



Newsletter Spring 2003

Regular readers of this newsletter will notice the new look of the masthead. That's because it is the first appearance of the new BAC logo. The competition to develop a logo for BAC was held in late 2002, and at their January meeting, the coordinating committee selected the above design from the entries received. The winning artist and BAC member is Marianne Wilkinson who works from Ivy Hill Studio in Mansfield, Ontario. Marianne concentrated on architectural painting until recently, when she read some articles on botanical painting in gardening magazines. She enrolled last year for Pamela Stagg's courses at the Civic Gardens Centre. From there it was a short hop onto our masthead, and into the 2003 Canada Blooms Botanical Art Show. Congratulations Marianne.

Lines from the Chair

This quote, from Leonardo Da Vinci, sounds quite familiar!
"Every now and then go away, have a little relaxation, for when you come back to your work your judgement will be sure; since to remain constantly at work will cause you to lose power of judgement"

Excellent advice, I think.

A common question from potential new members to BAC is "How often and where do we meet?"

Currently, the only regular gathering is for our annual general meeting. But in between there are quite a few activities. As I write this, I am very much looking forward to our 'How can we Help Each Other' evening. And I am sure we shall see a lot of each other at Canada Blooms. Your Steering Committee is always looking for new activities, reasons for us to meet. We welcome your thoughts and ideas, so please feel free to contact any one of us if there is something you would like to share.

These cannot come under the 'New Books' heading, as they have all been around for quite some time, and many will be familiar to you. However, if you have not discovered Hampstead House, on Doncaster Avenue in Thornhill, it is, as the saying goes, "worth the drive"! Just before Christmas I bought a copy of The Clutius Botanical Watercolors, plants of the Renaissance, by Claudia Swan, original price tag of \$60.00, for \$20.00. Last week they had a copy of The Art of Botanical Illustration by Lys De Bray for an exceptionally good price and I was happy to find Drawing Flowers by Margaret Stevens for \$8.00! For me, Hampstead House is walking distance - not always a good thing! By being on the mailing list, which can be done with a 'phone call, (905) 881 0607, I receive their catalogue regularly, and can get there quickly for special bargains, which generally don't stay there for long!

Happy Painting! - *Deborah Morrison*

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

Canada Blooms takes place from March 12 – 16 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in downtown Toronto. Twenty-one artists have been selected to participate in the 3rd Annual **Botanical Art Show**. Don't miss it.

Although not linked to the exhibition, a group of BAC members have ventured into the "Marketplace" at Canada Blooms, and have a variety of botanical prints, cards, bookmarks, posters, notepads, etc on sale at their booth – named "**Prints in Bloom**". Pop by and say hello – they're Booth # 312 the Marketplace.

FUTURE EXHIBITIONS

The Southern Ontario Orchid Show will have its international show at the Inn on the Park this year and entries are due **March 20**, 2003. All the information is at the following web site. www.soos.ca

TREASURER'S UPDATE

BAC Treasurer John Eedy reports a healthy bank balance at the start of 2003 of \$3,582.45.

Painting under Pressure

© Pamela Stagg

This winter, I've been doing a series of 30+ rose illustrations under intense pressure – I was given less than 6 months from start to finish, and I had other major projects to complete during the same time period. Since the beginning of the year, I've had just one day off. Maintaining a high standard of painting under those conditions is challenging, yet it can be done.

Fortunately, most deadlines are not as urgent as my rose book. Usually the life span of a subject dictates the pace of painting. But sometimes, we come up against a different kind of deadline: a painting to be completed to submit to a juried show, a solo exhibition to prepare or simply a petal to finish before we pick up the kids after school.

How can anyone produce good work with a deadline looming? It's a combination of time management and good painting practices.

As I work through my massive project, four thoughts jump out at me.

- **Establish a timetable.** As the old adage says, if you fail to plan, you are planning for failure. For larger projects like a solo show, you simply must create a schedule that will let you do the number of paintings you need within a comfortable time frame. Give yourself more time than you think you need. Remember, not every painting will turn out as you hoped and you don't want to have to exhibit bad paintings. On my rose project, I tore up at least 6 paintings at various stages of completion. To me, the 'wasted' time in those destroyed paintings was worth it, because the quality of my work is crucial to me.

And don't forget the 'extras' in your schedule. For instance, on my project, I have allowed a week for the paintings to clear customs on their way to the American publisher. If you're framing a show, check with your framer to see how much time to allow.

- **Dive right in.** Remember, you start meeting your deadline on day one of the timetable. If you need to create 20 or 30 paintings for a solo show, you can't procrastinate at the beginning and expect to make up for lost time at the end. Check your progress regularly and make sure you're on target.

- **Paint as if you have no deadline.** That sounds like a contradiction. It isn't. Once you've laid out your timetable, think about it only when you're not actually painting. Maybe you'll choose to review your progress at the end of each painting day, or once a week -- but never while you're painting. You can't paint and think about deadlines at the same time. When you have a brush in your hand, you should focus on your subject and your work. In my experience, thinking about deadlines when I should be thinking about painting results in really bad work.

A good painting takes as long as it needs to take. The extremely difficult red rose, Mister Lincoln, took me five days, versus the 2 – 3 days I had allowed. That meant no weekend off that week -- and that was OK. To me, taking 5 days to do a good painting was better than trying to force 5 days' worth of painting into 2 - 3 days and ending up with a painting I would rather hide under a bushel basket than publish in a book.

- **Look after your hands, arms, neck and shoulders.** When you're painting intensely, you're most vulnerable to repetitive strain injury. If you notice aches, numbness, shooting pains or pins and needles, see a doctor or a physiotherapist. Doing stretches and other forms of upper body exercise will minimize the risk of RSI.

Creating a body of work for a show or a book is not easy. Sometimes it will require compromises – or outright sacrifices -- of personal time. Yet there's nothing like the feeling you get at the end of the day, when you look at the work you've created and you know it represents the very best you could do, regardless of the deadline. ♣

BAC blossoms at Canada Blooms – Level 7, Room 711

Margit Koritar reports that the Board of Directors of Canada Blooms has agreed once again to support our efforts in promoting botanical art at their show in 2003. For the **Third Annual Botanical Art Show** running from March 12 - 16, 2003, 23 artists submitted 82 slides and from these 66 were selected representing 21 artists from British Columbia to Newfoundland. Jurors were Robin A. Jess, a freelance botanical illustrator and instructor; Scott Rawlins, scientific illustrator and instructor; and Roy Taylor, a professor of botany with a career in botanical garden management. Overall the jurors felt that the work was very, very good and much higher than in previous years. Thank you for your efforts and congratulations on your excellent work! Come to the show and see the wonderful display of artwork and meet our artists from British Columbia, Newfoundland and from all the places in between

Spread your wings – May 24 & 25

For botanical artists interested in 'spreading their wings', there is a special treat in store. Nature artist, Jan Gunlock will be coming to Toronto to hold a pen and ink workshop for BAC members and friends in May. She is known for her pen and ink drawings and her coloured pencil drawings of birds and plants of the Southwestern United States. Jan's work has been displayed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. and at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. She has served as the artist-in-residence at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and traveled as a workshop instructor throughout the Western U.S.

Emily Luks is bringing Jan to Toronto on Saturday and Sunday May 24 and 25. The workshop lasts from 9.30 am to 5 pm on both days, takes place at Emily's studio (8 Wilket Road, Toronto) and costs \$220. Bring your own brown bag lunch, drinks provided. Space is limited so book soon by calling Emily at (416) 441 1992 or emailing her at saem@rogers.com

Summer is the time for painting flowers

Master class in roses: It will not quite be summer, but Pamela Stagg has a Master Class in Painting Roses at the Civic Garden Centre, Tuesday April 1st to Thursday April 3rd. And you can be sure Pamela will be a true 'master', if you've read her article above on Painting under Pressure!

Botanical painting: In addition, during the summer, Pamela will teach two classes at the Civic Garden Centre:

- Introductory Course in Botanical Painting, Saturday July 5th to Wednesday July 9th;
- Advanced Course Saturday July 19th to Wednesday July 23rd.

Book for these courses via the Civic Gardens Centre.

Weekend get away: For those of you who want to combine art with a weekend break from the city (and some activity too), try Pamela's new Botanical Painting Workshop on Amherst Island near Kingston, Saturday June 14th to Monday June 16th, with registration details to come. There is lots of local B&B accommodation on the island and people (like Pamela) can bring their kayaks / walking shoes/ swimming gear / even golf (?). See the 2003 Calendar for booking information.

Painting in the garden: a popular annual is Celia Godkin's Painting in a Summer Garden workshop (held in BAC member Patricia Bermiller's Toronto garden). This year, there are two sessions - June 23 - 27 and July 7 - 11, both from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm each day. See more information at the end of this newsletter.

2003 Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Contact
March 12 - 16	Canada Blooms	Botanical exhibition (juried show)	Discount tickets available from Loblaws stores.
April 1 - 3	Master class in rose painting with Pamela Stagg	Civic Gardens Centre, Leslie & Lawrence, Toronto	Civic Gardens Centre (416) 397-1340
May 24 - 25	Pen and ink birds and plant workshop with Jan Gunlock	\$220. 9.30 - 5. At Emily Luks studio, 8 Wilket Road Toronto.	Emily Luks (416) 441 1992 saem@rogers.com
June	BAC Annual General Meeting	Details to be announced	
June 14 - 16	Weekend getaway and botanical painting with Pamela Stagg	Amherst Island, near Kingston	Molly Stroyman at ms@mollystroyman.com or 416-533-5997
June 17 - July 15 Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6 - 8:30 pm, 8 sessions	Drawing in the Park with Celia Godkin	Through the School of Continuing Studies, course #0552-004. We work primarily in chalk pastels.	learn.utoronto.ca or phone (416) 978-2400; e-mail registration: scs.registrar@utoronto.ca
June 23 - 27 July 8 - 12	Painting in a summer garden with Celia Godkin	\$180. 9.30 - 12. 30. See attached information and registration form.	Celia Godkin (416) 591-0491
July 5 - 9	Introductory class in botanical painting with Pamela Stagg	Civic Gardens Centre, Leslie & Lawrence, Toronto	Civic Gardens Centre (416) 397-1340
July 19 - 23	Advanced course in botanical painting with Pamela Stagg	Civic Gardens Centre, Leslie & Lawrence, Toronto	Civic Gardens Centre (416) 397-1340

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.
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PAINTING IN A SUMMER GARDEN 2003

**With Celia Godkin and friends in Patricia Bermiller's garden at
318 St. Clements Ave. Toronto.**

Session A: **June 23 – 27** Session B: **July 7 – 11**
9:30 am – 12:30 pm

To enroll, please send the registration form below accompanied by
\$180 for one week or \$350 for two weeks; check payable to:

**Celia Godkin, 680 Queen's Quay West, Unit 411, Toronto, ON.
M5V 2Y9**

Space is limited and you will be registered on receipt of cheque. The
course fee is non-refundable within ten days of your course, unless we
can fill your space with someone from the waiting list.

Should you have any questions, please call Celia at (416) 591-0491.
For last minute change of plans, call Patricia at (416) 483-3367.

Supplies Checklist

- watercolour supplies as for botanical painting* plus veridian
- for landscapes (optional) a large pallet e.g. the Pike ~ available from Curry's
- large brushes: a #14 round brush e.g. Loew-Cornell ~ available from Toose
 plus a 1.5 inch flat brush (optional)
- sunhat and sunscreen
 (* a detailed list is available, on request: e-mail
 celia.godkin@utoronto.ca)

Directions

St. Clements Avenue runs from Bathurst Street to Yonge a few blocks
North of Eglinton. Number 318 is a little East of Avenue Road, on the
North Side. There is plenty of street parking. By TTC: take the #62
Avenue Road North bus from Eglinton station and get off at the second
light north of Eglinton. Walk East along St. Clements Avenue.

**PAINTING IN A SUMMER GARDEN
~ ENROLLMENT FOR 2003 ~**

NAME

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PHONEE-MAIL

STREET ADDRESS.....

CITYPOSTAL CODE

Please register me for the following session(s):

Session A: June 23 - 27 Session B: July 7 - 11

I enclose a cheque for \$180 for one session or \$350 for two, made payable to Celia Godkin, 680 Queen's Quay West, Unit 411, Toronto, ON. M5V 2Y9.

Previous watercolour courses with Celia:

BOTANICAL WATERCOLOUR at U of T
PAINTING IN A SUMMER GARDEN

Other watercolour courses (please provide details)

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Comments or requests:

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