



Wild Art News

Summer 2024



Notes from the Editor

Happy summer days to everyone! I hope that you have been enjoying the opportunity to see flowers blooming everywhere – and that these colorful blossoms will encourage you to think about all of the upcoming activities and opportunities for wildlife artists in 2024 and continuing in 2025. Please enjoy more postcards from my collection.

During the summer, I continued to be inspired by taking art classes and enjoying the riot of colors in my front yard, filled with plants that were carefully selected and lovingly tended by the prior owner (a garden designer). Through the Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS), I was able to have our yard certified as a native plant area. A sign now adorns the front yard, along with American flags and one lonely pink flamingo. My husband would prefer a more traditional lawn, but my rebuttal is that I am a botanical artist - and the yard is my “learning laboratory.”

This is my fourth and final issue as Editor of *Wild Art News*. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Indiana Wildlife Artists (IWA) during the past year.

Sara, Editor, Wild Art News

Summer 2024 IWA President's Message

Late May saw lots of family activities and the high school graduations of two of my grandsons – milestones for sure! It has been a blessing to be part of their lives so far and I look forward to what their next steps will include. I'm hoping for appreciation, joy and many adventures.

I love spring and the lovely spring wildflowers, but summer also has many beautiful things to enjoy. I especially like hiking in the woods and even more so when we can do it alone on the trails. Turkey Run and Shades State Park are both near where I live - and I spend many hours roaming at both parks. I prefer them during the week and early and late in the day. At Shades, my partner and I often have the park to ourselves.

Several years ago, I planted a perennial/pollinator border around the patio behind the house. It is really beautiful and there is a range of flowers blooming all spring and summer. I try to include flowers that are useful to bees and other insects and also bird species. I think natural food sources are best and I don't have to worry about cleaning and disinfecting feeders.

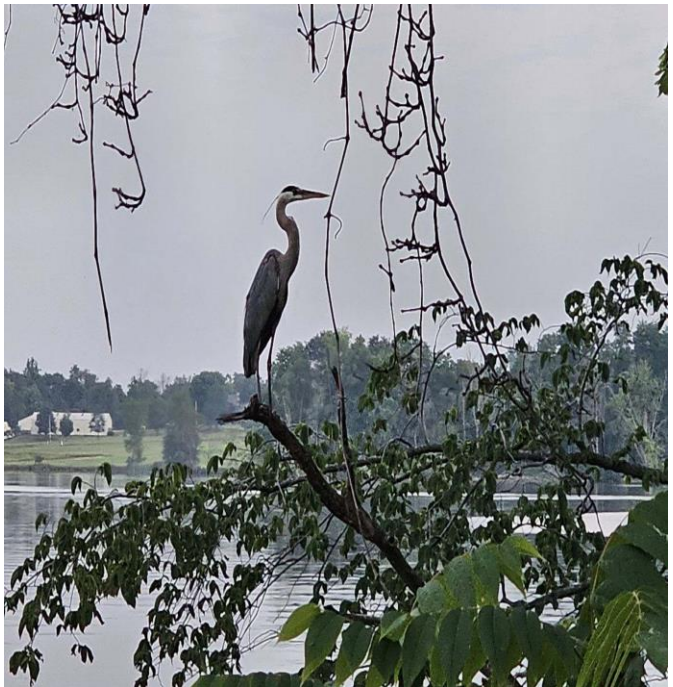
Sometimes we find that all of our careful planning can be suddenly undone by things beyond our control. I spent the Fourth of July weekend with my son and his family near West Chester, PA and came home to an unscheduled surgery. Somehow, I thought I would just bounce back – but recovery has been much slower than I anticipated and desired. I am healing just fine. It is just slower than my impatient soul prefers!

I have created a sculpture for our show that has a whitetail doe and two fawns. I construct armatures for each deer and there are a lot of parts that must be measured, cut out, and joined together before I can even begin doing the sculpting. I also have a mixed media piece and a drawing. I'm hoping all of you have beautiful artwork coming to our show!

Since everyone who attended the luncheon at Minnetrista last year seemed to enjoy it and want to do it again, I have arranged for a luncheon and the details will go out soon. Unfortunately, we will be paying for our own lunches this year, but it sure is nicer to stay at the facility and have time to chat. We see each other so seldom and it is great to catch up with each other. Hope to see you there!

Marianne, Marianne Darling Ballenger, President, Indiana Wildlife Artists

Please enjoy some of Marianne's lovely artwork!



Featured IWA Member Roseanne Crowell

Email address: RoseannesArt@msn.com

Please meet Roseanne Crowell. She has been a member of Indiana Wildlife Artists (IWA) for 13 years, having joined in 2011. Roseanne is most interested in painting realistic animals. She thinks that Robert Bateman is an amazing wildlife artist. He is still an active painter at the age of 94, which Roseanne finds very encouraging.

Roseanne originally started painting with oils, but once she tried soft pastels, she was hooked. Pastels allow her subjects to look touchable, soft and lifelike. She does occasionally work in oils or watercolor for other subjects, but her animal artwork is almost exclusively done in soft pastel. She and her husband travel quite a bit, especially in the winter, and their trips often include visits to zoos and wildlife rescue centers for reference photos.

For Roseanne, each new painting is an exciting challenge to bring her subject “to life” on her drawing board. After laying out the outline and major features, she starts with the eyes. This helps to make the subject feel real, as though she has a special friend looking back at her as she works on the rest of the portrait. She has always liked having a main subject as the focal point rather than landscapes. If she is working on a seascape, for example, Roseanne would have a ship or something similar as the subject. Over time, the subjects have evolved to portraits of animals, which only occasionally have a detailed background.

Roseanne notes that most of her paintings are commissioned pet portraits. She knows when she’s “hit the mark” when the delivered portrait brings on an emotional response. Her hope is that her artwork’s exposure to the public at her studio in Noblesville, by word of mouth and through repeat clients will enable her to continue to create portraits of her “critters.”

Roseanne reports that being a member of Indiana Wildlife Artists (IWA) and seeing all the outstanding work of other wildlife artists is both encouraging and challenging. She especially enjoys the interaction with other members.

Thank you, Roseanne, for being the featured artist for this issue of *Wild Art News*!



Are You Ready?



Watchful



Cedar Waxwings



Half Listening



Shapeshifter

IWA Officers for 2024

President - Marianne Ballenger

Vice President – open

Treasurer – Diana Hunter

Secretary – Char Hulse

Exhibit Chairman – Jenny Smith

Exhibit Co-Chair – Char Hulse

2024 *Upcoming Events*

The 41st Annual Fine Art Exhibit by Indiana Wildlife Artists will be hosted at the Minnetrista Museum & Gardens, 1200 Minnetrista Parkway, Muncie, Indiana 47303. The IWA's Annual Meeting will be Saturday, August 24, 2024, with a business meeting, catered lunch, hanging the exhibit, presentation and awards ceremony. Please see IWA's website for additional information: <https://indianawildlifeartists.org/> (accessed 7/19/24)

