

False Solomon's seal

by [Paul Willis](#) in the [March 16, 2016](#) issue

(Maianthemum racemosum)

False Solomon's seal, you trade
in frankincense and myrrh,
filling the forest with your fragrance.

There is a wisdom in the ladder
of your leaves, clasping their way
to each perfusion of scent and blossom.

Multiplied beneath the sunlit spaciousness
of Douglas fir, you make a Milky Way
of stars, as if the skies had poured

themselves into our lap, born
again as a field of flowers, one vast aroma,
calling us to a true home.

—*North Cascades National Park*