

George River Boreal Forest Flag Expedition Now Underway

Worldwide Nature Artists' Group (WNAG) proudly supports ambitious trek into remote wilderness

Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA (September 11, 2006)— Participants in WNAG Flag Expedition #3 - "Visions of the Boreal Forest" have embarked on their 200-kilometer (140 mile) journey down the George River in northern Quebec, Canada. The expedition members will be in virtual isolation for approximately three weeks while canoeing toward Ungava Bay and the Arctic Ocean.

Team leader and WNAG Signature Member, Rob Mullen will navigate the George River and capture on canvass and in a special "Flag" journal, his experiences along the way.

"Combining art and science with adventure, provides artists with intimate, intense and "real" experiences of wilderness to inspire their work. It mobilizes artists in a unique way to contribute to the public discussion of conservation," says Mullen, who along with other internationally recognized nature artists and WNAG Signature Members, including Robert Bateman, Lindsey Foggett and Jay Johnson, will journey into Canada's Boreal region and reveal, through their respective artistic media, the delicate ecosystems that thrive there. Also accompanying Mullen on this ambitious trek will be artists Jean-Louis Courteau, Lee Kromschroeder and John Pitcher, 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.

Jeff Whiting, President and Founder of the WNAG, is pleased that the adventure has begun. "The WNAG supported a reconnaissance trip with Mullen and six other crew members to the same location in September 2005 to ensure a safe and effective art expedition in 2006. We wish the team a wonderful, inspiring, and safe journey."

The "George", a remote wilderness river, winding between the tundra and boreal forest ecosystems, flows for 500 kilometers northward to Kangiqsualujjuaq on Ungava Bay on the Arctic Ocean, just west of the Torngat Mountains and the Labrador/Quebec border.

The trip's focus is the Boreal Forest, the largest intact forest on Earth. Critical for climate, water, habitat, native culture, timber, minerals and energy, it is underappreciated and threatened by unsustainable development making it one of the greatest and most pressing conservation opportunities in the world. This is also the season for the migration of the George River woodland caribou herd, the world's largest at nearly one million animals.

The journey will be the basis for a major art exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in 2008 and plans for a touring exhibition, which will include Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Minneapolis, Denver, San Francisco, and New York, are also underway.

Along with the support of the Worldwide Nature Artists Group (WNAG), the expedition is operating under the aegis of the Wilderness River Expedition Art Foundation.

Additional information on this expedition can be found at www.natureartists.com.

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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