

# a Brush with Nature

January 23 – April 14, 2019

Cumming Nature Center, Naples, New York

Meet and Sketch with the Artists

**Saturday, March 23; 10:00 a - 2:30 p**

Corresponds with Maple Sugaring Weekend



An exhibit of Natural Science Art  
by the Finger Lakes Chapter of the  
Guild of Natural Science Illustrators



# a Brush with Nature

An exhibit by the members of the  
Guild of Natural Science Illustrators  
Finger Lakes Chapter

## **Introduction**

These artists, inspired by nature, have created images that range from realistic to whimsical. Both traditional and electronic media are represented.

*Cover illustration:*

Section of “Hover Flies on Chicory” ©2018 Frances L. Fawcett  
*(full illustration on page fourteen)*



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Title: Moth-er IV

Artist: ©2015 Elizabeth Andrews

Medium: Intaglio/Etching

Frame size: 14 x 12 — Mat opening: 6 x 5

This series of etchings called 'Moth-ers' began after placing a small brown Moth in my cabinet of curiosities, a classic Wunderkammer of natural specimens and human oddities. I was struck by what appeared to be a tiny princess wrapped in a faded brown cape. Since that time I have collected moths, pictures of moths and taken hundreds of photographs of moths. In each moth or moth photograph I can detect the image of a small faery-like insect. I describe the process as 'illuminating the female spirits of night Lepidoptera'.



Title: Moth-er V

Artist: ©2015 Elizabeth Andrews

Medium: Intaglio/Etching

Frame size: 14 x 12 — Mat opening: 6 x 5

*\* Art sizes throughout the catalog are in inches high x inches wide*



Title: Moth-er VI

Artist: ©2015 Elizabeth Andrews

Medium: Intaglio/Etching

Frame size: 14 x 12 — Mat opening: 6 x 5



Title: Gull Flying

Artist: John K. Bender

Medium: Epoxy, painted

Frame size: 13 x 13 — Mat opening: 11 1/2 x 11 1/2

Grace in the sky and fearless in the rookery at Appledore.



Title: Crow

Artist: John K. Bender

Medium: Epoxy, painted

Frame size: 15 x 15 — Mat opening: 12 x 12

The crow frequented our deck not disturbed by people. He had a shiny and colorful back and tail. A must on a commemorative plaque.



Title: *Valonia costata* on the Move  
Artist: ©2018 Marla Coppolino  
Medium: Carbon dust and watercolor  
Frame size: 11 x 9 — Mat opening: 7 x 5

This tiny, beautiful land snail measures less than three millimeters and is right under our feet, as it's often found in grassy areas. It consumes decaying vegetation. Its common name is the ribbed grass snail.



Title: Korean Mountain Ash (*Sorbus alnifolia*)

Artist: ©2010 Camille Doucet

Medium: Watercolor

Frame size: 20 x 16 — Mat opening: 13 x 10

This beautiful tree was painted at the Botanic Gardens in its fall glory. This medium size tree (up to 40 feet tall) has more features beyond its green to gold to orange fall colors. It grows in a handsome pyramidal shape, casts a dense shade below, has lovely clusters of fine white flowers followed in late summer by abundant red berries in clusters that remain on the tree after the leaves fall and help feed a variety of migrating birds.



Title: Elephant Seals

Artist: ©2006 Frances L. Fawcett

Medium: Carbon dust on film

Frame size: 16 x 16 — Mat opening: 12 x 12

In 2001 I spent an afternoon south of Big Sur, California enthralled for hours by hundreds of lounging elephant seals. Mothers were nursing pups; males were gathering their harems; some females were objecting loudly; young males were challenging each other and wallowing in the surf, all of it accompanied by the scavenging and screeching of dozens of gulls.



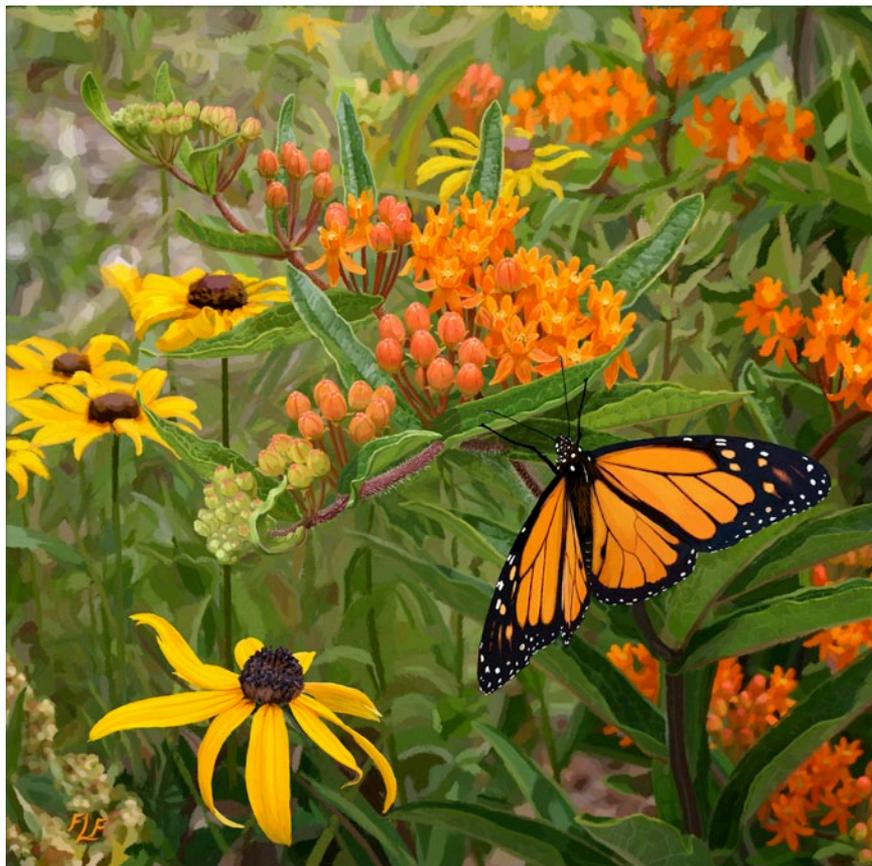
Title: Hover Flies on Chicory (*Taxomerus marginatus*)

Artist: ©2018 Frances L. Fawcett

Medium: Digital; archival ink on canvas

Frame size: 13 x 13 — Mat opening: 12 x 12

I had never taken much notice of hover flies (also called flower flies) until shown some photos of them flitting around chicory blossoms. They were so lovely against the blue of the chicory that they had to be painted. I read up on flower flies and discovered that these little bee mimics are important pollinators in their own right, and as larva are fierce predators of aphids.



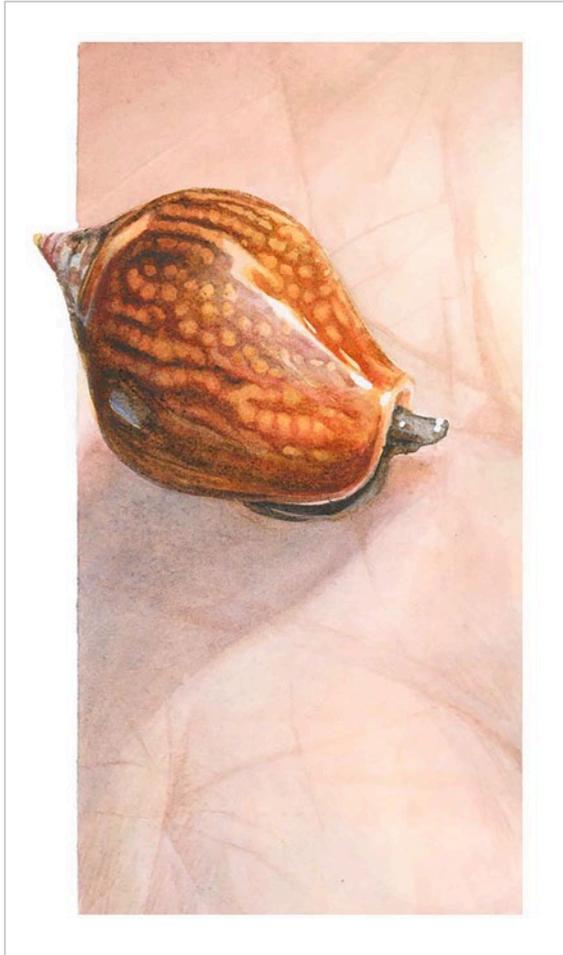
Title: Male Monarch on *Asclepias tuberosa*

Artist: ©2018 Frances L. Fawcett

Medium: Digital; archival ink on canvas

Frame size: 21 x 21 — Mat opening: 20 x 20

This newly emerged male monarch was found drying his wings on common milkweed (*Asclepias syrica*) in the field above our pond. I thought he would look quite fine placed on the orange milkweed species, *Asclepias tuberosa* (commonly called butterfly weed) accompanied by black-eyed Susans.



Title: Spotted Dove Shell

Artist: ©2009 Kelly Finan

Medium: Watercolor

Frame size: 13 x 11 — Mat opening: 7 x 4 1/2

I found this empty shell in college while I was studying abroad in the Galapagos Islands. It was so lovely that I photographed it in my hand and later made a painting from the photo.



Title: Mating Nudibranchs

Artist: ©2009 Kelly Finan

Medium: Acrylic

Frame size: 8 1/4 x 10 1/4 — Mat opening: 4 1/2 x 6 1/2

Nudibranchs are the perfect opportunity to combine my two favorite things: Acrylic paint and bright colors! This piece is my favorite from my time as a science illustration student.



Title: Dragonfly Après Brunch

Artist: ©2018 Tarene Friedman

Medium: Pen and pencil

Frame size: 11 x 8 — Mat opening: 6 1/2 x 4 1/2

Dragonfly resting by back door after pond feast. After several minutes he headed to next quest.



Title: Milk Snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*)

Artist: ©2007 Lucy Gagliardo

Medium: Watercolor

Frame size: 10 x 11 — Mat opening: 5 1/4 x 7

This little milk snake was found along the side of the road. It was not alive, but not flattened by a car—possibly killed by a predator but dropped when the predator was startled? The snake was so beautiful and perfect—I had never seen a milk snake before and I just needed to paint it.



Title: Dog-day Cicada (*Neotibicen canicularis*)

Artist: ©2018 Lucy Gagliardo

Medium: Colored pencil on drafting film

Frame size: 11 1/4 x 8 — Mat opening: 8 x 5

My mom found the shed exoskeleton of the cicada and she saved it for me because she thought I would like it. These little gifts are so special to me! Later, we found a cicada in the house and she was more than happy for me to take it away—these have been so much fun to draw.



Title: Transverse Flower Fly (*Eristalis transversa*)

Artist: ©2018 Lucy Gagliardo

Medium: Block print, hand colored

Frame size: 9 3/4 x 7 1/4 — Mat opening: 7 1/4 x 5

Did you know that flies and beetles act as pollinators for many plants? Flower flies eat nectar and unknowingly carry pollen from flower to flower.

This is one of several blocks created for an art and nature class where the students learned a new printing technique (design created in styrofoam sheet—the sheet was then inked and printed) and were introduced to common pollinators that were new to them.



Title: Found Specimens #1  
Artist: ©2018 Gretchen Kai Halpert  
Medium: Mixed media  
Frame size: 19 x 13 — Mat opening: 19 x 13

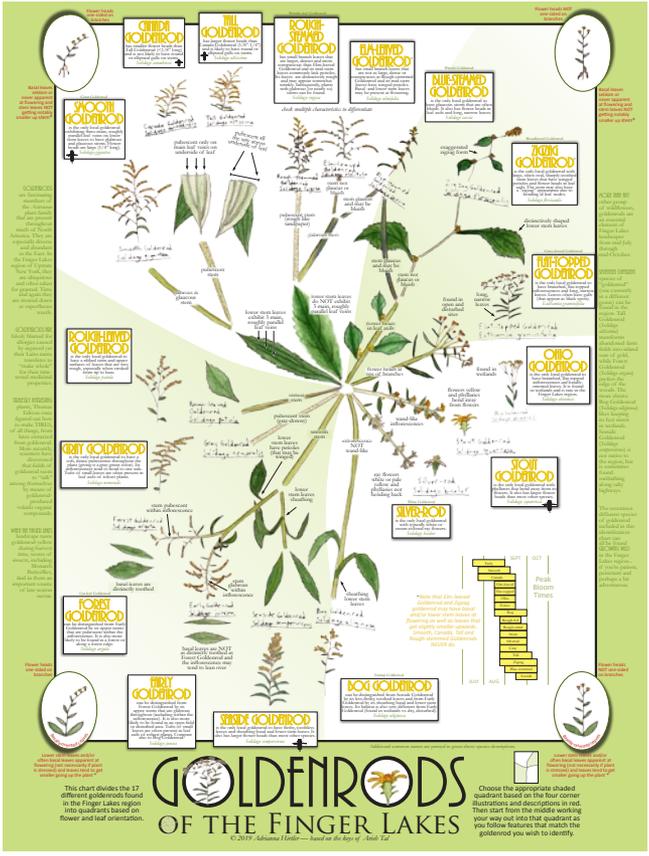
There is always some bit of nature that catches my eye, be it an insect fallen into a boat, a leaf hosting a gall, or bone separated from its owner. These small drawings on found paper document some of my brushes with nature.



Title: Found Specimens #2  
 Artist: ©2018 Gretchen Kai Halpert  
 Medium: Mixed media  
 Frame size: 19 x 13 — Mat opening: 19 x 13



Title: Found Specimens #3  
 Artist: ©2018 Gretchen Kai Halpert  
 Medium: Mixed media  
 Frame size: 19 x 13 — Mat opening: 19 x 13



Title: Goldenrods of the Finger Lakes  
 Artist: ©2018 Adrianna Hirtler  
 Medium: Mixed media and digital  
 Frame size: 24 x 18 — Mat opening: 24 x 18

More than any other group of wildflowers, goldenrods dominate Finger Lakes landscapes in late summer through early fall. There are about 132 different species of goldenrod worldwide and 120 of them are native to North America. This visual key is designed to help users distinguish between key morphological features of the 17 different goldenrods occurring in the Finger Lakes region.



Title: California Condor

Artist: ©2017 Shirley J. Hogg

Medium: Watercolor

Frame size: 25 x 29 — Mat opening: 18 x 22 1/2

With a wingspan of up to nine and a half feet the California Condor is the most majestic of birds. It was held sacred by native peoples throughout the Americas. However by 1987 their numbers had dropped to only 22 individuals. Heroic efforts have hopefully saved the Condor and have brought the population up to 463 birds.



Title: Hoary Marmot (*Marmota caligata*)

Artist: ©2018 Liisa Mobley

Medium: Colored pencil on paper

Frame size: 11 x 14 — Mat opening: 7 1/2 x 9 1/2

I came across this hoary marmot while hiking in beautiful Glacier National Park. It was unconcerned with the human hikers, ignoring us as we passed by its lookout on the rock. Hoary marmots occur mostly in the alpine tundra zones—areas above the tree line—from Montana, Idaho, and Washington, and up through British Columbia to Alaska.



Title: Lifecycle of a Fern  
 Artist: ©2018 Elizabeth Morales (Morales Studio)  
 Medium: Digital  
 Frame size: 17 x 17 — Mat opening: 16 x 16

The most conspicuous stage in the lifecycle of the fern is the full size sporophyte, or the fern plant that we typically see in the forest. However, a large part of the lifecycle is accomplished by very small living components of the plant. Notice the size difference written on the top and bottom of the diagram.

Published in several life sciences textbooks by Sinauer Publications, enhanced for framed viewing.



Title: *Monotropsis odorata*

Artist: ©2018 Jessica Nelson

Medium: Colored pencil

Frame size: 14 5/8 x 12 1/8 — Mat opening: 10 x 7

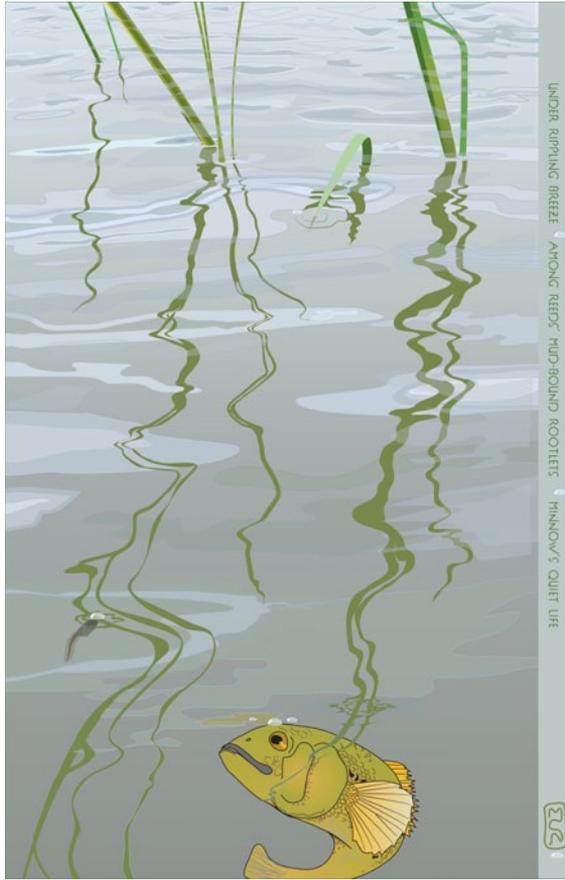
I feel lucky to have seen this elusive little plant that camouflages itself among the leaf litter in forests of the southeastern United States. Its unusual coloring comes from lacking green chlorophyll that plants usually use to make the own food by photosynthesis. This plant instead gets food from a fungus that lives in its roots.

Title: *Sarracenia minor*  
Artist: ©2017 Jessica Nelson  
Medium: Watercolor  
Frame size: 27 7/16 x 14 7/16  
Mat opening: 21 1/4 x 8 1/4

The pitcher plant *S. minor* is carnivorous, supplementing the poor nutrition of the bog soils it inhabits by capturing and digesting animals. In this painting,

I tried to show the pitchers from many different angles to capture the wonderful way light shines through them, making them glow (and confusing insects that fall into them, never to emerge).





Title: Minnow's Quiet Life

Artist: ©2018 Margy Nelson

Medium: Limited edition digital print

Frame size: 20 x 16 — Mat opening: 17 x 11 1/2

Not a scientific illustration, but based on real species. The tadpole is a young American Toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*). The minnow is a Golden Shiner (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*). Though “minnow” is often used loosely to describe any small fish, it is actually the common name for the largest family of fishes in North America, the Cyprinidae; there are nearly 50 species just in New York State.



Title: Vixen Encounter

Artist: ©2018 Maureen Dunphy Russell

Medium: Watercolor

Frame size: 11 x 14 — Mat opening: 7 1/2 x 9 1/2

Red Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) are omnivores, feeding on small mammals (mice, rabbits, rats, squirrels, woodchucks), reptiles, amphibians, birds, eggs, fish, insects, earthworms, seeds, nuts, fruit, and carrion. They cache extra food, often marking the site with urine. Mostly nocturnal, red foxes occasionally hunt and scavenge in daylight during winter. I observed this charming vixen hunting mice one sunny morning in December.



Title: Holly

Artist: ©2018 Suzanne Williams

Medium: Watercolor

Frame size: 14 x 18 1/2 — Mat opening: 7 1/2 x 12 1/2

I painted this for my annual Christmas card. I was astounded when I really looked at the plant to see that it was as high as the two-story barn that it grew next to. During the research phase before I started painting, I discovered that holly can grow as high as 82 feet.



Title: My Aunt Matilda, Cephalopodiatrist

Artist: ©2018 Annie Zygarowicz

Medium: Digital

Frame size: 12 x 12 — Mat opening: 8 x 8

This is a portrait of Aunt Matilda who adores her pet Octopus, Otto. They are very compatible and go on many undersea adventures together. As she is a Cephalopodiatrist she asks him many questions about his life in the sea that he is more than happy to answer.



## Reception / Draw-In

Cumming Nature Center, March 24, 2018



(l-r): Members Kate Fady, Norm Frisch, Liisa Mobley, Lucy Gagliardo, Camille Ducet, Henrike Burton, Gretchen Halpert, Sue Williams, Marla Coppolino, Elizabeth Andrews. Photo: Susan Wilson



Members and also various guests who came and went throughout the day honed their sketching skills during the reception / draw-in. Photo: Marla Coppolino

Elizabeth Andrews commissioned Rob D'Alessandro of Garden Recording Lockport, NY to create a music composition using sounds of the creatures included in our exhibit. It was played during our reception.

## Exhibit Committee:

Lucy Gagliardo

Liisa Mobley

Nicole Monique

Margy Nelson

Norm Frisch (catalog)

## Exhibit Venues

**Cumming Nature Center (RMSC);** 6472 Gulick Road, Naples, NY

**Exhibit:** January 23 - April 14, 2019

**Meet and Sketch with the Artists:** 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.; March 23, 2019

*Thanks to:*

Nathan Hayes, Director, Cummings Nature Center

William Holowka, Senior Preparator

Sarah LeCount, Collections Manager

Kathryn Murano, Senior Director of Collections and Exhibitions

Lois R. Shaffer, Deputy Director, Design / Exhibits Services

## History of the Finger Lakes Chapter of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, Inc.

The Guild of Natural Science Illustrators (GNSI) was created in 1968 as a way to network among the illustrators of the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. It has rallied thousands of otherwise isolated natural science artists around the nation and around the world, through the web and through the Guild's famous week long summer conference. In 2003, out of this long and fruitful Guild collaboration, the Finger Lakes chapter was created. We meet several times a year, and enjoy our camaraderie in artistry! We "show and tell" our current work, and also share advice about art techniques and professional tips. We offer mini workshops from time to time, and, also, meet to paint at chosen locations. In recent years, we have worked with the Cornell Plantations to invite teachers of professional interest.

We strive to have group shows on a regular basis. Our shows often have themes, such as: "The Sweet-voiced Bird Has Flown: Portraits of Common Birds in Decline;" "Marsh Madness," which was a show about wetlands of upstate N.Y.; and "Weeds: Untamed Wonders." Our group has shown at various venues in New York State, including the RMSC Cumming Nature Center in Naples; the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca; Mann Library at Cornell University, Ithaca; Rockefeller State Park Preserve in Pleasantville; New York Hall of Science in Queens, and Upstate Medical Health and Science Library in Syracuse, the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, the Community School of Music and Art in Ithaca, and the Lime Hollow Nature Preserve in Cortland.

In 2008 we hosted the national GNSI conference in Ithaca, N.Y.

*For more information about the national Guild, please visit the website:*

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

*If you are interested in the Finger Lakes Chapter, please contact us at  
gnsi.fingerlakes@gmail.com, or visit our website at:*

<http://gnsifingerlakes.wix.com/gnsi-fingerlakes>