



2022 Calendar of Events

February 10 to February 28

All-Schools Fifth Grade Student Art Show

February 10 to March 27

17th Illustrator Show - Greg and Amy Newbold

March 7 to May 2

The Artwork of Ludmila Dranchak

April 2 to May 30

Bill Reid, Self-Taught Artist

April 29 to May 30

Carrie Ida Edinger - Northern Trust Gallery

May 12 to September 5

Master Leather Carving from North America and Japan – Design and Cultural Influences

June 1 to June 30

Joel Ostlind - Northern Trust Gallery

June 10 to August 28

Articles of a Treaty

July 9 to August 27

Bighorn Rendezvous Exhibit

August 27

Bighorn Rendezvous Quickdraw & Art Auction

September 10 to October 30

Artists in Residence Exhibit

September 2 to October 30

Richard Red Owl & Roger Broer

September 3 to October 31

Angela Babby - Northern Trust Gallery

November 5 to December 23

Brinton 101

On the cover:

Charles M. Russell (1864-1926), **The Cowboy and the Lady Artist**, 1906, watercolor, gouache and pencil

The Cowboy and the Lady Artist is part of The Brinton Museum's permanent collection and is now on display in the Ted and Katie Meredith Gallery of Western Art after a two year hiatus.

From the Chairman of the Board

With the arrival of this beautiful autumn season, we are reflecting on another interesting spring and summer at The Brinton.

The museum returned, for the most part, to an active venue, filled with art, activities, people and new experiences, following the unusual 2020 year. We cannot ignore the big hole in the calendar where the gala should have occurred. We remain apologetic to our patrons for the cancellation that was quite necessary, knowing all the internal facts we knew at the time. The gala committee is already planning a big comeback for next year.

A highlight of the year was bringing the Joseph Henry Sharp painting **Remembering Past Deeds** to The Brinton. For the first major art acquisition funding in some time, the public reaction was overwhelming. Gifts and pledges poured in, making the acquisition a near-certainty now. When we see such an enthusiastic, inspired reaction from our supporters, it gives us renewed excitement for maintaining and growing this wonderful place.

This winter we will again revisit our 5-year strategic plan, which we have been updating about every two years. With the historic background that Ken has to offer and the optimistic new leadership that Kendra has to offer, we will think hard about our next steps. We always welcome input from our members and supporters.

Come back to The Brinton and see us whenever you can.

Robert G. Berger
President, Board of Directors

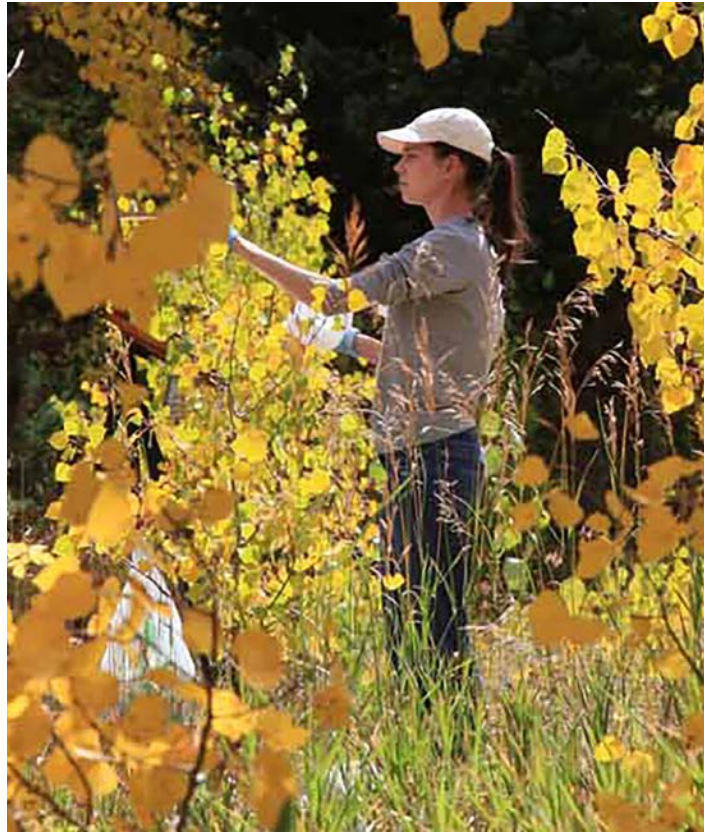


Joseph Henry Sharp (1859-1953), **Remembering Past Deeds**, oil, 1915

Director's Ruminations

2021 marks the third year of The Brinton Museum's Artist-in-Residency Exhibition and the 4th year of the residency program. In the following lines I hope to provide you with the history of the program and some insight into how a residency here at TBM works. The idea germinated in 2017 when Tom and Lisa Thompson of the Third Cut Ranch approached me with the idea of The Brinton Museum hosting an artist-in-residency program. The Thompsons very generously offered their charming one-bedroom guest bungalow to serve as housing for the visiting artists. The program was instituted in 2018 when we hosted six artists. Our first resident was Victor Juhasz, a highly acclaimed illustrator. Vic was so inspired by the history and beauty of the Sheridan area that he decided to shelve his watercolors, colored pencils and ink in order to do on-site oil paintings in keeping with the Plein-Air tradition of landscape painting inspired by the French Impressionists. Jessica (Garrett) Lawrence (oil), John Potter (oil), Denise Mahlke (pastel), Terri Wells (watercolor) and Jacob Aguiar (pastel), all highly regarded landscape artists, were the other members of that inaugural class and did numerous field sketches in their preferred mediums.

The Brinton Museum's residency participants are selected by the museum's exhibition committee from our extensive list of artists who have shown here at TBM, applied for inclusion in an exhibition or the residency program. The program is limited to one or two artists at a time, since the Thompsons' bungalow is small. There is no stipend nor on site chef, but the bungalow's kitchen is well appointed and our Brinton Bistro happily comps the resident's meals. We ask that residents be willing to meet with the public and either work on our grounds or present a program in our FEMJR Building in order to educate our patrons regarding



2018 Artist in Residence Jessica (Garrett) Lawrence

their artistic aims. The other obligation for our AIR participants is that they consent to exhibit works completed or inspired by their residency in an exhibition here at TBM the following year.

We hosted Chula Beaugard, Heather Burton, Lorenzo Chavez, Bruce Graham, Tony Hochstetler, Weizhen Liang, Huihan Liu, Gregory Packard, George Strickland and Michael Untiedt in 2019. All of these exceptional artists took inspiration from the environs offered by their residency, and the artwork presented during their 2020 exhibition reflected how a visit to the northeastern side of the Bighorn Mountains during various times of a calendar year directly influences the final product.

The Covid-19 Pandemic cut our 2020 class size to five highly motivated artists, Vanessa Compton, Julie Oriet, Sandra Harris, Elizabeth Yarosz-Ash and Kathryn Mapes Turner. Their work is as diverse as any of our AIR shows to date and thus reflects the aspirations of what we desire to demonstrate through our residency: Artists and place interacting to produce engrossing narratives that document our time and the vast interests of mankind here in the West.



Huihan Liu, *After Rain-Bighorn Basin*, oil, 18" x 24"

Kenneth L. Schuster
Director & Chief Curator

Looking Back, Looking Forward

One of the best compliments a museum can receive is to hear visitors genuinely say their experience was great and that they want to come back again, which for The Brinton is not necessarily surprising. Each change of season brings a new perspective to the beauty of the grounds. The spectacular view of Moncreiffe Ridge and the Bighorns in summer and winter are breathtaking. And nothing equals the drive onto the property. After one soaks in the ambiance of the land and its history, it's the world-class quality of art in the Main Ranch House and the exhibits in the Forrest E. Mars, Jr. Building which never fails to enlighten the artistic experience within each of us.

Looking Back: *Bravery, Beauty & Sacred Power: The Cheyenne, Crow, Lakota & Blackfeet Portraits of Edward S. Curtis* from the North American Indian folios was on exhibit in the Jacomien Mars Reception Gallery in both the spring and fall. On loan by the Foundation for the Preservation of American Indian Art and Culture, this exhibit as well as an educational symposium were funded by the Irwin Wilson Family Foundation. Featured this summer were **T. Allen Lawson: *Recollections and Reflections*** and **The Art of Robert Martinez**. Nationally recognized, award-winning artist Tim Lawson from Sheridan presented a stellar body of work created over 39 years. His love of connecting with a time and place and his emotional attachment to a subject is what successfully draws the viewer to his paintings. Visitors spent a great deal of time appreciatively looking at each piece. Northern Arapaho artist **Robert Martinez** from Riverton presented 36 works in his one-person show. Martinez's exhibit comprised contemporary, vividly colored paintings and also drawings on vintage and modern papers such as ledger sheets and maps.



T. Allen Lawson, *End of Winter - Old Yellowstone Hwy*, oil, 2008, 24" x 34", Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, Wyoming. Purchased with funds from Carlene Lebus and Harris Haston, Alan and Ann Simpson, and anonymous donations

As with Lawson's show, visitors lingered in the gallery longer than usual. Robert is a 2019 Wyoming Governor's Arts Award recipient and a founding member of the Creative Indigenous Collective, a group Northern Plains Tribes artists who exhibit contemporary indigenous art.

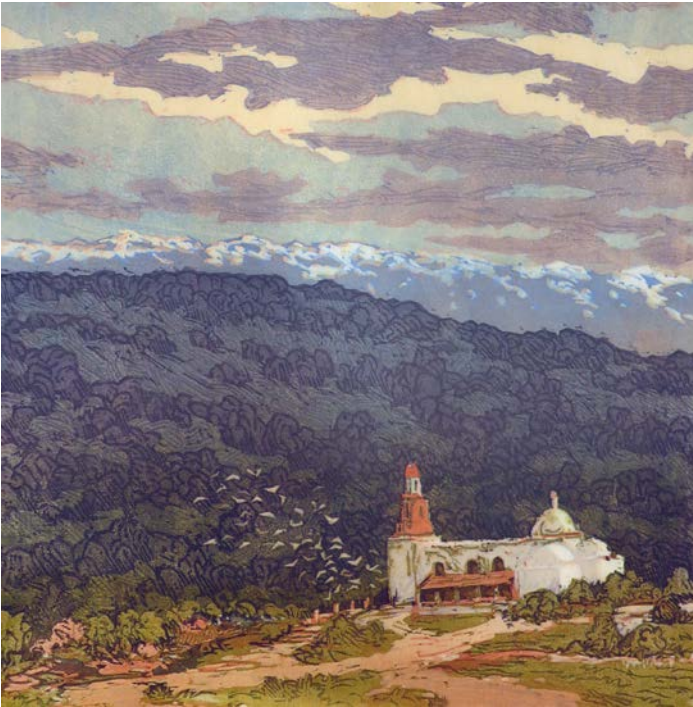


Kent McCain, *Chickadee and Red Berries*, oil, 29 5/8" x 17 1/2"



Robert Martinez, *Hatter II*, airbrushed acrylic and oil, 29 3/4 x 39 1/2", The Brinton Museum Collection, Gift of Sam Scott

Bighorn Rendezvous; Artists in Residence; Kent McCain - Classical Realism; and The Graveyard Shift conclude this year's exhibits. *The Graveyard Shift* - our first-ever show of this theme - was conceived by Museum Director Ken Schuster and artist Tony Hochstetler who came up with the concept of a "cemetery show." This exhibition focuses on the "aspects of a cemetery and the subject matter therein" and features works by accomplished artists from Wyoming, Colorado, California and Wisconsin. Keeping in the spirit of the exhibition, a reception for the artists took place on October 31.



Leon Loughridge, *Ascension*, woodblock, 11" x 11"

Looking Forward: Calendar year 2022 is equally diverse in variety and subject beginning with the *17th Illustrator Show*; the *The Artwork of Ludmila Dranchak* exhibit; and *Bill Reid, Self-Taught Artist* opening in February, March and April respectively. The Illustrator Show features children's storybook illustrations by artist and illustrator **Greg Newbold**. Residents of the Salt Lake City area, he and his wife, Amy, have collaborated on a series of children's books



Ludmila Dranchak, untitled, lithograph, 14" x 11.5"

based on the works of artistic masters – Picasso, Monet and DaVinci – as inspiration. Works from the estate of artist and printmaker **Ludmila Dranchak (1946-2018)** will be on exhibit in the Jacomien Mars Reception Gallery. **Bill Reid, Self-Taught Artist** will feature 39 paintings and drawings. Born **Billy Ray Reid** in 1941 in Temple, Texas, Bill Reid served in the United States Air Force from 1958-1962. Later he had a variety of jobs and in 1976 was a truck driver for Western Auto Distribution Center. He is self-taught as an artist and has painted hundreds of paintings telling stories - imagined and real - of his beloved American West.

Master Leather Carving from North America and Japan illustrates the creative impact Sheridan Style carving has had in influencing leather artists in Japan. **James F. Jackson** is the curator of this cross-cultural show which includes exquisite works by twenty-five leather artists representing the "best of the best" in the field. The Brinton's resident artist and master leather worker, Jim is a 2019 National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship recipient; Al Stohlman Award winner; and Wyoming Governor's Arts Award recipient, also in 2019. *Articles of a Treaty*, originated by the Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies; *Bighorn Rendezvous*; an art exhibit by contemporary Lakota artists **Richard Red Owl & Roger Broer**; and *The Brinton 101* (small works show) are also part of the 2022 schedule.

We encourage everyone to visit The Brinton's website for updates on exhibits and related programs. Email blasts, Facebook posts and general media announcements continue throughout the seasons. Keep spreading the word that The Brinton keeps getting better and better. Our hope is that each exhibition, like the beauty of the land, inspires you to come back again, and again.

We couldn't do it without you!

Barbara McNab
Curator of Exhibitions



Bill Reid, *End of a Long Hard Day - the Artist*, oil, 16" x 24"

Operations Report

“What do you do as Director of Operations?” is a question I am asked on a regular basis when conversing with folks at and about The Brinton. The rehearsed answer to that question is cultivate and steward resources that enable The Brinton Museum to fulfill its mission of connecting the past, present and future of the American West through its historic Quarter Circle A Ranch, Fine Art and American Indian Art Collections. In reality, what goes into cultivating and stewarding those resources looks different on a daily, weekly and seasonal basis.

This past season, I learned a lot about what it takes to ensure smooth museum operations amidst a booming tourist season, the return of weddings and special events to our ranch property, the reopening of The Brinton Bistro and during the optimal weather window to undertake capital improvement projects around the ranch and museum. It takes a team of coordinated staff and volunteers to ensure effective operations and quality offerings in art, history and nature at The Brinton. I am tremendously grateful for everyone who is part of that team and for the efforts they extend on behalf of the museum.

During our peak season, or from May to September, The Brinton hosted over 17,400 visitors. It was a good thing we completed the parking lot expansion project in the end

of May to help accommodate the return of a peak tourist visitation season this year! Not only were visitors able to find parking during peak season, they were also able to enjoy a handful of new or returned offerings following a difficult and interrupted year in 2020.

This peak season, museum visitors enjoyed tours of the Historic Ranch House and full grounds tours that include stops at the newly painted Milk House and the Historic Horse Barn which under preservation work this summer. Visitors also enjoyed delicious Brinton Farms vegetables that were featured in many culinary delights as we were able to reopen The Bistro for lunch service and Sunday brunch this season. And visitors enjoyed the further improved Quarter Circle A Nature Trail and a chance to rest and take in the gorgeous scenery while sitting on one of three newly installed memorial benches along the trail.

As we close out this year and look toward the next, I look forward to continuing to work with our team of staff and volunteers to further The Brinton Museum’s mission and steward the resources that have been entrusted to us in order to carry out the vision and legacy of Bradford and Helen Brinton.

Kendra Heimbeck
Director of Operations



The newly painted Brinton Milk House



The Brinton Bistro uses produce from the garden in many dishes. Surplus vegetables were donated to The Food Group of Sheridan

Brinton Bistro

This Holiday season, consider the Brinton Bistro for your parties and get togethers. Whether you're looking to book a private event in the Museum, or celebrate at home, the Bistro has you covered. We are available for private dinners, cocktail parties, and other events. If you would like to social distance, or have a smaller get together at home, to go catering is an option as well. Share your idea with our creative chefs and let's make it happen. With a variety of culinary and baking styles, any meal option is on the table. Call 307-763-5926 or email events@thebrintonmuseum.org or chef@thebrintonmuseum.org for more information.



Drawing by Joel Ostlind



Have your next event at The Brinton Bistro!

Museum Store News

Autumn greetings from The Brinton Museum Store! We had a wonderful summer season with travelers and visitors really excited to see our beautiful museum. The Winold Reiss portraits and the collection of note cards were very popular along with our new western art collection cards. The Edward S. Curtis show brought many people to the museum store and we even had a book group read the book *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher* by Timothy Egan and then visit the exhibit. Between the *To Honor the Plains Nations* gallery, Edward S. Curtis and the Winold Reiss collection, there were many people really emotionally moved by their experience here. We still have the Curtis exhibit catalogs and special gift books featuring the work of this renowned artist.

If you were unable to visit during the T. Allen Lawson Show this summer, we also have extra catalogs of this incredible show.

The holiday shopping season will likely begin early this year and we have our fingers crossed that our product orders will arrive well in time. You can expect to see new holiday ornaments, Pomegranate greeting cards and puzzles as well as Arthur Court tableware, specialty wine items and Jim Jackson leather pieces.

We continue to display a variety of beautiful works of art by artists such as Joel Ostlind, Gregory Packard, Bob Barlow and many more. Be sure to go to our online store to see the latest artwork available in the store. Traffic to our store website has been steady and we hope you'll visit www.brintonstore.com and place an order for pickup or delivery. You can order online and have items shipped for gifts! We can giftwrap too!

Brinton members may enter the discount code TBM2021 in order to receive the 10% member discount.



Arthur Court tableware available in The Museum Store

News from the Development Desk

Brinton Fundraising Highlights for 2021

A big **THANK YOU** to all who participated in and contributed during **WyoGives**, the annual state-wide online giving day! Efforts toward our WyoGives goal of \$30,000 were jump-started with a matching gift challenge from the Brinton's National Advisory Council's Outreach Committee. With this challenge gift and a \$17,000 match from the Hughes Foundation, we far exceeded our goal. Proceeds from WyoGives will go towards the acquisition of Joseph Henry Sharp's *Remembering Past Deeds* painting for the Brinton Permanent Collection. This acquisition is anticipated to happen before the close of 2021, and the painting is already on display in the Tom & Katie Meredith Western Art Gallery.

In spite of all the diligent preparations of the Gala Committee, our **Annual GALA** fundraiser had to be cancelled again this year. We are all looking forward to getting back to a full-house, in-person event next year on **Friday, June 24, 2022—Please mark your calendars!**

A special thank you to Linette Sutphin who quickly put together our first-ever online auction in lieu of the in-person event! The Bighorn Rendezvous Quick Draw art and the eclectic and stunning auction donations secured by our Gala Committee generated much needed funds through the online platform. We thank all who donated these lovely auction items and congratulate the winning bidders. And last, but certainly not least, we are so grateful for the many ticket and table buyers who so very generously allowed for their purchases to be converted into donations. In spite of the in-person event cancellation we raised nearly half of the original goal of \$132,000 through your support. However, we were left with a significant gap in our fundraising goals for 2021.

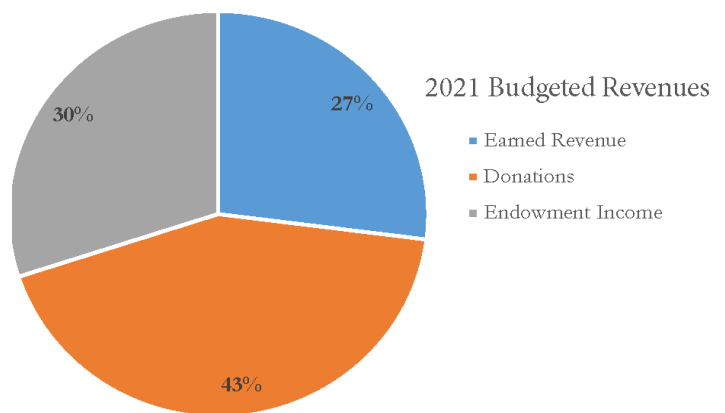
“ Did you know that it costs \$5,500 to operate The Brinton for a day? ”

Brinton Revenue Streams

The Brinton is on solid financial footing with three diversified streams of revenue supporting our approximately \$2 million annual budget. We generate resources through:

Earned Revenues

Participation in events, patronizing the Bistro and Museum Store, taking guided tours and keeping your membership current all generate revenue in support of The Brinton!



Donations

- **The Annual Fund:** Unrestricted gifts to be used for general operations and “where needed most”. The enclosed Year-End Appeal is part of Annual Giving.
- **Monthly Giving** is a new easy and secure trend in charitable giving. Set it up once online by checking the box for monthly giving, or call and we can set it up for you. Check it out!
- **Memberships:** Join our museum family, renew your support give a year of benefits today!
- **Special Projects:** Gifts can be designated and restricted by the donor. This year's projects included funding for exhibitions, programs and collections management; honorariums for presenters; funds for art acquisitions; an internship program; art conservation; and scholarships for students who would otherwise not be able to afford summer art camp tuition, to name but a few options chosen by our contributors. This category also includes all pledges and gifts made for the acquisition of the Joseph Henry Sharp painting *Remembering Past Deeds*.
- **Tributes:** Memorials and gifts to honor a special person in your life are a thoughtful way to support the museum.

- **Planned Gifts:** Bequests are a wonderful way to ensure your legacy, and we are happy to work with you to honor your wishes. Also, Donor Advised Funds and IRA Distributions are great vehicles to support the Brinton and provide you, our donors, with a tax advantage. Something to consider as you compile your list of charities you would like to support with your contributions at the end of the year!

Endowment Income

Revenue from The Brinton Museum’s Endowment Fund where money is invested to earn revenue to fund the museum’s operations. The principal value of the endowment fund is kept intact, while a percentage of the investment earnings benefits the museum.

Our Annual Year End Appeal

We invite you to take the time to peruse the enclosed envelope and consider making a gift to the Brinton today! If you have a very specific gift or memorial in mind or would like to discuss a legacy gift, please give me a call at (307) 763-5933 or drop me a line at bschuster@thebrintonmuseum.org.

Please remember the Brinton in your year-end giving and contribute to the Museum’s continued success!

Best wishes for the holidays from your CGO (Chief Gratitude Officer) Barbara Schuster



An Ohio Buckeye tree was planted in memory of Brinton employee Jake Keane. A memorial bench will be installed beside Jake’s tree. The tree and bench were made possible through donations from Jake’s family and friends.

Welcome Dawn Grote



Dawn Grote Development Officer

Dawn Grote has joined The Brinton Museum as our Development Officer, Membership & Sponsors. Dawn has been active in the business development field since the beginning of her professional career in DC where she worked for private and government entities; primarily in the field of international affairs where her enthusiasm for building relationships was critical in engaging stakeholders from across the public and private sectors to work together; and in the process, she acquired the resource development skills necessary to accommodate subsequent endeavors. She temporarily set aside her career in support of her family’s military lifestyle and raised their family in various states; ultimately (and happily) landing in Sheridan, WY. Throughout that time, she was active in many non-profits and volunteer leadership positions; heading up several education and art programs in order to be a part of and enrich her community.

Dawn has always been an avid art enthusiast and is a self-certified museum nerd. She fell in love with The Brinton on her first visit for the 2017 Bighorn Rendezvous. She has worked in the museum in a different capacity since last September; assisting in the museum store, learning the ropes, and befriending many a visiting member, artist, and guest. She looks forward to contributing to the museum’s current and future goals by supporting our new sponsorship and memberships program and expanding community engagement by sharing The Brinton’s story. Please join us in welcoming Dawn, she’s excited to meet you! You can reach out to her regarding membership and sponsorships at (307) 763-5929 or dgrote@thebrintonmuseum.org.

Recent Tribute Gifts:

**In Honor of the Mars Family and
in Memory of Forrest E. Mars, Jr.**

Bruce Garber/Century 21 BHJ Realty, Inc.

IN HONOR OF

**Jerry A. Berger
Chef Paul Bowers
Marion & Wayland Cato
Meredith H. Miller
Father Peter J. Powell
Mary & Stanley Seidler**

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Burgess
Isabel T. Wallop
Cornelia Pelzer
Ruth Miller
Anne Terry Sawyer Straus
Carol Seidler Mavrakis
and Sam Paul Mavrakis
Bill & Jane Rader

Joan Wallick

**IN MEMORY OF
Harry & Montana Berger**

Jerry A. Berger

Ann Caldwell

Ralph & Hilary Goodwin
Bill & Jane Rader

Katie Malin French

Peter & Maggie Widener

M. Hayne Hamilton

The Frist Foundation
Kenneth L. Roberts
Ken & Barbara Schuster

Torrey & Adrienne Johnson

Tempe Javitz & Harold Stanley Javitz

Jake Keane

Myron & Karen Croskey
Norma Turskey
Candy Armstrong
Pat Lynn
Jeanne Haynes
Kate Koskoris
Michele Fritz & Family
Ken & Barbara Schuster
Lou & Karen Muzi

John B. Kendrick II

Barbara Neal
Barbara Fosmire
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Manning, Jr.
Bill & Jane Rader
Ken & Barbara Schuster

Everett Raymond Kinstler

Marguerite C. Kinstler

Tim Urfer

Bob & Rosie Berger



The view from one of three memorial benches along the *Quarter Circle A Nature Trail*

Please contact Barbara Schuster if you would like to make a special gift or find out more about Legacy Giving. The Brinton Museum is able to accept stock gifts, bequests, as well as contributions from Donor Advised Funds and IRA Distributions. Please let us know if you would like to discuss including the Brinton in your plans for charitable giving. And if you have already included the Brinton in your will, **thank you!**

Human and Spiritual Designs

Guest Column by Dr. Craig Howe *Founder and Director of the Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies (CAIRNS)*

In the desert southwest there is a remarkable shadowed spiral petroglyph that is pierced through its center by a dagger-shaped slice of light on the summer solstice. In the Bighorn Mountains there are rocks arranged into a wheel-shape with a hub and radiating spokes that might align with celestial events. In the Potomac basin, our nation's capital city includes a designed system of radial streets converging at various parks and public spaces, one being the capital building. In the Black Hills, a winding scenic highway has three tunnels, each aligned to frame a distant view of Mount Rushmore.



Medicine Wheel photo courtesy of Kathy Eyre

In each of these instances, humans have shaped the environment to create an axial arrangement between two things. In the cases of the streets and highway, the things are human-made: buildings and statuary, tunnels and a colossal carving. At the Medicine Wheel, the hub and some of the radial lines of rocks supposedly point to where a star or the sun rises or sets at specific times of the year; and at the sun dagger, giant rock slabs were positioned to shade the petroglyph and create the descending dagger of sunlight at midday on the summer solstice.

Here in the northwestern plains of the United States, there is a fascinating arrangement of two things—a star constellation and a geological landmark—that is not the result of human design. In fact, there is very little evidence that humans were or are aware of it, even though it has been occurring for millennia. The constellation is Gemini and the landmark is Devils Tower.

Apparently, Lakotans recognized it, because they denote the two phenomena with the same term: Mato Tipila in their language, or Bear Lodge in English.

In Lakotan lore, Mato Tipila was created by the earth, at the request of a celestial super hero, to save the lives of seven girls. According to the traditional narrative, the playing children inadvertently strayed far from their camp and suddenly found themselves surrounded by hungry bears. As the bears closed in, the girls closed their eyes and pleaded for help. Their distant relative in the sky, Fallen Star, heard their pleas, and, acting swiftly, instructed them to huddle atop a mound; then he asked the mound to “rise up,” and it did, just as the bears arrived. The bears clawed at the rising earth, causing huge strands of rock to peel off and crush them.

Soon the girls found themselves high atop a rock pillar, safe from the bears but without a way to return to their camp. Fallen Star then asked each girl to name her favorite bird, and in moments, a flock of that bird arrived and carried her back to the camp. All the girls survived, and the people named the new landmark “Mato Tipila.”



Black Mountain Under Starry Night, photograph of Devils Tower or *Mato Tipila* by Robert Schrader

There is no recorded narrative for how the constellation commonly called Gemini was named Mato Tipila. But here is a hypothesis: at certain times the positioning of the two Mato Tipilas creates a visual composition that is culturally powerful, but that can only be seen from particular points of view.

When Mato Tipila rises from the eastern horizon in the night sky, its long axis is parallel with the horizon line. However, by the time it sets on the western horizon, it has rotated 90 degrees, and therefore its long axis is perpendicular to the horizon line. At that time, its shape and vertical orientation is remarkably similar to that of the geological Mato Tipila.

But there is more.

From certain points of view, the landmark Mato Tipila appears as a tower with symmetrically sloping sides and a flat top. From other points of view, however, the landmark looks completely different, with one long arcing side and the other shorter and more vertical, similar to a horn with its tip broken off. It is not surprising, then, that in its sacred language, the Lakotan term for Mato Tipila is Gray Horn.

Somewhere along the base of the landmark are petroglyphs and pictographs, and among them is a distinct buffalo head. Might that drawing be a clue to the mystery of the two Mato Tipilas? Perhaps. For instance, imagine that the landmark is one horn and the constellation is the other of a composition that comes into focus, at certain times and from particular points of view, as the two horns of a buffalo head that appears to be standing beneath the earth.

Such a composition of sky, earth and underworld referents would resonate with traditional Lakotan belief that their ancestors are the Pte Oyate, the Buffalo Nation, and that most of its members live in the underworld.

Admittedly, this is a speculative hypothesis. But the visual composition is testable, particularly during the fall and winter seasons when the Mato Tipila constellation sets in the western night sky. The challenge is to identify the point along an axis from which the shapes of the two Mato Tipilas appear to be the curved horns of a buffalo's head.

Do you think it is possible that the spirits spoke to Lakotans at that special place?



Henry Coffeen Elementary School students learning about the history of the Standing Bear Painted Muslin

Museum Education

As I write this, on the eve of the autumn equinox, the colors are beginning to change as is the focus of The Brinton Museum's tours and education programs. We are shifting away from the summer tourist season and focusing more on school tours. The 4th grade classes from Henry Coffeen Elementary School started out the semester with tours of the American Indian and Western Art galleries as well as the Edward Curtis exhibit of photogravures. We are looking forward to more school tours through the spring.

Between April and May, over 800 students and teachers visited the museum with end of the year tours. Our largest tour request came from the science teachers at Sheridan Junior High School. Three hundred 6th graders over the course of two days were at The Brinton. Fortunately, we had just held our volunteers & docents welcome-back-training. Twenty volunteers stepped up to help lead a total of 200 hours of tours for Sheridan County students. Activities included tours of the Forrest E. Mars, Jr. Building and the Hunt for the Horned Toads placed in various locations around the grounds. In looking back at the May 2021 calendar, I wonder at how we successfully pulled it all together after having a year of no tours due to COVID-19 protocols. We owe a huge thank you to our fantastic volunteers!

In February, we will open the museum's 2022 exhibition schedule with the *All Schools 5th Grade Art Show* and *17th Illustrator Show*. The Brinton's annual student art exhibit offers 5th graders an exciting opportunity to showcase their classroom art projects in a professional museum environment. The goals of the student art show are to increase awareness about visual arts and enable students to learn how a museum functions as a valuable resource to the community.

As the year moves on, we hope to continue expanding our outreach through teaching more about art, history, and the natural sciences. Stay tuned for more of our educational programs complementing the exhibitions, collections and land of which we are so proud to be caretakers.

Lacasa Michelena
Assistant Curator



Museum volunteer Doug Moomey discussing the Edward S. Curtis exhibit with a Sagebrush Elementary School student



Exploring the grounds while completing the *Hunt for the Horned Toad* Scavenger Hunt



Henry Coffeen Elementary School students viewing the American Indian portraits by Winold Reiss



Wild and Free Homeschool students taking a tour of the Brinton Ranch House

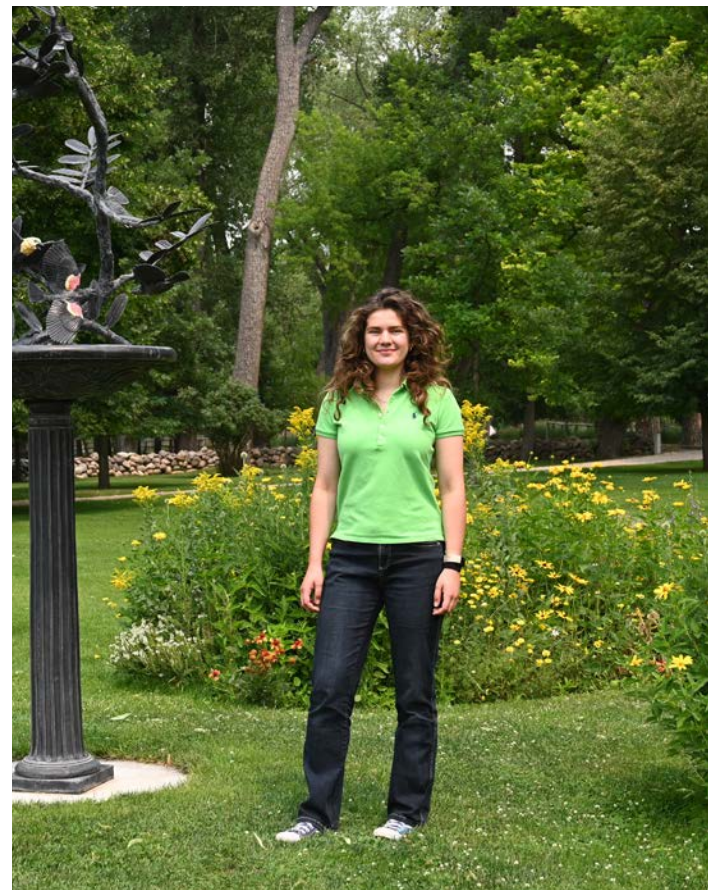
Summer Intern

Cecily Day, Art History student at Oxford University, England

I joined The Brinton Museum as an intern for two weeks in July, working mostly alongside the curatorial team. During this time, I had the opportunity to photograph the recently acquired Robert E. Bear collection, in preparation for an upcoming auction. I also assisted in photographing The Bradford Brinton Memorial Collection furniture in the Historic Brinton Ranch House for the Collections page on the museum website. During my second week, I studied the history of the house and all of its objects in order to conduct tours of the house for both local visitors and those from further afield.

In addition, I was able to study some exceptional works from the American Indian Gallery, Western Art Gallery and the temporary exhibition displaying *The Art of Robert Martinez*, in order to enhance my own understanding and interpretations of the culture and history of Big Horn and its surrounding lands.

Thank you to The Brinton Museum for this marvelous opportunity.



Cecily Day, Summer Intern

BioBlitz at The Brinton

Guest Column by Jacelyn Downey *Audubon Rockies*

Most people would agree that Wyoming is a beautiful place to live. Our state boasts some of the most iconic ecosystems and landscapes our nation has to offer and we just love to get out and explore it, don't we? Exploring outdoors in the beautiful places we live is a great way to learn about its habitats and species. That's why a dedicated team of scientists organizes and plans a BioBlitz every summer which highlights one special location each year and this year we were so excited to get a chance to shine a light on the biodiversity of The Brinton Museum grounds this July.

A BioBlitz connects community members of all ages and skill levels with scientists who survey and count as many species as possible in a given location over a 24 hour period. Whether you are a student, a teacher, a retired professional, an avid bird nerd or a new transplant to the state, there is something for everyone. At each BioBlitz, professional ecologists and natural history experts teach community members survey methods for documenting species diversity. You can learn what habitats to look in, where to look within those habitats, and how to identify different species.

This year, we had biologists from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department teaching participants about the fish in Little Goose Creek, Science Kids instructors exploring macroinvertebrates, moths and birds, UW Biodiversity Institute scientists surveying plants and bats, UW Extension experts highlighting grasses and invasive weeds, UW researchers leading surveys on insects, herps, reptiles, amphibians and mammals, a Sheridan College professor and a local botanist exploring the shrubs and trees along Little Goose Creek, Audubon folks leading bird surveys and demonstrating mist

netting, and we even had a fabulous evening sky survey with Wyoming Stargazing. As a result of all our exploring, we documented well over 200 species including 59 birds, 3 reptiles, 1 amphibian, 4 fish, 66 plant species, 9 mammals, 70+ insects and arachnids, a few mollusks, a planarian, and a worm. More than that, we had a great time. As one participant said "It was an absolute blast! [We] loved every minute of it!" In addition to the biological surveys, there were several pre-BioBlitz workshops. Two youth and family centered workshops were offered from Teton Science School and Science Kids educators. For the adults, UW researchers led an insect workshop while botanists from the Rocky Mountain Herbarium led a botany workshop. Then we kicked off the BioBlitz with a journaling workshop led by Rosie Ratigan and ended the weekend with an educator workshop led by



Bull snake!



Learning about the fish in Little Goose Creek with biologists from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Wyoming State Forestry and Project Learning Tree. There were multiple moments of inspiration when Wayne Hubert, a retired USGS/Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Researcher at the University of Wyoming, gave the keynote address and Linwood Tallbull, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, spoke about traditional knowledge and uses of native plants.

For a property like The Brinton Museum, a BioBlitz gives up to date information on what lives on the grounds and where they are found. This information is invaluable for making management plans. By knowing where invasive species have spread to, or which locations rare species inhabit, managers can better plan specific restoration and protection projects to improve the landscape. To that end, this year's BioBlitz participants helped with a tree planting along the



Ethnobotany with Linwood Tallbull

creek to improve habitat. By investing in important habitats like those at the Brinton, we also invest in the community, and community members. Our hope is that we inspire BioBlitz participants to continue learning and engaging in scientific activities year-round at places like the Brinton.

As a follow up to the Brinton Museum BioBlitz, we also organized a virtual BioBlitz where people participated by submitting observations of wild organisms from anywhere in Wyoming using iNaturalist. This year, 170 people recorded over 1,000 observations of 514 species over the four-day period. Wow!



Measuring the Wyoming State Champion American Linden tree in a workshop led by Wyoming State Forestry and Project Learning Tree



Science Kids Executive Director Julie Reider, Ph.D. and her daughter Eloise Newbold release an American Redstart after mist netting



Surveying Quarter Circle A Ranch ponds and wetlands

I am so thankful for all of the organizers, survey leaders, volunteers, and participants that made this event possible but most off all, I am thankful to the wonderful Brinton staff. Those of you who visit often know that they are an amazing and hardworking team dedicated to honoring the dreams of not only the Brinton family but everyone who has ever called the Bighorns home. If you haven't yet walked along the Quarter Circle A Ranch trail, I encourage you to do so at your earliest opportunity. Take your phone or camera to capture images of the plants and animals you see then use iNaturalist to help you identify and document your observations. It is a great way to participate in a community science project on your own time in one of Wyoming's beautiful and special places.

Jacelyn Downey
Audubon Rockies



The
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Museum

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In the upcoming year, The Brinton plans on sending out more mailings to keep you up-to-date on our exhibits and events. We also send out periodic emails, both to keep you informed and to extend special offers to our members. Our website is always current with what's going on at the Quarter Circle A Ranch.

- Visit our website: TheBrintonMuseum.org
- Make sure you are subscribed to our email list (click on the “newspaper” icon at the top of our website).
- Follow us on Facebook (@TheBrinton, @BrintonBistro)
- Make sure we have your current mailing address! Our system allows multiple addresses, so if you spend part of the year at another address, let us know and we can make sure you get your Brinton mail.