

Founded 1956



# Nature Photo Times

Member:  
Photographic Society of America & Twin Cities Area Council of Camera Clubs

Vol. 45 , No.5 – January, 2001

## Congratulations to the Winners Slides of the Year 2000

Judged by Dominique Braud

### General Honorable Mentions

Mary Kay Bertas, Sunset Splendor  
Jerry Harlow, Morning Reflection  
Joe Kandiko, Mountain Meadow  
Florence Scholljegerdes, Mt. Movan Reflected



### General Runner-Up Slide of the Year

Mary Kay Bertas, Contrast

### General Slide of the Year

Dave Klein, Buffalo at Custer

### Zoology Honorable Mentions

Dale Bohlke, Great Egret in Flight  
Alert Whitetail Doe  
Sandhill Cranes at Sunrise  
Dave Ellenbecker, Locust Borer on Goldenrod  
Vijay Karai, Kestrel  
Owl and Mouse II  
Young Male Elk  
Jean McDonough, Kittiwake Family  
Herons  
Vern Nelson, Male Downy Woodpecker  
Searching for Insects  
Cecropia Moths Mating



### Zoology Runner-Up Slide of the Year

Duane Wraalstad, Wood Duck

### Zoology Slide of the Year

Dale Bohlke, Red Wing Blackbird Singing

### Botany Honorable Mentions

Dave Ellenbecker, Purple Coneflower  
Close-Up  
Marilyn Gladitsch, Hepatica #6  
Yellow Trout Lily  
Joe Kandiko, Cyclamen,  
Lupine & Daisies  
Duane Wraalstad, Indian Pipes



### Botany Runner-Up Slide of the Year

Mariann Cyr, Marsh Marigold

### Botany Slide of the Year

Joe Kandiko, Pink

Plan your shots for 2001 and let's see you here next year.

## The Unforgettable and the Unphotographable

It was a rock and roll kind of night, even in the sheltered waters off Salisbury Plains. Near gale force winds had been battering the north coast of South Georgia for a week, but at 7 AM we were anxious to move out. As



always, four Zodiac drivers made up the initial landing party. It's up to them to find a suitable landing for going



ashore, as well as a spot where Zodiacs can be quickly turned around to face the incoming sea, thus avoiding surf crashing over the transom and swamping the craft.

A somewhat sheltered cove promised the least risky landing in the area. Back on ship, eager photographers decked out in long johns, fleece, hip boots, full rain gear and life jacket anxiously awaited the first choppy ride to shore. Even with the help of the Russian seamen who carried our humungous backpack-drybags down to sea level, four-foot swells at the gangplank loading station made for an exciting entry into the Zodiacs.

Toni made the cut-off and was on the first wind and wave pummeled Zodiac destined for a tumultuous landing a half-mile away. Even before she landed the wind had freshened and there was constant radio chatter

between ship and landing party wondering about sending more Zodiacs ashore. Thankful for full raingear and hipboots, Toni's landing was a bit rough and wet, but within the limits of safety. On the cobble above the beach a very pushy wind almost knocked her over. Wind driven sand stung her face and standing was easy once she leaned 20° into the wind. No way could anyone do decent photography under these conditions.

Back aboard ship, in less sheltered waters, the sea was really kicking up. The clouds parted momentarily and a pencil thin slit of sunlight kissed the green water and white wave froth. And then I saw it – for only the second time in my life. Five white stallions, manes flying, head and shoulders just above the wave-crests, black hooves and white forelegs at a full gallop pounding the water just ahead of the windblown froth. A magnificent sight if ever I saw one. And then the slit closed. The sunlight and horses were gone as quickly as they had appeared.

I felt sorry for those less observant folks for they shall never know the thrill of seeing those beautiful wild white stallions racing on the waves of a windblown sea. Of

course, all this happened much too quickly to record on film, but the image will always be



indelibly engraved in my mind and will grow richer with time whereas a mere piece of film will always remain the same.

*Editor's note: If you want to learn more about penquins like these kings Ron photographed on his trip, go to the Penguin Page at <http://users.capu.net/~kwelch/pp/>*

Nature Photo Times

## Nature and Wildlife Photography Seminar

by photographers

**Joe & Mary Ann McDonald**

March 17-18, 2001

Hilton/Airport Hotel

Bloomington, MN

Sat. March 17, 7:00AM–Registration

Sat. March 17, 8:00AM–4:30PM–Programs  
1-1/2 hr. lunch on your own

Sat. March 17, 4:40–6:30PM–Book signing  
and reception

Sun. March 18, 8:00AM–3:30PM–Programs,  
box lunch provided.

The cost is \$165-individuals, \$295-couples if registrations are received by February 17, 2001. Later registrations are \$30 more per person.

The eight sessions during the weekend will include: exposure, using flash, winning composition, equipment and accessories, filters, getting close to wildlife, marketing information, questions and answers and more. "Whether you are a novice, professional or somewhere in between, attending this weekend seminar will help you to be a better nature/wildlife photographer."

The seminar was arranged by Rick Hobbs and Visual Expressions. Rick hopes this venture will be a success so he can bring other top nature photographers to the area.

For further information, contact Rick at 651-994-4778 or [Hobbsphoto@aol.com](mailto:Hobbsphoto@aol.com).

## Spring Break 2001

March 24, 2000

University of St. Thomas

Carol-Jean Christopherson of the North Metro Photo Club is in charge of the event this year. "CJ" said that each club will be offered the opportunity to put on a workshop or two during the day and have a place to display information about their club. More information will be available in January.

*The camera is an instrument that teaches people to see without a camera.*

–Dorothea Lange

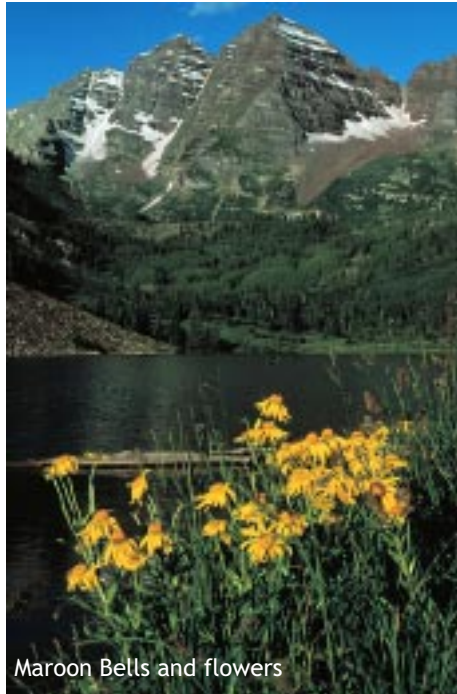
I was quite tempted to draw balloons and anthropomorphize the penquins in a three-panel cartoon—but I chickened out. –Ed.

## “The Photographic Mind”

A few years ago I was on a field trip with members of this club to go out and photograph wild mushrooms. There were probably about 8-10 of us on this field trip led by one of our members. It was an absolutely gorgeous time to be out after mushrooms. The weather had been damp and cool for most of late August and early September and that is ideal weather for mushrooms. We were able to find many different species of mushrooms to photograph; however, one of the participants found a lovely trio of Amanitas that were very photogenic. As he was setting up his equipment, others noticed this lovely trio also and very shortly a line began to form to photograph them.

During the next month’s slide competition, there were no less than three individuals that put that trio of mushrooms in for judging! Now I have no problem with us photographing the same subject. We do it all the time. But my point is that all three of those slides were identical and even the judge commented on the same twig that was in each slide.

Have you ever been to a popular scenic overlook and observed folks as they rushed out of their vehicle, oohed and aahed over the beautiful scene, pulled out their Instamatic, snapped a couple of pictures and then are back down the road in two minutes? Again, I don’t fault people for doing that if their photograph was just to show people or remind themselves that they were there. However, for those of us that are serious with our photography, there is so much more than just taking a picture. Snapping a shutter button is only a fraction of time, but it is what took place before a photographer



Maroon Bells and flowers

hits the trigger that will take a common scene and turn it into magic.

Whenever I come across an interesting subject - and it makes no difference if it is a plant or some scenic vista - I always walk around with my camera in hand and look through the viewfinder to try and find the composition that I want to show. I will kneel, crouch, and stand, to determine what is the best angle to photograph this subject. A photographer will be amazed at the different perspective a subject can give by simply raising or lowering the camera a few inches. Try different lenses - a scenic doesn’t have to always be wide angle.

Try isolating the subject with a telephoto. A flower or mushroom doesn’t always have to be with a close-up lens. Try a wide angle

to show habitat. Does the subject require the use of a filter to really make it stand out from how it has been photographed in the past? Moving around and getting away from “the spot” will possibly give you a more interesting foreground and/or background from what has been photographed in the past.

Craig Blacklock in his Lake Superior book has an image taken from Oberg Mountain that is not like any photo that I have seen of that vista. If you went to that vista there is no way that you will be able to duplicate that photo. It is of the same vista but from a different perspective. (I discovered last fall how he took that photo but I wasn’t brave enough to do it). Of course I always consider light to be the essence of photography. No matter what a photographer does with a subject or scene, if the light isn’t right, it just isn’t going to work! Many times your best alternative is to come back when the light is of the quality that you want.

One of my personal favorite scenes is of Wild Goose Island in Glacier National Park. The best place to photograph that spot is from the pull-off area. However, I have yet to get any photos other than a couple of record shots. The time to photograph that spot is in early morning or late evening light. Every time I go to Glacier I always make two or three visits there in early morning or evening, to try and catch the magic light. It has yet to happen for me, but that does not stop me from trying.

If we go back to our trio of Amanitas and apply some of these basics, those three photographers could have easily had three different slides of the same subject and each and every one could have easily been a 10!!

Good Shooting

## Odds and Ends

...the editor

### New Gitzo Explorer

(From the Gitzo web site)

The Explorer incorporates many new ideas in tripod design; individually locking legs that can be fixed at any angle from 0° to 90° and a column that will tilt from the vertical, right over beyond the horizontal and lock solidly at any angle.

The Explorer is available in three versions, a three-section aluminum tripod code G2220, finished in the traditional silver-grey Gitzo paint, and both three and four section Carbon fiber versions respectively coded G2227



and G2228. The Aluminum version has a maximum height of 64 inches and a weight

Nature Photo Times

of 4.90 lbs. while the three sections Carbon fiber reaches a height of 67 inches and 65 inches for the four sections version. Their weigh is 4.41 lbs. and all three models have a maximum recommended load of 13 lbs.

The Explorer has been designed to work best with the Gitzo G1275M and G1276M (quick release) “off center” ball heads, which further add to the ease of handling of this new tripod. With either of these heads fitted the folded length of the tripods are: 30 inches three sections Aluminum, 26 inches three sections Carbon and 22 inches four sections Carbon.

# Nature Photo Times

published Sept-May by the

## Minnesota Nature Photography Club

Editor: Ron Cleveland, 763-425-6009, rcland@minn.net  
146 W. Eagle Lake Drive  
Maple Grove, MN 55369

Production Manager: Lynne Pennoyer

President: Mike Prokosch 651-429-6750 mjprokosch1@mmm.com

Vice Pres.: Dale Bohlke 952-445-6125 dbohlke@aol.com

Secretary: Mariann Cyr 651-636-3738 mcyr@mmm.com

Treasurer: Jim Duncan 651-459-3558 jduncan1@isd.net

FIRST CLASS MAIL

## January Meeting

### Slide Discussion

Led by Alan Schulz and Mike Prokosch

Bring slides you would like discussed by the panel.

Showing of Acceptances from the North Star Circuit



**MINNESOTA BOTANY**  
INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHY

## Enter the Minnesota Botany!

Use the form enclosed with your December newsletter, download it from the web site or contact Jim Duncan at 651-459-3558 and he will mail a form to you. You can give your entries to Jim at the January meeting or mail them to him at 8099 Grafton Ave. S., Cottage Grove, MN 55106-2624.

Submit your entries by January 24, 2001. Judging will begin at 9:00AM on Saturday, January 27 at our meeting place, The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington. It's open to the public. Stop in and stay as long as you like.

## Tell a Story!

Dale Bohlke

Where do I put the subject? When writing a story it is easy, the first sentence starts at the upper left corner of the page. What about a picture story? Since the time of ancient Greece the concept of power points has been used in visual communication. A power point is the point of intersecting lines, if a slide is divide into thirds both horizontally and vertically, like a tic tac toe board.

Now my choice of subject placement is limited to four, upper or lower left power point, lower left or right power point. Best placement can be determined two ways. Use your intuition and put it where it seems best or take a photo with the subject at each of the power points and determine the best location on the view box. By avoiding the center box your photos will be much more interesting.

## "NEWSFLASH"

On December 28th, I went to Aitkin County to look for Owls, I spotted two Great Gray Owls, and managed to get only a couple of photos of one, before he flew away, the other one was on private land and no one was home to get permission. I also found a Northern Hawk Owl that was hunting in the open areas, he was very co-operative and I managed to get two rolls of film exposed on him.

This looks like it is going to be another good year for birders and photographers to see our feathered friends from the north! If you decide to go and photograph any owls, remember they are in Minnesota out of necessity, so my personal rule is that once it flies away, it is best to leave it alone. This is an extremely stressful time for them!

Need more information? Feel free to give me a call or e-mail me!

John Pennoyer  
[impnature@aol.com](mailto:impnature@aol.com)

*Please send a note to the editor if you have a hot spot to share with our readers.*



Nature Photo Times (color version) and other information about the club is available at  
<http://www1.Minn.Net/~rcland/MinnesotaNaturePhoto.htm>