Beginning Botanical Illustration with Lynda Chandler

*Note that we will be taking breaks for short walks in the garden to observe. Wear comfortable shoes.

**Syllabus**

**Day 1  “The Importance of a Line”**

Learn the basic skills of careful observation and line drawing in pencil. Develop awareness of spatial relationships in the subject. Learn the artist’s tools and tricks of the trade.

Homework: Tonal strips and line drawing practice, ex. apple, leeks, onions, leaves, aiming for clean intentional lines.

**Day 2  “Perspective, the Picture Plane and Shading”**

Building on observation skills, we will cover measuring on the picture plane, geometric form and perspective. Learn to look for simple geometric forms in nature and gain confidence in your ability to show foreshortening. We will end the day with tips on light and shading the form using the tonal strips you made last week. We will cover some botanical terminology as well.

Homework: Draw and shade vegetables, mushrooms or flowers in different views.

**Day 3  “The Plate”**

Compile a botanical “plate” or drawing of a subject of your choice. Selection of a subject and what makes a successful illustration. Be aware of eye flow around the page and learn to correct tension points in your drawings.

Homework: Work on your drawings at home.

**Day 4  “Sketch to Ground”**

Transfer your work from the sketch stage to final paper or “ground”. Work in on your final drawings.

Homework: Work on your drawings at home.

**Day 5  “Wrap Up”**

During the first part of the day, students will finish up drawings. Then we will cover practicing your signature, copyright rules, and proper botanical nomenclature. Last we will go over matting and presentation tips for a possible student exhibit at the arboretum!