



Wild Art News

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I love to explore! It doesn't have to be in a far off place. What is fun is to come across something new and interesting to you. It's always good to have a fun day to ramble around and find something unexpected along the way. This is how I discovered Sculpture Trails Outdoor Museum with a friend. We had heard about it and knew roughly where it was—but our phone mapping took us right to the out-of-the-way place where it is located. It turned out to be a real serendipity. We were there alone and got to discover everything on our own. It was totally unexpected in so many ways.

There are other interesting things to see and do along the way there—like McCormick's Creek State Park, Tulip Trestle, and Yoho General Store. The general store is a great place to find a fun, different place to eat.

So, here is hoping you find yourselves on a ramble of your own and that you discover new things and your own serendipities along the way.

Marianne Ballenger

Newsletter Editor

www.indianawildlifeartists.org

From the President:



Wasn't that a wonderful IWA exhibit at Minnetrista? It has been great to get to know many of you and to serve as your President! As of January 1st, 2023, your new President will be Marian Betts, who has already served IWA in multiple ways. So you are in able hands. I will continue as Executive Assistant to Marian for the next three years. This is also a board position, so I will still be around. Since Marian was Vice President, as well as several other positions, Sara Wilson has stepped up to be the new Vice President in 2023. I hope all of you will be looking forward to the IWA special events that are coming up. Marianne Ballenger, our Special Events Coordinator, will be promoting a fall foliage tour that sounds exciting. In addition, there will be a special celebration next year regarding our 40th Anniversary! So, encourage your friends to join and celebrate with us.

I wish we would all be able to enjoy God's creation and see its beauty. One of the nice things about being a wildlife photographer is learning about wildlife. Earlier this year I went in late March to Wakodahatchee Wetlands near Delray Beach, FL. Wakodahatchee is a "made" wetland area constructed by the water utility using the wastewater area. It is free and open to the public. It covers 50 acres and has a nice 3/4 mile boardwalk where people view birds, turtles, snakes and more. More than 178 bird species have been spotted there. I think of it as a big nesting area for wood storks. Sorry, but the wood storks make a lot of noise and they do not smell good. I have included a picture of a wood stork bringing a small branch to use as nesting material.

President's Message Continued:



In addition, there is a picture of a Cuban brown anole. These lizards are related to the iguana. The brown anole is an invasive species, whereas the green anole is the native species, declining in numbers. The green anole is classified as a chameleon since it can change from green to brown, but the brown anoles cannot change to green. I was intrigued when I read that the pads on the feet of an anole have millions of microscopic fibers so that the anole can attach to various smooth surfaces, as well as textured surfaces. This makes it easy for the anole to run and jump. One article that I read said that green anoles make good pets for beginners wanting a pet. Of course all reptiles need suitable care in order to survive, so be sure to create the right environment for them.

Okay, I thought the anole in the picture was a gecko! No, geckos live in trees, are larger than anoles, live longer than anoles, but take more care than anoles. So, there you have it!

Blessings, Diana Hunter, President

Featured Artist

Daniel Griggs

Our featured artist is Daniel Griggs. He lives in Frankfort, Indiana and has a studio in Thorntown, Indiana. We will let Daniel speak for himself:

“One of the things I most appreciate about painting wildlife is that it incorporates the three main forms of traditional painting—still life, landscape and portrait. In wildlife, the background is usually a variation of still life or a landscape. The animal, bird or insect has many of the same qualities that you try to capture within a portrait.

In my paintings I hope to get the viewer to slow down and take a closer look. If we take time to look closer, we find there is hidden beauty in the chaos, much like finding an object floating in a cloud.

I paint what I see in the world around me, and therefore the positions or colors may be different from the optimum. Just like people, not all animal noses are exactly the same!



Rabbit with Morning Treat
Acrylic on Yupo paper



Swallowtail in Flowers
Acrylic on Yupo paper

In addition to competitive exhibitions and special shows, I travel to about 20–25 weekend art fairs through the year because it gives me the opportunity to visit with new art patrons and see new places. It’s a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. Many of these people would not think of visiting a museum or gallery to purchase art, and often the art they purchase at a fair is their first experience owning original art. The education aspect of these shows is part of the excitement for me.”

Daniel Driggs, continued

“Although I have done nearly every type of painting and printing, I have found that I love doing watercolor techniques in acrylic paint on Yupo paper. During this period of my life, I also get to fill pulpits when the regular minister is away for some reason, so I have the best of two worlds. One part fills people’s lives on this earth with beauty, while the other prepares them for eternal happiness and beauty.

A variety of my work is on regular display at my studio located at the Sugar Creek Art Center, 125 S. Pearl St., Thorntown, IN. It is open to the public on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.”

Still Water Reflection
Acrylic on Yupo paper



Chip
Acrylic on Yupo paper

“I currently have paintings on display at the 40th Annual Juried Exhibition of the Watercolor Society of Indiana at the Indiana Museum of Art (Newfields), the 98th Annual Juried Exhibition of the Hoosier Salon at the Indiana State Museum and I also have three paintings on display at the 39th Annual Exhibit of the Indiana Wildlife Artists at Minnetrista in Muncie, Indiana.

If you want to see my work or sign up for my newsletter, visit my website at www.DanielDriggs.com. If you are interested in classes or workshops, contact me or visit my studio at Thorn-town. I am often gone to weekend art fairs, so call before you come! “

Daniel will also be the featured artist of the month at Sugar Creek Art Center in December. The opening reception will be December 11th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sculpture Trails Outdoor Museum

<http://www.sculpturetrails.com>

If you are planning on visiting this place, be prepared to drive on some winding and rolling back country roads in Greene County. It is a pretty drive through hilly country with lots of twists and turns along the way. In this case, the journey is definitely an important part of the destination. If you have an up-to-date guidance system, it will take you right to the parking lot that leads to the trails along a wooded hillside where you will find over 180(!!!) outdoor sculptures scattered over the outdoor museum area.

Be prepared to do lots of walking and wear good shoes. The only restroom is a port-a-potty.



Located near Solsberry, Indiana, the address is: 6764 N Tree Farm Road, Solsberry, IN 47459. It is not located in Solsberry, but is nearby—located south of Spencer, Indiana.

While not primarily dedicated to wildlife sculpture, there are a few interesting animal sculptures scattered on the trails. The amount of sculpture & the variety of styles and media make it an interesting stop for anyone who likes art.

Sculpture Trails Outdoor Museum was founded in 2002. It features the work of artists from all over the world. Many sculpture workshops are offered as well as career development opportunities for artists. They have an intern program that is extensive in scope. There are also two events open to the public during the year.

Visitors may tour the grounds on their own or sign up for a guided tour. You can also schedule a sculpture workshop for yourself or your group. You will need to do this ahead of your visit.

Sculpture Trails Outdoor Museum

Continued....



Box Turtle by
William Pratt



A few of the
animal sculptures
scattered
along the trail



Capella—April Living-

Two really interesting events are scheduled during the summer and are well worth planning to attend. For information concerning these events, it is best to check out their website, facebook page or contact them.

You can go as a spectator, or you can create a block to be cast by the staff. Either way, it is very enjoyable.



Casting molten metal is a complicated and dangerous task. The audience is informed at each step of the process and questions are taken. It is definitely a team effort and the coordination and the knowledge shown as they work is so interesting to watch.

The Elusive Bobcat

(Lynx rufus)



Wallpapersdsc.net

Bobcats are native to North America and are not on the endangered list. They are very adaptable and live in forests, swamps, deserts and even suburban areas. In Indiana, bobcats are most commonly found in southern and west central parts of the state. They are carnivores, mainly crepuscular (active mostly at dawn and dusk), and while their main diet is cottontail rabbits, they also hunt rodents, snakes, lizards, small deer and domestic animals. They can also leap high enough to catch low-flying birds. Bobcats in the wild live between 5 to 15 years (depending on source of information).

Bobcats are built for the life they live. They are mainly ambush predators and move quietly by placing their back feet in the prints of their front feet. They can move up to 30 miles per hour and are excellent jumpers. Bobcats are 18" to 24" at the shoulder (larger ones live in the north) and weigh between 9 and 33 pounds. They have long legs, large paws and blend into their territory. Their fur is buff to brown, sometimes with a reddish tinge. Their underside is lighter. They have dark spots on their body and black markings on the insides of their legs. Bobcats have facial ruffs, ear tufts and white spots near the tips of their ears and on their short (looks bobbed) tail.

Bobcats, continued

Bobcats are rarely seen by humans. They are solitary and territorial with females living in a range of 6 to 12 square miles and males living in a 30 to 75 mile range—overlapping several female ranges. They use body posture and facial expressions as close range signals to warn off intruders. They rely on urine, feces and anal gland secretions as well as marking on the ground by making scrapings. They communicate through scent, visual signals and vocalizations.

Gestation for bobcats is 60—70 days and kittens are usually born in April and May. They generally have 2 to 4 kittens and the males do not help raise the kittens. Females nurse the kittens around 2 months and then they they learn to hunt with their mother. They remain with the mother 9 to 12 months and then they are on their own.

Bobcat or Mountain Lion?

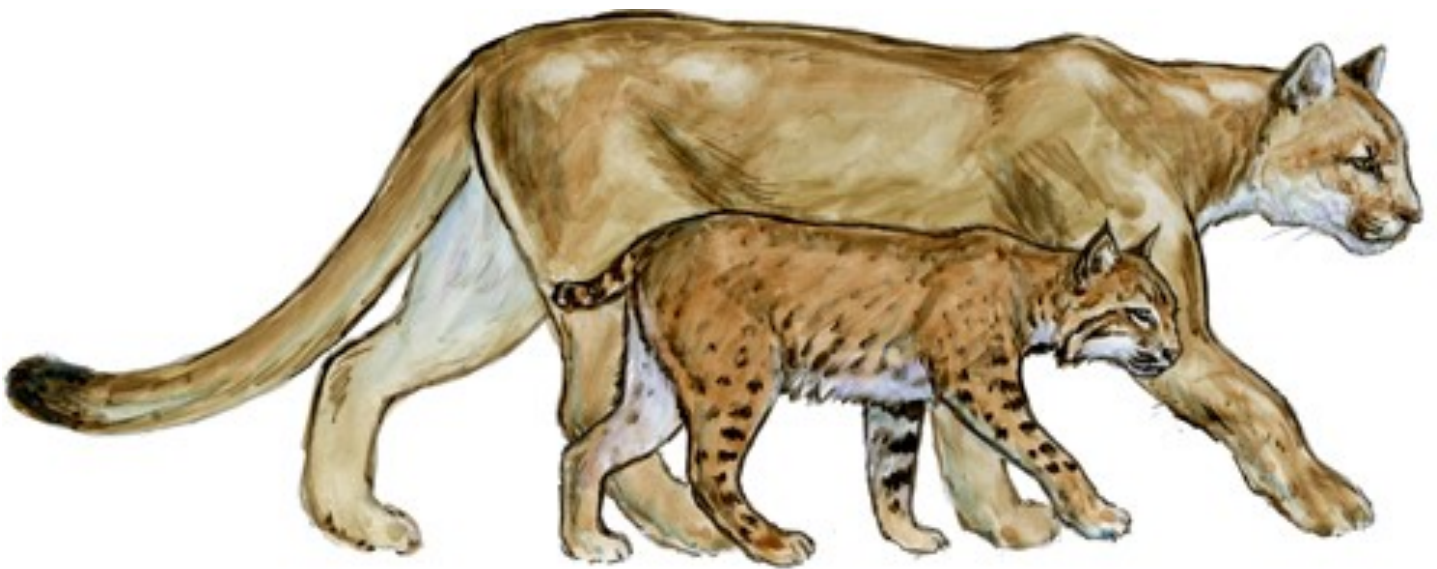


Photo from Indiana DNR

Sources:

<https://www.nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/bobcats>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/bobcat>

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/animals/bobcats>

Indiana Wildlife Artists 39th Annual Exhibit Show Winners

Painting



**1st—EcoSystem #5
Anne Maddox**



**2nd (tie)—Incoming
Jeffrey Klinefelter**



**2nd (tie) - Snap of a Twig
Mary Clouse**



**3rd—Heron in Cattails
Daniel Driggs**



**Honorable Mention
Quoth the Raven
Anne Maddox**



**Honorable Mention
Leaping for Joy
Mary Clouse**

IWA Show Winners—Continued

Drawing



**1st— Whose Turn Is It?
Anne Maddox**



**2nd—By the Light
of the Moon
Marianne
Darling Ballenger**



**3rd—Double Trouble
Roseanne Crowell**

**Honorable Mention
Mischief Maker
Roseanne Crowell**

Photography



**1st—By the River
Lois Berg**



**2nd—Call of the Wild
Jenny Moore Smith**



**3rd—Flight
Jenny Moore Smith**



**Honorable Mention—As the Sun Rises
Diana Hunter**



**Honorable Mention—Not Geico!
Diana Hunter**

IWA Show Winners — Continued

Three Dimensional



**1st—Good Things Come
To Those Who Wait
Joshua Shepherd**



**2nd—Run Old Hare
Joshua Shepherd**



**3rd—Seeking Supper
Marianne
Darling Ballenger**

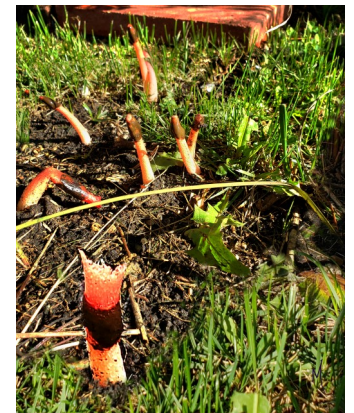
Mixed Media



**1st—Watching You
Watching Me
Marianne
Darling Ballenger**



**Honorable
Mention
Notes from a
Nature Journal
Dian Steitz**



**Honorable Mention
Smells as
Sweet as a Rose?
Marian Betts**

Special thank you to all who entered our show this year -
you helped put together an outstanding exhibit!

IWA Summer Activities

Summer Picnic

l. to r.— Sara Wilson, Dian Steitz, Mary Clouse and Elaine Wolfe



Char & Brad Hulse
Hosts Extraordinaire!



Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held in conjunction with the Indiana Wildlife Artists 39th Annual Exhibition. New officers were installed & a number of topics were discussed. Marian Betts will be taking over as president the first of the new year. Tentative ideas were discussed concerning the 40th Annual Show next year to be held at Minnetrista. Jennifer Moore Smith received signature artist status for her service and accomplishments in meeting the aims of the Indiana Wildlife Artists Organization.



Marian Betts, iwa
President Elect
Indiana Wildlife Artists

Jennifer Moore Smith
was presented
Signature Artist Status
by

current IWA president, Diana Hunter





Larry Hemdal

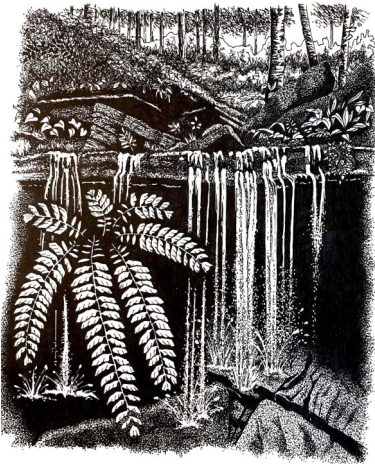
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A Voice of Reason

For many years, Larry Hemdal was an integral part of Indiana Wildlife Artists. While not an artist member, he served as treasurer of the organization. His extensive knowledge, experience and willingness to help keep us up-to-date and in line with our Not-For-Profit status was invaluable. He also had a keen mind for seeing all aspects of an issue and for calmly guiding discussions on wide-ranging topics. He and his wife, Carol (an IWA Signature Artist), spent many hours furthering the missions of the Indiana Wildlife Artists. By his presence and participation - as well as dedication to IWA, Larry helped the group grow and prosper. His service to our organization cannot be over stated. We will miss you, Larry!

Shades SP Turned 75!

Shades State Park turned 75 years old this year. It has an interesting history and was actually used as a resort for a number of years, had three springs and a number of buildings located on the property.



I live near Shades and hike there often. I am also a member of The Friends of Turkey Run and Shades State Parks. They asked me to create a t-shirt to commemorate this anniversary and I did the pen and ink drawing of Maidenhair Falls (on Trail 2) I also did a watercolor and both of these are on exhibit at the Carnegie Museum in Crawfordsville, IN. - Marianne Darling Ballenger



Upcoming Shows & Events

October Post Annual Exhibit—Members only

Sugar Creek Art Center

125 South Pearl Street, Thorntown, IN

Please call Anita Gordon (765-336-2438)

for hours of operation and opening

Check the annual show prospectus for information concerning dates, delivering & picking up artwork.

A good source for checking out art shows is the Indiana Arts Council. There you will find listings for upcoming shows, art festivals and events.

If any of you know of shows that might not be listed there, it would be helpful to let members on the board know about them so that they can pass the information along.

There is an upcoming photography exhibit in October & an art exhibit in December at Eagle Creek State Park. Check eaglecreekpark.org for entry rules and information concerning these shows. <https://eaglecreekpark.org>

Ideas for Fall Outings:

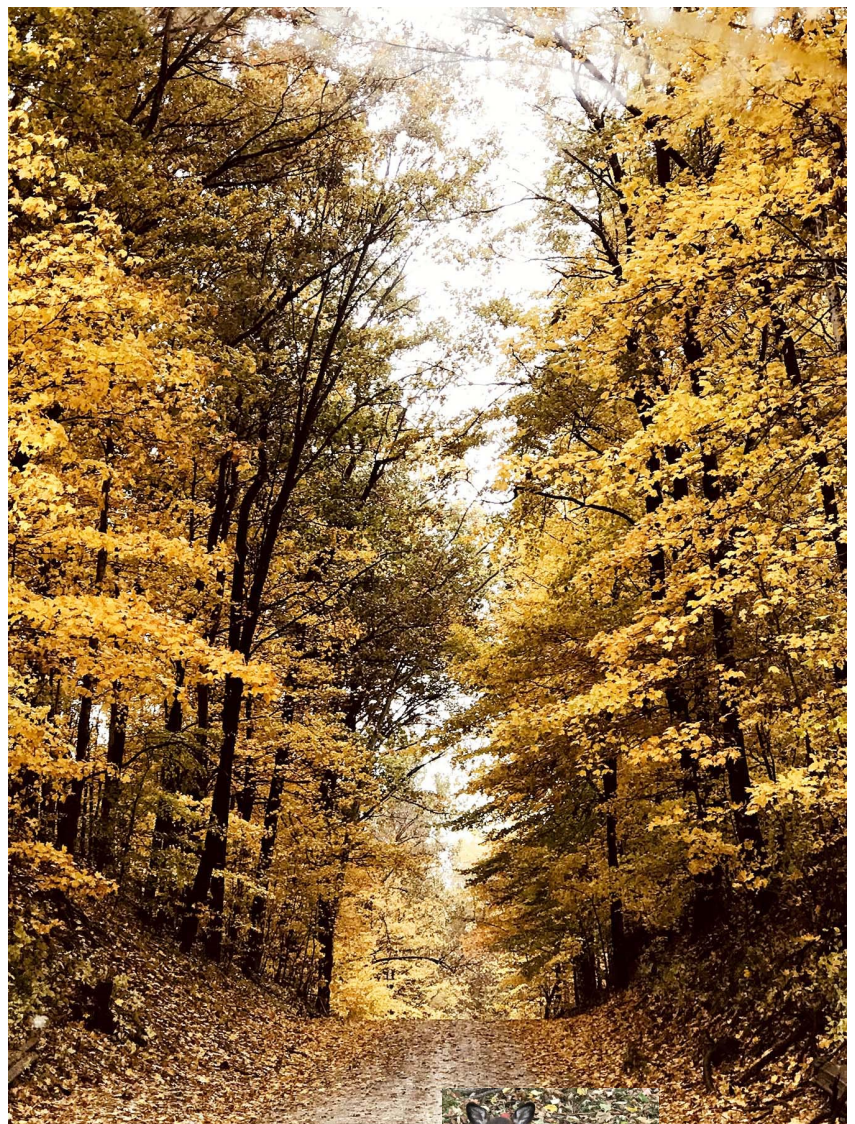
Due to a lingering flu bug, I was unable to attend the annual meeting. I did ask for a couple of ideas to be introduced to the group that I have been thinking about.

One is that the Indianapolis Zoo is fairly central and certainly has a plethora of wild animals! I wondered if anyone would be interested in meeting there for photography, plein air, journaling—whatever.... We could eat someplace or bring a lunch (which would certainly be less expensive. Let me know what you think.

The second idea I had would have to be scheduled when fall season hits full force—which I cannot predict. Does the phrase “Road Trip” excite you as much as it excites me? I would put out a notice a few days in advance and we could meet and carpool. A good friend and I have put together a grouping of roads in my area (west central) that are backroads and beautiful. We could travel along these and make some stops for you to both enjoy the scenery and take some reference photos. There are also a number of covered bridges along the way. I cannot guarantee wildlife, but I can tell you it will be beautiful!

We could either picnic or go someplace for lunch—whatever the group wants to do.

I will put out a notice and whoever wants to go is welcome—just let me know if you are coming.





Wild Art News

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Indiana Wildlife Artists, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization which promotes the advancement of wildlife art as a fine art, providing wildlife artists an opportunity to meet, to learn and to exhibit their work. With our artwork, we encourage the appreciation and understanding of wildlife among the general public, and assist conservation groups with education for the benefit of wildlife.

We have the choice
to use the gift of our life
to make the world
a better place
or
not to bother.

Jane Goodall