



PRESS RELEASE

pvanskaik@LloydLibrary.org

ecampbell@LloydLibrary.org

(513) 721-3707

May 15, 2024

Live Dangerously this Summer at the Lloyd!

From mythic potions to deadly darts, we associate poison with the dangerous and wicked. But did you know that plant-derived poisons save many more lives than they take? Come to the Lloyd Library & Museum's summer exhibition, *Pick Your Poison*, to explore the contradictions and mysteries of poisonous plants. By showcasing heart-stopping plant illustrations and foundational texts of toxicology from as early as the 16th century, *Pick Your Poison* will spotlight pharmacology's massive debt to toxicology, survey the cultural landscape of poison, and help you to identify potential dangers lurking in your own backyard!



***Pick Your Poison* Opening Reception**

Friday, May 31, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

At the Lloyd Library & Museum

Free and open to the public with light refreshments.

When Renaissance polymath and “father of toxicology” Paracelsus said, “the dose makes the poison,” he was asserting that seemingly benign plants can be poisonous and toxic plants can be curative—it all depends on the dosage. *Pick Your Poison* explores both sides of the toxic threshold of poisonous plants, presenting images of plants from medical herbals and toxicological tomes. Highlights include Köhler’s *Medizinal-Pflanzen*, “the best and most useful collection of illustrations of medicinal plants”; Gerard’s *Herball*, the most famous of all English

herbals that likely inspired Shakespeare; Hayne’s show-stopping illustrations of hand-colored medicinal plants; and John Uri Lloyd’s writings on medicinal uses of poisonous plants.

Pick Your Poison programming includes in-person and virtual programs on the murderous history of poisonous plants, how plants use toxins to defend themselves, and poisonous plants as cancer-fighting agents. Opening May 31, *Pick Your Poison* will contextualize the botanical dangers in our midst while showing how we have harnessed the power of poisonous plants for good. Programs on urban gardens and native plants with a decidedly non-poisonous focus round out the summer series.



Finding Selective Poisons in Plants to Target Breast Cancer

Wednesday, June 19, 2024, 7-8 p.m.

Virtual lecture

Registration Required.

Join leading cancer researcher Susan Mooberry as she discusses the quest for discovering new treatments for breast cancer. Many drugs used for the treatment of cancer are derived from or modeled after compounds found in nature. Natural products continue to provide effective new leads for many types of cancer including breast cancer. The program will focus on therapies for the treatment of challenging cancers, including triple negative breast cancers.

As Professor Emeritus of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Dr. Mooberry previously held the position of The Greehey Distinguished Chair in Molecular Therapeutics. She has published over 145 peer reviewed articles, reviews and book chapters and holds eleven patents on new classes of drug leads. Dr. Mooberry has served on scientific review panels for national and international organizations and as Principal Investigator of NIH and industry grants. She is past president of the American Society for Pharmacognosy and was elected as a Fellow of that society in 2019 and in 2022 was honored by the American Society of Pharmacology as the first recipient of the Susan Band Horwitz lecture.



Ohio Native Plants – Medicinally Speaking

Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 7-8 p.m.

In Person Program at the Lloyd Library & Museum

Registration Required.

Indigenous communities, settlers, immigrants, doctors, and researchers have long relied on native plants for medicinal purposes. Today, approximately 40% of our medicines are derived from plants. The intersection of high-tech science with nature yields remarkable results. Ongoing research is uncovering the medicinal properties of native plants, validating their historical uses. In this presentation, Carol Mundy delves into the history of select Ohio native plants and their significance in traditional and contemporary medicine.

As a naturalist, speaker and writer Carol Mundy taught for the University of Cincinnati and Hamilton County Park District, leading classes on urban wildlife issues, native plants, weed identification and the historical uses of plants. She continues to offer lectures and workshops in her "retirement." One of her favorite botanical projects was the design of the historical medicine display for The Ohio Governors' Residence Heritage Garden & Lloyd Medicinal Garden.



West End Urban Gardens

Saturday, August 3, 2024, 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Garden Tour

Corner of John and Chestnut Streets

Sometimes it takes a village to create a green space, make fresh produce available in a food desert, and provide educational opportunities. In just a few years, the Betts-Longworth Historic District Group, with support from the Development Fund West End and army of volunteers, have beautified a community-

owned parking lot and transformed its borders into a foraging garden where neighbors can help themselves to strawberries, carrots, tomatoes, and a host of other fruits and vegetables.

Meanwhile, across the street, students at Hays-Porter School are building on their science curriculum and learning how to reap what they sow; to make a difference and help their community. With an emphasis on environmentally friendly equipment and hydroponics, they are using technology to garden sustainably. Join members of the Betts-Longworth Historic District Group for a tour of the Betts-Longworth Historic Group Garden and the Hays-Porter School Garden and learn more about urban gardening and these exciting and inspiring projects.



From Green Tomatoes to Toxic Honey: The Ecology of Plant Defenses

Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

In Person Program

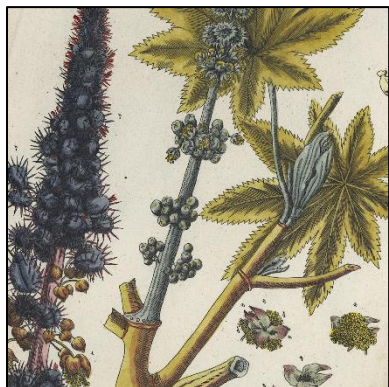
Registration Required.

Plants are brilliant chemists that produce everything from colors, flavors, and medicines. They can also create deadly toxins! Have you ever wondered why they produce such a dizzying array of compounds, and why they work on us like they do? Find out more when Dr. Eric Tepe explains about the hows and whys of plant toxins found in everything from potatoes and castor beans to beautiful rhododendrons and how these plants protect themselves

through such lethal ways.

Dr. Eric Tepe is Associate Professor of Botany and curator of the Margaret H. Fulford Herbarium at the University of Cincinnati. His research focuses on plant systematics, including taxonomy, phylogenetics, biogeography, and diversification of "giant genera" – those with over 1,000 species such as *Piper* (Piperaceae) and *Solanum* (Solanaceae). He also studies evolution of ant-plant

associations. He graduated from The Ohio State University with a double major in Botany and Spanish and went on to obtain his PhD in Botany at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. A native to Ohio, Eric lived in Venezuela and Argentina as a child, and developed a passion for traveling. His research takes him frequently to Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, or Panama.



Murderous Plants

Wednesday, September 4, 2024, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

In Person Program

Registration Required.

Beautiful but poisonous plants are often used as garden ornamentals, potted plants, and even florist flowers, yet most people are unaware of the dangers posed by the toxins derived from them. In *Murderous Plants*, Barney Lipscomb takes you on an enchanting journey through the cultural, historical and mythological aspects of poisonous plants. Past and present uses of classical “herbs” in murders, suicides, executions, accidental poisonings, as well as agents of bioterrorism, will be discussed. Increase your knowledge of toxic plants, know what to do in case of suspected poisoning, and discover the most important factor in poisoning prevention.

Barney L. Lipscomb is the director of the Botanic Research Institute of Texas Press and Library and is the Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany. After earning a Biology degree from Cameron University and his Masters in Botany from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Lipscomb was the herbarium botanist and curator for Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He became the assistant editor of the botanical journal *Sida, Contributions to Botany* and co-founded *Sida, Botanical Miscellany*. Lipscomb has co-authored numerous books on Texas flora. Interested in researching poisonous plants, he actively serves on the board of consultants for the North Texas Poison Center.

Want to learn more about Pick Your Poison? Visit the Lloyd on July 20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and join Lloyd curators for behind-the-scenes tours highlighting the exhibition's books and their significance.

Located at 917 Plum St. in Cincinnati, Ohio, the Lloyd is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and the third Saturday of the month. For more information or to schedule a visit, contact the Library at (513) 721-3707 or email contact@lloydlibrary.org or visit LloydLibrary.org.

