

A NEW YEAR

A new year is dawning and I feel hopeful anticipation for the good things it will bring. For one thing, we'll be having another wonderful Botanical Artists of Canada group show. "Trees: From Roots to Crown" opens in November. The BAC Coordinating Group is already discussing ways to make this event even more special than our last exhibit.

Speaking of our Coordinating Group (CG), several spots are now available, and I'm looking forward to the new perspectives that new members will bring. If you are interested in serving on the CG, please contact me. We need, in particular, a secretary and a person to be in charge of creating a scrapbook of BAC activities.

Emily Luks is one of the CG members who is now stepping down. (See the article that follows on Emily's new project.) Emily has brought both warmth and professionalism to BAC. Our members have gained new skills and greater understanding of botanical art through the many workshops she has organized and the critique nights and art shows held at her home. It was through those early critique nights, initiated by Pamela Stagg and often hosted by Emily, that BAC came into being. Thank you Emily!

The first part of this year will be very busy for the CG as we choose a new logo, develop new printed and electronic promotional materials, and oversee the creation of new signage and display panels. BAC member Joan Ness, an experienced graphic artist, is generously volunteering her time to help us with this project. Our aim is to have this "Promotional Package" in place for BAC's appearance at Canada Blooms, March 18th-22nd.

Our organization is growing, and becoming more truly national as we gain members from all areas of Canada. If you have ideas or suggestions about BAC's future development, please share them. You can write to me directly or submit an article for the newsletter.

I wish you all a Happy New Year!

Nellie Sue Potter

EXHIBITION

**BAC Exhibition
 Trees:
 From Roots to Crown
 Todmorden Mills
 Nov 4 – 15, 2009**

COURSES

**Nellie Sue Potter
 Toronto
 Jan 12 – Mar 9
 Jan 13 – Mar 10
 Jan 7 – Mar 11
 Jan 24 – Feb 28**

**Julie Wilson
 Halifax
 Jan 12 – Feb 9
 Jan 17 – Feb 14**

**Kerri Weller
 Ottawa
 Jan 20 – Feb 17**

**Raquel Banyai
 Toronto
 Feb 7 & 14**

**Celia Godkin
 Toronto
 June 22 - 26**

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The BAC bank balance was \$5,189.86 on December 10th.

DON'T FORGET THESE FAST-APPROACHING BAC DEADLINES!**January 15, 2009 - BAC LOGO**

Please send suggestions in the form of

- a) a piece of botanical art to be incorporated into a logo,
- b) a sketch of a logo idea, or
- c) a fully developed logo.

To: Nellie Sue Potter - 520 Indian Grove, Toronto ON M6P 2J2
nspotter@rogers.com

February 28, 2009 - PROMOTION FOR "TREES: From Roots to Crown"

BAC members are invited to submit paintings and drawings to be used for exhibition advertising and promotional materials. Acceptable submissions must conform to BAC's current definition of botanical art (see the BAC website), and can be any tree in whole or in part(s). Submissions in a jpg file format can be emailed to Irene Hunchak, Exhibitions Coordinator, at dandi@eol.ca

Attention Scrapbookers and Photographers!

As I mentioned in my opening letter, several members of the CG and other BAC volunteers are working to create a "Promotional Package" that will help us to communicate who we are on those occasions when we present ourselves to the public. Since we all know that a picture is worth a thousand words, we thought that a scrapbook showing photos of our activities would be helpful. We would like to show pictures of our impressive exhibitions; our fabulous, well-attended exhibition opening nights; our inspiring workshops; a sampling of our members' beautiful artwork, some pages from our exciting website; and examples of our indispensable newsletter. And, of course, it would all be artistically arranged and presented!

If you would like to help with this project, please contact me at 416-797-5968 or nelliesue@natureartstudio.ca.

CANADA BLOOMS 2009

The Botanical Artists of Canada will have a booth at Canada Blooms again this year. The show runs during March Break, from Wednesday, March 18th through Sunday, March 22nd. We will need volunteers to represent BAC at the booth and explain what we do. You will receive an email about this closer to the time of the show.

Over 80,000 visitors flock to Canada Blooms annually, so it's a good place to let people know about our organization. Last year our presence in the section for non-profit organizations brought new members to BAC and brought commissions for artwork to existing members. We also referred people to the Botanical Art Show organized by Margit Koritar up on the mezzanine level, and the volunteers at the art show referred people to our booth. Over the years, the Botanical Art Show has established the presence of botanical art at Canada Blooms, and our booth has built on this foundation. (Please see the article below thanking Margit for this great contribution.)

THE BOTANICAL ART SHOW AT CANADA BLOOMS A Short History by Celia Godkin

Former BAC member Margit Koritar has been the tireless organizer of the botanical art exhibition at Canada Blooms since, if I remember correctly, 2001. Margit began her life as a botanical artist in 1991, when she attended my botanical art classes at the School of Continuing Studies at the U of T. Right away I could see that she had ability, though Margit herself took a little convincing. Once convinced, however, there was no holding her back. Within five years she was exhibiting and selling her work, teaching and promoting botanical art to all and sundry.

As part of her drive both to inform the larger public and to provide an opportunity for botanical artists to showcase their work, Margit has mounted a juried show of botanical art at Canada Blooms every year for the past eight years. She pulled together an able team of helpers from the BAC membership, with whom she worked both efficiently and with great attention to detail and professionalism.

Artists from across Canada sent in slides that were examined and graded by three jury members. Margit would combine the results and accept the cream of the crop for inclusion in the show. Almost every year Canadian botanical artists were represented from coast to coast, many of them working in total isolation in small communities.

I was a jury member that first year. I remember being overwhelmed by the sheer volume of slides, and that it took me two days to grade them. They ranged in quality from amateurish to superb. It was gratifying to note that about half the artists represented in the show had been my students at one time or another.

In 2006 I was again invited to be a jury member. In the intervening years the overall quality of submissions had improved but the number of entries had declined. My students no longer dominated the show, instead there was better representation from all across the country – a good development, I think.

Canada Blooms is a unique venue in that it allows botanical art to be viewed by tens of thousands of people every year. Unfortunately Canada Blooms is now under new management and Margit tells me the exhibition space is no longer affordable. Regretfully, she has decided not to continue with the botanical art show.

I'm sure that all of you who have participated in this outstanding exhibition would like to join me in thanking Margit and her team of helpers for their years of devoted service in promoting botanical art at Canada Blooms.

FOOTNOTE: Hotel scam regarding Canada Blooms

A travel agency operating out of Nevada, USA, is calling exhibitors to reserve hotel space under the false pretence they are a partner with Canada Blooms 2009. The company's name is CONVENTION EXPO TRAVEL. Canada Blooms would like us to know they are NOT affiliated in any way with any travel agency. Instead they have secured the Holiday Inn on King as their host hotel. Reservations can be made by calling 416-599-4000 or 1-800-263-6364. Please specify the Group Code CZWWW to receive the Canada Blooms discount rate of \$138 per night. Deadline February 11, 2009. Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card. www.canadablooms.com

“TREES” – ON BAC’S FORUM – MORE GOOD REASONS TO JOIN **by Gerry Jenkison, Website Coordinator**

BAC’s Forum now has a “Trees chapter,” a must-see for everyone who’s preparing to enter drawings or paintings in our 2009 juried show at the Todmorden Mills Papermill Gallery. So far, the Trees chapter includes drawings from Dick Rauh’s workshop as well as beautiful watercolours that we hope will be submitted to the show. We encourage you to join the discussion on Trees. Give us your comments on the graphics on display; ask questions; add your own work; inspire us with ideas.

If you’re not yet registered for the Forum, read on.

HOW TO JOIN THE FORUM

- 1. Register. Go to our website, www.botanicalartistsofcanada.org and click Members’ Forum, under Members’ Galleries on the menu. (Note this new and convenient way to access the Forum.)**
 - 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 email 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 an essential step!).**
 - Email me at gerry.jenkison@live.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 then email you back to confirm that you’re good to go.

Who’s Visiting the BAC Website?

Your organization is on the world stage of botanical art!

A review of our visitor statistics on December 14, 2008, reveals the following:

- Our website had a total of 8,329 visitors so far this year.
- 83% are from the US, 14% from Canada, and 3% from other countries around the world.
- This morning, December 14, we’ve had visitors from the Netherlands and Vietnam.
- Our most-visited pages are the members’ galleries.

If you’d like to join the 21 members who already have galleries, send the following via email to gerry@live.ca:

- Up to three jpegs of your work, 72 dpi, maximum size 700 pixels
- The common and, if you have it, Latin name for the work
- A biography, maximum 500 words, in a Word file (WordPerfect’s okay, too)

I’ll acknowledge receipt of your files and send them off to our web designer to build your gallery. And please don’t forget to visit our Events page, where you’ll find news of upcoming workshops and exhibitions.

Gerry Jenkison

A Note from Nellie Sue Potter to BAC Members Who Are Also ROM Members

If you are a member of the Royal Ontario Museum, or are considering becoming a member, I would like to discuss some exciting ROM possibilities with you. You may be familiar with the ROM Friends groups, such as Friends of South Asia, Friends of Textiles and Costume, and Friends of Ancient Egypt. If there were enough interest, there could be a Friends of Botanical Art. In addition, there are many other ways we could help to raise the profile of botanical art at this venerable institution. The ROM has botanical art in its collection, supports curatorial activity in the field of botanical art, and has lectures on subjects related to botanical art. As ROM members, let's put our voices together and encourage them in this direction! Please contact me at 416-797-5968 or nelliesue@natureartstudio.ca

THE ART AND CULTURE TOUR OF ITALY

departing Toronto May 8, returning May 17, is still accepting reservations.

The tour includes art classes and visits to Venice, Verona, Padua, Firenze and Florence.

Cost, based on 35 participants, is estimated at \$2299.00 plus taxes.

For updated information (a tentative itinerary was emailed to BAC members in November) contact Mary Colagiovanni marycolagiovanni@rogers.com or (416) 245-6782.

Emily Luks: "Giving Back" in Peru by Gerry Jenkison

Emily, a founding member of BAC, is leaving our Coordinating Group — after an outstanding contribution over many years — to devote more time to volunteer work with indigenous communities in her native Peru. Happily for us, Emily will continue to be a member of BAC.

For as long as I can remember, Emily has been a primary organizer of BAC events and workshops. She's lent her home and garden for numerous BAC receptions. She helped organize many of our workshops, including bringing artists from the US — among them Katie Lee, Dick Rauh and Arlene Steinberg — and from Canada with our own Sherry Mitchell from BC. Emily has been at the forefront of planning our social events, giving freely of her ideas, tireless energy and enthusiasm. Emily was *always* ready and willing to volunteer, and she inspiring us all.

Recently, Emily has been spending increasing amounts of time in her native Peru, where she's initiated two projects. The first involves a community of women textile weavers in Ocongate, a town almost 12,000 feet above sea level. Emily has raised money from around the world to build the women a safe workplace, with two industrial gas stoves and huge pots on which to boil their dyes, replacing the previous arrangement of containers over open fires. Emily is now working with the women to produce textiles that they can sell around the world in order to improve their self-sufficiency and standard of living.

Emily's second project is with children, again in Peru. Its purpose is the recovery of traditions through stories. The children are keeping a working journal depicting their personal stories and dreams. When all are complete, Emily will compile them and publish them as a children's book to be sold across Peru, and the journals will be exhibited at a public gallery. All proceeds will go to the community school, and the children will receive educational and personal items – including blankets, mattresses and clothes – for their participation.

In Emily's own words, "It is time to give back all the blessings I have received in my life." Emily, we'll miss your presence and support, we wish you great success with these projects, and we'll look forward to hearing about their progress when you're in Canada.

Emily and her children's project in Peru:



BOTANICAL ART WITH COLOURED PENCILS A WORKSHOP WITH RAQUEL BARANYAI

Raquel has been working on botanical studies using a new amazing but simple technique. It's based on a combination of different brands of coloured pencils that allow her to achieve the soft tones, subtle detail, colour gradations, range of values and colour saturation that can be obtained with watercolour.

Raquel is planning a workshop for February 7 and 14, hoping to counteract the winter "blahs". The workshop, spread over two consecutive Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., is intended for a small group of no more than ten participants, and will focus on intense work applying this new technique. She's looking forward to sharing what she's learned about working with coloured pencils using a technique that allows her to create classic botanical artwork in a way that she wasn't able to before.

If you already use coloured pencils, or would like to learn how to, this **general level** workshop will work for you! Raquel will be sending out a notice to BAC members via email, once the details are finalized.

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





Pandora Sellars 77

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DESTINATION LOCATIONS

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You just arrive ready to focus on painting and we'll take care of the rest, including ground transportation, accommodation, meals and excursions.

See full details at www.focusbotanicalart.com or email or call for our detailed brochure.

NORTH AMERICAN CONTACT: Michael Best
403 681 4757

michael.best@focusbotanicalart.com

EUROPEAN CONTACT: Keith Brewer
07508 033883

keith.brewer@focusbotanicalart.com

Introducing our newest member:

Margaret Best

<http://www.bestbotanical.com>

Margaret's watercolours have been recognized with awards from the ASBA and were included in the 12th International Exhibition of the Hunt Institute. She is an accomplished and popular educator and has exhibited and taught in Canada, the US and the UK.

Margaret is one of the **FOCUS BOTANICAL ART WORKSHOPS** instructors (see left column).

Clematis by Margaret Best



A warm welcome to new members Rochelle Neal, from St. Thomas, Ontario, Kate Tanos from Toronto, and Margaret Best from Calgary.

A letter from Julie Wilson-Geldenhuis in appreciation of BAC

I am slowly putting down roots in Canada (I left South Africa more or less permanently in 2006), and the welcome I received from BAC played a major role in helping me to find a niche in this wide and wonderful country! My inclusion in the BAC webpage brought me a major commission (more of which at a later date!).

The encouragement I received from Elisabeth Elson (the only other member of BAC in Halifax) in my first exhibition and series of classes in the winter was much appreciated and an example of how the networking of the BAC can help promote one's work. I'm now working on a painting for the Todmorden exhibition.

I will be offering a series of watercolour classes on painting roses. The emphasis will be on leaves and on achieving contrast in light and shade in the blooms.

DETAILS OF JULIE'S WORKSHOPS:

Mondays: 12, 19 and 26 January and 2 and 9 February. 12.30 to 3.30 p.m.

Saturdays: 17, 24 and 31 January and 7 and 14 February. 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Venue: 86 Greenside Lane, Glen Arbour, Hammonds Plains, Halifax NS.

Cost per course: \$112.50.

Maximum per course 7.

Website: www.jgeldenhuys.com/BotanicalWatercolors.html.

For registration contact Julie at julie@jgeldenhuys.com.

PAINTING IN A SUMMER GARDEN RETURNS TO TORONTO with Celia Godkin & Friends

Some of you may remember the watercolour classes held in various private gardens around Toronto. We have Lynn Mills to thank for initiating those informal summer art classes and for offering her home as the first venue. After a few summers at Lynne's, the class moved to Patricia Bermiller's, and then moved again to Emily Luks'.

Last fall, when I was stuck for a venue for the Tree Workshop, I called Patricia and she graciously agreed to let me use her studio. We talked about those summer classes and decided we'd like to offer them again. We've settled on the week of June 22 – 26. More details in the spring newsletter.



Summer 2002 class in Patricia's garden

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Contact
Jan 15	DEADLINE	BAC logo submissions	Nellie Sue Potter (416)797-5968 nelliesue@rogers.com
Jan 7 – Mar 11	Botanical Art I Toronto	Cedar Ridge Creative Centre Wed. 9 am – 12 noon \$121	Nellie Sue Potter (416)797-5968 nelliesue@rogers.com
Jan 12 – Mar 9 Jan 13 - Mar 10 Jan 13 – Mar 10	3 courses: Fun with Colour Botanical Watercolour Botanical Drawing Toronto, W. of High Park	Swansea Town Hall Mon. 2 – 4:30 pm Tue. 10 am – 12:30 pm Tue. 1 – 3:30 pm \$299/course	Nellie Sue Potter (416)797-5968 nelliesue@rogers.com
Jan 12 – Feb 9 or Jan 17 – Feb 14	Botanical painting workshop on roses Halifax, Nova Scotia	Mon. 12:30 – 3:30 pm or Sat. 10 am – 1 pm \$112.50	Julie Wilson julie@jgeldenhuys.com www.jgeldenhuys.com/BotanicalWatercolors.html
Jan 20 – Feb 14	Botanical watercolour in Ottawa with Kerri Weller	Nepean Visual Arts Centre Tues. 1 – 3:30 pm	http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/arts/courses_workshops/nepean_visual/index_en.html
Jan 24 – Feb 28	Botanical Art 101 Toronto	Royal Ontario Museum Sat. 1 – 4 pm \$270	ROMlife Programs (416) 586-5797 programs@rom.on.ca
Feb 7 & 14	Colour pencil workshop in Toronto	10 am – 3:30 pm further details TBA	Raquel Baranyai - 416-498-9279 raquelbaranyai@sympatico.ca
Feb 28	DEADLINE	Promotional material for BAC exhibition Trees: From Roots to Crown	Irene Hunchak (905) 338-9427 dandi@eol.ca
Mar 18 - 22	Canada Blooms in Toronto	Garden show with BAC booth	www.canadablooms.com
June 22 - 26	Painting in a Summer Garden - Toronto	Mon- Fri 10 am – 5 pm \$360	Celia Godkin (613) 275-7204 celiagodkin@ripnet.com
Jul 27 - 29	Drawing in the Park in Brockville, E. Ontario with Celia Godkin	St. Lawrence College Pastel drawing techniques for plants and landscapes	www.stlawrencecollege.ca/parttime/SummerArts.html 1-888-838-0698x6
Nov 4 – 15 2009	BAC exhibition 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:
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 March 15, 2008. Please send submissions to celiagodkin@ripnet.com
To join BAC please send a cheque (made out to BAC) for \$30.00, or for \$50.00 if you wish to have a webpage gallery, 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.