

## Biography: Sandra Nahornoff

Sandra Nahornoff started photographing and painting wildlife in 1994, she dabbled at sculpturing prior to that. She lives in Prince George in the heart of beautiful British Columbia. "Knight of the Lake" is a painting of a small peaceful lake near Smithers, BC where Sandra stayed on route during one of her expeditions to photograph grizzlies, the moose posed for her on another occasion and seemed to enjoy her attention. This painting has won a place in the 2006 Ducks Unlimited Canadian National Art Portfolio.

Sandra is a past president of the Artist Co-op where she started oil painting, and where she continues to teach. She won BC Wildlife Federation Artist of the Year for 2003 for her painting entitled the "McGregor Mountain Grizzlies", and again for 2006 with her vivid "Rocky Mountain Grizzlies".

Sandra loves the outdoors, hiking, hunting, fishing, photographing, painting and sketching wildlife and nature. These activities have given her a unique understanding of her subjects and have helped her acquire a vast amount of reference material for her paintings.

Sandra donates her art artwork to conservation projects throughout Canada via the BC Wildlife Federation, Spruce City Wildlife Association, Ducks Unlimited, and the Guide Outfitters Association of BC. She is committed to conservation and has spent untold hours volunteering as a director for the Spruce City Wildlife Association working on fish and wildlife restoration projects. She is also their founding chair of the Northern Bear Awareness Education program (98 - 06). She is a past president of the BC Wildlife Federation Omineca Region and served on the provincial board as a director and coordinated the BC chapter of the international "Becoming An Outdoors-Woman" (BOW) program (96-02). Providing education to women in hunting, angling and other outdoors skills (e.g. kayaking, hiking) to women throughout the western provinces.

Sandra's strength comes from a very supportive husband, three children, and her friends who enjoy participating in her busy life. Her husband Larry introduced her to hunting and fishing over thirty years ago. He loves accompanying her on photo shoots and adventures, and is a valuable critic of her work. He also watches over her while she photographs wildlife including some forty wild grizzlies, and is always there to interrupt when Sandra gets a bit close or the animals too curious.

For seventeen years Sandra has worked fulltime coordinating the Project Friendship society, a local charity that connects isolated disabled people into the community. In 1997 while president of the Artist Co-op she was able to convince the members to allow her to coordinate art classes for people with special needs. Since then she coordinates three eight week oil painting classes annually along with art shows for some very talented special needs artists. At the same time she also coordinated the Joyful Tone choir to give special needs people the opportunity to sing. Then in 2002 she coordinated the No Name Brand Theatre Company to give people with special need the opportunity to act and participate in theatre productions.

Sandra is taking more time to paint and photograph the world she loves. She has recently returned from Russia and Japan where she photographed grizzlies and gardens and is looking forward to painting those experiences this winter.