

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*