

HANDING OVER THE REINS

The 2008 AGM, held on June 5 at the Toronto Botanical Gardens, was the last of my official events as Chair of BAC. We began the evening with a presentation from Todd Irvine of LEAF (<http://www.leaftoronto.org/>). Todd, a certified arborist and enthusiastic advocate for trees, is LEAF's outreach coordinator. (LEAF stands for Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests; their tagline is "improving city life one tree at a time," which encapsulates their activities very well.)

Todd's presentation began with tree physiology and continued with tree identification, including a rich assortment of native trees. We absorbed his passion and reverence for his topic, and we kept him talking long after he'd shown all his slides.

The business portion of the meeting began with Coordinating Group elections. The CG's nominees for Chair and Treasurer, Nellie Sue Potter and Fran Andreana, were both acclaimed. We've received no nominations or volunteers for Secretary yet, and this important role must be filled. Lynda Bryden has offered her services until someone else can be found, and we hope that one of you will volunteer soon.

Our Constitution requires a CG of between seven and eleven members. This year's group includes Nellie Sue Potter as Chair, Raquel Baranyai as Membership and Communications Coordinator, Fran Andreana as Treasurer, Irene Hunchak as Exhibitions Coordinator, Lynda Bryden (as acting Secretary), Emily Luks and Sophie Barbara Phillips, and me as Website Coordinator.

Following elections, portfolio leaders recapped the year's events. Highlights included the hugely successful Todmorden exhibition, Nellie Sue's informative presentation on Botanical Art at a Toronto library, Sherry Mitchell's presentation and three-day workshop, and Karen Taylor's demonstration on dry brush technique and mixing dark colours. Our presence at Canada Blooms garnered us the opportunity to exhibit Native Plants II at Sherway Gardens Mall this summer, as well as new members and plenty of exposure to the gardening public.

For me, being a part of these activities has been a truly rewarding experience. As chair, I've worked with some very talented and dedicated people from whom I've learned a great deal, and I've made some friendships that I hope will last a lifetime.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer, Gerry

EXHIBITS

BAC Native Plants Exhibit at Sherway Gardens Mall

July 6 - Aug 17

BAC Exhibit - Trees: From Roots to Crown Todmorden Mills

Nov 4 - 15, 2009

COURSES

Tasira Strimban Barishev Scarborough, ON

July 5-6 & 8-9
 Aug 16-17 & 19-20

Celia Godkin Brockville, ON

July 28-30

Kerri Weller Ottawa

July 14-18
 Sept 15 - Nov 24
 Sept 23 - Nov 25
 Jan 20 - Feb 17

Julie Wilson Newfoundland

Aug 4-8

Nellie Sue Potter Toronto

Oct 1 - Dec 3
 Oct 2 - Dec 4
 Oct 18 - Nov 22

FINANCIAL UPDATE
 As of June 2nd the BAC bank balance stands at \$4,520.76

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

from Raquel Baranyai, Membership and Communications Coordinator

Since the last issue of the newsletter we have gained quite a few members. I wish to welcome Trish Murphy, Josephine Dasko, Rita-Anne Piquet, Marjorie Pepper and Sandee Shore, all from Toronto, and Mary Hallam from Stouffville.

The BAC website has been a great source of information about our organization and has increased public interest in us. Our presence at Canada Blooms also brought some new members, and our exposure through both connections brought back a few old friends as well, all welcome.

Any time you want to have an updated copy of the Contact List just send me a message or call me to ask for it. I usually send one to the whole membership at the beginning of the year. The Contact List doesn't have email addresses now to protect member's privacy. They are kept on a separate list available only to the Coordinating Group. General announcements and the newsletters are sent as Blind Carbon Copy.

Please remember that BAC's fiscal year runs from July 1st 2008 to June 30th 2009, which means the beginning of that period is the time to pay your membership dues, kept at \$30, as well as the coverage of your website gallery, which is \$20.

This is my fourth year in charge of Membership. When I started I found out that Mary Rose Woodbridge was volunteering to send hard copies of every announcement and newsletter to members who are not online. It is wonderful to know that I don't even need to ask her. She is always one step ahead of me. Thank you, Mary Rose!

We look forward to another creative and successful year...

Raquel Baranyai
BAC Membership and Communications
raquelbaranyai@sympatico.ca
416-498-9279

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: A REPORT

from Linda Bryden

It is my pleasure to report on events and workshops for the Botanical Artists of Canada for the past year, June 2007-08.

Our annual meeting was held at the Toronto Botanical Gardens on June 16th 2007. We reviewed last year's minutes and approved nominations for the Coordinating Group for the coming year. Our speaker, Miriam Goldberger told us about the endeavours of her "Wildflower Farm" business. Their big feature was a special grass called "Eco Friendly," and she hoped it would be used widely in the future.

In the autumn, we mounted an Exhibition of Canadian Native Plants and Wildflowers at Todmorden Mills. It was a very successful show with great interest from the public.

The winter months fled by with mountains of snow and many inclement days. Most of us stayed at home, painted in our studios and ventured out occasionally. Some of the luckier ones escaped to warmer climates for needed rest and relaxation.

During these months, Nellie Sue Potter, in her position of Promotions Coordinator, had discussions with "Evergreen" about our potential involvement in their summer festival, "Farm to Fork". Although it was recently deemed not feasible, there may be other initiatives, which will come because of her conversations and involvement.

In late February, Nellie Sue came to the Coordinating Group with a proposal to rent a booth at Canada Blooms, in the Educational Section of the show. This was enthusiastically accepted. The purpose of the booth was to promote our organization by handing out note cards and pamphlets with information about our website and membership forms. Our generous volunteers had fun talking to the people and even demonstrated techniques. There was great interest and, as a result of our efforts, we gained three new members for BAC, a commission for one of our artists, some new students for another, invitations to see special gardens, and chances for future interviews and magazine space! It also gave us the opportunity to exhibit our wildflower paintings at Sherway Gardens! We hope to repeat this very successful initiative next year.

Also, at Canada Blooms, some of our members exhibited their artwork with Margit Koritar in her gallery. We heard many compliments about the work being displayed.



Linda Bryden at BAC's Canada Blooms booth

Our beautiful website continues to be updated with new information and new galleries for members. We also have added a "Members Forum" for interactive discussions. Remember to visit the website regularly and get your images posted, and use the forum to guide you in your work. Our grateful thanks go to Gerry Jenkison for caring for our website.

Nellie Sue Potter gave an excellent slide show and talk at a West end library on the history of Botanical Art. Attending that event were representatives from the following magazines: "Seeds of Diversity," "Snap," and "The Canadian Herbalist Magazine." All of these could have an interest in featuring botanical art. There is an opportunity and a challenge for follow up! To advertise her talk, Nellie Sue put up numerous posters in her neighbourhood, – all great advertising and promotion! Good work Nellie Sue!

In May, our own Karen Taylor shared with us her techniques for dry brushwork. She unveiled the mystery of creating textures for fuzzy leaves and mottled pears by using a variety of colours layered with the driest of brush strokes. Karen's vast knowledge of colour is derived from her background in science and much study and experimentation. She told us her best choices and paint brands for achieving those necessary dark colours for shadows and backgrounds.

Also in May, we had a wonderful three-day workshop from our new member from Vancouver, Sherry Mitchell. You will recall her beautiful award winning painting at Todmorden, and her image of "Fawn Lilies" that adorned our invitation to the show.



Sherry's "photo realism" style of painting gave us new insights on how to premix a series of colours and to achieve wonderful lights by leaving the white of the paper. She was generous in her help to us and we all came away with new inspirations, not only for our painting styles, but also for photographing nature. On the Wednesday evening before the workshop, Sherry gave us a slide show, which was offered to all of our members. Sherry has a career not only as a painter, but also as an author of children's books and as a talented craftsperson. We really enjoyed getting to know Sherry through this evening and her workshop.



You can see we've had a busy and eventful year with a good variety of activities. Again, we invite you as members to participate in our workshops and exhibitions. None of these can take place without considerable planning and work. It is by being involved that you make new friendships and learn new skills. Please mark our upcoming events on your calendars and join us. Your membership in BAC will take on new dimensions and that is a promise!

**TREASURER'S REPORT
from Donna Greenstein**

I took over as BAC treasurer in June 2004 at the AGM. Since then I have met many wonderful fellow botanical artists. I enjoyed being part of the BAC Coordinating Group volunteers who keep BAC viable.

Here is the treasurer's job description: keep a spreadsheet journal of all income and expenses of BAC, pay all bills and accounts approved by the Coordinating Group, obtain and keep all receipts for all expenses, collect membership fees from the Membership and Communications Coordinator, deposit all cheques and monies in the BAC bank account, prepare financial statements for presentation at each Coordinating Group meeting or email as produced, complete the annual return for the June AGM, attend Coordinating Group meetings in the capacity of Treasurer, and preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair and Secretary.

Over the years that I have been a member of BAC, I have learned the art of botanical watercolours by attending coaching sessions at Lawrence Park Community Church in 2004, showing at the Aird Gallery in 2005, taking workshops from Doug Purdon in 2005, Arlene Steinberg in 2006, critique nights in 2006, Emily Luks' Garden Party in 2006, Katie Lee in 2007, the open studios at Gerry Jenkison's building and recently the Canada Blooms booth and Sherry Mitchell in 2008. I attended every year's AGM and helped with the implementation of the BAC website. I had my work photographed by Dodge for the BAC portfolio. These are just a small part of many great memories of BAC. It's the people who make BAC so fantastic.

The treasurer's job will be taken over by my capable, talented friend Fran Andreana. We are both members of the art group Kaleidoscope. I am sure that she will enjoy being Treasurer as much as I have.

\$

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY
July 2007 – June 2008**

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance Forward June 30 2007 | \$4,228.31 |
| Income | |
| - Membership Fees | \$2,595.00 |
| - Sherry Mitchell Workshop | \$4,050.00 |
| - Todmorden Show | \$1,450.00 |
| - Party room deposit returned | \$250.00 |
| Total Year's Income | \$8,345.00 |
| Expenses | |
| - Bank Service Charges | \$138.98 |
| - Admin, Mail, Communications | \$219.94 |
| - Meeting Costs | \$855.30 |
| - Sherry Mitchell Workshop | \$2,548.41 |
| - Website Costs | \$803.00 |
| - Todmorden Show | \$1,904.81 |
| - Gifts | \$195.29 |
| - Canada Blooms Booth | \$1,386.82 |
| Total Year's Expenses | \$8,052.55 |
| Bank Balance June 2, 2008 | \$4,520.76 |

SHAH JEHAN'S BOTANICAL ARCHITECTURE by our foreign correspondent Peta Lomborg

In the 1600's Shah Jehan was emperor and ruled from the Red Fort in Delhi until his one son overthrew and imprisoned him. He was pretty much the last of the great Moghul emperors, building opulent buildings and ruling over a highly cultured and learned Delhi.

The Red Fort covers a huge area, at one time housing over 3,000 people. It was built from red sandstone and consists of battlements, an audience hall where the Shah received supplicants, messengers and diplomats; plus there are a number of palaces in the grounds, one for the harem, for his most important wife for whom he also built the Taj Mahal, as well as his own palace. Shah Jehan's palace is marble, was gold and jewel encrusted, and had a botanical theme. (See the attached photo). The artwork repeats on each pillar, and in stonework.



In addition there are gardens, a mosque, and bathing chambers which had scented running water! Elephants roamed the grounds, and when the Shah or the harem went out it was in a train of eighty elephants, servants in front dusting the way, pushing citizens aside. Nothing small about this court!

For what it's worth... an internet search on Shah Jehan will turn up the works and probably something on the artistic style and meaning.



Above: detail of floral art from the base of the column seen to the left.



Peta Lomborg, former BAC newsletter editor, is currently spending a year doing voluntary service in Bhubaneswar, India.

**DESIGNING A COIN
FOR THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT**
by Celia Godkin, Newsletter
Editor



PURPLE SAXIFRAGE BY CELIA GODKIN

PURPLE SAXIFRAGE BY CELIA GODKIN

2008 99999 GOLD COIN—
PURPLE SAXIFRAGE



The purest gold
coin in the world.

Illustration

Only 1,400 coins worldwide
#100471—\$1,676.95 CDN NO GST!

In April 2007 I received a phone call out of the blue, asking me if I was interested in submitting a design for the Royal Canadian Mint. In the past, I've been asked to submit for stamp competitions, and I've never had any success with that, so initially I didn't get too excited about this offer. Then I learned that, unlike Canada Post, the mint actually pays for their selected artists to submit designs. Money speaks! I said yes.

My initial reluctance had not just been about money. The deadline for submitting the design was the day of my return from a three-week trip to Europe, so I effectively had one week to do the work before my departure.

I'd never designed a coin before, nor was I familiar with its subject, the purple saxifrage, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, adopted in 2000 as the floral emblem of Nunavut, Canada's youngest territory. I began by checking my reference collection and the Internet for information and I brought home books from the local library.

I learned that the saxifrage family is distinguished from the closely related rose family by the presence of two carpels, and that the purple saxifrage is distinguished from other members of this genus in having opposite leaves: hence the species name *oppositifolia*. It would be important to show these features. I found a detailed description of the flower that listed ten stamens and five sepals, but no petal count was given. On examining my sources, I noted that petal counts vary. I settled on five as this was the commonest number. As part of the Mint's requirements, all this had to be documented, together with my references. They also asked for a biography and a written rationale for the drawing design, as well as the design itself.

One of my conundrums was a lack of knowledge of the engravers art. How much detail could they show? In consultation with my contact at the Mint, all via e-mail, I determined that they could show the stamens but not the fine hairs that cover the leaves.

I prepared two line drawings of the design for them to choose from, both with five flowers, and below these clusters of leaves showing the opposite leaf pattern unique to this saxifrage species. The final design was submitted as a pen and ink drawing that showed where the engravers should make their cuts, and also as a detailed pencil drawing shaded to show the

relief (which areas should be raised and which recessed). I fired it all off on the internet and left for my holiday, content in the knowledge that I'd given it my best shot.

To my delight on my return I learned that my design had been selected. There were no revisions required, and this was the first time my contact at the Mint could remember that happening.

The reason that this article is coming out now, and not last year, is that coin designs are very hush-hush. Apparently people steal ideas for coins, and I wasn't at liberty to divulge anything until this spring when the coin was released. You can find more information on it by going to www.mint.ca and entering saxifrage in the search box. It has a face value of \$350. I had planned to buy one until I discovered that it sells for the extraordinary price of \$1,676.95.

You may be asking: how do I get the Mint to consider me for a coin design? Relax. They are aware of the BAC website and the next time they are in need of a botanical artist they will search through the member pages for suitable artists. It's just one of the many advantages of being a BAC member. And if you don't already have a member page – time to get cracking!

How to add yourself to the BAC Website

To have your own gallery, send the following to gerry.jenkison@sympatico.ca:

- A biography, max 500 words, with contact information.
- Up to three jpegs of your images with English and Latin names (if you have them) and medium.
- A link to your website, if you have one.
- A cheque for \$20, payable to BAC.

FIVE GOOD REASONS TO JOIN THE BAC ONLINE FORUM by Gerry Jenkison, Website Coordinator

1. Read Donna's "how to" on removing those grey-blue backgrounds from your scans.
2. See Marjo's meticulous notebook entries from developing her turban squash painting – plus the finished work.
3. Read about the materials that Raquel – a master of the colour pencil – uses.
4. See the article on member Pamela Meacher's work in the ASBA newsletter.
5. Join discussions, contribute your experience and learn from your fellow members informally. Or just go to "Chatterbox" and chat!

HOW TO JOIN THE FORUM

1. Register. Go to <http://botanicalartistsofcanada.org/forum/> and register at the top-right of the screen.
 - Enter your name and a password (you can ignore many of the other fields).
 - I suggest you choose "Always notify me of replies: Sends an e-mail when someone replies to a topic you have posted in. This can be changed whenever you post", as it will keep you involved in the ensuing exchange.
 - Press Submit. You'll get a message saying you've registered.
2. Get activated so that you can use the forum (this is necessary because our Forum is private for BAC members).
 - Email me at gerry.jenkison@sympatico.ca to say you've joined the Forum, and I'll activate you as soon as I can. (Should be the same day, but I'm not always at home monitoring my email.) I'll email you back to confirm that you're "good to go."

THE NEW SHIRLEY SHERWOOD GALLERY OF BOTANICAL ART AT KEW by Celia Godkin, Newsletter Editor

Kew Gardens in London, houses both the world's foremost collection of plant specimens and its most comprehensive collection of botanical literature. The latter includes an unparalleled art collection of 200,000 botanical art drawings, watercolours, oil paintings and prints that, due to their fragile nature, remained largely hidden away from the general public. Only the oil paintings of the intrepid 19th century botanical artist, Marianne North, have been on view at the Marianne North Gallery. But the paintings in this quaint and charming gallery are now under threat from damp and mould and the gallery is currently undergoing extensive renovation, with only half the collection on display when I visited it in April this year.

April 19th 2008 marked the opening of the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art at Kew, and this is what I was there to see. The problems with the Marianne North Gallery, which the new gallery is attached to, underline the need for a special building to house delicate works of art, and Kew has been at pains to build their new gallery to exacting specifications that allow it to maintain constant temperature and humidity and appropriate light levels.

The opening exhibit featured works by such notable artists as the Bauer brothers, Ehret, Fitch, Maria Sybilla Merian and Pandora Sellars, among many others, drawn from the Kew collections and the Shirley Sherwood collection. The second exhibition will focus on trees as part of this summer's Tree Festival at Kew. By changing the works on display every few months, the gallery will not only allow the public to see more of its vast collections, but will help to preserve delicate watercolours from fading due to long term exposure to light.

I visited the exhibit with a friend who was a keen gardener but who had had little previous exposure to botanical art. She was as impressed by the paintings as I was, and delighted to find an art form that she could relate to after the incomprehensible installations at Tate Britain we'd seen on a previous outing together. I resisted the temptation to purchase the show's catalogue, since many of the images I have already in other books, but I did purchase the Spring 2008 edition of Kew Magazine, which contains many interesting articles about botanical art and from which much of the information for this article was obtained.

For further information on the Kew Galleries, see:

<http://makingamark.blogspot.com/2008/02/kew-gardens-two-women-and-two-galleries.html>
and http://www.kew.org/events/shirley_sherwood_gallery.html

BOTANICAL ART COURSES

NEWFOUNDLAND: BOTANICAL WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP with JULIE WILSON

**The July courses are now full, but there is still space for the August 4 - 8 course.
Time: 9.30 a.m.- 12.30 p.m. Cost: \$125.**

Details can be obtained from Julie at julie@jgeldenhuys.com.
Visit her webpage at www.jgeldenhuys.com/BotanicalWatercolors.html

See the Spring edition of the BAC Newsletter for Julie's biography and course details



**SCARBOROUGH, ONTARIO:
COLOUR WORKSHOP SERIES
with
TASIRA STRIMBAN BARISHEV**

Study of PURPLE for Botanical Artists

Dates: Sat/Sun, July 5 & 6

Tues/Wed July 8 & 9

Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Study of WHITE for Botanical Artists

Dates: Sat/Sun, August 16 & 17

Tues/Wed, August 19 & 20

Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Fee: \$140

**Location: Barishev Art School,
2965 Kingston Rd, Suite 2A**

Contact: Tasira

416-471-4731 tbar@rogers.com

**See the Spring edition of the BAC
Newsletter for details**

**BROCKVILLE, ONTARIO:
DRAWING IN THE PARK
with CELIA GODKIN**

July 28-30, 10 .m. – 5 p.m.

Cost \$143.10

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

Learn to draw in chalk 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/parttime/SummerArts.html

TEL: 613-345-0660, ext. 3283,

Toll free: 1-888-838-0698 (press 6)

FAX: 613-345-0124



**OTTAWA:
BOTANICAL ART CLASSES with KERRI WELLER**

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Algonquin College, Ottawa</p> <p>Summer Arts Program Botanical Art in Watercolour Course Number - MMA5003 July 14 - 18, 9 am to 5 pm Tuition: \$ 288.68</p> <p>This hands-on-workshop introduces materials and traditional watercolour techniques to create detailed realistic portraits of botanical subjects. Sketching in the gardens at the college is combined with exercises in the classroom on colour and techniques. Demonstrations and painting practice of leaves and flowers enable participants to accurately portray a botanical subject of their choice.</p> | <p>Nepean Visual Arts Centre, Ottawa</p> <p>Botanical Art - Level 1 Drawing Sept 23 - Nov 25, Tuesdays, 1 - 3:30 pm</p> <p>Through practical exercises, master fundamental drawing skills necessary to create true to life drawings and paintings of botanical subjects. Suitable for beginners</p> |
| <p>Algonquin College, Ottawa</p> <p>Fall Program Botanical Art in Watercolour Sept 15 to Nov 24, Mondays, 7 - 10 pm</p> <p>The fall registration begins on July 15th and the Algonquin College website will be updated with all details that time. For course description: see above.</p> | <p>Nepean Visual Arts Centre, Ottawa</p> <p>Botanical Art - Level 2 Watercolour Jan 20 to Feb 17, Tuesdays, 1 - 3:30 pm</p> <p>Materials and basic watercolour techniques for botanical painting are introduced. Through exercises and demos, participants will work towards accurately portraying a botanical subject of their choice in watercolour. Suitable for students with Botanical Art Level I or equivalent drawing experience.</p> |

Websites for the above courses:

Algonquin College, Summer Arts Program:
www.algonquincollege.com/summerarts/finearts.html

Algonquin College, Fall Program:
www.algonquincollege.com

Nepean Visual Arts Centre (details available mid August):
http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/arts/courses_workshops/nepean_visual/index_en.html

You may also contact Kerri Weller: k.weller@magma.ca

TORONTO: BOTANICAL ART CLASSES with NELLIE SUE POTTER

Wednesdays, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m., October 1 - December 3 at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre
Thursdays, 3:30 – 6 p.m., October 2 - December 4 at High Park Nature Centre
Saturdays, 1 - 4 p.m., October 18 – November 22 at The Royal Ontario Museum

For more information contact Nellie Sue at 416-797-5968 or nelliesue@rogers.com

Nellie Sue will also be leading one of the free High Park Walking Tours. The theme of the walk is learning about nature through art, so bring your sketchpad and pencils. The walk will start at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 13th and finish about noon. Meet at the benches across the road from the Grenadier Restaurant patio. For more information about the tours, visit www.highpark.org

EXHIBITIONS UPDATE from Gerry Jenkison & Nellie Sue Potter

We have two important pieces of news about BAC exhibitions.

First, we've come to the conclusion that this year's Farm to Fork event is not a suitable space for BAC to exhibit this year. We were unable to meet the organizer of Farm to Fork and see the space until late last week. In many ways, partnering with Brickworks—Evergreen is an ideal opportunity for BAC. But the exhibition space is smaller than we'd thought and would be open to the public for a very short time. Consequently, we felt our promotional efforts for BAC would be better spent elsewhere, this summer at least.

As one door closes, another often opens. Through our participation at Canada Blooms, we've had an invitation to exhibit at Sherway Gardens Mall for six weeks in July and August this summer. Our work will hang in secure glass-fronted display boxes in a high-traffic area and will be covered by Sherway's insurance. Sherway's exhibitions coordinator will handle sales for us, without commission or fees. (Sherway Gardens Mall is a high-end shopping centre in west Toronto.) The show will be a reprisal of our native plants exhibition at Todmorden, and members will be invited to resubmit paintings that were accepted for that show. Irene Hunchak, our Exhibitions Coordinator, has sent out a Call for Entries. If you haven't received one, call Irene @ (905) 338-9427 or email: DANDI@EOL.CA. Submission deadline is June 27.

ON THE SUBJECT OF TREES by Irene Hunchak, Exhibitions Coordinator

My husband was born in England and lived in Somerset during his childhood and early adult life. The rear garden had several majestic trees, one of them being a sweet horse chestnut. One of his favourite childhood activities was to climb the tree with a complete sense of security. The strong limbs would hold him and the leaves would shelter him, and he was able to do whatever young English boys do in trees.

Decades later, our young daughter continued the tradition of climbing up into the chestnut, and would perch there quietly undetected. She would survey the comings and goings of neighbours and catch snatches of conversations, all the while knowing she was safely hidden amongst the dense canopy. I have since made a painting that shows a young girl sitting in a chestnut tree, and each time I look at it brings warm memories of family, England, and this majestic leafy creature.

Many of us have emotional connections to trees, which perhaps will be evident in your future works of art for BAC's next major juried exhibition: *"Trees: From Roots to Crown"*. (Thanks to Raquel Baranyai for suggesting the exhibition title.) This exhibition will be at the Todmorden Mills Papermill Gallery, November 4-15, 2009. (See details below in BAC EXHIBITION NEWS.)

We will be organizing different activities and excursions over the next year whose focus will be on the subject of trees. To kick-start these activities, please join Nellie Sue Potter in the "High Park Walking Tour", Toronto, Sunday, July 13th, starting at 10:30 am. Please meet at the benches across the road from the Grenadier Restaurant. High Park has some magnificent specimens.

It may be well worth it to invest in a guide to trees to have on hand as a reference book. Perhaps a trip to the library to pick up a book on tree botany might also be useful.

If you have any suggestions for activities or excursions, please feel free to contact me. Happy arboreal journeys!

BAC EXHIBITION NEWS: "TREES: FROM ROOTS TO CROWN" from Irene Hunchak, Exhibitions Coordinator

BAC's next major juried exhibition will be held at Todmorden Mills Papermill Gallery, November 4-15, 2009. Call for Entries will be published in early 2009. So that you may start your planning and paintings/drawings, the scope of eligible subjects will be as follows:

- Any tree worldwide (**not** restricted to native Canadian trees)
- Definition of a "tree": An erect, perennial, woody plant with a definite crown usually reaching over 4 m in height, having a dominant stem or trunk (or trunks) reaching at least 7.5 cm in diameter
- Shrubs/bushes are not eligible. A shrub is defined to be a perennial, woody plant, usually less than 4 m tall and bushy with several (typically less than 7.5 cm wide) main stems originating at or near the ground
- The tree may be depicted in whole, or any of its individual components (bark, crown, leaves, branches, flowers, fruit, shoots and buds, seeds)

Any work of art submitted to the exhibition must meet BAC's definition of botanical art:

"Botanical art includes botanical documentation (scientific illustration enabling plant identification) and botanical art (aesthetically pleasing presentation as well as scientifically accurate).

Botanical art can include forms of zoological life that have a relevant relationship with the plant material. Zoological elements must be secondary to the plant material.

Botanical art can also include a background, as long as its elements are part of the natural habitat of the plant subject and secondary in prominence.

Botanical art does not include 'floral fine art', where the subject is depicted in a more impressionistic way."

Questions? Contact Irene Hunchak at (905) 338-9427 or dandi@eol.ca

Events Calendar

| Date | Event | Details | Contact |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| July 5 – 6 or July 8 - 9 | Colour workshop for botanical artists - purple | Barishev Art School, 2965 Kingston Rd, Suite 2A | Tasira Strimban Barishev, (416) 471-4731 tbar@rogers.com |
| July 6 - Aug 17 | BAC Native Plants Exhibit | Sherway Gardens Mall, Toronto | Call Irene Hunchak @ (905) 338-9427 or email: DANDI@EOL.CA |
| July 14 - 18 | Botanical watercolour with Kerri Weller | Algonquin College, Ottawa 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. | www.algonquincollege.com/summerarts/finearts.html |
| July 28-30 | Drawing in the Park with Celia Godkin | St. Lawrence College, Brockville, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | www.stlawrencecollege.ca/parttime/SummerArts.html 1-888-838-0698 x 6 |
| Aug 4 - 8 | Botanical painting workshop with Julie Wilson | Plate Cove, Newfoundland 9-12:30, \$125 | Julie Wilson julie@jgeldenhuys.com ; www.jgeldenhuys.com/botanicalwatercolors.html |
| Aug 16 – 17 or Aug 19-20 | Colour workshop for botanical artists - white | Barishev Art School, 2965 Kingston Rd, Suite 2A | Tasira Strimban Barishev, (416) 471-4731 tbar@rogers.com |
| Sep 15 - Nov 24 | Botanical watercolour with Kerri Weller | Algonquin College, Ottawa 7 - 10 p.m. | www.algonquincollege.com |
| Oct 1 - Dec 3 | Botanical Art classes in Toronto | Cedar Ridge Creative Centre Wed, 9 a.m. –12 p.m. \$299 | Nellie Sue Potter (416)797-5968 nelliesue@NatureArtStudio.ca |
| Oct 2 - Dec 4 | Botanical Art classes in Toronto | The Grenadier, High Park Thu, 3:30 – 6 p.m. \$299 | Nellie Sue Potter (416)797-5968 nelliesue@NatureArtStudio.ca |
| Oct 10 - Nov 22 | Botanical Art classes in Toronto | Royal Ontario Museum Sat 1 – 4 p.m. \$270 | Nellie Sue Potter (416)797-5968 nelliesue@NatureArtStudio.ca |
| Fall & Winter | Botanical watercolour in Ottawa with Kerri Weller | Nepean Visual Arts Centre Tues. 1 – 3:30 p.m. p.m. | http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/arts/courses_workshops/nepean_visual/index_en.html |
| Jan 12 – 16 2009 | Botanical painting workshop with Julie Wilson | Halifax, NS | Julie Wilson julie@jgeldenhuys.com ; www.jgeldenhuys.com/botanicalwatercolors.html |
| Nov 4 – 15 2009 | BAC exhibit Trees: From Roots to Crown | Papermill Gallery, Todmorden Mills, Toronto | Irene Hunchak (905) 338-9427 dandi@eol.ca |

BAC coordinating group

Chair: Nellie Sue Potter

Acting Secretary: Linda Bryden

Treasurer: Fran Andreana

Membership & Communications Coordinator: Emily Luks, Sophie Barbara Phillips
Raquel Baranyai

Exhibitions Coordinator: Irene Hunchak

Website Coordinator: Gerry Jenkison

Newsletter: Celia Godkin

Four newsletters are published each year. Deadline for the next newsletter is September 15, 2008. Please send submissions to celiagodkin@ripnet.com

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

For more information contact Raquel Baranyai at raquelbaranyai@sympatico.ca

See membership information at www.botanicalartistsofcanada.org

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.