



Guild of Natural Science Illustrators

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

## ***Welcome to the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators!***

The Guild is a nonprofit organization, founded at the Smithsonian Institution in 1968, of persons employed or genuinely interested in the field of natural science illustration. It maintains and encourages high standards of competence and professional ethics by increasing communication among its members, and assisting others who are preparing to enter the profession. The Guild provides opportunities for professional and scholarly development, and seeks to promote better understanding of the profession among the general public and potential clients requiring the services of natural science illustrators.

The hallmark of the GNSI has always been its commitment to sharing and its openness to members and their diverse pursuits of scientific illustration.

The Guild publishes a quarterly Journal of Natural Science Illustration, and maintains a general information website [<http://www.gnsi.org>]. We also sponsor an e-mail listserv, open to all, where matters of art and the business of making art are discussed; and we are active on social media platforms – LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Tumblr, Pinterest and Instagram – and have public and private (member only) Facebook groups that you can join [visit the website for these links]. Science-art.com offers an online portfolio service to its members at extremely reasonable annual rates. We offer two levels of membership: Regular Membership, that includes our printed materials, to an online-only Electronic Membership. Both individuals and organizations are welcome to join.

The GNSI also sponsors a number of regional Chapters and Groups, an Annual Conference at different locations in mid-summer that features workshops, presentations and field trips; the Education Series Workshops (intensive multi-day workshops that focus on a particular technique or subject); and the Annual Members Exhibit (concurrent with the Conference). Additional exhibit opportunities are often available either on a national level or through the regional chapters.

We are pleased to provide this information about our group and invite any comments or inquiries you may have.

Diana Marques  
GNSI Outreach Director  
August 2016

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Art: left, © Emily S. Damstra; Alligator Snapping Turtle, *Macrolemys temmincki*, gouache and digital  
Above right, Rebecca Brown-Thompson ©2007, *Peraxila tetrapetala* New Zealand Mistletoe; watercolor



## ***Excerpts: A Brief History Of The Guild***

by Elaine R.S. Hodges

Before 1966 the few trained or experienced scientific illustrators working in the United States had little or no contact with one another, even at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, where there was a concentration of scientific illustrators. Each stayed in a corner of the National Museum of Natural History, often not knowing other illustrators in the same building. This situation still exists in some other museums. Carolyn Bartlett Gast, Smithsonian scientific illustrator for both Departments of Vertebrate and Invertebrate Zoology at the time, decided to remedy the situation. She organized a series of luncheons featuring speakers on topics relevant to scientific illustration such as printing or exhibits preparation. Elaine R. Snyder Hodges, then a contract illustrator of crustacea, typed and distributed notices of the meetings to the twenty or so scientific and medical illustrators that could be found in the Washington, DC area. More and more illustrators heard about and attended the luncheons. A need had been identified.

Carolyn had been interested in the medieval development of Guilds for professions and suggested that a Guild be established for scientific illustration. On September 17, 1968, a meeting of illustrators was held to discuss such an organization. Lawrence B. Isham, scientific illustrator for the Smithsonian Department of Paleobiology, agreed to write a first draft of a Constitution. The Guild of Natural Science Illustrators was born on December 2, 1968, following the adoption of the document (with changes made by a committee composed of Jack R. Schroeder, Carolyn Gast, Naida Page, Marsha E. Jessup, Peter Stone, Art Cushman, and Larry Isham). There were twenty-one charter members.

Threaded through the history of the Guild has been the support of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. Meeting space has been generously provided. In September, 1969, the Museum helped host the first exhibit of scientific illustration, providing a room for technique demonstrations, and a reception. Since then several exhibits of scientific illustration have been held at the Museum, including two permanent exhibits installed in 1988 and 1996. In June of 1986 the Smithsonian co-hosted the Guild's annual meeting with George Washington University and again in 1996.

*Note: This is a summary version of the Guild history as found in the 12/93, 1/94 and 2/94 issues of the GNSI Newsletter. This information is also available on the GNSI website, [www.gnsi.org](http://www.gnsi.org).*



## Careers and Education in Science Illustration

*The principle task of the scientific illustrator is to prepare accurate renderings of scientific subjects. These illustrations are designed for reproduction in professional or popular journals in the field of natural sciences, textbooks, as museum exhibits, web sites, and many other applications.*

*Scientific illustrations in both traditional and digital formats provide a visual explanation and aid the viewer by clarifying complex descriptive information. The function of a scientific illustration, therefore, is essentially a practical one: to inform, to explain, and to instruct — in short, to communicate.*

### Nature of Work

In a scientific illustration, the primary emphasis is accuracy in the portrayal of the subject matter. Details of the subject must be correctly delineated to show proportions, coloration, anatomical structures, or other diagnostic features. In addition to accurate depiction, the illustrator should have sufficient understanding of the subject so that the illustration will appear natural and life-like rather than mechanical. A scientific illustration is judged for its aesthetic qualities, as well as its accuracy.

The work done by scientific illustrators is diverse. Illustrators may often draw rare or fragile specimens and must exercise care in handling them. They may be required to handle optical instruments and understand precision in measuring microscopic objects. In addition to depicting actual specimens, illustrators may be called upon to prepare pictorial stories of life cycles, or render a series of procedures in sequence.

Additional duties may include:

- Designing graphs of scientific data and maps portraying the distribution of species
- Planning page layouts for illustrations
- Providing cover designs for scientific publications
- Developing three-dimensional models and images for exhibits and presentations
- Creating images and photos for web sites and interactive media

Frequently, illustrators must pictorially reconstruct a whole object from one or more incomplete specimens. They may be called upon to make a dimensional drawing or to conceptualize an informed interpretation, such as a cutaway drawing to show internal structure, or geographical features on a map. An illustration can simplify comprehension of a specimen better than a photograph by eliminating extraneous detail and clarifying relationships of structures, or depict statistical data in a more comprehensible, visual manner.

Successful illustrators are versatile in more than one technique or medium. Along with well-honed skills in traditional techniques like drawing, watercolor, acrylics, ink or oils, a thorough working knowledge of computer graphics programs and digital techniques is invaluable and expected in today's markets. Knowledge of digital animation and interactive techniques can also improve employment opportunities. Illustrations can be created entirely in traditional or digital format, or in a blend of both techniques. A thorough understanding of techniques for both print and digital reproduction is essential.





## Join the GNSI!

Members agree that the Guild is unique in that it provides a caring, worldwide, connection with others who willingly share scientific illustration techniques and business experiences. You don't have to be a member to visit our web site, use the Listserv, ask a question in our general Forum, or to purchase our publications, but joining GNSI has advantages.

### *Who can join?*

Membership is available for all persons or organizations having an appreciation of and a genuine interest in furthering the objectives of enhancing and diffusing knowledge about illustration for the sciences.

Professional development opportunities (think resumé):

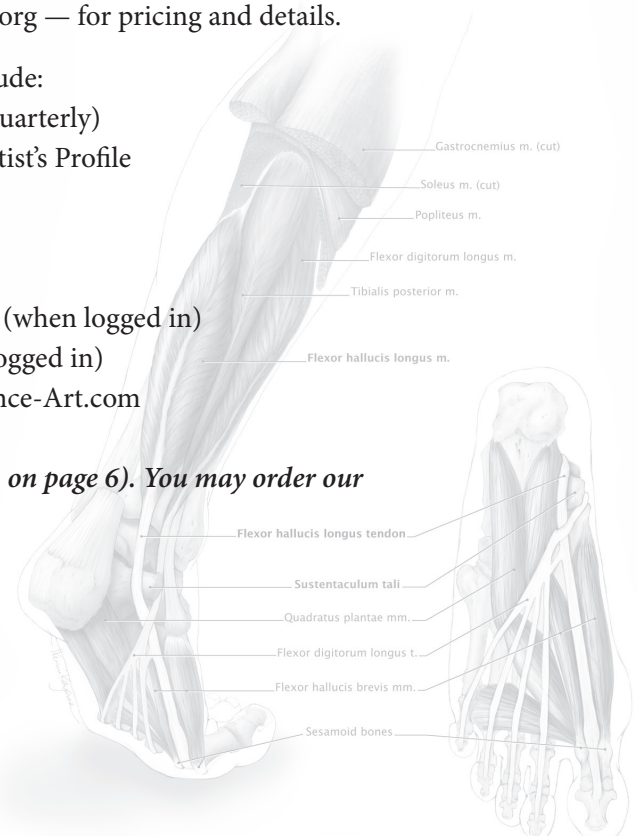
- Learn: At Guild workshops and courses, some offer credit
- Participate: Any way that you can help the Guild is likely to benefit you
- Connect: Make professional connections, join a Chapter
- Teach: Present at Guild conferences and workshops
- Officiate: Start a new chapter, or become an officer in an existing one
- Coordinate: Participate in existing Guild projects, or start a new one

We offer two membership options: standard (receive publications by mail and free download) and electronic (free download only). Please visit the GNSI website — [www.gnsi.org](http://www.gnsi.org) — for pricing and details.

Membership starts from the day your dues are paid. Benefits include:

- The Journal of Natural Science Illustration (published quarterly)
- Access to GNSI website Membership Directory and Artist's Profile
- Optional public listing of your illustration work
- Technique Sheets III booklet (for new members)
- Grant-funded educational outreach opportunities
- Free download of most Guild publications (PDF) form (when logged in)
- Reduced price for Guild events & publications (when logged in)
- Advertise your portfolio art at discount rates with Science-Art.com

***Join Us! Sign up online or contact the GNSI office (information on page 6). You may order our Membership Brochure from the online GNSI Store.***



# GNSI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(You may mail in this form or sign up online at [www.gnsi.org](http://www.gnsi.org))

- ☐ Check here if this is a change from your previous Membership Directory listing.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street/apt. \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Country \_\_\_\_\_

**All information below is optional:**

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (work) \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Employer/  
School/Business \_\_\_\_\_

**Status:**

- ☐ Staff Illustrator  
☐ Part-time Staff Illustrator  
☐ Student  
☐ Graduate Student  
☐ Self-employed (works independently on self initiated projects)  
☐ Freelance (taking on new clients)  
☐ Contractor (limited availability to new clients)  
☐ Retired  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Major field of specialization: \_\_\_\_\_

Number items from 1 (most important) to up to 6 (least important)

- \_\_\_\_ [AP] Anthropology, Archaeology  
\_\_\_\_ [AS] Astronomy, Meteorology  
\_\_\_\_ [BI] Biology (general)  
\_\_\_\_ [BT] Botany  
\_\_\_\_ [CA] Cartography  
\_\_\_\_ [CG] Communications/Computer Graphics (including animations)  
\_\_\_\_ [EB] Embryology, Histology  
\_\_\_\_ [ED] Education  
\_\_\_\_ [EN] Entomology  
\_\_\_\_ [GE] Geology  
\_\_\_\_ [IN] Invertebrates (general)  
\_\_\_\_ [IK] Ichthyology  
\_\_\_\_ [MI] Medical, Dental, Veterinary  
\_\_\_\_ [MM] Mammals  
\_\_\_\_ [MR] Marine Life  
\_\_\_\_ [OR] Ornithology  
\_\_\_\_ [NH] Natural History  
\_\_\_\_ [PB] Paleobotany  
\_\_\_\_ [PA] Paleontology  
\_\_\_\_ [RA] Reptiles, Amphibians  
\_\_\_\_ [SC] Sculpture  
\_\_\_\_ [VB] Vertebrates, (general, including anatomy)  
\_\_\_\_ [WA] Wildlife Art  
\_\_\_\_ [3D] Computer Modeling

## ORDER FORM

One year GNSI Membership<sup>1</sup> (For U.S. residents): \$85.00 ..... Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$85.00 Sub-total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Two years GNSI Membership<sup>1</sup> (For U.S. residents): \$160.00 ..... Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$160.00 Sub-total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

One year GNSI Membership<sup>1</sup> (For Canada and overseas): \$105.00 ... Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$105.00 Sub-total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Two years GNSI Membership<sup>1</sup> (For Canada and overseas): \$200.00.. Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$200.00 Sub-total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Journal Airmail delivery (Overseas): \$20.00 ..... Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$20.00 Sub-total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Guild Handbook of Scientific Illustration:

Regular price: \$185.02 ..... Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$185.00 Sub-total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Member price: \$140.00<sup>2</sup> ..... Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$140.00 Sub-total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Brochure: ..... Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ @50¢ Sub-total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to donate to the GNSI Education Fund!

(The Education Fund provides seed money to projects that inform the public through exhibits, lectures, and hands-on activities,

about the importance of Science Illustration) ☐ \$5.00 ☐ \$10.00 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

<sup>1</sup>\$28.00 of your dues is dedicated to the GNSI Journal.

<sup>2</sup>Reduced price only to members when ordered through GNSI. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. Street address required, sorry no PO boxes.  
Add \$20 ea. for overseas shipping.

## PAYMENT

☐ **Check** (Enclose check payable to: GNSI; please pay in US funds or equivalent: international money order, money order in US dollars drawn on a US bank, US bank checks or US traveler's checks)

☐ **Credit Card** ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ (Visa, Mastercard, Discover: 3-digit # on the back; American Express: 4-digit # on the front above the card number)

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (mm/year) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, Inc.  
P. O. Box 4027 Rockville, MD 20849



## 2016-2017 GNSI Board and Staff

### GNSI Board of Directors

July 2016- July 2017

<b>President</b>	..... Linda Feltner .....	linda@lindafeltner.com
<b>Vice President</b>	..... Ikumi Kayama .....	ikumikayama@gmail.com
<b>Past President</b>	..... Amelia Janes .....	arjanes@charter.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	..... Marjorie Leggitt .....	mcl@leggittdesign.com
<b>Secretary</b>	..... Cheryl McCutchan.....	cheryllmccutchan@gmail.com
<b>Membership Director</b>	..... Daisy Chung .....	membership@gnsi.org
<b>Outreach Director</b>	..... Diana Marques .....	outreach@gnsi.org
<b>Education Director</b>	..... Sara Taliaferro .....	gnsiedditor@gmail.com

### GNSI Staff & Officers

Administrative Assistant.....	Leslie Becker
Bookkeeper.....	Virge Kask
Journal Co-Editors In Chief .....	Clara Richardson, Gail Guth
Webmaster .....	Britt Griswold
Traveling Exhibit.....	Amelia Janes
Historian .....	Nancy Halliday
Social Media Director.....	Kalliopi Monoyios

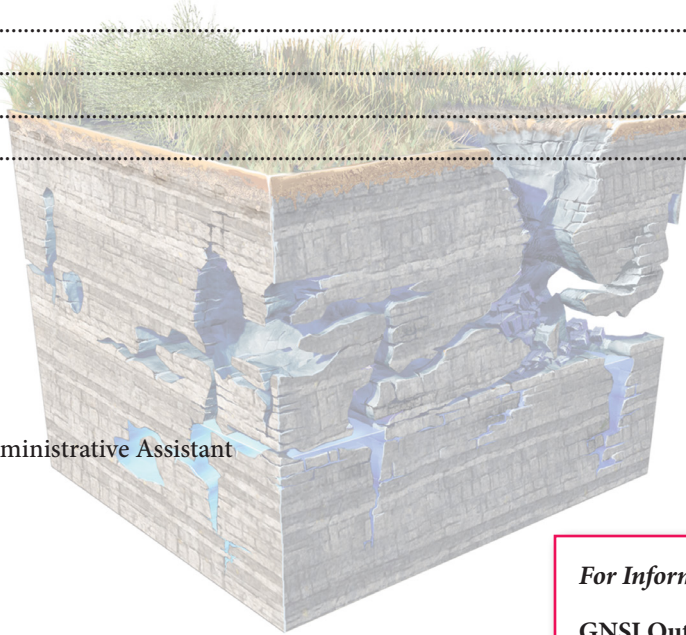
#### MAILING:

Leslie Becker, GNSI Administrative Assistant  
GNSI  
Post Office Box 4027  
Rockville, MD 20849  
Tel: 301.309.1514  
gnsihome@his.com

**GNSI WEBSITE:** <http://www.gnsi.org>

#### *For Information, contact:*

**GNSI Outreach Director**  
Diana Marques  
outreach@gnsi.org



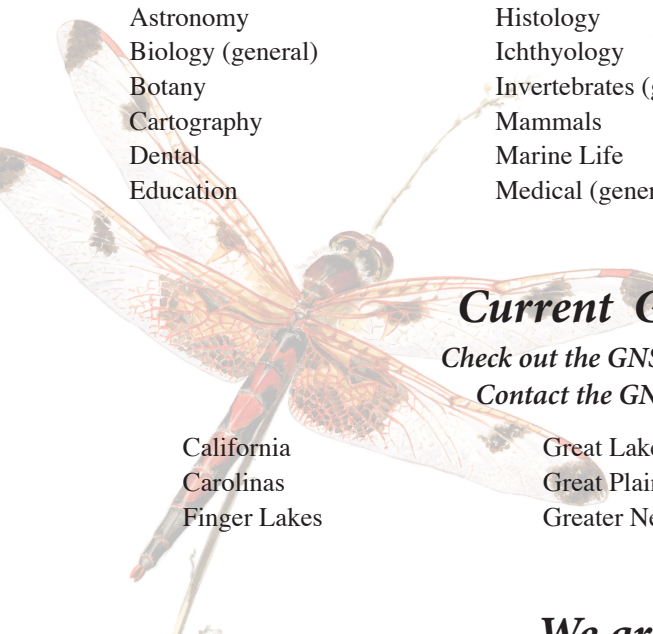


# Guild of Natural Science Illustrators

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

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

*Our members work in these disciplines and techniques:*



Anatomy	Embryology	Meteorology	3D Computer Modeling
Anthropology	Entomology	Natural History	Animation
Archeology	Geology	Ornithology	Color Media
Astronomy	Histology	Paleobotany	Communication Graphics
Biology (general)	Ichthyology	Paleontology	Interpretive Graphics
Botany	Invertebrates (general)	Herpetology	Pen and Ink
Cartography	Mammals	Vertebrates (general)	Sculpture
Dental	Marine Life	Veterinary	Technical/Mechanical
Education	Medical (general)	Wildlife Art	

## Current GNSI Chapters and Groups

*Check out the GNSI Chapter in your area — or start a new one!*

*Contact the GNSI Membership Secretary for information.*

California	Great Lakes	Greater Washington DC	Northwest
Carolinas	Great Plains	Illinois Prairie	Oregon Group
Finger Lakes	Greater New York	New England	Portugal

## We are international!



8 Australia
1 Austria
1 Belgium
1 Brazil
12 Canada
1 Costa Rica
2 France
1 Ireland
1 Israel
2 Italy
1 Japan
1 Netherlands
4 New Zealand
1 Poland
5 Portugal
1 South Africa
1 Spain
1 Switzerland
5 United Kingdom
630 USA