



CHEROKEE GARDEN LIBRARY

Conserving Treasures through the Adopt-A-Book Program

The Garden Library's Adopt-A-Book program helps to fund the conservation of treasured rare volumes in the collection, which includes more than 5,000 rare books, some requiring treatment.

Professional conservation treatment can be simple, such as the construction of enclosures to house books. Or the process can be complex and include:

- paper repair
- washing
- resewing
- stain reduction
- lining, mending
- rebinding in cloth or leather
- de-acidification.

Top 3 Criteria for Conservation

1. **Significance** of the book to the history of horticulture, focusing on the Southeastern United States
2. **Demand** for the volume by researchers
3. **Condition** assessment of the volume

Conservation Made Possible through Fundraising

The following are a sampling of books conserved for use and enjoyment by generations to come:

1. **William Bartram. *Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee country, the extensive territories of the Muscogulges, or Creek confederacy, and the country of the Chactaws; containing an account of the soil and natural productions of those regions; together with observations on the manners of the Indians.*** Philadelphia: Printed by James and Johnson, 1791; London: Reprinted for J. Johnson, 1792.



"Behold the azure fields of cerulean Ixia,"
writes Bartram about the illustrated *Ixia*
Calestina in his 1791 work.

William Bartram (1739-1823), naturalist, artist, and explorer, was the son of eminent botanist, John Bartram of Philadelphia. In 1773 William departed on a four-year journey from the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains to Florida and from the interior of the Southeast to the edge of the Mississippi River. His journal, an American classic, provides an invaluable record of the 18th-century environment of the Southeastern region.

1. **Thomas Hill.** *The Profitable Arte of Gardening*. London: R. Walde-graue, 1586.
The Profitable Arte of Gardening, a sixteenth-century garden work, is the oldest volume in the Garden Library's collection and an important early English volume on herbal medicine.
2. **Jane Wells Loudon.** *The Ladies' Companion to the Flower Garden . . .* London: William Smith, Fleet Street, 1842.

Jane Wells Loudon (1807-1858) was a pioneer in the male-dominated field of horticulture in 19th-century Europe. Orphaned at 17, Jane Wells wrote a futuristic novel under a male pseudonym. Intrigued by her work, John Claudius Loudon, renowned landscape designer and horticulture writer, requested to meet the author, and that is how she met her husband. While they visited gardens throughout Europe, she studied botany and became a horticulture authority in her own right. Widowed early, she supported herself with popular garden writing and illustrated works, producing a series of volumes on annuals, bulbs, greenhouse plants, perennials, and wildflowers. Her books were immensely popular in England and the United States, including the Southeastern region. She is recognized as one of the first to write books specifically for women on the subject of gardening.

3. **François-André Michaux.** *The North American Sylva*. Two volumes, illustrated with 156 colored engravings by Pierre Joseph Redouté and Panrace Bessa. Paris: C. D'Hautel, 1819.
4. **François-André Michaux.** *The North American Sylva*. Volume 1. Philadelphia: D. Rice & A. N. Hart, 1857.

The North American Sylva, a 19-century work on American trees by French botanist François-André Michaux (1770-1855), demonstrates the early investigation of the flora of North America by botanists who were seeking new plants for commerce and horticulture.



Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip Tree or Tulip Poplar) in François André Michaux's *The North American Sylva* (1819).

5. **William Prince.** *A Short Treatise on Horticulture*. New York: T. & J. Swords, 1828.

A Short Treatise on Horticulture by nurseryman William Prince (1766-1842) began a new era in horticultural books in America as the first American gardening book to break away from the English custom of month-by-month horticulture advice. It describes and provides directions for the cultivation of numerous fruits, ornamental trees and shrubs, flowers, and greenhouse plants. When it was published in 1828, it was an immediate success but was never reprinted, making this volume an invaluable and unique resource.

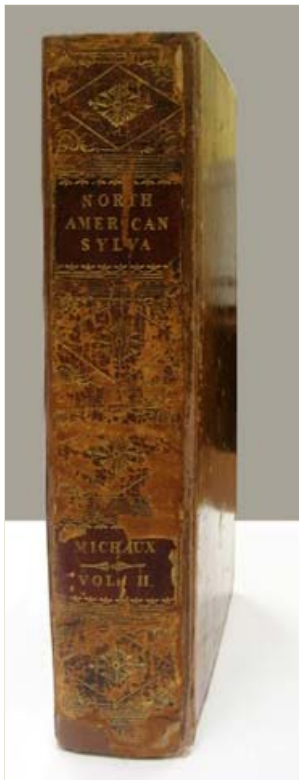
North American Sylva Conservation: Before & After

The Cherokee Garden Library's two-volume set of *North American Sylva* was one of the projects funded through the Garden Library's Adopt-A-Book program. This illustrated botanical is a 19th-century work on American trees by French botanist François-André Michaux (1770-1855). It reflects the early investigation of the flora of North America by botanists who were seeking new plants for commerce and horticulture.

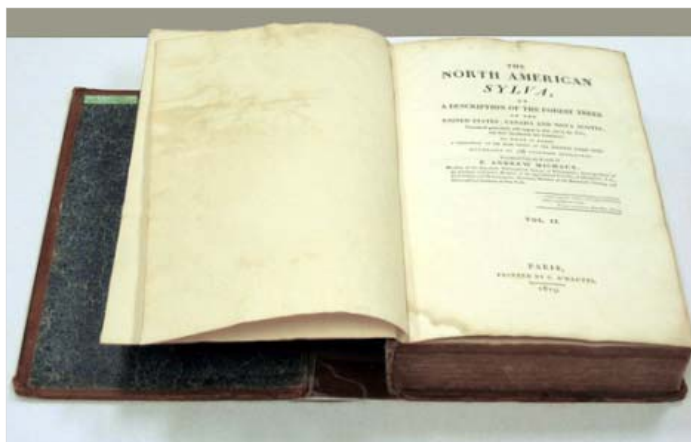
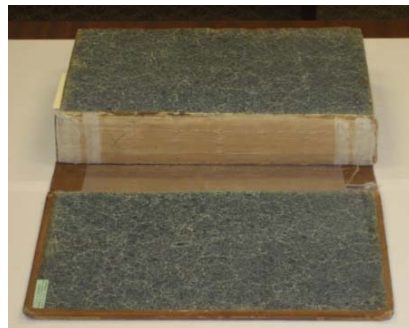
In 1785 André Michaux, accompanied by his son François-André, was sent, at the direction of the French government, to study the forest resources of North America, especially the oaks, with a view to reforesting French lands that had been ravaged by war. André produced two important works, both published in France, as the result of this trip: *Flora Boreali-Americana* (Paris, 1803) and *Histoire des chênes de l'Amérique* (Paris 1801).

A few years later François-André returned to the United States, also under the commission of the government of France (now the Republic). He soon produced: *Histoire des Arbres Forestiers de l'Amérique Septentrionale...* (Paris 1810-1813). Within a few years this work was translated into English and published as *North American Sylva...* (Philadelphia, 1817-1819), for the growing English and American markets interested in North American trees and woods.

This two-volume set was selected for conservation because it met all three of our criteria: 1) It is an important work that features many trees native to the Southeast; 2) it is frequently used by botanists, garden historians, and artists; and 3) its poor condition would prohibit handling by library users if it were not conserved.



Before conservation, the leather spines of this two-volume set had deteriorated, pages were stained, and the text blocks were detached from the spine.



How the Volumes Were Conserved

The books were shipped via fine arts handlers to the Greensboro, North Carolina, office of Etherington Conservation Services, where both volumes were restored to a condition which allows them to be used without further damage.

Restoration of the Textblock

This is the body of the book, including leaves or sections that need to be rebound or restored. It excludes any papers added by the bookbinder such as board papers, endpapers, or doublures (linings).

Surfaces cleaned: Dust and particles that accumulated over time were removed by hand with a Magic Rub eraser.

Stains reduced: Stains were removed with water and a hand-held section device.

Paper mended: Japanese paper and wheat starch paste (an adhesive that is totally reversible) were used to mend torn pages. These are the standard mending materials in the conservation industry. The paste is made with wheat starch powder and mixed in a cooker. Zen Shofu Japanese wheat starch is used because it binds well and resists mold.

Guarded Sections Added: Application of slips of thin paper or linen which strengthen the fold of leaves that are damaged and/or for attaching plates or single leaves.

Other Processes: A hollow structure was added to the spine and consolidated the original endbands with Japanese paper and PVA (Polyvinyl alcohol). The endbands (also called headbands) were adhered or sewn on the head and tail of the textblock spine, often slightly hidden under the headcaps of the covering leather.

Restoration of the Binding

Restored Original Binding: Winsor and Newton acrylic colors were used to inpaint (touch up) the binding.

Rebacked: A calf and leather label with spine tooling in gold was applied.

