

Remembering Deborah – A tribute by Pamela Stagg

Our much-loved chair, Deborah Marrison, died of breast cancer on October 21st. She had been in poor health much of the time I knew her, yet throughout her illnesses, she was courageous and cheerful. Instead of complaining about her colostomy and her cancer, she talked about her children and grandchildren (with many photographs). Even when she was seriously ill, she brought cookies to class and treated us to her gentle humour. All in BAC who had the privilege of spending time with her, will miss her.

Deborah's brother, Hugh Parrott, wrote this poem:

Deborah

Here I see no colours,
Simply black,
Black, dark black and grey,
Such is the cruel game our minds play.
But now her earthly self is gently placed on one side
So memories of her will clear the sky
And clouds will be no more
And her smile will be my sunshine
And her laugh will be my joy
As with pleasure I seek – and find – her colours
Those careful colours which she so tenderly considered:
And those – her colours – will forever be my rainbow.



The other remembrance is the eulogy which I was asked to deliver at her funeral.

- I had the very great pleasure of teaching Deborah botanical painting since 1992. Her talent was obvious from the start. A friend of hers, Debbie Stephenson, wrote from California earlier this week, "Her artwork is a perfect embodiment of [Deborah] lovely and gracious in all the smallest details."

I remember Deborah most poignantly for a class she took shortly after chemotherapy. Although she looked elegant in the hats and scarves that covered her hair loss, she was thin and obviously exhausted. We would have understood if she'd complained, yet she spoke only of the joy of being able to paint again with her friends. At the end of the week, she told me how inspiring it had been to spend time with her fellow artists.

But Deborah, we were the ones who were inspired – by your determination to use your limited strength for something meaningful. Those of us in class with you that week will never forget your courage. We had hoped to paint with you for years to come, but it was not to be. Deborah, we'll miss you so very much.

LISTENING TO MEMBERS

On November 24, the BAC Coordinating Committee and members met at Toronto Botanical Gardens for a "Show and Tell" critique evening and to discuss the direction of the association. Over 20 members attended.

- BAC will focus on workshops and exhibitions
 - Louise Chenier and Peta Lomborg will act as chairs of BAC until the AGM in June.
- See page 3 for full report.

UPCOMING EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

Fourth Annual Botanical Art Show at Canada Blooms, March 3-7, 2004- juried show.

Niagara Parks "Visions from the Gardens", June 11 - 13, 2004. Open to all BAC members, beginners to experienced.

Toronto Botanical Gardens (CGC) – July 27 to August 9, 2004.

Volunteer! Jean Johnson is our exhibition organizer, but needs help with the Niagara and TBG shows. Tasks include hanging paintings, 'manning' the show, making labels, receiving submissions, an opening event, and much more. Get involved - and have fun! Call Jean: tel: (416) 486- 1014

BANKED

As at end November BAC bank balance was \$4,607. BAC has 67 paid up members.

COLOUR PENCIL WORKSHOP WITH ARLENE STEINBERG

Mark your calendars and book now for a special colour pencil workshop with a leading New York based artist, **Arlene Steinberg**.

Arlene worked for 22 years as a textile and wallpaper designer, even having her own hand-screened wallpaper company for many years. Eventually she felt she needed a change and started working in collage, then switched to paper sculpture. In April of 2001, Arlene picked up her colored pencils after a long hiatus, and did her first rendering; a lily. She was hooked. She has since gone on to exhibit in major shows and has her own website. <http://arlene.artistnation.com/>. You can see examples of her excellent work. She also runs colour pencil workshops throughout the U.S.

BAC is bringing Arlene to Toronto especially for this two and a half day workshop on Saturday and Sunday **March 20 and 21** (9am to 4pm) with an introductory presentation and reception on Friday evening **March 19** at 7.30 to 9.30. The workshop is limited to 20 people, and will be held in Lynda Bryden's studio / home in North York. Cost is \$175 for members and \$185 for non-members. Refreshments are included. If you cancel before March 12, you will receive half of your registration back, and all only if we can fill your place.

All BAC members are invited to meet Arlene at the Friday evening presentation and reception at Hannah Levitt's, 2727 Yonge Street (just north of Sporting Life). \$5 at the door.

To secure your spot on the course, send a cheque made out to Botanical Artists of Canada, c/o Emily Luks, 8 Wilket Road, Toronto Ont M2L 1N6. **Book now**

CELIA GODKIN'S COURSES

- Celia is running some private classes on painting with water-soluble oils. See page 7.

For information on **University of Toronto Continuing Education** courses and to register, go to <http://learn.utoronto.ca/uoft/publicViewHome.do?method=load>

- BOTANICAL DRAWING: INTRODUCTION SCS #0420 011 (Winter). Thu 6:30 - 9 pm 5 Feb - 27 Mar/04
- BOTANICAL DRAWING: FOLLOW-UP SCS #1157 - 001 (Spring). Tue 6:30 - 9 pm 4 May - 15 Jun/04
- BOTANICAL WATERCOLOUR: INTRODUCTION SCS # 0530 -010 (Winter). Sat 10 am - 12:30 pm 14 Feb - 27 Mar/04
- BOTANICAL WATERCOLOUR: FOLLOW-UP SCS # 1158-001 (Spring). Thu 6:30 - 9 pm 6 May - 17 Jun/04
- OPEN STUDIO SCS # 0501-002 (Winter). Sat 2 - 4:30 pm 14 Feb - 27 Mar/04
- DRAWING FROM NATURE SCS # 1159 - 001 (Winter). Wed 6:30 - 9 pm 4 Feb - 17 Mar/04

PAMELA STAGG'S UPCOMING COURSES AND LECTURE

In February, Pamela is doing a Master Class on Cyclamens and giving a lecture on the illustrations in her new Rose book. See calendar for details. Other special courses are:

Botanical Painting at Amherst Island, June 5 – 7, 2004. A relaxing get-away. Students at last year's workshop loved the wonderful food, welcoming hospitality and peaceful, lakeside ambience of The Lodge at Amherst Island, near Belleville. There's great kayaking, too! For information contact Molly Stroyman at 416-533-5997.

Northern Wildflower Painting Adventure, July 1 – 10, 2004. Field sketching, reference photography and botanical painting amid the spectacular mountains and lakes of northern B.C.'s historic Gold Rush country, south of Whitehorse. This surprisingly affordable course includes basic, self-catered accommodation at Atlin Art Centre, high above beautiful Atlin Lake. Details will be posted soon on www.atlinart.com or contact Pamela Stagg at pstagg@sprint.ca or 416-423-0477.

MEMBER UPDATE

At the November 24, 2003 meeting of members, there was a great deal of discussion and the group made some decisions and/or recommendations about how we should focus and operate going forward. Here is a summary.

Tribute to Deborah Marrison

We would like to purchase one of Deborah's paintings and present it to the Toronto Botanical Gardens (formerly Civic Gardens Centre) for hanging. However the TBG do not currently have a policy or process for receiving such gifts, and have to discuss it at their Governance Committee, so there will be some delay. We decided we would ask BAC members if you would like to make a contribution (\$10 to \$15 is suggested) and BAC would fund any shortfall (for a total of about \$500). We know a number of members have already made private donations in Deborah's memory. If you wish to participate send your contribution to:

- BAC, c/o John Eedy, 3559 Eglinton Ave, #509, Toronto, Ont, M6M 5C6 – mark it clearly for the Deborah Marrison tribute.

Acting chairs

Members agreed to the suggestion that instead of calling a general meeting to elect a new chair, coordinating committee members Louise Chenier and Peta Lomborg would take on the task in an acting capacity until the next AGM in June.

BAC direction

We have been presented with a number of opportunities to branch out with our activities – to, for instance, develop a BAC website or produce a calendar. Although feedback from you on the calendar idea was mostly positive, the members have decided that, given our resources (volunteers and money) we should focus on core activities – exhibitions and educational activities like workshops. We have therefore 'shelved' the calendar idea for now, and until more economic print processes are available for small quantities. You will find a host of workshop and exhibition information in this newsletter. 2004 is going to be an exciting time for us.

An 'active' association

The meeting decided that we should bring a motion to the next AGM that there should be some sort of minimum participation requirement of BAC members. For instance – within member's' geographical ability to participate – members might be required to do three things each year – enter a painting for an exhibition, attend a workshop, help out at some event, contribute to the newsletter, help with refreshments, make some phone calls, etc. Being an active member does not have to be onerous and wherever you live or whatever your time constraints, there will be something you can do. We will vote on this suggestion at the AGM. Meanwhile send any comments to peta@lomborgnetwork.com

BAC Portfolio of work

Thanks to the work of Jan Mok, along with volunteer member Peggy Stoddart, we have been able to develop a PowerPoint presentation that includes samples of work. The presentation will be used to demonstrate the quality and range of the work that BAC members produce.

Watch for information on...

- Starting in 2004, monthly special coaching sessions on specific topics.
- The next critique, new member welcome and wine sipping evening - all attendees must bring a painting (complete or not). At Emily Luk's. Date to be announced.
- In response to a member suggestion, we've arranged for an article in the next newsletter on the nuts and bolts of preparing for exhibits, including the challenges of packing and shipping.

BAC PORTFOLIO UP-DATE

by Jan Mok

Objective

Our initial objective in creating a BAC portfolio, was to have a presentation that represents a sampling of our members work. The portfolio would be shown to potential sponsors, galleries and generally be utilized as a marketing tool to promote botanical art in Canada. The digital format (as well as hard copy – 8 ½” x 11” bound colour photocopy) enables BAC members to show our work in a consistent format, without the risk of transporting original pieces.

Current status

We now have our first edition of the BAC portfolio! I would like to thank all those members who forwarded their paintings and digital images. It was a very difficult selection process, as there were quite a number of excellent pieces submitted. For this first version, we decided to choose 12 images that best illustrated the diversity, scope and quality of our BAC members. The following artist’s work has been included in the portfolio:

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|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Leslie Staples | Chinese Jack-o-lanterns | • Jan Mok | Orchid |
| • Pamela Stagg | Narrcissus , Onions | • Ivy Hill | Pinecone, Maple Leaves |
| • Linda Glass | Apple | • Peta Lomborg | Beetle |
| • Emly Luks | Dragon Fly | • Betriz Prasad | Magnolia |
| • Naomi Goldie | Pansies | • Patricia Bermiller | Tomatoes |

I would like to extend a special thanks to BAC member Peggy Stoddart and her team at “ENGINE ROOM” graphic design (Davisville and Yonge) for very kindly offering to transform all the paintings to digital images and for helping us put the portfolio into a PowerPoint presentation.

As mentioned earlier, this is just a first edition portfolio. We look forward to up-dating it on a frequent basis with new work. Any suggestions from the members regarding the portfolio would be welcome!

<p>“NEW LIFE” - A personal note</p> <p>1989 was a year of change. We moved from Peru to Canada. We arrived not knowing anybody and still questioning our future with three children. During that time Peru was going through terrorism. We knew we had to leave. We were determined to be strong, to survive and to be happy in order to embark on a new life.</p> <p>1990 was the onset of my art career. I became a docent at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection for seven years. My colleagues became my new family. I then set out to be a docent at the AGO. There I met Dawn Dougall who introduced me to Celia Godkin and her work. Celia's teachings lead to my obsession with botanical art.</p>	<p>by Emily Luks</p> <p>Recently I received a letter from the Arizona Sonora Museum Art Institute accepting two of my works. One of my paintings is now in the permanent collection at the Museum. One will function as a promotional piece. The exhibition, "Nature Painted" will be put on display from January to March 2004, at the Ironwood Gallery.</p> <p>I want to thank those who inspired my art. You have allowed me to become a better person and a better artist. As a personal note, I want to encourage all of you to passionately pursue your art, your talent and your dreams. As someone once said to me, "Life happens to you when you are making other plans".</p> <p>All my best wishes in the New Year.</p>
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NIAGARA EXHIBITION "Visions from the Gardens"

Dates: June 11,12,13

Place: Lower level in the School of Horticulture, Niagara Parkway (between Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls, close to the Butterfly Conservatory)

The Event: This is a mixed horticultural, gardening and botanical event with floral displays, a vendor section, art exhibitions and lectures and workshops. It spreads in and outdoors over the large horticultural gardens at Niagara. They expect to attract thousands of people from Canada and the United States.

Artwork: All BAC members are encouraged to participate in this exhibition – whether you're a beginner or highly experienced. This is not a juried show, but there will be some quality control of framing for instance, as we want to present a professional face. There will be a limit to the number of paintings each member can submit, depending on space available (we're waiting for final details)

Sales: All work can be sold, with a 25 percent commission going to the Niagara Parks. They will also pack and ship if the purchaser requires. We can also sell selected items such as botanical cards.

Costs: there will be a nominal cost for each painting submitted to cover expenses

Full information: will be coming early next year. As this exhibition is 'away', it will take lots of effort, receiving art, packing, transporting, hanging, 'manning' the show, taking down the exhibit – so please think about what you might be able to do to help, contact Jean Johnson, mark your calendars and even think about an overnight jaunt to Niagara. (Info will be forthcoming on reasonably priced accommodation – and there is a golf course next door!)

SPECIAL BUTTERFLY OPPORTUNITY – June 2004

As part of the Niagara show, Vichai Malikul, scientific illustrator in National Museum of Natural History's Department of Entomology, at the Smithsonian, will be running a workshop on butterfly illustration. Called "Painting Wondrous Wings", the course will focus on how to paint butterflies using acrylics. Vichai is the person responsible for the illustrations in Petersen's Guide to Eastern Butterflies. Look for more information in the next newsletter.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

- In the last newsletter, we said to look out for Roses, A Celebration, Thirty-three Eminent Gardeners on their Favourite Rose. Edited by Wayne Winterrowd. A recent Globe and Mail book review said "...But what really sets this collection apart are the original illustrations by [Pamela] Stagg that accompany each essay. Torontonians Stagg has an international reputation but, astonishingly, hasn't received the recognition in Canada that she deserves." At \$45 it is a great Christmas gift for a rose lover, botanical artist or gardener.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST – HAPPY HOLIDAYS

It's December and that means it's about to be holiday time. Your committee would like to wish you and your families a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season; and a wonderful 2004, with time and the inspiration to create and paint.

Louise Chenier, John Eedy, Jean Johnson, Peta Lomberg, Emily Luks, Karen McLean and Jan Mok

2003 Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Contact
September 23 – February 29	Healing Plants of Ida Hrubesky Pemberton	Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation	Tel 412-268 -2434
December 12	Canada Blooms entries	Deadline for receipt of slide	Margit Koritar 705-944-5695 margit@nexicom.net
Feb 1 - 3	Master Class in Painting Cyclamens, with Pamela Stagg	Toronto Botanical Garden/Civic Garden Centre	Rosetta Leung, TBG 416-387-1362
Feb 12	"Coming up Roses" a slide lecture by Pamela Stagg on paintings from the book, <i>Roses, A Celebration</i>	Toronto Botanical Garden/Civic Garden Centre	TBG 416-397-1351
Feb 13,14,15	Southern Ontario Orchid Society	Take your orchid paintings along for showing	
March 3-7	Canada Blooms	Juried Botanical exhibition	Margit Koritar, 705-944-5695 margit@nexicom.net
March 19 7.30 – 9.30	Arlene Steinberg - reception and presentation	Hannah Levitt's, 2727 Yonge Street, Toronto (just north of Sporting Life) (\$5.00 at door)	Emily Luks 416- 441-1992 saem@rogers.com
March 20,21 9 – 4 Book now	Arlene Steinberg Colour pencil workshop	Lynda Bryden's home, 25 Canary Crescent, Toronto. \$175 (members; \$185 (non-members).	Emily Luks 416-441-1992 saem@rogers.com
May 5 – June 16	Painting with water soluble oils – Celia Godkin	Patricia Bermiller's studio	Celia Godkin 416- 591-0491
June 5 – 7	Botanical Painting at Amherst Island –	With Pamela Stagg – see page 2	Molly Stroyman, 416-533-5997
June 11,12,13	Niagara "Visions from the Garden" BAC member exhibition	School of Horticulture, Niagara Parkway.	Jean Johnson, 416 486 1014 galanthus_jean@yahoo.ca
July 1 – 10	Northern Wildflower Painting Adventure	With Pamela Stagg.-See page 2	416-423-0477 pstagg@sprint.ca
July 27 to August 9	BAC member's exhibition	Toronto Botanical Gardens, Upper Link	Jean Johnson, 416 486 1014 galanthus_jean@yahoo.ca

MONTHLY PAINTING SESSIONS

The last Monday of every month	Monthly Painting Sessions – Patricia Bermiller's Studio	Studio open – 9 AM to 5 PM Fee \$5 per session	If you are interested in painting once a month at a studio with other botanical artists. Patricia Bermiller at 416-483-3367.
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PRIVATE PAINTING CLASSES

IN WATER SOLUBLE OILS with Celia Godkin

**Wednesday evenings, 6 – 9 pm, May 5 – June 16, 2004
in Patricia Bermiller's studio, at 318 St. Clements Ave. Toronto**

To sign up for the course, please send the attached registration form accompanied by a cheque for \$250, made out to:

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

Space is limited and you will be registered on receipt of cheque. The course fee is non-refundable within ten days of the course, unless we can fill your space with someone from the waiting list, in which case \$200 will be refunded.

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

REGISTRATION FORM:

PLEASE SIGN ME UP FOR THE OIL PAINTING CLASS

NAME

E-MAIL.....

PHONE/ FAX.....

ADDRESS.....

I ENCLOSE A CHEQUE FOR \$250

DIRECTIONS BY TTC

Take the #62 Avenue Road North bus from Eglinton station. St. Clements is the second light north of Eglinton. Patricia's house is on the north side, just a few houses east of Avenue Road.

ART SUPPLIES

FOR PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS: charcoal sticks, pencils, sketch paper, kneaded eraser, pencil sharpener. Optional items: tracing paper and spray fixative.

PAINTS: Winsor & Newton Artisan Water Mixable Oil Colour Starter Set. Contains six 21ml. tubes of these colours: cadmium yellow pale hue; permanent alizarin crimson, French ultramarine, phthalo green (blue shade) yellow ochre and titanium white.

MEDIUMS: Winsor & Newton Artisan Water Mixable Fast Drying Medium

GROUNDINGS: Hi art canvas board 9" x 12" or 10" x 14"
or canvas or masonite or stretched watercolour paper, primed with gesso (see next item)

PRIMER: Acrylic Gesso Primer (for unprimed grounds)

BRUSHES: Suggested selection of Winsor & Newton Artisan brushes; #1 round, #2 filbert, #6 flat or short flat plus a large, inexpensive synthetic brush for application of gesso. Additional brushes are optional.

MISCELLANEOUS TOOLS: Palette knife, preferably a good metal one and a wood, melamine or disposable paper palette. Optional: plastic containers in which to save your paint mixtures.

CLEAN UP: Winsor & Newton Artgel (tube soap for hands and brushes). Paper towels will be provided, but cloth rags may also be useful. Protect good clothing with an old long sleeved shirt which fits snugly at the sleeves. Hands and wrists are the most likely area to receive paint smears. Disposable painting gloves are optional.

SUBJECTS FOR PAINTING

Please bring subjects of your choice for painting. Suggestions: botanicals such as fruit and flowers, shells, ornaments, cloth and a bowl to arrange them on or in.