

Wildlife Art in Bronze by



Roger Smith's

volume 2 | issue 1

# Wild Life & Times



<< Introducing, "Lean on Me", that depicts a tender moment of a Brown (Grizzly) bear sow with her cub. Safe in her arms, she assures him as he presses in to snuggle all the more. Detail on the back page.

## Holland... the Netherlands? No, Holland, Michigan

I was very honored to be invited to be part of the Holland Area Arts Council's exhibit, "The Natural Eye," exhibit this summer in Holland, MI.

A few of my selected works will be alongside the hand carved songbirds of Michael VanHouzen, detailed acrylic paintings of natural subjects of Rick Pas, Victorian Revival Birdhouses of John Guertin and the driftwood, moss and willow sculpture of James Lutke. Gale Nobes is exhibiting black and white photographs captured with infrared lenses.

The exhibit runs through August 28, 2008. For more information visit Holland Area Arts Council at [www.hollandarts.org](http://www.hollandarts.org).

## Proud Member

I was recently accepted as an Associate Member Society of Animal Artists. What else can I say? Wow.

From the SAA web site:

*"The Society of Animal Artists is an association of animal and wildlife painters and sculptors. Founded in*

*1960, the Society is devoted to promoting excellence in the portrayal of the creatures sharing our planet, and to the education of the public through its informative art seminars, lectures and teaching demonstrations. Some of the finest animal artists from the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa, Japan, and Australia are represented in the Society's membership.*

*Over the past 48 years the work created by these artists has established new standards of artistic excellence and respect, helping animal and wildlife art to achieve a place of honor in the field of fine art."*



### Inside this issue:

#### Scrap Book

A snapshot of where my art has taken me lately

#### Creature Feature Facts

A further look at Michigan's Elk

#### Work-In-Progress

A Current project in the "clay stage"

...and more!



## Smith Sightings...

### Charlevoix Public Library

"Watchful Doe" and her fawns visit Charlevoix Public Library in Charlevoix, MI for the Summer.



### Twisted Fish

"Up and Running" is currently on display in the beautiful sculpture garden of Twisted Fish Gallery in Elk Rapids, MI.



### Summerville, SC

Here we are in Summerville, SC for the very successful Sculpture in the South art show.

Vicki is smiling because she gets to dress up (I'm guessing it's a girl thing). I'm smiling because I know I'll be eating shrimp n' grits at the "Meet the Sculptors" Reception.



## Collector's Quote

*"The moment we walked into Our Gallery (Pentwater, Michigan), Roger's sculptures leapt off their displays into our hearts. Roger's work is the most realistic we have ever seen. The pieces we added to our family have added a special touch to our home. We love them and wouldn't be surprised if we added a few more to our special collection."*

— Pete and Cathy Miller  
Pentwater, Michigan

## Galleries

My works are currently available at these fine galleries:

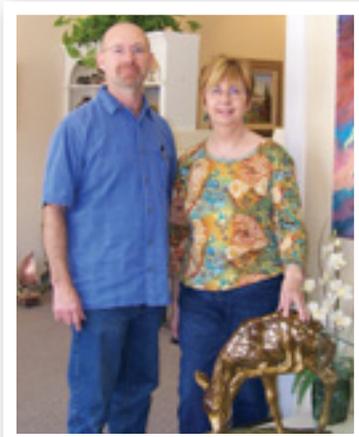
**Gallery on Main**  
4184 Main Street  
Bay Harbor, MI 49770  
Phone: 231-439-2745  
www.galleryonmainbh.com

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

**Our Gallery**  
226 S. Hancock St.  
Pentwater, MI 49449  
Phone: 231-869-8211  
www.ourgallery-petri.com

**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



## Our Gallery – Pentwater, MI

I am pleased to add Our Gallery of Pentwater, MI to the list of fine art galleries selling my work.

Our Gallery was founded in 1987 by artists Bert and Cheri Petri. Patric and Marilyn Sullivan joined the gallery as partners in 2004. Patric is the office manager and Marilyn is the jewelry buyer.

I will be at Our Gallery to meet and greet Friday evening and Saturday afternoon of July 11th and 12th. While there I will be working on my current piece, a large table top size Whitetail buck. We will be offering this at special Pre Cast pricing, typically a 25% savings.

The Friday evening of my visit is Pentwater's weekly "Art Stroll". If you're in the area, stop in for good wine, a little cheese and of course, art.

<< Here I am with one of the founders/  
owners of Our Gallery, Cheri Petri.

# The Elk Rut Creature Feature Facts



In this issue I would like to continue with the Elk and concentrate on their fascinating breeding season commonly referred to as the rut.

The timing of the rutting period is determined by photoperiodism. That is the biological response to the shortening of days. Thus it occurs about the same time at the same latitude every year. This is contrary to some popular belief that the weather has an effect on the timing. The timing is designed so calves are born at the most optimum time in the spring. The bulls that hung together in bachelor groups during the summer are now rivals contending for the same cows. The goal is to gather as many cows that will be coming into estrus into a harem and maintaining the group for the duration of rut.

The cows' life is normal continuing with grazing and resting. Bulls however eat and rest little not wanting to risk losing a cow to a rival bull. Passing on good genes has its costs. All this leaves the bulls in a depleted state just prior to winter. Some don't make it to Spring.

Bulls urinate on their necks and bellies soaking themselves in what I would describe as a musky and almost pine scent. They also rub musk from their preorbital

gland, in front of their eye, on brush and saplings to advertise their presence. Some bulls roll in shallow wallows; urine soaked mud puddles. As with other antlered game, they also rub their antlers on saplings and small trees. Cows don't seem to be impressed with all this posturing and just play along with the game.

The bugling of the bull is his advertisement to cows that he will produce the best offspring. While most bugling is heard in the cool of early mornings and evenings, we have heard them all night long while camping in Elk country.

Listen to bull Elk bugle on my web site. A few years ago we were in Yellowstone filming wildlife for future sculptures. Using my video camera, I was able to capture an audio clip. It's not top notch, but it will give a taste of one of my favorite sounds.

Fights between rival bulls are not uncommon and occasionally even fatal. We have witnessed a couple of fights. Most memorable was one we saw here in Michigan. The loser walked off with his head down, almost as if he were pouting. He came by us within forty yards but didn't even acknowledge our presence. I guess he was too ashamed.

For this bull Elk it's time to rest and brace himself for a long winter. The constant pressure from other bulls wanting to steal his harem has taken its toll. Passing on good genes has its costs. Having not eaten much through the breeding season he's lost crucial fat reserves. From that look you can almost see him thinking – "You really don't want to mess with me right now".

Pre Cast price \$2,900

Retail price will be \$3,900

Only 3 will be sold  
Pre Cast

*#1 is sold. Only 2 left  
at the Pre Cast price.*



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# Roger Smith 2008 SHOWS

...More to Come

## Our Gallery

Pentwater, MI  
Friday evening July 11<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday afternoon July 12<sup>th</sup>  
Meet, Greet & Sculpt

## Gallery on Main

Bay Harbor, MI  
Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup>  
Meet, Greet & Sculpt

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Botkins Sculpture Invitational

Botkins Community Park  
Botkins, OH  
July 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
[www.botkinssculpture.com](http://www.botkinssculpture.com)

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Bay Harbor Art Fair

Bay Harbor, MI  
August 1st & 2nd, 2008

Visit [www.RogersWildlifeArt.com](http://www.RogersWildlifeArt.com) for the latest information and to view an online gallery.

## Wildlife Art in Bronze by Roger Smith

4920 Island Hill Rd.  
Johannesburg, MI 49751

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# Wild Life & Times

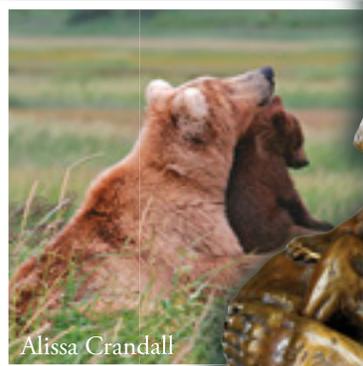
Roger Smith's

## Introducing:

# Lean on Me

"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.



**Lean on Me**  
13½" high  
15" long  
Edition: 12  
\$3,900

**Lean on Me**  
(mini)  
5¼" high  
5½" long  
Edition: 50  
\$690

Visit [www.RogersWildlifeArt.com](http://www.RogersWildlifeArt.com) for pre-cast pricing and details.