

TEXAS HUNTERS HOTLINE

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TEXAS TROPHY HUNTERS ASSOCIATION



"Marsh Coon," watercolor 12" x 16"



Max Greiner, Jr., during one of his many bowhunting trips.

ANOTHER SIDE OF HUNTING IS THE ART OF HUNTERS AND HUNTING. A RISING YOUNG TEXAS ARTIST IS CREATING SOME OF THE FINEST WILDLIFE ART TODAY, AND THE HUNTERS LOVE IT. PERHAPS, IT'S BECAUSE THE ARTIST IS A REAL TEXAS HUNTER.

Texas Wildlife Art

Written exclusively for the Texas Hunters Hotline ©1979 by Tink Nathan. Life Member



When editor, Jerry Johnston, wanted a piece on my old buddy and hunting partner, Max, I thought it would be a snap. Upon reflection, I found it difficult to remain objective since I am captivated with his work. In addition to owning some of Max's bronze sculpture, I have commissioned an oil painting of me bowhunting elephant in the veldt of Mozambique. Having worked with Max on a number of volunteer conservation committees, I learned to know Max and discovered intellectual depth I had not perceived before, when discussing the finer points of the rut or comparing notes on bugling stinky bull elk to "spittin" range. I did learn that Max was a real hunter, whose love of art is surpassed only by his love of the outdoors and hunting.

Down in East Texas, about five dusty country miles from the small town of Woodville lives this most

Sherry, call a 116 acre heavily wooded ranch their home. Here surrounded by hardwoods and pine, this fellow devotes his life to art and conservation. In his short 27 years, Max has accomplished more than most sensible people aspire to. He has come through the ranks of scouting and the halls of higher learning. Max graduated from Texas A & M University, taking a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Design, while learning a great deal about conservation from his elective wildlife management classes.

Upon graduation, Max joined a leading Texas firm of architects in Dallas, learning a great deal about the world of people and design. Then in 1976 he decided to investigate yet another career field; the rat race and ulcer field of advertising. Fortunately for Max, he was able to combine his love of archery and hunting with his skills as a top commercial artist, when he joined the professional staff of the

California. While at Jennings, Max revamped the entire graphic image of the firm, creating several of the best archery catalogs done in the industry to date. His innovative ideas became reality and a whole spectrum of design improvements were instituted for Tom Jennings, the "Father of the Compound Bow." Within his first year with the firm, Max was promoted to Director of Advertising and Promotion. Meanwhile, Max created a series of eight big game watercolor paintings, and Jennings offered the prints for sale, with the proceeds being donated by Max and Tom Jennings to the National Bowhunter Defense Fund. Today, these prints, rich in color, are collectors' items and grace the homes and offices of thousands of hunters across the country. Though he enjoyed his career with Jennings, Max sensed the opportunity to change directions even more towards art and design.

After a soul-searching decision, Max left the security and potential of the Jennings firm, and made the plunge into the icy waters of uncertainty as an independent Professional Artist/Designer. In the Spring of 1978 Max and Sherry returned home to East Texas, where they were raised. Less than three years after his graduation from Texas A & M, Max had done it. He had done what thousands of artists yearn to do — strike out on his own, and to devote full-time to the profession of art. Today finds Max with a paint brush in one hand, a camera around his neck, and his bow

in his other hand. A visitor to his ranch might not find Max in his studio. He may be bowhunting for bullfrogs, or alligator gar along a quiet Texas waterway. Or he might be sitting in a tree, sketching whitetail deer while studying their attitudes and antics. This side of Max is fairly well known to the few who have had the pleasure of knowing Max and his partner, Sherry. Yet there is a side of Max not many people know.

Max is a conservationist and wears many hats; and wears them well, too. In 1974 he served as the Bowhunting Vice-President of the Texas Field Archery Assn. and later helped form the Lone Star Bowhunters Assn., becoming its first Vice-President. Because of his personal conviction to ethical and biologically controlled sport hunting, Max accepted the voluntary position as State Chairman of the National Bowhunter Education Program, and later a position of the NBEP National Foundation Administration Committee. Max was also asked to join the select eight-man national coordination committee of the Bow-hunting & Conservation Division of the National Field Archery Assn., as Public Relations Chairman. Max's conservation efforts really took shape in 1977 when he organized an outstanding team of professional wildlife biologists and educators from across the country. Under Max's leadership they produced one of the best graphic education programs available to teach young people the proven fundamentals of sound wildlife manage-

ment. Their efforts received such nationwide acclaim from state and federal wildlife officials and conservation organizations that a special non-profit foundation was created to administer and develop more materials of this nature. Today Max serves as the volunteer National Chairman of the American Wildlife Education Foundation. In addition to donating about three weeks per year just to lengthy planning meetings with the NFAA, NBEP, and the AWEF, he spends many untold hours working for conservation and the future of hunting, quietly on his own. Max doesn't get a dime for any of this. I know, because I also work with many of these groups, and Max and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Most of you know Max as the **BOWHUNTING EDITOR** of the **TTHA HOTLINE**. His recent article on getting close to whitetail deer, in my opinion, was one of the best ever done. Let there be no misunderstanding, Max is a hunter, and I mean a real hunter, a hunter's hunter, you could say. When he and Sherry wed, they spent their honeymoon backpacking for bull elk on Colorado's western slope. His bride, the lovely and sensitive person she is, is an outstanding bowhunter in her own right, having successfully taken whitetail deer in Texas with her bow, even before she married Max. While dating, the pair made it a practice of taking along their bows on evenings out. Favorite parking spots for romancing were

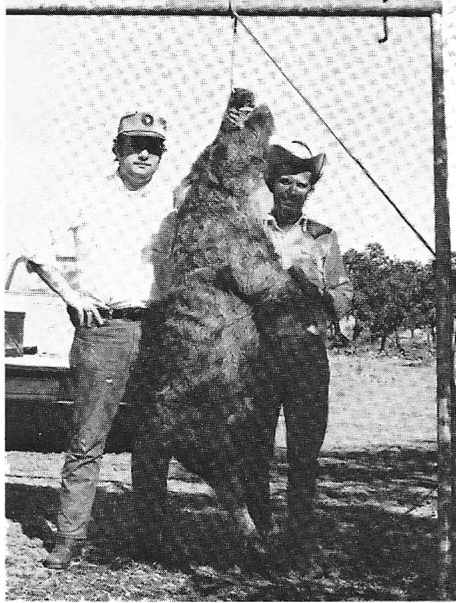
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"Autumn Fever" whitetail deer, bronze sculpture. Limited Edition of 24. 22" x 11" x 8", 17 lbs. This is Max's first bronze.



"California Tule" elk, bronze sculpture. Special Limited Edition of 30. 9" x 15" x 13", 12 lbs. This special edition was created for a nonprofit conservation foundation to raise funds to buy habitat for this endangered species. Max retained a portion of the edition for private sale. This is Max's second and last bronze to date.



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Wildlife Art

(Continued from page 39)

also favorite hunting spots. Many dates were spent bowfishing for alligator gar and carp! The only problem was the smell if the bowfishing preceeded the romancing! Apparently Sherry must have been brighter or a better hunter than the other co-eds, because one fine day in the early fall of 1975 Max made a unique pair of gold wedding bands and married his hunting buddy.

I have the pleasure of knowing several leading wildlife artists, and I must say Max is more than just a wildlife artist, even though wildlife subject matter constitutes a major portion of his art. His creative interests span the spectrum of painting, drawing, jewelry design, bronze sculpture, writing, photography, graphic design, and architecture. His art passes from the realm of Realism, to Surrealism, Impressionism, Pop Art, and Abstract Expressionism. While I have long admired his talent seen in his paintings, which are alluring to the eagle eye of the hunter, since Max captures that certain brightness only hunters can see. His hands translate subtle forms and shapes into vivid views of wildlife that make the hunters' heart race and hands tremble. There must be several schools of thought as to the appeal of Max's wildlife art. Some say it's the result of his keen mind, and his well developed intellect. Others say it has been his environment, a Texas boy raised in the woods and marshes, a .22 rifle or bow in one hand, and a rabbit in the other; looking for just one more before returning home. Some would say his education and early training made him the unique artist he is. My guess is that he is tops because Max is a real hunter, simple as that. I know many of the top wildlife artists in the USA and Africa, and most of them have hunted. But I know of none as dedicated to hunting and conservation as Max. Most of the artists that Max is compared to are leaders in their field, and for the most part are much older, well established artists, whose works command top prices.

(continued on page 48)

Guaranteed Muledeer

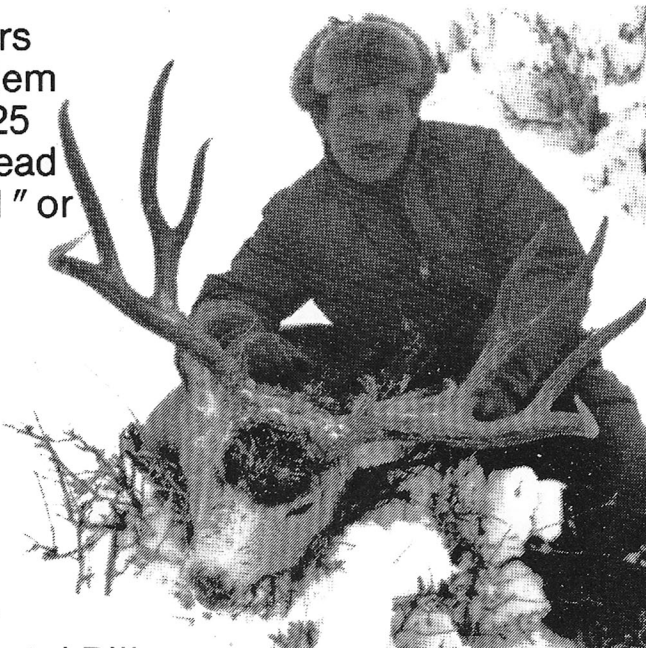
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Lyn Castle 35" wide, taken last season.

Wildlife Art

(Continued from page 45)

Good wildlife art is a sound investment. One of the many factors that insure the value of art is controlled quantity as well as exceptional quality. With this in mind, Max has made a commitment to create no more than one wildlife bronze per year, and a limited number of original paintings. Works of this rising young artist will command far more in later years when he is well established and his reputation spans the country. The secret of art collecting is to have foresight to find "your own artist" before the other collectors and the media recognize his potential.

Max's art is a reflection of his life. I cannot draw the line where one stops and the other starts. Perhaps I might not want to. To me, art and especially wildlife art is one of the finest things in life. My life and others' would be less without it. My home and office are graced with modest, but good art which I have collected over the years. This, besides my hunting trophies, serve as fond remembrances of past hunts, and of hunts I hope to make in the future. There is a little bit of Max in each of his works. At age 27, Max has done more than most folks, and he has a brilliant future.

It's been a pleasure to offer our members another view of a fantastic young artist, whose creative works, both written and pictorial form, will be seen on these pages from time to time. But only after you see his art in person will be able to appreciate and understand the talent of Max Greiner, Jr.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Tink Nathan is a life member of the Texas Trophy Hunters Association and is a nationally recognized expert on bowhunting. In addition, he is one of the contributing editors of *Bowhunter* magazine, and is working with several national committees to protect the rights of hunters.

Editor's Note: Members may contact Max by writing or by calling:

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