

PLANT A PATCH OF PRAIRIE GRASS

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Background

The Prairie Grasslands Region is one of the most endangered habitats in Canada, but grasslands aren't found only in the Prairie provinces. There are patches of them in Ontario. Some grassland flowers grow so high that you'd have to climb a ladder to come face to face with their blooms.

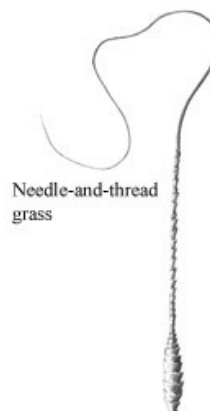
Many species of wildlife depend on the Prairie Grasslands Region for their survival. For instance, the Powesheik skipper butterfly, long-tailed weasel, and grey tiger salamander could disappear from Canada without the tall-grass prairies of Manitoba.

Four kinds of grass are found on Canada's prairies:

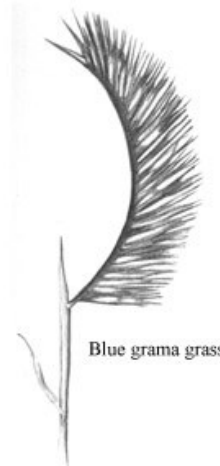
- **Tall grass**, which occurs in southwestern Ontario and south-central Manitoba, includes big bluestem, little bluestem, Indian grass, switchgrass, leadplant, side-oats grama, porcupine grass, common sunflower, and several species of goldenrod.
- **Mixed grass**, which is found in southern Saskatchewan, southwestern Manitoba, and southeastern Alberta, includes needle-and-thread grass, June-grass, golden aster, prairie-crocus, wheatgrasses, and breadroot.
- **Short grass**, which occurs in southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan, includes blue grama, sedges, western wheatgrass, rabbit-bush, and little club-moss.
- **Fescue**, which occurs in the foothills of Alberta and in east-central Saskatchewan, includes rough fescue, slender wheatgrass, three-flowered avens, golden bean, northern bedstraw, and yarrow.



Switch grass

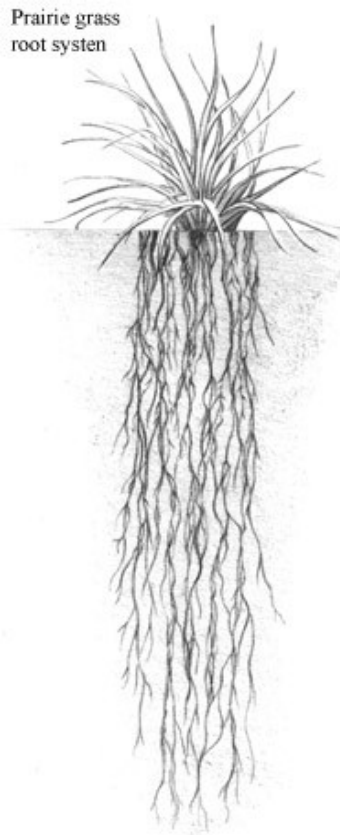


Needle-and-thread grass



Blue grama grass

Prairie grass root system



Procedure

If you live in this region, you can do native wildlife a favour by planting a plot of prairie grass. Here's how:

- To start, you'll need a large backyard or community lot. It is critical to control weeds during the first two years, so plant an area you can comfortably keep weed-free—half a hectare or less.
- Ask your local agriculture department for advice on soil type and the best species to grow in your area.

Continued on page 2 - "Maintaining Your Patch of Prairie Grass"

MAINTAINING YOUR PATCH OF PRAIRIE GRASS



Rough Fescue

- Get your seeds from a local source to ensure they're native to your area.
- If possible, till the top 2 cm to 3 cm of soil on your site several times during the fall and spring before planting to help control weeds.
- The best time to plant is between late spring and early summer.
- Plant a half-and-half mixture of wildflowers and grasses.
- Remember that prairie seeds thrive best in full sun.

Maintenance

- Familiarize yourself with what prairie seedlings look like so you don't accidentally pull them out while weeding.
- Don't get discouraged! Prairie plants are perennials and don't show a lot of growth during the first year. They are busy putting down extensive root systems to help carry them through adverse conditions, such as cold and drought.

*Published by the Canadian Wildlife Federation Education
For more articles and information check out their website at
CWFEducation.ca*

*"...assistance can come
in so many flavours,
vegetables, fruits, jams,
pickles, muffins, and
the list goes on."*

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Our heartfelt thanks go out to some special folks who helped tremendously to make our fundraising efforts at the Carberry Farmers' Market a success. Our plan is to pay down our outstanding loan from the Carberry and Area Community Foundation that we incurred when we built the addition to the museum. Sometimes the many steps to accomplish the weekly market seem overwhelming, but it all works out when many hands are stretched out to assist. And assistance can come in so many flavours, vegetables, fruits, jams, pickles, muffins, and the list goes on. One creative gift was one of fresh gooseberries, ready for jam making. So we turned the lovely fruit gift into a delicious jam that we are able to put on our market table for sale. A number of helpful persons donated sealers



The Seton Centre table filled with goodies.

so that we could refill them and get more preserves on our market table.

It is always dangerous to list persons who help, as it is so easy to miss somebody, but at least we can thank the contributors who we have been able to track. So thanks, many thanks to: Faye Baron, Evelyn Dempsey, Erin Hood, Peggy Hood, Muriel McPhail, Marilyn Meyers, Brenda Nelson, Jean Orr, Carole Reilly, Lori Salt, Frank Spenst, Aileen Stephenson, and Linda Yablonski. And of course without our tireless board members the project would not have been able to go ahead. Thanks!



*Board members speak with customers at the
Farmer's Market.*

Submitted by Cheryl Orr-Hood

AN INVITATION TO BECOME PART OF THE SETON LEGACY



"Clay Sparrow" original watercolour painting ca: 1892 by Ernest Thompson Seton. Printed on the front of the card from the Academy for the Love of Learning.

Distance does make a difference. Were it not for a three day car trip, members of our museum would have been ecstatic to have travelled to Santa Fe, New Mexico earlier this month to attend an event hosted by the president and founder, Aaron Stern, and the curator, David Witt of the Academy for the Love of Learning. Regardless, we are watching from a distance as exciting undertakings take place at Seton Institute and Grounds.

On August 10th, the fore mentioned event was planned to coincide with Seton's 152nd birthday celebration on August 11th, and was an evening for friends, supporters and special guests to toast the Chief and share in meaningful conversation about how Ernest Thompson Seton has touched their lives. A quote from Ernest Thompson Seton highlighted in the brochure from the Academy for the Love of Learning speaks volumes: "Everyone should take two trips to the wilderness each year—each of six months duration". This is the same philosophy Seton espoused when he lived in the Carberry area in the 1880's. We are so fortunate to have a bird's eye view of the area he loved so deeply. Let's get outside!

Another point where we may have discussions with David Witt of the Academy for the Love of Learning is with our Artist in Residence, Chris Cooper, who has a long term goal of creating a permanent hard metal sculpture for Little Seton Park. David Witt is someone Chris hopes to have a conversation with to help with deliberations about the sculpture. David Witt authored the book, *The Life and Legacy of an Artist and Conservationist*, which was published in 2010 by Gibbs Smith publishers. We have a copy of this book in our museum collection. Chris is finding inspiration from the references to Seton's art work and philosophy that relates to the wild living things and their relation to critical habitat.

If you are interested in ways to show your support for the important work being carried out by the Academy for the Love of Learning, contact Cheryl (at 834-2056) or go to the Academy's website, www.aloveoflearning.org.

Submitted by Cheryl Orr-Hood

"...she plans to catalogue and re-organize our collection of newspaper clippings, books..."

NEW FACE ON THE BOARD

This fall we are pleased to welcome another board member into our midst. Although the position is not official until after her first meeting, Diane Gawel already has plans to contribute to the Centre. As a licensed curator, Diane has plenty of experience with projects such as ours and is eager to begin work on the collection. Starting this winter, she plans to catalogue and re-organize our collection of newspaper clippings, books, and other pieces from Seton's life. Preservation and restoration are among her priorities, as well as the creation of a database to make it easier to locate a desired piece.

Diane currently holds the position of Library Manager at the Carberry North Cypress Library across the street and has frequently been an invaluable resource for the interpreters in finding materials for the children's programming. She has worked at our local library since 2009 and resides in Sidney, MB - about a ten minute drive from the town of Carberry. Welcome to the Seton Centre, Diane!

Submitted by Laura McKay



Diane Gawel, our new board member.

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"A taxidermy display... and the art exhibit... gave visitors the opportunity to explore some of Seton's own interests."

SIGNS OF SETON



The new sign installed over the path to Little Seton Park.

This year two new signs were purchased for the Seton Centre. The spring saw the installation of a large sign over the entrance to Little Seton Park. The design, which includes the name of the park and an image of a wolf, was created by Winnipeg artist Paul Robles. The design is plasma cut into a large piece of metal that was then painted a dark ochre yellow. The lay out, production, and installation was completed by Mark Hood and associates. In the words of our chairperson, the sign "conveys our goal to be a welcoming place to slow down and literally smell the wild roses."

As well, towards the start of the summer, it was noticed that the old sandwich board was sorely in need of repair. The hinges that hold it together are repeatedly bent when the sign is blown over in the wind and it is very heavy and awkward for the interpreters to carry in and out of the museum. As such, a shorter, lighter version was purchased from Carberry Signs. The sign features a picture of Penny, our female timber wolf, as well as text welcoming visitors to the museum. The signs themselves can be flipped within the stand that holds them to permit us to write or stick other information on them for special events.

Submitted by Laura McKay



The new sign welcoming visitors to the museum.

SETON FESTIVAL A SUCCESS



Visitors have their faces painted by volunteers.

explore some of Seton's own interests. Delicious food was provided by the board members and one could satisfy their sweet tooth afterwards with cake baked by Kelley Friesen. Laura and I would like to extend a big thank you to Cathy Drayson who supervised the craft table. We would also like to mention our appreciation to Rebecca McKay, Jessie Shaw and Kelley Friesen for demonstrating their artistic talents at the face paint table. The festival was a huge success thanks to all our volunteers and guests.

Submitted by Dayna Adriaansen

This year Seton Festival was held on Saturday, August 11th. This is an annual event held to celebrate the birth of Ernest Thompson Seton and to encourage the community to visit the Centre. Between 40 and 50 guests enjoyed a variety of activities and displays throughout the day. A face painting table was manned by volunteers and zebras, tigers, and butterflies left with smiling faces. There was also a craft table and water balloon fight available for the children's enjoyment. A taxidermy display by Stu Bailey and the art exhibit *Sasquatches Allowed!* gave visitors the opportunity to



Stu Bailey speaks to visitors at his taxidermy display.

SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURES IN NATURE AND ART WITH ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, CHRIS COOPER



In front of the Seton Centre after a nature walk to collect items for the branches.

I had the amazing opportunity to lead the week-long Seton Centre Summer Art Camp *Wild About Nature*, July 30–August 3. The children created such wonderful and unique works of art we just had to give them their very own exhibition after the session ended, entitled *Sasquatches Allowed!* The show opened in the Seton Centre on Saturday, August 11, to help celebrate Seton Festival, and ran until August 22. I'd like to send out a big thank you to Laura McKay and Dayna Adriaansen for their enthusiasm and support with the art workshops, helping the children with their projects, and organizing all sorts of fun outdoor games that the kids enjoyed tremendously. A big thanks also goes out to Cheryl Orr-Hood and Susana Danyliuk who led a mural painting workshop during the camp, creating works of art which demonstrated the burrowing activities of animals, birds and reptiles. The children filled the burrows with creatures and expressed themselves with paint and collage in these large, colourful works of art. The children fuelled up with delicious snacks throughout the week such as banana boats (thanks Cheryl!!) and a BBQ lunch on the last day. I would also like to thank Peggy McPherson for helping supervise lunch and Beth McLaren and Debbie Steen from the Drop-In Centre for letting us use your space to escape the wasps!

It's a good thing the kids had so much energy to tackle the range of projects throughout the week! Their enthusiasm, imagination, focus and good behaviour enable us to create some wonderful works of art in a short period, and have a lot of fun at the same time! The kids were inspired by the creatures and habitat - both real and imagined - in the Carberry/Spruce Woods area. It was great to be able to expand upon ideas that came from the children themselves. Keeping the creatures in mind, they built upon techniques they learned throughout the week, working from drawings, paintings, learning to sculpt in clay - a new material for many of the children, - design small



Hard at work on the branches.



A sasquatch hiding in a branch at the exhibition.

models and sculptures, and create some large architectural sculptures that resemble forts and beautiful huts. These magical worlds woven from branches in which hand-made birds' nests house sculpted birds, monkeys, sasquatches and caterpillars. Birds are ingeniously attached to string and springs, bits of wood and pipe cleaners, designed by the children to swing from branch to branch to visit other nests made by friends and dangle, twirling in the air.

The children wowed us with their innovative methods of attaching materials together with electrical tape, clay, grasses and reeds, string, and yet more tape! They gathered some of their materials on a nature walk through Carberry collecting both natural and human-made objects.

Continued on page 6 "We Built Something!"

"The kids were inspired by the creatures and habitat... in the Carberry/Spruce Woods Area."

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The Seton Centre

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We're on the Web!
www.thesetoncentre.ca

Our Board:

Cheryl Orr-Hood (Chairperson)
Peggy McPherson (Treasurer)
Anne Fallis (Secretary)
Mame Curle (Member at Large)
Diane Gawel (Member at Large)



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at
[www.facebook.com/
TheSetonCentre](http://www.facebook.com/TheSetonCentre)

"WE BUILT SOMETHING!"

Signs and drawings covered the walls during the exhibition *Sasquatches Allowed!* offering messages to help us remember to care for nature (and one another) and to get out and enjoy the world around us. Nearby sit plasticine creatures and the Seton Centre's amazing collection of animal and bird puppets which beg to be played with. The exhibition transports us into the children's imaginations, presenting works of art that we can interact with as well as appreciate for their originality, craftsmanship, and beauty.

The Seton Centre is an ideal location to hold a summer camp. We were able to work in the Seton Centre and its lush natural garden, the basement of the old municipal office and adjacent park where we worked together as teams to design, plan, and build forts with wood. Learning to use hammers, nails, and sometimes a cordless drill under direct supervision, the kids worked in the sunshine to make their structure stand and a relentless group asked to power through the rain as they worked hard to put up walls. The challenges of working together to build something, sharing tools, and working from each other's sometimes cryptic "design plan" was well worth the effort. It was truly a memorable moment when they added the top peak to their fort and cheered, "We did it, we built something!"

If you didn't get a chance to view the exhibition *Sasquatches Allowed!* a portion of the exhibit will be on display at the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba in Brandon for the 2012 Culture Days Community exhibition, *Imaginable Forms* September 21 - November 10, 2012. The children's clay works of art will be on display at the Seton Centre for the Culture Days Celebration Saturday, September 29, 2012. Be sure to stay tuned and check the Seton Centre website for more upcoming projects!

Submitted by Chris Cooper, The Seton Centre Artist in Residence



Building forts in the park between the old municipal office and the Drop-In Centre.

AS THE SUMMER COMES TO A CLOSE...



Participants use binoculars to look at birds on a nature walk.

One of the Seton Centre's many goals is to provide programming for the local children. The topics of these programs vary from year to year, but Seton's ideals - and even some of his materials! - are an integral part of these programs. This year the programs were split into three categories: Nature Detectives, for 8-12 year olds; Outdoor Explorers attended by 5-7 year olds; and day camps, which catered to those between 5 and 12 years of age.

Including all categories, 8 separate programs were held for each age group and the programs attracted a total of 129 participants (includes duplicate attendees). We also had the privilege of drawing upon the skills of 12 others,

whose help was invaluable in the successful execution of these classes. Thank you to everyone who has so loyally supported us - one family has been sending their child for the last five years! - and we hope to see you next year!

Submitted by Laura McKay