

D&R Greenway to host local artist James Fiorentino's wildlife exhibition

- Sep 15, 2016



Flemington artist James Fiorentino is shown here banding a Bald Eagle chick.

D&R Greenway Land Trust will host Conserve Wildlife's Rare Wildlife Revealed: The James Fiorentino Traveling Art Exhibition, including the Eastern Box Turtle, above, from Sept. 12 through Oct. 14 in Princeton.

D&R Greenway Land Trust in Princeton will host Conserve Wildlife's Rare Wildlife Revealed: The James Fiorentino Traveling Art Exhibition, including the Barred Owl, above, from Sept. 12 through Oct. 14.

D&R Greenway Land Trust will host the premiere exhibition of Conserve Wildlife's Rare Wildlife Revealed: The James Fiorentino Traveling Art Exhibition, on view September 12 through October 14. The opening reception is Friday, September 30, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Former

Hunterdon County artist James Fiorentino will be the focus of the D&R Greenway Land Trust's premiere exhibition of Conserve Wildlife's Rare Wildlife Revealed: The James Fiorentino Traveling Art Exhibition at an opening reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 30, at the D&R Greenway Land Trust at the Johnson Education Center, One Preservation Place, in Princeton. The exhibit runs through Oct. 14.

Former Gov. Tom Kean will be a special guest at the reception. Sales of the original paintings, limited edition digital prints and a book with a forward by Gov. Kean, as well as wildlife merchandise, will benefit D&R Greenway Land Trust and Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey.

The realistic paintings of Fiorentino depict some of the state's most endangered and vulnerable species.

"Renowned as one of the best sports artists in the country, Jim's works hang in major museums," says Kean, who met the artist while president of Drew University when Fiorentino was a student there in the 1990s, when his sports figures started receiving national attention. "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."

Conserve Wildlife Foundation New Jersey Executive Director David Wheeler said that Fiorentino's artwork inspires viewers by putting a spotlight on these charismatic yet often overlooked wildlife species.

"His watercolor paintings truly bring wildlife to life, Wheeler said. "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."

Fiorentino, 39, started painting animals when he was 10, and he later became a trustee for the Raptor Trust in Millington.

"We rehabilitate 4,000 wild birds a year and release about half that number," says Fiorentino, a Flemington resident. "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. 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. It's an amazing backyard ecosystem."

"Because of the 20,000 acres preserved by D&R Greenway, endangered wildlife who make their home in New Jersey will continue to have a supportive habitat," said Fiorentino.