



## Oregon Sculptor to Study Rare Seal of Lake Baikal, Russia

*Terry Woodall wins Artists for Conservation Flag Expedition Fellowship to research unique freshwater species of seal.*

**Vancouver, B.C., CANADA -- (April 22, 2008)**— The Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC), is pleased to announce its seventh fellowship involving a grant of \$5,000 US, under the AFC Flag Expeditions Program, awarded to wildlife artist Terry Woodall, of North Bend, Oregon, USA. The objective of the Program is to make possible the artistic field study and rendering of rare and endangered species or habitats deserving of greater public attention, particularly in remote parts of the world.

Working in cooperation with research centers near Lake Baikal in north-eastern Russia, and with the Baikal Watch and the Baikal Wave conservation organizations, Terry will be in the field from mid-June to mid-July, 2008, observing and recording the Baikal Seal (also called "Nerpa") in its habitat. He will become the first sculptor, under the Program, to carry out a Flag Expedition.

Terry is an accomplished wood sculptor, with an interpretive and abstract style. His work is largely inspired by the success stories in wildlife conservation, adding "...I hope to encourage and persuade people to recognize the victories made in preserving wildlife – a 'celebrate-the-species' approach – applauding those who have worked so hard to help make it happen and encouraging more success in the future."

The Baikal Seal is the only indigenous freshwater seal in the world, isolated thousands of miles from the nearest sea in Lake Baikal, Russia, the largest and deepest lake in the world. Considerable wildlife of this extensive area include brown bear, mountain goat, snow sheep, reindeer, elk, moose, Siberian Roe, wild boar, musk deer, white tailed deer, lynx, wolf, wolverine, and dozens of other fur bearing animals including the sable and ermine.

Baikal Wave has focused on protection of the nerpa, with extensive research available, and will assist with local logistics and information on the nerpa. Working with a recognized research/conservation organization which can benefit from the AFC artist's support is very important to the success of a flag expedition.

Jeffrey Whiting, AFC's president adds, "We look forward to following an expedition from a sculptor's perspective.

**About the Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC):** The Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC) is the world's leading artist collective, dedicated to the preservation of our natural heritage. Its membership represents 500 of the world's top artists from 27 countries, who focus primarily on nature and wildlife. It reads like a "Who's Who" of nature art, and includes the top names in the field, such as Robert Bateman, John Banovich, Guy Coheleach, Pollyanna Pickering and David Shepherd. For more information about the AFC's innovative initiatives, visit [www.natureartists.com](http://www.natureartists.com).

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

- 30 -

For further information:

- Artists for Conservation (AFC) [www.natureartists.com](http://www.natureartists.com)
- AFC Flag Expeditions Program: [www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions](http://www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions)
- Terry Woodall: [www.natureartists.com/terry\\_woodall.asp](http://www.natureartists.com/terry_woodall.asp)
- Baikal Wave: [www.baikalwave.eu.org](http://www.baikalwave.eu.org)

### Media Enquiries:

Jeff Whiting  
President & Founder  
Artists for Conservation Foundation  
(604) 608-2392  
[jwhiting@natureartists.com](mailto:jwhiting@natureartists.com)