

# 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

June 7, 2007

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

Volume 3, Issue 4

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Kandy Phillips

Vice-President: Open

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



## Quarterly Meeting, Sunday June 24, 1-4 pm

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church  
818 University Boulevard, West  
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Spring is a favorite time of year for botanical artists; all those lovely blooms and so little time! For our Artists Challenge at the General Meeting on June 24, please bring in a painting of your favorite Spring Bloom to show.

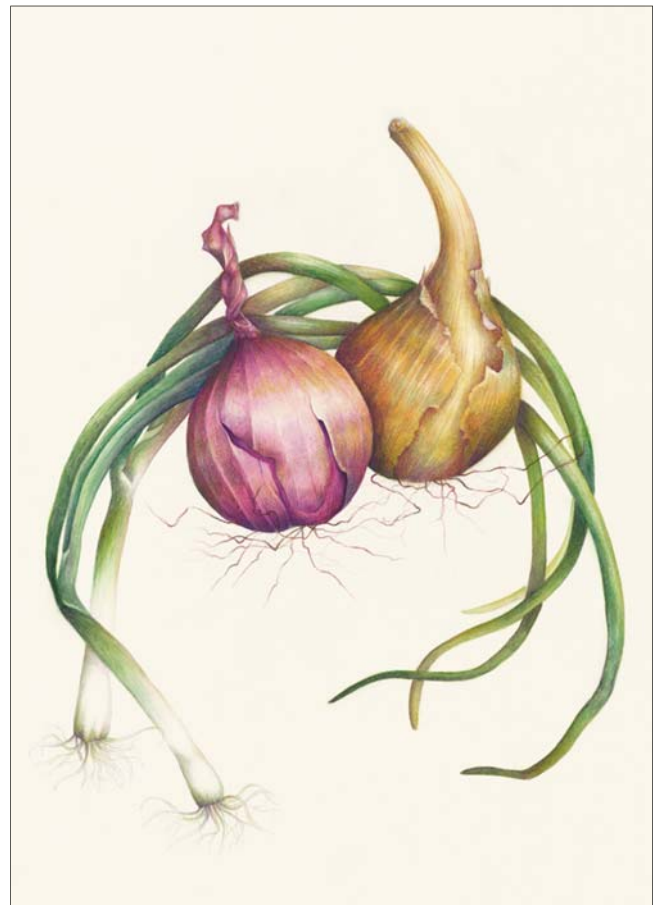
Our meeting will feature artist **Erik Hottenstein's** program "The Creative Process: The Windmills of His Mind". We will meet at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Silver Spring, beginning at 1pm. Please refer to our website's Calendar Page, [www.basnrcr.org](http://www.basnrcr.org) for directions. Remember to bring along some nibbles to share.

Katie Palm at the United States Botanic Garden wishes to thank the following BASNCR artists who gave of their time and talent at the recent Wilkes Family Day on April 14: **Judy Brown, Tina Brown, Diane Berndt, Rita Pazzelli, and Barbara Sweeney** who donated pieces of mat board used for painting. "THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE DAY A SUCCESS!"

Annie Ceccarini from the Smithsonian Institution wishes to thank the following BASNCR artists for demonstrating at Garden Fest on May 19: **Wendy Cortesi** and **Jan Denton** for their program on Lewis and Clark; **Pita Pazzelli** for a program on color pencil drawing; **Margaret Saul** for a program on painting an Asiatic Lily; and **Astrid Adler** and **Diane Berndt**, garden sketching.

Katie Palm at the USBG has offered a special tour for BASNCR artists interested in the ASBA'S exhibit, "Losing Paradise": July 10, at 1pm, the Production Facility will be opened to 12 BASNCR members to view the rare and endangered plants in the collection. Every effort will be made to accommodate your request to see a rare plant. The staff will also work with you to help you see the plant in bloom, and fruit. Please contact Kandy Phillips to sign up for this very special tour!

Our **September 9th meeting** will be held at the United States Botanic Garden on the Mall, from 12:30-4pm. The topic will be "Fall Blooming Native Plants". Details are on our website's Calendar Page.



"Summer Harvest"  
Onions by Debbie Bankert © 2006

# BASNCR News and Notes

## Call for Entries: Inspired by the Gardens

**Place:** Green Spring Gardens Horticulture Center, Auditorium and ramp leading to Auditorium.

**Time:** October 30 – December 29, 2007  
Opening Reception: November 4, 2007, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

**Submission Deadline:** September 19, 2007

**Hanging Date:** The works for hanging must be delivered on Tuesday, October 30, 2007 between 12:30 and 1:00.

**Picking up Unsold Work:** Artists must pick up their work at the conclusion of the show. Artists must take the responsibility to insure someone collects their work. Any work left uncollected will be charged a \$12.00/day packing and storage fee.

**Juror:** Margaret Saul

**Eligibility:** Artists must be current members of BASNCR

**Subject and Media:** Botanicals, Horticulture, Natural History, Local History including animals, insects, landscapes. Any 2-dimensional media such as watercolor, oil, colored pencil, acrylic, gouache, pen and ink, graphite, or photography. *Only original works will be accepted. There is no size limitation but artists should be aware that smaller pieces tend to sell more frequently.*

**Submissions:** Up to five pieces of work in CD or slide format. Digital files should be scanned at 360 dpi, image 8" high (2880 pixels), in jpg format. *Scans are preferred to digital photos to ensure that the colors and backgrounds of your work are accurately represented.* Please submit these files on a CD labeled with artist's name, artwork title, medium, framed size. Slides must

be labeled in ink or with a printed label. Slides and CD's will be returned only if a self addressed, stamped mailing envelope is included with submission.

**Submission fee:** The fee to submit up to five entries is \$25.00.

**Sales:** *All work must be for sale. Green Springs takes 15% of sales before taxes. Only cash or checks are accepted by the Garden. Monies are paid to the artist who is then responsible for paying the commission to Green Spring. Artist must assume responsibility for paying Maryland or Virginia Sales tax (5%). One time tax forms will be available to artists.*

**Presentation:** All works must be presented in quality matting and framing. No metal frames. Accepted work must be ready to hang with screw eyes and appropriate hangers or wires. Glass or Plexiglas is acceptable. Juror and Hanging Committee reserve the right to refuse any work with inappropriate framing.

**Application Form:** Form will be posted on the BASNCR website. An artist statement or bio must be included. Artists can choose to include personal contact information in this statement for interested clients.

**Green Spring is not responsible for damage or loss of artwork while hanging. Each artist is responsible for their own insurance if deemed necessary.**



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

## WELCOME New Member

- Barbara Hanft

### ASBA Conferences

September 27-29, 2007 Pittsburgh, PA  
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

September 25-27, 2008 San Marino, CA  
Huntington Library & Gardens

October 16-19, 2009 Phoenix, AZ  
Desert Botanical Garden

September 2010 Pittsburgh, PA  
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

October 2011 TBA – Boston?  
\*

Deadline for the September issue is August 12th.

We are calling for your images of fall flowers and fruits. Send to [judy](#)-

From page 5

### My week at "Filoli"

by Berit Robertson continued....

only had to go into the dining room, where a delicious buffet was laid out for us each day, thanks to the wonderful Cathy in the Education Office who saw to our comfort and all our needs.

I have many people to thank: Anne-Marie Evans, of course, for your guidance and inspiration; Catherine Waters, for all the work you did creating, developing and organizing the raffle prize and the silent auction; Robin Jess, for all the time you spent making calls and arrangements on my behalf and never making me feel like you had anything more important to do. But who was the generous donor of the raffle prize is not known. I thank you very much for that extraordinary gift. That I became the happy winner is still a wonder to me.

# BASNCR

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MEMBERSHIP FORM (PLEASE PRINT)



Yes, I would like to become a member of BASNCR. I am enclosing a check for \$30 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



# A PERSONAL PALETTE

**John Sonnier**

I have been a garden designer for more than twenty five years and have created many private and public gardens. It is through my association with plants that I draw inspiration for my sculpture.

I am now a sculptor and was taught by Master Sculptor Constantine Seferlis, who worked on the National Cathedral, and I continue to carry on the tradition of stone carving. I feel it is my responsibility to carry on the legacy of all the great sculptors that have passed on. Constantine entrusted me to not only learn from him but to also teach others. In doing so, I honor the wonderful lessons of sculpture he gave me. After two semesters of stone carving courses at Northern Virginia Community College, I was asked to become one of the instructors. I attribute my swift development as a sculptor to the fact that I was old enough to realize ...it wasn't about me; I would listen to what seferlis would say. I was submissive. I knew that he was the master. While I have carved many figurative pieces, I find that what nature has created is amazing. Few people have sculpted plants three dimensionally.



*Emergence*

I recently completed a commissioned piece for the new lobby at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, unveiled in 2006. It portrays a grouping of calla lilies. Also in 2006, I created the piece "Knowledge Passed" for the exhibit "Botanical Treasures of Lewis and Clark" at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. That piece is now on display at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Library. In 2004, I

completed "Brush Strokes," commissioned by Montgomery County, MD, to commemorate the revitalization of downtown Silver Spring. An exhibit of how the sculpture was conceived and created can be seen at the American Film Institute in Silver Spring. Among some other accomplishments is my piece "Just Jack in the Pulpit" chosen by jury to be exhibited at the National Sculpture Society's 70th Annual Exhibit in 2003, held at Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina and at the NSS gallery in New York City. It was a great honor to have my work exhibited among the nation's best sculptors, and especially humbling to exhibit at Brookgreen Gardens, the nation's oldest sculpture garden.

I recently created a bronze edition of "Just Jack in the Pulpit." Number one of the edition was purchased by Cyrus Katzen for his collection at the new Katzen Center of Art at the American



*Inner Glow*

University. In 2002, my sculpture was also chosen to be exhibited at Sculpture in the Park in Loveland, Colorado, the largest juried outdoor sculpture competition in the United States. Works of mine are now in collections throughout the United States and Mexico.

I presently teach sculpture at the Corcoran School of Art and Design. My sculpture can be viewed at Creative Partners Gallery in Bethesda, MD, the Arts and Humanities Council in Silver Spring, and at the Art Galleries of The National Institute of Health (NIH).



## The Traveling Brush – My week at “Filoli” by Berit Robertson

During a visit to my son and his family in California about ten years ago, my daughter-in-law introduced me to Filoli Gardens, which is in Woodside, about 30 minutes from their home. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Filoli – “fight, love, live” – is named for the credo of William Bowers Bourn II, its founder and former owner: “To fight for a good cause, to love your fellow man, to live a good life.”

I was moved by the spirit of that statement as much as I was moved by the beauty of this 654 acre estate, which is breathtaking with its gardens, pear orchards and park areas, with hundreds of camellias, rhododendrons, roses, magnolias and greenhouse plants.

Filoli has an extensive educational program that ranges from introductory classes in drawing and watercolor for children to week-long, intensive workshops and botanical certificate classes taught by accomplished Bay Area and regional instructors, as well as internationally known instruc-



*Viola Cornuta* © 2006 by Berit Robertson

tors such as Anne-Marie Evans and Catherine Watters.

At the time of my first visit ten years ago I was mostly involved in interior design. I was also taking lessons in watercolor at the Art League in Alexandria. After my visit to Filoli I became more than ever inspired by botanical art and illustration. I found my way to the Corcoran School of Art in Washington D.C., and there I took beginning lessons from Leslie Exton in botanical drawing and watercolor.

I soon realized that painting flowers had always been what inspired my soul. Like most Swedes, I feel close to nature, and nature’s beauty is very

much part of who I am – but I had no formal training in botanical art. Then I heard about the new School of Botanical Art and Illustration at Brookside Gardens in suburban Maryland, founded by Margaret Saul. Here I enrolled in the certificate program, and, under Margaret’s wonderful guidance, I am now almost at the finish line.

Margaret encouraged us all to join ASBA. I did, and last year I went to my first ASBA conference, in Seattle. There I bought a few raffle tickets, and – I WON! The delightful surprise was that the prize was a workshop at Filoli with Anne-Marie Evans, for a full week, complete with lodging at the Marriott in San Mateo. So, after all these years, I went back to Filoli, where many ago I was so inspired by the gardens and their beauty.

I had a wonderful time at the workshop. Under Anne-Marie’s exceptional guidance and support, a botanical piece was created from a start in the cutting garden, where we chose a subject to paint in the studio. Anne-Marie’s constant encouragement and wonderful sense of humor brought out the best in us, and led us to a finished piece (or, in my case, an almost-finished piece!) at the end of the week.

I arrived back in Washington ten days later with a wonderful feeling, having had this very special time away from all the distractions back home that must be tended to. Instead of “what’s for lunch?” here we



Berit receiving instruction from Anne-Marie Evans

Continued on page 3...

# Painted Backgrounds, Moths, Lilies and John Cody

May 25–27, 2007 Brookside Gardens



At the workshop students intently watched John Cody at work.

Our first day with John Cody was quite exuberant. After an infusion of inspiration via a talk and display of his work, the workshop participants began to play. We explored a variety of ways to develop backgrounds for our paintings. For a group of botanical artists trained in the way of pristine white backgrounds, this was heady stuff. We painting with coffee, sprinkled coffee grounds with abandon, tried outrageous shouts of Quinacridone colors and layered unlikely hues. Salt was sprinkled, plastic wrap applied, paper towels dabbed and hair driers hooted steadily. We were amazed by the serendipitous results.

On the second day, white lilies and a moth being painted quieted the room significantly. Muttered curses were heard as recalcitrant mask refused to leave gracefully or lily petals emerge convincingly. The moth was a collection of bewildering dots. Slowly our paintings began to develop and excitement resumed.

Through it all, John Cody was patient, calm and encouraging. He was able problem-solve problems we got into – too dark, too light, wrong color. The three days whizzed by and then it was time to offer heartfelt thanks to John and our appreciation to Kandy Phillips who arranged for his presence. We displayed our paintings for all to see and compliments flew. Even as most of us return to our pristine white backgrounds, I imagine that a few will have an unfettered fling or two with background color. Certainly all will remember a special weekend and the gentle presence of John Cody.

Note: Dr. John Cody has been considered the “Audubon of Moths”. His book, “Wings of Paradise: The Great Saturniid Moths” can be ordered through most book stores.



Tina Thieme Brown enjoying the workshop  
All photos by Judy Brown © 2007

Example of coffeegrounds used in a background – Judy Brown



Zebra Mosaic by Judy Brown © 2007

# Brookside Gardens



## SCHOOL of BOTANICAL ART & ILLUSTRATION

McCrillis Gardens, 6910 Greentree Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

### BROOKSIDE GARDENS SCHOOL of BOTANICAL ART & ILLUSTRATION

Located at McCrillis Gardens, 6910 Greentree Road, Bethesda MD 20817

All at the school and many admirers of botanical art look forward to "Botanica 2007 - The Art & Science of Plants" the school's second annual exhibition at the Brookside Gardens Visitors Center (June 24 - August 3) that exhibits artwork associated with the various subjects offered at the school. You are most welcome to join us for the opening event on Sunday July 15 for a walk-through with teachers at 3:15pm and to attend the official opening and presentation of the school's Achievement Awards to be presented to those exhibiting for the first time at this annual exhibition. Those who recently visited the school's Open House during spring were amazed at the progress made by novices over the eight months taken to complete the course work at the school's intermediate level. Now come to Botanica 2007 and be blown away by the beautiful artwork created by students who have recently completed the advanced level of the introductory course in botanical art!

The newly formed "Garden Illustrators" got off to a great start with (Project 1) a project to illustrate a garden calendar book with a selection of botanical paintings to illustrate each month of the year at Brookside Gardens as part of its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2009. Those who registered for the initial workshop are invited to attend the four remaining quarterly workshops at the Visitors Center free of charge. If you have Pen & Ink illustration skills and would like to illustrate signage for a self-guiding walk of the many plants of note at McCrillis Gardens, Bethesda (Project 2) you are invited to join this project that then

links in with the four free workshops. Project 3 is also in Pen & Ink and involves plant illustrations for a children's program at Brookside Gardens and as with Projects 1 & 2 participants will join with other members at the four free workshops during the year ahead. A special exhibition of work completed for these projects by the Garden Illustrators will be held in the not too distant future at a venue soon to be announced.

### DIARY DATES

**Botanica 2007** - Annual school exhibition at Brookside Gardens Visitors Center, June 24-August 3. Opening Event: Exhibition Walk-through, official ceremony with Award Presentations, Sunday July 15.

**SUMMER CLASSES** (June - July) Descriptions of the following workshops are available in the school pages of the spring-summer 2007 Brookside Gardens Program & Events Guide - also available online.

**Ferns For All** - Margaret Saul. Day 1 - Drawing & field study; Day 2 - Painting. Open to all, Saturday July 7 & 14 (10-2pm).

**Botanical Art Intensive** - 3 days with Margaret Saul. Stimulus - "Summer Daisies". Intermediate-Advanced. July 20-22 (9-4pm). A comprehensive overview of the school's beginner to intermediate level drawing and painting instruction.

**Core Subject Program - Starts in September** with beginner level classes. This curriculum can take the dedicated novice through to the completion of the school's advanced level after a minimum period of twenty months of formal instruction, or take a more leisurely pace by participating in electives and workshops prior to commencing the advance level in your third year. **Opening date for registration - August 15.**

**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)

## What's Blooming Now

Summer is a great time for botanical artists. The spring ephemerals are gone but the perennial beds and shrubs are quite colorful.

Hydrangeas present us with great palette choices ranging from leaf green through soft pinks, violets and purples. Just a single flower in this inflorescence is a lovely thing to paint.

*Stewartia pseudocamillias* with their delicate white blossoms will bloom into early July. They are a wonderful challenge of white flowers on white paper.

Roses are a walk through many of the colors in



Moonflower vine

our paint boxes. Some change their colors as they age, giving us a chance to paint the same rose with a variety of color ranges.

Discover tender perennials during a walk through a garden center and succumb to the temptation to buy and paint a particularly lovely specimen.

Hostas have started blooming and different varieties will bloom throughout the summer and into fall. Get out your best violet, purple paint – Moonglow perhaps?


Vines are rampant during this time. Trumpet and Moonflower vines are especially enticing.

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**Next Meeting**  
**JUNE 24 1-4pm**  
Good Shepherd Episcopal Church  
Silver Spring, MD