

Wildflower Illustrations of Plants Native to Glacier National Park, Montana

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ABSTRACT

Plants from 15 wildflower species were identified, collected, photographed and used as models to produce botanical drawings (illustrations). An illustration, common and scientific names, botanical family name, and brief description for each species was used to produce a brochure titled: "Selected Native Wildflowers of Glacier National Park Montana" for distribution at the park. The purpose of the brochure is to help Glacier Park visitors identify those 15 native wildflower species.

INTRODUCTION

Botanical illustration, which combines art and science, is an excellent visual tool used extensively in plant identification manuals (e.g., Holmgren, 1998; Voss, 1996) to enhance written plant species and plant structure descriptions. Pen and ink and pencil are common media used for the production of these illustrations. Field art involves recording observations in nature in an artistic yet scientific manner (i.e., depicting detail that allows for proper identification of plants and animals). The purpose of this work was to use graphite pencil and field art technique to develop a brochure complete with botanical illustrations and biological descriptions of 15 native wildflowers in Glacier National Park, Montana (USA).

METHOD

Plants from 15 wildflower species were identified, collected, photographed in Glacier National Park, Montana during July-August, 2000. Living and collected plants were used as models to produce preliminary field sketches for each of 15 wildflowers (*Senecio triangularis*, *Xerophyllum tenax*, *Gaillardia aristata*, *Campanula rotundifolia*, *Gentiana calycosa*, *Epilobium angustifolium*, *Parnassia fimbriata*, *Arnica mollis*, *Mimulus lewsi*, *Zigadenus elegans*, *Anaphalis margaritacea*, *Castilleja rhexifolia*, *Erigeron peregrinus*, *Hypericum formosum*, and *Aquilegia flavescens*). Preliminary sketches were drawn in graphite pencils (4H to 6B), colored pencils, charcoal, and pigma pens (01 to 05) on 8"x10" heavyweight paper. Final illustrations (Figs. 1-15) were drawn in a UWL art studio using collected plants, preliminary sketches, and photographs for reference. Final illustrations were drawn in graphite pencils (4H to 6B) on 11"x14" bristol paper and were mounted with a 8"x10" border for display.

RESULTS

Final illustrations were displayed at the 4th Annual Undergraduate Research Day and Odin Gallery (La Crosse, WI). Brief, written descriptions (Kershaw et al., 1998; Lesica, 1996; Strickler, 1993; Strickler, 1990) for each species were used with the final illustrations to produce a brochure titled: "Selected Native Wildflowers of Glacier National Park Montana." Nine hundred copies of the brochure (and two CD's with the brochure layout) were given to Glacier National Park staff to help aid its visitors in the identification of the illustrated native flowers.

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Figure 1.
Arrowleaf
Groundsel
(*Senecio trian-
gularis*)



Figure 2.
Beargrass
(*Xerophyllum
tenax*)



Figure 3.
Blanket Flower
(*Gaillardia aris-
tata*)



Figure 4.
Common
Harebell
(*Campanula
rotundifolia*)



Figure 5
Explorer's
(Bog) Gentian
(*Gentiana caly-
cosa*)



Figure 6.
Fireweed
(*Epilobium
angustifolium*)



Figure 7.
Fringed Grass
of Parnassus
(*Parnassia fim-
briata*)



Figure 8.
Hairy Arnica
(*Arnica mollis*)



Figure 9.
Lewis
Monkeyflower
(*Mimulus lewsi*)



Figure 10.
Mountain Death
Camas
(*Zigadenus ele-
gans*)



Figure 11.
Pearly Everlasting
(*Anaphalis mar-*
garitacea)



Figure 12.
Rosy
Paintbrush
(*Castilleja*
rhexifolia)



Figure 13.
Subalpine
Fleabane
(*Erigeron*
peregrinus)



Figure 14.
Western St.
John's Wort
(*Hypericum*
formosum)



Figure 15.
Yellow (Golden)
Columbine
(*Aquilegia*
flavescens)