

Voice for the Wild

Greetings

Hello from Calgary!

As the year winds down, we hope this finds you healthy and happy. Following are some of the highlights of another busy year for us, but, as usual, you can visit David's site (www.davidkitler.com) for the latest information. If you can make it to one of the events David will be attending, make sure to stop by and say hello. If not, drop us a line, as we would love to hear from you! //

In the Studio

Originals and Reproductions

Originals

David has spent the year completing a number of **new originals**. Several of them will be shown for the first time during the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition in February (check the "Following David's Tracks" section for details). If you cannot visit the Expo, the new images will be posted on David's web site in the new year. Let us know what you think!



Reproductions and Merchandise

Information on limited and open edition **prints**, as well as other **merchandise** available from David's studio, can be found on his web site by following the links to the "Gallery" section. Please let us know if you would like to place an order or require more information. //

In the Classroom

Art Classes, Workshops, and Videos

Instructional DVDs

David's first instructional DVD "**Draw with Confidence: from Basic to Brilliant**" has been a tremendous success. Produced by the amazing group

of professionals at Creative Catalyst Productions (www.ccpvideos.com), these workshops are packed with information, demonstrations, and extra features. You will be inspired to become more confident in your drawing, whether you are just beginning or have been drawing for years.

To order David's DVD outside of the U.S.A., please contact us directly. Alternatively, you can visit Creative Catalyst's web site for U.S. orders (a link is also provided on David's site), to **preview** the workshops, and for their great selection of instructional DVDs. CPC's DVDs also make a great **gift** for the aspiring artists in your family.

David's much anticipated DVD on **acrylic techniques** is estimated to be available in the Spring of 2009. Sign up for CCP's e-newsletter to receive **pre-release** information and discounts, and check the web site for release dates.

Weekly Art Classes

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

Workshops

David continues to teach a number of workshops, which are open to artists of all skill levels. While working on a wildlife subject of your choice, David reviews drawing and painting basics, and teaches techniques that are specific to acrylics. Let us know if you would like to schedule a workshop in your area. //

In the Art World

Exhibitions and Art Shows

Art of Conservation

On its 10th anniversary, the Artists for Conservation (AFC) Foundation launched its first annual juried exhibition, featuring the nature art of its members. **The Art of Conservation** celebrates artistic excellence in the depiction of nature, raises awareness of conservation issues, and directly supports organizations dedicated to addressing them. The Wildlife Conservation Society, based in New York City and one of the world's largest and most respected conservation organizations, has been selected as the beneficiary for 2008.

David attended the opening weekend at the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum (HBAM), which included two field trips, a lecture evening (where David was one of the presenters, with a slide show on his Harpy Eagle AFC Flag Expedition to Panama), dinner/awards evening, group photo session, and opening cocktail reception afternoon. The event broke all previous attendance records for HBAM.

To read all about the show, order a copy of the Show Companion book, or to view a slideshow of the opening weekend, visit the AFC site (www.natureartists.com).

Robert Bateman and David near their paintings during the opening weekend of "The Art of Conservation"



Upcoming Art Shows

In early 2009 David will be returning to the *Southeastern Wildlife Exposition* in Charleston, SC, and to *Reflections of Nature* in Fallbrook, CA. Check the "Following David's Tracks" box for dates, locations, and contact information for each show. For David's most up-to-date schedule, visit his web site often.

We hope to see you at one these events. //

In the Field

Reference Gathering Opportunities

Africa

This past year, David and his wife Ly spent an unforgettable two months exploring South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Madagascar.

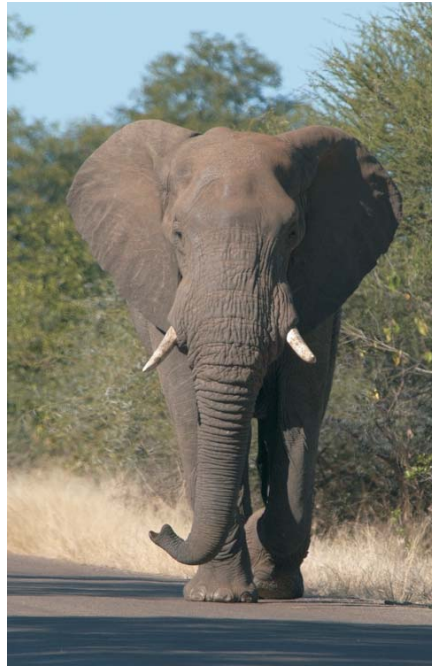
The Kitlers started their trip in Johannesburg, South Africa, where they picked up a fully equipped 4x4 safari camper, which was to be their "home" for the first part of the trip. They started by exploring **Kruger National Park**, travelling from the Malelane Gate in the south, to the northern-most gate, Pafuri, and finished their exploration of South Africa at **Mapungubwe National Park**.

Before they started their exploration of Botswana, the Kitlers spent a day visiting



the impressive **Victoria Falls**, along with the surrounding National Park on the Zimbabwe side. The "Smoke that Thunders" did not disappoint, especially after a helicopter flight provided unparalleled views of the falls.

Botswana followed, with incredible sights and experiences at **Chobe National Park**, including the Riverfront and Savuti areas, and **Moremi Game Reserve**. While the rest camps in Kruger are gated to keep larger animals at bay, the whole



country of Botswana is like a big game reserve. Campsites are little more than clearings where one can park or set up a tent, but there is nothing separating you from the animals, which the Kitlers thought was perfect!

After returning their safari camper to Johannesburg, the Kitlers flew to Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar to start their exploration of this country's unique biodiversity. The world's fourth largest island, Madagascar is home to plants and animals found nowhere else on earth, the most famous of which are the near 70 species of lemurs and a host of interesting chameleons and insects.

Unlike Southern Africa, where driving was the safest way to explore, in Madagascar the Kitlers dusted off their hiking boots in order to visit several of the country's National Parks, including Parc National **d'Andasibe-Mantadia** (east), **National d'Ankarafantsika** (northwest), as well as Parc National de **Montagne d'Ambre** and Réserve Spéciale de **l'Ankàrana** (north).

In Madagascar David traded his long lens, which was standard equipment for wildlife observation in southern Africa, for a



Following David's Tracks



September 2008 - June 2009
(2009 tour dates
and venues t.b.d.)

The Art of Conservation An International Exhibition of Nature in Art

Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum
Oradell, NJ

For additional information:
info@natureartists.com
www.natureartists.com

♦ ♦ ♦

February 12-15, 2009

Southeastern Wildlife Exposition

Charleston Place
Charleston, SC

For additional information:
info@sewe.com
www.sewe.com

♦ ♦ ♦

May 1-3, 2009

Reflections of Nature

Fallbrook Art Center
Fallbrook, CA

For additional information:
www.fallbrookartcenter.org

♦ ♦ ♦

June 2010

Guided Trip to Brazil

For additional information:
info@davidkitler.com
www.davidkitler.com

micro lens, which allowed him to capture close-ups of some of the smallest and most amazing creatures he had ever seen. Read more about this trip in the News section of David's web site.

David is still in the process of sorting through all of the 8,500+ photos he gathered. In the meantime, he has already finished a few of the many paintings that will surely result from this unforgettable experience. So stay tuned!

Brazil 2010

Since their first trip to Brazil in 1992 on their honeymoon, the Kitlers have returned many times to that amazing country. In 2006 they led a small group on a 2-week exploration of some of the most spectacular settings on the continent and in **June 2010** they will be off to Brazil once again. This is your opportunity to join them!

Some of the more exciting things you will do include: 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** that has been

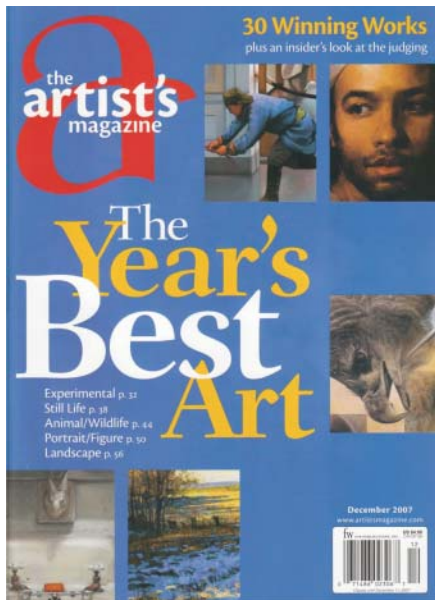


Iguassu Falls, Brazil

built at the level of the rainforest canopy; piranha fishing and night time alligator spotting in the rainforest; as well as a "safari" into the **Pantanal**, the largest continental wetland on Earth.

The itinerary was designed to introduce you to a few of the highlights of this vast country, and to give you a taste of what it has to offer in terms of diversity and natural beauty. After that, you will surely want to go back for more.

If you have always wanted to visit this exotic country, but were not sure how to do it, wait no more. The Kitlers would love to show you around in what will likely become the trip of a lifetime!



"Harpy Eagle Montage" on the cover

The proposed itinerary, rates, and conditions are posted in the News section of David's web site.

Highlights

Awards & Recognition

The Artist's Magazine

At the end of 2007 David's "Harpy Eagle Montage" was awarded **First Place** in the Animal/Wildlife category during *The Artist's Magazine* 24th Annual Art Competition. Furthermore, his "Watchful Gaze - Common Marmoset" was also selected as a finalist. This is an amazing accomplishment and David was honoured to have been included among "The Year's Best Art".

Winners in all categories were featured in the December 2007 issue of the magazine. If you do not subscribe to the magazine and did not have a chance to see this issue, you can still view the articles online at www.artistsnetwork.com/article/2007winners.

If that wasn't enough, three of David's pieces were selected as **finalists** in the 2008 Competition. The winner this year attended one of David's workshops and was kind enough to mention that fact in the article that accompanies her well-deserving winning piece. Check it out in the **December 2008** issue.

To top it all off, David was invited to write a "Drawing Board" column

(scheduled to appear in the **June 2009** issue) and to serve as the **Juror** for the Animal/Wildlife category in the magazine's 2009 Contest. His choices will be featured in the December 2009 issue of the magazine.

AFC Flag Expedition

Updates and Follow Up

Flag Expedition Journal

As part of the Artists for Conservation (AFC) first annual exhibition (see the "In the Art World" section), three of the AFC Flag Expeditions were highlighted, including David's Flag Expedition to Panama. At the same time, the AFC released a **Collector's Edition** of David's Flag Expedition Journal.

These are leather-bound books of exceptional quality, that reproduce David's journal in its entirety. This is a **limited edition** of only 100 copies, and each book measures approximately 15" x 11.5" horizontal - large enough to display a full two-page spread of the journal on each page at nearly full-size. It has a windowed black leather cover, and ultra-heavy stock.

This is your chance to obtain a unique record of David's Flag Expedition, while supporting the AFC Foundation and future Flag Expeditions. The books are priced at US\$500 (plus shipping and any applicable taxes), and can be ordered by contacting the AFC directly at info@natureartists.com.

Expedition Photos and Video Footage

To read about the AFC Program, visit www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions.



Flag Expedition Journal Collector's Edition

To learn more about David's Expedition, or to view his field journal, photos, artwork, etc., follow the links to the Flag Expedition #1. //

Get Involved

How you can make a difference

Llano Bonito

Because of the support that so many of you have given this project, the lives of the people at the small Emberá village of Llano Bonito continue to be positively affected. The baskets we brought from the village in 2007 were sold at a small silent auction in Calgary, and the funds raised have already been put to use.

In April 2008, once again with the logistical support of Advantage Tours (www.advantagepanama.com), another



A big "Thank You" from the children of Llano Bonito

delivery of supplies was made to the village. This time it was a lawn mower (to help keep the area around the huts and school clear of the tall grasses that can hide snakes), paint for the school, and brand new school uniforms.

How to Contact Us



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

In **February 2009**, David and a group of eleven others will be returning to Llano Bonito. This time, besides delivering school and personal care supplies, they will spend 10 days **building** whatever the villagers decide can make the biggest impact in their lives. It will likely be a school/meeting room and/or better toilet facilities - currently the village only has two outhouses that are not in great shape.

If you can help in any way, please be assured that every penny or supply will find its way to Llano Bonito. The natives continue to be overwhelmed by the fact that so many people, from so far away, continue to care so much as to be willing to help their children and their community. Your kindness and generosity continues to make a real difference in their lives.

Panama City's Metropolitan Park

We have had the privilege of meeting other special individuals who have committed their lives to the **conservation** of the rainforest in Panama and all of its inhabitants. One such individual is Jessica Rosas, who works at the Metropolitan Park in Panama City.

Jessica sleeps on the floor, so that the many baby sloths she has rescued can enjoy the warmth of her bed. During our last visit she was also caring for orphaned baby vultures, a falcon, a toucan that was rescued from the black market, tamarins - one of which had been in a small cage for so long that his legs were atrophied in a crouching position - and so on. After returning them to health, Jessica will release as many as possible to the wild. For the ones that cannot be released, Jessica will try to find homes in zoos or other suitable facilities, where they can become part of educational programs.

As usual, there is an ongoing **shortage** of supplies and materials, but Jessica still manages to do much with very little. If you would like to assist in this important work, see the "Panama Wish List" box for details. David will be visiting Jessica in February 2009 and would be happy to deliver any donated supplies.

For all the background on David's AFC Flag Expedition and how he became involved with the people of Llano Bonito and with Jessica Rosas, visit the AFC Flag Expedition pages, in the "News" section of David's web site. //



Village of Llano Bonito

Ongoing Needs

- > School supplies
- > Personal care supplies (e.g. toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, etc.)

Special Requests

- > 11 baseball gloves
- > 3 soccer balls
- > Building materials, e.g. cement, zinc sheets, hammer, hand saw, sand, beam, etc. These will be used to build a stable structure that will serve as church and community meeting place and/or to build better toilet facilities in the village.

Jessica Rosas (Metropolitan Park)

- > Live traps (e.g. Tomahawk)
- > Material for animal enclosures (e.g. wire mesh)
- > Tracking collars



Jessica Rosas and an orphaned baby sloth