

GRC Summer Updates from the Board

A Message from the GRC Co-Presidents:

We're very excited to let you know that our chapter has been growing by leaps and bounds, with 95 members to date! In response to this, the GRC Board has decided to hold an informal "Meet & Greet" Open House from

10:00 a.m. – Noon on Saturday, July 19, at the Crows Foot Studio owned by fellow GRC member Pat Schmidt. This home is located at 8608 W 35th Street in St. Louis Park. It's a chance for all our members – especially our newest ones – to meet others well in advance of the ASBA Conference this fall while checking out this nice studio space that's available for those teaching classes to rent. We will provide treats, so please let us know if you'll be there. Also, we suggest you bring a portable chair.

Keep reading: We're also inviting you to engage in this year's ASBA Conference by entering the Small Works exhibit and volunteering to help us roll out the floral carpet for this very special international event that will take place in the Twin Cities this October.

We hope to see you on July 19, and we welcome any questions or suggestions. Lynne Gildensoph and Dana Boyle, GRC Co-Presidents, lhgildensoph@stkate.edu and danaboyle23@gmail.com

Are you teaching a botanical art class? If you are, we would like to let other GRC members know about it. Please send that information to Lynne and Dana (see addresses above) so that we can start putting that information into a special Education section of the GRC website. We will be creating this section once we have information about courses taught by GRC members, and plan to keep it updated as course listings change. We've started getting information already, so please send your notification of classes you're teaching to us as soon as you can.

The ASBA Conference is here in October! Here are things to know about that:

1. The dates are:

- 1. Pre-Conference: Tuesday, October 14 and Wednesday, October 15, 2025**
- 2. Conference: October 16-18, 2025**
- 3. Post-Conference: Sunday, October 19 - Tuesday, October 21, 2025**

2. If you requested an early registration time, you will be getting an email link to register for classes, tours, etc. You will need to log on during that time period in order to register early. If you are unable to do that, you will need to wait to register until the open registration period. Please see the conference website (address below) for more information about this.

3. The **ASBA website** has registration instructions, a description of each session taking place during the conference, info about the InterContinental Hotel, supply lists for each class, info about the art bazaar, etc. The Conference link is:
https://www.asba-art.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=92618&module_id=531120

4. Our annual **Inspired by Nature** exhibition will be rolled into the **ASBA Small Works Exhibition** taking place at the conference. Linda Medved Lufkin is chairing the committee organizing the Small Works Exhibition on our end. Here's a message from her:

Get ready to show your artwork at the **Dare to be Square Small Works Exhibition 2025!**

As part of the upcoming ASBA conference you are invited to exhibit one of your original botanical pieces during the annual conference. This is a non-juried exhibition open to all attendees and will be on exhibit at the InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront Hotel throughout the conference, October 15th-18th. Please see the Call for Entries 2025 Small Works page under the Exhibitions tab on the ASBA website (link below) for complete information such as the deadline for entering, entry fee, framing requirements, etc.

https://asba-art.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=92618&module_id=521023

All are welcome and this is a great way to present your art and represent The Great River Chapter of the American Society of Botanical Artists. A reminder that the Dare to be Square Small Works Exhibition is replacing the GRC's Inspired by Nature show in 2025.

Eligibility: Open only to ASBA Members registered for the St. Paul Annual Conference

Entries Accepted: June 1 - August 31, 2025

5. We would love to have lots of **GRC folks volunteering** at the conference. Denise Walser-Kolar is chairing the local

committee organizing volunteers working at the conference. Denise notes: Volunteering at the conference is a great way to have fun and meet new people. We will soon have a list of all the volunteer opportunities at the 2025 ASBA conference to be held in Saint Paul in October. GRC members can sign up for their choices of days and times before conference registration (when all attending members will be able to volunteer to help out at the conference). Denise will be contacting you if you have already signed up to be a volunteer. If you would like to be added to the volunteer list, please contact Denise at denisewalserkolar@gmail.com.

6. Two separate **volunteer** committees are working on special projects for the conference.

1. Calling a handful of helpers to serve on the ASBA **Conference Table Decoration sub-committee**. We need several members to create centerpieces for the attendee tables (about 35 tables) for the ASBA Conference this October. What we're imagining is that each table would have a cool collection of interesting objects from nature that could serve as sketching subjects and that attendees could take home at the end of the conference. Think lichens, river or lake stones, twigs, seed pods, moss, you get the picture! The items would be creatively arranged on the tables — perhaps in clear glass spherical or box containers or low baskets. We think these curiosities will be inspiring and

reflect well on Minnesota. Most likely, we'll also have fresh flower arrangements on the welcome table(s) and maybe a few other spots. If you are willing to help, we'd love it and it would be an enjoyable way to get to know other GRC members. Please contact Dana Boyle, GRC Co-President, by phone at (651) 895-5821 or by email at danaboyle23@gmail.com.

2. **Small Works Exhibition committee.** This committee will help unbox pieces entered in the exhibition, hang the pieces on movable racks, and then check pieces off our list as they are picked up by exhibitors attending the conference. Please contact Linda Medved Lufkin if you'd like to help with this committee. Her email address is linda330.lml@gmail.com.

We hope to see you on July 19 – please join us!

The GRC Board