



OBA members (l to r, from foreground left: Kaye Synoground, Françoise Beniston, and Shulamit Lotate.

Oregon Botanical Artists - Notes from December 4, 2013

At Jane Levy Campbell's

Attending were: Jane Levy Campbell, Françoise Beniston, Kaye Synoground, Janet Parker, and Shulamit Lotate

Notes by Janet

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It was great to participate in an OBA meeting at which virtually no "business" was conducted! We were a small group at this meeting, and everyone quickly and easily got into the groove of drawing. The persimmons from Jane's tree proved irresistible to all but Jane, who concentrated on rendering a branch of an evergreen, the name of which I'll have to find out, and update here, (shown here at right).

The conversation was interesting and personal. It provided a pleasant background hum to our work, and an almost passive way of getting to know each other just a little bit better.

Our plan is to have all future meetings center around drawing or painting, with business to be conducted in separate quarterly or semi-annual meetings by a smaller group of members. More about these ideas will come to you in the next few weeks.

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Jane Levy Campbell's non-persimmon drawing at our December meeting.

Apart from the meeting, I'd like to take a little of this space to report on OBA's presence at the Audubon Society of Portland's Wild Arts Festival in November, and a few other things of interest.



Clockwise from top left: History of Botanical Art display in background with artworks by Jane Levy Campbell and Kaye Synoground on the table in foreground; René and Jane setting up on Friday night; René Eisenbart demonstrating, with her artwork seen on the table; History display boards in background, with artworks by Mary McCarty, and Janet Parker, on table in foreground, along with Dorota

OBA at Wild Arts

This was a great success for us! Thank you Audubon Society, for giving us the opportunity. Thank you to all of the members who showed up to give a few hours manning the booth and demonstrating botanical drawing (Jane, René, Laurie, Françoise, Shulamit, Janene, Mary, and Catherine.) We had so much interest that it was hard to do much demonstrating, but that didn't stop René Eisenbart, who showed up first thing in the morning on Saturday, and stayed all day, both days, demonstrating her watercolor technique. Thanks René! And a special thanks to Jane, who did so much, starting with getting us into the show after application deadlines were past - and on to collecting artworks for display, organizing our group donation to the silent auction, helping with the setup and even providing the black table cloths! And so much more....

Our display on the History of Botanical Art was an effective attention getter, and once drawn in, people were thrilled to see the work on the tables done by our members. Those sharing originals and prints for display included René, Jane, Janet, Mary, and Kaye. Dorota Haber-Lehigh's self-published coloring book of native plants of coastal pacific northwest was also on display and was a particular favorite with the crowds. Had we been able to sell at the show, Dorota's book would have done very well.

We added about 40 new names to our mailing list, gained at least one new member, and met lots of people generally interested in what we're doing, how and where we're selling our artwork, and how and where they might be able to take classes. At least one visitor even chimed in with a suggestion for pursuing a Portland venue for the Douglas show! And one signer to our mailing list shyly revealed that she was the person who did the original artwork for the Audubon Society's logo!

Next year, we hope to have a few OBA members participating together in one booth, in this juried show. With a May deadline, we'll be talking more about this soon.

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I also wanted to give a short report on seeing Linda Ann Vorobik's lecture at Native Plant Society in mid November. She is a font of botanical knowledge and would be a great person to join on nature hikes in and around our area. Her talk was on Plants of the Salish Sea - an area around Seattle, and where she now lives, but she also spoke of species all up and down the west coast, from California to Oregon to Washington.

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Lastly, I'll be sending around separate emails on these subjects: 1) reorganizing how OBA is managed; 2) an update on Wendy Hollender's April 2014 workshop); 3) OBA expenses for 2013, and upcoming expenses for 2014; 4) call for renewal of membership dues (those who have joined since September will be paid through 2014.)