



OBA members (l to r, from foreground left: Françoise Beniston, Janene Walkky, Dawn Hummel, Jane Levy Campbell, Carol Putnam, Dorota Haber-Lehigh (partially hidden), and Mary McCarty.

## Oregon Botanical Artists - Notes from November 6, 2013

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

Attending were: Janene Walkky, Mary McCarty, Jane Levy Campbell, Françoise Beniston, Kaye Synoground, Janet Parker, Dawn Hummel, and new members, Carol Putnam and Dorota Haber-Lehigh

Notes by Janet

We started with the **Janene Walkky** sharing in more detail, some of her experiences from the ASBA conference in Pittsburgh. She talked about several of the techniques demonstrations at the conference, including Jee Ung Koo's work in watercolor, Libby Kyer's work in colored pencil, and Hee Young Kim's graphite work. Janene took a separate workshop with Hee Young and shared these notes. Hee Young does all her drawing on tracing paper, in the field. She has a technique of drawing lines lightly until she finds or feels just the 'right' line. She makes her own transfer paper using H pencils on tracing paper. (a good thing to do while watching TV, apparently). A favorite brand of graphite pencils are Caran d'Ache - particularly nice because their shafts are painted to represent the value-grade of the graphite, so it's easy to pick out just the right grade in a box of pencils. Another note from HeeYoung, was a suggestion to include at least one precisely accurate leaf in your drawing, and in drawing that leaf, to start with the stem first.

Janene also participated in Elaine Searle's Composition Clinic - which Searle led, dressed as a doctor. Some of the tips from this clinic: • Study, and draw the plant from several different angles., • Do value studies, • Explore a variety of compositions before you commit. Searle also does her drawings on tracing paper. There was an exercise in which everyone voted on their most and least favorite compositions (generally), and then worked up a drawing of their own in both directions. Janene found, to her surprise, that she really liked the composition that she had originally chosen as her least favorite.

**Dawn Hummel** then spoke a bit about our **GREAT NEWS** of finding a venue for Wendy Hollender's workshop next spring. Deby and Ed Barnhart, the owners of Cornell Farms Nursery, have generously offered their farmhouse as a venue. Dawn's efforts in reaching out to several people really paid off! She put together meetings with Deby Barnhart; Sandra Laubenthal of the Oregon Cut Flower Association (at Portland's Wholesale Flower Market); and Roma Peyser, Marketing & Community Programs Officer for Oregon College of Art and Craft. We were met enthusiastically by everyone. Dawn is hopeful that we might be able to get a group membership to the Wholesale Flower Market, but we could not come up with the fees that retailers can pay, so, something to think about and discuss further. Thanks for making these introductions, Dawn!

Dawn also reported that she'd been in touch with Sitka about bringing OBA to the beach for a botanical art conference. And mentioned a few holiday art shows to take note of, including The Artists Greenhouse Show (many of the artists here are with Local 14), and Lake Oswego Festival of the Arts. **Kaye Synoground** mentioned that it's important for us to have at least one group show per year. She has worked with Multnomah Arts Center and mentioned that there's no fee to exhibit there, but they take a modest 30% of sales. **Mary McCarty** mentioned that Oregon Society of Artists is currently exhibiting their 200 for \$200 (or under) show at OSA's gallery, with the opening on Friday, November 8, from 6 to 9pm.

There was some discussion about scheduling an upcoming meeting as a visit to the cut flower market, but no decision on it at the meeting.

New member **Dorota Haber-Lehigh** mentioned that there's a statewide conference of the Native Plant Society which will be happening this year (or next year?) at Cannon Beach. Dorota will check with the NPS to see if they would welcome our presence at this event. Dorota lives on the coast and is eager to have us plan other activities there, too. Dorota brought in a Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest coloring book that she illustrated, designed and published on her own, with beautiful line renderings of plants organized as an ABC book.

New member, **Carol Putnam** visited for the first time. Carol is a friend of Rene's and a talented watercolorist. Carol typically works from photos and is interested in going back to study drawing botanicals. Vis-a-vis our upcoming Audubon Wild Arts Festival booth, Carol mentioned some good local sources for display items - Grand and Benedict, and for used fixtures, Portland Store Fixtures.

**Janet Parker** shared the History of Botanical Art display boards that she put together for the Wild Arts Show, and talked about other things we should have at the booth. We are hoping several members will show original work, prints, sketchbooks, and bring their business cards.

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**At right, new member, Dorota Haber-Lehigh's self-produced and published coloring book featuring her own gorgeous line illustrations of native plants of the coastal Pacific Northwest**

