

andersen
horticultural
library

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**FRIENDS OF ANDERSEN
HORTICULTURAL LIBRARY NEWS**

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Friends of AHL membership
(includes Newsletter): \$15.00 /year
per individual or household

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY DICK SVEUM

Greetings to my fellow Friends of the Andersen Horticultural Library! I became president in July and met many of you as I presided over the Friends Annual Luncheon in August, worked the Annual Book Sale in October, and chaired the October 23rd Quarterly Meeting. Many thanks to past FAHL president Paul Schlick, who helped me get off to a good start with a detailed orientation.

I am only the 8th president of the FAHL, and along with our 4th AHL Librarian, Kristen Mastel, we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Andersen Horticultural Library in 2024.

We will attempt to modernize our membership by moving to an online renewal concurrent with your Arboretum membership. The FAHL was organized in 1987 to help celebrate the research addition to the library. The first meeting was held on January 25, 1988, 36 years ago. Our support is just as important today as it was then, and our fundraising with the Book Sale is essential. During the 50th Anniversary celebration, I will be reaching out to ask for an extra special donation of \$50 in honor of the past 50 years.

I am a retired physician and now a full-time book collector. My wife, Jennifer Olson, is the gardener in our family. We live by the Cicero quote on the AHL bookmarks, "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." I have worked with the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries since 1986 and helped in the dedication of the Elmer L. Andersen Library on the West Bank. I was the longtime president of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, now housed in the Andersen Library. Like my hero, Elmer Andersen, I am a member of the Grolier Club, a New York City-based bibliophilic society. Jennifer is the current president of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary in Theodore Wirth Park, near our Golden Valley home.

I look forward to meeting everyone and hope we can celebrate the first fifty years of the Andersen Horticultural Library and make it endure and thrive with our continued support.

FRIENDS OF AHL EVENTS

Friends of AHL Quarterly Meeting

Monday, January 22, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Snyder Auditorium and Zoom

Speaker: Andrew Gapinski

Andrew served for 10 years as the Director of Horticulture at the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University in Boston, caring for the plant collections and landscapes of North America's oldest public garden. He earned his master's in Public Horticulture from the University of Delaware in Newark as part of Longwood Gardens Graduate Program.

Topic: Andrew will share his experiences at the Arboretum and present an update on plans for 2024. Join us for a brief presentation and discussion.



Friends of AHL Quarterly Meeting

Monday, April 22, 1-2:30 p.m.

Snyder Auditorium and Zoom

Speaker: Karen and Jerry Zierdt, American Dahlia Society

The Zierdts have grown and exhibited dahlias for over 40 years. Responsible for judging the Minnesota Dahlia Society shows and the North Central Trial Garden at the Arboretum, they are also senior judges for the American Dahlia Society. They've spoken about dahlias at the State Fair, Home & Garden Show, and for groups throughout the state.

Topic: Knowing and Growing Dahlias

The presentation will discuss the colors, forms, types, characteristics of dahlias, along with the cultural aspects of growing and storage.

Friends of AHL Annual Meeting

Monday, July 22, 1 p.m.

Snyder Auditorium and Zoom

Speaker: Christine Hoffman, Twin Cities Flower Exchange

Christine Hoffman is a local flower advocate striving to form a strong community of sustainable flower farmers. Her floral business, Foxglove, opened in 2013 and was the impetus for working with local flower farms. This led her to the founding of the Twin Cities Flower Exchange in 2017. By providing hyper-local options to traditional flower sourcing, she hopes to help foster change in the floral industry.

Topic: Local, sustainable, environmentally-friendly flower production

Over 80% of the cut flowers sold in the U.S. are grown overseas, but local flower markets are on the rise. Twin Cities Flower Exchange was developed as a hub for selling cut flowers to wholesale buyers. The first and only 100% local, chemical-free wholesale market in the country, they are creating a new model for the wholesale floral industry and fostering a vibrant local economy.



LIBRARY EXHIBITS

Shakespeare's Flowers.



When daisies pied and violets blue—
Do paint the meadows with delight
Love's Labour's Lost, Act I, Scene 2

Petals and Poetry: A Floral Journey Through the Works of Shakespeare
Andersen Horticultural Library

August 26, 2023 - March 1, 2024

Step into the enchanting world of William Shakespeare's flora and fauna, where the playwright's natural surroundings come to life. Celebrating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio, delicate blooms and lush foliage that inspired his poetic imagery from the Andersen Horticultural Library will be on display. Explore the enchanting plants and animals that inhabit Shakespeare's plays and echo the rhythms of his verse.

6th Annual Flora & Fauna Illustrata Exhibit Skyway Gallery, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

August 26, 2023 - March 1, 2024

Delight in the world of botanical art during the 6th Annual Flora & Fauna Illustrata exhibit from the Andersen Horticultural Library. Get a glimpse into the process artists use to create exquisite, scientifically accurate representations of the plants and animals found at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. From aeonium to wisteria, experience nature through the eyes of the artist as they capture the beauty and detail of their chosen species.



50 in 50: Celebrating 50 Years of Wonder at AHL

Andersen Horticultural Library

March 22, 2024 - December 31, 2024

Explore the hidden gems and curiosities in AHL's extensive collection of rare books and artifacts. The largest horticultural library in the upper midwest, AHL's collection is renowned for its historical significance and stunning artwork. Whether it's your first visit or fiftieth, you'll discover something new from these captivating pieces of nature's history.

Portraits of the Plots: Biodiversity at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve Skyway Gallery, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

March 22- June 21, 2024

Don Luce presents a series of paintings that capture the character of the individual test plots that make up Cedar Creek's Big Biodiversity (Big Bio) experiment. The paintings were made in a process that mimicked the growth of the plots, starting from a sand colored base, with details of the plants layered on top.



LIBRARY EVENTS

Jumpstart Your Garden Workshops

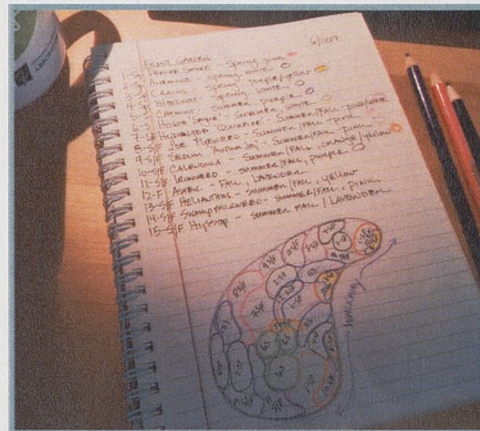
Saturday, March 16 | 10 a.m. - noon | Snyder Auditorium

Saturday, April 6 | 10 a.m. - noon | McVay Learning Lab (in the Bee Center)

Fee: \$49 member/\$64 non-member, includes admission

Join Andersen Horticultural Library, Extension Master Gardener staff, and the UMN Extension Educator Julie Weisenhorn for this inspiring workshop to help guide your summer garden designs. You will learn about creating and illustrating your own garden plan and choosing plants that are appropriate for various situations. Choose your garden shape and type of plantings you would like, whether flower-cutting garden, edible garden, pollinator garden, or shade garden. Additional design reference materials from the library will be available, along with a plethora of seed catalogs for you to explore and use to inspire your creativity.

You'll leave with a list of plant possibilities, a sketch of your designs, and a solidified understanding of basic garden design considerations for your future garden! All supplies will be provided.



StoryTime: now weekly!

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Last Friday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

Meet in the Andersen Horticultural Library.

Join us as we celebrate plants and nature, cultivate curiosity, and foster a love of reading as we explore the world through the library's vast children's collection. StoryTime is recommended for ages 0-5 with a parent, but all are welcome.



50th Anniversary Special Event Coming in July!

George Nakashima Woodworker
documentary screening with creator
John Nakashima

Lecture and private tour with Mira
Nakashima

More details on page 6.

SPECIAL EVENT: 50 YEARS WITH THE NAKASHIMAS

BY KRISTEN MASTEL

Today I had the privilege of visiting the George Nakashima Woodworkers studio and workshop—a setting straight out of a fairytale. Toshi, Mira Nakashima's grandson, graciously guided me through the facilities, offering a glimpse into the history of George Nakashima and his enchanting land. As we strolled through the crisp morning snow, I couldn't help but appreciate why Nakashima fell in love with this location. The rolling hills, trees sourced from Harvard's Arnold Arboretum, pools, and ponds framing each window created a captivating scene.

The property seamlessly merges Nakashima's architectural and woodworking expertise, featuring clean lines and use of natural materials like wood and stone. It fosters a sense of balance with the surrounding environment. Just as Nakashima furniture brings the outside in through the "soul and spirit of the tree," the location and viewpoint offer new vantage points, blending the scenery and building into a harmonious whole.



Nakashima furniture is meant to be lived with as a member of the family, full of imperfections as we all are, but maintaining a sense of balance and equanimity through all stages of life.

- Mira Nakashima

I am delighted to announce our 50th-anniversary event, featuring a screening of the *George Nakashima Woodworker* documentary and Q&A with creator John Nakashima, George Nakashima's nephew, on **Friday, July 12**, followed by a lecture by Mira Nakashima on **Saturday, July 13**. Proceeds from these events and others celebrating our 50th anniversary will contribute to the Andersen Horticultural Library's endowment, ensuring the care of the furniture, space, and preservation of materials for the next 50 years. More details will come in the following weeks!



LIBRARY NEWS

Flora & Fauna Illustrata (FFI) News

The Flora and Fauna Illustrata project is entering its ninth year, and we are happy to announce that submissions are being accepted for the next jury in June. Artists are encouraged to submit their works no later than May 31st to be considered at the June 4th jury.

We're pleased to present a newly accepted piece into the collection after November's jury. This female green frog, *Lithobates clamitans*, by artist Terry McFarland reflects an incredibly detailed view, that Naturalist Matt Schuth described as impressively accurate and challenging to depict correctly.



Donor News

We are now accepting donations of new and gently used items for the 2024 Annual Book Sale!

Donations of new and gently used books of all genres, DVDs, and puzzles are being accepted during library open hours until August 1st. Please call AHL at 612.301.1239 before bringing in large donations.

Items NOT Accepted: Textbooks, Magazines, CDs, Cassette Tapes, VHS Tapes, and anything over 10 years old in the following genres: medical, business, health, technology, self-help, spiritual, or romance.

Mark your calendars: October 4 - 6, 2024 is the next Book Sale!

[Make a donation](#) to the Andersen Horticultural Library today.

Volunteer News

Our annual 'Miserable Day' volunteer event is being postponed this year due to the possibility of having the library floors refinished.

Six new volunteers have joined us as StoryTime readers, and several others will be helping out at the front desk! We are incredibly grateful to all of our volunteers over the years for their time, dedication, and expertise.

LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome, Kathryn!

Please welcome Kathryn Pierson as the newest library assistant at Andersen Horticultural Library. Kathryn will be managing our periodicals and archives. Kathryn comes to us from the University of Minnesota Libraries where she was a learning and outreach library assistant this past fall supporting WRIT 1301 courses. She has her BA from the U in Sociology, and recently graduated with her Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She has two cats, enjoys knitting and crafting in her free time, and just got engaged in a bookstore!



Welcome, Alyssa!

Alyssa grew up in Vadnais Heights in a house beside a wetland. As a kid, she enjoyed watching muskrats and searching for interesting insects under logs. Her love of nature developed alongside her love of art, and she enjoys combining her two passions as often as possible. She became interested in scientific illustration after drawing animal bones for an archaeology class at the University of Minnesota. Eager to learn more, she signed up for classes at the Minnesota School of Botanical Art, where she fell in love with Botanical Illustration. Alyssa is so excited to join the team at the Andersen Horticultural Library as the coordinator of the Flora and Fauna Illustrata Project and curator of the children's book collection. Right now, she is enjoying a class at the White Bear Center for the Arts, combining the art of microscopy and abstraction – looking at cool bugs on the microscope and drawing them!!



Snail News

They're not staff, but many young visitors have been enchanted by our library "pets." Having hitched a ride on the plants, we first noticed the snails in our terrarium in March of 2023, about a month after it was put on display. After some research, it seems that this terrarium is a very nice habitat for these terrestrial snails of an unknown [for now] species. The snails seem to enjoy being spritzed with the occasional bit of water, but otherwise feast on the neverending supply of decaying plant matter present in their world. Over time, we have observed many snails in various sizes. We decided to add a nutrition block in their space to ensure they have enough calcium supply to continue growing their tiny shells!



In Memory

Andersen Horticultural Library lost one of its longtime supporters recently. Bud Sand died suddenly just before Christmas. He was in his mid-nineties.

Bud served in the U.S. Army after WWII, mainly in occupied Japan. Bud enjoyed his long working career for large grocery providers, including the Red Owl Corporation. Bud was important to the Friends book sale solely in providing thousands of book boxes beginning with its very first sale. He also worked closely with Renee Jensen constructing acid free folders for the Library's seed & nursery catalog collection.

Bud and his wife, Evy, who preceded him in death two years ago, were avid fishing enthusiasts. For many years they vacationed for 2 weeks on a fishing trek in Northern Ontario.

Evy was an AHL Library Assistant for over 20 years. Also, they both made over 500 krumkaka cookies during the Christmas season (certainly one of the Season's highlights for many of their friends). One of Bud's hobbies was stained glass construction where he made many sizable art objects. We will miss both Bud and Evy, but will remember their major contributions to our Library and the Friend's book sale.



Recent Acquisitions

Thanks to Development and the Reister Trust for the funds used to purchase this lovely two-volume set, *Histoire naturelle des oiseaux de paradis* by François Levaillant.

Published in Paris in 1806, this set is illustrated by Jacques Barraband, and is the only copy in the upper midwest.



AHL recently acquired more than 300 historic seed catalogs reflecting companies from around the world. France, Italy, Belgium, India, the Netherlands, and more have been added, including many new companies.

BOOK REVIEWS

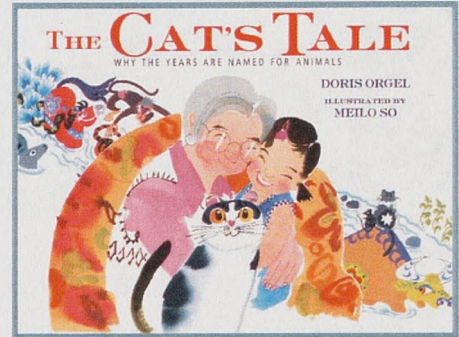
BY LIBRARY STAFF

The Cat's Tale : Why The Years Are Named For Animals

By Doris Orgel, illustrated by Meilo So (2008)

Review by Kathryn

I read *The Cat's Tale* because the sweet cat on the cover, Mao, looks just like my cat, Henry. When Willow's grandma starts to tell her the story of how the years came to be named after animals, but gets it wrong, Cat steps in since she was there on the day of the Jade Emperor's race to decide which animals would be lucky enough to have a year in the calendar. The bright and colorful illustrations by Chinese artist Meilo So are delightful! This is a fun read in preparation for the Lunar New Year celebration on February 10th. This year is the year of the Dragon, who placed fifth in the Emperor's contest!



The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science

by Joyce Sidman (2018)

Review by Alyssa

When Maria Merian was growing up in Germany in the 1600s, little was commonly known about the life cycle of insects. People generally believed that butterflies (called "summer birds") emerged fully formed from the ground. Flies grew out of rotting meat. Moths originated from wool. Born to a family of craftsmen, Merian was a curious child who enjoyed observing the natural world around her. Through collecting, observing, drawing, and waiting, she made connections between caterpillars, pupae, and butterflies. Despite the limitations of her class and gender in 17th-century Germany, Merian went on to lead an extraordinary life as a painter and naturalist, making invaluable contributions to science.



Sidman's book combines storytelling of Merian's life with vignettes on history and science, transporting the reader to the 17th-century world that Merian would have known. The reader is acquainted with the artist through the beautifully illustrated pages of the book and selections of the artist's writings. Vivid photographs of plants and insects immerse the reader in the natural world Merian would have observed. Part of our Juvenile collection, this book is ideal for both older readers and adults who enjoy exploring art, history, and science!

REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

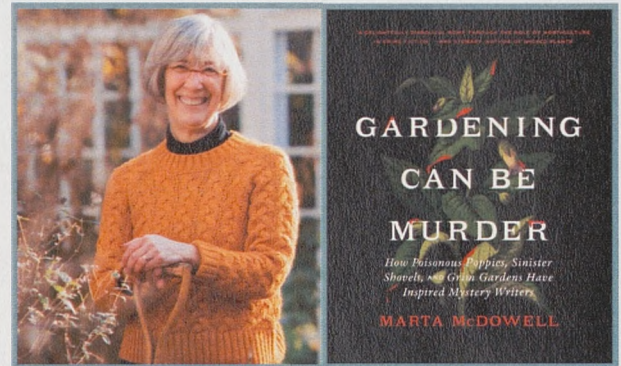
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Gardening Can Be Murder: How Poisonous Poppies, Sinister Shovels, and Grim Gardens Have Inspired Mystery Writers

By Marta McDowell (2023)

Review by Kristen

Marta McDowell's "Gardening Can Be Murder" seamlessly intertwines the serene world of gardening with the suspenseful elements of a thrilling murder mystery. McDowell's writing not only vividly captures the beauty of blooming flowers and lush landscapes but also skillfully navigates the complexities of a murder investigation. The book is divided into sections around authors and plants, such as poisonous plants like the castor bean used in mysteries, to authors that use gardens and plants in their plots like Agathie Christie, Sherlock Holmes, and Edgar Allen Poe. McDowell is careful to not reveal "who done it" and how in each book. If you enjoy this book, make sure to look for her other books! McDowell's written several books about gardens, plants, and places through the lens of various female writers including Beatrix Potter, Emily Dickinson, and Laura Ingalls Wilder.

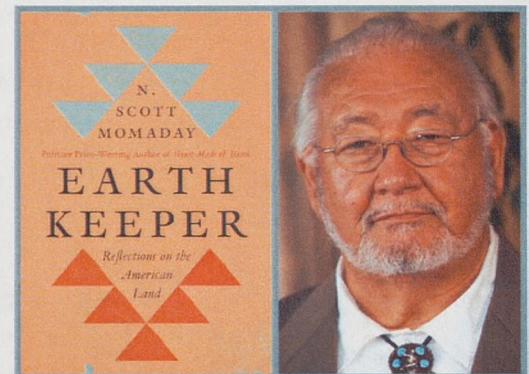


Earth Keeper: Reflections on the American Land

by N. Scott Momaday (2020)

Review by Jocelyn

I listened to this in one sitting. Momaday narrates the audiobook himself, and I was so glad I chose to listen to it instead of picking up the book. Momaday, who was the 2021 recipient of the Frost Medal for distinguished lifetime achievement in poetry, is not only an excellent poet, but he's obviously a natural storyteller. While touching on some heavy topics, he somehow left me feeling hopeful. Acknowledging the pervasive "disease of indifference to the earth" that seems to be all around us, I thought about how encouraging curiosity and connection to the earth is so important for future generations. Like Momaday, "I would strive with all my strength to give [a] sense of wonder to those who will come after me." It is connection, after all, that cultivates a sense of caring and empathy, towards people and planet.





AHL partnered with UMN Professor James Boyd Brent, who's *Color and Form in Surface Design* classes were tasked with creating a poster celebrating our 50th Anniversary, using imagery inspired by the collections. Here are a few of our favorites, as well as a photo of their creations on display outside of the print studio. Stay tuned, as we will be displaying these pieces at the Arboretum sometime this year.



DESIGN CREDITS: Posters are all courtesy of UMN Graphic Design Students. Front cover art by Madison. Back cover featured art by Lucy and Bryce.