

MATERIALS LIST

Fall Migratory Bird Watching and Sketching

Thursday, October 14 through Saturday, October 16, 2010

9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Suggested Equipment List

It seems that every drawing class requires a whole new list of things that you should get. Do not run out and buy everything on this list. That just gets expensive. I think it is better to get more experience using the mediums you enjoy the most. You can do a lot with just a pencil. Consider this list as suggestions and thoughts about different items that you can bring with you rather than a required shopping list. There are three guidelines to keep in mind when selecting field equipment: simple, light, and portable. Hold all your materials to this standard. Everyone has favorite tools so customize this list to meet your needs. My favorite items or essentials are in bold and my watercolor preferences underlined. You can get many good and inexpensive art supplies online from Daniel Smith art supplies. <http://www.danielsmith.com>.

- *John (Jack) Muir Laws, Instructor*

Paper

- Sketchbook or drawing pad: There are two good ways to go on this, either a bound hardcover sketchbook or a Komtrak Inspiral Notebook with removable pages. Hardcover sketchbooks with sewn in bindings will protect your work and stands up to field conditions. Avoid the spiral bound books because the pages are able to rub against each other and smear your pencil work. The instructor's favorite is the Canson Basic Sketch Book 8.5" X11". It is acid free with 65 lb. paper and cost around \$8.00. I avoid the seemingly identical Cachet Classic Sketch Book, "the original sketchbook." The paper is smoother and whiter and fine if you are only using pen and pencil. However, the paper will immediately absorb watercolor, making it difficult to make a decent wash. The color also bleeds through to the next page.
- Toned Paper: You can buy a few sheets of gray or brown toned paper at an art supply store, cut them to fit your sketchbook. You may keep a few sheets at the back of your sketchbook and glue them in at appropriate places or get them cut and punched and added to your Inspiral notebook.
- Watercolor Postcards: This is heavier stock paper that takes watercolor better than a sketchbook. You can glue the cards into your book or mail them to a friend.



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- **Drawing Tools**

- 0.5 mm mechanical pencil
- 0.3 mm mechanical pencil
- Col-Erase non-photo blue pencil for lightly sketching: guidelines or a preliminary sketch. This is erasable and has an eraser at the end. Do not get a Prismacolor pencil without the eraser- it is waxy, does not erase, and leaves a mark that is too dark.
- Soft white plastic eraser such as "Pentel Clic Eraser"
- White gel pen such as Pentel Milky gel Roller or Jelly Roll are useful to draw white lines over watercolor for leaf veins or hairs.
- Waterbrush - If you are using watercolor or watercolor pencils, consider this terrific sketching tool. It is a brush that holds water in the handle so you do not need to dip it into water to paint. These brushes are made by two companies, Pentel and Niji. The Pentel Aquash brush (instructor's favorite) has a fatter handle and slightly longer, stiffer bristles. If you use a waterbrush, carry a rag to wipe the brush clean to change colors.
- Fiber tip pen: black/ gray, water soluble. Try a Pilot razor point pen (creates a cool gray wash when you add water with a brush) or a fine Espresso pen (creates a warm brown wash- but be careful, the ink from this pen can bleed through some sketchbook paper).
- Fiber tip pen: waterproof. Make sure the ink does not bleed through your paper.
- If you like soft pencils try the Design "Ebony" jet black extra smooth pencil or the Berol Prismacolor Warm Gray 90% pencil
- pencil sharpener with shavings compartment

- **Media for Color**

If you like colored pencils, select your favorite colors including light gray and several muted browns and greens. Bundle earth tones, cool purples and blues, and warm yellows and reds separately with rubber bands. The Prismacolor Verithin 36 color set is a good starter set.

If you use watercolor, find a small set of colors, portable brush, and small, tightly sealed water bottle (such as Nalgine). The instructor uses a 28 well folding plastic palette. You can order them through Black Horse Fine Art Supply 800-790-2552. Ask for item number 1024-3000, the folding plastic palette- cost is \$6.69 plus shipping.

Colors on the instructor's palate: Neutral Tint, Sepia, Burnt Umber, Burnt Sienna, Indian Red, Ochre Gold, Yellow Ochre, Naples Yellow, Buff Titanium, Hooker's Green, Green Gold, Olive Green, Oxide of Chromium, Undersea Green, Prussian Green, Payne's Gray, French Ultramarine (blue), Cerulean Blue, Cobalt Blue, Moonglow, Alizarin Crimson, Quinacridone Rose, Cadmium Red , Cadmium Yellow, Quinacridone Gold, New Gamboge, Cadmium Lemon, Hansa Yellow and Permanent White (Gouache). These paints are a combination of Windsor Newton Artist's colors and Daniel Smith colors.

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- **Other Equipment**

- Protective pencil case
- A handy portable bag or soft case to hold all your sketching supplies that fits neatly into your backpack or (ideally) over your shoulder with a strap.
- Medium sized plastic bag (to protect sketchbook in a downpour)
- Large rubber bands (to hold sketchbook pages down in the wind)
- Warm clothes (dress in layers)
- Rain gear
- Sun hat
- Sunscreen
- Lunch
- Drinking water
- Day pack
- Comfortable walking shoes

- **Optional Equipment**

- Binoculars
- Spotting scope
- Camera (digital?)
- Hand lens or small magnifying glass
- Field guides
- Lightweight stool or sitting pad

Questions? Please contact the instructor, Jack Laws, at jlaws@calacademy.org or by phoning the Filoli Education Office at (65) 364-8300 x233.