



Newsletter Winter 2004

READY FOR RED?

Last week I bought a red coat. I was sorting clothes at a friend's church rummage sale when I spotted a wonderful cherry red coat in immaculate condition. It fit! I showed it to my friend who approved and then she informed me she'd just donated that coat to get some extra closet space. I have a wonderful bargain and plan to wear the coat all November to give me that needed lift on those gloomy days.

I have a friend who paints a little red into all of her paintings, just to give them some warmth and vitality. Many of our botanical subjects are red or contain red such as berries seedpods, fruits of all kinds and of course the many red flowers too numerous to name. I was the leader of the last coaching session and my subject was the colour red and its complement, green. I enjoyed doing the research especially for red. Do you know that Roger's Thesaurus has over 100 names for red and 36 for its related tint pink? Red comes from plants or minerals. For example, alizarin comes from the madder root and vermilion comes from the mineral, cinnabar.

I had just a few reds on my palette, relying on Winsor Red for most of my paintings. Alizarin was one of my very original colours when I started painting. For my workshop, I purchased several new reds from various manufacturers, from an incredible number of choices. I started to play. What fun I had making charts to demonstrate qualities of these new reds. I wanted to learn the degree of transparency, opacity and staining abilities of my new colours. I tested them with cool and warm blues yellows, with both under and over glazes and mixed them wet into wet. I tried "knocking them back " with neutral tint, burnt sienna and various purples. I now have several very useful reference charts for future uses. I also found a new favourite, a lovely bright clear red "Quinacradone Red " by Winsor Newton. Find out which reds suit your type of painting!

Soon our shops will be inundated with that harbinger of Christmas, the Poinsettia plant, in all its wonderful shades of reds and peaches and pinks. Why not find a fresh plant (one where the tiny yellow flowers, called "Cyathia", show no yellow pollen), test out your reds, and paint a Botanical masterpiece? It is superb subject matter since the petals, in reality, modified leaves called bracts, often have hints of green and the green leaves have hints of red. (Scarlet Lake or Vermillion will make a great petal colour)

This message, of course, leads me to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Happy Holiday Season. BAC has exciting news for 2005. Let's all have a wonderful New Year! P. S. I need a new car and my Car Broker has just phoned to say, he has a 2002 bright Red Hatchback for me! Honest!

Lynda Bryden

GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to BAC Member, **Kathryn Wood** of Merrickville, Ontario. In October she had two paintings, *Pepper Berries* and *Leopard Lily* accepted at the Hunt Institute for Botanical Illustration.

Margit Koritar has been invited to sit on the Board of Directors of the American Society of Botanical Artists, New York and on the Exhibition Committee. **Joyce Cho** of Newfoundland has also been invited to join the Board. Way to go!

A NEW BABY!!! September 26 was the birth day of Holly, daughter of **Gayle Hutchings**. Gayle isn't bragging, but insists that Holly is already grasping for her 00000 brush!

BAC Website Directory

Living in St. John's, NL probably makes Margaret Walsh Best the most Eastern member of BAC. She is also the first member that we know of, who has a website featuring her art.

<http://www.margaretbest.com/>

Take a look and let us know if you know of any other websites we should feature. Email: peta@lombergnetwork.com

MEMBER NEWS

2005 COACHING SESSIONS

The Coaching sessions, which were introduced in 2004, were a great success, and will resume in April 2005. For those of you who were not able to attend (and numbers were limited) the first coach was Pamela Stagg with the title "Stumped." Basically, she helped each artist individually with specific problems. Second was Emily Luks, who talked about "Drawing, tools and techniques". Our third coach was Raquel Baranyai on the subject of "Coloured Pencils." In September, Leslie Staples taught about leaves. Lynda Bryden researched the colours red and green in October, and in November, the final coach, Nola McConnan, gave us great information about "Sticks, Trunks and Bark." The sessions were all very helpful and it was fun to work together on specific projects.

Emily Luks who organized the sessions has had excellent 'report backs' from participants, and writes: "I want to thank everyone who helped to make these Coaching Sessions a success, especially all of you who volunteered your time, your knowledge and your enthusiasm. I would like to thank the members who attended the sessions; you played a great part in the success with your support".

Look out for details of 2005 sessions in the next newsletter

MORE CHANGES ON THE WAY for Celia Godkin

"As you will know from the last newsletter, I'm getting married in December. My husband-to-be, John, had open-heart surgery in April. He's made a full recovery, but the experience led us to re-evaluate our priorities. Not only did we decide to get married, but I also decided it was time to make the move from Toronto to our house in Eastern Ontario. I've therefore handed in my resignation to the School of Continuing Studies at U of T.

"I'll teach the fall and winter courses as advertised and move in April. I have recommended four teachers to replace me, and I'm pleased to be able to tell you that Leslie Staple will be taking over my Botanical Drawing and Botanical Watercolour courses. As yet, I have no information with regard to other replacement teachers.

"Despite the move, I hope to continue offering my private courses in Toronto. The summer painting in the garden as well as the occasional weekend workshop (see the Animal Portraiture course coming up in January) will still be on offer as long as there is sufficient interest and a suitable venue.

"There is also a long-term plan, once my patch of grass at the house has been turned into a garden, to offer courses there. We have a shady porch, a wonderful big studio and access to a great variety of wildflowers. You'll find us in the village of Frankville, which lies in farming country between Smiths Falls and Brockville. If you're in the area, call us at (613) 275-7204 and drop by for tea!"

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday Season

Critique Evenings fun and informative

A group of about 12 of our members gathered on November 3rd for our Fall Critique evening. Raquel Baranyai arranged the location, Don Heights Unitarian Congregation, on Wynford Drive, for us. It was a spacious and bright room, perfect for our informal evening. We enjoyed some light refreshments as we shared our recent projects. We chatted about concerns and ideas and received some excellent feedback on each of our paintings. It was inspirational and affirming and we all returned to our individual studios, with some new knowledge and determination to produce that next "masterpiece". Thanks to Raquel and all who participated.

MATERIAL SOURCES – TIPS FROM DONNA GREENSTEIN

For all of these products, the more you buy, the cheaper the price. Prices may have changed slightly.

1. Backing board and crystal clear bags.

Crystal Clear Bags Canada, 56 Canaan St Unit 3, Strathroy, ON, N7G 1L8
www.crystalclearbags.com. Tel: 1-888-436-6197 or 519-245-3096
fax: 519-245-6751

Example: 100 acid free backing boards 11 x 14 cost 92c each
100 Crystal clear bags for storing finished paintings 11 x 14 cost 38c each.

2. Acid free Double mats (They are gorgeous) and Resealable Polybags

Island Art Publishers / Matshop, P.O. Box 22063, Brentwood Bay, BC, V8M 1R5
1 - 800-663-7501

Note: For the first order, no minimum is required. Future orders minimum of \$200.
Example: 11 X 14 Double mat (7.5 X 9.5 opening) (these come with their own polysleeves) 60 cost \$2.40 each. Colours: Arctic White, Williamsburg Green, Newport Blue, Raven Black, Old Gold, Chinese Red.

3. Bubblewrap

Try the Dollar Stores. It's much cheaper.

BAC Co-ordinating Committee meeting news

The BAC executive had a meeting on November 18 mainly to discuss future exhibition plans. Thanks to Ann Stirling for doing so much research and scouting out locations. We do hope to have a non-juried show in the spring, which would be called, "Spring is in the air" consisting of botanical images of spring subject matter. Keep this in mind as you plan painting projects for the New Year! Our problem is finding the proper space and time, at the right cost! We do want to tread carefully, because mounting a show is a great deal of work, and we want to satisfy the majority of our members, and have the potential of the greatest success. This is a very difficult task. We will continue to work on this over Christmas and the New Year. We will put out an e-mail or letter to you all as soon as we can confirm a venue. We would certainly appreciate any ideas or knowing about contacts you may have. Give Ann a call if you can help.

The American Society of Botanical Artists Celebrates 10 Years *By Leslie Staple*

The American Society of Botanical Artists held their 10th Annual Meeting and Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 21-23, in conjunction with the opening of the **11th International Exhibition of Botanical Art and Illustration** at the Hunt Institute of Botanical Documentation.

The opportunity to see world-class botanical art and meet other botanical artists from around the world was impossible to resist. So Margit Koritar and I drove to Pittsburgh with hardly a car on the road, enjoying miles of glorious fall colours.

We arrived Wednesday afternoon and I spent the next day touring the Carnegie Art Museum and the Phipps Conservatory, one of the largest conservatoires in the country. I even found an art supply store on the Carnegie Mellon University campus! In the meantime Margit and Joyce Cho, another BAC member from Newfoundland, attended an all day Board of Directors' Meeting. They are the new Canadian appointees to the ASBA Board of Directors. Congratulations!

The conference began Thursday evening with the opening of the **11th International Exhibition** at The Hunt Institute. To meet an international group of artists and be surrounded by their works was a truly a wonderful feeling, a feeling shared by many of the guests, botanical art collectors and ASBA members present at the gala event. "*The best ever Exhibition so far!*" was the comment heard over and over again. The experience was exhilarating and humbling.

The next two days were filled with exciting workshops, lectures, guided tours and catered meals. Some of the workshops offered were: Plant Morphology, Calligraphy, Juror training, How to take slides of your artwork, Tips on shipping, Giclee printing, Painting leaves, Sharing of Royal Horticultural Society show experiences and many more.

On Friday morning we had portfolio viewing allowing artists not only to see the works (in-progress and completed) of other ASBA.

artists, but also to exchange valuable tips and techniques.

It was educational, inspiring and also very comforting to know that artists from Russia, Holland, Japan, Australia and England to name a few countries were all going through similar experiences. The camaraderie and sharing was amazing! The remainder of the morning was dedicated to the AGM and it was nice to be able to put faces to the names we see in the ASBA newsletters. Lunch for 130 artists was hosted by the Hunt Institute and followed by an invitation to see Anne Ophelia Dowden's work along with a second viewing of the Exhibition.

On Saturday I enjoyed a critique workshop with Robin Jess and a dynamic afternoon with Susan Fisher called Watercolour Solutions. It was exciting to be among so many friendly botanical artists, sharing in their fellowship and exchanging information on techniques, materials, courses, etc. Margit spent the morning in Juror training and the afternoon with the Exhibitions Committee followed by a quick visit to the orchid pavilion at the Phipps.

By Saturday evening we were all ready for the silent auction and banquet hosted by the ASBA. This is a fundraiser to raise money by the ASBA for grants to individual artists who have applied to work on specific projects. And the banquet is to honour the work of artists not only as it pertains to their art but the contributions they make to the ASBA and promoting botanical art in general.

I found it very interesting that conferences held once a year in different geographical locations of the US allow artists from all over the world to come together for an annual general meeting, board and committee meetings, workshops, dinners, etc. and volunteer/participate at so many different levels.

Perhaps in the future we could have a conference and meet our BAC members from across Canada!

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Contact
Nov 6 – May 19	"Treasures of Algonquin" - Denise Hart, Aliya Ebrahim and Sara Carlisle: Exhibition illustrating the flora of Algonquin.	Algonquin room in the Visitors centre, Algonquin National Park.	
Dec 10	Deadline for entries for 5 th Annual Art Show at Canada Blooms	For full information and conditions of entry, email Margit	Margit Koritar (705) 944-5695 margit@nexicom.net
Jan 29 – 30 10am to 5pm	Animal Portraiture with Celia Godkin	At Patricia Bermiller's, 318 St. Clement's Ave, Toronto	Celia Godkin (416) 591-0491
From Jan 11, for 9 weeks. Tuesdays 6:30- 9:30pm	Botanical Painting with Leslie Staple	Northern Secondary School	To register: telephone 416 338-4000, online at www.tdsb.on.ca/coned
Feb 26 - March 6	Art Tour of Costa Rica with Pamela Stagg.		Sean at Worldwide Adventures, 416-633-5666, 1-800-387-1483 or sean@worldwidequest.com
March 2005	Canada Blooms	Toronto	www.canadablooms.com
March 5-6 9.30-4-30	Botanical Illustration Workshop: "Fruit, the Seed Dispersal Agent of Flowering Plants" With Dick Rauh.	Toronto. \$250. Registration closes February 2005	Margit Koritar (705) 944-5695, margit@nexicom.net

Send information for the next newsletter (Spring 2005) to: peta@lombergnetwork.com.

LATE BREAKING NEWS

There is a group of about ten BAC members who meet every Friday morning from 9 a.m. to 12 in the basement of the Timothy Eaton Church on St. Clair at Warren Rd. They have some spaces for members who would like to join for Drawing and Painting. There will be some guest instructors, including Pamela Stagg. A 10-week session will cost \$250.00; anyone can come once as guest for free. Contact Linda Glass, at fun2buy@hotmail.com

ANIMAL PORTRAITURE

**A weekend workshop with Celia Godkin
January 29 & 30, 2005 from 10 am – 5 pm**
at Patricia Bermiller’s, 318 St. Clement’s Ave. Toronto

Cost: \$150

To enroll, please deliver the attached registration form, accompanied by a cheque payable to Celia Godkin at 680 Queen’s Quay West, Unit 601, Toronto, ON. M5V 2Y9

Space is limited and you will be registered on receipt of cheque. The course fee is non-refundable within two weeks of the course, unless we can fill your space with someone from the waiting list. Should you have any questions, please call Celia at (416) 591-0491. For last minute change of plans, call Patricia at (416) 483-3367.

Directions

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.

Course Content

Working from photographs of your pet or a favourite animal you will learn the basics of animal portraiture, using colour pencil as the medium of choice, either on its own or combined with an underpainting of watercolour. The anatomy of cats and dogs will be covered, as it applies to the artist, and of any other mammal or bird, which you may request on the registration form below.

Supplies Checklist

- * Several large (min. 8x10) good quality photographs of the animal you wish to draw
- * Pencils: H & HB graphite pencils; set of artist’s quality prismacolors (already sharpened, please)
- * Papers: tracing paper; sheet of grey or beige Canson Mi-Teinte or white Stonehenge paper
- * Pink pearl eraser, preferably in pencil form; sharpener, preferably with an attached canister
- * Optional: watercolour supplies for mixed media technique – in which case you will need a sheet of pre-stretched Stonehenge or other smooth (hot press) paper
- * Please bring a packed lunch

ANIMAL PORTRAITURE
~ ENROLLMENT FOR JANUARY 2005 ~

NAME

PHONE E-MAIL

STREET ADDRESS

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CITY POSTAL CODE

MY ANIMAL OF CHOICE IS

Botanical Illustration Workshop

"Fruit, the Seed Dispersal Agent of Flowering Plants" With Dick Rauh

March 5 - 6, 2005 (Saturday and Sunday, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

We will be looking at both the botanical and illustrative aspects of fruit, the seed dispersal agent of flowering plants.

On the first day we will discuss the development of fruit from the flower, and the reasons and vectors employed to move the seeds away from the parent plants. Then we will investigate the various types of fleshy fruits and draw a number of examples in black and white, using pencil. Emphasis will be placed on the creation of form using a single light source, and in the depiction of texture. Simple and compound fruits will be included.

On the second day we will look at and draw a number of examples of dry fruits, both those that split open to release their seeds and those, like fleshy fruit, that depend on outside vectors to do this job. Dry fruits are particularly interesting to draw, even though many are on the small side. Some form of enlargement would be desirable, bring a loupe or magnifying glass

Dick Rauh is an award-winning artist who resides in Norwalk, Connecticut. For many years he was a principal in a motion picture special effects company where he designed and supervised the execution of main titles for numerous major motion pictures, as well as openings and graphics for television. He now devotes full time to painting, printmaking and scientific illustration. He studied at the High School of Music and Art, the Art's Students League both in Manhattan and Woodstock, N.Y., and the Brooklyn Museum Art School, and holds certificates from the New York Botanical Garden's Botanical Illustration Program and the Guild of Natural Science Illustrator's 1990 Summer Workshop. His prints and paintings are in many private collections, and he has had one man shows at the Burnham Library in Bridgewater, CT, The Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford, the Nature Center in Westport, the New York Botanical Gardens and the Arsenal Gallery in Central Park, N.Y., as well as numerous group shows including a series of "Focus on Nature" exhibitions at the New York State Museum in Albany. He has illustrated booklets for the New York City Department of Parks, (including most recently, a guide to the Great Trees of New York) Westchester County Parks Department and the Tropical Resources Institute at Yale University, as well as new species for a number of scientist's at the NYBG. He illustrated some of the signage for the newly refurbished Haupt Conservatory of the New York Botanical Garden. He did the extensive illustrations for "A Guide to Winter Wildflowers" written by Carole Levine, recently published by Yale University Press. Along with his painting, he is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Plant Sciences at Lehman College, CUNY where he received his Doctorate in Biological Science in June 2001. He is an instructor in the Botanical Illustration program at the New York Botanical Gardens. He is a past president of the international Guild of Natural Science Illustrators and chaired their 2001 annual meeting in Bar Harbor, Maine. He is a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists, The American Fern Society, The American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society and also sits on the board of the Torrey Botanical Society.

Location: Eglinton Avenue and Mount Pleasant Road (to be confirmed)
Fee: \$ 250 non-refundable and payable upon registration to:
Margit Koritar, 10 Maple Tree Crescent, RR1, Fraserville, On.
K0L 1V0

Registration Deadline Date: February 1, 2005, Space is limited - First come first served. You are registered the day I receive your cheque.
contact Margit Koritar at: (705) 944-5695, e-mail: margit@nexicom.net