



Cattleya amethystoglossa, orchid, *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*. vol 94

Message from the President



Dear GRC members, as we come out of a profound time in our lives, we are at a crossroads regarding our chapter. I think perhaps we've been lulled into complacency over the past year and a half, but now it's time to re-focus our energy and

talents in order to move our chapter forward.

Currently there is an opening on the board for treasurer. This important position must be filled as soon as possible. We also have an opening for co-chairs of the exhibition committee. Our annual exhibition is already booked for 2022 at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts (MCTA) but without co-chairs, it will have to be cancelled very soon.

Joining the board or becoming a committee chair is a wonderful way to become more involved, meet new people and help make decisions about the future direction of our vibrant chapter. The time commitment isn't huge and there are plenty of people to help you along the way.

Our secretary and membership chair are both finished with their tour of duty at the end of the year. So volunteers are needed for those positions as well.

It's important to be honest and up-front with everyone that members must participate in order for the chapter to survive. Some of you have held multiple positions over the years, and it's time to find some new people and new ideas!

In a few years the chapter will host the National ASBA Conference. It is necessary to re-vitalize our energy, outlook and commitment to the Great River Chapter.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

Best, Pat Schmidt
President
GRC of the ASBA
Silverleafdesign.schmidt@gmail.com



Featured on first page

Cattleya amethystoglossa, orchid, *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*. vol 94, collection
University of Minnesota Libraries, Andersen Horticultural Library
artist unknown

Call for Entries

Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition 2021

Registration closes July 12 at 4:30pm

<https://www.mnstatefair.org/competitions/fine-arts/>

GRC Board and Committee Opportunities

Play a part in your ASBA Chapter.

Take a turn on the board or in a committee position.

Make new ASBA friends while supporting our local chapter!

You do not have to live locally to participate. Meetings can be held via Zoom.

All members are welcome!

Current Open Positions:

Exhibit Chair (or Co-chairs)

A yearly exhibit is an important part of the GRC's mission to educate the public on plants and to introduce and expand audiences to botanical art. It also provides the opportunity for members to come together as a community to display their work.

As Exhibit Chair, you will:

- Identify possible venues for future exhibits
- Prepare a budget for the upcoming show
- Take in submissions
- Find and work with judges
- Work with venue on intake of artwork, hanging artwork, and pick up of artwork
- Organize volunteers to help where needed

Treasurer

As Treasurer, you will:

- Update and maintain GRC financial records
- Write checks as needed
- Make bank deposits
- Reconcile membership dues
- Attend monthly board meetings
- Create draft budget for new fiscal year
- Present annual budget at annual meeting
- Record GRC's non-profit status with State of MN
- Register no tax return required with IRS
- Ensure orderly transition of records at the end of tenure

End-of-Year Open Positions:

- **Secretary**
- **Membership Chair**
- **Vice President**

**Please contact Pat Schmidt
about any of these positions at
Silverleafdesign.schmidt@gmail.com**

Thank you!

ASBA A Banner Year Exhibition

Congratulations to three Great River Chapter artists who had work selected for this exhibition: Connie Scanlon, Denise Walser-Kolar, and Brandi Malarkey. Artworks were selected to appear on the ASBA website home page scrolling banner and on various pages throughout the ASBA website for one year.

Denise Walser-Kolar
50 Years Together
Dicentra spectabilis
watercolor on Kelmescott vellum
6" x 8"



Connie Scanlon
Blueberries x 12
Vaccinium corymbosum
watercolor on vellum
8" x 11"

Brandi Malarkey
Ficus carica 'Mission'
Black Figs
watercolor on paper
14" x 6.5"



Art on the Edge of the Boreal Forest: Alternative Futures for the trees, birds and insects

A group of Minnesota botanical artists began a project in 2010 about the trees and related birds and insects of the boreal forest. The project started after a Great River Chapter art exhibit at the Ripple River Gallery near Atkin. One of the owners, Bob Carls, requested an exhibit of trees at risk due to climate change from Minnesota's boreal forest. After hearing a presentation by Lee Frelich, Ph.D. on climate change, the artists approached to ask him to be their advisor. Lee is director of The Center of Forest Ecology at the University and a respected environmental scientist. Lee readily agreed and provided us with a list of 10 trees at risk most of which are included in this exhibit.

Threatened birds of the boreal forest were identified by Gerald J. Niemi, Ph.D. and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Biology, University of Minnesota-Duluth. Insects associated with the trees of the boreal forest were identified by Jana Albers, DNR Forest Health Specialist.

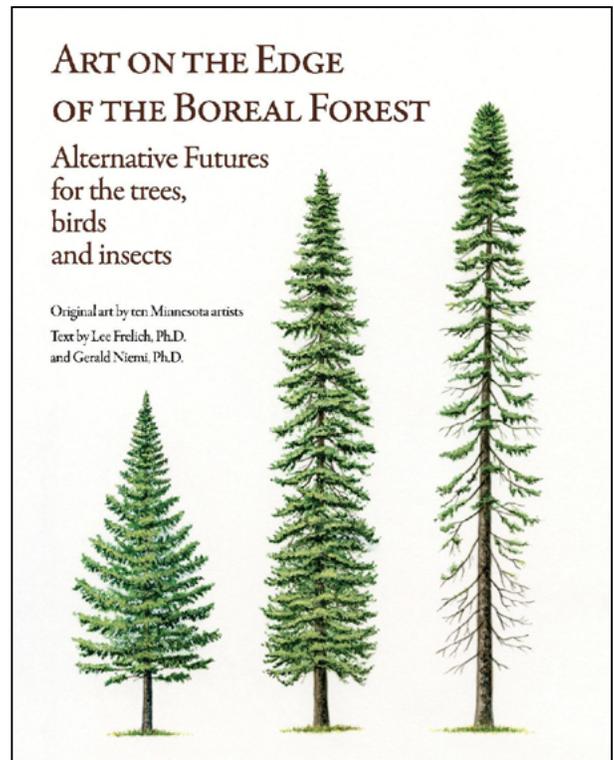
A traveling collection has been exhibited at the Kaddatz Gallery in Fergus Falls, the Ripple River Gallery, the MacRostie Art Center in Grand Rapids, the JJ Hill House in St. Paul and currently at the Bridgewater condominium in downtown Minneapolis.

When the exhibit at the JJ Hill House was closed due to the pandemic last March, the collection was chronicled in a book titled 'Art on the Edge of the Boreal Forest: Alternative Futures for the trees, birds and insects.' All the advisors agreed to contribute chapter material. The book highlights specific aspects of the 10 trees with related birds

and insects in works by Vicki Barth, Wendy Brockman, Marj Davis, Kathleen Franzen, Nancy Gehrig, Debra Greenblatt, Julie Martinez, Mary Anne O'Malley, Kathy Reeves, and Bruce Wilson.

This art and science book is available online from Amazon, Barnes and Noble or BookBaby (<https://store.BookBaby.com>). Sales proceeds go to The Center of Forest Ecology and Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth.

Kathleen Franzen



For Your Calendar

13th Annual "Inspired by Nature" Show

June 26 - drop off artwork at Artistry, noon - 2:00 pm

July 1 - Opening Reception, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

August 7 - pick up artwork from Artistry, 9:00 - 11:00 am

GRC Fall Newsletter Submissions Due

September 15, 2021

GRC Annual Lunch and Meeting

November 2021

ASBA Conference in Minneapolis

October 2025

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Congratulations! You are on the other side of a pandemic! I hope that you are enjoying a successful re-entry to life in person.

Kathe Wilcoxon, Newsletter Chair

katewilcoxon@gmail.com

Board Members

President

Pat Schmidt
silverleafdesign.schmidt@gmail.com

Vice President

open

Secretary

Julie Schlueter

Treasurer

Karen Rathke

Membership Chair

Sherry Sheahan

Newsletter Chair

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Exhibit Co-chairs

Barb Bjornson
barbbjornson@comcast.net

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Website

Pat Schmidt

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.