



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1903-04-27

Letter from F. B. Millard to John Muir, 1903 Apr 27.

F. B. Millard

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Recommended Citation

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Larkspur, April 27, 1903.

Dear Mr. Muir:

You remember, I promised to write and let you and Mrs. Muir and the young ladies know when the ceanothus was in bloom, at its best, that they might come and see it if they wished. Well, in a few days it will all be out. I should say that beginning about Thursday or Friday and for a week after that the show of blooms will be the fullest and grandest. But, I regret very much to say, it is not as fine this year as when you were here before. A ravaging band of caterpillars destroyed the leafage of many of the trees last summer and they died by hundreds. The ceanothus, as you know, is not very tenacious of life, and cannot stand being stripped of leaves.

Still the display is very beautiful and it is the best we have had any year except last. Some of the trees near our porch are masses of purplish blue.

If the ladies come, we shall, of course, expect you to come with them. You will be interested in the madroños which are in finer and fuller bloom than I have ever seen

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them before. They are making a very pretty show this morning, with the bright sunlight shining on them.

There are in my cañon fifteen different trees, the ash, buckeye, ceanothus, chestnut, elder, ^{hazel} maple, madrono, nutmeg, four kinds of oaks, redwood, willow. There are also hazels that ought to be classed as trees, as they are at least fifteen feet tall.

Come and see us if you can and we shall be very glad to greet you and make you at home with us.

Sincerely yours,

F. B. Millard

I passed Martinez this afternoon
day, going to Millwood in the Sierras,
and looked up the valley your way.
But you were all unaware

M.