

Wildlife Art in Bronze by

Roger Smith

Roger Smith's

volume 3 | issue 2

# Wild Life & Times



## *It's a bird! It's a plane!*

...No, it's the result of this Fall's  
Sculptathon gathering (see page 3).

A flying squirrel gliding in for a landing...  
*look out below!*

This piece is designed to hang high on the  
wall, not taking up much space, while  
adding dimension and drama that a  
painting just can't.



### Inside this issue:

#### Latest Work

A look at the latest sculpture  
"Rainbow Trout".

#### Creature Feature Facts

All about the Flying Squirrel

#### Sculptathon 2009

Our annual gathering yields some  
good times and some great art!

*...and more!*

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*Edition: 24*

*Length: 10"*

*Retail \$890*

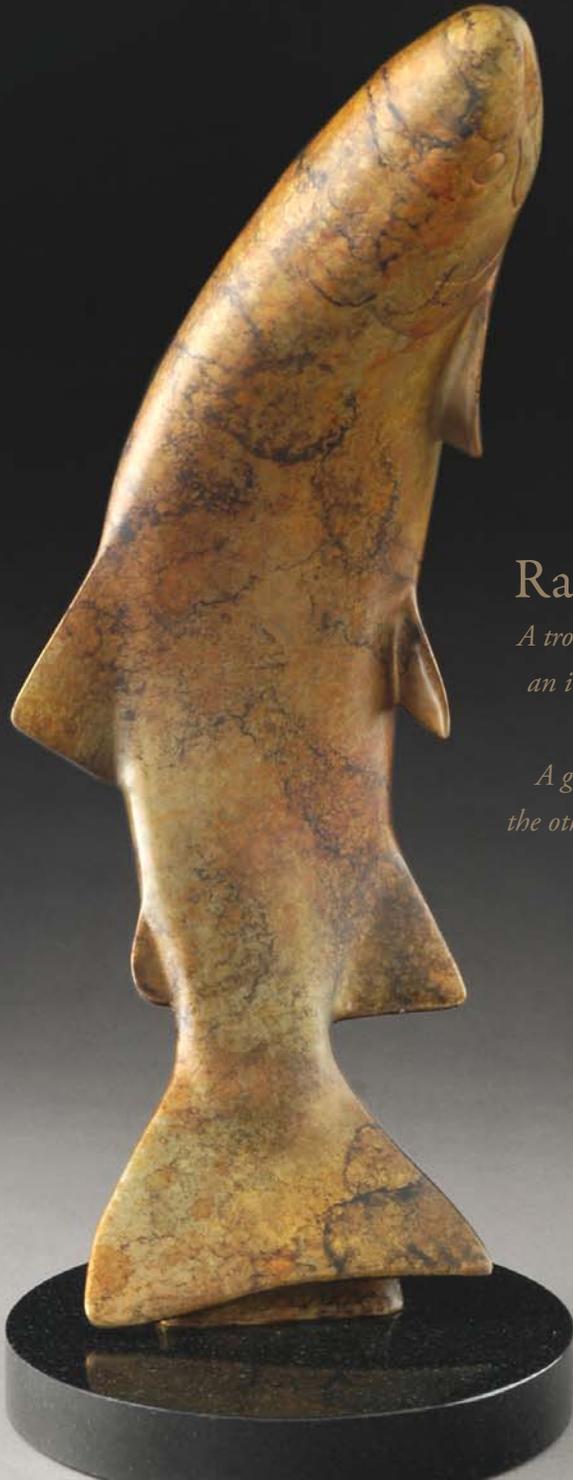
*Please contact me  
for a delivery time.*

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LATEST WORK...

# Rainbow Trout



I know it's a bit of a departure from my typical style but I just could not resist the idea of mixing the graceful organic shapes of the fish with a contemporary patina.

## Rainbow Trout

*A trout shatters the stillness of an inlet stream as it breeches for a glistening instant.*

*A glimpse into the world on the other side of the surface for both fish and fisherman.*

Edition: 24

Height: 19½"

Width: 9½"

Price: \$2,900

THESE WILL BE CAST AS NEEDED SO PLEASE ALLOW SIX-EIGHT WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.



*"Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!"*

*Roger Smith and Family*

## 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 2009

This year's Sculptathon was hosted by Paul Rhymer at his studio in Point of Rocks, MD just a short walk from the Potomac River.

Aside from Paul, Roger Martin from NC and me was Gary Staab from Kearney, MO. Gary and his staff make natural history and prehistoric life models for museums, publishing and film.

We had a great weekend of Eastern shore hospitality, blue crabs, Dairy Queen and untold pounds of chocolate. In between regular feedings and lots of laughs we did find time to get a good bit of sculpting done. It's always great to get together with other artist to hone our skills.



Pictured are myself with my flying squirrel, Gary with his Smilodon (saber toothed tiger), Paul with the start of his monumental sized dung beetle and NC Roger with his wolf.

## The Flying Squirrel

You may be surprised to know that flying squirrels are quite common in the eastern U.S., but being nocturnal, most people will never see one in the wild. So far I have only seen one in the wild and another that got into our basement through a chimney and safely escaped.

The name "flying" squirrel is a bit of a misnomer as they don't actually fly but glide from one perch to the next. They are able to glide by using a special membrane of skin that makes up their "wings". Called the patagium [pah-tey-jee-uhm] it extends from the forelimb to the hind limb. It is made up of two layers of skin with fur on the outside and a thin layer of muscles in between. The muscles are not only used during gliding but also to gather the patagium close to the body and out of the way while climbing and running.

Flying squirrels also have longer limbs relative to body size of all the squirrels. This design creates the most efficient size and shape of their "wings". Steering and stability are accomplished with a broad tail and a special finger like cartilage that attaches to the outside of the wrist. This styliform cartilage inside the patagium creates a turned up wing tip giving it a stabilizing dihedral effect.

Of the 47 species of flying squirrels worldwide only two are in North America. Curiously there are no flying squirrels in South America or Africa, and Australia has no squirrels at all. The two species we have in North America are the northern (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) and southern (*Glaucomys volans*). Here in Michigan's lower peninsula we have the southern species in the lower half and the northern in the upper half.

The northern is the larger with a total length of 10-14 inches weighing 3-5 ounces. The southern is 8-10 inches long weighing 1 ½-3 ounces.

In comparison, the smallest is the pygmy flying squirrel of Borneo at less than an ounce. The largest is the woolly flying squirrel of northern Pakistan, Afghanistan, and northwestern India weighing up to 5 ½ pounds and measuring 35 to 39 inches.

I have only scratched the surface here. There is much more fascinating information about flying squirrels at [www.flyingsquirrels.com](http://www.flyingsquirrels.com) and the references listed below.

#### References

Thorington, R.W. Jr. and K. Ferrell. 2006 *Squirrels: The Animal Answer Guide*  
[www.mi.gov/dnr](http://www.mi.gov/dnr) • <http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu>

### Creature Feature Facts



Wildlife Art in Bronze by



Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Jackson, MI  
Permit No. 258

Wildlife Art in Bronze by

# Roger Smith 2010 SHOWS

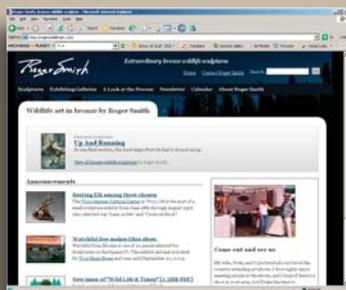
## Sculpture in the South

When: Sat May 15 – Sun May 16, 2010

Where: Summerville, SC

[www.sculptureinthesouth.com](http://www.sculptureinthesouth.com)

*...more to come!*



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

Wildlife Art in Bronze  
by Roger Smith

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# Roger Smith's Wild Life & Times



## Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

After our weekend Sculptathon I was able to stay a couple extra days to visit Washington D.C.

As a small town/rural type, I tend to avoid big cities like the plague. D.C. was a pleasant surprise. For starters I didn't have to deal with traffic. It's a little over an hour's train ride from Point of Rocks, MD into D.C. From Union Station it's only a short subway ride over to the National Mall.

Most of what I wanted to see is right on the Mall; the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, The National Gallery of Art and the Lincoln Memorial. There is much more to see that I'll catch another time.

If you've been thinking of visiting our nation's capital I encourage you to go. Public transportation is cheap and easy and admission to most of the museums is free. There is a bit of walking, but I'll take that over traffic and parking any day.