

Successful First Expedition Spawns Support For Other Exciting Adventures

Worldwide Nature Artists' Group (WNAG) proudly announces two new Flag Expeditions for 2006

Ottawa, ON (March 21, 2006)— Following the success of its inaugural flag expedition into the jungles of Panama in early December 2005, the Worldwide Nature Artists' Group (WNAG) is proud to support two new adventures into bold and unfamiliar territories.

WNAG Flag Expedition #2: "The Sacred Source – A Portrait of the Ganges", will involve an artistic study of the Indian Himalayas and the Ganges headwaters region through sketches and watercolor paintings. The Expedition will focus on the beauty and ecological complexity of the Garhwal and Kumaon Himalayas with an emphasis on documenting the ecological and conservation challenges facing the Ganges River system, such as increased tourism, glacial recession, forest fragmentation, and shrinking botanical biodiversity in the fabled "Valley of the Flowers".

WNAG Flag Expedition #3: "The George River Boreal Forest Expedition" will involve a group expedition to explore Arctic Quebec's George River and boreal forest region – migratory grounds for the George River woodland caribou herd – the world's largest at nearly one million animals.

Both expeditions will occur in late 2006 and both were selected, among several proposals submitted in December 2005 and will serve to increase awareness of important conservation issues about remote environments through art. These expeditions follow the highly successful inaugural WNAG Flag Expedition by David Kitler to Panama in December 2005 which is featured on the WNAG website.

The second fellowship grant under the WNAG Flag Expeditions Program will provide US \$5,000 to artist David Rankin, renowned watercolorist, who has been a Signature Member of WNAG since 2003. Working with the Wildlife Institute of India, Rankin will trek throughout the headwaters region of the Ganges River system, at times to high altitudes. The region is home to populations of elephant, tiger, leopard and a wide range of bird species. Accompanied by an experienced videographer, the adventure will be captured on video, as well as through David's artwork.

The third official "Flag" expedition has been awarded to artist Rob Mullen to paddle and paint a large section of the George River in the company of several other internationally-recognized nature artists and signature members of WNAG, including Robert Bateman, Lindsey Foggett and Jay Johnson. Also accompanying Mullen on this ambitious trek will be wilderness canoeists and photographers Gary & Joanie McGuffin, Dr. Stephen Loring of the Smithsonian Institution, and Dr. Jim Evans, an MD and Search and Rescue expert.

The "George", a remote wilderness river, winding between the tundra and boreal forest ecosystems, flows for 500 kilometers northward to Kangiqsualujuaq on Ungava Bay on the Arctic Ocean, just west of the Torngat Mountains and the Labrador/Quebec border. A preliminary reconnaissance expedition supported by the WNAG was completed in September of 2005, to ensure a safe and effective art expedition in 2006. Approximately 250 kilometers of the river will be navigated during the expedition.

About the Worldwide Nature Artists Group: The Worldwide Nature Artists Group (WNAG) is the world's foremost international organization of nature artists, dedicated to the celebration and preservation of our natural heritage. Membership is by invitation-only, and is limited to 500 artists worldwide. It reads like a "Who's Who" of nature art, and includes the top names in the field, including Robert Bateman, John Banovich, Guy Coheleach, Gamini Ratnavira, and David Shepherd. For more information about the WNAG's innovative initiatives, visit www.natureartists.com.

About the Flag Program: The objective of the Flag Expeditions Program is to make possible the field study and artistic rendering of endangered species or habitats deserving of greater public attention with strong emphasis on the study of unique and threatened habitats and rare or endangered species in remote parts of the world. For more information on the WNAG Flag Program, or sponsorship opportunities, please visit the Expedition Web site at www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions/.

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