

Nature's Beloved Son

REDISCOVERING JOHN MUIR'S BOTANICAL LEGACY

Spring 2010 Final Presentation

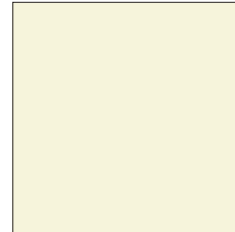
6/15/10

Suggested Wall Colors

- Dunn Edwards paint colors
- Dark and light values for each hue
- Shades found in Stephen's artwork



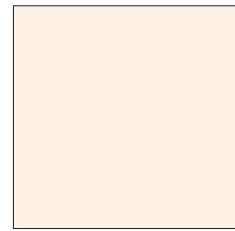
DE5524
Vegetable Garden



DE5518
Lime Blossom



DE5265
Brown Eyes



DE5259
Blanched Almond



DE5202
Desert Spice



DE5196
Flickering Light



DE5391
Sunflower



DE5385
Bright Star

Typography

- Baskerville: header and decorative font
- Univers: body and secondary information

Baskerville Cyrillic LT Std – Upright

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn
Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Baskerville Cyrillic LT Std – Inclined

*Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo
Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Univers LT Std – 45 Light

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo
Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Univers LT Std – 45 Light Italicized

*Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo
Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Univers LT Std – 65 Bold

**Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn
Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0



1
Thirteen Species of Musci (1865)
13 x 19, paper / Ontario, Canada



2
Lady's Slipper Orchid (1864)
13 x 19, paper / Ontario, Canada



3
Bent Grass (1875)
13 x 19, paper / Yosemite, California



4
Alaska Cedar (1879)
13 x 19, paper / Fort Wrangel, Alaska



5
Pale Laurel
24 x 30, paper / N/A



6
Common Thistle (1864)
24 x 30, paper / Ontario, Canada



7
Canadian Violet (1864)
24 x 30, paper / Ontario, Canada



8
Honey Locust
24 x 30, paper / N/A



9
Sea Oat/Myrtle (1898)
24 x 30, paper / Florida



10
Five Spot (1907)
24 x 30, paper / Yosemite, CA



11
List of Plants Sent to Asa Gray
24 x 30, paper / N/A



12
Northern Clintonia (1864)
24 x 30, canvas / Ontario, CA



13
Sassafras (1898)
24 x 30, canvas / N/A



14
Mountain Lady's Slipper (1875)
24 x 30, canvas / Yosemite, CA



15
White Arctic Mountain Heather (1881)
24 x 30, canvas / Cape Thompson, Alaska



16
Trumpet Flower (1866)
30 x 24, canvas / Indianapolis, Indiana



17
Engelmann Spruce (1879)
30 x 24, canvas / Dease Lake, British Col.



18
Twin Flower (1864)
42 x 60, canvas / Ontario, Canada



19
Bleeding Heart (1866)
42 x 57, canvas / Indiana



20
Sand Myrtle (1898)
42 x 56, canvas / Grandfather Mt, West N.C.



21
California Polypod (1875)
42 x 81, canvas / Sierra Nevada, CA



22
Washington Lily
42 x 53, canvas / Sierra Nevada, CA



23
Pygmy Buttercup (1881)
30 x 96, canvas / Cape Markham, Siberia



24
Davidson Glacier Drawing (1900)
30 x 24, paper / N/A



25
Pinus Tuberculata Drawing (1870)
24 x 30, paper / N/A



26
Trees Santa Cruz Drawing #501 (1875)
24 x 30, paper / N/A



27
Journal 1000 Mile Walk #513 (1867-68)
30 x 24, paper / N/A



28
Journal 1000 Mile Walk #523 (1867-68)
30 x 24, paper / N/A



29
Journal 1000 Mile Walk #524 (1867-68)
30 x 24, paper / N/A

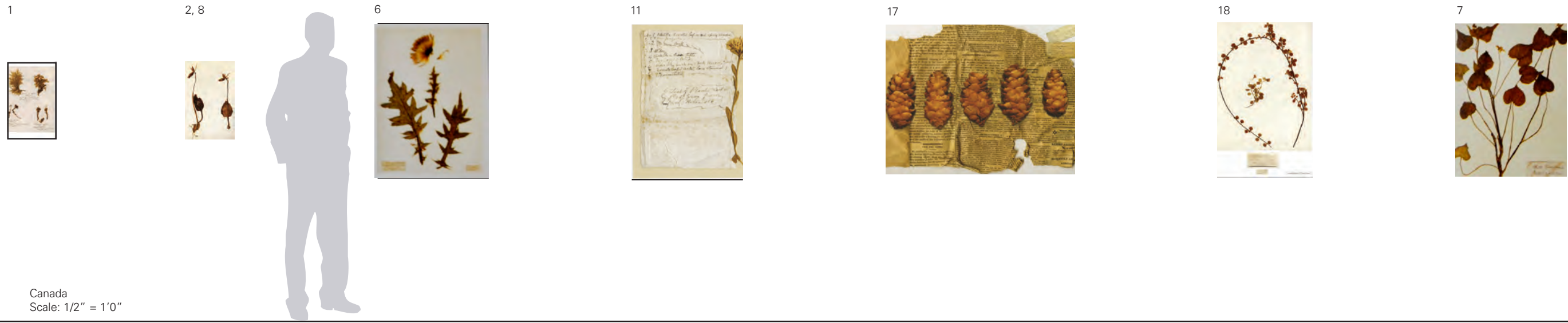


30
Journal Yosemite #488 (1869)
30 x 24, paper / Yosemite, CA



31
Journal Yosemite #491 (1869)
30 x 24, paper / Yosemite, CA

Nature's Beloved Son
June 11, 2010
Final Object List



Nature's Beloved Son

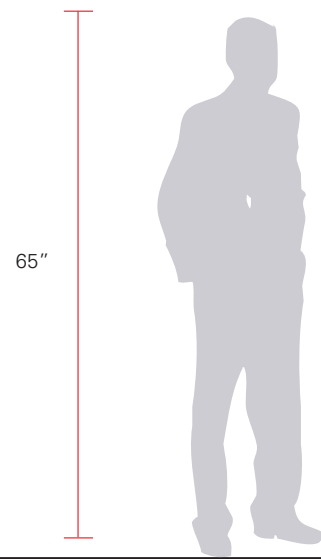
REDISCOVERING JOHN MUIR'S BOTANICAL LEGACY

Development Team: Bonnie Gisel
Stephen Joseph
Adrienne McGraw

Design Team: Alison Garcia Kellar
Angelia Loi
Stephanie Pan
Victoria Stanell
Tim McNeil, Advisor

Object Grouping Elevations

Spring 2010 Final Presentation



65"

4



Alaska
Scale: 1/2" = 1'0"

15



16



Indiana
Scale: 1/2" = 1'0"

19

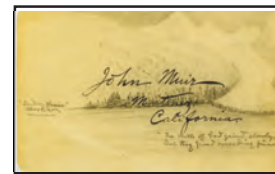


9



Florida
Scale: 1/2" = 1'0"

24



25



26



27



28



29, 30, 31



Sketches & Journal Entries
Scale: 1/2" = 1'0"

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Notes

- 2' by 2' image panel
- 2' by 4' title panel
- Two separate panels for shipping
- Image collage still under development
- Adrienne's suggestion: Develop two more design options for image panel.
- Bonnie's suggestion: Use oval-shaped image of Muir as a young man (San Fran. 2972 by Rulofson photo) for the image panel, because different venues may not know who he is.



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3' (36 in.)



"I care to live only to entice people to look at Nature's loveliness."



"I seek to spell out by close inspection things not well understood."



"When I discovered a plant, I sat down to make its acquaintance."

*banner no.1
full scale 100%*

7' (84 in.)



"The most microscopic portions of plants are beautiful in themselves."



"Were not all plants beautiful? Or in some way useful?"



"Nature's purposes seen strikingly in seeds & buds."



Notes

- 3" wide, 7' length
- Cotton Broadcloth
- Sewn pockets along top and bottom edges for rods/dowels.
- Printed double-sided or single-sided, depending on budget.
- If double sided, can be hung freeform or against a wall.

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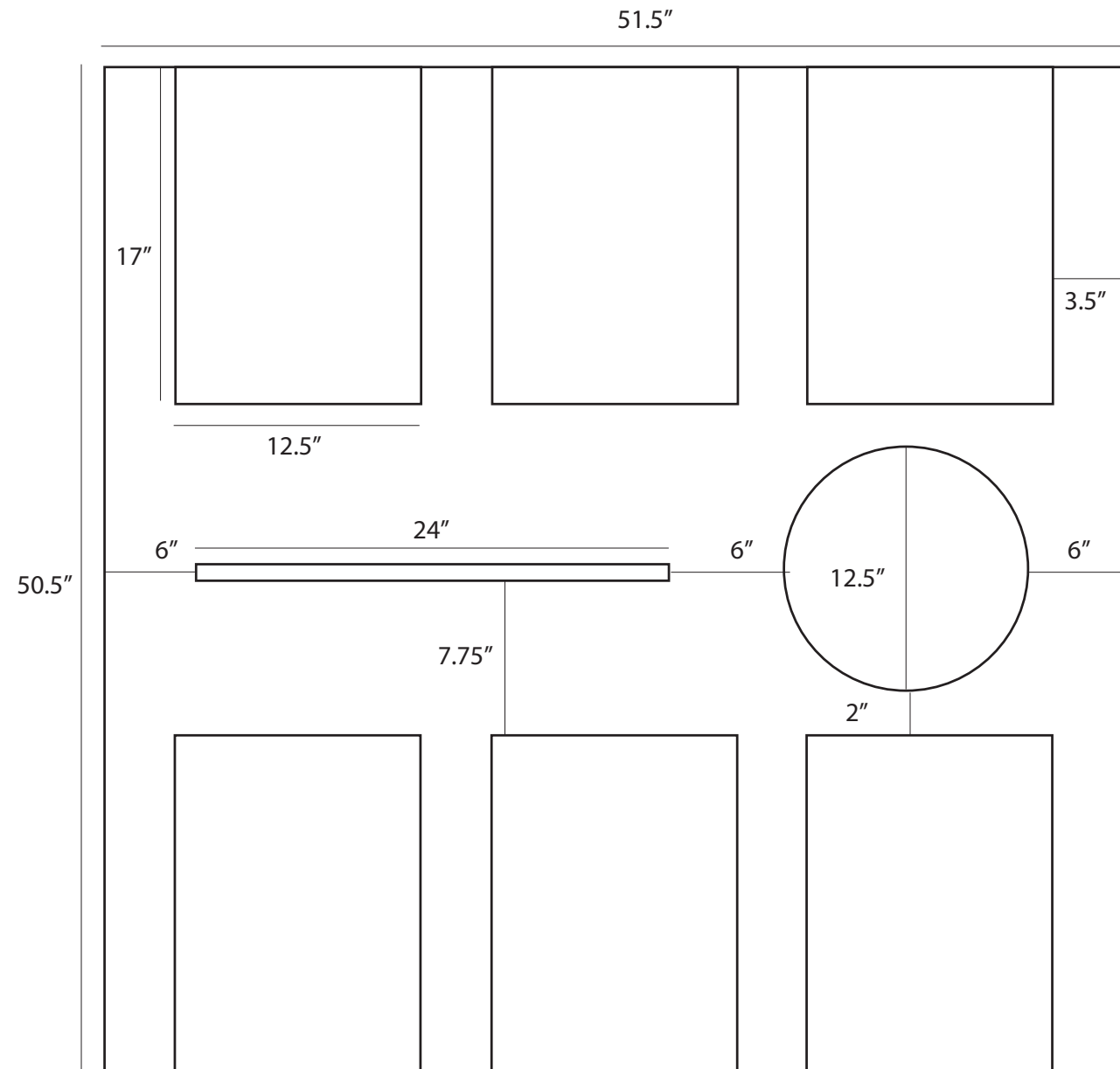
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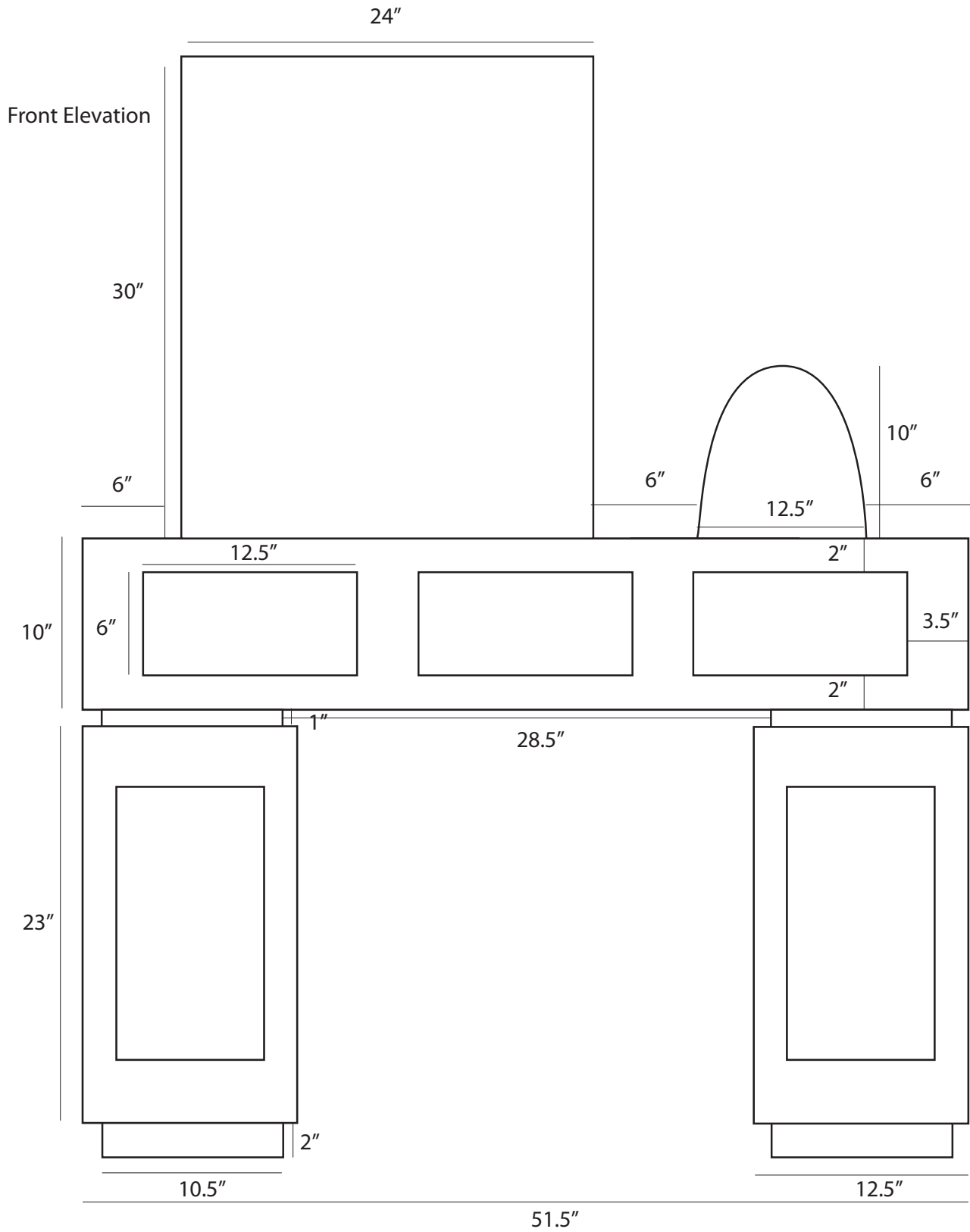
Quotation Banners

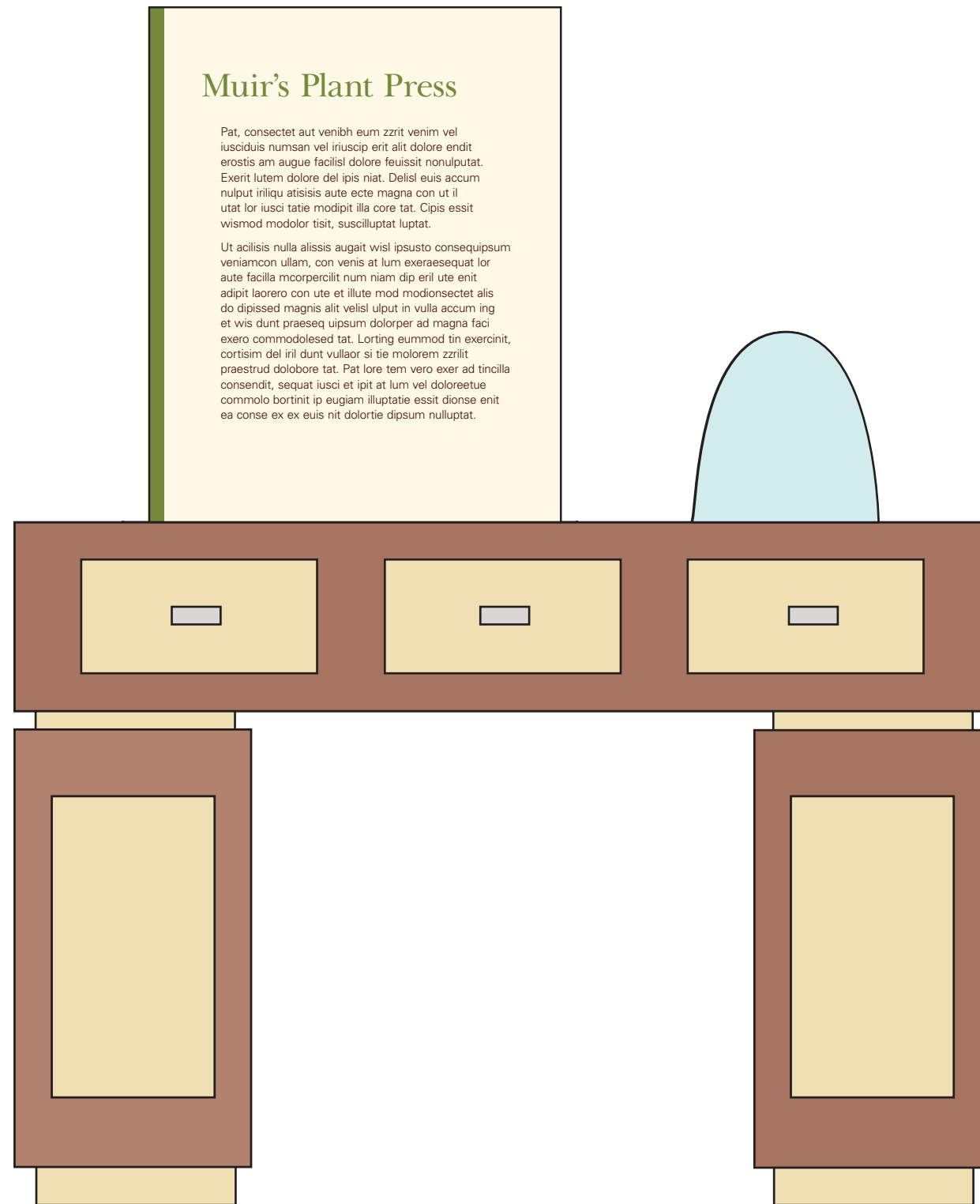
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Top Plan View



Front Elevation





Notes

- Suggested design only.
- Legs of desk may be reduced significantly.
- Text panel copy sent by Adrienne to Angelia, to be obtained by Stephanie to put into text panel.
- Side-view elevation and measurements to be sent by Angelia.

Notes

- 24"x30" text panels
- Image to go in bottom right corner or background, yet to be chosen.
- Includes Bonnie's text edits.

John Muir

John Muir, one of the most influential preservationists in American history, believed that his purpose in life was to help people to see Nature's beauty. To accomplish this he wrote letters, stories, and books describing his experience in the natural world.

An avid walker, Muir traveled from Wisconsin to Canada to study plants in the "University of the Wilderness." He walked a thousand miles to Florida to see and collect plants. Strange plants crowded around him. Few were familiar. Muir called himself a "stranger in a strange land" of plants he had never seen. When he arrived in California, he botanized and studied glaciers. During trips to Alaska, Muir continued to collect plants. Curious about plants and where they lived, sometimes he simply went for a walk and out of sheer joy stuffed his pockets with wildflowers because they were beautiful.

Muir the Botanist

When John Muir was a boy in Scotland, his family had a garden in which he planted seeds and then dug them up again each day to see how much they had grown. Muir knew there was something special about plants and while a student at the University of Wisconsin began to study botany.

Leaving Wisconsin, he traveled to Canada to study plants in the "University of the Wilderness." He walked a thousand miles to Florida to see and collect plants and when he arrived in California he botanized and studied glaciers. During trips to Alaska he continued to collect plants. While Muir was interested in science, sometimes he simply went for a walk and out of sheer joy. He stuffed his pockets with wildflowers because he was curious about them and found them beautiful.

Herbarium

An herbarium is a dried garden, a collection of plant specimens that are pressed, dried, mounted on rigid paper, and filed in cabinets. While these plants have lost their color and look different from live plants, they create a beauty all their own. In an herbarium scientists and historians are able to study plants from around the world and learn about biodiversity, genetics, endangered species, medicinal qualities of plants, the changing climate, and why some plants are extinct. Each specimen is accompanied by the name of the plant, where it was collected and when, and the name of the collector.

Nomenclature

To identify plants scientists called “botanists” give each plant a Latin name. All plants are grouped into categories called families based on the greatest similarities. Each plant has a first name, a “genus” or generic name, that it shares with other plants that resemble it. Each plant also has its own special name which is its “species” name.

Example:

Calypso borealis is a member of the Orchidaceae Family or Orchid Family.

Calypso is the “genus” and means “hider,” and *borealis* is the “species” and means north. This orchid is given this name because it is rare and hard to find and because it grows—in northern habitats.

The common name is “Hider of the North” or Northern Lady’s Slipper Orchid because it looks like a shoe.

Notes

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- Bonnie's edits:
 - New panel "How the Muir herbarium project was done" (name shortened to "The Muir Herbarium Project")
 - Condensed bios into one panel, "The Curators" (title may change)
- Plant labels and images to accompany "The Muir Herbarium Project":
 - Common Thistle
 - Narcissus-flowered Anemone
 - Canadian White Violet

The Curators

Bonnie Gisel

In the fall of 2003 Muir historian Bonnie Gisel began a search for the plant specimens collected by John Muir in Canada, Indiana, throughout the southern United States, and in California and Alaska beginning in 1864 and through and until the early twentieth century. Though Muir's drawings, letters, journals, articles, and books record his travels, Gisel wanted to know more about the landscapes across which Muir traveled more than 125 years ago.

What plants did he see?

Gisel created lists of the plants Muir noted that he saw and collected and she traveled to national parks, botanical gardens, natural history museums, and universities, utilizing the lists to find hundreds of plants collected by Muir tucked away in herbaria.

Stephen Joseph

Landscape photographer Stephen Joseph scanned and restored Muir's plants to their original beauty as Muir himself would have seen them. Though he scanned hundreds of plant specimens, Joseph never tired of the thought that Muir had picked and preserved each one.

The Muir Herbarium Project

John Muir's plant specimens have been scanned and restored on a computer. While smaller plants were scanned as one unit, larger plants were scanned in sections. Consideration had to be given to the fragile nature of the specimens. Each plant was carefully moved on the scanning bed. The sections of the larger plants were stitched together in Photoshop.

From three to twenty hours were spent digitally removing each plant from the sheet upon which it was glued or taped and then restoration began. The sections hidden behind the tape or glue that held them to the original paper were rebuilt with the use of cloning techniques. Using color selection, curves, and levels, the contrast and color of the plants were increased. New compositions include notes, envelopes, and labels incorporated with Photoshop layers. Each plant was evaluated to determine its relevance for inclusion in *Nature's Beloved Son*. The criteria included history, geography, plant taxonomy, date, and beauty.

Inspiration

John Muir believed that plants contribute to our sense of well-being. Their beauty is inspiring and comforting. Trees and plants of all varieties, sizes, shapes, and colors, awaken our imagination. We find ourselves gazing at a field of wildflowers and we sense a peace and reach for memories as well as hope for the future. In petals and leaves and deep within the roots of plants that hold the earth together, we celebrate and find value in the natural world.

We recognize and appreciate the many habitats in which plants grow, where they all produce oxygen. While some plants produce food, other are home to animals and insects, and still others are simply a pleasure to look at. Then, too, we remember that without them life as we know it would not exist.

Muir's Plant Press

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Notes

- 24"x30" text panels
- Image to go in bottom right corner or background, to be determined.
- Includes Bonnie's text edits.
- "Muir's Plant Press" panel to go with desk of specimens and plant press vitrine. Copy to be obtained from Angelia.

Calypso borealis
Lady's Slipper; Hider of the North

1864
Orchidaceae
Ontario, Canada
Coll. John Muir

"I never before saw a plant so full of life, so perfectly spiritual, it seemed pure enough for the throne of its Creator. I felt as if I were in the presence of superior beings who loved me and beckoned me to come. I sat down beside them and wept for joy. Could angels in their better land show us a more beautiful plant? How good is our Heavenly Father in granting us such friends as are these plant creatures, filling us wherever we go with pleasure so deep, so pure, so endless."

— John Muir, "For the Boston Recorder The Calypso Borealis," Boston Recorder, 1868

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Thirteen specimens of Musci

1865
Ontario, Canada
Coll. John Muir

"I procured ten or twelve species of moss all in fruit, also a club-moss, a fern, and some liverworts and lichens. I have also a box of thyme. I would go a long way to see your herbarium, more especially your ferns and mosses. These two are by far the most interesting of all the natural orders to me."

— John Muir to James C. Cox, The Yellow, January 21, 1868

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Agrostis exarata
Bent Grass

1875
Gramineae
Near Yosemite, California
Coll. John Muir

"Tuolumne Divide, August 21, 1872. Grass, a species of *Agrostis*, with tall, unbranched, strong stem and panicle of purple flowers, arches and waves above the low-velvet sod like tropic bamboos."

— John Muir Journal, Tuolumne Divide, August 21, 1872

Courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden

Cupressus nutkatensis
Alaska Cedar; Yellow Cypress

1879
Cupressaceae
Sika, Alaska
Coll. John Muir

"The bulk of the forests of Southeastern Alaska is made up of three species of evergreen, all of which are of good size, and grow close together, covering almost every acre of the islands, however rocky, and the margin of the coast and the mountain slopes. The most important of these is the yellow cedar, or cypress (*Cupressus nutkatensis*), a truly noble tree."

— John Muir, "Siaka Forests, Empress," San Francisco Daily Evening Bulletin, October 30, 1879

Courtesy of the Harvard University Herbaria

Viola Canadensis
Canadian White Violet

1864
Violaceae
Ontario, Canada
Coll. John Muir

"It was with no little difficulty that my object in seeking these wilds traversed by few" was explained to the sturdy and hospitable lands of these remote districts. "Botany" was a term they had not heard before in use. What did it mean? If told that I was collecting plants, they would desire to know whether it was cabbage plants that I sought, and if so, how could I find cabbage plants in the bush? Others took me for a government official of some kind, or minister, or peddler."

— John Muir, "The Squaw in Canada," The Life and Letters of John Muir, 1909

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Cirsium lanceolatum
Common Thistle

1864
Asteraceae
Ontario, Canada
Coll. John Muir

"I cannot understand the nature of the curse, 'thorns and thistles shall I bring forth to thee.' Is our world indeed the worse for this 'thisty curse?' Are not all plants beautiful? or in some way useful? Would not the world suffer by the banishment of a single weed?"

— John Muir, "For the Boston Recorder, The Calypso Borealis," Boston Recorder, 1868

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Anemone narcissiflora
Narcissus-flowered Anemone

1881
Ranunculaceae
Cape Thompson, Alaska
Coll. John Muir

"I stopped to gather the flowers that I found in bloom. The banks of a stream coming from a basin filled with snow was quite richly flowered with anemones, buttercup, potentilla, draba, primula, and many species of dwarf willows."

— John Muir, "Botanical Notes," Revenue Steamer Corwin, 1882

Courtesy of the Harvard University Herbaria

Gleditsia triacanthos
Honey Locust

1864
Leguminosae
Ontario, Canada
Coll. John Muir

"I received my first lesson in botany from a student by the name of Girawold. He reached up, plucked a flower from an overspreading branch of a locust tree, and handing it to me, said, 'Muir, do you know what family this tree belongs to?'"

— John Muir, "The Story of My Boyhood and Youth," Houghton Mifflin, 1913

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Uniola paniculata
Sea Oats

1898
Gramineae
Florida
Coll. John Muir

"This morning I began botanizing before breakfast in the open space beside the hotel, lovely flowers in lavish abundance. Then we got a carriage and drove all forenoon and afternoon over coral roads through the densest pine and palm and laurel, pawpaw and banyan forests full of bloom unspeakably rich and exuberant and wild."

— John Muir to Louise Wanda Muir, Miami, November 14, 1898

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

List of plants sent by John Muir to Asa Gray from Kings River, etc.

1870
John Muir

The plant specimen is No. 2, *Aster oregonus*, a member of the Asteraceae family.

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Nemophila maculata
Fivespot

1907
Hydrophilaceae
Alone Yosemite, California
Coll. John Muir

"*Nemophila maculata* came today, its stigmas are small and black like spiders' eyes, and the corolla very delicate. Only the fingers of Gods are sufficiently gentle and tender for the folding and unfolding of petaled bundles of flowers."

— John Muir Journal, At Emily Jack's Sheep Camp, February 18, 1909

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Clintonia borealis
Northern Clintonia

1864
Liliaceae
Ontario, Canada
Coll. John Muir

"In the long summer days I used to get up about daylight and take a walk among the interesting plants of a broad marsh through which the Holland River flows."

— John Muir, Squaw in Canada, 1864-1868

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Sassafras officinale
Sassafras

1898
Laureaceae
Coll. John Muir

"October 8th. Just returned from a magnificent drive up spur of Cumberland 5 or 6 miles from Huntsville. The woods and plants in general very interesting, many rare. Bass oak, chestnut, white, black and magnificent hickory, grand Tulip, sassafras, sorrel, cherry, rhannus, linden, ash, 3 species elm."

— John Muir, "Reminiscence into the South," 1898

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Cypripedium montanum
Mountain Lady's Slipper

1875
Orchidaceae
Near Yosemite, California
Coll. John Muir

"*Cypripedium montanum*, the only moccasin flower I have seen in the Park, is a handsome, thoughtful-looking plant living beside cool brooks. The large oval lip is white, delicately veined with purple, the other petals and sepals purple, strap-shaped, and elegantly curved and twisted."

— John Muir, "The Wild Gardens of the Yosemite Park," The Atlantic Monthly, 1900

Courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden

Cassiope tetragona
White Arctic Mountain Heather

1881
Ericaceae
Cape Thompson, Alaska
Coll. John Muir

"The plants named in the following notes were collected at many localities on the coasts of Alaska and Siberia, and on Saint Lawrence, Wrangell, and Herald Islands in the course of short excursions, some of them less than an hour in length. Inasmuch as the flora of the arctic and subarctic regions is nearly the same everywhere, the discovery of many species new to science was not to be expected. The collection will no doubt be valuable for comparison with the plants of other regions."

— John Muir, "Botanical Notes," Revenue Steamer Corwin, 1882

Courtesy of the Harvard University Herbaria

Tecoma radicans
Trumpet Flower

1866
Bignoniaceae
Indianapolis, Indiana
Coll. John Muir

"Here with let me introduce to you Mr. John Muir, a worthy young man in every way. If you can walk the fields with him, you will find that Solomon could speak no more wisely about plants."

— James D. Butler to Catherine Merrill, Madison, Wisconsin, April 28, 1868

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Picea engelmannii
Engelmann Spruce

1879
Pinaceae
Dease Lake, British Columbia
Coll. John Muir

"There is another handsome spruce hereabouts, very slender and graceful in habit, drooping at the top like a mountain hemlock. I saw fine specimens a hundred and twenty-five feet high. The tops of some of them were almost covered with dense clusters of brown cones."

— John Muir, "Travels in Alaska, 1846"

Courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden

Linnaea borealis
Twin Flower

1864
Caprifoliaceae
Ontario, Canada
Coll. John Muir

In 1877 Muir, Asa Gray, the Harvard botanist, and Sir Joseph Hooker of Kew Gardens, in London, were botanizing on Mount Shasta. Gray asked Muir why he had not found *Linnaea* in California. The following day, Muir and Hooker came to a branch of the Sacramento River and noticed a green carpet on the bank. Hooker bestowed a keen botanic look. "Isn't that *Linnaea*?" Muir would later note this was the first time the Twin Flower was recognized in California. "It seemed Gray had felt its presence on the mountain ten miles away."

— John Muir, "Linnaea," Library of the World's Best Literature, 1896

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Dicentra spectabilis
Bleeding Heart

1866
Fumariaceae
Indiana
Coll. John Muir

"I gathered a handful of wildflowers about a mile and a half from town this morning before breakfast. When I first entered the woods and stood among the beautiful flowers and trees of God's own garden, so pure and chaste and lovely I could not help shedding tears of joy."

— John Muir to Sarah Muir Garrison, Indianapolis, Indiana, May 1868

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Leiophyllum buxifolium
Sand Myrtle

1898
Ericaceae
Grandfather Mountain, western North Carolina
Coll. John Muir

"September 24, 1898. On Roan High Cliff, over 6200 feet above sea. Gray granite rock points weathering, lovely slopes feathered with coloring trees descending in fine lines. Gray rocks on top with *Leiophyllum buxifolium*, charming shrub with white flowers and small sparkling leaves."

— John Muir, "Reminiscence into the South," 1898

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Polypodium californicum
California Polypod

1875
Polypodiaceae
Sierra Nevada, California
Coll. John Muir

"This is a delightful rock, or recess, running back of the foot of the Lower Yosemite fall about a hundred yards on the west side, its walls well fringed with maidenhair and spiraea and tufts of live-oak. Near the fall is a ledge thickly fringed with *Polypodium*."

— John Muir, Sierra Nevada, west end of Lower Yosemite Fall, undated

Courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden

Lilium washingtonianum
Washington Lily

1875
Liliaceae
Near Yosemite Valley, California
Coll. John Muir

"The Washington lily is white, deliciously fragrant, moderate in size, with three to ten flowered racemes. The largest I ever measured was eight feet high. This famous lily is distributed over the sunny portions of the sugar-pine woods, never in large garden companies, but widely scattered, waving its lovely flowers above the blooming wilderness of brush, and giving their fragrance to the breeze."

— John Muir, "Wild Gardens of the Yosemite Park," The Atlantic Monthly, 1900

Courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden

Ranunculus pygmaeus
Pygmy Buttercup

1881
Ranunculaceae
Cape Markham, Siberia
Coll. John Muir

"I stopped to gather the flowers that I found in bloom. The banks of a stream coming from a high basin filled with snow was quite richly flowered with white, buttercup, potentilla, draba, primula and many species of dwarf willows, up to a height of about a thousand feet above the level of the sea."

— John Muir, "On East Cape, Boasting on the Siberian Shore," San Francisco Daily Evening Bulletin, August 16, 1881

Courtesy of the Harvard University Herbaria

Davidson Glacier, Alaska

1900
Sketch by John Muir

"The mills of God grind slowly but they grind exceeding fine."

Courtesy of the John Muir Papers, with permission Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library

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Pinus tuberculata
Knobcone Pine

1879
Sketch by John Muir
Sierra Nevada

"This curious little pine is found at an elevation of from 1500 to 3000 feet, growing in close, woody groves. It is exceedingly slender and graceful in habit, although trees that chance to stand alone outside the groves sweep forth long, curved branches, producing a striking contrast to the ordinary grove form."

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Isolated patch of Redwood growing on smooth sunny slope 400 feet above sea near Santa Cruz

1875
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Planning My Journey outside of Louisville, Kentucky

Muir reached the outskirts of Louisville, Kentucky, and spread out his pocket map to plan his journey in a southward direction, traveling by the wild, leafy, least-trodden way.

— John Muir's Journal, "Reminiscence into the Gulf," "Florida and Cuba Trip," September 1887 - February 1888

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My Bonaventure Home, Saw Palmetto & Wand Solidago

Left: In Bonaventure Cemetery Muir built a tent with rushes and *Tillandsia* (Spanish moss). He camped for nearly a week and waited for money to arrive from his brother that would enable him to continue his journey to Florida.

Right: Saw Palmetto (*Scaevola aemula*) and Wand Solidago (*Solidago atisani*), southern Georgia & Florida.

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Evening Snow

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— John Muir's Journal, "Twenty Hill Hollow," January - May 1883

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Snow Plant

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— John Muir's Journal, "Twenty Hill Hollow," January - May 1883

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(31 labels total)

Nature's Beloved Son

REDISCOVERING JOHN MUIR'S BOTANICAL LEGACY

Development Team: Bonnie Gisel
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Design Team: Alison Garcia Kellar
Angelia Loi
Stephanie Pan
Victoria Stanell
Tim McNeil, Advisor

Object Labels

Spring 2010 Final Presentation

Calypso borealis

Lady's Slipper; Hider of the North

1864

Orchidaceae

Ontario, Canada

Coll. John Muir

"I never before saw a plant so full of life, so perfectly spiritual, it seemed pure enough for the throne of its Creator. I felt as if I were in the presence of superior beings who loved me and beckoned me to come. I sat down beside them and wept for joy. Could angels in their better land show us a more beautiful plant? How good is our Heavenly Father in granting us such friends as are these plant creatures, filling us wherever we go with pleasure so deep, so pure, so endless."

– John Muir, "For the Boston Recorder.
The Calypso Borealis," Boston Recorder, 1866

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Notes

- All labels are 7"x11"; shown in actual size.
- All punctuation and grammatical corrections have been made.
- Check citation formats for corrections in unitalicizing publication names.

Thirteen specimens of Musci

1865

Ontario, Canada

Coll. John Muir

“I procured ten or twelve species of moss all in fruit, also a club-moss, a fern, and some liverworts and lichens. I have also a box of thyme. I would go a long way to see your herbarium, more especially your ferns and mosses. These two are by far the most interesting of all the natural orders to me.”

– John Muir to Jeanne C. Carr, *The Hollow*, January 21, 1866

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Agrostis exarata

Bent Grass

1875

Gramineae

Near Yosemite,
California

Coll. John Muir

"Tuolumne Divide. August 21, 1872. Grass, a species of *Agrostis*, with tall, unbranched, strong stem and panicle of purple flowers, arches and waves above the low velvet sod like tropic bamboos."

– John Muir's Journal, Tuolumne Divide, August 21, 1872

Courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden

Cupressus nutkatensis

Alaska Cedar; Yellow Cypress

1879

Cupressaceae

Sitka, Alaska

Coll. John Muir

"The bulk of the forests of Southeastern Alaska is made up of three species of evergreen, all of which are of good size, and grow close together, covering almost every acre of the islands, however rocky, and the margin of the coast and the mountain slopes. The most important of these is the yellow cedar, or cypress (*Cupressus nutkatensis*), a truly noble tree."

– John Muir, "Alaska Forests. Evergreens,"
San Francisco Daily Evening Bulletin, October 30, 1879

Courtesy of the Harvard University Herbaria

Viola Canadensis

Canadian White Violet

1864

Violaceae

Ontario, Canada

Coll. John Muir

“It was with no little difficulty that my object in seeking ‘these wilds traversed by few’ was explained to the sturdy and hospitable lairds of these remote districts. ‘Botany’ was a term they had not heard before in use. What did it mean? If told that I was collecting plants, they would desire to know whether it was cabbage plants that I sought, and if so, how could I find cabbage plants in the bush? Others took me for a government official of some kind, or minister, or peddler.”

– John Muir, *“The Sojourn in Canada,”* The Life and Letters of John Muir, 1924

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Notes

- 1 of 3 labels to accompany the “How We Did It” text panel.

Cirsium lanceolatum

Common Thistle

1864

Asteraceae

Ontario, Canada

Coll. John Muir

“I cannot understand the nature of the curse, ‘thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to thee.’ Is our world indeed the worse for this ‘thistly curse?’ Are not all plants beautiful? or in some way useful? Would not the world suffer by the banishment of a single weed?”

– John Muir, “For the Boston Recorder. *The Calypso Borealis*,” Boston Recorder, 1866

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Notes

- 2 of 3 labels to accompany the “How We Did It” text panel.

Anemone narcissiflora

Narcissus-flowered Anemone

1881

Ranunculaceae

Cape Thompson,
Alaska

Coll. John Muir

"I stopped to gather the flowers that I found in bloom. The banks of a stream coming from a basin filled with snow was quite richly flowered with anemones, buttercups, potentillas, draba, primulas, and many species of dwarf willows."

– John Muir, "Botanical Notes," Revenue-Steamer Corwin, 1883

Courtesy of the Harvard University Herbaria

Notes

- 3 of 3 labels to accompany the "How We Did It" text panel.

Gleditsia triacanthos

Honey Locust

1864

Leguminosae

Ontario, Canada

Coll. John Muir

“I received my first lesson in botany from a student by the name of Griswold. He reached up, plucked a flower from an overspreading branch of a locust tree, and handing it to me, said, ‘Muir, do you know what family this tree belongs to?’”

– *John Muir, The Story of My Boyhood and Youth, Houghton Mifflin, 1913*

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Uniola paniculata

Sea Oats

1898

Gramineae

Florida

Coll. John Muir

“This morning I began botanizing before breakfast in the open space beside the hotel, lovely flowers in lavish abundance. Then we got a carriage and drove all forenoon and afternoon over coral roads through the densest pine and palm and laurel, pawpaw and banyan forests full of bloom unspeakably rich and exuberant and wild.”

– John Muir to Louie Wanda Muir, Miami, November 14, 1898

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

List of plants sent by John Muir to Asa Gray from Kings River, etc.

1870

John Muir

The plant specimen is No. 2, *Aster oreganus*,
a member of the Asteraceae family.

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Notes

- This label was missing in the previous proof, it is now added into the labels file.

Nemophila maculata

Fivespot

1907

Hydrophyllaceae

Above Yosemite,
California

Coll. John Muir

"*Nemophila maculata* came today. Its stigmas are small and black like spiders' eyes, and the corolla very delicate. Only the fingers of Goda are sufficiently gentle and tender for the folding and unfolding of petaled bundles of flowers."

– John Muir's Journal, At Smoky Jack's Sheep Camp, February 18, 1869

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

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Clintonia borealis

Northern Clintonia

1864

Lilaceae

Ontario, Canada

Coll. John Muir

“In the long summer days I used to get up about daylight and take a walk among the interesting plants of a broad marsh through which the Holland River flows.”

– John Muir, *Sojourn in Canada, 1864–1866*

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Sassafras officinale

Sassafras

1898

Lauraceae

Coll. John Muir

"October 8th. Just returned from a magnificent drive up spur of Cumberland 5 or 6 miles from Huntsville. The woods and plants in general very interesting, many rare. Texas oak, chestnut, white, black and magnificent hickory, grand Tulip, sassafras, sorrel, cherry, rhamnus, linden, ash, 3 species elm."

– John Muir, "Rambles thru the South," 1898

Courtesy of the Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library

Cypripedium montanum

Mountain Lady's Slipper

1875

Orchidaceae

Near Yosemite,
California

Coll. John Muir

"*Cypripedium montanum*, the only moccasin flower I have seen in the Park, is a handsome, thoughtful-looking plant living beside cool brooks. The large oval lip is white, delicately veined with purple; the other petals and sepals purple, strap-shaped, and elegantly curved and twisted."

– John Muir, "The Wild Gardens of the Yosemite Park," *The Atlantic Monthly*, 1900

Courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden

Cassiope tetragona

White Arctic Mountain Heather

1881

Ericaceae

Cape Thompson,
Alaska

Coll. John Muir

“The plants named in the following notes were collected at many localities on the coasts of Alaska and Siberia, and on Saint Lawrence, Wrangel, and Herald Islands in the course of short excursions, some of them less than an hour in length. Inasmuch as the flora of the arctic and subarctic regions is nearly the same everywhere, the discovery of many species new to science was not to be expected. The collection will no doubt be valuable for comparison with the plants of other regions.”

– John Muir, “Botanical Notes,” Revenue-Steamer Corwin, 1883

Courtesy of the Harvard University Herbaria

Tecoma radicans

Trumpet Flower

1866

Bignoniaceae

Indianapolis, Indiana

Coll. John Muir

“Here with let me introduce to you Mr. John Muir, a worthy young man in every way. If you can walk the fields with him, you will find that Solomon could speak no more wisely about plants.”

– James D. Butler to Catherine Merrill, Madison, Wisconsin, April 26, 1866

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Picea engelmannii

Engelmann Spruce

1879

Pinaceae

Dease Lake, British
Columbia

Coll. John Muir

“There is another handsome spruce hereabouts, very slender and graceful in habit, drooping at the top like a mountain hemlock. I saw fine specimens a hundred and twenty-five feet high. The tops of some of them were almost covered with dense clusters of brown cones.”

– John Muir, *Travels in Alaska*, (Date?)

Courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden

Notes

- Missing date in citation?

Linnaea borealis

Twin Flower

1864

Caprifoliaceae

Ontario, Canada

Coll. John Muir

In 1877 Muir, Asa Gray, the Harvard botanist, and Sir Joseph Hooker of Kew Gardens, in London, were botanizing on Mount Shasta. Gray asked Muir why he had not found *Linnaea* in California. The following day, Muir and hooker came to a branch of the Sacramento River and noticed a green carpet on the bank. Hooker bestowed a keen botanic look. "Isn't that *Linnaea*?" Muir would later note this was the first time the Twin Flower was recognized in California. "It seemed Gray had felt its presence on the mountain ten miles away."

– John Muir, "Linnaeus," Library of the World's Best Literature, 1896

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Dicentra spectabilis

Bleeding Heart

1866

Fumariaceae

Indiana

Coll. John Muir

"I gathered a handful of wildflowers about a mile and a half from town this morning before breakfast. When I first entered the woods and stood among the beautiful flowers and trees of God's own garden, so pure and chaste and lovely, I could not help shedding tears of joy."

– John Muir to Sarah Muir Galloway, Indianapolis, Indiana, May 1866

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site

Leiophyllum buxifolium

Sand Myrtle

1898

Ericaceae

Grandfather Mountain,
western North Carolina

Coll. John Muir

"September 24, 1898. On Roan High Bluff, over 6200 feet above sea. Gray granite rock joints weathering, lovely slopes feathered with coloring trees descending in fine lines. Gray rocks on top with *Leiophyllum buxifolium*, charming shrub with white flowers and small sparkling leaves."

– John Muir, "Rambles thru the South," 1898

Courtesy of the Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library

Polypodium californicum

California Polypod

1875

Polypodiaceae

Sierra Nevada,
California

Coll. John Muir

"This is a delightful nook, or recess, running back of the foot of the Lower Yosemite fall about a hundred yards on the west side, its walls well fringed with maidenhair and spiraea and tufts of live-oak. Near the fall is a ledge thickly fringed with *Polypodium*."

– John Muir, *Sierra fragment, nook west of Lower Yosemite Fall, undated*

Courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden

Lilium washingtonianum

Washington Lily

1875

Liliaceae

Near Yosemite Valley,
California

Coll. John Muir

“The Washington lily is white, deliciously fragrant, moderate in size, with three to ten flowered racemes. The largest I ever measured was eight feet high. This famous lily is distributed over the sunny portions of the sugar-pine woods, never in large garden companies, but widely scattered, waving its lovely flowers above the blooming wilderness of brush, and giving their fragrance to the breeze.”

– John Muir, “Wild Gardens of the Yosemite Park,” *The Atlantic Monthly*, 1900

Courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden

Ranunculus pygmaeus

Pygmy Buttercup

1881

Ranunculaceae

Cape Markham,
Siberia

Coll. John Muir

"I stopped to gather the flowers that I found in bloom. The banks of a stream coming from a high basin filled with snow was quite richly flowered with with, buttercups, potentillas, draba, primulas and many species of dwarf willows, up to a height of about a thousand feet above the level of the sea."

– John Muir, "At East Cape. Botanizing on the Siberian Shore,"
San Francisco Daily Evening Bulletin, August 16, 1881

Courtesy of the Harvard University Herbaria

Davidson Glacier, Alaska

1900

“The mills of God grind slowly but they grind exceedingly fine.”

Sketch by John Muir

*Courtesy of the John Muir Papers, Holt-Atherton Department of
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Notes

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Notes

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- The current title length would be appropriate for description text in the middle of the label, or could we find a quotation for this sketch for the middle of the label?

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– John Muir's Journal. Thousand-mile walk to the Gulf, "Florida and Cuba trip," September 1867–February 1868

Courtesy of the John Muir Papers, Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library

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My Bonaventure Home, Saw Palmetto & Wand Solidago

Left: In Bonaventure Cemetery Muir built a tent with rushes and *Tillandsia* (Spanish moss). He camped for nearly a week and waited for money to arrive from his brother that would enable him to continue his journey to Florida.

Right: Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) & Wand Solidago (*Solidago altissima*), southern Georgia & Florida

– John Muir’s Journal. *Thousand-mile walk to the Gulf, “Florida and Cuba Trip,”* September 1867 – February 1868

Courtesy of the John Muir Papers, Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library

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Notes

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Snow Plant

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