



Botanical ARTicles

A Publication of the Botanical Artists of Canada

Doing what members want

A survey was circulated to members asking what you want in the way of workshops and continuing development. Responses indicated members want only a few one-day workshops each year, held on weekends. Winter months are more popular as many people are away during the summer. The workshop group is therefore planning to arrange two or so sessions each year, but through this newsletter, we will inform you of workshops and seminars being arranged by other individuals or groups if they are of a botanical art nature. In this way you'll have the opportunity to upgrade your skills, hone your talents and try new ideas.

"A weed is no more than a flower in disguise" - James Russell Lowell

"Lines from the Chair"

I hope you are all well rested, sunned and inspired to paint! My inspiration this summer came from a visit to Larkwhistle. A wonderful experience! Larkwhistle is a beautiful garden on the Bruce Peninsula, created by Patrick Lima and John Scanlon several years ago, proving to themselves, and to us, just what will grow in a somewhat inhospitable climate - some 150 herbs have been gathered there, and perennials flourish.

We will be having our next Critique evening on September 12, once again at the Civic Garden Centre. The formula of the last evening worked well - we liked being able to hang the paintings and to walk around and view them. We are delighted that Margit Koritar has agreed to do the critiquing, with a guest, yet to be confirmed! Plan to be there by 6:30 to have your work hung. (A maximum of two from each artist please). Remember, this will be an opportunity to get that special pointer before sending your work to the Fall Show and Canada Blooms.

On Tuesday November 12 the Civic Garden Centre begins a 4-week course on Botany Basics. Understanding how a plant grows certainly makes it easier to properly represent them in our art. This course runs from 7pm - 9pm, on Tuesdays and costs \$60.00 for members and \$90.00 for non-members. Becoming a member of the Civic Garden gives one many advantages at a minimal cost. All the courses are advertised in the Trellis magazine, published bi monthly, and can be found on the web: www.civiggardencentre.org.

Did you know that the Centre has over 8000 books, 70 periodicals and a large collection of pamphlets, clippings and catalogues - one of the best horticultural and botanical reference libraries in North America? Pamela Stagg reports that if she cannot find information anywhere else, she will always find it at the Civic Garden!

If you have questions or thoughts about BAC please bring them with you on September 12. A special "welcome" to our new members. Do come to the critique evening, with or without a painting. Remember, we are all there to help and encourage each other, whatever our stage of proficiency, so do not feel you are "not ready"!

Until then, paint with pleasure!

- Deborah Morrison

EXHIBITION ALERT

BAC member and Canada Blooms exhibitor, **Gayle Hutchings**, has a solo show "Life-size" from **September 5 – 26** at the Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington. This is an exhibition of life-size paintings and drawings of wildflowers, cultivars and ferns. Open daily. For hours call (905) 527-1158.



The **BAC fall show** is on **September 24 to October 14, 2002** at the Civic Garden Centre, opening on September 26. The Upper and Lower Link can hold 60 to 70 paintings. Send Agreement and Waiver form to Ann Stirling by September 15. (copy attached) Call Leslie Staple (416) 421 5909.

EXHIBITIONS COMING UP

Deadline for **Canada Blooms 2003** is the beginning of December. Call for Entries will be coming out within the next couple of weeks. "I would also like to encourage beginners because their work will be considered by the jurors, too" said Margit Koritar, organizer.

Bears and botanical painting

by Pamela Stagg

When I got a call about this month's column, I was in Deep River, Ontario, a remote town six hours north of Toronto, where there are bears in some backyards and wolves in the woods. The community is also home to a remarkable arts initiative that could be a model for small towns across Canada.

Interest in botanical painting was sparked when local artist Denise Hart won a Grenfell Medal at the Royal Horticultural Society in London. Denise shared her expertise generously with other Deep River artists. When several decided to pursue botanical painting, Denise and award-winning artist Aliya Ebrahim used local resources to foster botanical art in the area. When resources weren't there, Denise and Aliya used ingenuity instead. Their results are striking.

First on the wish list were books for the town's library. Aliya and other friends of the library worked on fundraising for acquisitions with remarkable success. The librarian started buying books on gardening, painting techniques and botanical art, even going on the internet to track down out-of-print volumes.

Then Denise and Aliya found an excellent studio space in a local

artists' co-op and invited me to teach a beginner and advanced botanical painting course. Students came from as far away as Eganville, two hours out in the hills. Since there are no art stores anywhere near Deep River, the pair phoned around Ottawa and Toronto for art supplies. To make the extensive range of paints more affordable, Denise and Aliya loaded inexpensive palettes with the colours, which they offered to students for \$10 each. Brushes, watercolour paper and other essentials were also available in the classes, very reasonably priced because of a bulk discount the two had negotiated.

Students were so enthusiastic that there are now plans for regular botanical painting sessions in Deep River.

As well as developing painters, Deep River is also creating an appreciative audience for local arts. There are regular art exhibitions in the library, including solo and group botanical art shows. A first-rate artists' co-op stocks a broad range of painting (including botanicals), photography and fine crafts – and attracts a steady stream of buyers. In the busy pre-Christmas period, non-members of the co-op are invited to show in an adjoining space, for a very modest commission on sales.

Deep River may have a small population, yet it also has artists with the vision, ingenuity and enthusiasm to make botanical art an important part of the community. Now that Denise Deep River, botanical painting is earning greater prominence in the community.

There's a depth of local talent that bodes well for botanical painting. It will be interesting – and rewarding – to watch botanical art develop in Deep River.

BOTANICAL ART CLASSES

For those botanical artists looking for classes to improve their talents or maybe just a good reason to take time out to focus on some painting, here are some of the available classes:

Celia Godkin, who started many BAC members on their botanical art careers, has a roster of courses through U of T. Check in the Continuing Education booklet.

Pamela Stagg: Tuesday evenings in the University of Toronto Continuing Education program (Advanced Botanical Painting in Watercolour, starting October 22nd) and Friday mornings at Avenue Road Arts School (Botanical Watercolour, starting September 20th).

WORKSHOP WATCH

Botany is 'in': Anyone who attended the Plant Families Seminar by Richard Dickinson, Professor of Botany at UofT, will attest that learning more about the characteristics of favourite plant families was not only enjoyable and enlightening but also made drawing the plant a great deal easier. For those who didn't make it, there are a number of workshops currently available that will improve your botanical knowledge. And even if you don't want to go 'academic', understanding how plants are constructed enables one to include those hard to see features that make the difference in botanical style drawings. Give it a try!

- Celia Godkin's **Botany for Artists** course takes place September 21 and 22 in Toronto. See attached application.
- Nicole North teaches a Tuesday evening, 4-week course on **Botany Basics** from November 12 at the Civic Garden Centre.
- June 2003, the University of Athabasca has a special **plant identification** course each June in Kananaskis, Alberta. Contact Dr Lochan Bakshi at 1-888-205-8133 or lochan@athabascau.ca

March 2003 – put it in your calendar now. Margit Koritar is arranging two workshops to coincide with Canada Blooms March 12-16, 2003. The workshops will be for three days - March 14-16. They will be given by **Dick Rauh** and **Robin Jess**, who ran a very popular workshop earlier this year where among other techniques, we learnt how to paint watercolour with #4 brushes!. The workshops are being planned around the critique of the slides and plant morphology. The latter is Dick Rauh's area of expertise and he teaches it at the botanical school in New York. He was one of the jurors from last year and will be familiar with our work. The workshops will be offered at an intermediate and advanced levels. Detailed information will be coming in the fall.

Keeping in touch with members

- **A personal touch:** BAC member, Hannah Starke, has volunteered to keep in touch with members in a more personal way. So if you know of any members who are ill, or just having a tough time and need a cheerful note, let Hannah know and she will send along our greetings. pehan@rogers.com
- **Members beware:** We will be producing a directory of BAC members. Anyone who does **not** want their contact details included should let Karen McLean know before September 30, 2002. mclean@sympatico.ca
- **BAC Telephone Tree:** Want to help out BAC by participating in a "telephone tree" for members? Occasionally you would call five or so members to deliver some information. Be a volunteer. Contact: Louise Klopchic (416) 488 3381



BOTANICAL ARTISTS OF CANADA
FALL EXHIBITION 2002
 SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 14

Opening reception
Thursday Sept 26, 7 – 9 pm

Upper and Lower Link Galleries
 CIVIC GARDEN CENTRE
 777 Lawrence Avenue East
 Toronto, Ontario

Monday - Friday 9:30 – 5 pm
 Saturday - Sunday 12 – 5 pm

Go down in BAC history. Create our Logo.

Botanical Artists of Canada needs a logo (a design, illustration or word mark).

Any BAC member is eligible to enter up to two designs in a competition for the BAC logo. Your designs should reflect the association and its purpose, and be reproducible in any size in either one or more colours.

- By **October 30, 2002**, submit a black and white as well as a colour version to BAC logo competition, c/o 261 Bain Ave Toronto Ont, M4K 1G2 or by email to lomborg@pathcom.com
- Entries will be judged by the BAC Steering Committee and the winner announced in the next newsletter. Other than fame, there may even be a prize!

Spare four hours a year?

Most BAC members are on e-mail and that's how we distribute this newsletter and other information. But there are a dozen or so, who still rely on Canada Post. We need a volunteer who can print out the e-mail version of this newsletter, photocopy, pack and mail it for those members. Doesn't take much time, but means a lot. Contact Karen McLean (416) 449 7251 or mclean@sympatico.ca

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Contact
Sept 5 - 26	"Life-size" exhibition of work by Gayle Hutchings	Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington. Open daily	RBG (905) 527-1158
Sept 12	BAC Critique evening	Civic Gardens Centre 7 – 9. Bring two paintings from 6.30.	Deborah Marrison (416) 221 5849
Sept 25 – Oct 14	BAC Fall Show	Civic Gardens Centre, Toronto See attached entry forms and details	Ann Stirling (416) 489 9797; Leslie Staple (416) 421 5909 staple@sympatico.ca
September	A retrospective of Anne Ophelia Todd Dowden's work coinciding with her 95th birthday. Hunt Inst. Pittsburgh	The Hunt Institute will display her sketches, finished paintings and final publications.	Hunt Institute www.huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu BAC members could travel together. Volunteer to coordinate this outing. Email bac@gto.net .
Oct 19 – Nov 2	Sketchbook tour of the Amazon with Emily Luks and Margit Koritar	Once in a lifetime luxury tour for cultural enthusiasts, nature lovers and artists	Emily Luks 416 441-1992 See details below
Oct 30	BAC Logo competition closes	See page 3	Peta Lomberg (416) 778 9911
MONTHLY PAINTING SESSIONS			
The last Tuesday of every month	Monthly Painting Sessions – Patricia Bermiller's Studio	Hours – 9 AM to 5 PM Fee \$10 per session Capacity – 8 people	If you are interested in painting once a month at a studio with other botanical artists. Patricia Bermiller at 416-483-3367.

Member resources

Members report that if you need fast and well-priced framing, here are some suppliers who promise speedy turnarounds:

- G&K Picture Frame and Art Centre, Markham (905) 475 9666 (will often frame while you wait)
- Studio 6 Framing and Art suppliers, Markham (905) 475 1136

BAC Steering Group

- Chair: Deborah Marrison (416) 221 5849
- Treasurer: John Eedy (416) 769 7140 (replacing Margit Koritar)
- Workshops: Emily Luks (416) 441 1992
- Secretary: Louise Chernier (416) 690 4698
- Membership communications and data: Karen McLean (416) 449 7251
- Exhibitions: Leslie Staple (416) 421 5909
- Newsletter: Peta Lomberg (416) 778 9911

Botanical Artists of Canada Fall 2002 Show

Call For Entry

1) Eligibility:

All members of the Botanical Artists of Canada are invited to participate in our annual fall exhibition from September 26 to October 21 at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto. We will be showing in the Upper and Lower Link Galleries. Exhibiting artists are asked to become members of the Civic Garden Centre.

The subject matter must be limited to botanical materials that are scientifically accurate, anatomically correct and true to scale.

2) Important dates and deadlines:

DATE	ACTIVITY
September 15	Entry fees with <i>Agreement and Waiver</i> forms sent and postmarked to Ann Stirling
September 24	Delivery of paintings to the Civic Garden Centre between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon
September 26	Opening Night Reception from 7:00pm – 9:00pm
October 14	Removal date – Paintings must be picked up between 9:00am and noon

3) Entry Fees:

To help cover the costs of invitations and the reception, there is an entry fee of \$5.00 per person plus \$5.00 per painting up to a total of \$25.00. There is no limit on the numbers of paintings that can be submitted. Please send a cheque with your fee payable to Botanical Artists of Canada, along with your completed *Agreement and Waiver* form to:

Ann Stirling
570 Merton Street
Toronto, ON M4S 1B3

4) Presentation:

- Artwork must be matted, framed and wired for hanging.
- Frames should be simple and understated.
- Artist's name, address, telephone number, and title and price of artwork must appear on the back of the painting.

5) Sales:

All artwork must be offered for sale.

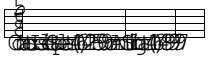
A commission of 25% will be retained by the Civic Garden Centre on any artwork sold.

Contacts: Leslie Staple at (416) 421-5909 or Ann Stirling at (416) 489-9797

Botanical Artists of Canada Fall Show

September 24, 2002 – October 14, 2002

Agreement and Waiver Form



Please fill out (in print), include entry fee and mail to:

Ann Stirling
 570 Merton Street
 Toronto, ON M4S 1B3

In order to exhibit the artist must agree to a commission of 25% for the Civic Garden Centre on all sales.

In submitting works to be shown, I agree to do so at my own risk, and understand that I am entirely responsible for any insurance coverage that I may require against loss or damage of the works that I submit.

Artist's Name (in print) _____ Date _____

Signature of Artist _____

Amount of entry fee included _____ cheque # _____

Description of works submitted (please note any number of works can be submitted):

	TITLE	MEDIA	PRICE
1			
2			
3			
4			

BOTANY FOR ARTISTS

A weekend workshop with Celia Godkin
September 21/22, 2002 from 10 am - 5 pm

at Patricia Bermiller's Studio, 318 St. Clement's Ave. Toronto (Located just East of Avenue Road, North of Eglinton)

Cost: \$135

CONTENT:

- Saturday:
- 1) Lecture: introduction to plant morphology and classification
 - the major plant groups
 - parts of the plant
 - mechanisms of pollination and seed dispersal
 - 2) Studying flower structure:
 - participants will dissect and draw flowers
 - three kinds of flowers will be examined:
 - a) a simple flower eg. lily
 - b) a bilaterally symmetrical flower eg. snapdragon
 - c) a capitulum eg. sunflower
- Sunday:
- 1) Slide lecture on the history of botanical illustration
 - 2) Continue with study of flower structure (as above)

SUPPLIES:

H, HB pencils; pink eraser, kneaded eraser; pencil sharpener.

Drawing paper and tracing paper.

Magnifying lens; small scissors, safety razor or small exacto knife; dividers.

OPTIONAL: Fine tipped felt pens: Staedtler 005, 01

To register, send the information below plus a cheque for \$135, made out to Celia Godkin at:

411 - 680 Queen's Quay West, Toronto, Ont. M5V 2Y9

For further information call Celia at (416) 591-0491

PLEASE REGISTER ME IN BOTANY FOR ARTISTS:

NAME

TELEPHONE

FAX

E - MAIL

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

POST CODE