

Wildlife Art in Bronze by



Roger Smith's

volume 1 | issue 2

Wild Life & Times



“Johannesburg! ...South Africa?”

“No. Johannesburg, Michigan”

That was the typical conversation when we told family and friends we were going to be moving north a couple hundred miles.

With the sale of the day job we could now live wherever we wanted. As long as “wherever” is within a half days drive of the grand kids that is.

Whenever we headed north just to relax, mushroom, fish, color tour or look for elk we always ended up in the Pigeon River Country area, NE of Gaylord. So when we started house hunting our search naturally started there. The hunt really came down to only one that fit our criteria. We wanted rural, bordering state forest, plenty of room for guest and studio space. We got it all and then some.

On July 7, 2007 we packed it up and headed north for good.

Some of the first neighbors we encountered were rather shy... and hungry! We naturally filled the bird feeders expecting

only appreciative birds. Wrong. Under the cover of darkness Black bears promptly found our feeders. The summer was dry causing a poor wild blueberry and cherry crop causing bears to find whatever they could. We'll put the feeders back up after the bears hibernate for the winter.

New Studio

At last we have a real studio with more than 700 square feet of office and work space with natural indirect northern light and a great view. The morning commute is a bearable 150 feet.

The downside is we are two miles from our mailbox and the nearest telephone land line. Cell phone service is not great so please be patient when trying to contact us and always leave a voice mail.

Please take note of our new address and phone:

**5000 Island Hill Rd.
Johannesburg, MI 49751
989-619-2055**



Inside this issue:

Past Events

What did I do all summer?

Creature Feature Facts

A look at Michigan's Elk

Work-In-Progress

A Current project in the “clay stage”

...and more!

Past Events...

April

I was honored to be one half of a two man show at The Master's Fine Art of Loveland, CO with watercolorist Richard Schilling.

(www.worldwidewatercolorist.com)



Collector's Quote

"We have collected several of Roger's sculptures over the last few years, and enjoy each of them for their individuality and special character. Roger captures his subject so clearly, defining an instant, candid moment, then transfers that moment into his sculpture for all of us to enjoy. The pieces we have are small sculptures, and we often pick them up and handle them, which is a unique experience for artwork. It is almost as if we can feel the forest atmosphere surrounding the animal. We have ordered our next sculpture Pre-Cast, and are anxiously awaiting delivery."

– Dennis & Dotte Weideman, Leslie, Michigan

May

Sculpture in the South in Summerville, SC is always a good time. Those two clean up pretty good!



August

Featured artist at Gallery on Main, Bay Harbor, MI.



Watchful Doe with fawns, life size, installed at Creation Museum (CreationMuseum.org) Petersburg, KY (Cincinnati, OH).



Creature Feature Facts

ELK

Aka: Wapiti, a Shawnee word for "white (or pale) deer" has never really caught on.

Size: Males (bulls) 4 ½ to 5' at the shoulder, 600 – 1,000 lbs. live weight. Females (cows) 400 - 600 lbs. live weight.

The life cycle begins in September when mature bulls gather a harem of cows for breeding. The bulls "bugle" to attract the cows and tell lesser bulls who's boss of his harem. Fights are common but seldom fatal.

After a gestation period of 255-275 days a cow gives birth normally to one calf weighing 25-40 lbs.

Michigan Elk: Past and Present

Michigan's native elk disappeared around 1875. Today's elk herd dates back to 1918, when seven western animals were released near Wolverine. From that reintroduction, the number of animals grew steadily to about 1,500 elk in the early 1960s. They reached the point where limited hunting was possible in 1964 and 1965.

During the late 1960s, several factors kept the elk herd below its biological potential for population growth, including reduced habitat quality. The herd also was hard hit by poaching. There were about only 200 elk in the winter of 1975.

In the late 1970s, renewed public interest in the elk herd was spurred by oil exploration in the Pigeon River area of the elk



Above: A Michigan Bull Elk. Below: A Michigan Cow Elk. Although they were not in season, I shot 'em anyway (with a trail camera on my property that is).



range. Reduced poaching losses, habitat improvement and successful management of hydrocarbon development resulted in an increase in elk numbers to 850 by 1984.

As the herd grew, problems also increased with forest and agricultural damage. To bring the herd in better balance with its natural food supplies and with the needs of landowners, elk hunting resumed in 1984. Biologists estimated the January 2006 population to be between 800-900 animals. This goal is a winter herd of 800 to 900 elk.

Copyright © State of Michigan 2007

*Happy Holidays!
From Our Family to Yours*



Galleries

My works are currently available at these fine galleries:

Gallery on Main

4184 Main Street
Bay Harbor, MI 49770
Phone: 231-439-2745
www.galleryonmainbh.com

Lansing Art Gallery

113 S. Washington Sq.,
Lansing, MI 48933
Phone: 517-374-6400
www.lansingartgallery.org

The Master's Fine Art of Loveland

343 East 7th Street
Loveland, CO 80537
Phone: 970-667-4138
www.themastersfineart.com

Twisted Fish Art Gallery

10443 S. Bayshore Dr.
Elk Rapids, MI 49629
Phone: 231-264-0123
www.twistedfishart.com

Wildlife Art in Bronze by



2007 - 2008 ART SHOWS

...More to Come

Chippewa Nature Center 10th Annual Nature Art Show & Sale

December 1st & 2nd, 2007
Midland, Michigan
www.chippewanaturecenter.org

Whisper in the Woods Nature & Wildlife Fine Art Show

DeVos Place
Downtown Grand Rapids, MI
March 28-30, 2008
www.whisperinthewoods.com
(Held in conjunction with the West Michigan Cottage & Lakefront Living Show)

Sculpture in the South Summerville, South Carolina

May 17th & 18th, 2008
www.sculptureinthesouth.com

2nd Annual Botkins Sculpture Invitational

Botkins Community Park
Botkins, OH
July 26th & 27th, 2008
www.botkinssculpture.com

Visit www.RogersWildlifeArt.com for the latest information and to view an online gallery.

Wildlife Art in Bronze by Roger Smith

5000 Island Hill Rd.
Johannesburg, MI 49751

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jackson, MI
Permit No. 258

Roger Smith's Wild Life & Times



Alissa Crandall

Pictured is the table top version that will be 15" with a walnut base.

New Work

"Lean on me" shows a tender moment of a Brown (Grizzly) bear sow with her cub. This piece is based on a photo by Alaska wildlife photographer Alissa Crandall (<http://www.alaskacalendars.com/>).

We were in a gift shop at Denali National Park last year. I always go for the books while Vicki looks for gifts for the grandkids. I found a calendar book featuring some of Alissa's work. One look at "Lean on me" and I knew that needed to be put in bronze. When we got back home I contacted Alissa to ask permission and work out the copyright issues. She was gracious enough to even allow me to use her title.

A miniature version of 4 1/2" will also be offered. It is my hope to have a small quantity of these available for Christmas.

Both of these will be available at special pre-cast/introductory pricing. Give me a call!

Visit www.RogersWildlifeArt.com for pre-cast pricing and details.