



# Anne Peyton Conservation Artist

**By Terry Stevens, Contributing Author**

*Morning Glory*

The world of wildlife artists isn't terribly large. But Liberty Wildlife is honored to have among our volunteers, a true member of what would qualify as the elite of the small fraternity that includes legendary artists such as Robert Bateman and Carl Brenders.

Anne Peyton began drawing and painting birds when she was three years old, the recipient of a family gene that she inherited from her mother, also a respected artist. She kept developing her talent over the years through high school and community college earning an AS Degree in Science before changing directions and getting involved in the high-energy world of open wheel auto racing including Formula 1 and Indy cars. She eventually became the art director and photographer for Road and Track as well as Motor Trend magazines, hanging out with such personalities as Mario Andretti, Rick Mears, Arie Luyendyk, and the late Ayrton Senna. Her paintings of racecars and race teams

were in high demand throughout the late 70's, 80's, and into the 1990's and still command extremely high prices when they are available.

Sometime around 1999, Anne went to a local REI outlet where she and Craig, her husband, saw a display of Liberty Wildlife birds of prey. Shortly afterward, she signed up for one of our "Class-to-Field" programs where she was given a Swainson's hawk to release – and she was hooked! After the earsplitting volume of the high performance-racing world, the peace and quiet of working with birds appealed to both her senses and her heart.

Anne uses her soft brushes to lift these wonderful creatures from the canvas the same way their soft feathers lift them into the sky. Each painting evokes a deep feeling for how this particular bird is touched by the light that surrounds it. It's apparent that she truly appreciates the form, structure, and essence of each subject.

Anne is a true "Power Birder" with over 610 species on her life list including a California condor spotted before the last three were taken into captivity in 1987. She began painting what she was working with at Liberty Wildlife as a member of the Education Group, helping to set up the hand-feed team and training some of the newer birds.

Anne's art has won numerous national and international awards and competitions, appearing in galleries and museums around the world, as well as renowned individual collections of those lucky enough to have acquired one of her paintings. She currently has some of her work in Canada, the UK, Europe, and China, making her truly an international celebrity. Her work has appeared in and on the cover of several books and magazines including the Journal of the American Veterinary Medicine Association and others too numerous to list here. This year she was included in the 46th Annual Birds in



Art Exhibition at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin.

Besides creating her fabulous art she spends many hours each week feeding and working with the birds at Liberty Wildlife. Anne says she really loves teaching art, especially to kids when she has a chance. Sharing her own enormous talents and love for the birds is important to her demonstrated by her donating both to Liberty Wildlife over the years.

Liberty Wildlife is extremely fortunate that Anne has chosen to volunteer her time and talent to support the organization and the wildlife of Arizona.



*Bird's Eye View*



*Daytime Hideshow*

## Liberty Wildlife Super Heroes



*Mike Pederson (left) and Brooke Pybus (right) measure the area for a new waterbird enclosure.*

Despite the fact that our facility is only five years old, things start to happen. The irrigation system springs a leak; the wind blows off a sheltering roof; the palo verde begins to list to the side; the evaporative coolers for the enclosures need adjusting; Orphan Care needs some additional shade...and the list goes on.

I'm not sure how we got so lucky, but we sprouted a garden of super hero volunteers who come to the rescue when one of the many maladies that attack a facility come into play. Enter our own "Liberty Marvel" super heroes. Included in the list of honey do, fix it men are the following in alphabetical order: Tim Coppage, Rick Erman, Joe Miller, Irv Ingram, Jim Henderson, Mike Pedersen, and Brooke Pybus. Each come with their own set of skills and their own set of power tools! Each comes with a smile on their faces. Each comes with the desire to help!

We tip our hats, cheer for the heroes, and send a huge super thank you! We could not do without YOU!

Megan Mosby  
Executive Director