

Notes from the Nov 3rd, 2017 OBA Bi-Annual meeting

Attending: (at Mary McCarty's community center)

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|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1.) Aislinn Adams (chaired) | 8.) Carol Putnam |
| 2.) Janet Parker | 9.) Alice Debo |
| 3.) Denise Cedar | 10) Jane Levy Campbell |
| 4.) Mary McCarty | 11.) Connie Ratti |
| 5.) Dorota Haber-Lehigh | 12.) Kip Nordstrom |
| 6.) Janene Walkky | 13.) Tina Lange |
| 7.) Dorothy Krogh | |

For a few photos from
this inspiring meeting
- scroll to the last few
pages.....

Announcements -

As usual we spent at least an hour meeting and greeting over coffee while seeing what art people brought and catching up with each other's news. We gathered for the meeting about 11. Aislinn announced that the Straub Center in Salem will be interested in exhibiting work in conjunction with the ASBA's International Exhibit of native species from all over the world. (Botanical Art Worldwide, and America's Flora - to be held at the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C.) Asking for a show of hands from people who thought they might have one or more pieces to submit we might have 10 - 20 pieces among us. Not sure whether it will be a juried show in Salem.

Mini workshop given by Dorota Haber-Lehigh, on creating a faux vellum look on watercolor paper - This was a huge hit! Dorota has been experimenting with this, probably since our watercolor on vellum workshop last fall. Her preferred paper is Stonehenge Aqua, hot press, and for staining the paper her preference is Daniel Smith's walnut ink. She gave us each a small piece of paper already treated, and another larger pristine one on which to experiment. And each a little medicine cup with a portion of walnut ink to use. She first used a sponge brush to thoroughly wet one side of the paper, and then used a dropper to drop in some of the ink. We watched it puddle and move, and then she played with it by pushing the ink around a bit with her brush, picked up an edge to let it drip and run, and used a spray bottle to disperse it differently. Other techniques were using a toothbrush to create a splatter, and using walnut crystals (brought by Tina Lange) dropped on the surface.

She also shared what amounted to about 20 small artworks done in colored pencil on small sheets of paper prepared this way and each one was just stunning. (We'll be using a selection of them for an updated website banner, and showing some at the end of this document.)

Her favorite colored pencils for this are Prismacolor - the wax base seems to work best - but she uses all brands too. When the drawing is finished, she sprays a layer of fixative. Next she applies a layer of gel medium - or 2. When that's thoroughly dried she applies Dorland's wax medium, rubbing it in with a cloth. Then lets that dry overnight and applies a 2nd coat.

Noon - we broke for a potluck lunch

12:30 - Denise Cedar announced that she'd lost the book info that she'd been collecting for a OBA bibliography, and asked everyone to please send their submissions again. (Title, author, ISBN number, if possible, and a sentence or 2 about why you like the book.)

Jane Campbell suggested scheduling our next bi-annual meeting for mid-month in May - in Salem if possible. Aislinn offered to check with the Lord and Shryver house as a possible venue for the meeting.

Carol Putnam reported on working on the website. (Thanks for doing a terrific job, Carol!) She's asking for more people to submit work for display on our gallery page, and mentioned a plan to create a gallery page for the Lan Su Garden show too.

Alice Debo, as our Product Chairperson gave a Power Point presentation on ways to get your work reproduced on fabric, wallpaper, and wrapping paper. The Spoonflower website is a great resource for all of these. She also explored using botanical art in jewelry, creating botanicals in 3-D (there's a free program at Shapeways.com for 3-D printing on various materials); laser cutting for wood, glass, paper, metal, fabric, etc. (Alice is actually getting a laser-cutter and can do this for us) Other materials she explored were ceramics, trays, and even tatoos and manicures. Aislinn also mentioned a company called Impression Obsession - iostamps.com - makes rubber stamps of your artwork. And Red Bubble - a company that prints on tshirts, stickers, mugs, notebooks, journals, device cases, and more.

After this presentation she went on to share a handout that's compilation of resources for people looking to have cards printed of their work, and a separate handout listing lots of local places that might be interested in carrying our cards.

She then brought up the idea of working on a group product. She'd spent some time exploring creating a journal that would feature several peoples' work, but the math seemed to suggest that the expense of producing them would be difficult to recoup enough to make it worthwhile as a group project. Other ideas we discussed included the possibility of creating a package for already-existing holiday-themed cards that our members may have on hand. A lot to think about. Someone suggested we stop to think about Why, Where, and What we'd hope to accomplish by these group products, before we start one. So more discussion by those interested will follow...

As Exhibitions Chairperson, Alice then distributed the 2019 Lan Su Exhibition protocols and Call for Entries - into which she'd also put a tremendous amount of work. We discussed the fact that we're limiting the framed sizes to conform to Blick Essentials Gallery frames in natural wood in just 3 sizes: 9 x 12", 12 x 12" and 12 x 16". And requiring that matting be done in either white, off-white or light neutral colors. We also talked a bit about a new requirement that artwork must be sealed at the back to protect against the elements - or will be turned away. Jane also suggested that we establish a common place to attach hardware to the backs of our frames - our very good idea that Harris will no doubt appreciate when he goes to hang the work.

Janene Walkky gave the treasury report - The group currently has \$2,807 in its treasury. We are now at our 5-year anniversary! Wahoo. Unbelievable! We currently have 37 members. Janene mentioned that the group will cover Lan Su memberships for Jane, Janet, and Alice, and will subsidize anyone else who would like to join to be better able to spend more time there working on work for the show.

Janene also encouraged members to contribute more mini-workshops to the bi-annual meetings. OBA gives a small honorarium to anyone who gives a workshop and covers or helps with covering materials costs, too.

Alice mentioned that we'll need volunteers for the intake of artwork for the Lan Su show in 2019. This will involve some data entry into an excel spread sheet, from the submission forms, among other things. It's not a huge amount of work, and we have our past record to use as a starting point, but would be great to hand this off to a new volunteer (with a little oversight, of course.). Contact Alice if you'd like to help in this way. There will also be a need for a few helpers with setting up the show at the beginning, and with taking down the show at the end. It's still a long way off, but if you haven't been able to volunteer for other things for the group, think about helping in one of these ways. It's appreciated!

Workshops planned for 2018 -

Tina Lange volunteered to take on the job of Workshop Co-chairperson for 2018

Currently, Mary McCarty, Laurie Griff and Connie Ratti are on the workshop committee, and Janene has been functioning as Chairperson. In early January, we'll schedule a meeting with Tina Lange, to give her what she needs to take more of the work from Janene.

Scheduled: Debbie Ellis's Eco Printing one-day workshop at Mary McCarty's community center will be held on Saturday, March 24th. Look for details after the new year.

Janene has already taken on a lot of work to organize **Pat Burrell-Standley's Nature Journaling workshop** here next September. It'll be a 2-day / all day weekend workshop. Connie Ratti is helping with research to find 2 different locations as venues for this. Places that Connie has looked into are: Jackson Bottoms, Leach Botanical Garden, Tryon Creek Park, Tualatin River Wildlife / Nature Preserve.

For both of these workshops we're hoping to keep cost low so that more members can attend.

Janene also reported on the 2017 ASBA conference in San Francisco - She represented our group at the meeting chapters and circles - there were 10 chapters and 8 circles represented. Our own Laurie Griff is the Chapter / Circle Liaison for the ASBA and led the meeting. Garden Conservancy groups could be good partners for our local shows. Places focusing on rare and endangered species.

Techniques Showcase segments: Martin Allen's demo at one of his technique included admitting that he traces from his photos (a gasp could be heard throughout the conference room). He uses only 8 pigments. and his work is stunning.

John Muir Laws gave a presentation on foreshortening leaves and flowers. He has 5 books published. Janene recommended we all look up his foreshortening video - or blog post. He's apparently a terrifically charismatic speaker too. Some memorable quotes from his talk: "Pencil miles make all the difference." "This is your brain on paper!" "Speak your observations out loud when you're sketching, and write notes."

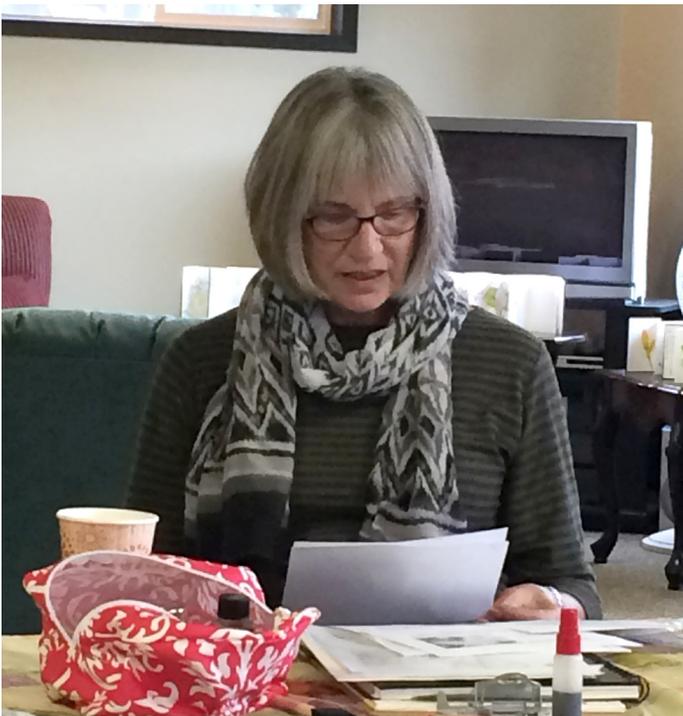
Carol Woodin demonstrated how to mount vellum on a panel.

Janene took Sarah Morrish's workshop - Dissections, magnifiers and microscopes. She recommended a clip-on len for an iPhone to take close up fotos. One of these will magnify 24x! But the lens has to be right on top of the subject. Tips for keeping dissected parts fresh: Store in a petri dish with a drop of water. And keep in a Chinese food container in the fridge.

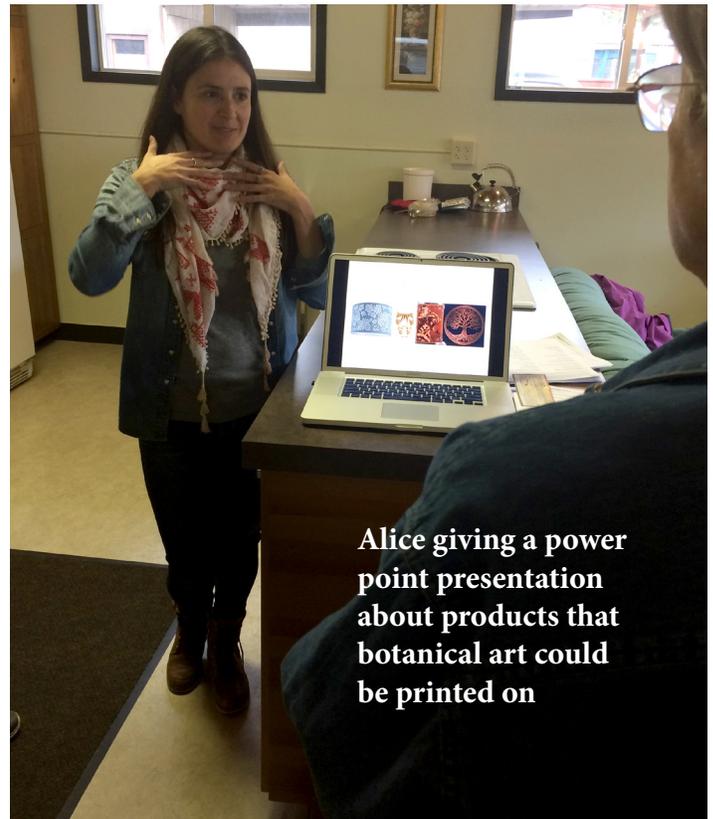
She also took Alice Tangerini's workshop in graphite and watercolor on drafting film. (Alice has worked for years at both the Smithsonian and the National Natural History Museum in D.C.) The working surface is a Graphics double-sided matte drafting film. The graphite was done on one piece that laid over the top of a piece on which watercolor had painted to fill in the drawing with color. The strangest thing is that the watercolor layer was painted with the most unbelievable garish, almost day-glo colors, but when the graphite layer was placed on top the color looked very natural.

Kip added that she attended Diane Sutherland's "Demystifying Fibonacci" in graphite.

Someone chimed in suggesting possible field trips - like one to Silver Falls state park, and there was a resounding "Yes!" Another idea that will need an organizer!



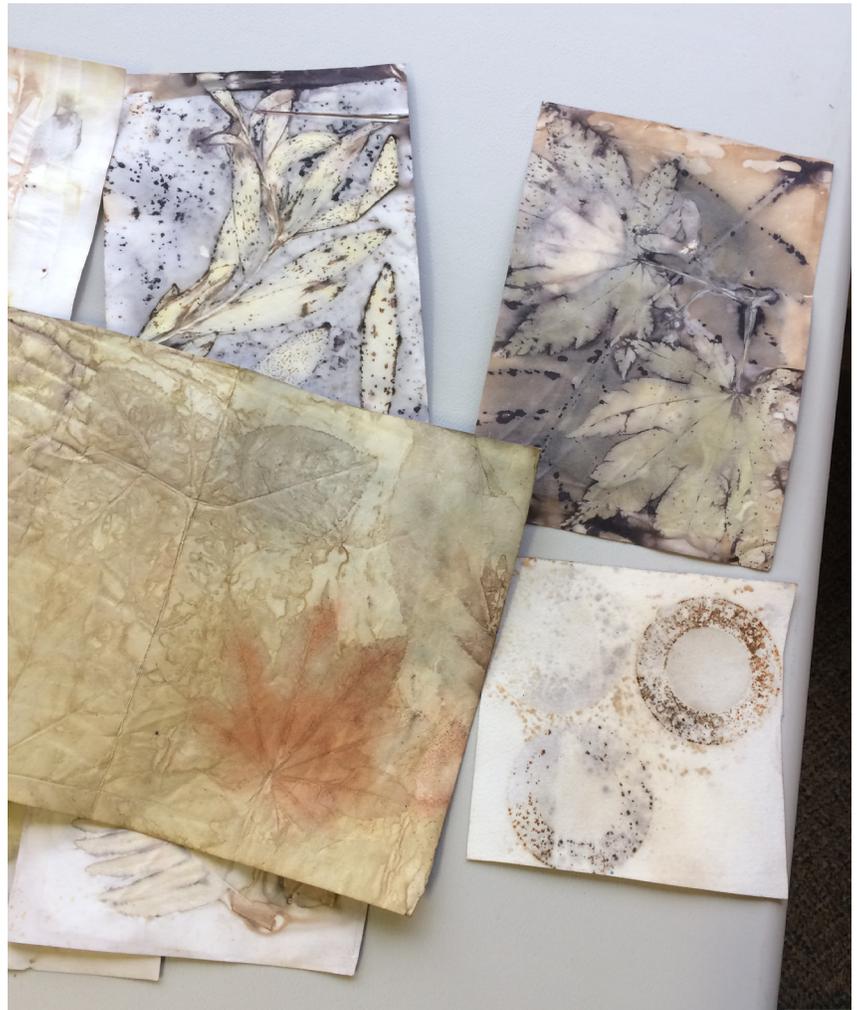
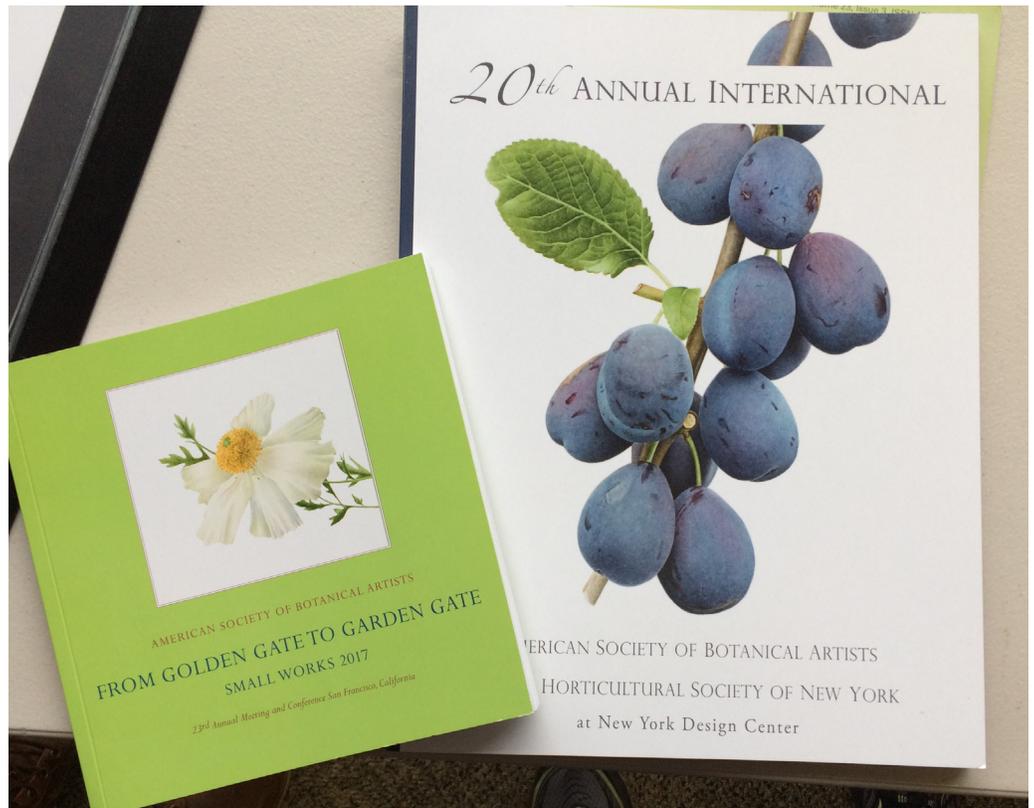
Janene reporting on our treasury, on her experiences at the recent ASBA conference, and on the Nature Journaling workshop planned for fall, 2018



Alice giving a power point presentation about products that botanical art could be printed on

Right: Janene shared these catalogs from the ASBA conference in S.F. recently. The small works catalog featured a piece by our own Janene Walkky and Joan Provo-Clinkston!

Janene's was a beautiful Nootka Rose in watercolor, and Joan's was a stunning graphite rendering of garlic bulbs. Congratulations, both of you!



Mary McCarty was able to borrow several pieces from Debbie Ellis's collection of Eco-printed papers and fabrics, to help us get a feel for what her workshop can produce. According to Mary, it's always a surprise, but these beautiful scarves and paper pieces were really inspiring. Mark your calendars for this one-day workshop on Saturday, March 24th in Portland, at Mary's



Left: Dorota demonstrating her technique for creating a vellum-look on watercolor paper. This was a huge hit, and seeing her MANY pieces done on this faux vellum was truly inspiring! The sampling above represents just a few that she brought in. There must have been at least 20. And the photos don't do them justice - they're warmer and brighter in person.



At left: Among the items that people brought in to share were a large number of sketchbooks in the exchange. This sample doesn't even represent all that were there! Isn't it a staggeringly beautiful collection of work?! And I think we're only 6 months in!

Below left: Aislinn brought in her most recent work done for the Silver Falls project, and talked about how she applies color to the ink drawings (digitally - to scans.)

Below right: In addition to the many contributions Alice made to the meeting, she also brought in an impressive number of drawings she's currently working on. This is one of several of *Akebia* she's been working on.

