

# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2011

From the stunning two-story waterfall to breathtaking maple and pine trees; from expertly crafted wood cabinetry and display cases to state of the art lighting systems; our artisans really knocked this one out of the park. The incredibly lifelike habitat is the new home to well over 300 mounts and it is a sight to see.



Here in central Michigan the apple trees are in full bloom, the migratory birds are back and there's no doubt that it's the beginning of the African hunting season. The phones are ringing off the hook with hunters who need tags and are sharing fantastic stories of their hunts. It is an exciting time of year here at The Wildlife Gallery and our team is going full speed ahead.

Many new projects and developments have made their way to the forefront over the recent months. This newsletter is a brief overview of some highlights.



## THE MILLER EMPEY NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM

We are proud to have been an integral part of the construction of the Miller Empey Natural Science Museum in Freeland Michigan this past spring. We had the opportunity to create a museum quality woodland habitat for their massive taxidermy collection. This collection largely consists of bird species, but also includes mammals, bats, and reptiles. It is one of the premier North American bird collections in the state and has been a valuable community asset since the early 1900's. It is now a learning center designed to boost the interest in wildlife among children.

We would like to recognize Frank Newmyer and his team; Randy Mitchell, Rodney Walters, Bill Brandenburg, Ben Anderson and Nate Fahndrich, along with our woodworking team, led by Shane Smith, including Josh Moody and Aaron Hubble.



Thank you for your outstanding work on this project. Bill Brandenburg also offered his expertise as an ornithologist to categorize and document the collection. For more information about this project see the link to the Saginaw News on our website:  
[www.thewildlifegallery.com/taxidermy](http://www.thewildlifegallery.com/taxidermy)



#### NEW WEBSITE FEATURES

Our website has undergone quite a few additions and changes since our last newsletter. With the addition of many recent photos and video clips, our web designer Greg Traviss is working hard to keep it interesting and informative. We also have started YouTube and Facebook pages to further provide a steady stream of relevant communication with our customers and friends. In another area of our website, our personal webpage program is very strong. The personal web pages enable our clients to view new photos of their work in progress each week. This aspect of our customer service continues to be very popular and is an easy form of communication.

#### MOUNTAIN BUILDERS

Our mountain crew has been very busy this spring working on trophy room/mountain dioramas all over the country. Of particular note is Dr. Jerry Bush in Colorado, whose mountain has turned out spectacular. What an amazing way to display one's mounts and preserve the memory of what it took to acquire such an array of animals. The display adds that special touch of depth and perspective so as you look upon the mountain you get the sense that you are standing before a vast range.

The diorama as a whole comes together in a unique way to create the effect that you are looking out over a vantage point. This reproduction of the animals' natural environment really can take mounts to a new level of realism and depth.



#### LEOPARDS

We have had an amazing run of big cats; specifically, quite a few large leopards have come to us in the recent months. These monster leopards, together with lifelike habitat, have made some of the most elegant displays you can imagine. These graceful and beautiful creatures come complete with some of the most intense hunting stories.



It is our goal to capture some essence of the hunter's experience while on safari in Africa and instill it into the mount. It is our full intention to hear our client's incredible stories, study their photos and videos, and utilize every aspect of the hunt to re-create a glimpse of what it took to harvest that trophy. Months of planning and preparation have been invested, miles of tracks have been followed, and the utmost energy, effort, and expertise have been called upon in pursuit of a dream.

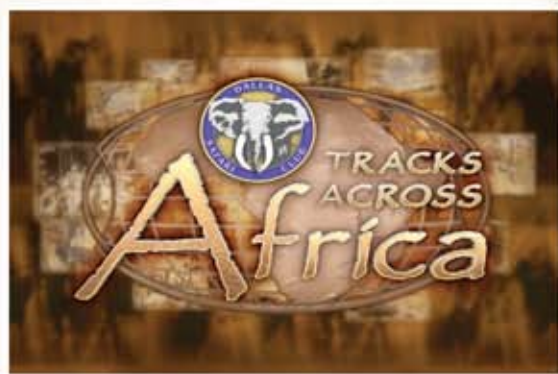
We understand and respect the importance of infusing the hunter's passion and experience into the finished mount. You may ask, why get so serious about taxidermy? It simply comes down to this... our clients work hard to hunt and harvest their dream trophy and we make it our responsibility to work hard to preserve it.



**WOODWORK AND CUSTOM FURNITURE**  
 Shane Smith and his crew have created some very elegant office desks and home furnishings. It is almost impossible to capture in words what makes these pieces so unique. You need to see the depth of the wood choices and finish colors to really get a sense of the quality.



Our line of custom furniture can take any trophy room, home, or office to the next level. In addition, the thematic inlays, creative carving, and solid design really make our pedestals and bases an exceptional platform on which to mount trophies. Whether your preference is traditional, modern, ethnic, or something in between, our crew of woodworkers can and will exceed your expectations.



#### TELEVISION PROGRAMS

The Wildlife Gallery is proud to support Craig Boddington and Ivan Carter on the Outdoor Channel and Sportsman's Network. It is an incredible opportunity to see the actual hunting videos of the animals we are working on. Seeing first hand where they came from and hearing the wide array of stories that accompany the trophies gives our team a huge advantage in creating the most lifelike and stunning mount.



Of special interest is our client and friend, James Nicholas, whose ivory weighed in at well over 80 pounds per side. Here are a few photos of his elephant tusk pedestals and ear paintings.





Chip Stehmeyer with his leopard

#### CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

I was first introduced to the Wildlife Gallery team at the Dallas Safari Club Convention in January 2010. At the time, I was using a taxidermist whose quality was exceptional, but the turnaround was quite long. I was intrigued by the quality of the work in the Wildlife Gallery booth and very impressed with their promise of quick turnaround.

I could tell from talking with Dan Catlin that the team at the Wildlife Gallery emphasized impeccable service and the highest quality, so I decided to give them a chance with a life size brown bear mount. I was not disappointed. The quality of my bear mount is magnificent, and they delivered it on schedule at a price that is very competitive.



Chip Stehmeyer's leopard mounted by The Wildlife Gallery

Even more important, I was treated like a part of their family. Since then, I have used the Wildlife Gallery exclusively for the last 12 trophies I have taken including a Cape Buffalo, Leopard and Sable. I look forward to sending them a new series of Africa trophies soon, because I know I can trust their team to deliver!



#### BEST WISHES

We would like to take this opportunity to wish those of you who are travelling to hunt this summer a safe and successful venture. May the wind stay in your face and may the monster stand broadside!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Catlin".

Dan Catlin  
Taxidermy Studio Manager