



Newsletter summer 2004

MEET BAC'S NEW CHAIR, LYNDA BRYDEN!

I'm delighted to take on the position of Chair of the Botanical Artists of Canada for the upcoming year 2004/5. I'm relatively new to the botanical art form and have been enjoying learning new skills in our coaching and critique sessions. I'm very much in awe of the excellent talent in our group.

I am passionate about watercolour and I have been painting and teaching in the medium for many years. At present I convene the "Studio Group" which meets each Tuesday at Lawrence Park Church. In my professional background, I was a teacher for the Toronto Board of Education. I retired to raise my two daughters, who are now grown and married. I'm the proud Nana to two-year-old Jake. I love flowers and gardening especially at our cottage where I'm spending the summer.

Recently, I visited a beautiful garden, which I highly recommend to you. It is called "Larkwhistle" and it is located on the Bruce Peninsula, south of Tobermory and two hours North of Collingwood.

Two former Torontonians, Patrick Lima and John Scanlon developed the garden, in the early 70's. They found an overgrown and derelict farm property and over the years have developed it into a showpiece, which is visited by hundreds every year. It is open from May 24 to Labour Day, on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesday mornings. The gardens are known for spring flowering bulbs and shrubs. The lilacs are spectacular. In the hot summer, roses, poppies, and lilies abound. There is a wonderful mix of vegetables interspersed amongst the flowers. The gardens are ecologically sound and no pesticides are used. Watering is done by hand from a series of 7 above ground cisterns, which are home to croaking frogs and lovely water lilies. It is a photographer and artist's paradise.

Patrick and John have written books about their garden and a talented botanical artist named Turid Forsythe illustrated one of them. If you are lucky, as we were, either Patrick or John will accompany you on your tour and share their considerable knowledge. Plants and seeds are available for sale.

Our BAC group has an interesting year ahead. We have an excellent newsletter, an enthusiastic executive and steering committee. We hope that you will be active participants in BAC. Do have a safe and happy summer, with lots of opportunity to paint and draw!

Lynda Bryden

NEW BAC LEADERSHIP

At the AGM on June 22, the following members were elected:

- Lynda Bryden, Chair
- Louise Chenier, Secretary
- Donna Greenstein, Treasurer.

The other members of the Coordinating Committee are: Emily Luks, Raquel Baranyai, Jan Mok, Ann Stirling and Lynette Logue

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If you are one of the few members who have not yet renewed their BAC membership, please send a cheque for \$25 made out to Botanical Artists of Canada to Raquel Baranyai, 203 Shaughnessy Blvd, #403, Toronto, Ont M2J 1J9. Tel: 416 498-9279. If you have any comments about membership, please email Raquel at: raquelbaranyai@sympatico.ca

BAC FINANCES

For the Treasurer's Report as at mid June, please see page 3 of this newsletter.

SUMMER ART OPPORTUNITIES

Summer courses at Biomedical Communications (BMC), University of Toronto

TO REGISTER: Send a cheque made out to the University of Toronto, to: Biomedical Communications, 1 King's College Circle, Medical Sciences Bldg. Room 2356, Toronto, Ont. M5S 1A8. Please give contact information and indicate which course you are registering in. For more information call (416) 978-2659.

COURSE #1: CARBON DUST

Instructor: Professor David Mazierski
Time/Date: 9 am – 5 pm, August 16 – 20, 2004
Location: BMC Studio, Room 2357, Medical Sciences Building, 1 King's College Circle, University of Toronto
Cost: \$300.00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Carbon dust is a continuous tone rendering technique that utilizes grey shades to depict the texture, color and contours of the subject being illustrated. The tone comes from black carbon pencils (and the dust shaved off the pencil's core as it is sharpened) applied to a cold-press illustration board with soft brushes and chamois. The five-day course will cover the history and materials for this technique, basic scientific lighting and the execution of one or two carbon dust renderings of specimens from the BMC collection of invertebrates and skeletal material.

MATERIALS will be discussed first day of class.

COURSE #2: FISH ILLUSTRATION

Instructor: Professor Celia Godkin
Time/Date: 9 am – 5 pm, August 23-27, 2004
Location: BMC Studio, Room 2357, Medical Sciences Building, 1 King's College Circle, University of Toronto
Cost: \$300.00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students will be introduced to the field of natural science illustration, and will be given sufficient scientific information and artistic guidance to enable them to prepare a detailed, scientifically accurate drawing of a fish in pen and ink stipple technique. Fish specimens preserved in alcohol will be supplied.

MATERIALS: FIRST DAY OF CLASS: Pencils, eraser, sharpener, ruler, compass or dividers, tracing paper. (Remaining items to be discussed: drafting film, rapidographs: size 00/0.2 and 1/0.4 or Sakura microperm fine-tipped waterproof felt pens: size 005 and 01).

Fall courses with Leslie Staple

Date -Sept.22,29, Oct. 6,13,27,Nov3 Weds 10 - 1
 Event - Beginning in Botanical Art with Leslie Staple
 Details - Toronto Botanical Gardens,
 Leslie/Lawrence
 Contact- T.B.G. 416-397 1362

Date- Sept. 28 for 9 weeks, Tues 6:30-9:30
 Event - Painting Botanical watercolour with
 Leslie Staple
 Details -Northern Secondary
 Contact - Toronto District School Board, 416-
 338 4000

TREASURER'S REPORT as at June 16, 2004

Opening bank balance (June 16, 2003)	\$3,813.00
<u>Income:</u>	
Membership fees	1,800.00
Arlene Steinberg workshop	3,705.00
Coaching sessions	750.00
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Food and gifts	586.72
Space rentals	422.00
Coaching session supplies	100.73
Bank charges	116.00
Arlene Steinberg fee	2,685.00
<u>Liabilities:</u>	
Memorial Fund (Deborah Marrison)	250.00
Closing bank balance (June 16, 2004)	\$6,002.57

John Eedy, Treasurer

MEMBER NEWS**Treasures of Algonquin**

Three of our members, Denise Hart, Aliya Ebrahim and Sara Carlisle are exhibiting over 50 paintings illustrating the flora of Algonquin Park at a show called "Treasures of Algonquin". It opens Nov. 6, 2004 - May 19, 2005 in the Algonquin room in the Visitors centre.

Looking for plastic sleeves for cards and prints?

BAC member **Debbie Stephenson**, who moved to California a few years ago, sends this useful information and an update on California life:

"I was so happy the other day on finally finding a source of clear plastic sleeves to protect the cards I have made from my painting and matted only (as opposed to framed) paintings. I was directed to a company down here in California. They were amazingly helpful and I thought I would pass on the information in case any of the other BAC painters were trying to find a source for such things. They are the clear plastic sleeves that are on individual cards and on art reprints that are on sale at galleries. Perhaps people who have been selling their work already have such a source in Canada, but if they have, they have been more fortunate in their searching than I had been! The company's website is: www.clearbags.com (for larger quantities) or www.clearenvelopes.com (for smaller quantities).

"I'm not part of the local painting scene down here... there is lots of different kinds of art going on, but nothing has drawn (excuse the pun!) me in except for the few botanical classes I have been able to take so I don't have much to write about. I am dabbling a little bit more on my own, but nothing to be too proud of! I have been

reading a lot though. I highly recommend two books: **Bright Earth** by *Philip Ball*, and **Color, A Natural History of the Palette** by *Victoria Finlay*. Very, very interesting."

Renowned international botanical artists are guests at *Origins* 2004 exhibition

The next *Origins* exhibition will be held in late October in Toronto at the home of Emily Luks. Joining *Origins* and BAC members Emily Luks, Lynda Bryden, Gerry Jenkison, Hannah Levitt, and Peta Lomberg, as special guests are Sheila Siegerman, Katie Lee, and Sergio Allevato. All three are featured in the Shirley Sherwood Collection and are leading international botanical artists. This will be the third *Origins* exhibition, and will focus on small images – botanical 'fragments'.

ROCHESTER: JUST A FERRY RIDE AWAY FOR MANY BAC MEMBERS

Now that the Rochester / Toronto Ferry is in service, getting to experience art across the lake is an easy adventure. Our recently 'retired' membership secretary, Karen McLean, sent this information about a worthwhile botanical exhibition in Rochester.

Pompelmous , Surinam and Centaurea Cyanus: Botanical Prints from the Collection of William Pinch June 18-August 29, 2004

In the Lockhart Gallery at the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester, NY.

<http://mag.rochester.edu/look/exhibitions/>

Other useful Rochester links from Karen are:

- A fun-sounding B&B, within walking distance:
<http://www.edwardharrishousebb.com/photos.asp>
- Other attractions can be found at:
<http://www.thebigguide.com/events/cresults.asp?category=1%2C2%2C3%2C4%2C5&date=7%2F7%2F2004>; <http://www.rochesternysites.com/visitingk.htm>
<http://www.eastmanhouse.org>

BAC GOES TO NIAGARA

In June, BAC participated for the first time at the Niagara Flower and Garden Show Art Exhibition. We were able to mount an impressive show with 105 paintings from almost 30 members spread across Canada. Five paintings came from artists in Newfoundland, and the Deep River group sent 15. We also had representation from Mansfield, Monotick, Kitchener and Toronto.

Thanks to the slick organization of Louise Chenier and her team, everything went according to plan. Thanks to the members who drove down to Niagara to help set up, break down and staff the show. We managed to transport all the paintings from Toronto to Niagara and back without any breakages thanks in part to good packaging by members.

Despite selling only two paintings, there was a great deal of interest and we welcome those new members who discovered BAC and joined.

2004 Events Calendar

for other courses / workshops see page 2

Date	Event	Details	Contact
June 18- August 29, 2004	Pompelmous , Surinam and Centaurea Cyanus: Botanical Prints from the Collection of William Pinch	In the Lockhart Gallery at the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester, NY	http://mag.rochester.edu/look/exhibitions/
July 5 on	Drawing – Basic Botanical and Drawing – Botanical with Margit Koritar	Haliburton School of the Arts	1-866-353 6464
Oct 21,22,23	10th Annual ASBA conference. Coincides with the opening of the 11th international Exhibition of Botanical Art and Illustration at the Hunt Institute	Pittsburgh, USA.	The Hunt Institute
October 27, 28, 30	"Origins" 2004 exhibition	By invitation	Emily Luks 416 441-1992

Newsletter items

Please submit any information or articles for the Fall 2004 newsletter to:
peta@lombergnetwork.com by September 1, 2004

Unfortunately, to reduce the size of the electronic file we are not able to include photographs.