



# BOTANICAL ARTISTS *of* CANADA

**Newsletter Spring 2011**



Black Parrot Tulip © Pamela Stagg

## BAC's TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY EDITION

In honour of a botanical artist who played a significant role in the formation of BAC, the cover of this, our ten-year anniversary edition, features Pamela Stagg's painting of Black Parrot Tulip. Inside this edition you will find a more detailed history of how our organization came about, including Pamela's role in it, but I would like to add my own comments here to clarify how her contributions differed from mine. This difference can be summarized as quality versus quantity.

Over the years (1988 – 2005) that I taught botanical art courses at the University of Toronto, I saw scores of students progress from early fumbblings with the art form through to a high level of competence. As an artist, I'm a generalist. I work in a diversity of subject areas with a variety of techniques, and I've always enjoyed teaching beginning level students. My capacity to teach the more advanced students in botanical art were constrained by my own limitations as a botanical artist, coupled with large class sizes that contained a high percentage of beginning level students. Though many students took the same botanical watercolour courses with me several times, I always encouraged them to progress to Pamela's more advanced (and usually smaller) classes.

As a world class botanical artist, Pamela set the benchmark for what we could all aspire to. As an able and dedicated teacher, she has been a mentor for many BAC members, myself included. (I'm delighted to say that, after an absence of several years, Pamela is once again teaching - see page 14.) We all owe her a debt of gratitude for the high standards she set and the many hours of devoted service she's given to furthering botanical art in Canada.

I very much enjoyed putting together the article on BAC's history, contacting fellow botanical artists and reminiscing over those early, heady days, when there was so much enthusiasm for botanical art. At the ripe old age of ten, it seems BAC no longer has that same youthful energy and, in the absence of sufficient volunteers for some key positions, we have regretfully decided we won't be able to mount an exhibition this year. (See page 3.) Despite this, the Coordinating Group continues to pursue several initiatives, including one to revise our definition of botanical art. (See page 4.)

Please consider how you might be able to contribute to BAC and let us know. I, for one, would welcome help from an editorial assistant who is willing to do some of the tasks involved in assembling the newsletter. It's a job that's ideal for a long-distance member, and I'd love to hear from you if this appeals to you.

- Celia Godkin, BAC Newsletter Editor

## BAC NEWS:

**BAC 2011 EXHIBITION  
CANCELLED**

**A NEW DEFINITION OF  
BOTANICAL ART**

**BAC's 10 YEAR HISTORY**

## COURSES

**Raquel Baranyai  
Toronto**  
April 2 & 9

**Pamela Stagg  
Toronto**  
April 16-17, July 9-10

**Kerri Weller  
Ottawa**  
April 20 – June 8

**Margaret Best  
Alberta, California  
& Bermuda**  
April, May & June

**Celia Godkin  
Brockville, ON**  
July 26 – 28

## EXHIBITIONS

**Flora's Lexicon  
at the Hunt**  
March 25 – June 30

**SONSI  
Burlington, ON**  
May 1 – 29

**Margaret Best  
Bermuda**  
May 20

**Kerri Weller  
Almonte, ON**  
June 1 - 30

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

The BAC bank balance was \$5717.52 on March 11

## THE 2011 BAC EXHIBITION IS CANCELLED - Sherry Mitchell, BAC Treasurer

I am writing this as a member of the Coordinating Group within BAC. I am also writing this even though, being away from the main Toronto area and BAC nucleus, I am the Treasurer. For anyone who is reluctant to volunteer because of his or her geography, I can tell you that your Canadian address has no impact on your possible contribution to BAC. Although I'm not able to attend meetings in person, I am kept in close contact with the rest of the group by email and telephone, and, so far, there have not been any difficulties in completing all aspects of the position. The Botanical Artists of Canada is, as its name indicates, a national organization; it would be wonderful to have broad national representation on the board and in any of the committee positions.

As you are all aware, BAC sent an email to the membership on February 2<sup>nd</sup> indicating that three executive positions - President, Vice-President and Exhibition Coordinator - are currently vacant and in need of volunteers. A deadline of February 28<sup>th</sup> for submission of names was given. The deadline has passed, and we have not had anyone come forward to fill these positions. Therefore, the existing Coordinating Group has been forced to make the regrettable decision of cancelling our annual exhibition for 2011. It is indeed unfortunate, especially since this is BAC's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. However, there is only so much that the diminished Coordinating Group can take on, and it was felt that without a full slate, the exhibition would be compromised.

We continue to welcome names for the three BAC vacancies - President, Vice-President and Exhibition Coordinator. I personally welcome any questions from any member within BAC (or without for that matter) who may be interested but not quite sure what is entailed in the position(s), or has concerns about working from a distance. One of the mandates of BAC, surely, is to make this a truly strong, national organization, with representation from all ten provinces and three territories. Therefore, I urge you to seriously consider your place within BAC to help continue botanical art excellence throughout Canada and beyond.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE:

BAC ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION SUMMARY	Expenses	Deposits	Balance
Balance Forward as of December 31, 2010			5949.78
Expenses for January			
Orcadia Design: Website maintenance	220.80		
Bank service charge	13.00		
Expenses for February			
N. S. Potter: Misc. exhibition expenses	208.46		
TOTAL EXPENSE for January & February	442.26		
Deposits for January			
Memberships x 3 @ \$30.00 each		90.00	
Deposits for February			
Memberships x 4 @ \$30.00 each		120.00	
TOTAL DEPOSITS for January & February		210.00	
Actual balance as of March 11, 2011			5717.52

### TAX TIME IS UPON US!

If anyone requires a receipt or receipts for the past year's membership dues, exhibition entry fees or workshop dues, please let me know and I will be happy to email you a copy.

Sherry Mitchell, SFCA, BAC Treasurer [serendipitystudio@shaw.ca](mailto:serendipitystudio@shaw.ca) (250) 752-3346

## BAC IS PROPOSING A REVISED DEFINITION OF BOTANICAL ART

Concerns over BAC's current definition of botanical art were raised at the last AGM, in June 2010. It was decided that Celia Godkin, who raised the issue, would, in consultation with other experts in the field, come up with a new definition.

The proposed new definition, formulated by Celia Godkin, and approved by botanical art experts Pamela Stagg and Margit Koritar is:

**"Botanical art is art whose goal is to depict whole plants or parts of plants in a manner that is both aesthetically pleasing and scientifically accurate."**

That's the entire definition. Its purpose is to help members understand what works are accepted as botanical art. It is deliberately concise and is intended to be interpreted in a precise way. Unnecessary qualifiers that may raise questions or create a set of rules that could become hard to live by have been deliberately avoided. There are two qualifiers in the definition: "aesthetically pleasing" is needed to define the artistic approach that botanical artists take because the aesthetic is no longer a given in contemporary art forms; "scientifically accurate" indicates that the artist must strive to describe the subject as objectively as possible, and not take liberties with the plant forms or depart from true colour.

The Coordinating Group's recommendation is that we replace the current definition in the BAC Constitution with this one. To address the grey areas in defining botanical art (something the current definition has attempted to do) we further propose that BAC implement a discussion that would take the form of questions and answers. Any BAC member may submit a question to Celia – or to any other member who agrees to act in this capacity – and the questions and answers will be published in the newsletter.

If any member wishes to add to this exchange they may submit to the following newsletter. Subject to approval by the CG, these Q & A sessions will then be posted on the BAC website as FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions). It is hoped that this exchange will not only inform and educate BAC members on the subject of botanical art, but also the general public, once these items are posted on the website.

## GALLERY (This page and next)

From the 2010 Juried Fall Exhibition



*Fuschia*: Fuschia hybrid  
© Elisabeth Hulshoff



*Rhododendron* sp.: Azalea  
© Cecilia Martin

Here are some FAQs to get the ball rolling:

### **HOW DOES BOTANICAL ART DIFFER FROM FLORAL FINE ART OR BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION?**

**Botanical art** lies between the related and overlapping fields of floral fine art and botanical illustration. In all of these disciplines the principle subject matter is the plant, however, the *purpose* of the work varies between disciplines.

**Floral fine art** lies within the broader discipline of fine art. The primary goal of floral fine art is to capture the aesthetic qualities of flowers, without regard to scientific accuracy of depiction. Floral paintings, such as those of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch and Flemish schools, where plants are depicted with accuracy of form and colour, may be included in botanical art.

**Botanical illustration** lies within the broader discipline of natural science illustration, which serves science first and art second. The botanical illustrator collaborates with a botanist or has botanical training. Botanical illustrations that are aesthetically pleasing may be described as botanical art.

### **WHAT SUBJECTS QUALIFY AS SUBJECT MATERIAL IN BOTANICAL ART?**

The main subject in botanical art must be plants or parts of plants. The scientific definition of plants has changed over time, but for the purposes of botanical art it encompasses everything currently assigned to the plant kingdom plus fungi. (The fungi were previously included in the plant kingdom but they have now been assigned a kingdom of their own.)

### **CAN OTHER ELEMENTS, FOR EXAMPLE ANIMALS OR LANDSCAPES, BE INCLUDED IN BOTANICAL ART?**

The inclusion of other subject matter such as scenery or other life forms is acceptable in botanical art *only* when such additions serve to enhance the information about the main subject of the work i.e. the plant. For example, scenery can provide context as to habitat, life forms such as pollinators or pests of the plant are acceptable provided that they do not constitute the dominant element in the work. Depictions of fruit in a bowl would be categorized as a still life i.e. fine art, because the bowl is an aesthetic element that does not add to the botanical information. (For those interested in reading more on this topic, the BAC Special Report of October 2006 is available on request.)



*Asarum canadense*, *Matteuccia struthiopteris*:  
Wild Ginger & Ostrich Fern  
© Rayma Kempinsky Peterson

Our current definition is enshrined in the BAC Constitution. Changing it requires a membership vote. An e-mail message will follow shortly to ask you to vote on the new proposal to change the definition.

- **BAC's Coordinating Group**

## TEN YEARS OF THE BOTANICAL ARTISTS OF CANADA: A SHORT, SOMEWHAT PERSONAL HISTORY by Celia Godkin and friends

Our name – Botanical Artists of Canada – is first recorded in the “Minutes of the Formation Meeting of Our Association” March 21, 2001. Prior to that date, the entity that now calls itself BAC was called the Botanical Artists of Toronto (BATs). This, our ten-year anniversary, seems like an appropriate time to look back and review how BAC came about in the first place and so I’ve undertaken to write a short history. My hazy memory of those early days has been greatly assisted by records in the BAC archives supplied by Raquel Baranyai and photos from Mary Rose Woodbridge. Pamela Stagg, Margit Koritar and Leslie Staple checked my text and supplied important information. Gerry Jenkison and Dawn Dougall added their memories.

To start at the beginning ... the School of Continuing Studies (SCS) at the University of Toronto had been offering a course titled *Botanical Drawing and Watercolour* since the mid 1970s. In 1988 the instructor – whose name I don’t recall – quit on short notice and SCS asked me if I would teach the course. I had been teaching a variety of drawing classes in the adult art program at the Royal Ontario Museum since the mid 1980s but I hadn’t executed a watercolour in years. Despite my lack of preparedness I jumped at the chance because I wanted to teach for SCS. Needless to say, it was a steep learning curve.

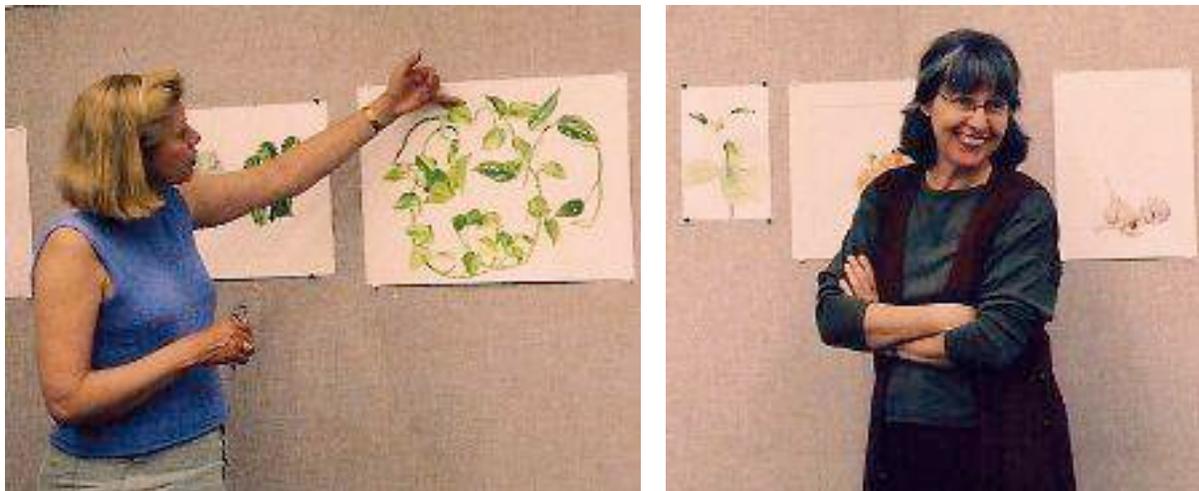
In the following summer of 1989 the British artist, Dorothy Bovey, was teaching a botanical watercolour class at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington. In an effort to bring my watercolour technique up to a respectable standard for teaching, I enrolled in the course and, if I remember correctly, it was there that I met Pamela Stagg for the first time.

Dorothy recognized right from the start that Pamela was an artist of exceptional ability and encouraged her to try for the British Horticultural Society Gold Medal, a goal that Pamela attained in 1991 with her series of Iris paintings. The following year, Pamela was invited to teach botanical art at the Civic Garden Centre.

From that somewhat shaky beginning, *Botanical Drawing and Watercolour* at SCS evolved into two separate courses titled *Botanical Drawing* and *Botanical Watercolour* and later these again split into two parts, for beginner and intermediate levels. Ideally students started with me and moved on to Pamela, whose classes were designed for more advanced level students. (It didn’t always work out this way as some discovered Pamela first, found her classes too challenging and then came to me, often returning to Pamela when they had more confidence in their technique.)

Some of our students (Margit Koritar and Leslie Staple) became botanical art teachers in their own right. The Russian trained artist, Tasira Strimban, started offering botanical art classes in the Toronto area from about 2003 and Nellie Sue Potter from 2005. If there were other teachers offering ongoing botanical art classes prior to that time, as opposed to an occasional workshop, I’m not aware of them.

It was Pamela who initiated the critique nights out of which BAC evolved. In between her classes, which only ran two or three times a year, she generously made herself available for critiques during which her students brought their work-in-progress and received feedback and advice. These were informal evenings with refreshments, held in someone’s home. When I became involved the group had grown to a size that was not easily accommodated and critique evenings were usually at Emily Luk’s house because she had room for a crowd of 15 – 20 people. I was invited to join the critique nights after they had been going for perhaps a year or more. Pamela critiqued the watercolour pieces and I critiqued the colour pencil work.



Pamela Stagg and Celia Godkin giving critiques at the Toronto Botanical Garden

By the end of the 1990s a core group of more than fifty individuals were painting with Pamela, Margit, Leslie and me. Many wanted to meet more frequently to paint and critique together on a regular basis. Margit arranged to rent space at the Toronto Botanical Garden and for a year and a half 20 - 25 individuals met one Thursday every month for about a year and a half. On these days there was a generous sharing of information and techniques followed by informal critiques. The group called themselves the Botanical Artists of Toronto or BATs.

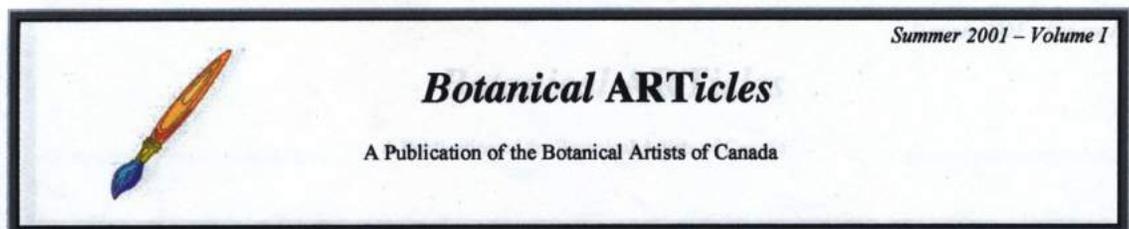
In April 2000, BATs members met to discuss a list of objectives for the newly formed group. These included regular meetings to discuss topics of interest and a membership drive. By January 2001 BATs had drawn up an ambitious schedule of events that included critique nights, courses, workshops and exhibitions. Margit Koritar was a driving force in those early days and, even before the formation of BATs, she had entered into discussions with Canada Blooms to host juried botanical art shows representing botanical artists from coast to coast.

The first botanical art show at Canada Blooms was held March 2001. Over the ensuing years, many of the exhibiting artists at Canada Blooms were BAT/BAC members, though this was not a prerequisite. The success of the show was largely due to the wonderful art and volunteer work of many BAC members. Margit gives credit to the loyal support of Leslie Staple, Peg Graeb and John Eedy year after year, without which the Canada Blooms show would have been impossible. They continued with this huge labour of love until 2008, when the room rental fee became prohibitive.

The decision to change the name from BATs to the more inclusive BAC was prompted by the fact that Canada Blooms was receiving entries from across Canada. The new name – Botanical Artists of Canada – was confirmed by a vote of 25 members on March 21, 2001. On that list of 25 names are 11 who are still members. A bank account was opened and BAC was officially “open for business”.

Leslie Staple headed the Exhibitions Committee, and she recalls “a wonderful group of dedicated artists who arranged the shows. Some of the duties were planning Call for Entries, invitations, public relations, reception organizers, receiving paintings, hanging and taking down the show and sending paintings back to the out of town artists. At that time some of our members created a report after traveling around the city to different galleries to see if they would be a fit for our work.” It is a measure of the enthusiasm of those early days that this group mounted three exhibitions in 2001 and two in 2002.

The first newsletter was published in the summer of 2001, with Payge Morris as Editor. Pamela became a major contributor. From the winter edition of 2001 to the spring of 2005 almost every newsletter contains an informative article submitted by her. Here's the original newsletter header. It explains where the "Botanical ARTicles" header comes from on the current newsletter – it's a remnant from this.



You can follow the progress of BAC from that time by going to the BAC newsletter archive at [www.botanicalartistsofcandas.org](http://www.botanicalartistsofcandas.org), but if you don't have the time or inclination for such a detailed examination of our history, here are some of the milestones of the past ten years. Unless otherwise noted, all events took place in Toronto.

- 2001**
- March 21** Birth of the Botanical Artists of Canada
- June 1 – July 1** 1<sup>st</sup> BAC Members' Exhibition, held at the First Unitarian Church
- Sept 22 – 30** BAC members exhibition at the Chinese Cultural Centre
- Oct 16 - 29** 1<sup>st</sup> BAC Members' Juried Exhibition at the Civic Garden Centre (CGC)



BAC's first AGM, June 2002.

Front row: Dawn Dougall, Peg Graeb, Peta Lomborg, Hannah Levitt (with Ann Stirling behind), Emily Luks, unknown, Louise Chenier. Back row: unknown, Leslie Staple, Margit Koritar, Deborah Marrison, Luisa Klopchic, Jean Johnson.

- 2002**
- Feb 18-24** BAC Members Exhibition Jump on Spring at the CGC
- June 13** 1<sup>st</sup> AGM, Chaired by Peta Lomborg; BAC constitution ratified. Officers elected: Deborah Marrison (Chair), Louise Chenier (Secretary), Margit Koritar (Treasurer). Non-elected "portfolio leaders": Karen McLean (Membership and Communications), Leslie Staple (Exhibitions), Peg Graeb (Space), Emily Luks & Louise Chenier (Workshops).
- Sep 26–Oct 21** BAC Members' Exhibition at the CGC



Deborah Marrison

**2003**

**Spring** New BAC logo and header chosen, designed by Marianne Wilkinson



**June 18** 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM. Committee Members include Deborah Marrison (Chair), Louise Chenier (Secretary), John Eedy (Treasurer), Karen McLean (Membership and Communications), Jean Johnson (Exhibitions), Emily Luks (Workshops), Jan Mok (PR and External Communications), Peta Lomberg (Newsletter Editor).

**October 21** The saddest event in our history: BAC's Chair, Deborah Marrison, dies of breast cancer. Louise Chenier and Peta Lomberg take over as Acting Chairs until the next AGM.



Peta Lomberg, Ann Stirling, Margit Koritar and Louise Chenier enjoying artwork

**2004**

**June 11-13** BAC Members' Exhibition at the School of Horticulture, Niagara Parkway

**June 22** 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM: Lynda Bryden elected Chair, Louise Chenier (Secretary), Donna Greenstein (Treasurer), Emily Luks (Workshops) Ann Stirling (Exhibitions), Raquel Baranyai (Membership), Jan Mok (PR and External Communications), Peta Lomberg (Newsletter), Lynette Logue (Member without Portfolio).



Lynda Bryden

**2005**

**March 29 – April 22**

BAC Members' Juried Exhibition  
at the John B. Aird Gallery

**June 22**

4<sup>th</sup> AGM. Lynda Bryden (Chair), Emily Luks (Vice Chair and Workshops), Margit Sampogna (Secretary), Donna Greenstein (Treasurer), Raquel Baranyai (Membership & Communications), Peta Lomberg (Newsletter), Tasira Strimban (Member without Portfolio).

**2006**

**June 6**

5<sup>th</sup> AGM. Gerry Jenkison and Emily Luks elected as Co-Chairs; (Emily stepped down a few months later). Margit Sampogna (Secretary), Donna Greenstein (Treasurer), Raquel Baranyai (Membership & Communications), Peta Lomberg (Newsletter), Emily Luks and Lynda Bryden (Workshops), Irene Hunchak (Exhibitions), Tasira Strimban and Liz Tudor (Members without Portfolio).

**Summer**

BAC arrives at a definition of Botanical Art. Gerry Jenkison spearheads the BAC website, which is showcased at the BAC website launch party on **September 27**. The website has been instrumental in bringing in members from across Canada and Gerry continues to the present time as BAC's Website Coordinator.

**2007**

**June 14**

6<sup>th</sup> AGM. The Coordinating Group remains the same as for 2006.

**October 4 - 28**

BAC Members' 1<sup>st</sup> Juried Exhibition with a specified theme: Native Plants - at Todmorden Papermill Gallery.

**2008**

**June 5**

7<sup>th</sup> AGM. Nellie Sue Potter (Chair), Lynda Bryden (Acting Secretary), Fran Andreana (Treasurer), Irene Hunchak (Exhibitions), Raquel Baranyai (Membership & Communications), Celia Godkin (Newsletter), Gerry Jenkison (Website), Emily Luks & Sophie Barbara Phillips (Members at Large).

John B. Aird Gallery / Galerie John B. Aird  
Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street (at Wellesley), Toronto ON M7A 1C2  
Gallery Hours: Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Tel: 416-928-6772  
Heures d'ouverture : du lundi au vendredi, de 10h à 18h

Spring is in the Air  
Le Printemps est dans l'Air

A juried exhibition of botanical art  
Exposition d'art botanique sélectionné par un jury spécial

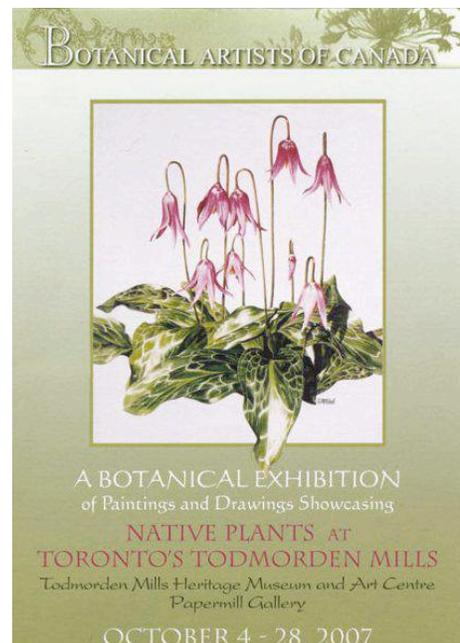


Organized by The Botanical Artists of Canada  
Organisé par les Botanical Artists of Canada

2005 Exhibition Postcard



Gerry Jenkison



OCTOBER 4 - 28, 2007  
2007 Exhibition Postcard

**2009**

**June 11**

8<sup>th</sup> AGM. Nellie Sue Potter (Chair), Linda Bryden (Secretary), Fran Andreana (Treasurer), Raquel Baranyai (Membership & Communications), Gerry Jenkison (Website Coordinator), Jean Johnson (Advisor for Exhibitions, Events & Public Outreach), Rita-Anne Piquet (Member at Large).

**July**

1<sup>st</sup> edition of the newsletter with the current design: logo art by Myra Sourkes and logo design by Joan Burdett-Ness.

**November 3-15**

BAC Members' 2<sup>nd</sup> Juried Exhibition with a theme: Trees: From Roots to Crown – at Todmorden Papermill Gallery - was combined with a workshop on Plant Morphology given by Dick Rauh, making it BAC's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Event.

**2010**

**June 15 AGM ⇒**

**October 27 – November 7**

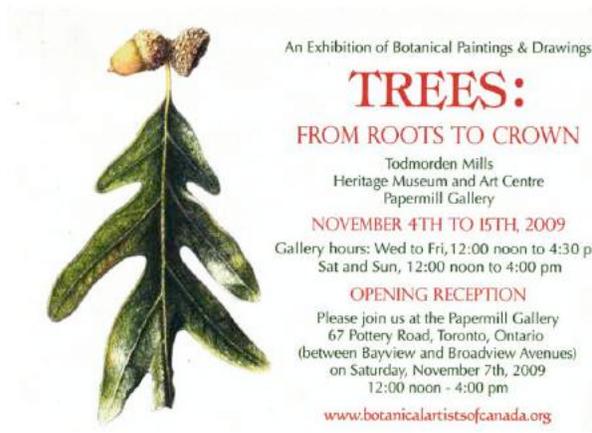
BAC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Event: a juried and non-juried exhibition (open theme) at Todmorden Papermill Gallery combined with a workshop on Mastering Form with Kerri Weller.

**POSTSCRIPT**

This short history describes only those teachers who gave courses in botanical art over an extended period of time, long enough to build and maintain a botanical art community in Toronto. Since those early years, there have been innumerable classes and workshops - too many to list here.

I've also overlooked many BAC members whose contributions were not recorded, nor have I mentioned the jurors to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for helping us maintain a high standard in our exhibitions. To anyone who hasn't been mentioned, I apologize, and I invite you – all of you reading this – to write and let me know of any one or anything I've overlooked. I'll be happy to rectify the omission in the next newsletter.

- Celia Godkin

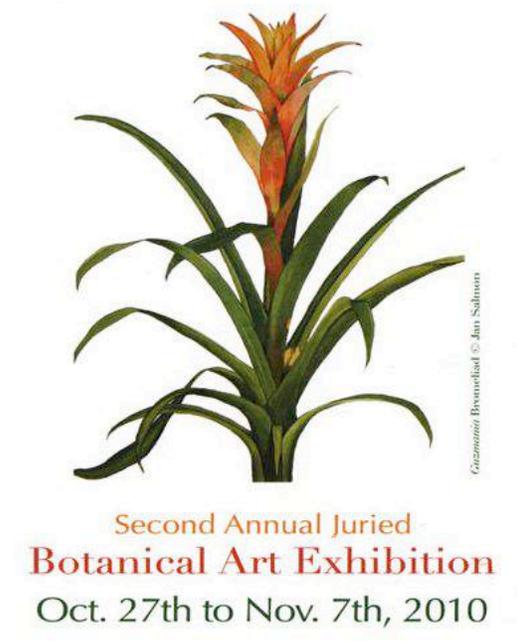


2009 Exhibition Postcard

At the 2010 June AGM Nellie Sue Potter's position of Chair is re-named President. (Nellie Sue steps down in December 2010.) Other positions are as listed at the end of this newsletter.



Nellie Sue Potter



2010 Exhibition Postcard

## MEMORIES OF BAC'S EARLY DAYS FROM TWO OF OUR CURRENT MEMBERS

What I remember best about the time leading up to BAC's inception, and the period shortly afterwards, was the sense of community and the excitement of shared learning. Many of us had been taking Celia's courses at SCS and Pamela's at the (now) Toronto Botanical Garden. Our mentors gave many hours to critiquing our work and helping us improve. Others opened their homes for botanical art related events. I cannot remember whose idea it was to start an association—perhaps it was a number of people, spontaneously — but it seemed that everyone wanted to volunteer for a role. We had more volunteers than roles. It was a very special time, one that I'll treasure for many years to come.

– Gerry Jenkison

We just happened to move to Don Mills, not realizing the potential of its location near the Civic Garden Centre (now Toronto Botanical Garden), where Lynda Bryden (BAC Chair from 2004 – 2006 and still a member) helped create a painting workshop and gallery space. Pamela Stagg provided advanced botanical drawing and painting and Celia Godkin offered an introductory program at the University of Toronto. Participants were encouraged to paint independently and Pamela offered critiques for works in progress. The most precious memories are of being with other painters, watching their impressive work in botanical art develop, and the workshop demonstrations that were most valuable.

– Dawn Dougall

## INTRODUCING VAL (MOXFORD) RABOLD

Val is the newest member on the CG and took on the position of Exhibition Sales Coordinator in 2010.

Val has had her works accepted in the last three juried Exhibitions at BAC and has also exhibited at the Sherway Gardens' Gallery - 'Going Native: Botanical Artworks of Canadian Native Plants', and at the Oakville Town Hall where she received an honourable mention for her 'Smooth Serviceberry' (*Amelanchier laevis*) in the 2009 'Lifethreads: A Visual Exploration of our Natural World' Exhibition.

She has taken courses at the Cedar Ridge Creative Centre, the Ontario College of Art and Design, the Art Gallery of Ontario Gallery School as well as watercolour and pen and ink workshops with Barry Coombs. It was under the guidance of Tasira Strimban at the Barishev School of Fine Art that she became interested in botanical art and developed her technique in both watercolour and coloured pencil.

Her interest in plants and flowers began at an early age when she and her sister would go on long walks with their father, an ardent photographer (flowers being one of his favourite subjects). His love for nature created a lasting impression and appreciation that inspires Val in her artistic endeavors.

Val lives and works in downtown Toronto and vacations in the Haliburton Highlands.



Calibrachoa, Petit Soleils (Tiny Suns)  
© Val Rabold

## UPCOMING COURSES OF INTEREST

### **COLOURED PENCIL BOTANICAL WORKSHOP with Raquel Baranyai in Toronto**

Two sessions: Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 3:30 pm each day  
Location: 2727 Yonge Street, Recreation Room.

The focus will be on handling coloured pencils and combining several sources of coloured pencil pigments to create sharper detail and a wide range of values in botanical work. All levels of experience.

For details please check [www.botanicalartistsofcanada.org](http://www.botanicalartistsofcanada.org), or contact Raquel at 416-498-9279 - [raquelbaranyai@sympatico.ca](mailto:raquelbaranyai@sympatico.ca)

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### **BOTANICAL ART with Kerri Weller at the Nepean Visual Arts Centre (Ottawa)**

[www.ottawa.ca/residents/arts/courses](http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/arts/courses) or [www.kerriweller.com /news and links](http://www.kerriweller.com/news%20and%20links)

#### **Botanical Art - Nature Journal:**

Wed Apr 20-Jun 8, 9:30 am - 12 noon Course Code 649981

Combine drawing and watercolour studies to create your own botanical nature journal. Some classes will be held offsite for sketching and field studies at the Experimental Farm adding to the enjoyment spring! Suitable for all levels.

#### **Botanical Art Open Studio:**

Wed Apr 20-Jun 8, 1- 4 pm Course Code 650140

Enjoy an afternoon of botanical painting with instruction geared to your level. Develop your own style and confidence as you work on subjects of your choice. Perfect for beginners needing more practice or for those needing guidance to bring their paintings to a higher level.

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### **DRAWING IN THE PARK with Celia Godkin in Brockville, Ontario**

**July 27-29, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Cost \$160.92**

Thousand Islands Summer School of the Arts  
St. Lawrence College, 2288 Parkedale Ave. Brockville, Ontario K6V 5X3

Learn to draw in soft pastels, a versatile medium that can look like paint. Starting with simple studies, you will develop confidence to tackle large-scale subjects such as trees, landscapes and flowerbeds. Weather permitting, classes will be held out of doors in a beautiful park beside the St. Lawrence Seaway. Join us in discovering the beauty of the Thousand Islands region.

Details and Registration:

[www.stlawrencecollege.ca/summerarts](http://www.stlawrencecollege.ca/summerarts)

TEL: 613-345-0660, ext. 3283, Toll free: 1-888-838-0698 (press 6) FAX: 613-345-0124

**LECTURES AND CLASSES with Margaret Best: various locations**

**Calgary:** Enmax Conservatory, Calgary Zoo and Botanical Garden, Calgary

**April – check website for dates [www.calgaryzoo.org](http://www.calgaryzoo.org)**

***Botanical Drawing with Dimension – graphite techniques***

By mid-March, The Zoo will be releasing a full schedule of Botanical Art classes throughout the year with Margaret. Check the website for details

**California: Los Angeles**

**April, 15, 16, 17: A Brush with Blue**

**Botanical Artists' Guild of California (BAGSC) see [www.BAGSCblog.com](http://www.BAGSCblog.com)**

**Bermuda:**

(2.5 hour flight from Toronto on WestJet or Air Canada)

**May 30 & 31, June 1 & 2, 2011: Bermuda's Best – Watercolour Master Class**

(dates to be confirmed) 4 full-day workshop

The participants will have a choice of at least 3 spectacular flowering specimens found in this glorious subtropical setting.

**Waterton National Park, Alberta: Waterton Wildflower Festival**

Location: Waterton Community Center

**June 20 - 22: The Wild Orchids of the Waterton region**

3 full-day watercolour workshop

The breathtaking setting of Waterton Lakes National Park in Southern Alberta is a World Heritage Site and home to more than more than half of the province's wildflower species... more than any other Rocky Mountain national park. At least 60 of Canada's listed rare flowers grow in Waterton, 30 of which are found only in this park and in no other part of the country. No wonder photographers and artists come from all over North America and even Europe and Japan to see and record this wildflower spectacle.

From beargrass to orchids, nature is on display in a panorama of blossoms among prairies and peaks. This amazing diversity of wildflowers will be celebrated in the sixth annual **Waterton Wildflower Festival, June 18-26, 2011.**

For any further information about the classes and lectures listed please email Margaret Best in Calgary via her website [www.bestbotanical.com](http://www.bestbotanical.com)

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**BOTANICAL ART CLASSES with Pamela Stagg  
at the TORONTO BOTANICAL GARDEN**

***Painting Multi-Coloured Flowers: April 16 – 17, 2011***

***Botanical Painting Boot Camp©, July 9 – 10, 2011***

'Botanical Painting Boot Camp' © Pamela Stagg Creative Services, November 2010.

All Pamela's classes are intended for intermediate to advanced level students. For details and registration see the last BAC newsletter or visit:

<http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/programs/botanicalart.htm>

Please note that a healthy studio policy is in effect for all of Pamela's classes.

## EXHIBITION NEWS

### THE HUNT INSTITUTE PRESENTS *Flora's Lexicon* 25 March–30 June 2011

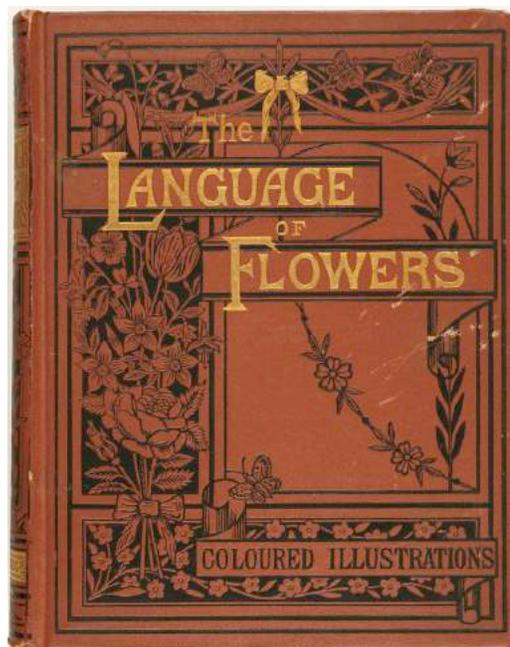
Pittsburgh, PA—*Flora's Lexicon* explores the 19th-century European and American phenomenon of The Language of Flowers, the common understanding that plants and blooms were charged with sentiment and meaning and held the potential to express emotion or to communicate privileged messages within the strict confines of social etiquette. Flower associations made their way into Victorian language from various sources, including Japanese, Middle Eastern, Turkish, Greek and Roman cultures, religions and mythology, as well as the literature of Shakespeare and the still-life painting of 17th-century Dutch artists. The result was a fashionable system of floral connotations that blossomed during a time of burgeoning public interest in botany and its scientific importance.

So pervasive and popular was The Language of Flowers trend that it launched the introduction of the floral dictionary or Language of Flowers book, a small, beautifully bound and illustrated volume devoted to the decoding of each flower's secret meaning. This sentimental craze and the books associated with it originated in France, the most notable being *Le Langage des Fleures* of 1819 by Charlotte de Latour. This volume was reprinted in multiple editions, translated into English and imitated by other French, British and American authors until the trend waned in the mid-1880s, shortly after English author and illustrator Kate Greenaway (1846–1901) published her charmingly illustrated floral dictionary, *The Language of Flowers* (1884).

The Language of Flowers book phenomenon also attracted the skills of numerous respected botanical artists of the era, including Pierre-Joseph Redouté (1759–1840), Pancrace Bessa (1772–1846), Pierre-Jean-François Turpin (1775–1840) and Pierre-Antoine Poiteau (1766–1854). Although their illustrations for this genre differed slightly in scale and scientific detail from their major works, they were prized for their beauty and added to the appeal of these intricately bound and decorated volumes while serving to familiarize a large segment of the population with the artists' talent.



To beauty, friendship and love [rose, ivy and myrtle], hand-colored engraving published by Saunders and Otley, Conduit Street, from Anna Christian Burke's *The Illustrated Language of Flowers* (London, G. Routledge and Co., 1856), HI Library call no. DG21 B959I.



Cover of Robert Tyas' *The Language of Flowers, or Floral Emblems or Thoughts, Feelings and Sentiments* (London, George Routledge and Sons, 1869), HI Library call no. DG21 T977L.

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*Flora's Lexicon* presents books from the Hunt Institute's Library and botanical portraits from the Art Department in an examination of the scope of The Language of Flowers phenomenon, from the influences on its beginning to its continued presence in 21st-century publishing. Differing approaches to the floral dictionary are displayed, while intricate systems of meaning are explored through artworks of many key 18th- and 19th-century botanical artists and illustrators.

In conjunction with *Flora's Lexicon*, the Hunt Institute will hold its annual Open House on 26 and 27 June 2011. We will offer talks, tours and opportunities to meet one-on-one with our staff to ask questions and see items in the collections. We encourage everyone to consider visiting us during this Open House. It will be a good time to see the exhibition before it closes and to have an inside look at our collections and our work. A schedule of events will be available on our Web site. We are looking forward to your visit.

The exhibition will be on display on the 5th floor of the Hunt Library building at Carnegie Mellon University and will be open to the public free of charge. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–noon and 1–5 p.m.; Sunday, 1–4 p.m. (except 22–24 April; 15 and 29–30 May). Because our hours of operation are occasionally subject to change, please call or email before your visit to confirm our hours. For further information, contact the Hunt Institute at 412-268-2434.

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## **THE SOUTHERN ONTARIO NATURE AND SCIENCE ILLUSTRATORS 2011 Exhibition: May 1 to May 29**

Mezzanine, Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington ON ([www.rbg.ca](http://www.rbg.ca))

For more information, visit [www.sonsi.ca](http://www.sonsi.ca). A few BAC members will be participating.

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## **MARGARET BEST SOLO EXHIBITION: *Bermuda Botanica***

**Opens May 20, 2011** at the Bermuda Society of Arts Gallery, Hamilton. Bermuda

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## **EXHIBITION OF BOTANICAL WATERCOLOURS AND PRINTS**

**by Kerri Weller: *Suddenly, it's Summer***

**June 1 - 30, 2011**

The Herb Garden, Almonte, Ontario [www.herbgarden.on.ca](http://www.herbgarden.on.ca). Details at [www.kerriweller.com](http://www.kerriweller.com)

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## **ANNOUNCING A LECTURE ON THE HISTORY OF BOTANICAL ART**

**by Celia Godkin**

**April 30<sup>th</sup> 1 pm**

Location: Joshua Bates Centre, Athens, Ontario. (Athens is a small community in Eastern Ontario, between Kingston and Ottawa.) There is no charge.

For details, please contact Celia at [celiagodkin@ripnet.com](mailto:celiagodkin@ripnet.com) or (613) 275-7204.

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### **NEW BAC MEMBERS**

Winter has brought us a great list of new members! We welcome Geraldine Sadoway, Meaghan Lynch, Ruth Carroll from Toronto, and Vicky Earle from Vancouver. A special welcome to BAC founding member Pamela Stagg, on whom the Coordinating Group has bestowed an honorary membership as part of BAC's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations this year. That brings the total number of members to 79.

## Events Calendar 2011

Date/Time	Event	Location	Contact
Mar 25 – Jun 30	Botanical Art Exhibition: <i>Flora's Lexicon</i>	Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Carnegie Mellon University 5000 Forbes Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890	Phone: 412-268-7304 FAX: 412-268-5677 Web site: <a href="http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu">http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu</a>
Mar 31	Botanical Illustration Exhibition Opening	Royal Botanical Gardens, Sydney, Australia	<a href="http://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/education/art_and_illustration/margaret_flockton_award/Margaret_Flockton_Award_2011">http://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/education/art_and_illustration/margaret_flockton_award/Margaret_Flockton_Award_2011</a>
Apr 2 & 9	<i>Coloured Pencil Botanical Workshop</i> with Raquel Baranyai	Recreation Room 2727 Yonge Street, Toronto	Raquel Baranyai (416) 498-9279 <a href="mailto:raquelbaranyai@sympatico.ca">raquelbaranyai@sympatico.ca</a> <a href="http://www.botanicalartistsofcanada.org">www.botanicalartistsofcanada.org</a>
Apr 20 – June 8 1) 9:30 - noon 2) 1 -4 pm	<i>Botanical Art -</i> 1) <i>Nature Journal</i> 2) <i>Open Studio</i> with Kerri Weller	Nepean Visual Arts Centre, Ottawa	<a href="http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/arts/courses">www.ottawa.ca/residents/arts/courses</a> or <a href="http://www.kerriweller.com/news">www.kerriweller.com/news</a> and links
Apr 15 - 17	<i>A Brush with Blue</i> with Margaret Best	Botanical Artists' Guild of California, Los Angeles <a href="http://www.BAGSCblog.com">www.BAGSCblog.com</a>	Margaret Best <a href="http://www.bestbotanical.com">www.bestbotanical.com</a>
Apr 16 -17	Painting Multi-coloured Flowers with Pamela Stagg	Toronto Botanical Garden	<a href="http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/programs/botanicalart.htm">http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/programs/botanicalart.htm</a>
Apr 30	Lecture by Celia Godkin: History of Botanical Art	Joshua Bates Centre, Athens ON	Celia Godkin 9613) 275-7204 <a href="mailto:celiaqodkin@ripnet.com">celiaqodkin@ripnet.com</a>
Apr 30 – May 1	Botanical Arts Expo: Pure Horticulture	St. Albert, AB	view <a href="http://www.stalbertchamber.com">www.stalbertchamber.com</a> e-mail <a href="mailto:chamber@stalbertchamber.com">chamber@stalbertchamber.com</a> or call (780) 458-2833
May 1 - 29	Art Exhibition: Southern Ontario Nature and Science Illustrators	Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington, ON <a href="http://www.rbg.ca/">http://www.rbg.ca/</a>	<a href="http://www.sonsi.ca">www.sonsi.ca</a>
May 15	BAC entry fee deadline for the 2011 BAC Exhibition	Todmorden Papermill Gallery Toronto	Send cheques to: Sherry Mitchell 1147 Wedgewood Close Qualicum Beach BC V9K 1C6
May 20	Botanical Art Exhibition Opening: Margaret Best	Bermuda	Margaret Best <a href="http://www.bestbotanical.com">www.bestbotanical.com</a>
May 30 – June 2	Botanical Art Master Class: Bermuda's Best with Margaret Best	Bermuda	Margaret Best <a href="http://www.bestbotanical.com">www.bestbotanical.com</a>
June 1 - 30	<i>Suddenly it's Summer</i> Exhibition of Botanical Watercolours and Prints by Kerri Weller	The Herb Garden, Almonte, ON <a href="http://www.herbgarden.on.ca">www.herbgarden.on.ca</a>	Kerri Weller <a href="http://www.kerriweller.com">www.kerriweller.com</a>
June 20 - 22	Botanical Art class: The Wild Orchids of the Waterton region with Margaret Best	Waterton National Park, AB	Margaret Best <a href="http://www.bestbotanical.com">www.bestbotanical.com</a>
July 9 - 10	Botanical Painting Boot Camp © Pamela Stagg	Toronto Botanical Garden	<a href="http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/programs/botanicalart.htm">http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/programs/botanicalart.htm</a>
July 27 - 29	<i>Drawing in the Park</i> with Celia Godkin	St. Lawrence College, Brockville, ON	<a href="http://www.stlawrencecollege.ca/summerarts">www.stlawrencecollege.ca/summerarts</a> (613)345-0660, ext. 3283

BAC Coordinating Group

President: Vacant  
 Acting Secretary: Jessica Hsiung  
 Treasurer: Sherry Mitchell  
 Membership & Communications Coordinator:  
 Raquel Baranyai  
 Annual Event Activities Coordinator:  
 Rita-Anne Piquet  
 Advisor for Exhibitions, Events and Public  
 Outreach: Jean Johnson  
 Members at Large: Mary Rose Woodbridge,  
 Val Rabold  
 Newsletter Editor: Celia Godkin

Annual Event Team

Activities Coordinator: Rita-Anne Piquet  
 Activities & Exhibition Sales: Val Rabold  
 CD Compiler: Sherry Mitchell  
 Graphic Designer: Joan Ness  
 Publicity Coordinator: Liz Tudor  
 Shipping Coordinator: Sophie B. Phillips'  
 Mary Rose Woodbridge  
 E-mail Publicity: Cecilia Martin, Rayma  
 Peterson, Elisabeth Elson, Julie Wilson,  
 Raquel Baranyai

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Website Coordinator: Gerry Jenkison

We welcome volunteers from across Canada to assist with events, exhibitions and public outreach.

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To join BAC please send a cheque (made out to BAC) for \$30.00 or \$50.00 if you wish to have a [webpage gallery](#) to: Raquel Baranyai, BAC Membership & Communications, 203 Shaughnessy Blvd #403, Toronto ON, M2J 1J9

For more information contact Raquel Baranyai at [raquelbaranyai@sympatico.ca](mailto:raquelbaranyai@sympatico.ca) or see the membership information at [www.botanicalartistsofcanada.org](http://www.botanicalartistsofcanada.org)

### HOW TO JOIN THE MEMBERS GALLERY

Send the following, via email to Gerry Jenkison, Website Coordinator, at [gerry@jenkisonnetwork.com](mailto:gerry@jenkisonnetwork.com):

- Up to three jpegs of your work, 72 dpi, maximum size 700 pixels
  - The common and, if you have it, Latin name for the work
  - A biography, maximum 500 words, in a Word file (WordPerfect's okay, too)
- Gerry will acknowledge receipt of your files and send them off to our web designer to build your gallery. And please don't forget to visit our Events page, where you'll find news of upcoming workshops and exhibitions.

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### THE BAC NEWSLETTER:

Four newsletters are published each year. Deadline for the next newsletter is June 15, 2010. Please send submissions to Celia Godkin, Newsletter Editor: [celiagodkin@ripnet.com](mailto:celiagodkin@ripnet.com)

Images of botanical art must be submitted as jpegs. If you would like your art to be considered for the front page, it must be sent at an image size of 8 x 10 inches (vertical). Please include your name, the title or subject, medium, size of original and any other pertinent information, such as shows in which this piece has been exhibited etc. Preference will be given to images that have articles to accompany them.

Disclaimer: Please note that BAC cannot vouch for the accuracy of news items and information submitted to the newsletter. We try to promote courses and events that might be of interest to BAC members even if they are not sponsored or organized by BAC.