written in c. 65 AD, *De Materia Medica* was considered the authority on medicinal plants for over 1500 years. It is no longer in existence.

Karen Gustafson, a Normandale Community College faculty member, was awarded a Minnesota State Arts Board grant for this project. She immersed herself in the herbal collections at both AHL and the Wangensteen Library, exploring the line work used in their woodcut illustrations. The various techniques the artists used have woven their way into Karen’s artworks. The drawings are stitched on organza and mounted a few inches away from the wall, allowing for a cast shadow. The fabric floats as the air shifts around them.

Dylan Hannon, Curator of the Conservatory and Tropical Collections at The Huntington, San Marino, CA, will speak at our next Friends meeting (see page 2 for details) on “Tropical Begonias at the Huntington.” Hannon, an expert on many tropical plants including orchids and aroids, will cover aspects of begonia cultivation at The Huntington Botanical Gardens. In addition to a survey of tender greenhouse begonias in the collections, he’ll include travel highlights to Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Colombia. Colombia’s borders contain probably more biodiversity than any country on earth. With roughly 40,000 species of plants it has the highest count for plants except for Brazil (which is seven times larger). SE Asia, with its many limestone rock formations, is especially rich in begonias.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**EXHIBITION**

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Begonia chloroneura (Philippines) Copyright Dylan Hannon, used with permission.
“In America you are some of the best pruners. In Japan you are beginners.” So begins an intriguing and humbling account of an American gardener’s apprenticeship in the gardens of Kyoto. Leslie Buck’s *Cutting Back* describes her 12-hour days (6 days a week), observing and imitating master craftsmen. In Japan, professional gardeners are treated like revered brain surgeons or star athletes. It’s a male-dominated profession where you learn by keen observation and work in silence. As a woman and an American you must cultivate humility, avoid questions, and prove you are strong enough for any gardening challenge. Being berated by the head master gardener means you are worthy enough for criticism. You must never question or show emotion.

At 34, Leslie Buck had spent many years in California designing gardens and perfecting her pruning skills. However, during her apprenticeship for the storied Uetoh Zoen landscape company she began at the bottom of the hierarchy. After her first pine pruning test her co-worker remarked, “Your pine looks like a plucked chicken.” Gardeners are expected to work in torrential downpours or freezing conditions perched in tall pines on bamboo ladders with the sharpest of tools. In the emperor’s garden, Shugakuin, she was expected to use razor-sharp scythes to prune vast hedges. Hiding from a group of tourists, a visitor spotted her in the foliage and screamed, “Yiiieeee, tanuki!,” believing the gardener was a mysterious shape-shifting woodland creature resembling a raccoon.

Towards the end of her tenure she found out that her demanding boss was a kamikaze pilot in WWII. “The news penetrated my thoughts like a shovel cutting through hard soil. Nakaji, earlier in his life, would have considered me an enemy combatant… [now] Nakaji treated me with respect.”

The unusual customs, difficulty with language, and the Japanese work ethic often strained relationships. The author masked her emotions and by being humble learned new skills: Careful pruning assists the plant and aids in revealing its unique characteristics and wild beauty. Working on a seemingly menial task takes on importance when a garden is fully in view. These are timeless lessons. Buck learned the meaning behind the Japanese word “gaman,” which is to bear the unbearable and in doing so become a premier craftsman.

Andersen Horticultural Library has many fascinating books on Japanese and Chinese gardens including *Quiet Beauty: The Japanese Gardens of North America* and *Landscapes for Small Spaces: Japanese Courtyard Gardens*. Also of interest is the magazine *Sukiya Living: The Journal of Japanese Gardening*. – Christine Aho, Library Assistant

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**Plant Information Online**

<http://plantinfo.umn.edu>

As you look forward to sitting in front of the fire with a phone in your hand or a computer on your lap, take a peek at the newly designed Plant Information Online, affectionately known as PlantInfo. A labor of love for AHL staff, PlantInfo provides source information for more than 80,000 new and classic varieties being offered by 1,000 US and Canadian nurseries that ship plant material. After seeing some lovely specimens at the Arboretum, *Geranium* ‘Jolly Bee’ and *Solidago* ‘Fireworks’ (goldenrod) are both on my list! Contact information (including website links) for 2,700 nurseries is also included.

Happy plant hunting!

The New York Botanical Garden’s LuEsther T. Mertz Library collection is one of the horticultural world’s largest at a million-plus physical and digital items, including more than 18,000 rare volumes. Included in their holdings are several variant editions of one particular work, The North American Sylva, published between 1817 and 1871. The Andersen Horticultural Library also has three of the many variant editions (1854, 1857, and 1865) housed in our rare book room.

Originally compiled and written by François André Michaux and extensively supplemented by botanist Thomas Nuttall, The North American Sylva is one of the earliest sources on American trees. Incidentally, André Michaux (François André’s father) wrote the earliest published North American flora, Flora Boreali-Americana (1803; also in AHL’s collection); father and son explored parts of the Americas together.

The North American Sylva is the focus of The New York Botanical Garden’s newly published book, The Trees of North America. This beautiful new treatment renders these volumes much more accessible, with 277 color plates and informative essays written by the NYBG Director Gregory Long; Mertz Library Director Susan Fraser; garden writer Marta McDowell; and David Allen Sibley, who has provided additional illustrations (yes, this is ornithologist Sibley; he has also written and illustrated The Sibley Guide to Trees). NYBG staff members contributed brief new descriptions of each tree (Michaux and Nuttall’s original text is not included). McDowell (who authored All the Presidents’ Gardens and Beatrix Potter’s Gardening Life, among others) provides an interesting glimpse of the personal and professional lives of both father and son Michaux, as well as self-taught Nuttall.

A brief perusal found several tidbits of interest, such as: Which tree’s wood has “little commercial value and is used mostly for pulp products such as the transparent paper windows on mailing envelopes”?* What tree was used to dye WWI military uniforms a khaki color? What tree is “the world’s largest living organism (and perhaps its oldest)”?

The highlight of The Trees of North America is the reproduction of the color plates of The North American Sylva. The 156 original illustrations were copperplate engravings printed in color and finished by hand and were based on works by Pierre-Joseph Redouté (“The Raphael of Flower Painters”), his two brothers Henri-Joseph and Antoine-Ferdinand, and Adèle Riché. The remaining plates are part of Nuttall’s supplemental volumes, for which he hired lithographic artists. Trees of North America is a pleasure to page through. Stop by to see for yourself. Prefer to see the originals? Call or email for an appointment. --Kathy Allen

*American Larch, or, Tamarack; Osage-orange; Quaking Aspen

CBHL - Friends luncheon

Many thanks to the Friends of the AHL for your great generosity in hosting Mira Nakashima as a speaker on June 9th. Her luncheon presentation about her father’s legacy, to a full house of CBHL and Friends members, was excellent!
Flora & Fauna Illustrata (FFI)
Inaugural Exhibition

Through November 15, 2017
Arboretum Skyway Gallery - located between the Snyder Building and the Oswald Visitor Center at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Join the Andersen Horticultural Library and University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in celebrating the inaugural exhibition of art recently accepted into the Flora and Fauna Illustrata (FFI) collection. All works included in this exhibit feature plant and/or animal species that can be found at the Arboretum. The 26 pieces on display reflect a blend of historical and contemporary styles through a variety of media, including watercolor, colored pencil, and graphite.

In preparing to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Arboretum and the 110th anniversary of the Horticultural Research Center, the FFI has a new call for art depicting “MN Hardy” plants that were introduced by the University of Minnesota. For more information about the FFI project, visit <https://www.lib.umn.edu/ahl/flora-and-fauna-illustrata>.

Japanese Larch, watercolor, colored pencil, and graphite, by Judith Spiegel.