



BOTANICAL ARTISTS *of* CANADA

Newsletter Fall/Winter 2009



Pinus resinosa: Red Pine by Gerry Jenkison was awarded top marks by the jury adjudicating *TREES: FROM ROOTS TO CROWN*

WATCH FOR THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT THAT ACCOMPANIES THIS ISSUE:

**THE BAC EXHIBITION AT TODMORDEN MILLS, NOVEMBER 2009
*TREES: FROM ROOTS TO CROWN***

BAC HAS MUCH TO CELEBRATE

A few weeks ago BAC put on a brilliantly successful combination event attended by members from several cities and three provinces: a high-quality exhibit and a high-quality workshop. Dick Rauh, President of the American Society of Botanical Artists, taught a 4-day Floral Morphology course for us at the University of Toronto. Participants enjoyed getting to know other botanical artists, learning about floral structures, and sharing the appreciation and wonder at the beauty of nature which permeated the course. In addition to Dick's marvelous teaching, course participants were treated to a special tour of the Royal Ontario Museum's new Biodiversity gallery, a visit to the ROM artist's amazing studio, and a tour of the U of T greenhouses. This wonderful week of sharing and appreciation culminated with the opening reception of BAC's exhibition *Trees: From Roots to Crown* showcasing 52 works of art.

The presence of Dick Rauh and the Floral Morphology course attracted the attention of the scientific community at the ROM and U of T, especially the Botanists, several of whom attended the show and bought artwork. Through the combined events, we made many good contacts with an audience that appreciates and buys botanical art.

We would like to build on these recent successes by having a combination Exhibition/Course/AGM every year; however, we need a few more helping hands to accomplish this. November's brilliant success was accomplished by a very few people doing a huge amount of work: an unsustainable formula. A sustainable formula would include more members, as many hands make light work—and more fun. Celia Godkin and I are putting together a template for this event from all that we learned this year so that it will run more smoothly in the future. We envision it as a major benefit of BAC membership.

We can have a beautiful annual event like this if enough of us want to. Being involved in planning such an event is a great way to meet fellow artists, connect with the wider botanical art community and have a say in the kind of activities that members want. There are small and large jobs, computer jobs and face-to-face jobs. Can you handle an excel spreadsheet? Type? Email? Phone? Research? Promote? Design? Organize and Coordinate? Please let us know what you can do. If there are not enough of us to do the work, we will not be able to have such events. We will be asking for your response early in 2010. Please let us know what you can do. If there are not enough of us to do the work, we will not be able to have such events. Our hardworking volunteer members have made BAC a wonderful, successful organization. Let's keep the ball rolling!

Nellie Sue Potter, Chair, on behalf of the BAC Coordinating Group

IN THIS ISSUE:

PLANT MORPHOLOGY with Dick Rauh

COURSES

Nellie Sue Potter Toronto

Jan 11 – Mar 8

Jan 12 – Mar 2

Jan 23 – Feb 27

June & July, 2010

Kerri Weller Ottawa

Jan 20 – Mar 31, 2010

Rosie Martin Halifax

April 12 – 19, 2010

EXHIBITION

The Hunt Institute presents Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art Pittsburg, PA

Oct 23 - June 30

BOOKS OF INTEREST

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

CALL FOR SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATORS

CONGRATULATIONS

Irene Hunchak

Donna Greenstein

Pamela Meacher

Celia Godkin

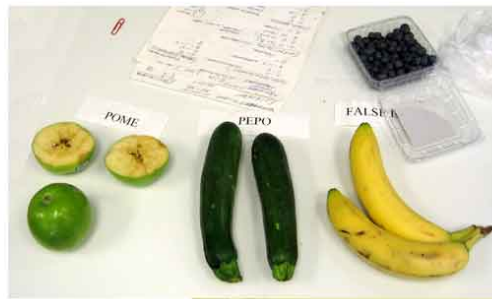
FINANCIAL UPDATE

The BAC bank balance was

\$6393.13

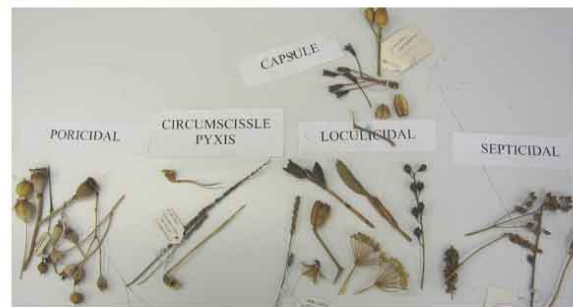
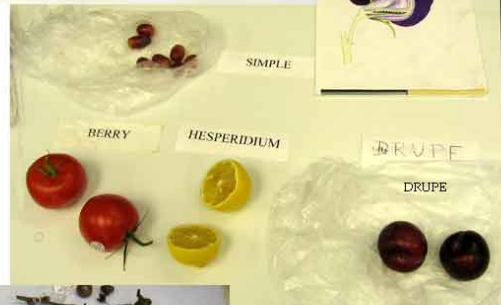
on December 10, 2009

PLANT MORPHOLOGY with DICK RAUH



Examples of various kinds of fruit

Rose dissection >>



Here's what participants had to say about the PLANT MORPHOLOGY course, taught by Dick Rauh, November 3 to 6 at the Earth Sciences Building, University of Toronto.

"Wow! What a wonderful experience. Dick is a great teacher and it has been an opportunity to meet many talented people."

"Dick has quite literally opened my eyes to a new world. I don't think I will ever see a raspberry quite the same way again – which I have learned is not really a berry (botanically speaking)."

"Dick is an inspirational teacher. I think he could make anyone, even a non-nature-lover, enthusiastic about his subjects. Outstanding. Please come back."

"This course met and exceeded all my expectations. So much information in such an enjoyable form – no need to feel intimidated by this subject when you have Dick as your guide."

"Dick's enthusiastic approach to morphology brings it all to life and seeing plants through the microscope invites you to step right into the wonderful world of botany."

"Dick has transported us into another world and his teaching has been an inspiration. I did not know what I was missing when I was looking at plants until I attended this course. His enthusiasm has been infectious. Thank you. Thank you for all we have been taught. Dick has opened my eyes and I will now look much more carefully at plants. What a wonderful world we live in!"

"As someone who has taken botany courses at university, I hesitated about taking Dick Rauh's PLANT MORPHOLOGY course, thinking that it might cover too much familiar territory. I'm very glad now that I decided on taking the course, because not only have there been many changes in the way plants are classified since I was an undergraduate, but the whole course reinvigorated my interest in botany. This was due to a great extent to Dick's inspirational teaching, and also to the plants themselves and the fact that we had excellent dissecting microscopes with which to view their intricate and often astonishing designs. We all worked very hard, but at the end of the class, when Dick said we were done, the whole class exclaimed: More! We want more! "

An added bonus to the PLANT MORPHOLOGY course was a brief outing we made to the botany greenhouse, housed on the roof of the Earth Sciences building where the course was held. Here we were able to view many of the fascinating plants that Dick had discussed in class, such as the extraordinary *Wellwitschia* shown here. This unique genus has strap-like leaves that grow throughout the plant's lifetime of over 1000 years.



Students in the PLANT MORPHOLOGY course making use of the dissecting microscopes to examine tiny flower parts. The smallest flowers dissected were those of Queen Anne's Lace.

UPCOMING COURSES OF INTEREST

BOTANICAL ART with Nellie Sue Potter in Toronto

Botanical Art 101 at the ROM

Saturdays, 1-4, January 23-February 27. Six weeks

Botanical Art, Individual Instruction at Swansea Town Hall

Mondays, 1- 4, January 11-March 8, excluding February 15. 8 weeks

Botanical Watercolour Technique at Swansea Town Hall

Tuesdays 9:30-12:30, January 12-March 2, 8 weeks

Botanical Art with Coloured Pencils at Swansea Town Hall

Tuesdays 1-4 pm, January 12-March 2, 8 weeks

The 2010 Summer intensive botanical art courses:

June 21-25, Botanical Art 101

July 5-9, Botanical Art with Coloured Pencils

July 12-16, Botanical Watercolour

For more complete information, visit the BAC website, www.botanicalartistsofcanada.org

BOTANICAL ART COURSES with Kerri Weller in Ottawa at the Nepean Visual Art Centre

Botanical Art - Level 2, Watercolour

Basic watercolour techniques will create detailed and realistic botanical paintings. Exercises on colour and techniques will be combined with demonstrations and painting practice of leaves and flowers. Pre-requisite: Botanical Art, Level 1 or equivalent drawing experience.

Course Code 404710; Wednesdays, 1 – 4 pm; January 20 - March 31, 2010

The website address is:

<http://apps102.ottawa.ca/Activities/Activities.asp?SCheck=63782626&SDT=40066.4661689815&SectionId=5&SubSectionId=7>

WORKSHOPS with Rosie Martin in Halifax

Rosie Martin of the Eden Project in Cornwall, England, will be in Halifax in April 2010 to run two three-day workshops between April 12th and 19th, for 6 - 7 students in each group, at a cost of \$200 per participant. It will be held at BAC member **Julie Wilson's** studio. Stay tuned for more information, or contact Julie Wilson at julie@jgeldenhuys.com

Julie Wilson strongly recommends Rosie Martin's *Botanical Illustration Course with the Eden Project*, written with Meriel Thurstan. They have also co-authored *Contemporary Botanical Illustration: Challenging Colour and Texture*.

Also in April, **Paint Sri Lanka** will be hosting new **Orchids & Tropical Flowers painting courses in Sri Lanka** with Billy Showell, <http://www.billyshowell.co.uk/index.html>. Details from <http://www.paintsrilanka.com> or call 0044 (0)1707 251778.

BOTANICAL ART EXHIBITION:**THE HUNT INSTITUTE PRESENTS*****BOTANICALS: ENVIRONMENTAL EXPRESSIONS IN ART******THE ALISA AND ISAAC M. SUTTON COLLECTION*****23 Oct 2009****Originally to 29 Jan 2010****Now extended to 30 June 2010**

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
Carnegie Mellon University
5000 Forbes Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Phone: 412-268-7304
FAX: 412-268-5677
Web site: <http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu>



The Sutton Dogwood, gouache on paper
© 2001 Katie Lee. All Rights Reserved

HUNT INSTITUTE, Pittsburgh, PA—The exhibition *Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art, the Alisa and Isaac M. Sutton Collection* represents one of the finest private collections of contemporary botanical art in America. These 54 artworks are expressions of the purely aesthetic forms found in nature and a reminder that we are stewards of our natural resources for future generations.

Isaac Sutton's love of nature and concern for the environment led him to a crossroads in his collection. Since the 1980s he had been acquiring landscape paintings that were reminiscent of his childhood summers spent in the mountains of Lebanon and his early adult years in Israel. In 1997 he was introduced to botanical art through *The Shirley Sherwood Collection of Contemporary Botanical Art* exhibition at the National Arts Club in New York. He was struck by the artistic virtuosity of the paintings and felt an immediate connection to the plant subjects portrayed. Soon after he began to develop his own collection in this genre while discovering the work of artists in the triennial *International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration* at the Hunt Institute, in the annual exhibits of the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA) at the Horticultural Society of New York, and in galleries and botanical gardens in the United States and abroad.

Isaac Sutton collects botanical art for its aesthetic impact. He appreciates an artist's ability to capture not only the beauty of a plant specimen but also its distinct form and function with scientific accuracy while filtering it through his or her own sensibility. Over time he has become interested in how the subjects of the paintings represent an important part of our ecosystem. The title of the exhibit, *Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art*, echoes the role that the botanical artist plays in documenting rare and endangered plants and common plants that play an important role in our planet's biodiversity. Also of importance is the role that the collector and the museum play in supporting and validating the vision of these botanical artists by sharing it with the public through exhibitions. Sutton feels that botanical art should be recognized as a melding of art and science that both inspires and educates.

The exhibition includes 54 artworks by 40 artists from Australia, Belgium, Cuba, England, France, Germany, India, Japan, Russia, Scotland, South Africa and the United States.

In conjunction with *Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art, the Alisa and Isaac M. Sutton Collection*, the Hunt Institute will hold its annual Open House in June 2010. They will present two curators' talks and displays. Archivist Angela Todd will talk about the legacy and legend of Sir Joseph Banks (1744–1820), the famed British naturalist, botanist and world traveler for whom *Banksia* is named. Librarian Charlotte Tancin will discuss examples of botanical artworks that were created by artists who were part of an expedition, were employed afterward to draw specimens for publication, or explored on their own seeking new plants to draw. There will also be a guided gallery tour of the exhibition by their assistant curator of art, overviews and displays from their departments, a tour of the reading room and opportunities to meet one-on-one with our staff to ask questions and see items in the collections. The Hunt encourages everyone to consider visiting us during this Open House. It will be a good time to see the exhibition before it closes and an opportunity to have an inside look at our collections and our work. A schedule of events will be available in January 2010 on their Web site. They are looking forward to your visit.

The exhibition will be on display on the 5th floor of the Hunt Library building at Carnegie Mellon University. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–noon and 1–5 p.m.; Sunday, 1–4 p.m. (except 26–29 November and 18–31 December 2009; 1–3 January, 7 March, 2–4 April, 2 May and 30–31 May 2010). We will also open on Saturday, 31 October 2009, 1–5 p.m., during Carnegie Mellon's homecoming, and on Sunday, 16 May 2010, 1–4 p.m., during commencement. The exhibition is open to the public free of charge. A fully illustrated color catalogue will accompany the exhibition. For further information, contact the Hunt Institute at 412-268-2434. A travel exhibition of this collection will be available in summer 2010. For booking information, please contact: susan.freinathan@verizon.net.

BOOKS FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

DRAWING AND PAINTING PLANTS

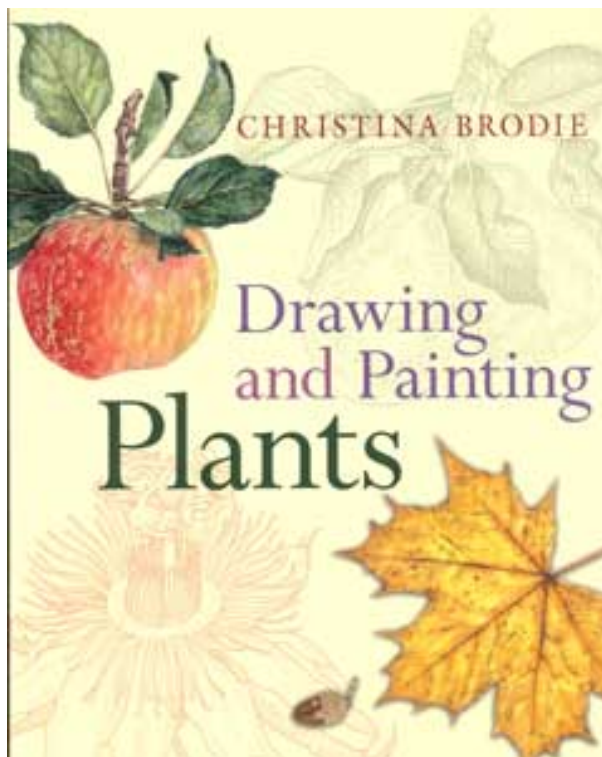
by Christina Brodie is a practical manual on how to paint a vast range of plants and fungi in a wide range of media.

Drawing on her experience as a botanical art teacher, the author takes a holistic approach to botanical art. She covers botanical terminology; drawing and painting techniques; dissection and examination of plants; fieldwork studies; microscope work; and tips on presentation of your work.

This book is an excellent follow up Dick Rauh's PLANT MORPHOLOGY course. And for those of you who missed this course, it will help to fill in some of your gaps in botanical knowledge in an accessible way.

\$29.50 from Lee Valley

Rita-Anne Piquet also recommends:
BOTANY FOR THE ARTIST by Sarah Simblet



THE PLANT HUNTERS by Carolyn Fry celebrates the 250th anniversary of Kew Gardens with this fascinating history of plant collecting. This is a boxed book that contains rare, removable facsimile documents of historic importance. The best way to get a sense of the unusual format is to examine the image below, taken from the back of the box. Price: \$39.95



CONGRATULATIONS TO BAC MEMBERS:

BAC members **Irene Hunchak** and **Donna Greenstein** each had one piece selected in the juried wildlife fine art exhibition *Walk on the Wild Side*, at Beaux-Arts, Brampton. See www.beaux-artsbrampton.com. The show opened from September 1 to 19.

Pamela Meacher recently received notice that her second book, *Emily's Perils and Poisons* has won a gold medal for best illustration from the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards, USA.

Celia Godkin's new coin design, released this summer, has already sold out. Here's how the coin was advertised in the Royal Canadian Mint's catalogue. See also www.mint.ca



A precious drop.

2009 \$20 Fine Silver Coin—Crystal raindrop

This gorgeous coin by artist Celia Godkin features colour, CRYSTALLIZED™—Swarovski Element, and 99.99% pure silver—the end result is a unique keepsake of Canada.

Every year, the Canadian landscape is transformed into a masterpiece of colour as green leaves give way to vibrant hues of orange, red, gold and yellow. And when it rains, these colours are intensified as wet leaves are illuminated by the rays of the returning sun—a stunning sight that is enhanced by the sound of water dripping from the leaves and falling to the ground. Order this beautiful crystal-effect coin and be captivated by the magical effects of rain!

Colour and crystal effect combined!

Only 10,000 coins worldwide
#106670

\$94⁹⁵CDN
NO GST!

It must be every artist's dream to have a painting in the National Gallery of the country in which they live and Celia realized this dream by donating an oil painting from her book *When the Giant Stirred* to the Canadian Children's Book Centre for their fund raising auction. The book is about a volcanic eruption on an idyllic Pacific Island and the illustration depicts a great flock of birds fleeing the island as the volcano becomes increasingly active. Far below the birds are tiny figures of the islanders making ready to flee themselves.

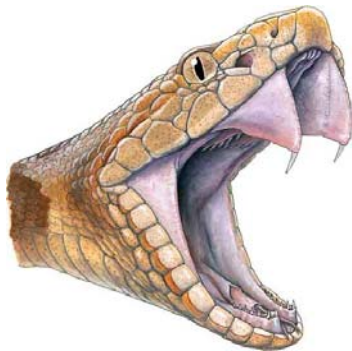
The donated illustrations were on display in the Concourse at the National Gallery in Ottawa from November 14 – 24. For more information or to view the illustrations, see www.bookcentre.ca/artauction

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

- 1) This website sells prints, including botanical art. It may be of interest to those wishing to buy or sell prints: <http://www.chartingnature.com/botanical-prints.cfm>
- 2) BLOSSOM II ~ ART OF FLOWERS 2011 Floral Art Competition and Exhibition
Sponsored by Susan Kathleen Black Foundation ("SKBF") www.susankblackfoundation.org
Premiering Spring, 2011 (exact dates to be determined)
at The Houston Museum of Natural Science ("HMNS")
http://www.susankblackfoundation.org/Blossom_II_Prospectus.pdf

BLOSSOM II is a juried art competition and exhibition initially conceived to recognize, promote and reward excellence in representational floral art, and to enhance public appreciation and awareness. Cash awards including \$25,000 Best of Show Award plus \$40,000 in cash and other awards to be announced. Artworks selected by an eminently qualified jury will be featured in the premiere exhibition in Houston, Texas.

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ANNOUNCING

Southern Ontario Natural Science Illustrators (tentative name)

A group of professionals, educators, students and others sincerely interested in advancing their skills, networking, and promoting the field of natural science illustration in Southern Ontario.

Most meetings and events will be held within the region bounded by Toronto, Kitchener, and Hamilton. First meeting will be in January 2010, date and location to be determined.

Activities may include member exhibits, guest speakers, workshops, and visits to natural history venues such as museums, botanical gardens, conservation areas, and zoos.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact Emily S. Damstra: esdamstra@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

BAC is covering more and more of the country - as was the hope expressed by our founding members in choosing a name that included Canada. This time we are welcoming Aura Arindam from Victoria, BC, Valerie Roos Webster from Burnstown, ON, Kerri Weller from Ottawa, ON, and Maureen Logue, from Edmonton, AB, and - with applications picked up at Todmorden - Sharon Edwards, Mary Corelli and Lenore Carr-Smith, from Toronto.

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Contact
Oct 23, 2009 - June 30, 2010	Botanical Art exhibition <i>Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art</i> from the Alisa and Isaac M. Sutton collection	Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Carnegie Mellon University 5000 Forbes Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890	Phone: 412-268-7304 FAX: 412-268-5677 Web site: http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu
Jan 11 - Mar 8 Excluding Feb 15	Botanical Art Swansea Town Hall, 95 Lavinia Avenue, Toronto www.swanseatownhall.ca	Individual instruction Mondays - 8 weeks \$299.05 + GST = \$314	Nellie Sue Potter (416)797-5968 nelliesue@rogers.com www.NatureArtStudio.ca
Jan 12 – Mar 2	Botanical Watercolour Swansea Town Hall, 95 Lavinia Avenue, Toronto www.swanseatownhall.ca	Tuesdays - 8 weeks \$299.05 + GST = \$314	Nellie Sue Potter (416)797-5968 nelliesue@rogers.com www.NatureArtStudio.ca
Jan 12 – Mar 2	Botanical art with colour pencil; Swansea Town Hall, 95 Lavinia Avenue, Toronto www.swanseatownhall.ca	Tuesdays - 8 weeks \$299.05 + GST = \$314	Nellie Sue Potter (416)797-5968 nelliesue@rogers.com www.NatureArtStudio.ca
Jan 20 - Mar 31	Botanical Art – Level 2 Watercolour with Kerri Weller at the Nepean Visual Art Centre, Ottawa	Course Code 404710 Wednesdays 1 – 4 pm	http://apps102.ottawa.ca/Activities/Activities.asp?SCheck=63782626&SDT=40066.4661689815&SectionId=5&SubSectionId=7
Jan 23 – Feb 27	Botanical Art 101 at the Royal Ontario Museum with Nellie Sue Potter	Saturdays, 1 – 4 pm Six weeks, \$250 for members or \$270 for non-members.	To register, please contact the ROM. http://www.rom.on.ca/programs/index.php .
Apr 4 – 10 & 11 - 17	Orchids & Tropical Flowers painting courses in Sri Lanka with Billy Showell	Billy Showell: http://www.billyshowell.co.uk/index.html	http://www.paintsrilanka.com tel: 0044 (0)1707 251778
Apr 12 – 19	Botanical art classes with Rosie Martin in Halifax	Two 3-day workshops Cost: \$200	Julie Wilson at julie@jgeldenhuys.com
June 21 – 25	Botanical Art 101 Swansea Town Hall, 95 Lavinia Avenue, Toronto www.swanseatownhall.ca	One week intensive Mon – Thur 10 am – 4 pm Fridays 10 am - 12: 30 pm Cost \$299.05 + GST= \$314	Nellie Sue Potter (416)797-5968 nelliesue@rogers.com www.NatureArtStudio.ca
July 5 – 9	Botanical Art with coloured pencils at Swansea Town Hall, 95 Lavinia Avenue, Toronto www.swanseatownhall.ca	One week intensive Mon – Thur 10 am – 4 pm Fridays 10 am - 12: 30 pm Cost \$299.05 + GST= \$314	Nellie Sue Potter (416)797-5968 nelliesue@rogers.com www.NatureArtStudio.ca
July 12 – 16	Botanical Watercolour at Swansea Town Hall, 95 Lavinia Avenue, Toronto www.swanseatownhall.ca	One week intensive Mon – Thur 10 am – 4 pm Fridays 10 am - 12: 30 pm Cost \$299.05 + GST= \$314	Nellie Sue Potter (416)797-5968 nelliesue@rogers.com www.NatureArtStudio.ca

BAC Coordinating Group

Chair: Nellie Sue Potter
Secretary: Trish Murphy
Treasurer: Fran Andreama
Membership & Communications Coordinator:
Raquel Banyai
Newsletter Editor: Celia Godkin

Member at large: Rita-Anne Piquet
Advisor for Exhibitions, Events and Public Outreach: Jean Johnson
Website Coordinator: Gerry Jenkison
We welcome volunteers to assist with events, exhibitions and public outreach

To join BAC please send a cheque (made out to BAC) for \$30.00 or \$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 or see the membership information at www.botanicalartistsofcanada.org

HOW TO JOIN THE MEMBERS GALLERY

Send the following, via email to Gerry Jenkison, Website Coordinator, at gerry@jenkisonnetwork.com:

- 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)

Gerry will 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.

THE BAC NEWSLETTER:

Four newsletters are published each year. Deadline for the next newsletter is March 15, 2010. Please send submissions to Celia Godkin, Newsletter Editor, at celiagodkin@ripnet.com Images of botanical art must be submitted as jpegs. If you would like your art to be considered for the front page, it must be sent at an image size of 8 x 10 inches (vertical). Please include your name, the title or subject, medium, size of original and any other pertinent information, such as shows in which this piece has been exhibited etc. Preference will be given to images that have articles to accompany them.

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.