



Botanical Artwork of Sequoia cone by Jeanne Debons Featured in New Exhibit at U.S. Botanic Garden in DC

Bend, OR — A new exhibit at the the [United States Botanic Garden](#) (USBG) in Washington, DC, displaying artworks depicting familiar, rare, and iconic plants and trees of America's national parks includes a watercolor painting by Jeanne Debons depicting a Redwood cone, *Sequoia sp.*, an iconic species found in Redwood National Park.

Flora of the National Parks opened Thursday, Feb. 18 at the USBG on the National Mall. Free and open to the public through Oct. 2, 2016, the exhibition features more than 80 illustrations, paintings, photographs, and other art forms ranging in size from intimate 12-inch pieces to large-scale, 7-foot dramatic panoramas that showcase key plant life in national parks across the country. The USBG is staging the show to mark this year's centennial of the National Park Service (NPS) and to highlight the diversity of the nation's flora protected within national parks.

The Sequoia cone is portrayed in detail at 13cm tall and 8cm wide with three winged seeds. Jeanne Debons earned her PhD from the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oregon State University in 1986, and subsequently has studied botanical painting on her own and at the English Gardening School receiving a diploma as a Botanical Illustrator in 2005. She currently teaches botanical illustration for Adult Education at Central Oregon Community College as well as from her studio and at other locations upon invitation. Debons is a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists, Oregon Botanical Artists and The Guild of Natural Science Illustrators.



More detail about the art exhibit:

"We are thrilled to present this exhibit showcasing the biodiversity of plants and landscapes in our national parks," said Ari Novy, United States Botanic Garden executive director. "Our mission is to connect people with plants. There is no substitution for actually experiencing plants alive in their native ecosystems. We hope this exhibit will inspire people to explore and value plants in their native habitats, especially at our amazing national parks."

"From the giant sequoia of Yosemite National Park to the cypress of Everglades National Park, America's national parks showcase the diversity of our nation's plant species," said Bob Vogel, National Park Service regional director. "We are pleased to partner with the U.S. Botanic Garden on this

exhibit that celebrates the flora at our nation's parks as we mark the centennial of the National Park Service."

The show includes vegetation both rare and familiar in parks from Florida to Alaska and from Maine to Hawaii. The artworks represent national parks such as Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Manassas National Battlefield Park, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Homestead National Monument of America, and Acadia National Park.

Among the many plant and tree species depicted are iconic flora such as giant sequoias, bald cypresses, saguaro cacti, mangroves, ghost orchids, and magnolias. Large graphics on the gallery floor also depict the ground surface in different national parks so that visitors "stand in" the plants' and trees' landscape as they move through the gallery. Plants from the U.S. Botanic Garden collection will accompany the exhibit.

Programs connected with the exhibit will be offered throughout the run, including botanical illustration and photography workshops, meet-the-artist programs to interact with the artists included in the exhibit, and lectures by national parks rangers and other flora experts from across the country.

The artworks were selected from among submissions by hundreds of artists last fall for the eight-month show, which is installed in the USBG Conservatory near the foot of the U.S. Capitol on the National Mall, 100 Maryland Ave. S.W., Washington, DC. The USBG is one of the oldest botanic gardens in North America, with more than one million visitors annually. More information about the exhibit, programs, and visiting the USBG is available at www.USBG.gov/FloraoftheNationalParks.

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