I’m pleased to announce our new Chair-Elect, Sabrina Holley-Williams. Sabrina is the Library Director at the U.S. EPA’s Region 1 Library in Boston, Massachusetts. She received her MLIS from Simmons College in 2000 and, prior to her current position, she worked in various Boston-area academic libraries. Sabrina is the lead planner for ERMD’s session at the SLA 2016 annual conference in Philadelphia and can be reached at holley-williams.sabrina@epa.gov. Thanks to Sabrina for her willingness to take on this role when ERMD needed her.

ERMD will be holding elections for officer positions in the coming months. Anyone wishing to run for office or just ask questions about the positions is welcome to contact me at gerken.abbey@epa.gov. While we welcome candidates for any of the officer positions, we are in immediate need of a membership chair and an administrator for ERMD’s discussion list that is available to SLA members only, as both of these positions are currently vacant.

I also want to remind our membership to cast their votes in the upcoming Board of Directors election, which will run from September 2nd through September 25th. These are difficult times for SLA and those elected to the board will no doubt have a substantial role in determining the future of the organization. You can find information about the Board of Directors election here: https://www.sla.org/get-involved/board-election/. Additional information about the candidates is available on the Candidate Resource Center: https://www.sla.org/governance/board-of-directors/election/election2015/candidate-resource-center/.

Saturday, June 13 2015, 2:30-3:30pm
Board meeting

By Amy Schuler, schulera@caryinstitute.org

The ERMD Board met for its regularly scheduled annual meeting. Chair Abbey Gerken presented the Treasurer’s Report.

The board members and other attendees briefly discussed our division newsletter (last one was Spring 2015), upcoming sessions at the annual meeting (Green Buildings and Seed Libraries), and planning for the 2016 annual meeting in Philadelphia.

Attendees talked about holding a joint session and/or a joint poster session with another division. Chair Elect Sabrina Holly-Williams informed the group of ideas from other divisions that were discussed at the planning meeting earlier that afternoon. These include sessions on environmental sustainability/food, valuing biodiversity, and a citizen science panel.

There was a brief conversation about membership. Samuel Boltik remarked that our current membership number is unknown because we do not currently have a Membership coordinator. This lead to a conversation about the roles we need to fill for 2016: Chair Elect, Director, and Membership coordinator. Louise Deis offered to handle the division listserv.

Discussion about SLA governance, the strategic recommendations before the association, and the future of our division (including the question of whether ERMD could or should merge with another division) permeated all of the other agenda items.
Editor’s Note
by Bobbi Weaver, baw@cwsl.edu

In this issue, some of our members who attended the conference in Boston have shared what they learned and experienced. There are reviews of sessions as well as some other happenings from the conference.

Planning is now underway for next year’s conference in Philadelphia. I am looking forward to visiting the area where I was raised. Hopefully, I will have enough time to visit with family and friends as well.

Special thanks to contributors in this issue:

- Abbey Gerken
- Kezia Procita
- Bobbi Weaver

Please send copy and ideas for our next issue to me at baw@cwsl.edu.

Enjoy!

ERMD NEWS
The Quarterly Newsletter of the Environment and Resource Management Division of the Special Libraries Association
Editor: Bobbi A. Weaver, J.D., M.S.L.S.
Tel. 619-525-1497/Email: baw@cwsl.edu

ERMD News is published electronically in PDF format four times per year by the Environment and Resource Management Division of SLA. It is available to division members as a membership benefit.

Communications regarding the contents of this issue should be sent to the editor via the email address given above or to the author’s email address, if given.

ADVERTISING.—Rate Schedule:

- Full Page: $250
- Half-Page Horizontal: $130
- Quarter Page: $65
- Business Card: $35

Discount for Prepaid Ad:

- For 3 or more issues: 10%
- For 2 issues: 5%

To place an advertisement, contact Bobbi Weaver at baw@cwsl.edu or (619) 525-1497. Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply the endorsement of the product by ERMD or the Special Libraries Association

COPY DEADLINES:

- July 11 — Summer Issue
- Oct. 15 — Fall Issue
- Jan. 15 — Winter issue
- Apr. 17 — Spring issue

The Special Libraries Association assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors to the association’s publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of the Special Libraries Association.

ISSN 1553-1422
Cultivating Seed Libraries (http://sched.co/2I5q)
Sun., June 14, 2015, 1:30-3:00 pm
Speakers:
   Enid Boasberg (Concord Seed Lending Library)
   Heather McCann (Hampshire College Library)
   Caren Rosales and Angela Veizega (Boston Public Library)

By Kezia Procita, Procita.Kezia@epa.gov

The Cultivating Seed Libraries session that ERMD hosted was an enjoyable and informative session with four speakers from local libraries with seed lending practices. Speakers discussed reasons for creating seed libraries, challenges with getting started, and applications of traditional library practices to seed libraries. They also shared specific experiences from their libraries.

The first speaker, Enid Boasberg, was from the Concord Seed Lending Library in Concord, MA. The Concord Seed Lending Library is located within a branch of the Concord Free Public Library and is open to public library patrons. Ms. Boasberg described the Concord community as a farming and garden community whose residents are interested in growing heirloom fruits and vegetables and this was a big reason why there was a push to create the seed library. She also discussed some “bigger picture” reasons why seed libraries are attractive. For example, she mentioned that much of the produce that is available in grocery stores today consists of varieties that are bred for shelf-life and not for flavor or nutrition. The preservation of heirloom plant varieties through seed libraries can increase plant diversity - including factors such as nutrition and taste.

Ms. Boasberg presented some challenges with creating and maintaining a successful seed library. One of the primary challenges is that when seeds are “borrowed”, they are planted by patrons and it is up to the patron to harvest the fruit or vegetable grown from the borrowed seed and save new seeds to “return” to the seed library the next year. Techniques and ease of seed saving vary, and it can be difficult to keep plants genetically pure when they are susceptible to cross-pollination from nearby plants and gardens. In considering how to organize and present seeds within the library, the Concord Seed Lending Library staff opted to organize seeds as “easy”, “hard”, or “difficult” to keep genetically pure. “Difficult” seeds, for example, need to have their parent seeds separated by long distances or they need to be physically separated and hand-pollinated. “Easy” seeds are better options for new users. Ms. Boasberg noted that the combined challenge of getting patrons to return genetically pure seeds after a full growing season was substantial.

Finally, Ms. Boasberg shared that the Concord Seed Lending Library recently conducted a user survey to obtain feedback about what patrons liked best about the library. Patrons responded by saying that they loved trying new plant varieties, the process of “recycling” or harvesting seeds and returning them to the library, meeting other

[continued on page 4]
growers, and the sense of community created. Library staff enjoy the programming opportunities the seed library creates and the fact that it brings in new library patrons. Librarians and patrons alike enjoy the annual “seed packing” parties hosted by the Concord Seed Lending Library. Despite the challenges, patrons and libraries consider the Concord Seed Lending Library to be a success.

Angela Veizega and Caren Rosales, both Youth Services Librarians from the Boston Public Library, presented their experiences setting up the Mattapan Seed Library within the Mattapan Branch of the Boston Public Library. They described Mattapan as a small community with many gardeners and felt that this was the right setting to implement a seed library.

The librarians' discussion of starting their seed library was very interesting. They discussed hosting seed packaging parties where volunteers helped sort and package seeds. They put together binders on how to find, use, and save seeds, and repurposed an unused card catalog to store seeds. They opened the seed library in April 2014. Initially, library staff had support from the Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN). BNAN donated seeds and provided volunteers and promised additional support but, the librarians noted, this support fell through. Working to manage the fledgling seed library without promised support proved challenging and the librarians presented some of the ways they were able to keep the seed library afloat despite this and other challenges.

Some of the challenges faced at Mattapan included: a large number of donated seeds (with limited staff to sort and pack), excited library management but a lack of staff time and volunteers to meet management’s expectations, and the lack of follow-through support by the BNAN. The librarians' experiences taught them to get commitments from outside organizations in writing, have a clear plan for how the seed library will be managed and who will manage it, ensure that supervisors know how much time and effort is required for this type of project, and take the time to perform outreach and advertising to targeted groups.

Though the first year was challenging, during the second year, the Mattapan library staff were able to find new partners to collaborate with, obtain a community garden plot, build garden beds on the library property, create a garden club for kids, network with area master gardeners, and are now working on hosting cooking classes at the library and creating a cookbook with kids. These outreach activities that resulted from the creation of the seed library have drawn in new patrons and proved to be an overall positive experience.

The last speaker, Heather McCann, is a Science Librarian at Hampshire College. The Hampshire College Seed Lending Library was started by a student in the form of a senior project and Library Staff decided to use this project as a starting point to create a functioning seed lending library.

The first step was to host a seed sorting party where library staff and volunteers sorted seeds into small packets and organized the packets by how easy it is to grow and maintain the same plant (i.e. protect the genetic integrity of the plant variety). Library staff cataloged the seeds, applied barcodes to the packets, and created a website to help inform student patrons about the potential to “check out” seeds to use.

Like the other presenters, Ms. McCann also spoke about some of the challenges that the Hampshire College Seed Lending Library faced, including: the volume of work required to sort and pack all of the seeds, the fact that many students are transient and don’t often plant gardens, the challenges of saving seeds and keeping them genetically pure, as well as some legal challenges that arose. An in-depth discussion of legal issues surrounding seed libraries was out of scope for this presentation but there was a brief conversation about state seed legislation which may include regulation of the sale of seeds, the requirement that seed sellers be licensed, and other potential barriers to seed libraries.
In this DVD, the construction of the MacAllen Building (http://www.luxuryboston.com/), Boston’s first “green” residential building, is chronicled. The condominium building is located at the border of Boston and South Boston, about a mile from the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center where SLA’s 2015 conference was held.

Historically, the South Boston neighborhood has been predominately comprised of working class, mostly Irish Catholic, families. With recent urban renewal in the area, more single urban professionals are becoming attracted to the area. The units in the MacAllen Building sell for between $500,000 and $2,000,000, out of the budget range for many of the traditional residents of South Boston. In the DVD, some longtime residents of South Boston expressed concern with being priced out of the area.

The builders of the MacAllen Condominiums strived for a gold LEED certification. LEED is an acronym for “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.” The certification system is a rating system for determining how “green” or environmentally-friendly a building is. There are five rating categories: sustainable sites, energy and atmosphere, water efficiency, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.

The film showed how the builders obtained points toward the eventual goal of obtaining a gold LEED certification. The builders earned points by obtaining the concrete from a local source and the predominantly recycled steel from a supplier in Maine, approximately 3 hours from Boston.

The building also scored points for water efficiency. There was a system installed in the building to capture rainwater for re-use, and double-flush toilets were installed in each unit. These toilets provide the option of a full flush for solid wastes or a half flush for liquid wastes. The half flush uses half of the water of the full flush, thus conserving water.

Buildings have a large impact on climate change. A lot of energy is consumed in heating, cooling and lighting buildings, and this energy consumption produces greenhouse gases. The MacAllen Condominiums were built with a system that recovers and filters heated air for re-use, thereby reducing the energy used for heating. The building has also installed green landscaping on the roof. Plants will be growing on the roof to create more oxygen. Traditional black roofs in urban areas create a heat island effect, thereby increasing the use of the buildings’ cooling systems.

The builders of the MacAllen Condominium Building also used various eco-friendly materials inside the units. The flooring was done with bamboo, which is a grass that is rapidly renewable. Low-emitting glue was used as an adhesive. Unfortunately, the glue was not strong enough to keep the floor from buckling, so 72 of the floors had to be removed and replaced. The cabinets in each unit were made from wheat board made from wheat straw left over from the wheat harvest. The builders also had to later repair the cabinets due to expansion. The material did not contain the chemicals that usually bind the fibers and keep them from expanding.

The insulation used in each unit was made from recycled cotton fabric rather than traditional fiberglass. This insulation is better for the inhabitant’s respiratory system and does not cause itching on contact like fiberglass does.

Although the builders strived to get many of the materials through local sources, the decking material was transported from South America. However, the wood was sourced from a selective cutting forest there. There was some concern about the use of energy in transporting some building materials. Along with the decking being transported from South America, the bamboo for the flooring was transported from China. Still, the building uses 30 percent less energy than traditional buildings, and consumes $600,000 fewer gallons of water each year.

The MacAllen Condominiums did earn the gold LEED certification. More information on the project and its LEED certification can be found in the article by Sebastian Howard online at http://greensource.construction.com/projects/0807_MacAllenCondos.asp.

Information about the film can be found at http://www.greeningofsouthie.com/. The web site also provides ordering options. It is also available at several public and academic libraries (See, http://alturl.com/osjmw).
After the programs ended on Tuesday, another SLA attendee and I ventured the subway to Quincy, a suburb of Boston. After grabbing a quick dinner, we headed to the basement of the United First Parish Church to volunteer with the Prison Book Program (http://prisonbookprogram.org/).

The volunteer coordinator gave us a brief orientation on the book selection process. Some books were sent in bulk to prisons throughout the U.S. Other requests were answered individually. We read the requests from inmates, and fulfilled the requests as best we could from the collection of books donated to the program. The letters included a vast array of genre requests. I opened one with a request for a book on theoretical physics. I wasn’t able to locate an exact match, but sent him a book on the general physical sciences.

The inmates often write letters of appreciation for the books they have received. If you are in the Boston area, you can donate books in person during volunteer hours. Books can also be mailed to the organization’s mailing address. For more information on the types of books accepted and where they can be donated, go to http://prisonbookprogram.org/donatesection/donate-books/.

This service project was similar to one that I did with the Chicago Books to Women in Prison (CBWP) during SLA’s 2012 Conference in Chicago. I have since returned to CBWP when I occasionally visit Chicago. If you live in the Chicago area, CBWP would welcome you as a volunteer. For more information, visit the organization online at http://chicagobwp.org/. Both the Prison Book Program and CBWP have pages on Facebook as well.

If you are not in the Boston or Chicago area, the Prison Book Program’s web site lists links to other programs throughout the U.S. at http://prisonbookprogram.org/resources/other-books-to-prisoners-programs/. A select listing of prison book programs in Canada can be found at http://www.prisonjustice.ca/organizations/b2p.html. Many of these organizations could especially use volunteers with library experience.
The Hampshire College Seed Lending Library was very interesting to hear about and is definitely a successful implementation of such a library. Ms. McCann presented some of the considered next steps for the library including: creating a “trading post” for patrons to bring in produce to share, eliminating the idea of “returning” next year’s seeds, increasing seed-related programming, and hosting workshops on planning garden spaces. She noted that seed library patrons did use other library services and that they were able to acquire related books, for example, books about gardening, construction, and cookbooks. There was an overall increase in library usage as a result of the seed library.

Attendees at this presentation had the opportunity to learn the basics of seed libraries and some of the reasons why a library may opt to start one. From a libraries perspective, seed lending represents an opportunity to identify what a local community may value and creating a seed library may draw new users to the library space. Kudos to the presenters for sharing not only their applications of library theories and principles to their seed lending libraries but for sharing their goals, challenges, and future hopes as well!
## ERMD 2015 Officers

### Executive Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chair</strong></td>
<td>Abbey Gerken</td>
<td>c/o US EPA 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. MC3404T Washington, DC 20460</td>
<td>(303) 952-9381 (voice)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gerken.abbey@epa.gov">gerken.abbey@epa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Immediate Past-Chair</strong></td>
<td>Samuel G. Boltik</td>
<td>US EPA Headquarters – Library 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW MC 3404T Washington, DC 20460</td>
<td>(202) 566-0577 (voice)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:boltik.sam@epa.gov">boltik.sam@epa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chair-Elect</strong></td>
<td>Sabrina Holley-Williams, Library Director</td>
<td>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 Library ASRC Primus 411 North St. Fitchburg, MA 01420</td>
<td><a href="mailto:holley-williams.sabrina@epa.gov">holley-williams.sabrina@epa.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secretary</strong></td>
<td>Chris Clotworthy</td>
<td>Resources for the Future 1616 P St. NW Washington, DC 20036-1443</td>
<td><a href="mailto:clotworthy@rff.org">clotworthy@rff.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Treasurer</strong></td>
<td>Amy Schuler</td>
<td>Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies P.O. Box AB Millbrook, NY 12545</td>
<td><a href="mailto:schulera@caryinstitute.org">schulera@caryinstitute.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Director</strong></td>
<td>Eric Tans, Environmental Sciences Librarian</td>
<td>Collections Management Division Michigan State University Libraries 366 W. Circle Drive, E216 East Lansing, MI 48824</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Director</strong></td>
<td>Brendan Thompson</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain Institute 1820 Folsom Street Boulder, CO 80302</td>
<td>(303) 567-8572 <a href="mailto:bthompson@rmi.org">bthompson@rmi.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advertising Manager
[ vacant ]

Archivist
Michael Sholinbeck
Sheldon Margen Public Health Library
U. C. Berkeley
1 University Hall #7360
Berkeley, CA 94720-7360 USA
1-510-642-2511 (voice)
1-510-642-7623 (fax)
msholinb@library.berkeley.edu

Discussion List—SLA-DERM Mbrs Only
Beth Wohlgemuth
Illinois Natural History Survey
1027 Forbes Building
Champaign, IL 61820
wohlgemu@inhs.uiuc.edu

Discussion List—Open
Duncan McClusky
University of Georgia
2360 Rainwater Rd.
Tifton, GA 31793 USA
1-229-386-3447 (voice)
1-229-391-2501 (fax)
mclusky@uga.edu

Forestry Section Chair
Julie Blankenburg
Forest Products Laboratory
National Forest Service Library
U.S. Forest Service
One Gifford Pinchot Drive
Madison, WI 53726
(608) 231-9491 (voice)
(608) 231-9311 (fax)
Email: jblankenburg@fs.fed.us
Alternate email (for large files):
jjblanke@wisc.edu

Ethics Ambassador
Barbie Keiser
2100 Lee Highway #G13
Vienna, VA 22201 USA
barbie.keiser@gmail.com

Membership Chair
[ vacant ]

Newsletter Editor
Bobbi Weaver,
Library, Cal. Western School of Law
225 Cedar Street
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 525-1497
baw@cwsl.edu

Social Media Committee
Bob Teeter
Santa Clara Valley Water Dist. Library
5750 Almaden Expwy
San Jose, CA 95118-3686 USA
1-408-265-2600 (voice)
bteeter@valleywater.org