

OREGON BOTANICAL ARTISTS

Quarterly Meeting May 13, 2017

Members attending were Mary McCarty, Janet Parker, Aislinn Adams, Janene Walkky, Laurie Griff, Jane Levy Campbell, Dorothy Krogh, Kristine Mackessy, Denise Cedar, Carol Putnam, and Carol Mason.

The Quarterly Meeting was held at Mary McCarty's Rec Center in Milwaukie from 10 a.m. to 3 :30 p.m. Eleven OBA members attended and a few shared their current art projects and displayed the Traveling Sketchbook while socializing and enjoying the potluck spread. Alice Debo, who was unable to attend, sent a collection of pen and ink sketches drawn by the enamellist Kenneth Bates of Cleveland, Ohio. A family friend had inherited a collection directly from the artist and shared a few with Alice. OBA members enjoyed going through the delightful and lovely sketches.

Announcements

- Janet Parker informed the group that Jeanne Debons is offering a workshop in Bend June 10 and 11 that can accommodate 12 people.
- Aislinn Adams learned a new blue pigment has been discovered that incorporates three different elements and is named by the first letter of the 3 elements.
- Lan Su pickup of unsold art will be May 30-31. Exhibiting members should let Harris Goodman know when they can pick up their art. Janet Parker forwarded an email to members from Harris with the information.
- Jeanne Debons offered to lead a workshop for OBA in late summer or early fall. Mary McCarty offered to organize. There was some discussion about other possible workshop leaders and workshop topics members might want including Heeyoung Kim for pen and ink.
- Kristine Mackessy shared the name of an ink pen she has been using and finding quite nice. Jinhao, which can be purchased on Amazon and is affordable. Contact Kristine if you would like more detailed information.
- Denise Cedar reminded the group about Schreiner's Iris Garden in Salem being worth a trip and suggested we consider going there as a group for our monthly Wednesday meeting in June.
- Aislinn Adams said there would be an Oak Savannah tour June 7 in Jefferson.
- Janene Walkky let us know about an invitation from the Trails Club for an August retreat to sketch and draw at Tyee Lodge near Government Camp on Mt. Hood for a day or a weekend. She will send a separate email with complete details.

Business Meeting:

Reorganization of positions and responsibilities.

There was a healthy discussion of how the OBA group functions going forward. OBA is 4 ½ years old. It became apparent as we read through the current positions that a very few members had carried all the responsibilities for making the organization the success it is today. To be sustainable, we need to formalize more structured committees and positions in a way that spreads and shares the work load among the members. Volunteers are needed to step forward and assume responsibilities either for term positions or as committee members or for short-term assignments.

Janene pointed out that we need to decide whether we are a business or an unstructured support group for artists. Are we an organized group or individuals working together to further our education and advancement in botanical art, or something in between. Whatever we are, more members are needed to share the responsibilities for a smoothly running group.

Alice Debo had suggested to Janet Parker the addition of a Product Coordinator to the current named positions. This person would build a list of potential vendors for members to approach to sell or display their art.

Janene Walkky gave a brief report on the accomplishments of OBA since its inception in November, 2012 with six members. We now have 34 members.

- Monthly draw-in meetings at Jane Levy Campbell's home;
- Weekend in Bend, drawing and sketching;
- Five workshops;
- Two exhibitions, the David Douglas in 2014 and Lan Su in 2017
- A booth at four events;
- Sketchbook exchanges.

Our Mission Statement reads:

“Oregon Botanical Artists consists of a small group of enthusiastic botanical artists and student artists living in and around Portland, Oregon. We embrace the goals of the American Society of Botanical Artists, (<https://asba-art.org/about-asba/mission-vision>), in that we are interested in promoting public awareness of contemporary botanical art in the city of Portland and its environs, honoring the traditions of botanical art and furthering the development of botanical artists on the local level.”

There was discussion about revising the Mission Statement to delete references to “Portland” and instead make the reference to all of Oregon. Members present were in favor of this change.

Some members commented on the importance of the education piece of the mission as well as the “circle” idea where we shared native plant ideas, books, anything that would be of interest to botanical artists, such as the pen and ink sketches that Alice Debo brought in to share.

Denise Cedar and Dorothy Krogh agreed to work together as Education Coordinators and prepare a bibliography of good reference books or other materials. This will be added to the website and members can send their suggestions to either for inclusion.

Members who have ideas that might benefit the group are encouraged to do the legwork for details and present the information to OBA members.

Mary McCarty offered to take on the responsibility to find places to exhibit members' work for a limited few, or more.

A new website chair is needed and Janet Parker offered to train 2 or 3 members on how to maintain the website. Carol Putnam offered to be responsible and Jane Levy Campbell is interested in learning, but at least another two people need to learn the process. Janet suggested that the additional people take turns on a monthly basis so that their newly-learned skills do not get rusty.

Carol Mason volunteered to take minutes of the Quarterly and monthly meetings as long as it did not include the responsibility for running the meetings. Aislinn Adams offered to take that on.

Mary McCarty offered her services on an as needed basis as her prior responsibilities have lessened.

The group went through the various duties of each of the current positions and chairs.

Laurie Griff gave a detailed break-down of the work involved in being the Workshop Chair. She suggested it would be smart to share the job among 3 people.

Here is Laurie's job description for Workshop Chair:

- Plan on a 6-8 month timeline.
- Consider the areas of greatest interest for a 2-3 day workshop (can be broken up into a 1 day, 2 day format).
- Contact a teacher and discuss the subject to be taught and the fee.

- Decide on a date.
- Procure a site to hold the workshop.
- Create and send out the announcement with class description, teacher profile, photo of teacher and example of her work and the sign up sheet with cost. It's helpful to include some choices of nearby hotels/motels for the students to stay in.
- Coordinate with the Treasurer as the students will send their money and RSVP to her.
- Organize the teacher's travel, housing and transportation to and from the class.
- Organize a dinner out or pot luck for students and teacher.
- Send the follow up letter with class information, materials list and directions to the students.
- Set up the classroom with tables and chairs the day before.
- Provide the hospitality during the meetings (open and close the site daily, leave the space clean, bring snack food, paper products, coffee, etc.).
- Act as point person for the students and teacher.
- Work with the Treasurer to pay the teacher at the end of the workshop.

The Officers and Committee Chairs going forward will be filled by the following volunteers:

President:Janet Parker
 Co-Vice Presidents:Jane Levy Campbell and Aislinn Adams
 Treasurer:Janene Walkky
 Secretary:Carol Mason
 Co-Website Chairs:Carol Putnam and Alice Debo
 Co-Workshops Chairs:Laurie Griff, Mary McCarty plus one other.
 Art Shows Chair: Alice Debo
 PR/Outreach Chair:Carol Putnam
 Membership Chair:Janene Walkky
 Monthly Meetings Chair:Jane Levy Campbell
 Product Coordinator:Alice Debo
 Education Coordinators:Denise Cedar and Dorothy Krogh

Prior job descriptions for these positions will be refined and descriptions for new positions will be written.

Additional notices:

Aislinn Adams reminded the group of the ASBA 2018 conference at Filoli and the Botanical Art Workshop, "Americas Flora", submission deadline is September, 2018.

Janene Walkky gave the Treasurer's report:

- We currently have \$2,694 in the bank. This substantial amount is due to the number of freebies we have enjoyed such as free meeting venues at this Rec Center, courtesy of Mary McCarty, and at Jane Levy Campbell's home for our monthly meetings and her generous preparation of snacks, the meeting in Salem, weekends away as a group, free website design by Janet Parker, and hosting workshop leaders at members' homes.
- Expenses are website hosting fees, workshop leader fees and taking leaders out for dinner, honorariums for quarterly meeting teachers, subsidizing Lan Su memberships this past year, and paid memberships for Janet and Jane.
- Future expenses might also include putting workshop leaders up in a hotel and renting a venue for workshops.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Oregon Botanical Artists adjourned about 3:30.



Top - Five of the Dreamcatcher sketchbooks, in progress.

Bottom left - Janet and Aislinn, checking out Aislinn's work collected in a book of contemporary Irish Botanical art, and right - Kristine, Janene and Denise sampling the always-delicious pot luck offerings.



A closer look at some of the sketches in the Dreamcatcher sketchbooks.