

First WNAG Flag Expedition heads into the jungles of Central America

Renowned Canadian artist to study the endangered Harpy Eagle

Ottawa, ON (November 7, 2005)— The Worldwide Nature Artists Group (WNAG) is pleased to announce its first fellowship grant of \$5,000 US awarded to wildlife artist David Kitler under the WNAG's Flag Expeditions Program. The objective of the 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.

On December 1st, Kitler will embark on his expedition to the jungles of Panama to observe and portray the endangered Harpy Eagle and its habitat in what will likely be the most comprehensive artistic study ever of the powerful and extremely rare bird. Kitler submitted the winning proposal following the announcement of WNAG's Flag Expedition Program, a key program fulfilling the WNAG's mission "to promote sustainability and conservation of the natural world through art, education and special initiatives."

"We are excited and proud to enable Mr. Kitler to undertake this important expedition to draw attention to this highly threatened raptor and its fragile habitat. Our intention is to make possible field trips off the beaten path, such as David's, in order to create awareness of worthy environmental issues," says WNAG president and founder Jeffrey Whiting.

Upon return from the expedition, Kitler will be required to submit to the Group, a written journal and sketchbook of his journey, photos with the WNAG flag in situ, and video footage when possible. Extensive coverage of the expedition will be posted on the WNAG Web site (www.natureartists.com). Artwork resulting from the expedition will be used in various ways to create tangible benefits for the Harpy Eagle species and its vanishing habitat.

For more information about WNAG, including information on applying for the next Flag Expedition Program, visit www.natureartists.com/flagprogram/.

About the Worldwide Nature Artists Group (WNAG)

The Worldwide Nature Artists Group is an exclusive, international, non-profit society of world-class nature artists dedicated to the celebration and preservation of the natural world. With a total membership of nearly 500 members, the WNAG is internationally recognized as one of the largest and most prestigious organizations in the nature art community. Founded in 1997 by Jeffrey Whiting—renowned Canadian artist, author and biologist—the Group's membership reads like a "Who's Who" of nature art, and includes BAS, Robert Bateman, Glen Loates, Gamini Ratnavira and David Shepherd. For more information, visit www.natureartists.com.

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