



*Vitis vinifera* L., Grape, L. Müller and C.F. Schmidt, from Franz Eugen Köhler's *Medizinal-Pflanzen* (1887)

## Message from the President

Well, here we are on the edge of autumn! The abundance of summer rain has produced flourishing gardens and foliage. I was able to get out on my bicycle a lot and the natural scenery did not disappoint. The Board has attempted to provide interesting chapter opportunities this year, but they were canceled because of COVID-19. This has been frustrating, along with the cancellation of our November Annual Meeting. The good news on the horizon is that Dr. Fauci believes that this time next year we will be getting back to a new normal—hopefully with a vaccine. While we have cancelled this year's events and outings, we are scheduled at the Edina Country Club for our Annual Meeting next November. This by far is our best time to greet and gather to catch up. It will be sorely missed this year. We understand that there is more we can do for you. We have discussed several ideas at our last board meeting but would find it helpful for you to contact us with any ideas you may have. You can email us at: [silverleafdesign.schmidt@gmail.com](mailto:silverleafdesign.schmidt@gmail.com).

I'm really looking forward to viewing our first virtual "Inspired by Nature" exhibit at the Ames Art Center in October!

Still hunkering, still drawing...

Pat Schmidt  
President  
GRC of the ASBA



## GRC Members in The Fourth New York Botanical Garden Triennial Abundant Future: Cultivating Diversity in Garden, Farm, and Field

Four GRC members have had work accepted into The Fourth New York Botanical Garden Triennial. Bravo to Jane Hancock, Linda Medved Lufkin, Linda Powers and Connie Scanlon! Forty artworks have been selected for inclusion in this exhibit, devoted to biological diversity in

cultivated utilitarian plants. The exhibit will run from October to February 2021 before it travels to the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens in Autumn 2021, and to Tucson Botanical Garden in Winter/Spring 2022.



Linda Powers  
*Gooseberries*  
*Ribes 'Poorman'*  
watercolor on velum

About her painting, **Linda Powers** says, “The theme of the Fourth New York Botanical Garden Triennial announced a call for entries of heirloom plants and crop diversity. I have some experience painting cultivated, heirloom gooseberries and love painting them, so I gathered the materials needed to create this painting showing the stages of development. There is an organic farm not too far away from my home that has a collection of heirloom gooseberries and I chose the cultivar *Ribes 'Poorman'*.” The berries are large, luscious, pink to wine-red and its origin can be traced back to 1888 in the state of Utah.

Every stage of this plant’s growth brings an interesting challenge to paint, from the delicate flowers, to the pale green first berries, ending with the translucent, color-rich ripe fruits. These colorful orbs are a joy to paint.”

*continued*

*New York Botanical Garden Triennial continued*



Jane Hancock  
*Wild Plum*  
*Prunus americana*  
watercolor on paper

**Jane Hancock** says about her painting, “A friend introduced me to the sweet, tart little fruits of the wild plum from trees in her backyard. Native plum trees are widespread in North America, with the *Prunus americana* (American plum) being the most common species. Laura Ingalls Wilder described them in *On the Banks of Plum Creek* (1937) in her “Little House” series.

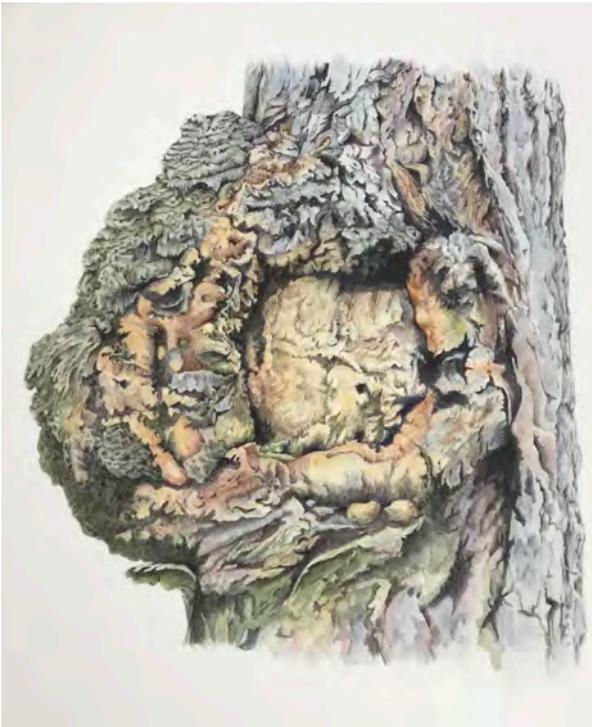
Wild plums tend to grow in dense, thorny thickets. They need sun and tolerate many types of soil, but are especially adapted to the moist soil found along the margins of streams, ponds, and wetlands. In spring they flower in abundant clusters of fragrant white blossoms, alive with pollinators. They fruit in late summer. American plums have been hybridized with Japanese plums to create cultivars, including the well-known Toka plum.

About her painting (*not pictured*) Blueberry Branch #1, *Vaccinium corymbosum* Stanley, **Connie Scanlon** says, “I fell in love with blueberries early in my years of painting and have yet to tire of their evolving colors and simple beauty. Initially I had wanted to paint the heirloom highbush blueberry plant named Elizabeth in honor of our first grandchild, Elizabeth, who is just as sweet as a little blueberry. I was thwarted in my plan having missed the ripe Elizabeth berries by a few weeks, and settled on the available heirloom blueberries, the Stanley (not quite my favorite name). Timing is everything !

Over a hundred years ago, USDA botanist Frederick Coville wrote “Taming the Wild Blueberry” and began collaborating with a cranberry grower, Elizabeth White, in cultivating blueberries from the wild. Their first commercial blueberry crop was harvested in 1916. Coville named one of the earliest heirloom cultivars for his eldest son, Stanley. It is still considered one of the sweetest blueberries ever to be produced.

## GRC Members in Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Show

Congratulations to Ronda Dick and Mary Anne O'Malley who had work accepted into the 2020 Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Show!



Ronda Dick  
*Burl*  
watercolor on paper



Mary Anne O'Malley  
*Treasure*  
graphite and watercolor on Kelmscott vellum

## A Poem from Nancy Gehrig

### Breath

by J. Daniel Beaudry

Tree, gather up my thoughts  
like the clouds in your branches.  
Draw up my soul  
like the waters in your root.

In the arteries of your trunk  
bring me together.  
Through your leaves  
breathe out the sky.

Nancy Gehrig  
*Poplar Trees*  
Populus  
etching with color pencil



### Summer at a Distance

Here is what a few members were up to during this unusual summer.



#### Nancy Lizette Berlin

This summer has been like no other but one thing is the same: PLANTS! My garden was bountiful and is still keeping me fed with ratatouille and borscht. I have plenty of red cabbage sauerkraut, my freezer is full of my favorite black krim heirloom tomatoes. Pesto and garlic braids grace my kitchen. I have enjoyed my cabin in Seeley Wisconsin, wildflowers and have made a few small paintings. This fall I will finish hiking the 310 mile Superior Hiking Trail - a trek I began two years ago. After forty years I am back at the UMN taking two classes on Botanical Medicines and Ayurveda. Covid has made life way too isolated and my painting a bit sparse...but it's a long winter.

#### Brandi Malarky

Construction, construction, construction. Pause to breathe. Resume construction. ;) Foundation and roof work on our house to keep it from either flooding, or falling down on our heads in winter snow. Doing it all ourselves. I have developed a bone deep loathing for anything that involves a shovel.

#### Marian Adcock

My puppy Spot took me on numerous walks around our lakes and the river. My in-door time was spent painting this Limpkin, a Florida water bird for a friend.



#### Kathe Wilcoxon

I took up golf! With golf as a recommended safe activity, a friend and I purchased clubs, took a few lessons and began what has turned out to be a much loved activity. Who knew! Even though I dabbled as a teen, I always put it in that semi-boring category. I was surprised at the beauty of the courses. Not all overly-groomed, but planted with gorgeous groves of trees and native plants. I've made it to 5 courses so far, public and private. The endless complexity of the game (there's always something to work on) and the comraderie has made it happily addictive.

## Member News

### *My Masked Summer continued*

#### **Diane Pearson**

In March my art pals (4 of us) turned to Zoom 3 hours twice a week to paint together from our home studios. As summer arrived we moved outside to paint on Fridays at various locations. In July I started to draw outside with the MN Figure Study Collaborative in Waconia on Wednesdays. I try to create every day. Sometimes doodles and shapes and color. Sometimes drawings and sketches. With the rule that nothing is to be “perfect.” My sketchbook art is for me. My recordings. It keeps me engaged in art and gives me time to be introspective. I have taken Zoom art workshops from a Pennsylvania Quick Sketch Portrait artist, a California Landscape Plein Air artist and a Chicago botanical artist.

#### **Marilyn Maltby**

During this pandemic summer I looked for safe adventure and solace outdoors. Appreciating the pond and wetland near my home, I studied plants new to me. Attentive and looking for botanical subjects, I found much more: spiders, ducks, moths, muskrats, frogs, herons, bees, dragonflies, butterflies, galls, nests, eggs, turtles, caterpillars, cocoons, and aquatic invertebrates. I am now harvesting/spreading native wildflower seed in this wetland to increase plants for journaling, drawing, and painting. Follow me on <http://wild-wild-woods.blogspot.com/>



#### **Scott Stapleton**

I spent my summer reading too much about politics, reading too little in order not to think about politics, writing two articles for *The Botanical Artist*, a lot of cooking—very satisfying, Skyping with children and grandchildren—very, very satisfying, going for walks, and something else.... Oh, yes! Making botanical art. But not a lot, which I spent the rest of the summer thinking about.



### The Thursday Sketchers

Back in 2012, a group of friends bonded over shared interests through the Field Sketching class at the Minnesota School of Botanical Art. Not wanting the experience to end, we decided to continue gathering regularly for sketching and camaraderie, meeting out in nature when the weather permitted and indoors when not.

We six sketchers (three of us are current GRC members), are Cora Wortman, Lin Lacy, Rachel Putnam, Nancy Gehrig, Tim Voigts, and Ben Lander. We've stuck together even as our styles and interests have evolved and life situations have changed (including the birth of two delightful nature-loving children!). Over the seasons, in addition to our regular informal sketching sessions, we've undertaken several different group projects: sketch-a-day calendars, shared circulating handmade sketchbooks, and even an "art plant press" to celebrate Rachel's Phd in Ecology!

We've recently finished what we refer to as our "Puzzle Project". It started with a photo Tim took of bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) growing in his backyard garden, from which he made an 18"x24" print that



Thursday Sketchers  
Puzzle Project  
Bloodroot  
*Sanguinaria canadensis*  
mixed media

*continued*

## Member News

he then cut up into twenty-five pieces. We each selected pieces one by one to reproduce in a style and medium of our choice —it just needed to be able to join up properly with the other pieces. The resulting composite image includes graphite, colored pencil, pen & ink stipple, watercolor, and collage using assorted papers, paint sample chips, and stitching.

*Puzzle Project Key*

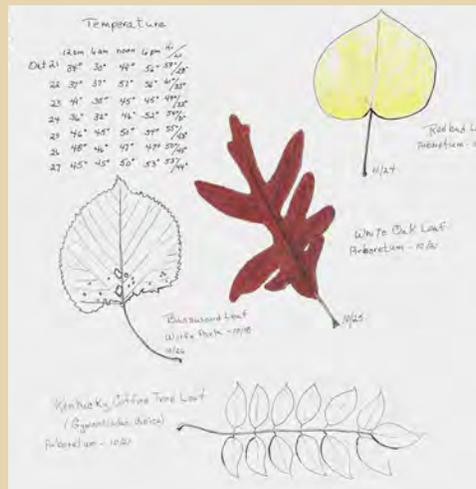
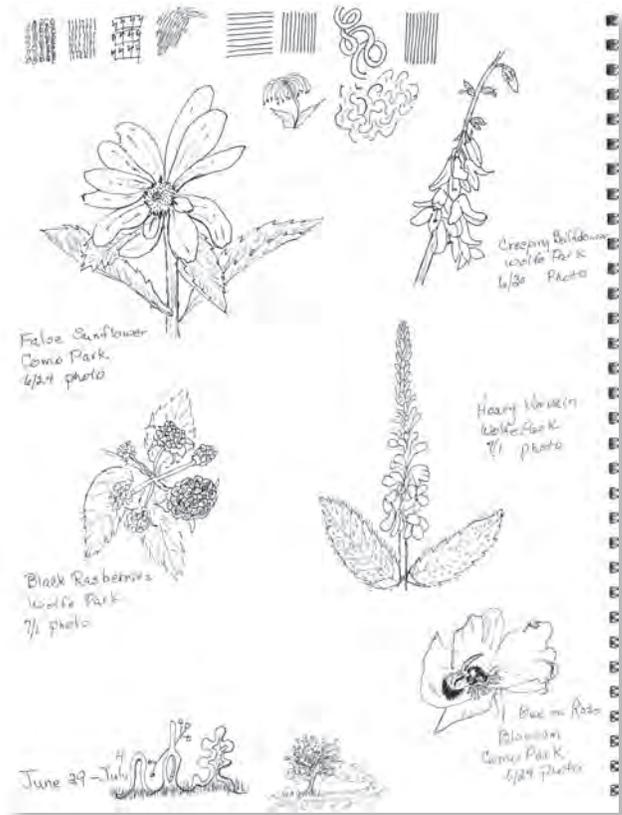


The Thursday Sketchers  
*l to r:* Cora Wortman, Lin Lacy, Tim Voigts, Nancy Gehrig, Ben Lander and Rachel Putnam in front with her son Benjamin

## A Nature Sketching Practice

by Cora Wortman

In the summer of 2012, I took Tim Voigt's Field Sketching class at the School of Botanical Art. After the last class, 5 of us decided to continue meeting weekly to sketch together. We met in Como Park. When the weather became too cool, we moved to the Roseville library and sketched collected botanical objects. By 2018 I felt confident enough to try a nature journal. I went for a walk at the Arboretum on Sundays, took photos, and drew from them during the week. In the fall I was able to collect leaves. I recorded the sunrise/set and moon rise/set times and the daily temperatures. In 2019 I cut back on the size of the project and tried to do more completed drawings—doing one drawing every week rather than every day. This year I am back to daily sketches. I have done a few plein air sketches but most are from from photographs. Recently I have been going on a weekly nature walk and taking photos of wildflowers.



## For Your Calendar

### **GRC Winter Newsletter Submissions Due**

December 15, 2020

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

October 1 to November 7, 2020

### **GRC Annual Lunch and Meeting**

November 2021

### **ASBA Conference in Minneapolis**

October 2025

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## A Note from the Newsletter Chair

Thank you all for sending your updates! I know I am so inspired by your ongoing individual and group efforts and accomplishments. Fall is upon us, something the midwest is so good at! Enjoy this beautiful season.

Kathe Wilcoxon

## Board Members

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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.