



GESTURE DRAWING AND PAINTING THE BALD EAGLE

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Much of the legacy of Ernest Thompson Seton is linked to his observations of birds and his drawings and paintings of them. One of his earliest goals was to improve upon a reference book about birds that he had had access to as a young boy. Over his lifetime Seton prepared many drawings that were used as illustrations for encyclopaedic volumes. With this in mind, and with our small collection of taxidermy birds, we planned that one of the art topics at *Art With a Twist of Nature* would be sketching and painting birds.



Playing with the puppet theatre.

The loaned taxidermy bald eagle really got everyone's attention on Day 2 of the camp. Both the younger and older age groups had an opportunity to make a few quick lines to capture the essence of this majestic bird as well as three other taxidermy birds that are part of the display at the museum. Susana Danyliuk and Cheryl Orr-Hood, both local artists who participate in the annual Cypress Art Studio Tour set up a fun experience for the youngsters.

The five to eight year olds did sketches of four separate poses of the bird models, which included a sharp-shinned hawk. After four or five minutes with each taxidermy bird, the models were moved along the table to provide a different view for the drawers. Once the drawing was completed, a theatre session with the Folkmanis animal puppets rounded out the hour.



Sketching the bald eagle.

The nine to twelve year group completed the gesture or quick sketches and then chose a sketch they would like to develop further. Each young artist was then provided a ready to paint piece of canvas for their project. By the next morning, when the acrylic paint had dried and a stick and string hanging arrangement was in place, each participant had a unique ready to hang portrait of a bird to take home.

The resource persons were impressed with the creativity of the young artists. While some chose to draw only the bird, others tackled backgrounds and some achieved a wonderful rendering of a close up of just a portion of the bird they were observing. One conclusion is that it would be good to have some follow up sessions as many young folks really enjoy doing art.

BRANDON NATURALIST SOCIETY FIELD TRIP TO SETON COUNTRY



Black-Eyed Susans along the trail.

On July 30th several vehicles, with nearly ten nature enthusiasts, ventured to Spruce Woods Park. The purpose of the outing was to view and enjoy the wonderful exuberance of wild flowers at the Quiet Voices Wildflower Trail at the head of the Epinette Creek trail system. As the walk proceeded everyone agreed that as a result of the wet early summer the showings of most wildflowers were extraordinary. We saw large groupings of a number of native plants in full bloom including the Prairie Coneflower, Dotted Blazing Star, and Western Wild Bergamot to name a few. Remnants of early bloomers like the Three Flowered Avens were still evident. A few weeks earlier I had observed a wonderful showing of the blue blossoms of the Harebell and also some Western Red Lilies just to the north of the Quiet Voices Trail.

Participants took comfort in the assurances that the replacements for signs at points along the trail have been ordered. Years of exposure to the elements have totally destroyed the interpretive signage, which is an important part of the experience of walking this trail. The main sign at the trail head is the only sign for this trail that remains in good condition. The Seton Centre and its Mixed Grass Prairie Stewardship Program teamed up with the Interpretive Section of the Provincial Parks/Spruce Woods Park around 2002 to develop the trail and the interpretive signage for it.



The sign at the beginning of the Quiet Voices Trail.

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The group from the Brandon Naturalist Society enjoyed looking around Little Seton Park.

After a walk along the mowed trail, we headed to The Seton Centre. Here, before enjoying a cold beverage, fresh fruit tray and berry laden angel food cake, all provided by the board of the museum, the visitors meandered around Little Seton Park. Many of the native plants we had just observed at Spruce Woods Park are now also doing very well behind the museum. In addition, our summer interpreter, Laura McKay, walked the visitors around the museum itself and shared some lively commentary about Ernest Thompson Seton, his accomplishments and his stay in the Carberry area. Later, our sense that the Saturday had been well spent was confirmed when two of the visitors e-mailed us to say that they had enjoyed the visit and wished us success with the further development of our native plants park area and our native plants herbarium collection.

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FESTIVAL ROUNDED OUT SUMMER ACTIVITIES

This summer, Seton Festival marked 151 years since the birth of Ernest Thompson Seton. The festivities were made all the more lively by the attendance of numerous day camp participants from the preceding week. The day was enjoyed by all and proved to be a great fundraising and promotional event.



Day camp participants were among our many visitors.

Many of the younger crowd who showed up to participate in the festival started off at the face painting booth set up in front of the Centre. Multiple cats, dogs, and butterflies, among other things, were wandering the grounds after visiting our talented volunteers. Thank you to Ivory Leifso and Jessie Shaw for generously donating their time and artistic abilities for the benefit of The Seton Centre and its programming.

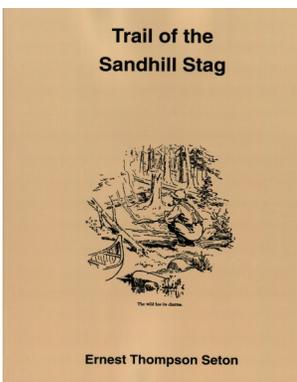
A lunch of Sloppy Joe's, hotdogs, and cupcakes was made available to everyone on Main Street thanks to the energetic efforts of our board members as well as the creative baking of Kelley Friesen. A silver collection more than covered our costs and added to the funds raised.

Another of the many activities available for the enjoyment of our visitors was the dunk tank, which featured our summer interpreters Laura McKay and Kelley Friesen. We would to extend a thank you to Keith Loney, Ken Friesen, Blair Salt, and Bruce Hood, as well as to the many others who helped to make this fundraiser possible. The kids were delighted at the opportunity to get their instructors wet, both in the dunk tank and the water fight that took place and even some of the parents joined in the fun. When interest in the dunk tank began to dwindle, the beading supplies were pulled out and an animal keychain making session ensued.

We would also like to congratulate our raffle draw winners, Joan Bloxom, Jean Orr, and Tyler Hood. Thank you once again to everyone who came out to support The Seton Centre this summer!

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NEW BOOK ON THE GIFTSHOP SHELVES



We are pleased to announce the arrival of a new book on our shelves! After a great deal of research, we have managed to locate and purchase copies of Ernest Thompson Seton's book, *The Sandhill Stag*, which is based on some of his experiences in the Carberry Sandhills. We are very happy with this acquisition and hope it will help to bring the Seton legacy closer to home for Carberry's residents.

If you are interested in purchasing this or any other books from The Seton Centre, a list of titles and contact information can be found on our new website!

KUDOS AND MORE KUDOS

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website!
www.thesetoncentre.ca

 Find us on
Facebook!

The Seton Centre has been blessed with many generous gifts this summer. Whether it was balloons and ribbons from Stems and Gems or baking and vegetables for our Carberry Farmers Market stall, we were able to do more programming this summer as a direct result of all the generosity. Where to start to explain? A new venture for The Seton Centre this year was having a table at the Carberry Farmers Market each of six Thursday mornings this summer. A loyal cadre of gardeners, food preservers, bakers, specialty cupcake maker and talented potter brought wonderful edibles and sellable items for the Seton Centre board to sell as a means to raise funds for the museum. Board members along with one of the interpreters, manned the table from 8:30am until 11:00am at each of the markets, and enjoyed the relatively new site for the market at the green space at the south end of Main Street. The site provides lots of space for the vendors and a lovely, treed shaded space for the market.



The items donated for sale at the Farmer's Market were as varied as the people who brought them.

What has the project made possible? Aside from keeping the museum in the public eye, we managed to earn some much needed funds. The questions of how to pay for our new website (www.thesetoncentre.ca), or when we would be in a position to purchase the Publisher computer program that makes the preparation of the Happenings newsletter much easier were answered. A small counter top refrigerator is a recent purchase from the funds: it has been useful for keeping snacks and drinks for the young people's activity sessions chilled. Local taxidermist, Stewart Bailey donated his time and talents for preparation of the new full body female wolf at the Centre while we used a certain amount of funds for the materials needed for this major wildlife asset. A small purchase, but still considered important, was a memory stick, which will help with saving our computer records. With the expectation that the week long day camp would mean we needed more table top surface for activities, a second 72" table was purchased when it came on sale this summer.



Preserves and cupcakes for sale at The Seton booth at the Farmer's Market.

These are just some of the expenses that have been addressed by our successful efforts at the Farmers Market. Now with the end of our involvement in the market for the year we can sit back, assess the project and consider any plans for summer 2012. Again, thank you so much for pitching in to help us with the Farmers Market and our other initiatives this summer.

Submitted by Cheryl Orr-Hood