

Report from the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Annual Meeting
May 23-28th, 2016 -- Cleveland Botanic Garden and Holden Arboretum in Cleveland, OH

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Background Information

CBHL is a small organization with an incredibly dedicated, friendly, and supportive membership. In 2016, CBHL had 215 total members. The CBHL listserv is very active – members trade assistance and advice on locating information on plants, botanists, and taxonomy; and they also send out duplicate lists, giving members a chance to fill gaps in their print collections. Individual, institutional, and commercial memberships are available. Institutional memberships give libraries benefits such as participating in the computer consortium, which includes access to the LibGuides platform. Members nominate books for one overall Annual Literature award (the best of the best), and the awards committee can also hand out awards of excellence in various subject areas to runner-up books.

2016 Annual Meeting Theme: “Growing Together: Connecting Pages, Plants, and People”

As a first time attendee of the CBHL conference, I found the group to be incredibly welcoming – it’s one of the most enjoyable and inspirational conferences I’ve ever attended. Many CBHL members work for botanic garden libraries or institutions with large herbarium collections, but there are also members from the Biodiversity Heritage Library and members such as myself from universities libraries that support agricultural programs. Members presentations covered a wide variety of topics from online outreach efforts to disaster recovery in libraries. Invited keynote speakers included Dr. David Slawson, an author and landscape artist who creates Japanese gardens; Debra Knapke, author of multiple books about Ohio gardening; and Denny McKeown, author of gardening books and host of garden radio programs. In addition to touring the libraries and grounds of our host institutions, the Cleveland Botanic Gardens and the Holden Arboretum, we also got to tour libraries and collections at the Cleveland Art Museum, the Dittrick Museum of Medical History, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the Herb Society of America.

All members were encouraged to attend the official business meeting, where we discussed the draft strategic plan for CHBL; discussed minor bylaws changes; and heard committee reports. There are numerous service opportunities available on both the board and committees such as the electronic communications committee; the preservation and access committee, the public relations committee, and the membership committee.

A longer conference summary and the minutes of the business meeting are available in the [September 2016 issue of the CBHL newsletter](#).

2016 Literature Award Winners

CBHL 2016 Annual Literature Award for significant contribution to the literature of botany or horticulture:

- [The curious Mister Catesby: A “truly ingenious” naturalist explores new worlds](#)

Award of Excellence in Botany:

- [On the Forests of Tropical Asia: Lest the Memory Fade](#)

Award of Excellence in Plant Identification & Field-Guides:

- [California Mushrooms: The Comprehensive Identification Guide](#)

Award of Excellence in Biography:

- [James Sowerby: The Enlightenment's Natural Historian](#)