

## National Elk Refuge News

*Plein Air Painters Capture Refuge Landscapes – September 9, 2015*



While history is the general interpretive theme at the National Elk Refuge's historic Miller House, the focus was on art yesterday when over 20 artists descended on the property to interpret the site through painting.

The Refuge hosted members of the Teton Plein Air Painters on Tuesday, welcoming them to use the historic site as artistic inspiration and share their talent with others. The artists met early in the morning, selected their various locations, and were set up by the time the Miller House opened to the public at 10:00 AM. Visitors to the site could not only learn about Refuge history but see it interpreted through the eyes of various artists.

While some of the painters incorporated the historic buildings

into their art work, others captured the stunning landscape surrounding the Miller Ranch like Miller Butte, nearby ponds,

forested hillsides, and the distant Teton Range.

The Teton Plein Air Painters have



used the backdrop of the National Elk Refuge on several occasions and shared some of their work in a special exhibit last fall at the Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center. As the artists work, visitors are encouraged to wander the grounds and talk with each of the artists.

Bobbi Miller, who organizes the Teton Plein Air Painter's weekly outings throughout the summer, was grateful for the experience. Though she's no relative of the family who homesteaded here, Miller described the uniqueness of this week's location and was delighted with the season's record participation. "We don't often paint at historic sites like this one," she explained. "It was a notable setting, and all our artists were caught up in the beauty of the

Refuge," she said. The artists, as well as the guests interested in visiting with them, were granted temporary access to areas generally closed to public use.

"The weather couldn't have been better for their outing," described Refuge volunteer Jim Crabb, who works at the Miller House three days per week. "Our guests on Tuesday had an incredible opportunity to look through someone else's eyes as the artists interpreted the landscape with the tools of their trade." Visitors were treated to a variety of painting styles and mediums.

The event coincided with Jackson's Fall Arts Festival, which begins today and runs through September 20.

