

Sherry Steele ANNUAL COLLECTOR'S NEWSLETTER

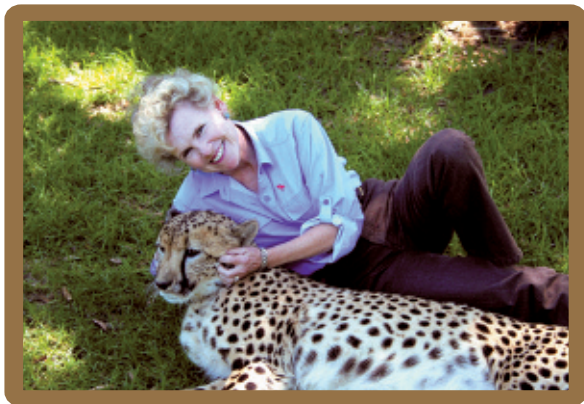


*To travel fast, one must travel alone...
To travel far, one must travel with many.*

Old African saying

Dear Family of Friends and Collectors,

The rumble of his purr vibrated through my fingers as they dug deep into his scruff. The wooly coat was dense and begged to be stroked. From the depth of his purrs, the cat seemed to love it as much as I, and the watchful Ranger approvingly relaxed with my manner. Can you believe it? I had just stretched out with a cheetah!



Sherry and Duma the Cheetah

The exhilaration of that moment stays with me as I write this. It was one of many that marked this amazing year. I find I must turn to my sketch- book/journals to remind me of the many journeys, emotionally, physically and creatively, we made in 2006. As I turn the pages, the phrases and sketches reach out and grab me with memories of the passages that lay behind us.

In January it took the Safari Club shows (Safari Club International and Dallas Safari Club) to keep our feet on the ground before our approaching safari to Tanzania. Somehow, the many good friends popping into our booth kept reality tangible and memorable. It was humbling to be among the finest wildlife artwork in the world, yet still be buoyed by the confidence you have shown in my work. You left us with barely enough time to begin filling your many orders before we left for Africa.

The Texas Indian and Southwest Art Market (Arlington, TX) fell fast on the heels of our return and it took a supreme effort to pull our heads down out of the Tanzanian clouds. It was a great way to return to reality. Then, the gathering of collectors at the Spring Cottonwood Art Festival (Richardson, TX) and the Texas Arts and Crafts Festival (Kerrville, TX) gave us the burst of energy to carry us through the summer.

Fall found us at Copper Mountain, CO where we participated in the revival of its music and arts festival. The mix of art with music by Lynard Skynard and Big and Rich literally rocked the fine art pavilion at times. Then we wrapped up with the Fall Cottonwood Art Festival (Arlington, TX) over a weekend of beautiful weather and fun reunions before heading off to Africa again.

I have traveled far this year. As the quiet of my studio settles around my shoulders like a warm mantle, I am reminded of the many that made it possible. Around every bend, the helping hands of friends, old and new, were always outstretched. This journey from humble beginnings has been sustained by your generosity and your belief in my work. I am truly blessed and only hope the simple gift of my art can help repay my huge debt of gratitude to you.

Sherry Steele

Africa 2006 - Tanzania

My fourth time in Africa was as overpowering as the first. Its timeless mystery is always fresh with new marvels to thrill the senses.



Tanzania Safari Group 2006

Leading our group of 18, Chuck and I delighted in showing them our favorite places in Tanzania. Bringing the relief of drenching nighttime rains with us, the land and wildlife bounced to their feet like the newborn wildebeest calves around us. As we entered the Serengeti amidst the migration, shafts of sunrays lit up the rock kopjes like molten silver. Sighting a pair of lions honeymooning atop one of those kopjes was a crowning event for all of us as they courted and began a stroll alongside our vehicles. That moment is captured in my latest piece, "Conquest of a King".

From camp to camp we sang and laughed. We danced with the Maasai guarding our camp, delivered school supplies to orphans and tried to absorb the very essence of Africa with every breath. As one person in our group so aptly put it, "I expected to love the beauty of the land, to be overwhelmed by the animals, but I never expected to fall in love with the people".

[South Africa](#)

Unexpectedly, we were given the opportunity to return to Africa a second time this year. Through the generosity of our hosts, Scott and Melissa, we were shown many of the treasures of South Africa. Starting in the South at Shamwari (the largest private preserve in S.A.), we traveled Northeast to Kruger where we stayed at Jock Safari Lodge, one of the jewels in the Mantis Collection of Boutique Lodges (www.mantiscollection.com). Continuing on, we visited the private preserve of Mabalingwe, North of Pretoria, in our search for the African Wild Dogs.



Sherry sketching a Leopard

Along the way, Chuck helped with the radio tracking of a leopard that later walked straight up to our open vehicle. She was so close I could have touched her as she lingered and even answered me when I gave her my best rendition of a leopard's meow.



We bottle-fed 3-month old lion cubs, hand-fed wild Nyala bulls and finally found our Wild Dogs (AKA Cape Hunting Dogs or Painted Dogs), the second most endangered carnivore on the continent. Sketching them as they circled our vehicle, with them in constant motion, felt like trying to stand in a tornado. Their vivid coloring and high intelligence made their sighting one of those rare and amazing memories we will never forget. Scott and Melissa, thank you for making it all possible.

[New Works](#)

Despite the extended amount of time we spent traveling, 2006 has been a very productive year for me. Perhaps the amount of inspiration pouring out through my hands is in direct proportion to that which poured in through my eyes. Please check my website www.sherrysteele.net for details about these new works.

["Pivot Point"- Gemsbok](#)

Tail flared in the whirlwind of his pivot, the gemsbok bull dances away from the perceived threat. Sporting a horse-like plume for a tail, it perfectly balances the length of the spiraling horns. What began as a muted piece of beiges and grays quickly became one of movement and grace.



“Conquest of a King” - Courting Lions

Shafts of sunrays spotlighted the rain-slick kopje where we spied this pair of ‘honeymooning’ lions. Oblivious to everything but their own passion, not even the approach of the Long Rains could cool their ardor. At times the lioness, hussy that she was, appeared to have totally conquered her King.



“Dressed To Impress” - Crowned Crane

Wearing a feathered head-dress like spun gold in the sunlight, this elegant creature is the national bird of Tanzania. Delicate gray, yellow and rust feathers are emphasized by the glitter of his crown. Spiked with the surrounding reeds, the airy simplicity of the piece lets the eye focus on the details of his beautiful attire.



Upcoming Works

As always, the blank sheet of paper on my drawing table beckons to me. The Wild Dogs are first, as their sketch begins to fill in with details. Next, I am planning to complete the trio of gossiping Prairie Dogs and then tackle the difficult task of capturing Merriam’s Turkeys in action. A full plate brimming with gourmet delights for a lover of wildlife.

Sherry Steele “Collectors” Safari 2008

The next adventure is on and the dates are set! Departing on February 25, 2008 and returning on March 9th, I will once again personally lead a 14-day safari to my favorite parts of Tanzania.

A total of 16 select travelers will fly into Mt. Kilimanjaro Airport (Arusha, Tanzania). Highlights will include Arusha National Park, Kikoti Camp in the Tarangire (known for its elephant herds), Lake Manyara, a classic mobile tented camp in the Serengeti, visits to Maasai villages, Kirawira Tented Camp on the Grumeti River (for one-ton Nile crocodiles), and culminating at the Ngorongora Crater. Our guides are the finest available, who will strive to provide the experience of a lifetime.

Working with International Expeditions and Tanzania Photographic Safaris (the same outfitters we have used previously), we will be in the very best of hands. From the finest of lodges to classic mobile tented camps in the bush, we will be treated to tantalizing meals and gracious service. Specially equipped Land Cruisers will provide ample room for ideal game viewing. The cost per person is \$6898 plus airfare.

For information about this, and future safaris, please contact me. We know you will have many questions about food, accommodations, photography equipment, shots, shopping and safety concerns. We can provide answers to both specific and “most frequently asked” questions. You may email me at ssteele@texas.net, or call me at (512) 892-3553.

“Heart of a Giant” - Horned Lizard

Looking for all the world like a relic from the age of dinosaurs, this beloved creature of the Southwest is struggling to make a comeback. His spunky attitude belies the gentle nature that made him part of many happy childhood memories. Somebody forgot to tell the little fellow he is only 4 inches long.... including his tail.



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2007 Scheduled Shows

JAN 12-14	Dallas Safari Club Show MARKET HALL ON STEMMONS FWY, DALLAS, TEXAS
JAN 24-27	Safari Club International Show SPARKS CONVENTION CENTER, RENO, NV
MAR 30-31	Texas Indian & Southwest Art Show CONVENTION CENTER, ARLINGTON, TX
MAY 5-6	Cottonwood Spring Art Festival BELTLINE ROAD, RICHARDSON, TX
MAY 25-28	TX Arts & Crafts Festival RIVER STAR EVENTS CENTER, KERRVILLE, TX
SEP 26-29	AZAD Convention HYATT REGENCY, ST. LOUIS, MO
SEPT thru NOV	Special One Artist Exhibit CULTURAL ARTS CENTER, THOMASVILLE, GA
OCT 5-6	Cottonwood Fall Art Festival BELTLINE ROAD, RICHARDSON, TX

**OTHER SHOWS DATES ARE UNCONFIRMED. POSTCARDS WILL BE MAILED
IF WE PLAN TO BE IN YOUR AREA.**