



Newsletter summer 2005

SEEING THE LIGHT, and more

The BAC annual general meeting was held on June 22, and the Coordinating Committee thanks those attending for their support. The AGM is a time when we reflect on the past year by hearing reports from our Portfolio chairs, pat ourselves on the back and then dream a little about what awaits us in the future. One project for the Fall is to research the feasibility of launching a BAC Website. We will certainly consult with the membership and keep you well informed.

Both Louise Chenier and Ann Stirling are stepping down from their committee positions, and BAC wishes to thank them for their tour of duty. We still need someone to work as Chair of the Exhibitions portfolio with Luisa Klopchic and others. If there is to be a yearly exhibition, and it seems that you, the members, want that, then we must have someone to take on this challenge, with the support of the committee, of course! Perhaps one of you reading this would like to join us on the Coordinating Committee.

We enjoyed good fellowship over snacks before the meeting, and especially the plump organic strawberries, home grown by Donna Greenstein. They were beautiful enough to paint, but even more delicious to eat. Thank you to all the people who shared snacks. The combinations made a great summer supper!

Turid Forsyth, our guest speaker, was truly inspiring with her beautiful photography, botanical art and scientific illustration. Turid trained in her native Germany and also in the United States. Her photography and illustrations appear in several books. She has recently revised a book, which she coauthored with Patrick Lima on growing and cooking with herbs. (Nellie Sue Potter won a copy in a lucky draw, proceeds going to BAC coffers). Turid has produced many commissions for calendars and magazines for such prestigious publishers as Audubon books, Harvard University Press, Harrowsmith and the Canadian Gardener.

What struck me most about Turid's artistry was the sense of light shining through her subject matter. There was also a definite rhythm and sense of movement in her compositions. Part of the reason, I'm sure, is that much of her subject matter is taken right from her own garden, grown especially for the art piece, and from the living plant. I think we were all inspired to get back to our own painting and try to emulate that wonderful glowing quality she achieved.

Turid also gave us a good hint to improve our compositions. If we're working from a live subject, especially out of doors, take a reference photo deliberately out of focus. The "blurry" image, can enhance colour choices and often pinpoints design flaws which can then be corrected in the drawing, for example, by adding a flower or changing a line. One article I read recently, suggested examining the drawing sideways and upside down to see if positive and negative spaces are in harmony. Another artist suggested checking a painting in progress, just as the light is changing at dusk, or looking at it in a very dim light. It is then that you can determine if values need adjusting. Squinting often helps, too.

Hopefully, now that summer is upon us, we all will have more time to enjoy some leisure, the flowers in our gardens, and of course, painting. Remember to capture the light! Whatever you will be doing this summer, I hope you will keep safe, healthy and happy.

- Lynda Bryden

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks to Sophie Barbara Phillips for taking all of the photographs of the show at the Aird Gallery. She very kindly donated her time and the pictures for our enjoyment.

NEW COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Chair: Lynda Bryden
Vice Chair and Workshops: Emily Luks
Secretary: Margit Sampogna
Treasurer: Donna Greenstein
Membership and Communications: Raquel Baranyai
Exhibitions: (vacant)
Member without portfolio: Tasira Strimban
Newsletter: Peta Lomberg

WANTED

- *People to help phone members about events*
- *Chair of the Exhibitions Committee*

Contact Raquel Baranyai
416-498-9279
raquelbaranyai@sympatico.ca

BIOMEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS

Check out the courses at UofT's Biomedical Communications faculty. Options include the very popular carbon dust technique with David Mazierski, as well as Celia Godkin's Invertebrates course. More details page 4.
<http://www.hydrospark.net/summer2005/>

OFF to see the HUNT in Pittsburgh!

BAC members head south for the Hunt Institute and the Mees exhibit...

Three of us (Karen Taylor, Margit Sampogna and Donna Greenstein) recently spent several days in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and, including several stops along the way, the picturesque drive took an easy seven hours. Pittsburgh is the home of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation (Carnegie Mellon University) and their collection includes over 30,000 watercolours, drawings and prints dating from the Renaissance to the contemporary.

We contacted Curator James White in advance of the visit with the request to see the paintings by Pamela Stagg, Arundhati Vartak, Sheila Siegerman, Melania Pistoia, as well as a selection of new and old works. He kindly obliged and for more than one and a half hours, we viewed about 50 original unframed works by many artists including Redoute and Ehret! A wonderful exhibit by Margaret Mees was mounted on display. Unbelievable! The works were stunning and awe-inspiring; the luminosity, colours, delicacy, depth and detail not wholly captured by prints! Imagine seeing an original, uncovered, Redoute (from Napoleon's time) within inches of one's face, and then being offered a magnifying glass for close examination!!! The experience was unforgettable!

We also painted "en plein air" at the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Garden. (www.phipps.conservatory.org)

This is a thirteen-room "crystal palace" Victorian glasshouse designed by Lord and Burnham with rooms of lush tropical plants, palms, orchids, ferns, desert plants, bonsai, and butterflies in addition to outdoor gardens.

Painting and drawing are allowed throughout the conservatory and grounds but chairs are not allowed on weekends, due to the large number of visitors. Also, the outdoor gardens can be rented for private parties further restricting access. If wanting to paint a particular plant, do remember that the seasons in Pittsburgh are a few weeks ahead of Toronto. The Phipps restaurant offers excellent food and their gift shop is stocked with a great selection of botanical and art books. Adult admission is \$7.50. We found the staff to be exceptionally friendly and helpful.

Having thoroughly enjoyed this adventure, we are already planning next year's trip to yet another fabulous botanical venue. Perhaps this will be the start of an annual tradition!

For information regarding the Hunt or to arrange a visit, please contact:

James J. White, Curator
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh PA 15213-3890
telephone (412) 268-2440
fax (412) 268-5677
Web: <http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu>

Note: Membership of the Hunt is the best deal in the U.S! Available to BAC members for approximately US\$25 per annum, it comes with beautiful catalogues alone worth more than that.

SHEILA SIEGERMAN AT THE ASHMOLEAN

The exhibition "A New Flowering – A Thousand Years of Botanical Art" opened at The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, England on May 2, 2005 and continues until September. This remarkable exhibition offers a unique and fascinating opportunity to compare historical botanical paintings with those of contemporary artists.

The earliest painting in the exhibit is of a thistle, painted by a monk in the early 11th century, at Bury St. Edmonds It can be compared to a wonderful thistle painting by the young English artist Helen Haywood. The Savoy cabbage of Katherine Manisco of England/Italy, and the cabbage by Joachim Camerarius (1534-98) is another, among the many amazing comparisons. The detailed and accurate observation of the anatomy of plants, coupled with a sense of beauty and design are criteria to which botanical artists have followed over the centuries.

The historical works have been drawn from the archives of The Ashmolean Museum, The Bodlian Library, and a number of the colleges of Oxford University. The over eighty contemporary painting were selected from Shirley Sherwood's own collection.

As one of the artists included in this truly magnificent exhibition, I was thrilled to see my watercolour painting of 'Lichee chinensis hanging alongside of some of the most beautiful botanical paintings in the world! I was also able to attend the gala opening reception at which Dr. Sherwood gave a short talk. Several of the artists were also present. A memorable experience!

A fully colour illustrated catalogue published by The Ashmolean Museum accompanies the show.

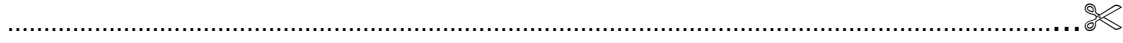
BAC FINANCIAL REPORT

Income	\$	Notes
Membership	2205.00	
Coaching	890.00	
Niagara Show	965.00	
Aird show	1341.15	
Misc.	54.00	
Total 2005 income	5455.15	
B/f from 2004	5948.57	
Total	11403.72	
Expenses		
Admin, mail and communication	815.45	
Coaching	826.00	
Niagara show	1016.02	
Aird show	4116.39	
Critique evening	16.00	
AGM 2004	129.94	
Donation	50.00	
Bank fees	141.83	
Total 2005 expenses	7111.63	
Net income	4292.09	Bank balance as at May 31, 2005

Membership renewal time!

A reminder: Fees cover membership from July 2005 to the end of June 2006. Following this, we can only apply early payments received from March 2005 on. The current annual fee is \$30.

Please don't deprive yourself of up-to-the-minute news, and the inspiring and nurturing connection that comes when you are a BAC member... Being prompt with your payment is the best way to ensure you receive updated information about classes, shows, Critique Night and all other events related to BAC. Thank you and let's look forward to another great, creative year!



INVOICE: BAC MEMBERSHIP 2005 - 2006

Name
Address

Phone (day) Phone (evening)
Email

Attached is a cheque # for \$30.00 made out to BAC

Signed: Date

Send to: Raquel Baranyai, BAC Membership and Communications
203 Shaughnessy Blvd #403
Toronto ON M2J 1J9
Tel: 416-498-9279
raquelbaranyai@sympatico.ca



SUMMER COURSES and more

Nellie Sue Potter

Nellie Sue Potter is teaching "Introduction to Botanical Art" at Art Works Art School, Tuesday evenings from 7:00 until 9:30, July 5- August 23. Art Works is in Bloor West Village, Toronto 2451 Bloor St. West, 416-766-0662, www.artworksartschool.com

Courses at Biomedical Communications in August

Please note the registration deadline is *July 15th*

More information is on the website at:

<http://www.hydrosark.net/summer2005/>

poster: <http://www.hydrosark.net/summer2005/posters.htm>

Celia Godkin

St. Lawrence College. www.sl.on.ca

DRAWING IN THE PARK Brockville Campus July 18, 19, 20 Cost \$88.56

This park overlooks the St. Lawrence seaway, and we'll be working in pastels.

BOTANICAL DRAWING

Monday evenings 6-9 pm, September 12 - December 5; Brockville campus

Tuesday evenings 6-9 pm, September 13 - November 29; Smiths Falls campus

BOTANICAL WATERCOLOUR

Wednesday evenings 6-9 pm, September 14 - November 30; Brockville campus

Thursday evenings 6-9 pm, September 15 - December 8; Smiths Falls campus
(no class on September 29th)

To register or for information, call (613) 345-0660x60 or 1-888-622-8880

I'm not sure of the cost of the botanical courses, but similar course offerings last year were running around \$225, so it's really good value.

Celia is also teaching botanical drawing and watercolour at the Experimental Farm in Ottawa in November. See next newsletter for details.

Leslie Staple

Starting October 4, 2005 for 9 weeks, Tuesdays 6:30 -9:30	Botanical Watercolour	Northern Collegiate, Mt. Pleasant and Eglinton	Toronto District School Board Continuing Education
October 13-November 24 for 7 weeks, Thursdays 6:30-9:00	Botanical Drawing Introduction	University of Toronto Continuing Studies	learn.utoronto.ca 416- 978 2400
October 15-November 26 for 7 weeks, Saturdays 10:00- 12:30	Botanical Watercolour Introduction	University of Toronto Continuing Studies	learn.utoronto.ca 416-978 2400

There may be some more classes to add later but as yet they are not confirmed. Check the next newsletter in September

PAINTING IN A SUMMER GARDEN – an update from Celia Godkin

The class took place in Emily Luks beautiful garden, June 13 - 17. The first few days were very hot and we enjoyed a swim in her pool. Then it turned cool and we bundled up and switched from iced drinks to hot beverages. Rain threatened almost every day, but only drove us under cover briefly on a couple of occasions. We tried a new format this year. Instead of mornings only, students had the option of morning or full day sessions, and the course ran one week instead of two. The end result? Paintings of white iris, grape vines, peonies, pansies, begonias, day lilies, ferns, pine branches, container plantings, garden furniture and much more. Hope you can join us next year!

BAC COACHING PROGRAM

Emily Luks and her team have assembled an excellent group of instructors and BAC members for the very popular coaching sessions. Sometimes people who have registered cannot make a particular session, and then another member can use the space. So if you have not registered and paid for the sessions, but would like to join a waiting list, email Emily Luks at elart@rogers.com or call her at (416) 441-1992.

- Wednesday, August 24 (evening) - Emily Luks- The Power of Drawing
- Wednesday, September 7 (evening) - Karen Taylor - Deep colours
- Wednesday, October 19 (evening) - Tasira Strimban - White Background? Not Necessarily.

THE LONG WALK...

Gail Finlayson is a BAC member and a cancer survivor and is walking 60 Kilometers for The Weekend to End Breast Cancer in September 2005 supporting Princess Margaret Hospital. If you'd like to share in Gail's fight go to: www.endcancer.ca Pick 'Toronto', then 'Sponsor a participant', then 'Gail Finlayson' and follow the prompts.

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Contact
May to Sept	A New Flowering: 1000 Years of Botanical Art, exhibition	Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, England	See website
To October 19	BAC coaching sessions	See details above	Emily Luks (416) 441-1992
To August	Courses	See page 4	

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER