

Bangor Arts Council Edwin T. Foster Trophy Collection

Southwestern Michigan residents can experience an up close and personal encounter with some of the worlds most exotic animals!

Ever wonder what it would be like to come eye to eye with an African lion? How about shaking hands (paws) with a 10-foot brown bear? Or, maybe you would prefer conversing with a Kudu. Anything is possible when you visit the Edwin T. Foster Jr. Trophy Collection.

The collection, a generous donation by Joanne Foster, Ed's wife, has found a temporary home at the historic and newly renovated Bangor Train depot, located in the City's downtown. The collection is provided by the Bangor Arts Council and is showcased thanks to Ken Ratzlaff, owner and proprietor of Beacon Specialized Living Services. The collection can be viewed at 555 Railroad Street, downtown Bangor, Michigan. The collection is open to the public.

The late Mr. Foster, a South Haven resident and former CEO of DuWell Products Corporation in Bangor, was an avid conservationist and sportsman. A hunter throughout his life, he was as passionate about protecting endangered species as he was about his sport; a sport that took him to five of the earth's seven continents. He also believed strongly that it was imperative for humans to learn about animals that share the earth and requested that his collection be used for that purpose after his death.

"My father always hunted with indigenous peoples," Judy Pearson, Mr. Foster's daughter says. "He was interested in the trophy, but always made sure that every bit of the animal was used. This included the meat, the skin, and in some cases, even the bones and hooves. And meeting the locals was as much a part of the experience for Dad as was the hunt itself."

Following the grand re-opening of the Bangor Station and Depot building, May 6, 2005, at 8:30 a.m., the public is invited to tour the building and this incredible display of animals. The exhibit will then be open Mondays through Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with special showings by appointment.

Photos of some of the collection follows:

