



NEWS

U.S. Department of the Interior

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MEDIA ADVISORY

An Artist's Adventure: Rare and Endangered Plants of the Texas Hill Country

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Interior Museum presents *An Artist's Adventure: Rare and Endangered Plants of the Texas Hill Country* lecture and graphite drawing workshop lead by artist Lotus McElfish in the Interior Museum classroom on Saturday, May 16. The lecture will be held from 1-2 pm and the workshop from 2-4 pm.

Following the lecture, McElfish will conduct a two-hour workshop on drawing botanical subjects with graphite. She will discuss her favorite techniques and tools. Preregistration is required for the workshop, which is limited to twenty participants. Please bring your own art pencils and art paper. Register for this portion of the event by calling 202-208-4743.

McElfish is a part of a growing community of artists that is dedicated to the contemporary renaissance of botanical art, updating a historically significant art form which played a vital role in documenting the discoveries of early European explorers. McElfish is a self-taught artist who currently works with graphite and watercolors to create botanical portraits. Her illustrations highlight the rare and endangered plants of her home, the Texas Hill Country, and are used as a tool for conservation education. McElfish has done illustrations for numerous periodicals and books and has shown in galleries around the Southwest. This event is in conjunction with the *Endangered Species: Flora and Fauna in Peril* exhibition. Two of McElfish's botanical portraits were selected for this Wildling Art Museum juried competition.

Special Assistance – For those in need of special assistance (such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired) or inquiries regarding the handicapped entrance, please notify museum staff at (202) 208-4743 in advance of the program. Special needs will be accommodated whenever possible.

About the Interior Museum: The Interior Museum interprets the history of the U.S. Department of the Interior and showcases the current work of the bureaus. It is located on the first floor of the Main Interior Building at 1849 C Street, NW between 18th and 19th Streets. The museum is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm and from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm on the third Saturday of each month, except for all Federal holidays. Entrance is free but all adults must have photo ID to enter the building. For more information, please call 202-208-4743 or see the website: <http://www.doi.gov/interiormuseum>.

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