



VOLUME 13, ISSUE 9 | SEPTEMBER 2026



Watercolor Paintings of a Floral World **by Brigitte de Wever**

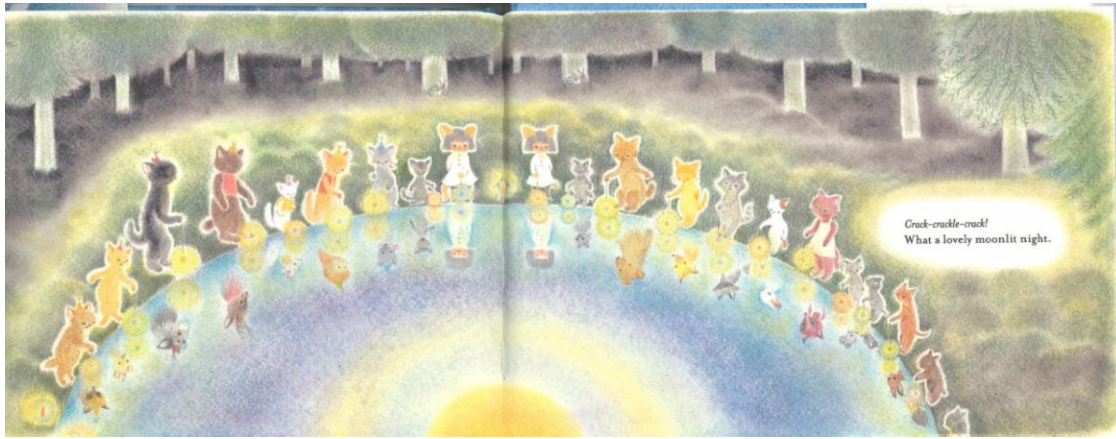
We are excited to welcome artist Brigitte de Wever back to the Miller Library for her September exhibition. In the artist's words:

"Flowers and leaves come and go throughout the seasons, and I am fascinated by the richness and abundance I encounter as I walk around my neighborhood, in botanical gardens, or in my garden. With watercolor paintings I desire to keep the beauty I captured around me and share it with others.

I started this collection self-taught, but I am now a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists.

Overall, this exhibit is an invitation to look at nature and bring respect to this magnificent world that gives us so much in return."

This exhibition will run September 2-29, with a chance to meet the artist on Monday, September 14 from 5:30 to 6:30pm.



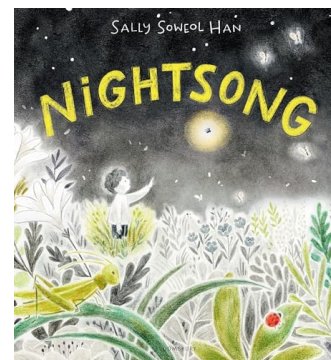
Night-themed books in the Miller Library Youth Collection

REVIEWED BY CARLY STEWART

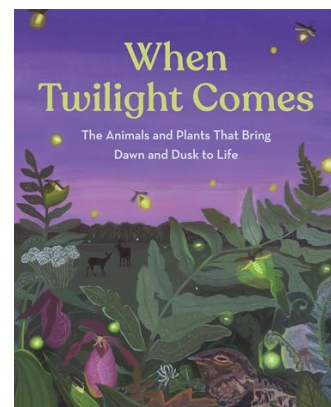
As autumn nears and the nights grow longer, it is difficult to ignore the knell of the impending "big dark." Fall and winter in the Pacific Northwest bring dreary skies, early sunsets, and long, long nights. Whether you or children in your life fear or relish the dark, we have many books in our youth collection that revel in the unknown majesty and otherworldly magic that lies outside our windows while we sleep.

Chirri and Chirra: In the Night is part of my all-time favorite picture book series. Following sisters Chirri and Chirra on their many adventures, these books by Kaya Doi find the girls following their curiosity, meeting new animals, trying new foods, and exploring the natural world on their bicycles. *In the Night* follows Chirri and Chirra and their new cat friends into the woods (shown above) to a nighttime fair. Aglow with depictions of lanterns and fireworks, Doi's colorful illustrations are ethereal and soft—each turn of the page is a treat!

Nightsong by Sally Soweol Han, with similar soft and dreamy illustrations by the author, takes a different approach to the night. With our sense of sight weakened after the sun goes down, Soweol Han engages readers with sound. Our protagonist, Lewis, leaves the bustling noisy city behind for a nighttime nature walk. Onomatopoeia abounds as Lewis follows new noises to discover a hidden symphony of night song: frogs croaking, crickets chirping, and owls hooting. This book highlights the overlooked magic of nightfall: the creatures who come alive in the dark.



Finally, **When Twilight Comes: The Animals and Plants That Bring Dawn and Dusk to Life**, by Marcie Flinchum Atkins and illustrated by Michelle Morin, follows our crepuscular neighbors, the organisms most active at dusk and dawn. This book features stunning jewel-toned illustrations showcasing plants and animals that you may recognize and the breathtaking sunrises and sunsets that greet them. The writing is lyrical and engaging, instilling a reverence and respect for the flora and fauna. As we turn into crepuscular creatures ourselves this fall and winter, I encourage you to slow down and take a moment to find beauty in the darkness.



Call for Artists: Miller Library 2027 Exhibitions

With our transition to Seattle Botanic Gardens, the Miller Library is also transitioning to an annual Call for Submissions as we plan our 2027 Art Exhibition calendar.

If you are an artist whose work relates to the Miller Library's focus on plants, gardening, horticulture, and the natural world and want to exhibit your work here, please fill out the form in the link below. If you know an artist who might be interested, please consider sharing this with them.

[Submit an artist application](#)

The Call for Submissions for 2027 is open until 5pm Pacific on September 30, 2026. All applications will be reviewed in early October and applicants will hear from the library by October 15, 2026.

Questions? Contact Nick Williams at nwilliams@seattlebg.org.



Ask the Plant Answer Line: Is there a crabapple-like flowering tree without fruit?

RESEARCHED BY LAURA BLUMHAGEN

Q: We're in Wenatchee, Washington and need a tree recommendation. A crabapple has many characteristics that we like, but we don't want something that drops fruit on the ground. Can you recommend a similar flowering tree that doesn't produce fruit?

*A: There is at least one fruit-free crabapple variety that you could try: *Malus* 'Spring Snow'. You could also consider flowering cherries, such as *Prunus serrulata* 'Thundercloud', *Prunus serrulata* 'Mt. Fuji' and *Prunus serrulata* 'Royal Burgundy', none of which produce*

fruit.

Another small flowering tree that will do well in your zone (USDA Zone 7) is *Styrax japonicus* (snowbell). The fruit it produces is hard and relatively small, not mushy like crabapples might be. You could also consider *Clerodendrum trichotomum* (harlequin glorybower, pictured above), with its strongly fragrant summer flowers and peanut-butter-scented leaves. It's hardy to USDA Zone 7 and bears colorful but non-messy fruits.

Ask a Librarian

The Plant Answer Line provides quick answers to gardening questions.

Reach the reference staff at 206-897-5268, by email at pal@millerlibrary.libanswers.com, or from our website, www.millerlibrary.org.

Digital Resources



[Book Review Archive](#)



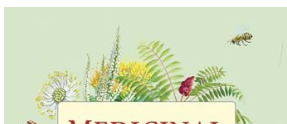
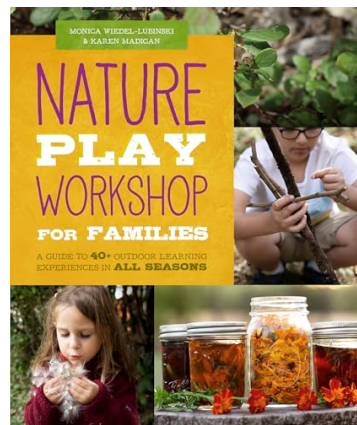
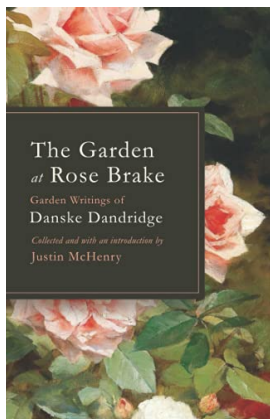
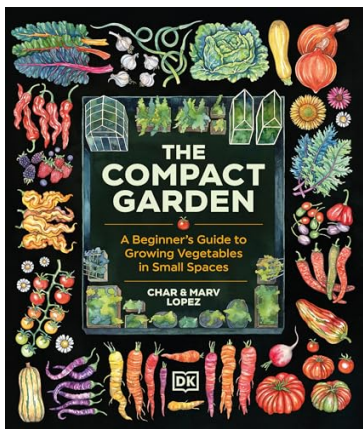
[Plant Sales](#) | [Garden Tours](#)

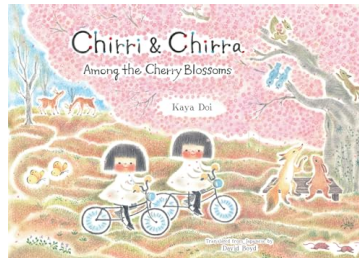
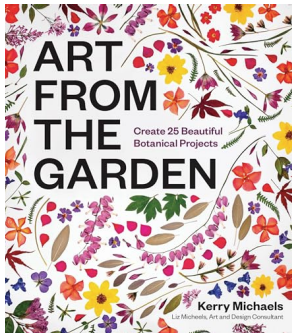
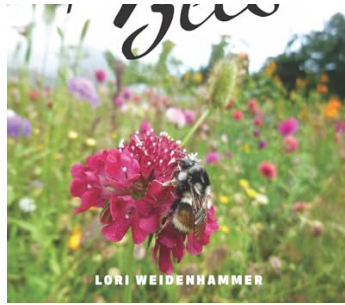
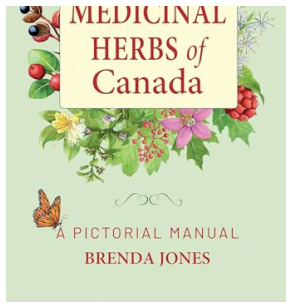


[Periodicals](#)

New to the Library

(click above link to see all new titles)





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SEATTLE BOTANIC GARDENS