



OBA members (l to r) Mary McCarty, Janene Walkky, Jane Levy Campbell, Janet Parker, and Laurie Griff

Oregon Botanical Artists - Notes from Sept-Oct, 2013

Meetings on Wednesday, Sept 4th, and Wednesday Oct. 2, from 9:30 to 12:30 at Jane Levy Campbell's

Attending were: (Sept) Janene Walkky, Mary McCarty, Jane Levy Campbell, and guests Francoise Beniston and Kaye Synoground; and (Oct) Mary McCarty, Laurie Griff, Janene Walkky, René Eisenbart, Jane Levy Campbell, Janet Parker, Dawn Hummel, and Dawn's friend, Sabrina

Notes by Jane and Janet

Member check-in October meeting:

Mary McCarty had great news - She won a spot in the #6 Issue of *Strokes of Genius* Drawing annual which will be published in 2014. This is a great, beautifully produced annual published by NorthLight books. The theme of #6 is 'value'. Congratulations, Mary!!

Also from Mary - Mary has works in 3 shows currently. One is the Oregon Womens Caucus for Art (OWCA) show at the Portland Center for Performing Arts. She has 2 originals in this show. Two, is the *Celebration of Creativity* show in Beaverton. And three, the *Chasing Northwest Visions* show at the Grapevine Gallery in Oregon City.

Mary is phenomenally good at keeping her work out there, constantly showing. Her advice: "One thing leads to another.....do anything and everything!"

She had lots more to share on exhibition opportunities, details about producing and selling cards, etc. More details on those subjects are included in the notes below.

René Eisenbart also had great news - Besides getting one of her pieces into the prestigious National Watercolor Society show, she was accepted as a Signature Member in NWS. Congratulations, René!

René's many workshops are filling. She has an incredibly busy teaching schedule. She teaches an ongoing schedule of classes through the Oregon Society of Artists, and has 2 travel/art workshops coming up in 2014. February in Kauai, and May in Tuscany. For more information, see René's website, www.rene-art.com.

Dawn Hummel brought in the recent *Country Gardens* article featuring botanical artist Lara Call Gastinger's beautiful work. Dawn mentioned that she would make available to the group, a talk that Maria Zampini of HGTV is giving at the Phipp's Conservancy in Pittsburgh on "Nativars". Dawn is also up for the job of VP of the Oregon Association of Nurseries. She'll be giving a talk on *Lilies and Pseudo Lilies* in Tigard, for which she would welcome art from our members to have on display. (JP get dates, times and exact location) Dawn also shared about a possible opportunity for OBA members to participate in a sort of "Speed Dating" session that will be held at next year's YGP (Yard, Garden & Patio) show on the last weekend of February 2014. Retailers, growers, bloggers, artists, writers, will have a chance to meet and, hopefully, make meaningful connections in this quick meet-and-greet format.

Janet Parker admitted to doing virtually no drawing or painting in the last month. She's been busy preparing 2 presentations to give at Friendly House - the first will be on the History of Botanical Art and its ongoing relevance today on Oct 18 (Friday) at 1pm, and the second will be on The Value of Drawing in early December - exact date tk. She also talked about a need to arrange a venue for the botanical drawing classes she's eager to begin teaching. Many suggestions were made, which she'll pursue this month. Stay tuned!

Jane Levy Campbell just wrapped her solo show, *Autumn Sonata*, at the First Unitarian Church, in downtown Portland. Jane was also invited to set up a booth with the Orchid Society, as part of the Home and Garden show this coming weekend. She took off immediately after the meeting closed to set up her work.

Laurie Griff spoke a bit about the ASBA conference in Pittsburgh that she and Janene just returned from. They were both a little overwhelmed with the experience and promised to organize a bit, for a better download of the experience at the next OBA meeting on November 6th. One highlight - Jean Emmons will be teaching again next year! In addition, Laurie talked a bit about Portland Garden Club's upcoming activities, and in particular about the Garden Club's monthly "3rd Thursday" morning meeting which is open to the public. In April, the open meeting will feature a demonstration and workshop by Wendy Hollender.

Both Laurie and Janet are pursuing Wendy for a possible additional workshop while she's in Portland, and having spoken to Wendy, I know she's interested. Among the details to be worked out are: • Making sure Portland Garden Club is comfortable with whatever OBA sets up to do. • Making sure we can fill the workshop with at least 12-16 people • Finding a venue for the workshop that will be affordable, able to accommodate up to 16 students, and ideally would be easy for our Salem contingent as well. Here's a list of some of the venues we might pursue:

- Lakewood Performing Arts Center
- MAC Center, Multnomah Village
- Oregon Society of Artists
- Hillsborough Library
- Beaverton Main Library
- West Linn Library
- Leach Botanical Gardens (a little remote....)
- Tualatin Valley Water Conservation District Building (?)
- Forestry Center (Mount Hood Room or David Douglas Room)
- PNCA
- Oregon College of Arts and Crafts
- Portland Community College
- Portland State U
- Hardy Plant Society
- Hotel / Motel in Wilsonville - Colored Pencil Society rents here - Mary McC will research....

Laurie also talked about the Garden Club's upcoming 2014 big Flower show, and will look into whether or not this would be a good venue for demos or some sort of presence by OBA.

Janene Walkky shared a bit about the conference - she's purchased some vellum to work on. She and Laurie were both very taken with the portfolio viewings at the conference - terrific artists from all over the world who you can chat with, while looking at their original work. Janene and Laurie will give more details about their experiences at the conference at our next meeting on November 7th.

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Other notes, and **"action"** items:

There was much discussion about the particulars of selling cards

- Where to sell? Oblation, Garden Fever, The Arrangement. Ideally, look for stores that buy outright as opposed to selling on commission.
- Consider buying polybags as a group to save money? Sources include U-Line, Grand&Benedict, and Portland Fixture.
- The pluses and minuses of open-ended sleeves versus fold&glue.
- Should you invest in a card rack? Mary has priced her cards at \$3.50. Others have priced at \$4.00.

This would be a good topic to do some thorough research on and make a presentation to a later meeting.

Exhibition opportunities

Another topic with legs. Jane has started a list of exhibition opportunities, and Mary McCarty contributed several more at this meeting. Look at: Trinity Cathedral for show opportunities and for interesting talks, Columbia Arts has a drawing show, The Gresham Art Association, The Larch Mountain Art show (a great show for sales). Pricing art for this area, Mary's experience suggests that top selling is \$325-\$400 range for original works. She has sold higher, but it's rare.

A goal for the group: Flesh out an excel spreadsheet list of exhibition opportunities including contact person, exact location, fees, guidelines or rules, percent the venue takes on sales, deadline for submissions, date of the actual show, a place to link the call for entries and applications to, a place to note whether the exhibition would be good for a group show. This could be a living document that can be used as a tool on our website. But it will need to be created and maintained. Janet will help get it set up - **Any volunteers to manage this?**

Possibility of featuring "In the Footsteps of David Douglas" exhibition in Portland? Janet will reach out to the Forestry Center about the possibility of their showing work from the David Douglas exhibition after its run in Salem. Catherine Alexander mentioned that the show run through 3rd weekend in October in Salem. And Catherine's hoping to have it travel to the Washington County Museum but hasn't finalized dates, so at the moment it would work to have it travel to the Forestry Center first, so, possibly the month of November 2014....

(Show details from Catherine) - In addition to the contemporary botanical and zoological illustrations, we hope to have a selection of natural history books on loan from the Oregon State Library, herbarium specimens from the Helen Gilkey Collection at OSU, and possibly some Chinook artifacts. I also hope to secure a loan of several elements from the David Douglas: A Naturalist at Work exhibition, which is currently in Tacoma. Items from this exhibit may include a replica of the cedar hut Douglas lived in (complete with plant pressing equipment, dried specimens and animals skins). I'll keep you posted regarding the exhibition checklist as we flesh it out!

ASBA agreed to post the prospectus / call for entries for the Douglas show on their website. Janet will remind them...

Aislinn Adams told us that Salem has now formed its own Botanical Artists group, starting out with about 12 members. Go Salem!

Dawn would like interested members to lend artworks of lilies and pseudo lilies to display at her talk on March 7th. Dawn offered to share a grid that she created as a drawing tool.

Some items for next month's meeting agenda (Meeting date is Wednesday, Nov 6 from 9:30 to 12:30 at Jane's):

Attendees check in with everyone

Audubon's Wild Arts Festival at Montgomery Park

Discuss / review preparations for OBA presentation booth.

- **Sign-up sheet for members** (and friends) to come and sit in the booth. And demo / chat with people about what we're doing. We'd like to have at least 2 people there at all times.

The show is Saturday and Sunday, November 23 and 24. Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5

This is the weekend before Thanksgiving - no doubt a busy time for all of us.

- **Janet will bring lots of cards** (that still need correcting!) Any of you who are willing and able to take a stack to correct, please do! And if you like you can just bring them with you when you take your turn sitting in the booth.

- **Jane and Janet will visit the space, take measurements for our display.**

- **Ultimately, we'll make several easel-backed display boards illustrating highlights of the history of Botanical Art, along with similar boards displaying members' art.**

- **Please send Janet scans of 2 or 3 of your favorite pieces for this!**

Specs are: 300dpi or higher, sized at 100%. CMYK color is best, saved as jpg is best. Name each file with your name and the title of the piece, and include caption information in a separate document.

- **Please, everyone who can: Bring either a few of your cards/envelopes, and / or a print to include in a giveaway basket for the silent auction. The Audubon Society has graciously allowed us this space at no charge and we would like to show our thanks.**

Laurie and Janene to share their ASBA conference impressions

Bring in work for feedback

Spend time drawing if possible