

A new beginning

We are excited and honoured to be the co-chairs of BAC's coordinating group, and we look forward to a busy and rewarding year for all. Our objectives for the year will focus mainly on fostering the BAC community through events, helping members obtain their own galleries on the BAC website, and organizing the 2007 Todmorden Mills exhibition.

Our coordinating group is meeting in July to map out the year's events, including workshops and critiquing sessions. We hope to see many of you at these sessions as we work together to hone our skills and benefit from each other's experience. If there's a topic for a specific workshop that you would like to suggest, please let us know.

We will also be working to ensure that it's easy and convenient for members to get a gallery on the BAC website. We'll provide you with comprehensive how-to information for the September 27 launch meeting (see announcement in this newsletter). We hope that many of you will be available to attend.

We're pleased and excited to have a new exhibitions committee this year. Irene Hunchak will be working with Luisa Klopchic and other members on a unique BAC exhibition to be held at Todmorden Mills in October 2007 (see Irene's article on page 3.) Todmorden Mills holds a special place in Toronto's history and has an extensive wildflower collection. Irene and the committee will be working with Todmorden Mills staff on an exhibition that combines their interests and ours.

As artists we are always looking for a source of inspiration. Our intuition tells us that this is more than a journey to look for potential specimens for our paintings: it is to search for and experience forms of great beauty and value. The gift of sharing our journey and destination within our group is also of great value. BAC must generate awareness of camaraderie and support and assist our members.

Participation is the key element in shaping our intentions, combined with companionship and warmth. Our journey through Botanical Art should be a path where flowers bloom with personal expression. Our desire for the future is the achievement of great creativity, to paint an accurate image and a wonderful masterpiece.

We look forward to renewing friendships and welcoming new members throughout the year, and we welcome your feedback and comments.

- Gerry Jenkison and Emily Luks
gerry.jenkison@sympatico.ca; elart@rogers.com

COMING EVENTS

BAC WEBSITE LAUNCH

September 27, 2006

Please join us for a special evening to celebrate the launch of the BAC website. Learn how you can get your own picture gallery.

Bring along any paintings or drawings you'd like to use. Learn about what works best in electronic media in a special critiquing session.

Location to follow

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

BAC members are invited to a summer party in the garden of Emily Luks' home. Before finalizing plans for the year, the BAC coordinating group wants to hear from you, so come along and join in. If you haven't been involved in BAC for a while, we'd love to meet up with you again.

Come one, come all!
Watch for an email with time and date.

BANK ACCOUNT

As at May 31, 2006, BAC's bank balance was \$4,380.68. For more information, see page 6

THE WEBSITE PROJECT

The BAC website, which we are launching on September 27, was the coordinating group's first priority for the 2005/2006 year. If you are interested in the planning and execution of the website project, this article is for you.

Step one was to determine the site's objectives. Why do we need one? What are the most important benefits we want to derive, and what can we accomplish by other means? It's essential to nail down the basics and the coordinating group spent several meetings discussing these issues.

We decided that the main benefits to BAC should be:

- Promoting BAC and its aims
- Providing gallery space on the website to members at a reasonable cost
- Attracting new members

Less important was using the website as a means of communicating with our members. Currently, we use email to send out time-sensitive communications and our newsletter for other announcements and articles. However, extending the site for communicating with members is always an

option, if it's considered cost-effective.

Once the coordinating group had agreed on the objectives and approved written content to support those objectives, it was time to hire a web designer. We sent out requests for quotations to six web designers we knew of; four responded, and we chose the person who offered the best price/service combination. This was Johanna Pieterman, and she has proved to be a terrific person to work with – accommodating, accurate and always on schedule.

Over the summer, our website will be updated with courses and events as well as the names of this year's coordinating group. Johanna will publicize us with Google and the other search engines, and we'll be ready to go live for our launch meeting in September.

We hope everyone will share in the excitement and opportunities that our website presents, and we look forward to seeing you all on September 27 (location TBA). www.botanicalartistsofcanada.org

JOIN BAC'S WEB-BASED GALLERY!

Beginning this fall, BAC is pleased to offer all our members their own gallery space on our new website. You can have up to three images on your gallery, as well as your biography and contact information. Visit Donna Greenstein's gallery at www.botanicalartistsofcanada.org for an example.

Thanks to our ingenious web developer, Johanna Pieterman, we can charge the nominal amount of \$20 for each gallery space. If you've familiar with the costs of a website, you'll know that just registering your own website (domain) name costs more than \$20 a year. We are confident that this is an excellent service for our members.

How do you proceed? Either come to our website launch meeting on September 27 (see announcement in this newsletter), or contact gerry.jenkison@sympatico.ca. Later in the summer, Gerry will send you details on the kinds of files you need, as well as suggestions for your biography. When you send us your files, we'll also collect your \$20 fee.

Marianne Broome speaks at BAC's AGM

BAC's AGM was held on June 6, 2006 at the Toronto Botanical Gardens. Minutes and the financial report have been emailed to members. Marianne Broome, award winning and very talented watercolourist, presented samples of her work and provided useful information and sources for equipment, giclee prints, website reproduction, etc. A summary will be available to members on September 27 at the BAC website launch.

Exhibition to feature Todmorden Mills Wildlife Preserve

BAC's next exhibition is scheduled for the Museum Gallery of the Todmorden Mills Papermill Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, October 7-28, 2007. Todmorden Mills Heritage Museum and Arts Centre, operated by the City of Toronto, is a heritage site, that tells the story of early industry beginning around 1790. The original site included a sawmill, gristmill, paper mill, brewery and distillery. Today Todmorden Mills offers tours, lectures and education programs, and hosts special events and the East Side Players Theatre Group. View their website at www.toronto.ca/todmorden

Todmorden Mills is located in the Don Valley on 9.2 hectares of green space with a variety of habitats including deciduous forest, wetlands, pond and meadows. It has been designated a Wildflower Preserve, and is the focus of an ongoing regeneration project spearheaded by the Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve Committee. For more information, go to the website and link to the Wildflower Preserve.

BAC would like to support this important environmental project. We suggest exhibition participants use the plant life common to the Preserve as their exhibition work subjects. See the extensive list of plants below. For those who are not within easy driving distance of the Preserve, we believe many of the plants can be found in your own communities, or even your own gardens! As a natural extension to wildflower subjects, we encourage artists to consider including pollinators and predators in their works.

The Exhibition Committee hopes to organize a "Discovery Walk" through the Preserve for interested BAC members in the near future. This will give us an opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the life – plants, animals, and insects - found here.

We hope you will be as excited about this upcoming exhibition as we are. Take a look at the plant list, and start your planning early!

-Irene Hunchak, Luisa Klopchic, Exhibition Committee

Wildflowers of Todmorden Mills

Arrowheads

Broad-leaved Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*)

Arums

Skunk-cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*)

Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)

Iris

Blue-flag (*Iris virginica*)

Lilies

Garden Lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*)

Star-flowered False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum stellata*)

Orange Day-lily (*Hemerocallis fulva*)

Michigan Lily (*Lilium michiganense*)

Star-flowered False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum stellata*)

Bluets (*Scilla siberica*)

Purple Trillium (*Trillium erectum*)

Cattails

Narrow-leaved Cattail (*Typha angustifolia*)

Carrots

Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)

Cow-parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*)

Milkweeds

Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

Dog-strangling Vine (*Asclepias nigrum*)

Asters

New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)

Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Common Burdock (*Arctium minus*)

Ox-eye Daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)

Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*)

Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)

Daisy Fleabane (*Erigeron strigosus*)

Spotted Joe-pye-weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*)

Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)

Jerusalem Artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*)

Gray-headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)

Tall Goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*)

Zig-zag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)

Field Sow-thistle (*Sonchus arvensis*)

Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)

Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)

Goat's-beard (*Tragopodon dubius*)

Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*)

Jewelweeds

Spotted Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)

Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)

Pale Jewelweed (*Impatiens pallida*)

Barberries

Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)

Blue Cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*)

Mints

Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*)

Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Poppies

Celandine (*Chelidonium majus*)

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Buttercups

White Baneberry (*Actaea pachypoda*)

Red Baneberry (*Actaea rubra*)

Sharp-lobed Hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*)

Canada Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)

Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*)

Tall Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)

Tall Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum pubescens*)

Roses

Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)

Urban Avens (*Geum urbanum*)

Purple Flowering Raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*)

Violets

Violets (*Viola spp.*)

Downy Yellow Violet (*Viola pubescens*)

BAC hosts Arlene Steinberg workshop for Ink, Coloured Pencil and Watercolours.

BAC has a dedicated group of artists who work in coloured pencil. It was at their request two years ago that we brought, from New York, award winning artist Arlene Steinberg, who has a degree in Fine Arts from Syracuse University and is a signature member of the Colored Pencil Society of America. That course sold out. This year, when Arlene offered another coloured pencil course, but with the added dimension of watercolour and black ink, we were intrigued!

We invited her to return this past May. Our supply list included a good variety of Prisma coloured pencils, a regular watercolour palette and black acrylic ink.

Arlene chose three pears as her image and, to add interest, she set them on a reflective surface. She sketched her subject matter lightly on a 5"x7" piece of Fabriano smooth 140 pound paper. Her first step was to mask the edges of her image, to protect it as she painted the acrylic ink in the background. She applied mask to save the highlights on the pears.

The next step was the mixing of a watery purple glaze for the shadow sides of the pears. Many glazes were washed over the area deemed to be the dark shadows. Each layer was dried before the next was applied. An increased amount of pigment was added to achieve the correct value. For the lightest side of the pears, many warm and cool yellow washes were applied.

When all was dry, coloured pencils were applied. Arlene works her sharp pencils with a light touch in a circular motion. Again there were many layers applied in consecutive glazes. Rather than press heavily to achieve a darker value, Arlene likes to repeat another glaze again with the same light touch. It is the sharpness of the pencil tip that fills the grooves in the paper. Even the black background was covered with multiple glazes of dark coloured pencil.

The result was a stunning portrait of three pears that were brilliant against the dark background. They looked so realistic you felt you could touch them. The finished work was sprayed with a fixative to set the pencil layers.

I think the most important learning that came from the workshop was to see the dedication Arlene demonstrated in taking painstaking and carefully measured steps to achieve her goal... a perfect image. She repeated glaze after glaze in both paint and pencil until she was satisfied that her values were correct. She even used a black and white photo to judge how many layers were needed. Her message was that the process was to be enjoyed, and the outcome would be the bonus. Certainly the perfection of Arlene's work earns her many awards.

For two days, our pencil sharpeners whirred and we tried to emulate those careful time-consuming steps. For some of us slap-dash souls, they may have seemed excessive, but in the end we were delighted and surprised that we too could produce such glowing results!

A workshop such as this one afforded the group a chance to learn new skills together in a happy friendly atmosphere. We each brought a special dish for Sunday lunch and had a chance to enjoy good food, and relax and chat. We all agreed the two days of learning a new skill and making new friends were indeed well spent!

- Lynda Bryden



Completed study of Gladioli by workshop attendee and BAC member **Liz Tudor**.

Emily Luks selected for Longwood Gardens Centennial Exhibition

In early April I waited! I had entered one of my slides in the ASBA Longwood Garden Centennial Exhibition, "*Orchids in Botanical Art*".

Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania, is one of the premiere botanical gardens in the world. Today it consists of 1,050 acres of gardens, woodlands and meadows, including 20 outdoor gardens, 20 indoor gardens and many fountains including the Main Fountain Garden near the conservatory. Throughout the year, arts and entertainment events are held showcasing its amazing collection of orchids. Another rejection? Not this time, a warm message from exhibition coordinator Carol Woodin saying my drawing Orchid-*Brassia Caudata* - had being accepted from among 178 entries. The panel of Marguerite Buck David Horak and Peter Sculthorpe chose 50 works from 29 artists, mainly from the US, but also from India, Korea and Canada (myself).

I was nervous as I went to the opening reception. Then I met Carol Woodin, Jean Emmos, Kathy Imel and many others. These are exceptionally friendly people who share one common denominator: Botanical Art. I relaxed with the inclusiveness of their genuine familiar words: "We are not strangers; we use colour and shape with the same dreams of any human being."

How did my work compare to the others? David Horak wrote: "This is a whimsical and wonderfully graphic image." (American Orchid Society magazine. May 2006).

Over the years I have entered my work in many juried shows, been accepted, won prizes and also been rejected many times. The important lesson to remember is that it is up to us to live a creative life, to lose the fear of being wrong. Once your inspiration becomes part of your heart, you can never again live an ordinary life.

- Emily

Luks

Ed: In order to minimize the size of this file, we did not include an illustration of the orchid. If you wish to see the work, please contact Emily Luks.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

2007 Floral Art Competition – \$25,000 Best of Show Award

An International Art Competition and Museum Exhibition Call for Entries and Exhibition sponsored by Susan Kathleen Black Foundation (SKBF) and premiering at The Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) Houston, TX in 2007. DEADLINE: All entries must reach SKBF by **September 30, 2006** <http://susankblackfoundation.org/blossomap.htm>

A message from Celia Godkin

Thank you everyone who sent me cards and messages of condolence on my recent loss. It really helped to know that so many of you were thinking of me, especially in the most difficult period immediately after losing John, when I was too exhausted to work.

Now that I'm able to return to my teaching and illustration I'm able to reconnect with the activities that have sustained me in the past and which I'm sure will sustain me in the future. I feel fortunate to have so many good friends, to be engaged in meaningful work and above all to have shared my life with a wonderful man, if only for a short time.

Thanks,

Celia

Other Events 2006

Date	Event	Details	Contact
To be announced	BAC Summer Garden Party	Emily Luk's home, 8 Wilket Road, Toronto	Emily Luks 416 441-1992
Sept 27	BAC Website Launch	To be announced	Gerry Jenkison gerry.jenkison@sympatico.ca
Sunday October 1 to Tuesday, October 3	Introduction to Botanical Painting with Pamela Stagg	Memorial University Botanical Garden, St. John's, Newfoundland	Margaret Best 709-753-2643 mbest@nl.rogers.com
Sept – Nov	ABSA Exhibition	New York	ASBAExhibitions@aol.com
Oct 13 – Nov 26	ABSA Exhibition	Seattle	ASBAExhibitions@aol.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY July 2005 to June 2006

Balance Forward from June 30 2005 \$4,741.09

Income

Membership Fees \$1,045.00

Carbon Dust Workshop \$525.00

Arlene Steinberg Workshop \$2,090.00

Miscellaneous \$90.00

Total Year's Income Add: \$3,750.00

Expenses

Bank Service Charges \$111.56

Admin, Mail and Communication \$32.53

Meeting Costs \$536.13

Carbon Dust Workshop \$825.00

Arlene Steinberg Workshop \$2,022.75

Webpage \$440.25

Miscellaneous \$142.19

Total Year's Expenses Subtract: \$4,110.41

Bank **Balance** as of May 31, 2006 \$4,380.68

SUMMER COURSES

CELIA GODKIN

August 9,10,11 at St. Lawrence College, Brockville

DRAWING IN THE PARK

Course Code ARTS201-467

Cost: \$132.84

For information or to register

Tel: 1-888-838-0698 (press 6) or 613-345-0660 x 3283/3503

Email: fpeters@sl.on.ca

Online: www.sl.on.ca

Write: 1000 Island Summer School of the Arts, St. Lawrence College, 2288 Parkdale Ave.

Brockville, ON K6V 5X3

For other queries, contact Celia at celiagodkin@ripnet.com or 613-275-7204

MARIANNE BROOME

Marianne, who presented her work at the BAC AGM, conducts workshops and courses, mainly in watercolour, not necessarily botanical. For more information www.naturesedgestudio.ca

MARGIT KORITAR

Botanical Art Workshops at Woodland-Garden Studio. 10 Maple Tree Crescent RR1, Fraserville, Ontario, K0L 1V0. (705) 944-5695. margit@nexicom.net.

Botanical Sketchbook – Journal Expand your love of nature and gardening into the world of art. For the gardener or artist, accurate documentation using both thumbnail and in depth sketches are invaluable reference for future projects. This two-day workshop will introduce you to the basic concepts of botany, perspective, tonal-values, accuracy and colour. Exercises will focus on drawing (in the gardens – weather permitting) from live plants, incorporating various pencil and colour techniques. The lessons will focus on individual instruction helping each student strengthen the skills and techniques acquired during the workshop. *(A light lunch will be provided.)*

Wed/Thu. – August 16, 17, 2006. 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. \$ 120

Painting in the Perennial Garden at Woodland-Garden Studio Expand your love of nature and gardening into the world of art. This three-day workshop will focus on guiding the students through the various phases of botanical drawing and watercolour understanding structure, composition, tonal value, three-dimensionality, spatial context, colour and detail. Students will be able to closely observe plant specimens in their natural habitat in an ever-evolving perennial garden. Dozens of plants are identified and labeled. Students will be encouraged to work on a plant portrait of their choice incorporating the various stages discussed during the workshop. **Each workshop will focus on different and specific challenges.** *(A light lunch will be provided.)*

Fri/Sat/Sun – July 21, 22, 23, 2006. 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. \$ 175

Fri/Sat/Sun – August 18, 19, 20, 2006. 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. \$ 175

For registration form, more information about additional workshops not available at the time of printing or for private or group lessons, please contact Margit. You are registered on receipt of cheque. Course fee is non-refundable within two weeks of the course, unless we can fill your space.

