

Wildlife Art in Bronze by



Roger Smith's

volume 2 | issue 2

Wild Life & Times



SHOW & TELL

“Watchful Doe with twin fawns” was among only a handful of sculptures selected to be part of the 2008 Eighth Biennial Kentucky National Wildlife Art Exhibit.

A total of 76 works from artists across the country were selected for this show and sale. This piece was one of the top winners with an award sponsored by Vaughn Insurance Agency.

The exhibit and sale is presented by the Ohio Valley Art League and Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources and hosted by the Henderson Fine Arts Center in Henderson, KY and runs until November 7, 2008.

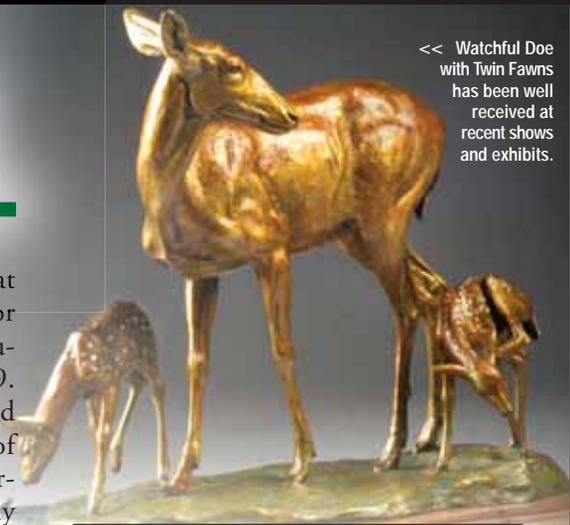


As a side note, it is only fitting that Henderson would host a major wildlife art show. John James Audubon lived there from 1810 to 1819.

There a failed business prompted him to pursue his study of nature and considerable artistic talent more seriously resulting in his famous book “The Birds of America”.

“Fawn meets frog” and “Fawn with an itch” (miniature versions) were both selected for the Society of Animal Artist 2nd Annual “Small Works – Big Impressions” show and sale.

The exhibit is hosted by The Wildlife Experience in Parker, CO and runs November 15, 2008 – January 4, 2009.



<< Watchful Doe with Twin Fawns has been well received at recent shows and exhibits.

Inside this issue:

Latest Work

A look at the latest sculpture, in pre-cast clay

Creature Feature Facts

A study of the White Tail Deer and what they wear

Sculptathon!

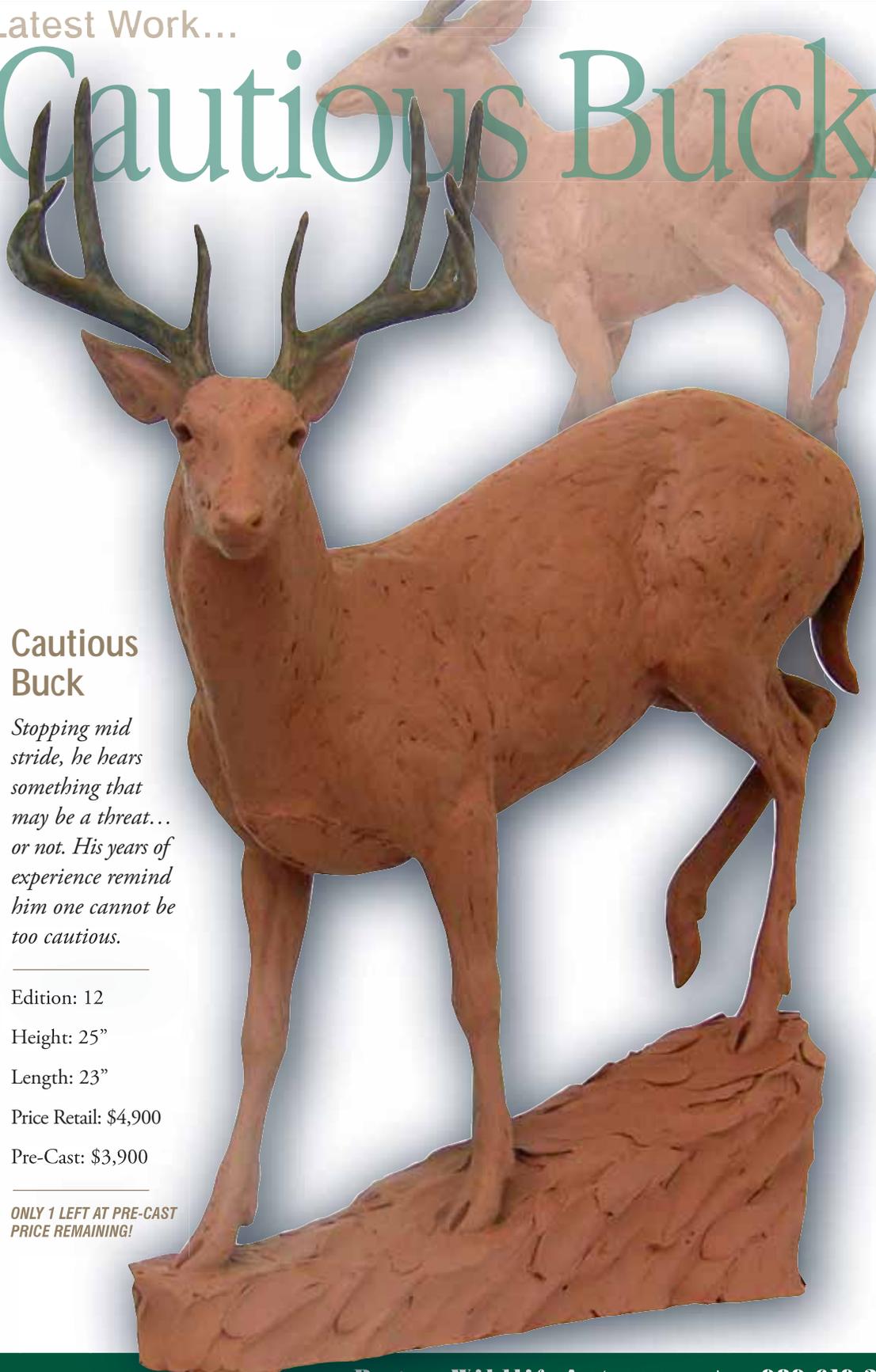
A new tradition of art and leisure

...and more!



Latest Work...

Cautious Buck



Cautious Buck

Stopping mid stride, he hears something that may be a threat... or not. His years of experience remind him one cannot be too cautious.

Edition: 12

Height: 25"

Length: 23"

Price Retail: \$4,900

Pre-Cast: \$3,900

ONLY 1 LEFT AT PRE-CAST PRICE REMAINING!



*Merry Christmas!
From Our Family to Yours*

Last year this newsletter stated "Happy Holidays".

I apologize for this oversight.

It's Merry Christmas around here and always will be.

Roger

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



SCULPTATHON

Last year a couple artist friends and I started what we hope will continue to be an annual event – Sculptathon.

Roger Martin of NC, Paul Rhymer of MD and I had talked about this for years. Finally, last October we got together at my studio for Sculptathon 2007, a weekend of sculpting ravens. So where's my Raven? Um... ah... it got recycled.

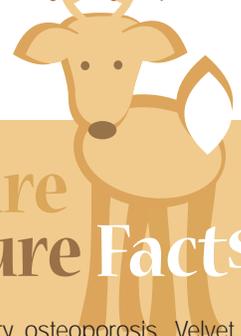
Sculptathon 2008 was hosted by the other Roger at his studio in Albemarle, NC. He has remodeled an old two story downtown brick building into a beautiful studio/gallery. We are tweaking the rules as we go along. Last year we all had to do the same thing – ravens. Or at least it started out that way. This year it was do whatever you want. Paul, a bird expert, has always been captured by the petite beauty of the African Bushbuck and wanted to tackle one. NC Roger, a mammal specialist, decided to step outside his comfort zone and sculpt a Great Horned

Owl. Wanting to take full advantage of my friend's knowledge I decided to do a black bear écorché (an anatomical study model showing the muscles). I did an elk and whitetail écorché last winter just for my own learning. These are always a useful exercise in anatomy education. I like doing these because when I do set out to do a new sculpture I don't have to drag out every reference photo, video, cast and measurement I own. Most of what I need is right there in front of me in 3D.

We had a great weekend of southern hospitality, too much good food, sweat tea, lots of laughs and sculpting.



^ From L to R: Founders Roger Smith, Paul Rhymer and Roger Martin have started a new tradition of art, fellowship and fun with their annual gathering, *Sculptathon*.



The Whitetail Deer

Creature Feature Facts

When I study a particular species for a sculpture, I not only study the physical body but also the life of the animal as well. The Whitetail deer has always fascinated me, especially the physical changes that take place throughout the year.

Hair

Did you know deer have more hairs in the summer than the winter? Yes, more in summer. The reddish to orange coat of the summer has approximately twice as many hairs per square inch than the brown coat of the winter. The role of the shorter, denser summer coat is primarily insect protection. The solid summer hairs offer little insulation value. The near hairless ears actually serve as "radiators" helping to cool the blood as it circulates.

The longer winter hair is hollow and thicker except for the point of connection which is smaller. The hollowness serves as insulation while the smallest

possible root keeps the deer from losing heat by means of conduction.

Antlers

The process of growing a new set of antlers every year begins a few months after the previous ones fall off. Testosterone levels drop after the breeding season. It is this that causes the bases to become more porous and weak to the point of falling off, or cast, usually in January. It is not until the end of March that antler growth kicks in having been triggered by photoperiodism. Photoperiodism is the amount of light that enters an animal's eye and send signals to the pineal gland that in turn sends signals to the endocrine system. It is the pineal gland that is responsible for the timing of migration, hibernation, breeding seasons, etc. What a brilliant design!

Antlers are just external bones made up of calcium, phosphorus, magnesium and other minerals. The growth so fast and the demand so high for these minerals, the bucks actu-

ally have temporary osteoporosis. Velvet, a short haired skin, covers the new antlers while they're growing. The antlers are soft and easily damaged during this time causing the buck to be extra careful. These also act as a radiator helping to cool the blood. With abundant food and warm weather a buck doesn't need nor want to move much. They seem to disappear for the summer.

By mid August the antlers have completed their growth. Decreased blood flow causes the soft interior to solidify. Late August early September marks the time when bucks rub the velvet from their newly hardened antlers. This takes as little as ten minutes to several days, with about a day being normal. Because of the increasing testosterone level in their system they continue to rub trees. It is no longer to remove the velvet but to spar and signpost for the upcoming breeding season.

I credit most of what I know about deer to the books of Leonard Lee Rue III.

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Roger Smith 2009 SHOWS

...More to Come

Our Gallery

Pentwater, MI
Summer dates TBA
Meet, Greet & Sculpt

Sculpture in the South

Azalea Park
Summerville, SC
May 16th & 17th, 2009
www.sculptureinthesouth.com

Gallery on Main

Bay Harbor, MI
Summer dates TBA
Meet, Greet & Sculpt

3rd Annual Botkins Sculpture Invitational

Botkins Community Park
Botkins, OH
July 25th & 26th, 2009
www.botkinssculpture.com

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

Wildlife Art in Bronze
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Johannesburg, MI 49751

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SHOW & TELL

(The rest of the story!)

What is believed to be Roger's first known wildlife art was recently discovered. A scrap book surfaced when his mother was unpacking after a recent move. The robin picture was done by Roger at age 6-7.

Hey, you gotta start someplace!

Sorry, limited edition prints will not be available.



989-619-2055

www.RogersWildlifeArt.com