

# BASNCR

Promoting botanical art in the National Capital Region

## HOW TO JOIN:

For membership information contact:

BASNCR, Treasurer

6803 Connecticut Ave.

Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Botanical Art Society  
National Capital Region

November 21, 2006

[www.basnrcr.org](http://www.basnrcr.org)

Volume 3, Issue 2

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Kandy Phillips

Vice-President: Astrid Adler

Secretary-Treasurer: Emily Rowan

Program Coordinator: open

Exhibits Coordinator: Caroline Hottenstein

Newsletter: Barbara Sweeney and Judy Brown

Membership Coordinator: Betsy Farr

Member-at-large: Margaret Saul



## From the President's Easel

### Quarterly Meeting, Sunday December 10, 1-4 pm

Green Spring Gardens  
4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria, VA

#### December 10, 2006

This date coincides with our exhibit there so we plan to have a second opening and a holiday party. Members should plan to bring something artistic to share such as your sketch books, an interesting technique, your portfolio, special brush, paper or paint to demonstrate, a great book you've found, a tip that makes painting life easier. Members will also be asked to bring some holiday food for the refreshment table, cookies, nibbles or juice. There will not be an Artist's Challenge or Raffle.



**GREEN SPRING GARDENS**  
**4603 GREEN SPRING ROAD**  
**ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312**  
**703-642-5173**

**Directions:** From 495, East on Rt 236 about 3 miles, left on Braddock Rd., Right on Witch Hazel Road into entrance of park. Please note that the street address is deceiving because it is the mailing address, so follow the directions above. For more information about the park see:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp>

#### March 25, 2007

Our meeting will be held at Hillwood Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Avenue NW, Washington, DC. Join Hillwood's Bill Johnson, staff horticulturalist, for an early spring plant ID and garden walk-through. Hillwood was the last residence of Marjorie Merriweather Post (1887-1973), heir to the Post cereal empire. The mansion (not open on this date) is surrounded by 25 acres of natural woodlands and beautiful pleasure gardens highlighting landscape design and plants popular in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. We will also have access to the Hillwood orchid collection in the greenhouses. March is Orchid Month at Hillwood and the display of blooms should be quite fine. Due to security issues, you **MUST RSVP to Kandy Phillips** at [kayphil22@yahoo.com](mailto:kayphil22@yahoo.com) prior to March 23, 2007. Bring your sketchbook, camera, and hand held lens if desired. For more information about Hillwood, visit their website at [www.hillwoodmuseum.org](http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org). Artist's challenge – bring in one of your orchid drawings or paintings.

#### July 2007

Our meeting will feature a program by artist Erik Hottenstein. The location will be determined at a later date.

## Website News.

We are currently updating our website, [www.basnrcr.org](http://www.basnrcr.org). Check out the calendar for the latest BASNCR news, show information, and newsletter calls for articles. "Potpourri" is a new feature that will include a list of museum exhibits, member shows, and as the name suggests a potpourri of information. Member contributions are welcome! Send them to Kandy Phillips, [kayphil22@yahoo.com](mailto:kayphil22@yahoo.com). Details for submitting your images for our Members Only Gallery will be available at the December General Meeting.

## WELCOME New Members

- Deborah Gudelsky
- Rita Pazelli
- Donna Adelman

# What's Blooming Now

Beside the colorful leaves everywhere, many trees and bushes are beginning to shine with berries. Their colors are varied and interesting.

**Nandina** dazzle us with grape-like clusters of vermillion berries.

**Beautyberry** glows with near iridescent magenta.

**Serviceberry** bushes have clusters of brilliant scarlet lake berries.

**Ornamental grasses and reeds** glow in raw sienna and yellow ochre.

**Kousa Dogwood** berries are lush in permanent rose with undertones of Winsor yellow.

**Rose hips** catch our eyes with a range of scarlet reds and vermillion.

**Oregon Grape Holly** berries gleam in Winsor violet and Daniel Smith Moonglow.

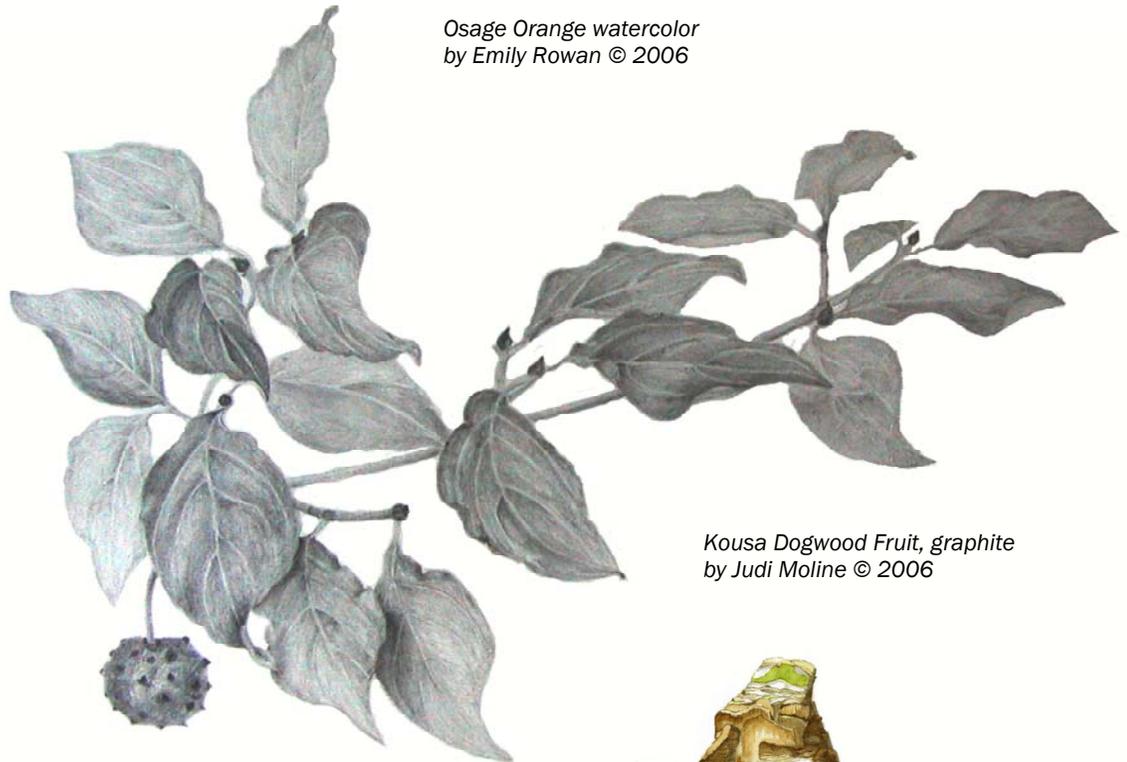
**Eastern Dogwood** berries are shiny in clusters of scarlet lake.

**Osage Oranges** bump our eyes with sap greens and Gamboge yellow.

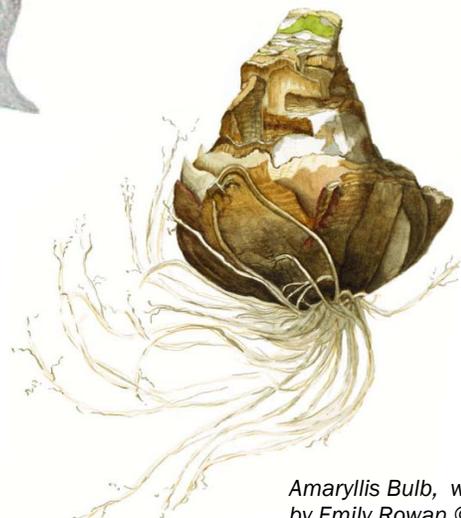
**Amaryllis** in a huge variety of colors will appear in the grocery stores. You will have the opportunity to explore your palettes as you discover the latest rendition of this popular flower.



*Osage Orange watercolor  
by Emily Rowan © 2006*



*Kousa Dogwood Fruit, graphite  
by Judi Moline © 2006*



*Amaryllis Bulb, watercolor  
by Emily Rowan © 2006*



Field of Purple Gentian  
Photo by Jan Denton

# The Traveling Brush

## Wild Alpine Flowers in Switzerland Jan Denton

For years I have cherished occasional trips to the Swiss Alps, where my hikes have opened up an exquisite world of alpine flowers that prosper during spring and summer. In July, I traveled to Wengen, a small town in the Bernese Oberland area that includes wondrous mountains such as the Eiger. The view from my room provided awesome inspiration.

Once there, I was fortunate to find a young British botanist who offers walking tours of local medicinal plants. She was able to advise me on where to find plants still in bloom – a nice time-saver, since my trip would last only five days. I took ski lifts to locations that were high, another time-saver. For the exercise, I then hiked down. To my delight, the botanist's guidance proved unerring.

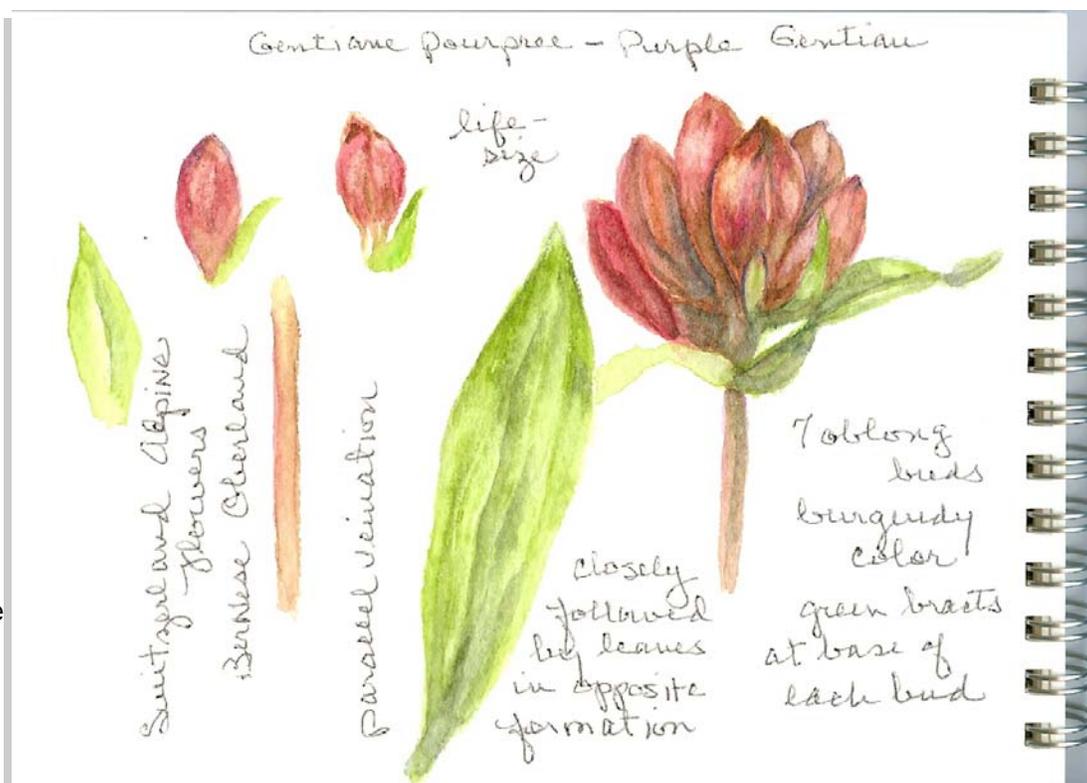
Except for one rainy day, the weather was glorious. And the range of plants in bloom was amazing. I took the best digital photographs I could, and recorded lots of notes to make it possible to identify the plants later. When the rain was too heavy for picture-taking, I gathered plants that were not on the protected list, storing them in the plastic bags I use to create protective cushioning (normally by blowing a bit of air into each container before zipping it shut). I was thus able to take the specimens back to my hotel room for closer observation, matching colors and painting a number of small sketches.

Since there were so many potential artistic subjects, I quickly realized that five days were not nearly enough. Resigning myself to the limitations of a brief sojourn, I rewarded my efforts with a hearty dinner every night to keep up my spirits and strength. For the last several days I was joined by a long-time friend who lives in the Geneva area.

One day we visited the local botanical garden, where we saw a number of plants that we would have been unable to observe if we'd depended solely on our daily excursions.

The trip was inspiring, and I came away with a few tips about how to make future travels more valuable:

- Buy books on the local flora and fauna.
- Find a botanist who can provide advice on



plants currently in bloom.

- Find out which specimens you are permitted to collect; protected species are usually identified in publications about particular regions.
- Visit local botanical gardens to supplement your knowledge and help you identify the plants you find in the wild.
- Take lots of pictures and make detailed notes, since you'll have little or no time to paint if you are on a trip that lasts a week or less.
- Remember to relax and live in the moment.

# Brookside Gardens



## SCHOOL of BOTANICAL ART & ILLUSTRATION

McCrillis Gardens, 6910 Greentree Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

**A**fter two years in operation our first certificate registrants are embarking on their certificate project having completed the advanced level classes for the school's comprehensive introductory course in botanical art. The certificate project, which is developed on a theme chosen by the student and under the supervision of Margaret Saul, requires from three to five botanicals as part of the student's final portfolio to be assessed by three external examiners. The second stream of students (not all are working towards their certificate) entered the advanced level classes in the fall and finish in April with the completion of an exhibition quality botanical painting. Current beginner classes have a record number of certificate registrants.

Some of our students and teachers attended the 2006 ASBA conference in Seattle and work exhibited by teacher Marcia DeWitt drew complements from the three jurors during the ASBA international exhibition "walkthrough" at the Pacific Science Center. ASBA 2006 Artist Grant Award winner and BASNCR President Kandy Phillips, also a teacher at the school, received vigorous applause after the presentation of her award's project - investigating color pigments used in medieval manuscripts. Next year the ASBA conference is virtually in our backyard with a reception hosted by *The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation* at Carnegie-Mellon University, PA which will present its triennial international exhibition

### 2007 DIARY DATE:

**School Open House & Exhibition at McCrillis Gardens.** Sundays May 6 & 13 (2:30-4:30pm). Free guided tours of this renowned spring flowering azalea garden will also be offered at this time.

**Master class with Dr. John Cody** ("Audubon of moths") at Brookside Gardens, Friday May 25 - Sunday 27. Focus on a botanical with a creatively painted background. Registration information - contact Ellen Bennett as noted below. Registration will open in March.

**Botanica 2007 - Annual school exhibition at Brookside Gardens Visitors Center, June 23-August 4**

of botanical art. ASBA conferences are always a motivational force with lots of wonderful workshops and great camaraderie. Meet with members from across the US and from overseas. Next year should be a "must go" event! ASBA guidelines for developing a comprehensive drawing curriculum written by school director, Margaret Saul were presented at the conference's Education Forum as a resource available for ASBA member teachers. (ASBA membership applications are available at: [www.AmSocBotArtists.org](http://www.AmSocBotArtists.org))

### SPRING/SUMMER CLASSES

*(Registration - opens in March)*

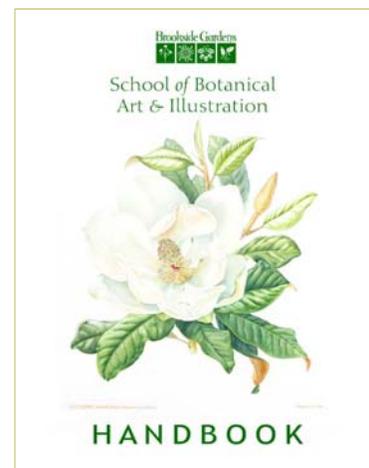
Electives (E) total of 12 hours; Workshops (W) full-day or half-day include step-by-step instruction, demonstrations & individual tuition. Unless noted otherwise, all these open workshops and electives listed below require an ability to draw in detail.

- **Color Mixing (W)** - Margaret Saul. Select three watercolor pigments to create a magically unified palette designed especially for botanicals. No painting experience required. Sunday January 28 (10am-2pm).
- **Orchid Flowers (W)** - Marcia DeWitt. Review drawing and begin painting the intricate structures of your orchid. Sunday Feb 18 (10-2pm).

- **Daffodils (W)** – Liz Stafford. Review drawing, apply lively shadow color and explore use of colored pencil in selected areas over dried wash work. Sunday March 1 (10-2pm).
- **Tulips (W)** – Marcia DeWitt. Tulip paintings are most sort after in this field of art. Thursday March 29 (10-2pm). Painting experience is beneficial.
- **Spring Gems (W)** – Liz Stafford. Color for the sketchbook with painting that is fast and furious! Sunday April 15 (10-2pm).
- **Sketching In The Garden (E)** – Merri Nelson. In the classroom and in the garden at Brookside Gardens Sunday April 22 & 29 (10-4:30pm).
- **Botanical Illumination (E)** – Kandy Phillips. A must do if you love color and design. Kandy's journals, knowledge and love of medieval illuminated manuscripts will have you spell bound! Ability to paint in detail is beneficial. Tuesdays May 1-22 (10-1pm).
- **Botanical Painting Studio** – through May. Liz Stafford (Tues evenings); Marcia DeWitt (Wed mornings). Informal sessions for beginner – intermediate levels.
- **Create Your Own Artist's Book (E)** – Marca Woodhams: Bind a small book of art papers and with a decorative cover and then with Kandy Phillips: Fill these pages with illustrations of found objects or flowers - a variety of media is used to create this special art piece – to have and to hold! Thursdays May 3-24 (10-1pm) or Saturday June 2 & 16 (9-4:30pm).
- **Painting Leaves (W)** – Margaret Saul, (Full day). Illustrate the elusive, ephemeral quality of leaves facilitated by lots of step-by-step instruction and a comprehensive color printed exercise sheet. Intermediate – advanced painting ability. Saturday May 12 or Friday June 29. (10-4:30pm).
- **Botany For Botanical Artists** – Judy Brown. Thursdays June 7-28 or Sat May 19 & June 9 (9-4:30pm). Some drawing ability is beneficial.
- **Pen & Ink (E)** – Margaret Saul. Rendering techniques for exhibition pieces. Tuesdays June 5-26 (10-1pm).
- **Ferns For All (W) Day 1** – drawing & field study, Day 2 painting – Margaret Saul. Open to all Saturday July 7 & 14 (10-2pm).
- **Botanical Art Intensive** – 3 days with Margaret Saul. A comprehensive overview of the school's beginner to intermediate level drawing and painting instruction. Stimulus – “Summer Daisies”. Intermediate-Advanced. July 20-22 (9-4pm).

#### Further information:

School handbook requires reading prior to registering for first class. To receive a handbook and schedule of classes and fees please phone the school manager, Ellen Bennett (301) 962-1470. School information online [www.BrooksideGardens.org](http://www.BrooksideGardens.org), Registration options – 1. FAX your completed registration form. 2. Post or in person: (Visitors Center, Mon.-Fri, 9am-4pm), 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton MD 20902. Further information, E-mail: [MargaretSaul@BotanicArtist.com](mailto:MargaretSaul@BotanicArtist.com). Saul workshops outside of MD – [www.BotanicArtist.com](http://www.BotanicArtist.com)





# A PERSONAL PALETTE

## Our Personal Palette features member Margaret Farr

Hmmm...I've been asked to give an idea of what I do in pursuing this wild and crazy botanical art game. "Wild and crazy" is, of course, tongue in cheek: the thing I love about my peers is knowing that they too can sit enthralled for hours by the hairs on a poppy stem!

First, I must confess that I pursue this art as an avocation, as opposed to a true vocation—if you desire to know how to make money at botanical art, do not bother to read on. Everything else in my life comes first, which results in most of my best work coming in the wee hours of the morning (when the phone stops ringing, and Marshall's and Ross have closed down). It's been years since it has occurred to any of my children that what I "really" do is paint...

My objective in plotting my course in art has been to provide myself with sufficient options to pursue the art form that I truly love, to keep up my "bona fides" among my peers, and to make at least enough to cover expenses. To that end, I keep a few paintings in a gallery or two (at present, Gleedsville in Leesburg and Ursus in N.Y.C.), have some photos deposited with a local decorator, a painting in a local shop, and I participate in several competitive shows each year, most of which are offered as opportunities by the ASBA. I really recommend that everyone join that organization, and put some slides in their website library for members—it's free, and a lovely site viewed by many. A few years ago I got a call from the director of the Science museum in my home town of Macon, Ga.: she was looking on that site for a Georgia girl to round out her "survey of botanical art history" exhibit. So I got to "hang with" Redoute! You never know! Exposure counts—I say, seek it. There are a couple of top notch shows each year: the annual ASBA show, which occurs in whatever city they're holding their annual meeting; and the show at the Horticultural

Society of New York –both very competitive, but that is a good thing—keeps you on top of your game, and makes acceptance the sweeter. These shows are seen by "movers and shakers" in our little world, and can lead to sales and interesting opportunities

as your work becomes familiar to people. One such for me was the invitation to contribute to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's new "Florilegium Society"—their attempt to document their holdings with a painting of each. Speaking of "invitations" (in a manner of speaking) –there is one other which, in my opinion, is to be actively sought because of the exposure and prestige, and (as in all of these endeavors) for the opportunity to get to know some of the truly great practitioners and promoters of this art form. This is the quadrennial exhibit at the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation at Carnegie-Mellon University. The Hunt actively seeks out new contemporary artists for these shows, and occasionally acquires their



Roses by Margaret Farr © 2006

work for their permanent collection, either by donation or purchase (don't know the system there, but either is a coup). Run some slides of your BEST by them, and don't be discouraged if they're not accepted first time around (voice of experience)—try again in four years. A hint: Dr. Shirley Sherwood seems to pay attention to these shows, and you may get a call—

Well, hmmm, again. What a great endeavor—you get to play with paint, smell pretty flowers, meet interesting and gifted people. Now ask Caroline to write about how to make some dough at it!

# BASNCR Notes and News

**Margaret Farr** had two lovely pieces accepted into the ASBA exhibit at the Horticultural Society of New York and sold them both. Color catalogs are available through ASBA and cost \$20. Margaret also has a camellia on display at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens Florilegium III.

**Caroline Hottenstein**, Exhibits Coordinator, was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a Saint Caroline bracelet by the grateful BASNCR membership to acknowledge the exceptional effort she made during our Athenaeum exhibit.

**Lee D'Zmura's** painting of the Crane Fly Orchid won second place in the National Capital Orchid Society Show at the National Arboretum. She got the application at the last BASNCR meeting. Her colored pencil drawing of the Dog Day Cicada won a blue ribbon at the Chesapeake College Art Show. Lee reports that she may have to rethink her whole life as she had so much fun working on the cicada and now has a lovely Japanese beetle in waiting.



*Making sure we put our best foot forward, Caroline Hottenstein, Exhibits Coordinator, checks each entry before the judging begins. Photo by Judy Brown*

**Dorothy Norpel**, Fine Arts Director for Green Spring Gardens who graciously served as the judge for our Green Spring Gardens exhibit was presented with an original painting by Exhibits Coordinator, **Caroline Hottenstein**.

**Tina Thieme-Brown**, Dalis Davidson and, Lee Langstaff have a show, Oct. 4-Nov. 3: A Journey through the MoCoAg Reserve at the Black Rock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown, MD 20874. Tel. 301-528-2260. The hours are 10-5, M-F; and 10-2 Saturday when classes are in session.

# BASNCR Botanical Art Society National Capital Region

*Promoting botanical art in the National Capital Region*

## MEMBERSHIP FORM (PLEASE PRINT)



**Yes**, I would like to become a member of BASNCR. I am enclosing a check for \$20 made out to Emily Rowan, Treasurer, BASNCR.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

BASNCR dues provide membership benefits from October to September of each fiscal year. Dues are not prorated for entry mid-fiscal year. Member names will only be used for BASNCR communications.

### Programming Interests:

- Trips to botanical gardens, arboretums
- Speakers on botanical art subjects
- Art marketing
- Native flora
- Focus on framing and presentation
- Collecting botanical art
- Reproduction processes for the artist
- Trips to special exhibits/ collections of botanical work
- Your** ideas and suggestions are warmly welcomed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your completed form with dues to:  
 BASNCR Treasurer  
 Emily Rowan  
 6803 Connecticut Avenue  
 Chevy Chase, MD 20815

## Botanically Speaking: *Cornus kousa*

**Kousa dogwood fruit** seems to attract as many artists as birds and squirrels. Recently Margaret Saul's Dimensional Studies class grappled with the challenge of developing studies of Kousa fruit and leaves. In addition to their seductive color, these fruits offer an interesting botanical story. The story begins with the flower.

The actual flowers are an inconspicuous inflorescence made of tightly clustered small yellow flowers. The inflorescence is surrounded by showy white bracts. After each of the flowers is pollinated, each ovary swells and begins to fuse together to



*Kousa flower by Marcia DeWitt*



*Kousa fruit by Marcia DeWitt*

form a multiple fruit. A close look at the photograph reveals the dried remnants of each flower's corolla of petals and central style and the walls of each ovary.

Kousa fruit ripen in late summer/early fall and are rapidly consumed by squirrels and birds. The fruit are edible for humans but consuming a large amount of them is not wise since they are aluminum accumulators. It's much better to paint them in all their lushness.

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*BASNCR, Treasurer, 6803 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815*

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**Green Spring Gardens**  
**Alexandria, VA**