



# North Carolina Wildlife Artist Society

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 4

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#### Message from the NCWAS President

Hello Everyone,  
Fall is here and with it comes an end to a very busy season for NCWAS.

As we prepare for the last show of the year, I would like to send out a big THANK YOU to all who have helped to organize, deliver, hang and pick up the shows. We even had several members travel out of state so that we could have our shows in Maryland and Georgia. Again, thank you. Your hard work is appreciated.

I would like to also welcome our new members to the group. I look forward to meeting each of you and seeing your work first hand.

2013 was another year of growth for NCWAS and with the growth came growing pains, but we made it through and showed a lot of people what great artists we have living here in North Carolina. By design, our show schedule for 2014 isn't quite as hectic. We will still have some great opportunities for members may be interested in doing. I am also hoping that we will be able to put together a workshop or two and a field trip next year.

We are currently getting all the details worked out for this year's meeting and awards presentation. The meeting will once again be held in Raleigh. We have scheduled the meeting the same weekend as Art of the Carolinas in hopes that this will allow you the opportunity to meet your fellow members, be a part of the decision making process for NCWAS, and get some good deals on art supplies too.

Along with our meeting, we will once again be presenting the Duane Raver Jr. Wildlife Conservation award. This is the highest award we give and it is presented to an individual who has dedicated their life to preserving North Carolina wildlife and giving us the opportunity to paint, photograph, carve, or sculpt it.

This is our way of saying thank you so, I hope you will make plans to join us and PLEASE bring your ideas with you.

Hope to see you in November and keep on creating wonderful art!

Sincerely,

*Kyle Dixon*

Kyle Dixon, President  
North Carolina Wildlife Artist Society

# TREASURY REPORT

Submitted by Raney Rogers, Treasurer

<b>Expenses</b>		0.00
<b>Current Balance</b>		\$1531.97

## NEWS

**And the winner is.....**

**The winner of the 2013 Duane Raver Jr. Wildlife Conservation Award (DRJWCA) is**

***Eddie Bridges***

***Read a little about Mr. Bridges in this article from The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission:***

Bridges, who founded and voluntarily serves as the executive director of the [North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation](#), is well known in conservation circles for his dedication and enthusiasm to conserve and protect wildlife habitat in the Tar Heel state. Under Bridges' leadership, the Foundation has raised nearly \$4 million in donations and has funded more than \$1 million of wildlife conservation programs and projects, such as rebuilding quail populations, enhancing fish habitat around piers and restoring Willow Pond, a public waterfowl-viewing site located in Harkers Island. Through its Adopt-An-Acre Program, the Foundation has purchased more than 200 acres of prime wildlife habitat that will be added to the Commission's North Carolina Game Land Program.

Bridges is a former Wildlife Commissioner, appointed by Gov. James B. Hunt in 1977. He served on the Commission board for 12 years, during which time he created the N.C. Wildlife Endowment Fund, also known as the "Eddie Bridges Fund." Since its inception in 1981, the endowment fund has generated nearly \$150 million for wildlife conservation work across the state. It is a "401(k)" for wildlife that has been duplicated by more than 30 states across the nation and has provided the Commission with money to fund critical projects that enhance hunting, fishing, trapping and other outdoor recreational pursuits.

Bridges also was instrumental in the creation of two other programs that have benefited North Carolina's wildlife and habitats — the North Carolina Waterfowl Conservation Stamp and Print Program and the North Carolina Tax Check-off for Nongame and Endangered Wildlife. Funds from the stamp and print program help conserve, protect and enhance waterfowl habitat in North Carolina while donations to the North Carolina tax check-off fund projects that conserve and protect nongame wildlife and their habitats. ([www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org), 2013)

# ANNUAL MEETING

## 2013 Annual NCWAS Meeting



Saturday, November 9th

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: Tobacco Road Sports Bar

222 Glenwood Ave

Raleigh, NC

Tobacco Road Website: <http://www.tobaccoroadsportscafe.com/>

\*Appetizers, tea, and water will be provided by the North Carolina Wildlife Artist Society.

Our Annual Meeting will once again coincide with  
the Art of the Carolinas show (See show info on page 4)

**ALL** members are **highly** encouraged to attend the meeting. This is the time that we can all let our voices be heard  
and we can ensure that the society is moving in a direction that works for all of us.

It is important to our success that at least once a year we come together as a whole society so, please plan on  
attending and rsvp now!

## RSVP by November 1st

to Robin Wynn by emailing [wynnphotography@gmail.com](mailto:wynnphotography@gmail.com)

Please feel free to bring your spouse or significant other, just be sure to RSVP for the both of you.

# ART OF THE CAROLINAS 2013

**When:**

Friday, Saturday and Sunday

November 8, 9 and 10, 2013

Hours: Friday and Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Workshops begin Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

**Where:**

Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown

3415 Wake Forest Road Raleigh, North Carolina

**Free:**

Admission, Demonstrations & Parking

**Website:**

<http://www.artofthecarolinas.com/>

The 13th annual Art of the Carolinas trade show and workshops offers over 100 workshops in literally every medium. Art professionals fly in from all over the country to offer you the latest instruction in your choice of art and application. Workshops begin on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

On the other side of the hotel in the Grand Ballroom and Prefunction area, is the trade show itself. Here is where the vendors set up their booths with all kinds of fantastic art supplies for you to see, try and ask questions about. Bargain prices are everywhere! You'll see lots of free demonstrations and you'll be able to speak directly with the manufacturers about any questions you may have concerning their products.

Jerry's Artarama offers a free limo to and from their retail store during the trade show hours for your convenience! Go ahead and treat yourself to a relaxing ride. It's just right up the street and very worth your while. Introduce yourself to Tom Dowd, the store manager. He and his staff will be happy to show you around the store and assist you in any way possible.

Limo hours are as follows:

Thursday 8:30am-8:30pm

Friday 8:30am-8:30pm

Saturday 8:30am-8:30pm

Sunday 8:30am – 5:30pm

# FEATURED ARTIST



## Ryan Kirby



**How long have you been creating art?** I started in elementary school. I had a great art teacher in my early days and he helped me tremendously. He taught me the fundamentals and how to use colored pencils, and later helped me to enter the Junior Duck Stamp Program. When I was 12 my grandparents asked me to paint a picture of their black lab, so my parents bought me a set of oil paints and away I went. That first oil painting landed me some commissioned work painting hunting dogs at the local hunt club, and eventually I won the Junior Duck Stamp with an oil painting. All of my previous entries had been colored pencil. From that point on, I spent most of my summers bailing hay for local farmers and painting English Pointers and Labs as a summer job. Sort of an odd combination, but it was a lot of fun.

**What is your favorite medium and subject?** I do a lot of sketching in pencil, but oil paint is by far my favorite medium. As for a subject, I definitely favor white-tailed deer. I grew up in the rich, black dirt of rural Illinois – prime big buck country. I still head back to my parent's farm every November to hunt the rut with friends and family. Whitetails are incredible animals and they're truly a joy to hunt and paint.

**What are you working on currently?** I actually just wrapped up a 30"x20" painting of a buck and a doe running against a backdrop of fall foliage. You can see it in my studio at [http://www.ryankirbyart.com/wildlife\\_artist\\_ryan\\_kirby\\_studio.html](http://www.ryankirbyart.com/wildlife_artist_ryan_kirby_studio.html). I'll take a couple weeks to deer hunt in November, then I'll be hitting the studio pretty hard getting ready for the Southeastern Wildlife Expo in Charleston, SC. I plan on painting some quail, pheasant, and a lab or two in preparation for that show in February.

**What is your greatest source of information?** I read a ton of books and ask a lot of questions from other artists, biologists and hunters that I respect. The most helpful technical books I've read are those by Richard Schmid. He's a master of oil paint and he's incredibly gifted. I also have a professional artist that sort of mentors me. From time to time I ask him for very frank critiques and business advice, and he tells it like it is. I've grown tremendously because of it. I still remember the first time I asked his opinion and he simply said "I like it. I wouldn't change a thing." I felt like I had made it big time!

**Who are your greatest influences?** I get my work ethic from my parents. They're the perfect example of hard working Midwestern farmers. The older I get, the more I value their influence and their outlook on life. If I had to pick one artist that probably influenced me the most in the way I look at life and art, it would be Carl Rungius. The guy was a true outdoorsman. The kind that takes a rifle and paint set with him into the wilds of the Northern Rockies for weeks at a time. He was the ultimate student of the outdoors, and learned to paint not from his studio, but from nature itself. His color temperature, anatomy and atmosphere is spot on, and I think it's because he painted out of what he lived. I'd like my life and career to model that.

**What are your other hobbies and interests?** I love to hunt. Spring turkeys with a shotgun are my favorite, with bow hunting for whitetails running a very close second. I'd rather bow hunt than just about anything these days. I'm newly married, so I also enjoy spending time with my wife Kim. She's an incredible woman and a true joy in my life. I have a motorcycle, and we really enjoy riding through the countryside, going nowhere in particular and exploring a bit. When you have a bike you just find excuses to ride it!

**Where did your interest in wildlife art originate?** My dad introduced my younger brother and I to the outdoors at a very early age, and I'm forever grateful for that. Hunting and fishing has not only fueled my career, it has also blessed and enriched my life in ways I could have never imagined. Between the memories, the friendships and the experiences in the outdoors, wildlife has given more to me than I could ever give in return. It's only natural that I paint the things that I'm most passionate about.

**What are your upcoming shows or promotions and what are your plans for the upcoming year?** Next week I'll be in Edgefield, SC signing 1,800 prints for the National Wild Turkey Federation's 2014 banquet art program, which I'm very excited about. I got my start as a graphic artist there after college, so it will be fun to go back and see old friends and work with the NWTf in a new capacity. I've also started working with a publisher and I'm optimistic about the potential with them to produce some great editions of prints and licensed images. My biggest show will be the Southeastern Wildlife Expo in Charleston SC in February. Being juried into that show is a big step for me, and Kim and I are looking forward to the experience.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Remaining 2013 Exhibits

**AUG 10-NOV 16**

**CORE SOUND WATERFOWL MUSEUM**

Harkers Island, NC

<http://coresound.com/>

**NOV 1 - DEC 16**

**MOORE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL at CAMPBELL HOUSE**

Southern Pines, NC

<http://www.mooreart.org/programs/campbell-house/>

Opening reception will be Nov 1 from 6-8 pm.

## Fort Fisher Artwork Pick Up

All works have been picked up from Ft Fisher.

All pieces will be transported to the annual meeting in Raleigh.

It is expected that you will pick up your artwork at the meeting.

If you are unable to make it to the meeting, please make other arrangements for pick up by contacting Robin Wynn at [wynnphotography@gmail.com](mailto:wynnphotography@gmail.com)

# NCWAS MERCHANDISE



## *Want NCWAS Merchandise?*

*We will be putting together a merchandise order at the annual meeting!  
So, don't forget to bring your checkbook!*

Show your support for the society and buy a shirt, jacket, or hat!

All members will receive a 10% discount and a percentage of each sale goes to help support our group.