



**CONSERVE WILDLIFE**  
FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Three-Year Traveling Exhibit by Artist James Fiorentino  
Premieres on September 30<sup>th</sup> at D&R Greenway Land Trust  
in Princeton**

*Governor Tom Kean to be special guest at reception*

**Princeton, NJ** - At 15, famed artist James Fiorentino became the youngest artist to be featured in the National Baseball Hall of Fame with paintings of baseball legends like Reggie Jackson, Cal Ripken Jr. and Ted Williams; his sports art has since graced national magazines and landed him in interviews with ABC World News Tonight and countless other news studios. Now 39, Fiorentino is pursuing another lifelong passion with **this month's kickoff of a three-year traveling wildlife art exhibition in New Jersey and New York.**

Fiorentino - in partnership with the nonprofit Conserve Wildlife Foundation - is launching ***Rare Wildlife Revealed: The James Fiorentino Traveling Art Exhibition***, this month. D&R Greenway Land Trust will host the premier exhibition through October 14, with an opening reception Friday, September 30, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Former New Jersey Governor Tom Kean will be a special guest at the reception along with nationally renowned artist James Fiorentino, Conserve Wildlife Foundation field biologists who work to protect the wildlife featured in the show, and a live bird of prey.

“Renowned as one of the best sports artists in the country, Jim’s works hang in major museums,” says Governor Kean, who met the artist while serving as president of Drew University—Fiorentino was a student there in the 1990s, when his sports figures started receiving national attention. He was featured on ABC World News and in *The New York Times*. “In recent years he has turned to wildlife. Jim has created an amazing body of

work... Many of the creatures he paints are endangered, and Jim celebrates their uniqueness and beauty.”

Fiorentino's realistic paintings depict some of the state's most endangered and vulnerable species. **Among other venues, the exhibition will be shown at Salmagundi Club at 47 Fifth Avenue in New York next spring.**

“Mr. Fiorentino’s incredibly evocative artwork inspires viewers by putting a spotlight on these charismatic yet often overlooked wildlife species,” says Conserve Wildlife Foundation New Jersey Executive Director and wildlife author David Wheeler. “His watercolor paintings truly bring wildlife to life. His art helps to educate and engage viewers about the precipitous declines that many of these species have suffered and helps us bring attention to the very tangible steps that people can take to save and strengthen these wildlife populations.”

Gov. Kean and Wheeler wrote the foreword and introduction, respectively, for the art exhibition hardcover book accompanying the exhibition. Through October, sales of the original paintings, limited edition digital prints, the exhibition book, and wildlife merchandise will benefit Conserve Wildlife Foundation and D&R Greenway Land Trust.

“The subject of disappearing New Jersey wildlife speaks directly to the work that we do to protect habitats,” says D&R Greenway President & CEO Linda Mead. “As an admirer of James Fiorentino’s artistic talent, I am thrilled that we were selected as the premiere venue for this exhibition.”

Fiorentino started painting animals when he was 10, and he later became a trustee for the Raptor Trust in Millington, N.J. “We rehabilitate 4,000 wild birds a year and release about half that number,” says Fiorentino. “These wild birds have had a tremendous influence on me. I enjoy getting close to birds of prey, and it brought me back to nature art.” Before going back to his studio to paint the details, Fiorentino sketches the animals up close, sometimes holding them, taking in their details.

His two young sons enjoy being in nature, the oldest son joining his father to draw wildlife, especially butterflies—proving that humans, too, benefit from having wildlife in their midst. “I am awed by what we see in our own backyard: the (endangered) Eastern box turtle, great horned owl, pileated woodpeckers, foxes, hawks and butterflies,” says Fiorentino. “It’s an amazing backyard ecosystem.”

*Rare Wildlife Revealed: The James Fiorentino Traveling Art Exhibition* is sponsored by Omni Distribution, LLC, Flying Fish Brewing Company, Merrill G. & Erita Hastings Foundation, Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery, and Somerset Patriots.

Conserve Wildlife Foundation has been a long-time partner with D&R Greenway, exhibiting our *Species on the Edge* fifth-grade art and essay contest winners annually in D&R Greenway’s Olivia Rainbow Gallery. This year, the fifth graders art will be exhibited simultaneously with the Fiorentino exhibit.

For more information on James Fiorentino, please visit [www.JamesFiorentino.com](http://www.JamesFiorentino.com).  
To learn more about CWF, please visit [www.ConserveWildlifeNJ.org](http://www.ConserveWildlifeNJ.org).

High resolution images of the original artwork are available upon request.

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**Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey** has worked to protect rare wildlife in New Jersey and beyond for over two decades. CWF biologists and educators utilize field science, habitat restoration, environmental education, public engagement, and volunteer stewardship to ensure our most vulnerable wildlife species can continue to call New Jersey home. Our dedicated and innovative scientists have helped many species recover and thrive again in our densely populated state.

CWF's wildlife webcams, Story Maps, live webcasts, and e-books help bring wildlife directly to the screens of tens of thousands of people, while our public events and volunteer projects give people of all generations the opportunity to experience the wonders of wildlife up close. Our educators utilize art and essay contests, educational field trips, summer camps, afterschool programs, technology initiatives, classroom presentations, and wildlife-based curriculum and lesson plans that meet the latest educational standards in helping kids grow in STEAM - or Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics.