

# Artwork by Members of the Oregon Botanical Artists Featured in New Exhibit at U.S. Botanic Garden in DC



(Washington, DC) — A new exhibit at 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 work by three Oregon artists. **Elise Bush's** 12 x 16-inch watercolor painting is of the Sugar Pine Cone (*Pinus lambertiana*), a species found in Crater Lake National Park.

The Sugar Pine, is a native of the Pacific Coast and and is the largest species of pine, commonly growing to 130–200 feet tall. It has the longest cones of any conifer, mostly 9–20 inches long. Botanist David Douglas named the Sugar Pine in 1827 to honor British pine expert Aylmer Bourke Lambert. Native Americans used the sugar pine's large, nutritious seeds for food.

Artist Elise Bush, a member of Oregon Botanical Artists (OBA), lives in Troutdale, Oregon. Her studio is at the Troutdale Art Center on East Historic Columbia River Highway.

**Dorota Haber-Lehigh's** 12 x 16 inch drawing, depicts Lungwort (*Lobaria pulmonaria*) a lichen species found in Lewis and Clark National Park. *Lobaria pulmonaria* is a unique lichen living in a symbiotic partnership with ascomycete fungus, a green algal partner and cyanobacterium (members of three different kingdoms of organisms.) It can be found growing on Red Alder, Douglas fir, Western hemlock or Sitka trees. It is considered an herbal medicine by many people around the world and has been used in treatment of lung diseases. A study conducted at OSU in 2003, demonstrated that *Lobaria pulmonaria* has mild antibiotic properties. *Lobaria pulmonaria* is known for its sensitivity to air pollution and has been negatively affected by habitat loss and changes in forestry practices.



Dorota Haber- Lehigh, is an artist and educator living in Seaside frequently hiking and drawing at Lewis and Clark National Park and at Ecola State Park. Haber-Lehigh is a

member of Oregon Botanical Artists, American Society of Botanical Artists. Dorota has taught botanical drawing classes and enjoys studying ethnobotany.



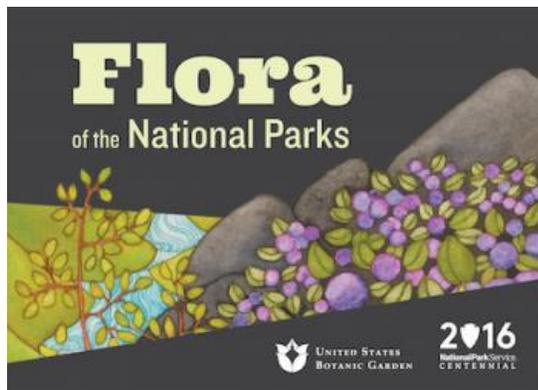
The watercolor painting by **Jeanne Debons** depicts a Redwood cone, *Sequoia* sp., a species found in Redwood National Park. The Sequoia cone is portrayed in detail at 5 inches tall and 3.5 inches

wide with three winged seeds. Sequoias are the sole living species of the genus *Sequoia* in the cypress family commonly called coast redwood and California redwood. It is a monoecious evergreen tree living 1,200–1,800 years or more. This species includes the tallest living trees on Earth, reaching up to 379 feet and up to 29.2 feet in diameter at breast height. Before commercial logging began, this tree occurred naturally in an estimated 2,100,000 acres along much of coastal California and the southwestern corner of Oregon. It has been estimated that 70% or more of ancient old-growth redwood trees have been displaced by environmental changes or cut down.

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:*

*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.



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](http://www.USBG.gov/FloraoftheNationalParks).

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