

President's Letter

Beverly Perkins

"I have wandered over a good part of the Territories and have seen much of the varied scenery of the Far West, but that of the Yellowstone retains its hold upon my imagination with a vividness as of yesterday..."

Thomas Moran

Drawn to Yellowstone: Artists in America's First National Park will be on exhibit during the annual WAAC meeting at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center on August 27 – 29.

Seemingly a place apart from civilization, Yellowstone's exotic appeal has lured generations of artist and by the 1890s was known as "the Nation's Art Gallery." Peter Hassrick, former Director of the BBHC and organizer of the Yellowstone exhibition will be the opening speaker for the WAAC conference.

Many interesting speakers and talks have been proposed for the conference. Glenn Wharton and Curator Sarah Boehme will be presenting their work on the wax sculpture models of Charles Russell. William Adair will be presenting his work on the frames of Charles Russell. John Kjelland will present a treatment of a 1906 Mill's Verbal Fortune Teller. And many more fascinating talks are in the works.

Presenting a talk – There is still plenty of time to contact us with your idea for a talk or poster. We have only begun to collect presenter information. Please contact: Beverly Perkins, WAAC President, at 951-698-1520 or Perkinsb@comcast.net. Speakers will be contacted for bios and abstracts.

Travel to Cody is easier than it might seem (comparable to getting to Sante Fe). Yellowstone Regional Airport is located just two minutes from downtown Cody and 52 miles from the east gate of Yellowstone National Park. Cody is served by Delta and United commuter connections. Billings, Montana is the closest airport that accommodates full-sized jets and is only a beautiful two hour drive from Cody. Rental cars are available at the Billings and Cody airports. See page 2 for information on shuttles and taxis.

Recent airfares seem to run around \$275 to \$325 from California, Colorado, or Utah to Billings or Cody. Once in Cody the going is pretty cheap. We were amazed to find that dinner for five was about the same price as dinner for one in New York.

Accommodation in Cody varies a great deal. Information on all sorts of motels and camp sites can be found at www.codywyomingnet.com and www.codychamber.org. Cody is extremely popular in the summer so consider booking space soon. See pages 2 and 3 for suggestions.

Silent Auction – Robert Gamblin has donated a set of Conservation Colors to the auction (the chance to bid on this set of paints is a good reason to attend the meeting). Please consider bringing an auction item to the meeting. It doesn't have to be expensive or new, just interesting and desirable. If you prefer to mail an item please send it to: Sarah Boehme, Curator, Whitney Gallery of Western Art, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, 720 Sheridan Ave., Cody, WY 82414. No chemicals please. The auction proceeds will create a fund for the maintenance of the outdoor sculpture being collected by the BBHC.

Activities abound for children, shoppers, hikers, bikers, and all the rest. The opening night reception will be held at the beautiful Simpson Gallagher Art Gallery in town. The "banquet" will be held outdoors at the Pow Wow Grounds and includes western swing dance lessons. It is your choice; enjoy dancing or enjoy watching.

I was always looking forward to being in Wyoming with WAAC members. The town of Cody, the museum, Simpson Gallagher Art Gallery, and the outdoor banquet with dance lessons just sound like too much fun. Now with prospective talks and speakers coming forward, I am really looking forward to the conference itself. We hope you will join us in Cody this August.

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