



# BASNCR

**HOW TO JOIN:**  
**For information contact:**  
BASNCR, Treasurer  
6803 Connecticut Ave.  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Botanical Art Society of the National Capital Region  
*Promoting botanical art in the National Capital Region*

June 1, 2008

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

Volume 4, Issue 3

## *Letter from the President*

Dear BASNCR Members,  
With our vote on February 9, 2008 to become incorporated in Maryland as a tax-exempt non-profit organization, we have begun a new phase in our collective development. One of the first steps we took was to join the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations (<http://www.marylandnonprofits.org/>). They have provided us with information on how to start a nonprofit organization in Maryland—offering a class (which I took) and a set of invaluable resources, both online and in a publication that details the steps needed to become incorporated. The Board has drafted several versions of the Bylaws, and we are close to closure on the final version based on the Board meeting on April 9. Bylaws are critically important, because they declare how the organization will operate. Once the final version has been approved by the Board, the document will be distributed electronically to all members. BASNCR will apply for incorporation in Maryland, and once that has been approved, will apply for tax-exempt status with the IRS. We will also obtain insurance that will protect the organization as a whole.



If you haven't taken a look at the BASNCR website lately, please do (<http://www.basncr.org/>). It has been redesigned and updated, thanks to **Karen Coleman**, who has volunteered to be our Web Coordinator. Please also consider submitting your artwork (300 dpi JPEG file) to the webmaster, [MJonesStudio@comcast.net](mailto:MJonesStudio@comcast.net) so your work can be represented in our online gallery. The online calendar is a good way to track upcoming events.

Elsewhere in this issue is a calendar of upcoming meetings and field trips. Highlights include: **June 8: Our next BASNCR meeting.** Denise Gibbs will speak on Wildflowers at the Black Hill Recreation Area (Boys, Maryland). We will gather at picnic shelter F. Spouses and guests are invited. This is a good chance to attract new members! There will be a picnic sign up sheet and more information distributed by Vice President **Joan Ducore** closer to the date.

**Judy Rodgers** is our new Treasurer. She will transition into this role as we become incorporated and set up a new bank account with Federal ID. Many thanks to **Emily Rowan** who has served so well for so many years. **Rita Pazzelli's** new designation is Educational Outreach Coordinator. This reflects some of the broader scope of the activities she envisions for BASNCR.

Finally, I am issuing a heartfelt request for a volunteer to become the Newsletter Editor. This beautiful, high-quality

### **BASNCR Executive Committee 2007-2008**

**President:** Pamela Mason  
**Vice-President:** Joan Ducore  
**Secretary-Treasurer:** Emily Rowan  
**Exhibits Coordinator:** Kathleen Brahney  
**Newsletter:** Judy Brown, Barbara Sweeney & Kathy Lutter  
**Membership Coordinator:** Betsy Farr & Deborah Gudelsky  
**Educational Outreach Coordinator:** Rita Pazzelli  
**Web Coordinator:** Karen Coleman

### INDEX

Letter from the President	Page 1
BASNCR Calendar	Page 2
News and Notes	Page 3
A Personal Palette	Page 4
The Traveling Brush	Page 5
Join BASNCR / Letter from Marcia Dewitt	Page 7
What's Blooming Now	Page 8

Continued on Page 2  
Page 1

## President's Letter

Continued from Page 1....

publication is one of the benefits of BASNCR membership and offers an opportunity for members to publish their art. **Judy Brown** has been providing a wonderful service, however, she would like to step down. She has developed a set of guidelines that can be followed to ensure everything comes together, and will work with anyone who will volunteer to succeed her. Much of the job of editor is coordinating column editors for different portions of the publication. Barbara Sweeney will continue to provide her skills in developing the layout and arranging for printing, and Kathy Lutter will continue her role in distribution. Please consider this way of contributing to the organization.

I hope to see you at the June 8 meeting. We have shelter F all day, so consider coming early.

All the best,

*Pamela*

Pamela Mason, President



### WELCOME New Members

**Rachel T Showalter**  
**Pat Neuman**  
**Laura Gilliam**  
**Eileen Malone**

**June 8: Denise Gibbs to speak on Wildflowers at the Black Hill Recreation Area (Boys, Maryland).** Meet at Picnic shelter F at 11:30 a.m. or earlier if you want to walk around the area. Spouses and other guests invited. Contact Joan Ducore (djducore@gmail.com) to sign up for pot-luck lunch. For directions go to [Http://mc-mncppc.org/parks/nature/blackhill/directions.shtm](http://mc-mncppc.org/parks/nature/blackhill/directions.shtm), or call 301-972-3476

**June 21: Family Day at USBG** will be focused on pollinators. Contact **Joan Ducore**, to volunteer for 1.5 to 2 hrs to the BASNCR table. We'll encourage the public to paint and color using various samples provided by USBG

**July 10: 10:30-12:00** Member **Peggy Duke** has made arrangements for her husband **Jim Duke, renowned Ethno botanist, to lead a tour of his garden that features medicinal plants and herbs.** Following the tour, we will visit **Barbara Sweeney's** frame and gallery shop, **Art Partners.** The shop is a short distance from the Duke's garden and has a lovely courtyard with tables next door that will accommodate brown bag lunching. There are also two restaurants, a Japanese and American-style Café within walking distance for take outs. Contact **Joan Ducore** to sign up for this wonderful opportunity.

**August: Extended Deadline for submissions to ASBA exhibit "Losing Paradise? Endangered Plant Species Here and Around the World"** See ASBA website: <http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/ASBA/ASBotArtists.html>

**September 27: Family Days at River Farm,** Headquarters of the American Horticulture Society in Alexandria. Contact **Kathleen Brahney** to volunteer participate BASNCR's program in this lovely day.

**October 5: meeting at USBG Conservatory, 12:30-4:00 p.m.** Program will be announced at a later date.

**October 27: Hanging day** for Green Springs Garden (Alexandria, VA) BASNCR Show

**November 16: Opening , Green Springs Garden Exhibition,** -- Brief Meeting and Reception

**February 8, 2009: Meeting at USBG Conservatory, 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.** **Doreen Bolnick** will give a presentation, "Wildflowers in Africa: Adventures in Compiling the First Wildflower Guide for Zambia".

#### Exhibitions:

**River Farm:** Hanging/setup August 31, 2009; Exhibit through Jan. 4, 2010. Reception date TBA.

**Brookside Gardens:** December 4, 2010 - February 6, 2011

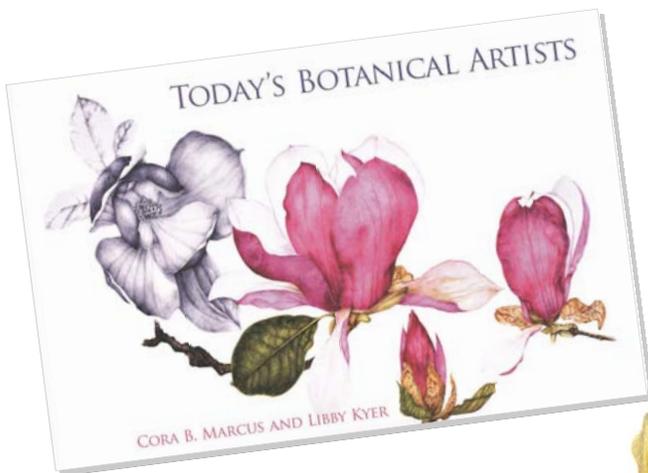
## News and Notes

**Karen Coleman's** piece, "The Blue Dory," has been accepted into the 2008 Color Pencil Society of America's international exhibition in Washington State. This is especially exciting because it means that Karen will be inducted as a Signature Member in Seattle on Aug 1, 2008. A CPSA member is eligible for signature status if work is accepted into the annual international show three times within 10 years. This fall, Karen will be teaching a color pencil class for the Brookside School of Art and Illustration. Plan to join the class and learn from a master.

**Judy Rogers** will be our new Treasurer. She comes with an impressive set of credentials that she offers to BASNCR, especially as we continue on our way to become incorporated as a nonprofit. Judy worked for the federal government for approximately thirty-five years, many of those years as a contracting officer, awarding and administering Federal contracts. Judy is a certificate candidate student at the Brookside Garden School of Botanical Art and Illustration. Judy has several paintings 'in the works' and looks forward to finishing them now that she recently retired.



*Karen Coleman's Color Pencil Impatiens glandulifera (no common name, in the Touch-Me-Not family). Karen found this beautiful, weird flower growing in thickets along the roadsides on Brier Island, Nova Scotia*



**Betsy Farr** will have a painting in the show "Today's Botanical Artists" at Ursus Books and Prints, 981 Madison Ave, N.Y., June 9- August 1. The opening reception is June 10, 6-8. The book, Today's Botanical Artists by Cora Marcus and Libby Kyer (Schiffer Press) is a useful compendium of contemporary artists, including works by BASNCR members **Betsy Farr** and **Margaret Saul**. It features a double page spread on each of 65 artists, with several sample paintings of each. There is a short artist statement, plus an index with vitae, and the prices assigned each piece by the artist. This book would be useful to the practicing artist as a way to satisfy curiosity about what's going on in the field and who's doing what and for how much. It is also a wonderful resource for collectors as it has contact information on the artists.



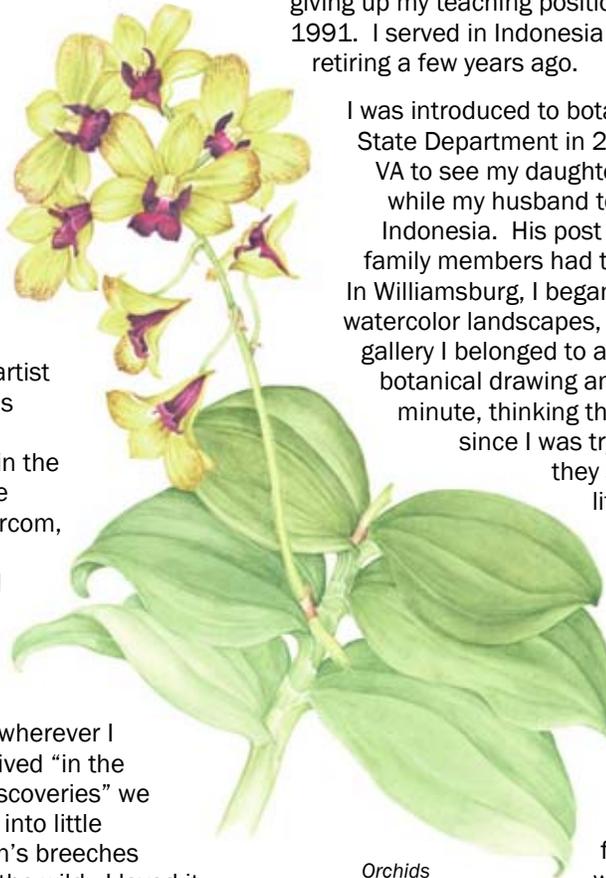
*Watercolor of Daffodils by Margaret Farr © 2008*

# A PERSONAL PALETTE — by Kathleen J. Brahney

*“When I heard that there were artists, I wished that I could some time be one. If I could only make a rose bloom on paper, I thought I should be happy! Or if I could at last succeed in drawing the outline of winter-stripped boughs as I saw them against the sky, it seemed to me that I should be willing to spend years in trying.” Lucy Larcom, A New England Girlhood, 1889*

For me, the path to becoming a botanical artist has taken several decades, through various career choices and life on four continents. Somewhat amazingly to me, all these led, in the end, to where I started from, which was the desire to “be an artist.” Much like Lucy Larcom, whose quotation continues to inspire me, I grew up drawing and painting. I also loved being outdoors, roaming in the woods and streambeds of rural northwest Ohio, where my family moved when I was 10. Unlike in Cleveland, where I was born, I suddenly had the freedom to ride my bike wherever I wanted to, and I had friends who actually lived “in the country.” I still remember the amazing “discoveries” we made – tadpoles transforming themselves into little creatures with legs, vast beds of Dutchman’s breeches and trilliums, and seeing my first snake in the wild. I loved it all, and if I had known that there was such a thing as botanical art, I would have pursued it with all my heart. But I was unaware that such a field existed, and life took me in other directions.

As an undergraduate at Michigan State University, I kept my artistic aspirations alive by minoring in art while I pursued a dual major in French and education. I eventually earned a PhD in Medieval French and taught for many years at Michigan Technological University in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. When my husband joined the U.S. Foreign Service and we moved first to Washington, D.C., then to Chile and Pakistan, any serious pursuit of painting simmered on the back burner. In search of a new career to compensate for



*Orchids*  
by Kathleen Brahney © 2008

giving up my teaching position, I joined the Foreign Service in 1991. I served in Indonesia and in Washington, D.C. before retiring a few years ago.

I was introduced to botanical art while on leave from the State Department in 2003. I was living in Williamsburg, VA to see my daughter through the last years of college while my husband took a difficult assignment in Indonesia. His post was considered “dangerous,” and family members had to evacuate for security reasons. In Williamsburg, I began to paint in earnest, mainly watercolor landscapes, still-life and abstracts. A local gallery I belonged to advertised a 4-session workshop in botanical drawing and painting. I enrolled at the last minute, thinking that the course was a bit expensive, since I was trying to live on a shoestring. As they say, the experience “changed my life.” From the very first moments of the class, I knew I had returned to something very important to me. I was hooked. We began with two sessions of graphite drawing, and that was it – I’ve never looked back.

From Williamsburg, I joined my husband in Indonesia, where I had a wealth of botanical subjects at my fingertips – mostly lovely orchids which were readily available at the plant market for a song and from

the garden, where the occasional orchid would beckon and wind up in my studio. From Indonesia, we moved to Latvia, where I met a wonderful botanist working at the National Museum of Natural History who introduced me to Latvia’s lovely and diverse terrestrial orchids.

We returned to the U.S. a year ago, and I was delighted to discover BASNCR, fully formed and tremendously active! It is heartening to see the flourishing of botanical art that has taken place over the past five years, and I feel privileged to be part of such a wonderful group. It is especially meaningful to be able to connect with other artists and organizations. Thanks to BASNCR’s link with the USBG, I am

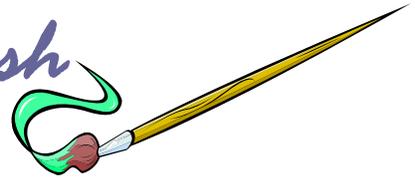


*Dendrobium Dina Agus Sigitno*  
*Orchids*  
by Kathleen Brahney © 2008



*Osage Oranges* by Kathleen Brahney © 2008

# The Traveling Brush



## A Trip to See the Trilliums

By Karen Coleman

On May 7, Joe Coleman, a local birder and naturalist, led a walk for BASNCR members to see the annual blooming of the trilliums at the G. Thompson Wildlife Management Area. This special area is believed to have the largest population of Large-flowered Trillium, *Trillium grandiflorum*, in North America. The day was picture perfect, sunny and in the low 70's, and the woods were carpeted with white and pink trilliums in bloom.



The group included **Joe and Karen Coleman, Diane Berndt, Doreen Bolnick, Kathleen Brahney, Laura Gillian, Barbara Hanft, Joyce Korvick, Kathy and Clyde Lutter, P.J. and Bob Marshall, Margaret Mattison, Kandy Phillips, and Margaret Reynolds.** Laura Gillian and Joyce Korvick were new members who joined in response to the offered trip. We walked the trail together and enjoyed not only the trilliums but also many other native wildflowers, including Yellow Lady's Slipper, Wild Geranium, Rue Anemone, and Showy Orchis. Some great birds also showed themselves or sang from the greenery — Ovenbird, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, various woodpeckers, and many more. First-timers to the area were in awe of the glorious flowers and melodious birdsongs, and returnees were just as awe-struck. Many photos were taken and some sketches were made for future botanical art.



After our walk at G. Thompson, we drove to Sky Meadows State Park for a potluck picnic and beautiful views of a mountain valley. It was a delicious feast as we gorged ourselves on meats, cheeses, deviled eggs, a wonderful variety of salads, breads, dips and spreads, fruit (including an exotic one, Longan, brought by Doreen that we all had to try) and incredible desserts. As we headed home, sated on food and the wonders of nature, we all felt very fortunate to have spent the day together in two such beautiful places.



All photos  
by Karen Coleman © 2008

## News and Notes — continued

### Garden Illustrators Project — “A Year in the Garden”

As a part of the Brookside Gardens 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, artists from the Brookside School of Art and Illustration were chosen to develop paintings that reflected a botanical year at Brookside to be used in a publication that offers month by month gardening information and a calendar.

The plant list for this project was developed by Brookside gardeners and staff. Each month the garden illustrators have been gathering at Brookside to pick up cuttings selected by Ellen Bennett and Alicia Sullivan. Master artist **Lee D’Zmura** provided much appreciated guidance and critiques each month. Garden Illustrators are **Diane Berndt, Judy Brown, Meta Carr, Joan Ducore, Lee D’Zmura, Barbara Hanft, Kathy Lutter, Margaret Mattison, Marsha Ogden, and Berit Robertson**. The project is nearly complete and the paintings produced are truly lovely.



*Beauty Berry painting  
by Barbara Hanft © 2008*

This is the last issue that **Judy Brown** will edit. She has been honored to serve in this position since the society began 4 years ago. Her future plans are focusing on painting and avoiding leg fractures.



*Watercolor of Witch Hazel  
by Judy Brown © 2008*

### Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art at Kew Gardens

London's Kew Gardens recently opened the world's first gallery dedicated to botanical art works. Some of these works have never been



*Photo courtesy of Getty Images, bbc.co.uk*

seen by the public. The gallery is exhibiting art from the collections of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and from collector Dr Shirley Sherwood.

Kew has a vast collection of more than 200,000 art works. Some of the illustrations of extinct species are thought to be the only surviving record. Dr Sherwood has been collecting contemporary botanical art since 1990. Her collection includes work by more than 200 artists living in 30 different countries. Commenting on the opening of the gallery, she told BBC's Radio 5 Live: "There's a great renaissance in botanical art today and this is a very exciting moment." <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/1/hi/uk/7355850.stm>

## News From Marcia DeWitt

*I have been out in the garden non stop the last few days. I inherited an incredible perennial garden and it looks like it may spectacular again this summer. However, I did discover that I am totally ignorant about the wild trees, shrubs and wildflowers on our 6- acres. During my long walk to the mailbox I am slowly becoming aware of what is growing around me and then look everything up in all my books. One thing I have learned about myself with all this moving around is that I am not at all comfortable in my new settings until I have my home and yard somewhat understood—then I feel quite free to venture out to the bigger picture. The wild serviceberry trees (also called Shadblows) are in full bloom and are lovely with their delicate branches and star like flowers. The wild cherries are just budding up and will be the next to bloom. Yes, we are quite late here for spring but it seems to make it all the more appreciated!*

*I have not yet begun painting and Bill is a bit surprised. But again— unless the garden is settled in I cannot settle down (although construction on our home is finally finished). We plan to take a ride south to Bowdoin College where the library is putting on an exhibit of Kate Furbish's "Flora of Maine", 1,326 watercolors and pencil sketches completed in 1908. I am looking forward to that.*

*I think the idea for a rare plant exhibit is a great idea, yet somehow, it has slowed me down in my inspiration. I am just now coming to realize that it is the wild things which are common all around us that I want to talk about in my work—why is that? I think it may be because I find great pleasure in pointing out things that are right before our eyes that we rarely appreciate. I guess I am in the process of defining the purpose of my work..*

*I miss everyone there. Every student and every friend were inspirational to me. I think of you often  
Very best wishes,*

### Continued from page 4 - Kathleen Brahney

continuing to have the opportunity to paint Indonesian orchids. As an artist, I will most likely not limit myself to specific subject matter, however. My plans are to follow my heart, as I did in earlier days, painting and drawing what captivates, challenges and inspires me, whether in my own garden, the woods nearby or in a tropical greenhouse.

The Jade Vine and orchids are all from Indonesia; the Staghorn Fern is native to Indonesia, but I drew it from a specimen I bought at a florist's in Latvia, and the Honey Locust seed pods are from Williamsburg, VA.; the Osage Oranges are from my neighborhood in Arlington.

—KB

# 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 \$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

# What's Blooming Now

## Oak leaf Hydrangea

With the loss of native plant communities and under the threat of global warming, much emphasis is being placed on the reintroduction native plants species. We are turning our attention to those plants which are best suited for our environment. Plants that have evolved in our climate and soils require less care and are less subject to disease and infestation. It is my pleasure to present Hydrangea quercifolia/ Oak leaf Hydrangea which is a native of the south eastern United States.

This deciduous shrub is truly a four seasons plant. In spring the new, lime green foliage and terminal buds brighten the emerging garden. By summer the oak shaped leaves, deepened to a dark green, provide a strong background for the large erect panicles of creamy white



sterile flowers. As the season progresses the blooms turn from white to light pink to deep rose and finally into dried brown clusters which persist until spring. At season's end, the coarse leathery leaves turn a lovely deep burgundy.

This shrub, which can grow to 8' tall and wide, is best used in the back of the garden bed or in borders and mixed screens. It prefers moist soils and performs best in partial shade.

There is so much to see and so little time! Just look out your window. — *Lee D'Zmura*

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Botanical Art Society  
National Capital Region



**Promoting botanical art in the National Capital Region**

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

**Next Meeting**  
**June 8, 2008 1-4pm**  
Black Hill Recreation Area  
Picnic Shelter F  
20926 Lake Ridge Drive  
Boys, Maryland 20841  
301-972-3476