

WHO WAS DAVID DOUGLAS?

David Douglas (25 June 1799 – 12 July 1834) was a Scottish botanist who worked as a gardener and explored the Scottish Highlands, North America and Hawaii, where he died. When he was a young man, Douglas worked at the Botanical Gardens at Glasgow University and attended botany lectures at the University of Glasgow.

William Jackson Hooker, the Garden Director and Professor of Botany, was impressed by Douglas's curiosity and knowledge of plants and recommended him to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in London. The RHS sent Douglas on a plant-hunting expedition to the Pacific Northwest in 1824 that ranks among the great botanical explorations of his generation. In the Spring of 1826, Douglas climbed a peak now called Mount Brown near Athabasca Pass in Canada. In doing so, he became the first mountaineer in North America.

In 1827, Douglas brought seeds from the Douglas-fir (which was named after him) back to England. He also collected seeds from the Sitka spruce, sugar pine, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, grand fir, and noble fir, as well as garden plants such as the red-flowering currant, salal, lupine, penstemon and California poppy. Altogether, he introduced about 240 species of plants to Britain. Douglas's legacy continues today among individuals and organizations who value Northwest native plants.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After visiting the exhibit students will be able to:

- Identify several species of plants and trees that are native to Western Oregon
- Locate the Willamette Valley and other key landmarks on an Oregon map
- Discuss Douglas's role in promoting the value of native plants in horticulture and forestry
- Identify a variety of materials and techniques used in Northwest native arts and crafts
- Understand the importance of geography and surveying in the formation of Oregon as a state
- Discuss how arriving Europeans and Americans impacted the native cultures and regional ecology



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF DAVID DOUGLAS

September 6 - October 17, 2014

Bush Barn Art Center

600 Mission Street SE | Salem, OR 97302

Hours: 10 am-5 pm, Tues-Sat | 12-5 pm, Sat-Sun

A Guide for Educators & Parents

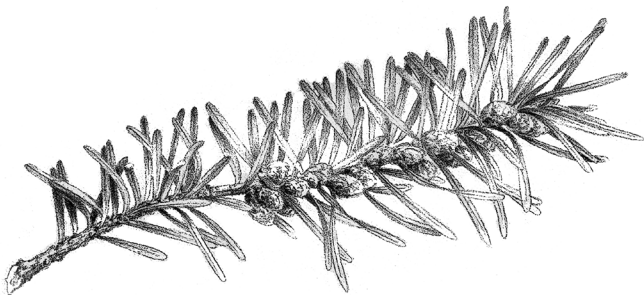
This guide is to help educators and parents prepare children for a visit to this exhibition and enrich their time in the gallery. Educators can adapt this information for the needs of their students.

EXHIBIT GOALS

- To introduce students and families to David Douglas and his travels in Oregon
- To illuminate life in Oregon during the Hudson's Bay Company era before the Westward Expansion and the Oregon Trail
- To familiarize students with the geography of Western Oregon
- To introduce visitors to botanical illustration, landscape painting, photography, basketry, and woodworking, which utilize or are inspired by Oregon's natural resources

HISTORIC TIMELINE

- 1805 Lewis and Clark reach the Pacific Ocean
- 1818 England and the United States jointly occupy "Oregon Country"
- 1824 Fort Vancouver is established by the Hudson's Bay Company
- 1824 David Douglas leaves England for the Pacific Northwest
- 1825 Douglas collects plants along the Columbia River and in the Willamette Valley
- 1827 Douglas travels across Canada to Hudson Bay then returns to England
- 1829 Douglas writes research papers and learns how to use surveying equipment
- 1830 Douglas returns to Fort Vancouver
- 1831 Douglas collects plants in California
- 1833 Douglas travels north to the Frasier River
- 1833 Douglas leaves Oregon Country for Hawaii
- 1834 Douglas dies in Hawaii
- 1859 Oregon joins the United States
- 1914 The Royal Horticultural Society publishes Douglas's writings



VOCABULARY

- Botany:** The study of plants
- Cardinal Points:** North, South, East and West
- Compass:** A magnetic instrument used to determine where the cardinal points are
- Ecology:** The study of how plants and animals live together in their surroundings
- Ethnobotany:** The study of how people use plants
- Fort:** A place where people lived and worked protected by high walls and weapons
- Herbarium:** A collection of dried plants
- Hudson Bay:** A large inlet in Northeastern Canada
- Oregon Country:** A large historic region west of the Rockies occupied by British and Americans
- Vasculum:** A metal container used to store collected plants

EXHIBIT OVERVIEW

In the Footsteps of David Douglas highlights the travels and legacy of David Douglas, an explorer and plant collector who traveled in the Lower Columbia and Willamette Valley regions in the early 1800s. This exhibit includes:

- Original natural science illustrations by contemporary artists featuring plants and animals that Douglas collected in Western Oregon
- Pressed herbarium (plant) specimens representing Oregon native species
- Original landscape paintings by contemporary Oregon artists featuring the Lower Columbia and Willamette Valley regions
- Contemporary baskets created using traditional plant materials
- Tribal crafts made from natural resources
- Large-scale murals featuring historic illustrations of scenes in Oregon from the early 1800s
- A full-scale replica of the cedar hut Douglas lived in during his time in Oregon Country
- Hands-on educational activity stations focusing on native plant identification; Oregon geography and surveying methods; trees and their role in Oregon's economy; and the materials and equipment Douglas used to study plants and animals.
- A reading table with books about Oregon history, native crafts, plants, and the life of David Douglas

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Finding David Douglas

www.FindingDavidDouglas.org

David Douglas Society

www.DavidDouglasSociety.org

Native Plant Society of Oregon

www.npsoregon.org

Pacific Northwest Botanical Artists

www.pnba-artists.com



For more information about this exhibit, visit SalemArt.org or call 503-581-2228.