



2024 National Outdoor Ethics & Conservation Conference

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Wildlife Conservation Lessons & Legacy

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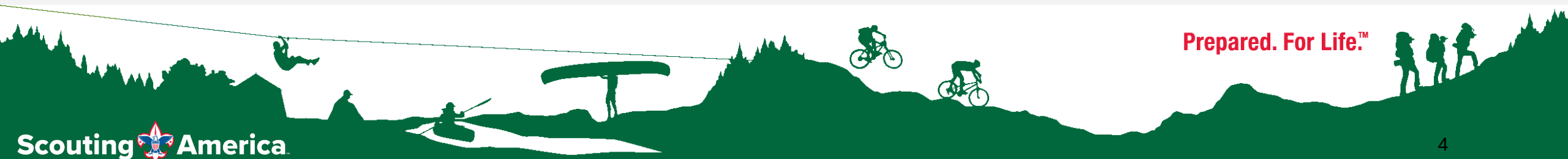


Outline

- Learning and Epiphany
- A Brief Historical Note about Wildlife Conservation and Ethics
- Seton's Conservation Activities
- Legacy
- Connecting with Heritage
- Personal Sanctuary



Learning and Epiphany



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Early Learning Moments



Fowl Folly

The smell of blood often reminded him of Harry.



Crow Calamity

Vow to never pin his affections on a wild animal.



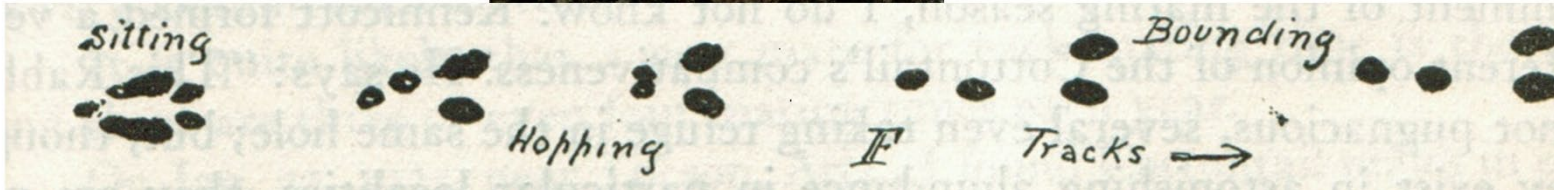
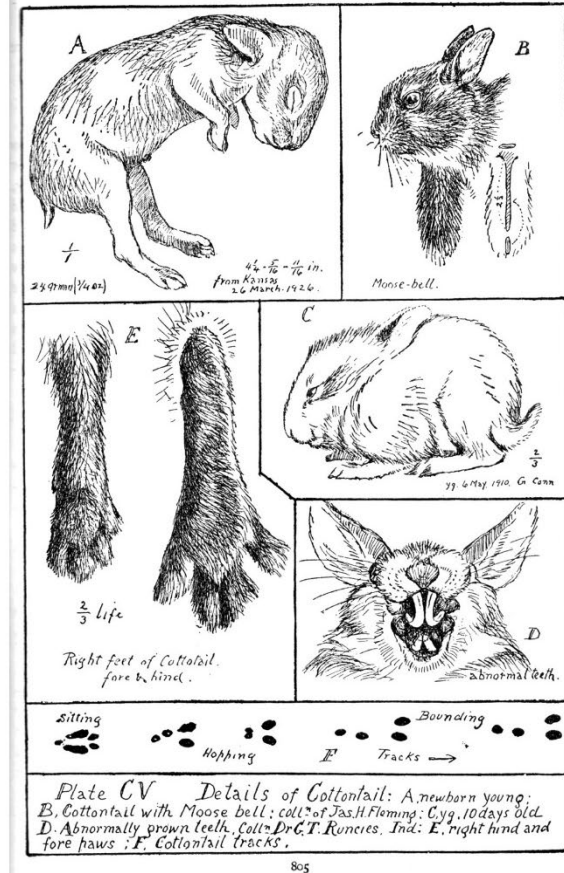
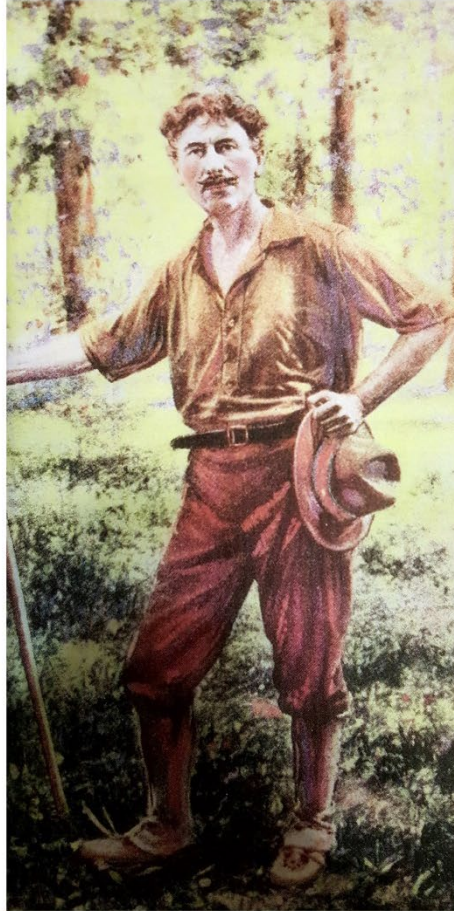
Glenyan – ETS's handmade cabin



Sharpshin Hawk – first oil painting
1876



Self-taught Naturalist





Ridgeway Critique of ETS Bird Drawings

Amateurish and adolescent



Dance of the Baby Grouse
Summer 1883



Pigeon Falcon
Nov. 1881



Wolf Hunt, Currumpaw Valley, New Mexico



Blanca in traps January 25, 1894



Lobo in traps, January 31, 1894

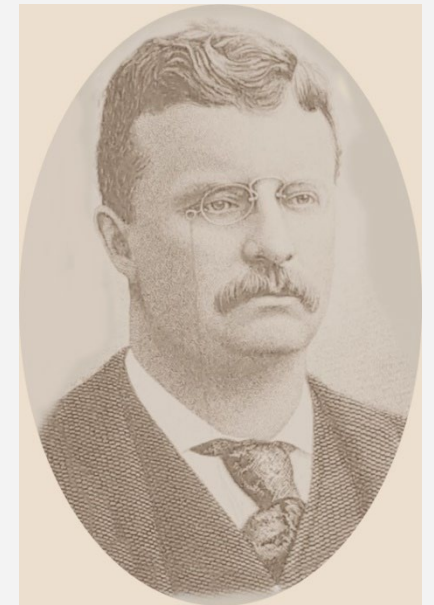
Why? It's not right to destroy animals just because they interfere with human progress.



Nature Faker Accusation

Atlantic Monthly (1903) John Burroughs attack

- “Sham Naturalists” – Seton, Roberts, Long
- “Liars and frauds”
- Anthropomorphic depictions - unacceptable
- “Nature Faker” - Theodore Roosevelt’s phrase





Conservation and Ethics

A Brief Historical Note about the late 19th & early 20th Centuries

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Seton's Conservation Work with Organizations

- *Recreation Magazine* (1897) Large animal population studies in Yellowstone
- President T. Roosevelt asked him to help negotiations about game reserves along the US-Canadian border. (close friends with Canadian's Governor General Lord Grey and with the "position" as Naturalist of Manitoba)
- American Bison Society charter member. Its mission to save the American Bison from extinction and create permanent bison reserves
- Camp Fire Club of America - charter member, president, Gold medal recipient. With Hornaday, created the Conservation Committee



CFC Accomplishments 1910-1912

- Pribilof Island fur seal closed season for 5 years (1912)
- Against the bill permitting the sale of wild bird plumage in NY
- Against a bill authorizing the spring shooting of ducks on Long Island
- Secured a \$20,000 appropriation for the elk in Wyoming
- Expanded the Alberta game preserve
- Codified the game laws of NY State
- Pushed for the passing of the Bayne-Blauvelt bill prohibiting all sale of wild game in the State of NY
 - “the greatest protective legislation ever enacted.”

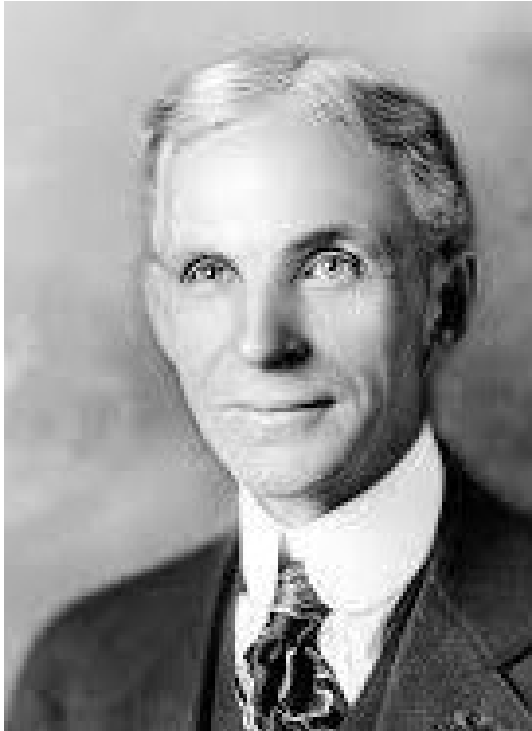


Seton's Conservation Activities as a Writer and Educator

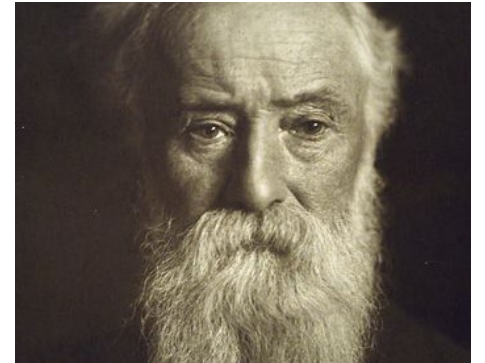
- Wrote wildly popular animal stories that described animal social structure and emotion – changing the way society viewed animals
- Lectured extensively about wildlife conservation and preservation
- *Lives of Game Animals* -4 Volume set describing the hunted mammals in North America His *magnum opus*.
- Established the Woodcraft Indians to give youth out-of-doors opportunities to instill in them respect and curiosity about animals, campcraft, and nature.
- Used Woodcraft base to co-found Scouting America in 1910.



Henry Ford and Bird Conservation



- Ford requested that Seton and Burroughs to go to Washington lobby Senators to vote in favor of the Weeks-McLean Bird Bill.
- Instructed 600 car dealers to pressure their congressmen to support the bill.
- The bill passed in 1913.





Proposing the Small Bird Sanctuary

FOR THE BIRDS

- Built near or in town
- Area that is poacher-proof, catproof, dogproof, and rat proof
- A pond with running water
- Feeding stands
- Bushes and trees
- Nesting places
- Bird boxes

FOR THE PEOPLE

- Hiding places for observers
- Comfortable home for the guardian
- Accessible to children and youth

REWARDS:

- A natural increase in birds and in bird species.
- Children and youth take on the role of unofficial guardians.
- They can help build more bird boxes.
- Youth take ownership and will work to take care of it.



Legacy

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Legacy - Quotes

- It is something to do, something to think about, something to enjoy in the woods, with a view always to character-building, for {maturity} not scholarship, is the first aim of education.
- We and the beasts are kin.
- Each of our native wild creatures is in itself a precious heritage that we have no right to destroy or put beyond the reach of our children.
- It is not enough to take [people] out-of-doors. **We must also teach them to enjoy it.**



Influence on Youth -- Internationally





My Favorite Seton Story is...





Legacy - Woodcraft Principles



1. Recreation
2. Camp Life
3. Self-governance
4. Magic of the Campfire
5. Learning woodcraft (outdoor) skills
6. Honors by Standards
7. Personal Decoration for Personal Achievement
8. A Heroic Ideal
9. Picturesqueness in Everything

Outdoors, Inexpensive, Available To Everyone, Simple, Respectful

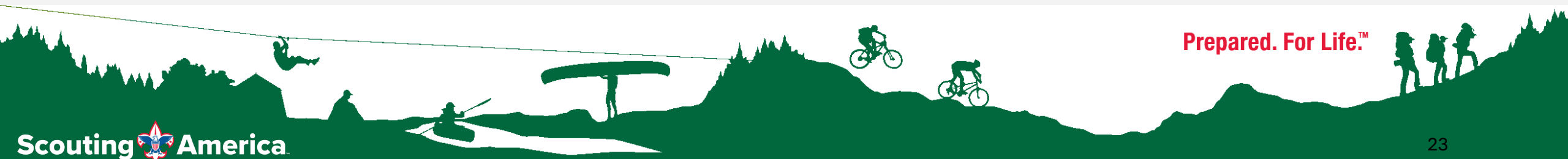


Legacy –Actions for a Good Life

- Keep a daily journal of interests
- Build and place bird boxes
- Plant trees
- Disseminate wildflowers
- Be honest and trustworthy
- Be helpful, courteous, and kind
- Obey parents and leaders
- Be a good friend to nature
- Play fair
- Be reverent
- Take only natural resources you need
- Be brave
- Keep yourself and environment clean
- Be joyful!



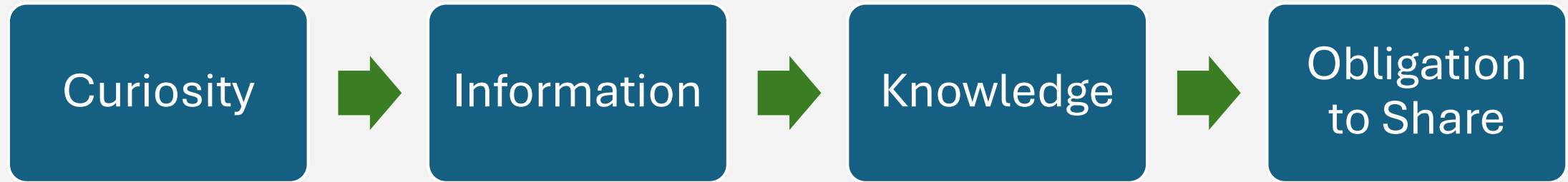
Connecting with Heritage



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My “Scouting Origin Story”



- Skepticism and osmosis
- Doctoral obedience
- Nature writing as social action
- Creating safe space for wildlife
- Joyful reintroductions
- Accepting my family role (and loving it)



Kosi Potok, Czech Republic July 2014





Diving into Scouting

- NAM : 2015, 2016
- NOAC 2015, 2024
- Universities of Scouting: Yucca, Greater Alabama, Baltimore, National Capital Area, Great Southwest, Ten Rivers
- Camps: Kinnis (LA), Delator (Longs Peak), Camp Tahosa (Denver), E T Seton (Greenwich), Rodney & Saffran (Baltimore), Snyder (WDC), Tyler Francis & Dale Resler (Yucca), Alpine (NY), Philmont (NM)
- Keynote addresses, Conference presenter, etc...2014 - present



Neighborhood Watch





Growing Buck

May 2020



Sept 2024





Unintended Dinner Guests



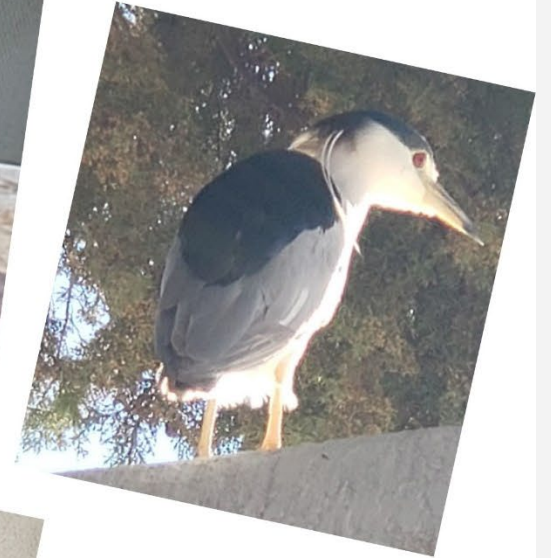


Flying the Coop





Yard Wildlife





Building My Legacy

Making Seton's work visible to new generations by...

- Giving talks on early Scouting history, Seton's life, etc.,
- Presenting bow-drill fire-making techniques workshops
- Personal letters to new Eagle Scouts for them to put in their Eagle packets
- Funding a to-be-announced Scouting history recognition medal
- Exec. producer on feature film of Seton and Lobo
- Writing "Tracks along the Trail of an Artist Naturalist"
- Compiling Artwork catalogue of Seton's 65 years of journals in cooperation with the American Museum of Natural History
- Managing the non-profit Ernest Thompson Seton Institute

Ernest Thompson Seton Institute



Preserving and Building on Seton's Ideals...
Inspiring Curiosity and Respect for Nature and Humanity





Dan Flores - *Wild New World*

- “...our disruption of ecologies around the world isn’t just threatening wildlife extinctions. It’s posing an existential threat to our own species.”
- “It is in our enlightened self-interest to act, armed with the knowledge of what has happened to wildlife in the past, and resolve to learn what we can do to save it, and ourselves, in the future.”



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Questions?



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Face Book pages:

- Seton Family Activities
- Reading Seton Books



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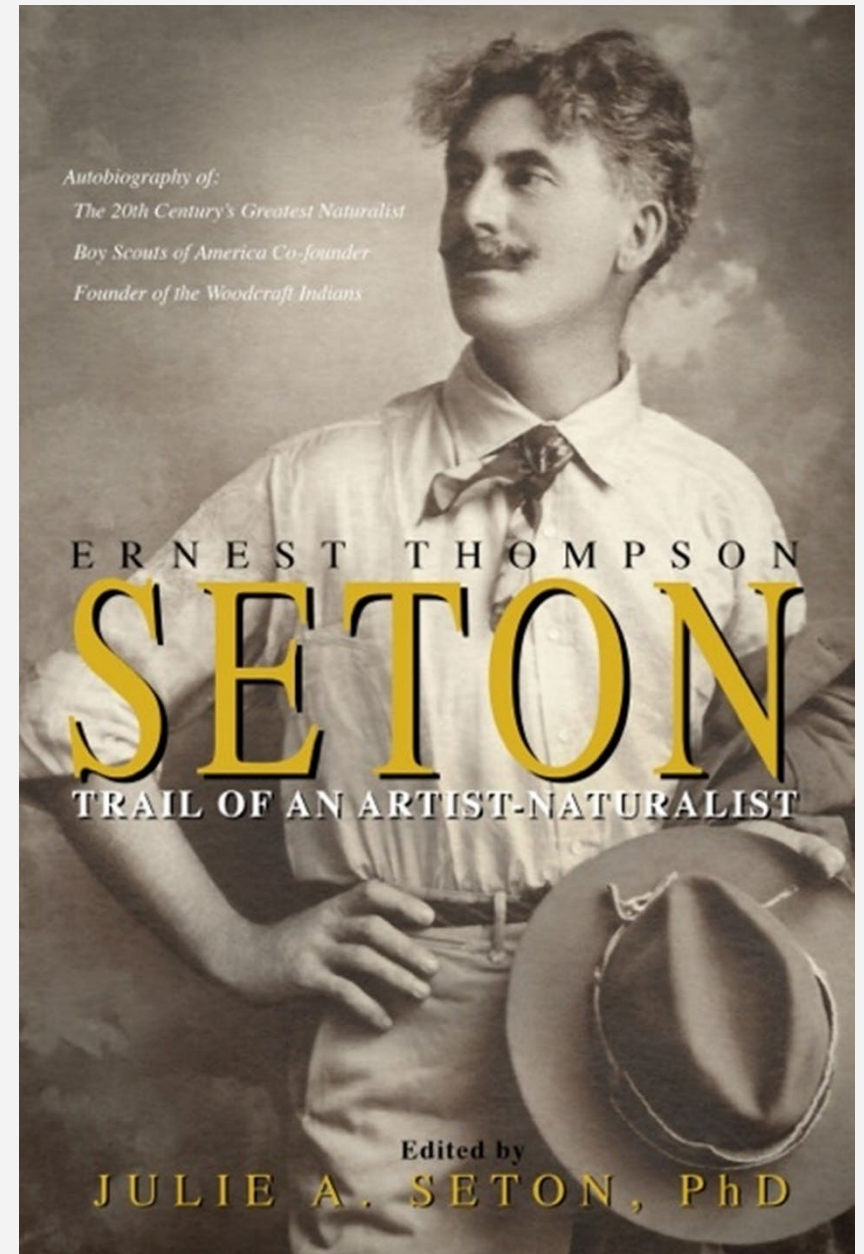
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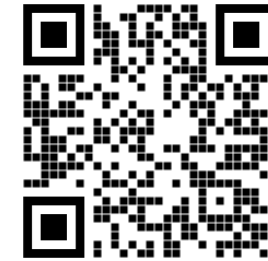


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Questions? Contact us at info@etsetoninstitute.org

What We Do:

- Collect oral histories from those influenced by Seton's work, click [here](#) for sample.
- Provide information on where to find Seton collections.
- Provide research support to those interested in Seton works.
- Give in-person and remote presentations on Seton's philosophies on Indigenous cultures, nature conservation, character building, and more.
- Digitize and archive Seton family historical documents.
- Collaborate with Woodcraft/Woodcraft-like organizations worldwide.
- Collaborate with organizations with outdoor youth programs.

The Ernest Thompson Seton Institute is recognized by the US IRS as a
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