



*Cochlospermum, Cochlospermaceae, Marie Louise McQuiston Evans (1884–1949)\**

## Message from the President

Greetings! I hope you are all finding ways to enjoy the solitude of working/eating/gathering via Zoom at home. We all make decisions about heading out or not, and if going out, how to do it safely. Mask, hand sanitizer, wipes, sprays all play a part in my routine, but all are hard to come by. I got my hand sanitizer from a friend . . . who lives in Wisconsin. They have plenty in their stores.

The best antidote I have found for the chaos of our Nation, is the quiet of nature, the sounds of birds, the sun, and the wind on my face. Such simple things, really. I hope you are finding your antidotes! I just ordered some good binoculars (the kind you can look through while wearing glasses) to learn more about birds. Also, I'm enjoying cooking more with groceries that I have shopped for and put into my car.

The board has been meeting, via Zoom. We want you to know that we have been discussing strategies and ways to move forward with flexibility regarding the GRC. While we are still on for our Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the Edina Country Club

in November, we are considering a "Plan B" for gathering. So much depends on what happens in the coming months, and we do have time to make decisions. We would love your input and ideas about gathering for our Annual Meeting and about including the silent auction. Please email Karen Rathke at [krathke1@aol.com](mailto:krathke1@aol.com). We need your ideas!

Have any ordinary or extraordinary things you would like to include in the next newsletter? Save them up and submit them. We'd love to hear what's been going on with you.

Best,  
Pat Schmidt  
President  
GRC of the ASBA



# Inspired by Nature 2020 Exhibit Update

This year our annual GRC exhibit is scheduled to be held at the Ames Art Center in Burnsville from October 1 through November 7, 2020. Currently the center is closed until August 1. We have talked to the art center about how they plan to proceed with safety precautions during the COVID pandemic. They are unsure at this time but will get back to us in August with their decisions.

We are going to proceed with the exhibit as scheduled, but there may be changes. Possible examples: We could have our normal exhibit with an opening reception (without food). We could have our normal exhibit without an opening reception. Or we could have a virtual exhibit that would be on our website.

As something new this year, we would like to have the exhibit digitally on our website using the images from the submissions sent to enter the exhibit. This way friends and family who cannot make it to the exhibit will be able to view the whole show.

Here is the timeline we are proposing so you can be ready. We will be sending out more concrete information and forms in an email as plans are finalized for us by the Ames Art Center at the beginning of August. We know when we send out the final forms and dates, time will be tight so we feel it is important to give you a heads up to be ready.

This show is open to all GRC members. It is not a juried show, so all who enter will have at least one piece included. It is a great opportunity to show your work in an exhibit setting and to come together as a community of botanical artists! If you have never entered, we encourage you to take the opportunity this year.

## Inspired by Nature 2020 Timeline

### August 21

Early submission if you would like your entry to be considered for publicity. Ames Art Center may use entries on postcards, posters, and press release.

### September 4

Final day for submissions by email or mail.

### September 28 or 29

Drop off paintings and hang the exhibit.

### October 1 to November 7

Dates of exhibit.

### November 9

Art pick up.

If you have questions, ideas or concerns, feel free to e-mail Barb Björnson [barbbjornson@comcast.net](mailto:barbbjornson@comcast.net) or [Ronda Dick trd3274@gmail.com](mailto:Ronda Dick trd3274@gmail.com).

Keep painting and drawing!

Exhibit co-chairs,  
Barb and Ronda

### GRC Members in ASBA's 23rd Annual International Exhibition

Three GRC members have had work accepted into ASBA's 23rd Annual International Exhibition. Congratulations to Jane Fisher, Jane Hancock, and Connie Scanlon!

This exhibition returns to Wave Hill in September 2020. Wave Hill is a public garden overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades. The selection jury for the 23rd Annual International chose 46 artworks from a field of 178 entries.

Pictured below is Jane Hancock's *Porcelain Berry*. About her painting, Jane says, "I began thinking about the challenges of painting a vine a few years before tackling this project. On one hand I wanted

to suggest the profusion of overlapping stems that fill the field of vision. On the other hand I wanted to show clearly the plant's structure and forms.

I found a porcelain berry vine growing over a neighbor's fence and became a frequent visitor, photographing and snipping samples to sketch over several seasons.

Porcelain berry is a non-native vine that is not well known in Minnesota, but has become invasive in some regions. In spite of its problem status it makes an intriguing subject, because it has several leaf forms and striking berries, which turn from green to purple and blue as they mature."



Jane Hancock  
*Porcelain Berry*  
*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*  
watercolor on paper

## A Poem from Nancy Gehrig

### The Presence of Trees

by Michael S. Glaser

I have always felt the living presence  
of trees

the forest that calls to me as deeply  
as I breathe,

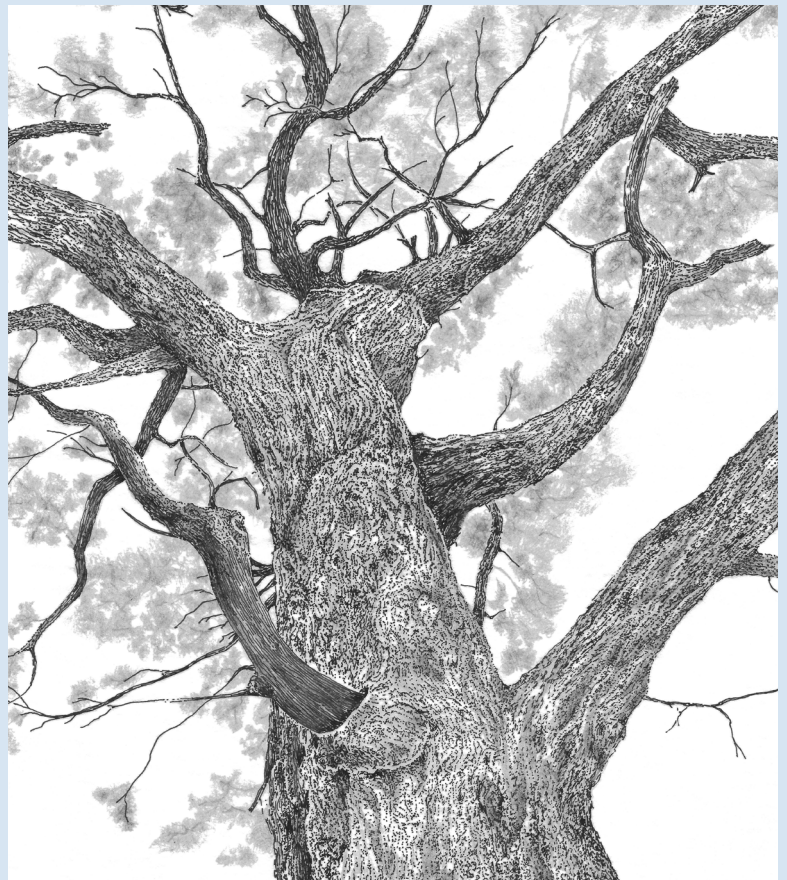
as though the woods were  
marrow of my bone as though

I myself were tree, a breathing, reaching  
arc of the larger canopy

beside a brook bubbling to foam  
like the one

deep in these woods,  
that calls

that whispers home



Nancy Gehrig  
*White Oak*  
Quercus alba  
solar plate etching and graphite

### Linda Powers' Work Appears in Open Access Scientific Journal

Linda Powers' painting of Wild Marijuana appears with the article, "Gene copy number is associated with phytochemistry in *Cannabis sativa*" on the AoBP (Annals of Botany PLANTS). The AoBP is a non-profit, sound science, open access journal for plant-focused research. Published by Oxford University Press.

"In this work, we quantify and describe, in multiple ways, the surprisingly high amount of variation in one of the highest revenue-producing biochemical pathways in nature. . . . We hope this study will encourage further research on these genes, particularly as the world moves to legalize this plant.

AoBP facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AoBPLANTS/photos/>

Link to the full journal article:

<https://academic.oup.com/aobpla/article/11/6/plz074/5634137>

Linda Powers  
*Wild Marijuana*  
*Cannabis sativa*  
watercolor on hemp paper



About her painting, Linda says, "A call for entries to an exhibit by the Rocky Mountain Society of Botanical Artists caught my eye with the name "Cannabis: A Visual Perspective 2017."

This subject had been in the news as academic research groups were publishing articles on their studies on the economic importance of hemp and states were legalizing both medical and recreational sales. So, I thought I could

possibly have access to some plants to paint from a Minnesota lab that was approved for growing medical plants. Unfortunately, they did not allow visitors to their labs (not a big surprise!) But, I did track down some good-old "Minnesota Green Ditchweed" growing freely along a highway—it actually does grow in many of our ditches. Once you see it, you'll notice it everywhere.

Deciding to paint on paper

made with hemp seemed an interesting touch as I have experience working with rice paper from my days studying Chinese calligraphy and landscape painting. Finding a source for the paper was just a Google search away. But it was quite the challenge to paint on this super-absorbent substrate—it required super dry brushwork. (If you look closely, you may find the one small drop of water that spread.)"

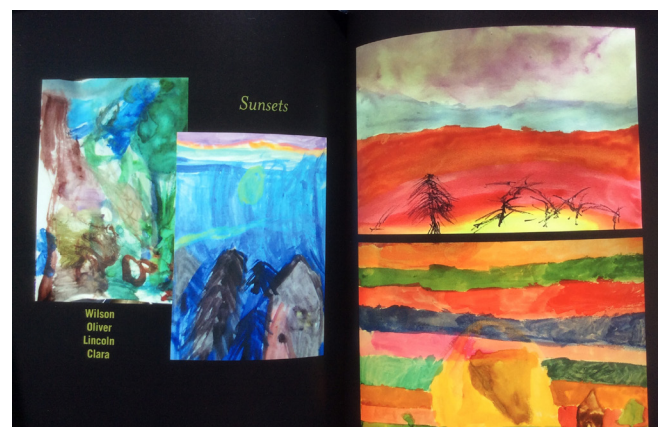
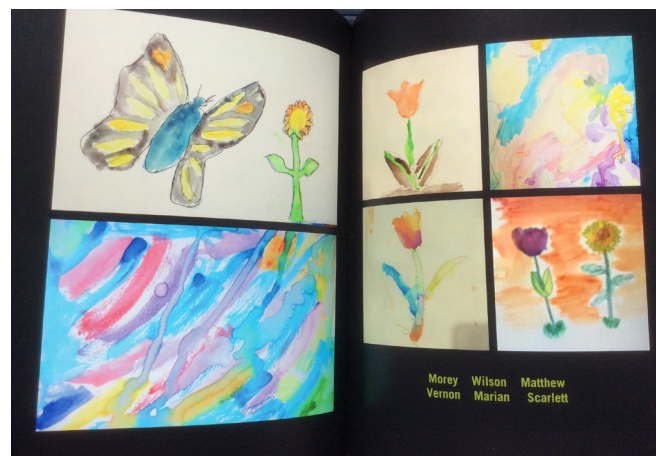
### How I Spent My Spring at Home

by Louise Magnuson

I have 14 grandchildren aged 1 to 15 in four homes throughout the local area. With the schools shut down since March, one of my daughters asked if I would be willing to have a “Watercolor Wednesday” with the grandkids. Since we could not physically get together, she suggested Zoom for our weekly meetings.

Because most of the kids normally just painted on regular paper or construction paper, I supplied watercolor paper and brushes so that they could have a better painting experience. Every week whoever was available joined our Zoom meeting. Because of the wide age range, I usually picked a

theme, or one of the kids suggested something, and I made a template they could use or they could draw their own. I would begin with some basic lesson we could use during our painting and then we painted at our own pace. They would share their work in our meeting and send pictures of their finished work. It was something the kids looked forward to and got me busy thinking art and painting myself during the stressful months. We just finished and are taking a break with the kids back to some regular summer activities. I just had a book made with all the paintings I was sent and the kids are pretty proud to be published artists!



## For Your Calendar

### **GRC Fall Newsletter Submissions Due**

September 15, 2020

### **13th Annual Inspired by Nature Show**

October 1 to November 7, 2020

September 4: Final day for entries

### **GRC Annual Lunch and Meeting, Edina Country Club**

November 14, 2020

### **ASBA Conference in Minneapolis**

October 2025

## A Note from the Newsletter Chair

Thank you to those who have shared your stories, and also for creating such beautiful art! It's an inspiration to us all. I look forward to receiving your submissions for future issues.

Kathe Wilcoxon

## Board Members

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open

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## Great River Chapter Mission Statement

Our mission is to create public awareness and appreciation for historical and contemporary botanical art in our community. To educate the public in plant diversity, regional ecology and preservation. To introduce the public to the beauty and usefulness of botanical art through exhibitions and provide a forum for artists to meet, share ideas and learn from one another.