

Fall 2006

News about artist David N. Kitler

Greetings

What a year!

Warm greetings from Calgary! What a year we have had since our last newsletter. Some of the most exciting events are outlined in the next few sections. But for an up-to-date look at David's latest news and schedule of appearances, visit his web site at www.davidkitler.com. We hope to see you or hear from you again soon! //



Harpy Eagle and Chick

WNAG Flag Expedition

Studying the powerful Harpy Eagle

As some of you already know, in August 2005 David had the honour of receiving the first-ever grant from the Worldwide Nature Artists' Group (WNAG) Flag Expedition Program.

As a result, last December David spent a month in the jungles of Panama, observing and gathering reference material for the portrayal of the **Harpy Eagle** and its habitat. The resulting artwork, as well as the publicity generated by the Expedition, will be used to support conservation efforts to restore the Harpy Eagle to its historical ranges, while helping to educate the public on the key role this species plays in the maintenance of a healthy ecosystem.

Why Harpy Eagles?

The most powerful bird of prey in the

Voice for the Wild

world, the Harpy Eagle once ranged from Mexico to Argentina, but has disappeared almost entirely. Because Harpy Eagles have the largest home ranges (a pair needs 30 sq. km of forest to survive), when we protect the Harpy Eagle we are in fact protecting large areas of rainforest, along with all other species that live in them. Supporting the conservation of Harpy Eagles is, in fact, akin to supporting biodiversity and a strong ecosystem.

The Expedition

Although Panama has the highest concentration of Harpy Eagles in Central America, their numbers are still low. And the few Harpy Eagles left in the wild range over a wide territory, which makes them extremely hard to find.

David had hoped to increase his chances of observing and documenting the movements of a Harpy Eagle in its natural habitat by visiting a few known nesting sites. However, even the more "accessible" sites are located in remote areas of the rainforest.

What an exhilarating experience it turned out to be! Upon arrival David and his wife, Ly, received the good news of a "possible" active nest. So, accompanied by a local guide (Guido Berguido from Advantage Tours Panama, <http://www.advantagepanama.com>), they set out into Panama's Darien jungle to the Embera native village of **Llano Bonito** (meaning beautiful plain). The potentially active nest was within a half-hour's hike of the village.

Getting there was an adventure in



David working near Harpy Eagle nest site

itself, as means of transportation got progressively more rustic: first, a two-hour ride on a 20-seater plane; then, a ride up the Mogue river in a small motorized boat; moving the supplies to a dugout canoe and, finally, 5 hours on foot (think stairmaster in the sauna) and on small horses that were tasked with delivering the Kitlers, their guide, and all of their food and supplies to the village.

It turned out to be well worth the effort and a dream come true. David was able to spend ten days sitting under or at eye-level with the nest, observing the interaction of a mother Harpy Eagle and her 3-month old chick. David returned with more than enough pictures, sketches, and memories to last a lifetime.

The Natives

The Kitlers had the privilege to be the



David, Ly and the villagers of Llano Bonito



Kitler's "home" during their stay in Llano Bonito

first ever "outsiders" to stay at the Emberá village of Llano Bonito. The Emberá are one of seven native tribes that still inhabit Panama. They live in the same manner as their ancestors did for hundreds of years, in thatched-roof open-sided huts, making a living from subsistence agriculture (plantains, corn, rice, etc.), as well as hunting and fishing. When asked about their needs, the only concern brought up related to the **children**, who they speak of as "their future". We promised we would try to help.

In nature, everything is dependent on something else for survival: insects, fish, birds, mammals, plants. As humans, we also depend on each other and, moreover, nature's survival depends on all of us working together. When we help the natives, it helps them to continue protecting the forest. Please check out the enclosed document to find out how to be a part of this effort.

Publicity

Coverage for David's WNAG Flag Expedition has been amazing. He has already given two **CBC Radio** interviews, his Flag Expedition Journal was included in *American Artist* magazine, and he has made several presentations and slide shows. More recently, David has been invited to speak at the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology**, as part of their Fall semester Monday Night Seminar series. See the "Following David's Tracks" column for details.

About the WNAG Flag Program

The objective of the program is to make possible the field study and artistic rendering of endangered species or habitats deserving of greater public attention, with strong emphasis on the study of unique and threatened habitats and rare or endangered species in remote parts of the world. For more information on the Flag Program and on David's adventure, including excerpts from his **journal** and **photographs**, visit the Expedition web site at www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions/. For more information on the WNAG, visit www.natureartists.com. //

Brazil Expedition

Kitlers lead successful trip to Brazil



Iguassu Falls



Jaburu - Symbol of the Pantanal

David and Ly led a 2-week expedition to Brazil, where participants had the chance to experience some of the most spectacular settings on the continent. Some of the most exciting items in the itinerary included a visit to Iguassu Falls and the largest remaining area of sub-tropical forest that surrounds the falls, staying at a lodge in the Amazon jungle, nighttime alligator spotting, swimming with wild pink dolphins in the Amazon, and a safari into the Pantanal, the largest continental wetland on Earth.

The itinerary was designed to introduce visitors to a few of this vast country's highlights, giving them a taste of its diversity and natural beauty. The weather could not have been more perfect, the food was wonderful, and the group seemed to have truly enjoyed themselves. Some of the comments overheard during the trip included: "this, right here, is the most beautiful thing I have ever seen;"



Group entering the Pantanal

Following David's Tracks



August 5 - September 10, 2006

Artists for the New Century

Bennington Center for the Arts
Bennington, VT

For additional information:
(802) 442-7158
www.benningtoncenterforthearts.com



September 16, 2006

**Arts for the Parks
20th Annual Awards
Banquet and Ceremony**

Jackson Lake Lodge
Grand Teton National Park, WY

For additional information:
1-800-553-2787
www.artsfortheparks.com



September 29 - October 1, 2006

Wildlife in Acrylics Workshop

Arts Desire
Vancouver, WA

For additional information:
(360) 693-0028
www.bevelar.com



October 3 - 5, 2006

Wildlife in Acrylics Workshop

Fort Worden State Park
Port Townsend, WA

For additional information:
(360) 385-6534
www.fortworden.org/wildart/

and "it has been the trip of a lifetime."

If you are interested in joining David and Ly next time they visit Brazil, call them or drop them a line (see the "How to Contact Us" box) and they will keep you posted on their future plans. //

In the Studio

Originals and Reproductions

Originals

David has a number of new originals on the go, most of them inspired by his WNAG Expedition to study the Harpy Eagle, and by his recent trip to Brazil. Watch for them soon!

Reproductions

Only 50 Artist Proofs of David's "Rocky Mountain Eye II" piece are now available. The image was the Ducks Unlimited Alberta 2005 Artist of the Year selection.

Art Cards

We are in the process of making four new images available as art cards. In the future, these images might also be available as plaques.

As usual, the most up-to-date information on David's originals, reproductions, and other merchandise can be found on his web site at www.davidkitler.com. //



Wren on Cattail

In the Classroom

Art Classes, Workshops, and Videos

Instructional Videos

If you have always wanted to give drawing and painting a try, or would like to further develop your technique, you will soon have a few more options. David will be working with Creative Catalyst Productions (www.ccpvideos.com) to develop a series of **instructional videos and DVDs**. The first two will probably focus on drawing and acrylic techniques. Keep checking the CCP's and/or David's website for the release dates.

Weekly Art Classes

If you are interested in classes in the Calgary area, David continues to teach weekly art classes at Jon Williams Studio. Classes are open to students of all skill levels, working on any subject or medium. For information, check David's web site or give him a call.

Workshops

David also continues to teach a number of wildlife in acrylic workshops, which are open to artists of all skill levels. While working on a wildlife subject of your choice, David will review drawing and painting basics, and teach techniques that are specific to acrylics. Learning is further facilitated by live demonstrations and slide shows.

Check the "Following David's Tracks" column or David's web site for dates and locations of upcoming workshops, or let us know if you would like him to teach a workshop in your area. //

Highlights

Awards & Recognition

First Place - CCP Fall Online Art Show

David was honoured to hear that his "Lemur Miniature" piece was



Lemur Miniature

Following David's Tracks



October 7 - 8, 2006

2nd Wildlife and Nature Art Expo

Fort Worden State Park
Port Townsend, WA

For additional information:
(360) 344-4400
www.fortworden.org/wildart/

November 6, 2006

Cornell Lab of Ornithology Monday Night Seminar Series

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
Ithaca, NY

For additional information:
www.birds.cornell.edu

February 15-18, 2007

25th Southeastern Wildlife Exposition

Charleston Place
Charleston, SC

For additional information:
(843) 723-1748
www.sewe.com



Rocky Mountain Eye II

How to Contact Us



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E-mail: info@davidkitler.com
Web: www.davidkitler.com

Publisher and distributor of original paintings and reproductions by artist David N. Kitler

chosen by artist-juror Susan Bourdet as the First Place winner in the Creative Catalyst Productions online Fall Art Show. The theme of this show was animals, both wild and domestic.

Wildlife Art - Jan/Feb 2006

Wildlife Art's magazine Conservation issue included an article featuring



Point Guard

David's work and his activities in support of the environment, including the WNAG Flag Expedition.

If you do not subscribe to the magazine and did not read the article but would like to do so, you should be able to purchase past issues directly from the publisher. Check the magazine's website at www.wildlifeartmag.com for more information.

Artist's Magazine

Whether or not you subscribe to the *Artist's Magazine*, make sure to get your hands on the December 2006 issue. In that issue, they will be publishing the

results of the magazine's Annual Art Competition.

Watch for the results in the Animal Art category, for which the magazine received almost 1,400 entries, including two by David. //

Shows and Exhibitions

Where you can go to see David's work

Artists for the New Century

David was honoured to receive a special invitation to participate in the **Artists for the New Century** exhibition at the Bennington Center for the Arts in Vermont.

David was recommended by the editors of *Wildlife Art* for this exhibition, which would feature "an important group of artists whose representational work has begun to appear in the last ten years, and who invariably produce excellent work, technically and artistically."

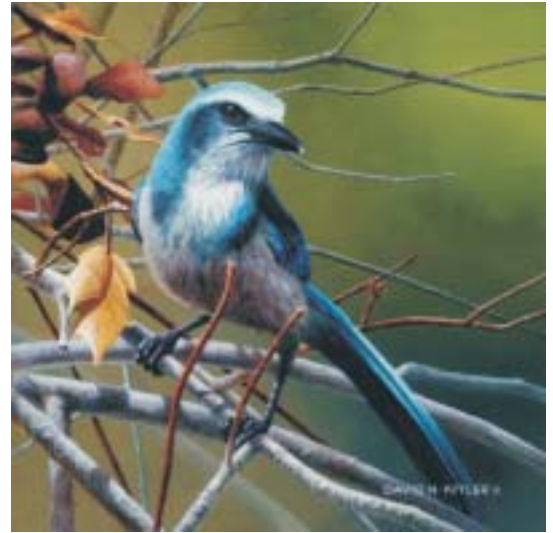
Arts for the Parks "Mini 100"

The "Arts for the Parks" competition was created in 1986 by the National Park Academy of the Arts. The program is designed to celebrate representational artists, to enhance public awareness of the National Parks, and to contribute to programs benefitting the National Park System. It is an annual competition that honours artists who have best captured the spirit of the National Park System.

Three of David's paintings have been included in this year's "Mini 100 Contest Show & Sale", and will be on display at the Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park until the awards banquet on September 16.

Wildlife and Nature Art Exposition

It is only natural to have wildlife and nature related arts highlighted in one of the most beautiful Washington State Parks. Fort Worden State Park Conference Center is located in the Victorian Seaport of Port Townsend,



Scrub Jay

home to artists and artist lovers alike.

The exhibition will feature wildlife artists from around the U.S.A. and Canada (including David), who will be showcasing original paintings, carvings, and sculptures during this two day event.

Southeastern Wildlife Exposition

Join us to celebrate SEWE's 25th Anniversary! SEWE is the largest wildlife art and nature event in North America, featuring original paintings, carvings and sculpture by some of the most gifted artists in the wildlife art genre. It also offers educational animal shows, conservation exhibits, a sporting village, family activities, and much more. Originals will be available at the Grand Ballroom of Charleston Place, while reproductions will be available at the Charleston Riverview Hotel. //



Pelican Up Close