

WE HEARD IT FROM YOU

In October, we invited members to take part in an online survey about the ways in which BAC communicates to members: the quarterly newsletter and the website. Underlying the survey was a need to know whether members really read and enjoy the newsletter and find the website useful; we hoped that you did, but we needed to know. We were happy to find out that your answers were a resounding "yes, yes and yes"!

In all, 34 of you responded to the survey, about half of our membership. You were most enthusiastic about the newsletter; 91% enjoy reading it thoroughly, and half of those read it as soon as it arrives. 94% find it informative; around 50% find it a good reference and professional. All 34 respondents say it is an important membership benefit. As only one respondent's comment about the newsletter was negative, we take heart that we're mainly on track. *I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Peta Lomberg again on behalf of all members for the time she puts into the newsletter.*

Your suggestions for newsletter content include a Tip of the Month on techniques, helpful hints, drawing demonstrations and more photos and artwork. A complete list appears on page 3, and they are all excellent suggestions. Can you help supply them? If so, we'd love to hear from you, and the feedback from the newsletter tells us that your fellow members will appreciate it.

As for the website, a little over half of respondents visit the website about monthly and a quarter visit weekly. About 82% find the website informative, and the majority find it useful, a good reference and professional. Two respondents had not visited the site. Over 75% intend to have a Member Gallery. As with the newsletter, only one member was negative about the website.

How you really like to get your information about BAC is in emails, from Raquel. Over 75% of you selected this as your most preferred option. A little less than half cited the newsletter as their most preferred way of receiving information, and 63% of you cited the website as an acceptable way.

Several of you also drew our attention to the online forum, which has not yet appeared. but rest assured, the forum will appear soon, and we look forward to your participation and feedback.

Please do look at the list of suggestions for making the newsletter better meet your needs, and do contribute whatever you can.

Wishing all of you a happy holiday season, and a happy, healthy and creative New Year. - Gerry

Gerry Jenkison, Chair, BAC

gerry.jenkison@sympatico.ca

WHAT COMMUNICATION BAC MEMBERS WANT

For results of the communications survey, see page 3. Here's an example:

"I personally find the newsletter the best way to get information about BAC. I print a copy, pour a glass of wine and have a good read. And I have something to refer back to. It's all there, in black, white and now colour. I love it." —BAC Member



Eighth Annual Botanical Art Show at Canada Blooms

March 12 - 16, 2008.



FINANCIALS

BAC's bank balance is \$4,660.74



SEASONS GREETINGS

Here's wishing you all a safe and very happy Holiday season.

2008



The year 2008 is the Year of the Rat in the Chinese Horoscope,

and despite how you may feel about rats, it was recognized as an animal with spirit, wit, alertness, delicacy, flexibility and vitality. So we wish you well!

TORONTO A HUB FOR BOTANICAL ART ACTIVITY

It has been a long time since Toronto saw so much original botanical art. In the last few months there have been two major exhibitions: the BAC juried show at Todmorden Mills and an exhibition at the John B. Aird gallery.

A further two shows are scheduled for the first quarter of 2008: The John B. Aird Gallery will be holding its 9th Annual Juried Drawing Exhibition February 6 - 29, 2008. If you are interested in participating, please download the Call for Entry from <http://www.airdgallery.org/index.html>, where you can also find an Information sheet.

This will be followed by the Eighth Annual Botanical Art Show at Canada Blooms, from March 12 to 16, 2008.

WINTER CLASSES

Botanical Art Classes with Nellie Sue Potter

The winter term is 9 weeks long and runs from January 8 through March 8, 2008. The price for a course is \$299 at all locations except Cedar Ridge Creative Centre. The price for the Cedar Ridge course is exceptionally good (\$116) because it is being offered through the City of Toronto Culture Department.

- Tuesday evenings, 6:30-9 at Natural Light Studio
- Wednesday mornings, 9-12 at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre
- Wednesday afternoons, 2-4:30 at The Grenadier in High Park
- Friday mornings, 9:30 -12 at Natural Light Studio
- Friday afternoons, 1:00-3:30 at Natural Light Studio
- Saturday mornings, 9:30-12 at Natural Light Studio

BREAKING NEWS: Nellie Sue is going to be teaching Botanical Art 101 on Saturdays from 1-4pm, January 26-March 8, 2008 at the ROM, Bloor Street, Toronto.

Please contact Nellie Sue for details: 416.797.5968, nelliesue@natureartstudio.ca
Also, please visit her new website, www.natureartstudio.ca

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR



Celia Godkin has agreed to become the new editor of this newsletter. Most BAC members know Celia, pictured here with her painting from the Todmorden show.

Celia was instrumental in introducing many of us to the art of Botanical Drawing and Watercolour when she taught the University of Toronto Continuing Education classes. She subsequently moved to Brockville, Ontario but with the aid of computers and the internet, is able to take on the newsletter editing from Peta Lomberg.

Peta is taking a sabbatical in 2008 and heading to India, under the auspices of VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas). She is hoping to be living for a year in Bhubaneswar, Orissa province, and working with an HIV Aids non-profit organization. Orissa is one of the poorest and least populated provinces with only 30 million people! In India the working week is six days but Peta is hoping nevertheless to get time to paint some of the tropical plants found there.



WAY TO GO, PAMELA

Congratulations to Scugog Council for the Arts and BAC member, watercolour artist and author PAMELA MEACHER on being awarded a BRONZE MEDAL for her beautiful illustrations in her first book, "*Emily's Enchanted Guardians*".

The award took place at the First Annual Moonbeam

Children's Book Awards in Chicago on November 3. Jenkins Group and Independent Publishers sponsored these awards, honouring the year's best children's books, authors and illustrators. A total of 862 entries were received from authors and publishers in 45 U.S. states, 6 Canadian provinces, and 7 countries overseas.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

In the last newsletter we asked members to go to a website and complete a short survey, providing the Coordinating group with feedback on the newsletter, website and other media we use to communicate. Here's what we heard:

"Newsletter as it stands is useful, as are the emails and website. All contribute an avenue of communication, each in its own way. Email: immediate, newsletter: fully written information quarterly, in one 'shot,' and website as an advertising tool". —BAC Member

Members Suggestions about the newsletter

- More international work displayed.
- Tip of the Month – on techniques such as dry brushing, tracing into watercolour paper, raindrops.
- Info about other members' exhibits
- More pictures—photos and artwork.
- Painting tips, references to good books about botanical painting, personal profiles.
- What's happening in other areas of the country to promote awareness of botanical art.
- Include photos of award-winning/honourable mentions from exhibitions.
- Supply newsletter deadlines for upcoming two or three issues and an invitation for all members to contribute.

If you'd like to receive the complete list of comments and suggestions, please email Gerry Jenkison (gerry.jenkison@sympatico.ca).

MEMBERS TIPS

Those of you who use coloured pencils may know that Derwent in the UK launched a great new line called *Coloursoft*. Woolfitt's, 1153 Queen W (E of Dufferin, S side) sells these pencils in Open Stock. This is a very practical opportunity to just buy the colours you want to test and see how you like them! - Raquel Baranyai

Members' Galleries on the Website

Have you visited our members' galleries recently? Margaret Walsh Best is the latest addition; the centre of her three works, Blackberries, was included in Todmorden. Margaret is the 17th member with a gallery.

To have your own gallery, (it costs members only \$20 for a year -July 1 to June 30) send the following to Gerry Jenkison (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; remember that although your BAC gallery works must be botanical, we heartily encourage you to link to a site where your work is floral, or includes animal portraits, insect illustrations, whatever! Show your versatility.

LATE FLASH: APRIL BOTANICAL WORKSHOP

Dates: 4 consecutive Saturdays in April (5th, 12th, 19th, 26th), Time: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Approximate Cost: \$ 225.00. Instructor: Kerri Weller

Location: Heritage House Museum, P.O. Box 695, 11 Old Sly's Road, Smiths Falls, ON, . K7A 4T6 (613) 283-8560, E-mail: hmmuseum@bellnet.ca

Description: Learn the tips and techniques of creating beautiful botanical watercolour paintings from well-known botanical artist, Kerri Weller. The first 1/2 day you will review drawing botanical subjects and getting back into the drawing/art side of your brain. The remainder of the course will focus very specifically on how to use watercolours to create life-like botanical studies. Some drawing experience is essential. Please register in advance. Call (613) 283-8560 for more information or registration.

Examples of Kerri's work may be viewed at:

www.amsocbotartists.org/ASBA-Participant/W/Weller-Ke.html

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Contact
Sept 30 to Dec 20	12 th International Exhibition of Botanical Art and Illustration	Hunt Institute Pittsburgh	Hunt Institute at 412-268-2434
Feb 6 - 29, 2008	9th Annual Juried Drawing Exhibition	The John B. Aird Gallery	http://www.airdgallery.org/index.html
March 12 – 16	Canada Blooms Botanical Art exhibition	Entries close December 14, 2007	Margit Koritar (705) 944-5695, margit@nexicom.net

Botanical Artists of Canada is a not-for-profit organization serving botanical artists across Canada. We aim to promote the development and appreciation of botanical art, and encourage individual artists in the pursuit of excellence. www.botanicalartistsofcanada.org

BAC coordinating group

Chair: Gerry Jenkison

Secretary: Margit Sampogna

Treasurer: Donna Greenstein

Membership & Communications coordinator:
Raquel Baranyai

Events Committee: Liz Tudor (assisted by Emily Luks, Lynda Bryden, Luisa Klopchic)

Newsletter: Celia Godkin

Promotions: Nellie Sue Potter

Four newsletters are published each year. Deadline for the next newsletter is February 28, 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.