

Painter R. Tom Gilleon captivates attendees of the Alliance's Art of Conservation event at Altamira Fine Art in March.

The gala evening also kicked off the Alliance's Arts Ambassadors program to further our mission of keeping Jackson Hole wild and beautiful.



Courtesy Altamira Fine Art

Art of Conservation shines

Home to the breathtaking Tetons and our nation's most cherished wildlife, Jackson Hole teems with a conservation ethic and has become a draw for world-class painters, photographers and sculptors. The valley's irreplaceable natural characteristics have thus created a unique marriage between art and conservation.

This special connection was demonstrated in March at The Art of Conservation, hosted by Altamira Fine Art. The fundraising event featured six premier conservation artists, each of whom demonstrated their talents in person and generously donated art, raising some \$19,000 for the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance and conservation stewardship in the valley.

The attending artists included landscape and historical painter R. Tom Gilleon, plein-air impressionist Louisa McElwain, expressionist Marshall Noice, wildlife and landscape artist Mary Roberson, tonalist and landscape painter Jared Sanders, and renowned sculptor Greg Woodard.

Altamira director Mark Tarrant said the gallery was honored to host the first Art of Conservation and to build awareness of conservation ideals. Volunteer organizer Dave Muskat and local businesses also contributed to the event, including Bistro Catering, Great Harvest Bread Company, Teton Chocolat, Wild Flour Bakery, and Porcupine Green House and Nursery.

Welcome, Arts Ambassadors!

The natural partnership of conservation and art in Jackson Hole was further represented that evening, as the Alliance announced three inaugural Alliance Arts Ambassadors, whose world-class artistic expertise, insight and conservation leadership express values the Alliance works to protect.

The Arts Ambassadors are renowned wildlife photographer Thomas D. Mangelsen, artist Mary Roberson and world-champion sculptor Greg Woodard. These and future ambassadors will represent a diverse range of artistic mediums and will provide insight and support to further the Alliance's mission to keep the valley wild and beautiful.

Roberson, whose work captures the spirit of the West and hangs in the National Museum of Wildlife Art and Grand Teton National Park Visitor Center, said she was excited to have the opportunity to give back to the wildlife and the land that has inspired her and offered her a sense of peace. When Roberson started painting wildlife, she promised herself that with every painting sold, she would give back to causes involving wildlife and children.

"It's really important to me," Roberson said. "Without the wildlife, without nature, I wouldn't be an artist. I wouldn't wake up smiling."

The Alliance board and staff thanks Altamira Fine Art for its support of conservation in the valley and praises the artists for their passion for Jackson Hole's wildlife and scenic wonders, and for their desire to protect and preserve their sources of inspiration.

"No matter what your walk of life is in Jackson Hole – artist, business owner, environmentalist – we're all bound by a common thread, and that's our love of the wildlife and lands around us," the Alliance's Cindy Harger said. "The artists who participated in the Art of Conservation and who have become Alliance Arts Ambassadors inspire people to protect what we love every single day through their awe-inspiring talents." ■

SUMMER 2011 EVENTS

For our annual Rendezvous Series, the Alliance is hosting tons of fun, educational field trips, forums and gatherings this summer. Below is a partial list; for details, please visit www.jhalliance.org/events.htm, give us a call at (307) 733-9417 or email outreach@jhalliance.org.

Wednesday, June 15

Info Lunch on the Comprehensive Plan
(See Page 9 for details.)

Thursday, June 23

Field trip in the heart of the Gros Ventre with the Alliance's Louise Lasley and Lloyd Dorsey of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Tuesday, July 5

Skyline Trail issue hike with Alliance Executive Director Trevor Stevenson

Thursday, July 14

Field trip to the U.S. Forest Service Lee Administrative Site near Trail Creek Ranch
(See Page 12.)

Wednesday, July 20

Info Lunch on Shoshone Wilderness issues with Sara Domek of the Wyoming Wilderness Association

Thursday, July 21

Bird watching and potluck at the Bert Raynes Bird Walk with Susan Marsh

Friday, July 29

Partnering work day in the Gros Ventre with the U.S. Forest Service

Saturday, August 6

Hike with Trevor Stevenson – in Spanish!

Tuesday to Thursday, August 9, 10 and 11

Annual Addie's Benefit Boutique
(See Page 23.)

Wednesday, August 17

Info Lunch on water quality in Teton County with Dan Leemon of the Teton Conservation District

Sunday, August 28

Boat trip at Oxbow Bend with Taylor Phillips of EcoTour Adventures

Thursday, September 1

Wetland ecology and beaver biology field trip to the Ditch Creek area

Tuesday, September 13

Evening forum on bighorn sheep

Date to be determined

Picnic Supper under the Tetons ■