



The Legacy of 911

— Weldon Lee

Listen to the Whispers

—Vijay Karai

Autumn is but a few days away. The leaves will eventually turn and fall away. So, too, shall last week's pain and suffering.

First, however, there must come a time of healing. There are any number of places where one might go to find peace and solace in the face of such tragedy. This nation's churches, temples, and synagogues have been a testament to that fact during the past week.

Another path worth considering might be the one that meanders through a nearby woodland or meadow; or, perhaps, along the edge of a cattail marsh.

Henry David Thoreau shared the following words of wisdom almost a hundred and fifty years ago as he penned, "Men obey their call and go to the stove-warmed church, though God exhibits himself to the walker in a frosted bush today as much as in a burning one to Moses of old."

In other words, go outside. Reunite with Nature. Share your heart and inner thoughts with our wild brothers and sisters.

Talk to the birds that visit your feeder. Share your heart with the squirrels as they chatter from their perch high in a nearby tree. Yield to the spell of elk as they bugle in a nearby meadow.

Find a tree. Feel its embrace as you wrap your arms around it. Pour out your sorrows and your anguish. Look into the night sky. Allow your thoughts to mingle with the heavenly bodies. Become lost in their numbers.

Nature will listen; and comfort you. Who knows, you may even find a few answers; and perhaps a message.

In Nature, there is no malevolence. There is no greed. Hatred is nonexistent. Our wild brothers and sisters do not wage war against one another nor do they practice genocide against those of a different skin color or language or form of worship. Perhaps, from our wild brothers and sisters, we can learn how to live in harmony with our neighbors.

Many times this past week it has been said that life in America will no longer be the same. Although this may be true in a negative sense, may it also be true in the positive. This tragedy has brought us together and united us. May that part of it never go away.

We say we love America. How can we love a country and not love one another? America is a nation of diversity - ethnic, religious, and political. Although we're similar in many ways, we're also very different. Let us embrace our differences together and forever share our love.

May unity, understanding, and compassion be the legacy of those horrible events that unfolded on September 11, 2001.

*I can see this from my window, any window
The shambles of the towers that now lay
In broken pieces of sorrow
Allow me one more moment of grief and
One more tear for those that have fallen
Victims of unknown rage.
This tear will roll down and join the flood of tears
From those that have cried before.
All humanity will weep, and some will weep secretly
Such as the stifled cries of the unborn
Men Women and Children buried beneath the rubble
A mountain of ash.
Can you hear their whispers in your ears
Rising above the machine gun chatter
And your crafty conscience
This whisper will haunt you forever
Rising over the ocean, carried by the tempest
It will mingle with the laughter of your children
And the songs of the nightingale.
Those melodies will not soothe you that are echoed
By the distant mountains
It is the whisper of all that you have killed and many more
Rising above the ashes and the graves
What will appease your anger for your anger is not
Justice or Religion or righteousness
Scriptures did not prescribe this carnage
Gods of the world do not conspire
To maim and kill the children of the earth.
These are your brothers, sisters, neighbors and much more
They are your fellow travelers in this journey.
In this hour of sorrow beyond sadness
Lay your weapons down and
Listen to the whispers.*

The October 17 program:

Polar Odyssey

Visions of the Arctic and Antarctic

The harsh beauty of the Polar Regions has long fascinated explorers and armchair adventurers alike. The forbidding terrain and exotic life forms appeal to our sense of wonder, and while we may think of them as similar, the Arctic and Antarctic are as unlike as Kansas and Kenya. Polar Odyssey takes us on an exciting visual journey to the top and bottom of the world, and reveals some of the fantastic differences between these polar opposites.

Galen Rowell, one of my favorite photographers, describes the Arctic as the home of the polar bear, taking its name from the Greek arktos, meaning bear. The Antarctic – anti-arktos, is a realm devoid of bears, a place where penguins live on the ice unthreatened by land predators. Other dif-



ferences abound: the North Pole sits in the middle of an ocean surrounded by land, while the South Pole is at 9300 feet above sea level in a continent surrounded by oceans. The Arctic has hundreds of species of flowers and thousands of insects – the Antarctic has only two species of flowering plants and almost no flying insects. Boreal forests extend north of the



Arctic Circle – the Antarctic has no trees and its dry valleys are the most lifeless regions on earth. Humans have inhabited the Arctic for thousands of years – in the Antarctic, every human is a visitor.

Having spent over fifty days in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions has opened my eyes to the myriad of differences and a few similarities of these polar areas. Maybe we should define Arctic and Antarctic. Does the Arctic/Antarctic Circle at 66° 33' define these regions? Maybe not! The Circle simply identifies that latitude where there is one day when the sun never sets and one day each year when the sun never rises. Or, does the 50°F summer isotherm better define the

Polar Regions? The question is easily answered: it depends! Yes, it depends on the researcher you ask. The Circle does it for the geographer; for the climatologist it is the

50°F isotherm. Or, maybe we should consider the limit of the pack ice or the limit of continuous permafrost.

The Arctic supports over a dozen species of land animals while the Antarctic has only

a remnant herd of reindeer, brought in by Norwegian whalers, on South Georgia. Marine animals inhabit both regions; whales and bearded seals in the Arctic; sea leopards and elephant seals in the Antarctic. Pelagic birds by the millions come ashore each spring to breed and raise their young, offering fantastic photo opportunities. You'll find icebergs the size of buildings in the north while in the southern ocean they are larger than some of our eastern states.

If you are looking for a great photo trip or even an armchair adventure, it's hard to beat the Polar Regions of the world.

King penguin and polar bear with seal kill photos by Ron Winch.

September Awards

Judges: Dale Bohlke, Dave Klein

10s

Mary Kay Bertas – Little Ms. Muffet #1
Vijay Karai – Big Tusker
Jean McDonough – Short Eared Owl

9s

Mary Kay Bertas – Antelope Canyon
Ron Cleveland – Turk's Cap Lily
Mariann Cyr – Iceland Flora
Mariann Cyr – Puffin
Marilyn Gladitsch – Amanita with Leaf
Marilyn Gladitsch – Emerging Bloodroot
Jeff Hahn – Tachinid Fly
Rick Hobbs – Deer Fawn
Rick Hobbs – Great Horned Owl
Jean McDonough – Eagle in Nest
Flo Scholljegerdes – Mushrooms on a Tree

8s

Betty Goossens-Bryan – Prairie Dog
Jeff Hahn – Tiger Moth
Bill Handsaker – White Water Lily
Kathy Hobbs – Along Side Mom
Morrie Holm – Monarch
Joe Kandiko – Liatrio
Vijay Karai – Dwarf Mongoose Babies
Dottie Lillestrand – 3 Poppies
Vern Nelson – Cynthia Month (Samia cynthia)
Vern Nelson – Male Finch on Spruce Tree

September NPT Not Delivered

We regret that many people did not receive their newsletters in the mail. Upon checking, the Post Office advised us that no newsletters were lost and were processed correctly. We sincerely hope that all copies get delivered in the future. Additional copies of the September issue will be available at the October meeting. Back issues are also available from www.minnesotanature.org.

Nature Photo Times

Explore Autumn in Alaska

8/23 to 9/3, 2002

Kenai Fjords, Valdez and Denali National Park will be explored. A four-page brochure in PDF format with area descriptions, itinerary and cost is available from www.minnesotanature.org. Just download it and print it out using your Acrobat Reader. Space is still available. Contact Ron Cleveland for further information or for a copy of the brochure if you do not have internet access.

Pushing Film

After sitting in my blind for a couple of hours, my nice sunny day was beginning to turn into an overcast day with some light drizzle. For most conditions I prefer this type of light compared to a bright sunny day when a photographer has to deal with contrast. My blind was set up in a marshy area where I have been photographing migrating herons and egrets. However, with the fading light it was necessary for me to switch camera bodies.

The camera body I was using had Velvia film pushed one stop to ISO 100. My other camera body was loaded with Provia 100F pushed two stops to ISO 320. This extra stop would allow me one extra stop of shutter speed which is needed with the fading light. After switching bodies it was not 5 minutes and a little Green-backed Heron came and allowed me to fire off a couple rolls of film, before he looked for other fishing grounds.

Over the last few years the newer films have been saturated with color and most of

them have excellent "push" capabilities. The last couple of years I probably shoot my film pushed one or two stops as much as shooting at the rated ISO speed. Pushing one or two stops allows me to have one or two stops faster shutter speed which is often needed when photographing birds or animals. How-



ever, I also will push Velvia one stop to ISO 100 if I am trying to photograph flowers on a windy day. Here are the films I use and how I push them:

Velvia: Rated as ISO 50- I commonly push it one stop to ISO 100. If the situation does not have contrast this film is excellent pushed one stop. In many situations I will choose Velvia at 100 over other 100 films.

Kodak E100VS: This film has excellent color saturation and is excellent for fall colors. I will push this one stop to ISO 200. I do not usually push this film two stops. I



feel it really shows contrast at that rating.

Provia 100F: I will push this one stop to ISO 200, but frequently this is the film I will push two stops to ISO 320. Shooting this film at ISO 320 is only a 1 2/3 stop push, but I will tell the Processor to develop at ISO 400. So what I am doing is actually overexposing by 1/3 stop which will help reduce contrast.

Of course, it is also important for the photographer to keep this film all organized. At the end of the day, after shooting many rolls at different ISO settings, I do the following: I take the exposed film out of the camera and immediately use my magic marker and write the ISO that it was shot at on the film canister. For example Provia 100F would be marked 100, 200, or 400. Pushing film will generally cost another dollar or two for developing, but the results will certainly offset the cost. I know that I got some tack sharp images by pushing film that would not have been possible shooting

at the rated ISO speed. So as the light begins to fade I can either change camera bodies which may be loaded with the same film but different ISO settings or call it a day and go home. I prefer the first choice!

Good Shooting!

Backlit great egret and green heron photos by John Pennoyer as is View from Oberg on page 1.

Program Notes

Dave Klein, V.P., MNPC

November's program will feature John Pennoyer's tips and techniques on using a photographic blind to successfully capture wildlife images. December will be our year-end judging and award presentations. January will feature images from the International judging. More is underway for the remainder of winter and spring.

If any members have specific requests or ideas or wish to put on a program highlighting your special interests or techniques, please feel free to contact me at one of our meetings, call me at home or e-mail anytime.

I am very pleased to see several of our club members offering their time and talents this coming year for the instruction and enjoyment of us all. Don't forget - that call to judge may be coming your way soon!

Tell a Story

Dale Bohlke

Most of us have a favorite public area we visit and photograph over and over. Almost 90% of my photography is done on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Wood Lake Nature Center, and Crex Meadows WMA. What do these diverse areas have in common? All are dependent on public funding for ongoing operation. What can you do to show your appreciation to your favorite site? Donate slides! Not seconds, but either high quality duplicates or originals. These slides may be used to promote the area and help increase awareness of chronically under-funded wildlife locations. The managers and staff who make these areas special will appreciate your donations.

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Meeting on the third Wednesdays, Sept-May
at the Visitor Center of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, 3815 East 80th Street, Bloomington.

**(The November meeting will be on the second
Wednesday, November 14, 2001.)**

October 17 Program:

Polar Odyssey

Join photographers Ron Winch and Toni Meglitsch as they compare and contrast frozen moments from the Arctic and Antarctic.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Photographing Wildlife with Weldon Lee

One Day Seminar – October 27, 2001– 9 AM to 5 PM – Cost \$45 – (\$55 at the door)

Minneapolis College of Art & Design, 2501 Stevens Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Seminar Topics: How to Locate Wildlife, Calling Predators, Wildlife Photography Techniques, Camouflage and Stalking Techniques, Equipment for the Wildlife Photographer, and Much More!

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Register by mail to: Rocky Mountain Photo Adventures, P. O. Box 487, Allenspark, CO 80510

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Reservations are accepted in the order received. Phone orders with VISA or MasterCard are confirmed immediately.

Letter of confirmation will be mailed upon receipt of payment.

E-mail: wlee@RockyMountainPhotoAdventures.com Web site: www.RockyMountainPhotoAdventures.com

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