



## Slides Needed for MVNWR Programs

The staff from the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge has asked for our help in updating and revising their slide programs. The first request is to produce slides to replace poor or inappropriate images in their present program. Slides needed are:

- Boy scouts - updated scouts group bird watching on bluff trail.
- Girl looking through scope on observation deck.
- Any forest dwelling bird species.
- Man walking down a trail.
- A wetland shot not choked with loosestrife.
- A shot of seed storage or another planting restoration picture - anything but reed canary.
- Fireman close to fire - replace

with a "safer" (more distant from fire) looking shot.

- People on bridge
- EE group watching wildlife.
- Ranger reading a story with children.
- One or two bikers on trail.
- Appropriate summertime recreational activity.
- One or two horseback riders.
- Ranger with EE group having a good time.
- Replace deer (duplicate) with different animal (winter species?)

If you are able to help with this or have slides that you wish to donate to the center for their image library, contact Mike Prokosch at 651-733-2868 or 651-429-6750.

## SLIDE DISCUSSION GROUP RESUMES

Starting with the March meeting, the slide discussion group will be returning to our monthly schedule. The discussion group will meet simultaneously with the monthly salon in the classroom (the snack room) next to the auditorium. If you prefer a more informal discussion of a limited number of images than is normal for a monthly salon, this may fill your needs.

Bring a couple of slides, images you like, dislike or something new you are trying to perfect, and join us for a sharing of ideas. Your participation is what makes the discussion group succeed. For more information, contact Mike Prokosch at 651-733-2868 or 651-429-6750.

## Educational Photography Workshop with Raptors at the Wildlife Science Center in Forest Lake, MN

For this educational workshop we will use our feathered teachers, a Rough-legged Hawk, a Red-tailed Hawk, a Great Horned Owl, a Long-eared Owl, a Krider's Red-tailed Hawk, and an American Kestrel.

**Dates:** Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12, 2002

**Back-up Dates** (in case of inclement weather): Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19, 2002

**Schedule:**

Arrival Time: 8:30 am

Session 1 9-10 am

Session 2 10:15-11:15 am

LUNCH 11:15 am-1 pm (Bring your own lunch)

Session 3 1-2 pm

Session 4 2:15-3:15 pm

WOLF TOUR 3:30-4:30 pm



Great Horned Owl - Ron Cleveland

**Workshop Fee Schedule:**

1-2 people	\$150 per person
3-4 people	\$125 per person
5 or more	\$100 per person
LIMIT of 12 people over two days.	

Contact Larry Luebben, Workshop Leader, at 651-436-2828 to register.

Check out WSC on the Web at [wildlifesciencecenter.org](http://wildlifesciencecenter.org)

**Directions to WSC:** Take the Forest Lake exit from Interstate 35, go left/west on Hwy 18/W. Broadway for 6.5 miles to the brown sign for the Wildlife Science Center & MN DNR Carlos Avery. Turn right. Drive past the white buildings to the back drive to our cedar education building.

Birds are not trained—they are wild birds. If they are stressed we will end the session. However, we may substitute another bird for that session.

# Eagles!

Ron Winch

Eagles everywhere! As many as forty in view at any one time. In the trees, over the bluffs, cruising the river valley and feeding at the ice edge.

After being icebound for months, the Mississippi is finally yielding to the warmth of spring. It's no longer a serpentine ribbon of ice. Wind and sun have worked their magic. Shorelines, in places, are ice-free. The great ice sheet, rocked by wind and waves, calve a myriad of ice floes into the river.

"Ice out." The cry is heard up and down the valley. Spring is on the way.

## FEBRUARY AWARDS

Judges:

Marilyn Gladitsch and Ron Cleveland

10

Dave Ellenbecker - Mushrooms and Sumac

Jim Duncan - Bull Elk #3

Kathy Hobbs - The Anhinga Speaks

9

Mariann Cyr - Paintbrush and Tall White Rein-Orchids (#488)

Mariann Cyr - Bighorn Sheep Ram

Pauline Nystrom - Mountain Goat Portrait

Pauline Nystrom - Ready to Pounce

Mike Prokosch - Striated Caracara

Jon Wilbrecht - Geranium

Steve Anderle - Devils Tower

Vijay Karia - Pasque Duo 2001

John D. Jenkins - Great Horned Owl and Snowflakes

8

Steve Anderle - Cascade River

Kathy Hobbs - Nesting Great Blue Heron

Mike Prokosch - Dark Faced Ground-Tyrant

Rose Duncan - Tree Fern Fiddlehead

Dave Ellenbecker - Touch-Me-Not

John D. LaMere - Elk Calf, Colorado

Jean McDonough - Squirrel

Vern Nelson - White-tail Bucks Sparring

John D. Jenkins - Goshawk Up Close



rolls onto its back. With talons extended, the two birds lock onto each other. Wings flailing, each tries to best the other as they tumble earthward. First one, then the other, beats its way to the dominant position. Like falling leaves they tumble down through the outer branches of an old cottonwood, parting only a few feet above the ground. With snowflakes in my eyes and snowmelt running down my face I watch as

each goes its separate way. WOW!

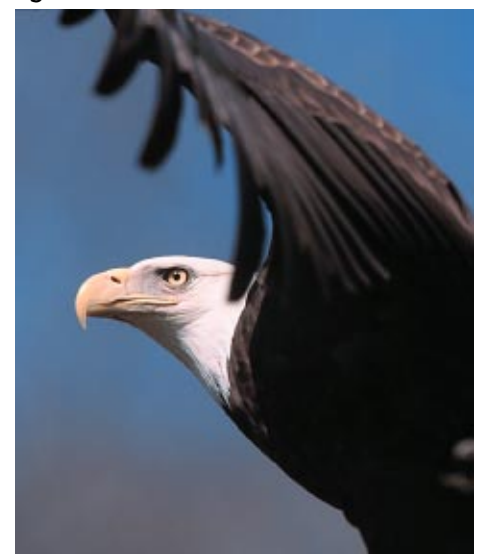
People and wildlife welcome the change. Fox and coyotes cautiously patrol the ice edge, hoping to feed on winterkill fish. Crows clean up the scraps after eagles dine on dead carp. Sunny days bring warm rising thermals and eagles float on this unseen column of air. Sunning themselves in the naked cottonwoods along the river, riding the drifting ice floes and pigging-out on easy meals of fish. It feels so good. I could just lean back against a big old cottonwood and daydream - maybe even fall asleep.

Was this conflict a mating ritual or just a spring fling? Even the experts agree that it could be either of these.

But that was yesterday. Today a March storm puts a quiet hush over the valley. Snowflakes as large as feathers tumble down from low dark clouds. I can barely see the birds feeding on ice floes seventy-five yards away. In a huge old cottonwood overlooking the river, five ghostly eagles, blanketed with snow, are difficult to discern as they blend into the muted snowy landscape. Snow cascades off their backs as they shift positions, revealing the dark silhouette of an eagle - the only dark blob on the landscape.

Few eagles are flying today, but I still look up frequently, hoping to catch a glimpse of those seven-foot wings. Down on the ice a dog - no, a coyote - looking for an easy meal, puts up a feeding crow and takes advantage of a free meal, a large carp. Snowflakes pelt my eyes as I look up again; two dark spots converge. They circle, testing each other for some apparent weakness. Once found, aerial combat erupts. One eagle, tail down and with powerful breaking wing beats, pulls up into a stall. The other quickly

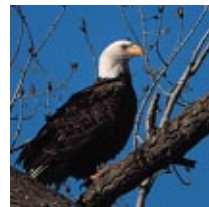
No one gets into the mind of an eagle!



As you read this, eagles are staging all along the great river. Open water unlocks their food supply as they wing their way north. Some will nest in the seven county metro area, but mostly they will disperse to the north.

Photo opportunities exist where ever there are eagles. It's kind of like fishing: "You should have been here yesterday." The DNR aerial count along the Mississippi yields about 700 eagles between the Twin Cities and the Iowa border. Some of the best viewing has always been just south of Red Wing, Read's Landing and around Wabasha. Stop in at the National Eagle Center on Main Street in Wabasha for the latest information.

Good luck and good shooting.



# Winter Wonderland

John Pennoyer

I had driven to a spot about 50 miles from my home and the eastern sky was beginning to get brighter as I quickly tried to strap on my snowshoes. Four to six inches of fresh snow had fallen during the night. This fresh new snow was now on top of the 12" already on the ground. As I was snowshoeing to my favorite winter spot, this new snow had also rested on tree branches and really made this magical place look like a winter wonderland.

I quickly set up my equipment and put on my 28-80 zoom lens. The horizon was turning a beautiful glow that was reflected onto the fresh fallen snow and as I fired off 20-30 exposures the

sun began to peak over the horizon. While putting in a fresh roll of film the reflected sun left a trail right to a snow-covered tree. As I pressed the shutter and made many different compositional images the magic was gone as quick as it had begun.

While I snowshoed back to my vehicle, there was a sense of complete satisfaction knowing I had captured another beautiful winter scene for 2002. As I approached my vehicle and used my electronic key fob to unlock the door, this loud obnoxious noise kept

getting louder and louder. Slowly I opened one eye and reached over and shut off the alarm clock.

Yes, that's right, my winter wonderland photo excursion for 2002 would only have happened in my dreams!

Now from my point of view (not my wife's) this has certainly been a lousy Minnesota winter. I must be one of those



rare individuals that do like "cold and snow". For me photographic possibilities abound in winter. The only good thing about the winter of 2002 is probably that we all have reduced heating bills. One of my goals for this winter was to get some images of snowy owls. Four trips were made to Northern Minnesota in search of this beautiful owl. Three times I came back without locating any. However, on my last trip I did locate two snowys. So there I was on February 16 in Northern MN, the temperature was 45 Degrees, and the snow

cover was 0 inches. I located a beautiful pure white adult snowy in the middle of a plowed field. Now there's an image for you - a gorgeous white bird surrounded by a field of black dirt.

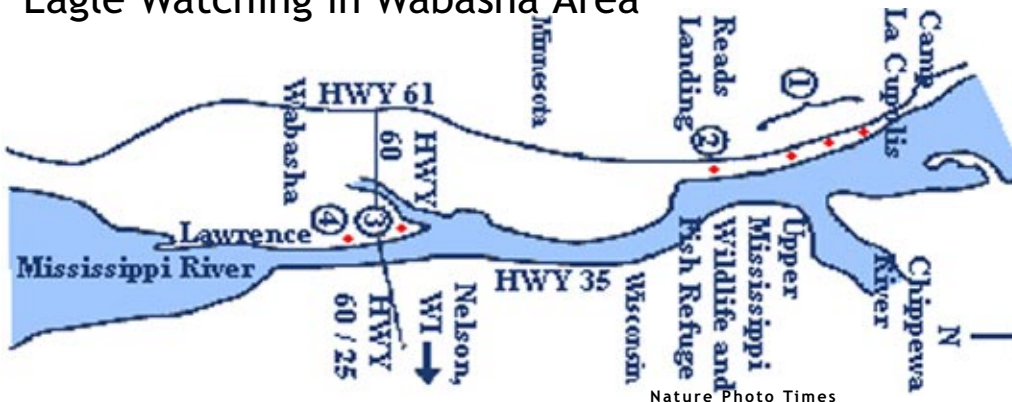
But this winter is now almost behind us, so let's start thinking of spring. One of the very first subjects that get my mind on the track to spring is skunk cabbage. These guys are so hardy they'll come up right through the frozen ground. I usually start looking for them around the middle of March. Some of my favorite locations are the Nine-Mile Creek area in Bloomington, Taylors Falls on highway 95 going north, and Banning State Park. Skunk cabbage is relatively easy to photograph and in most cases they are pretty neutral for exposure. The biggest challenge is getting a group that will work in an

appealing composition. Try and find a subject that is open to show the seed pod, than reflect some light into the pod. If no light is used the seed will be too dark. Also as the plant twists and curves its way towards your lens, a small f-stop is required otherwise part of the plant will be out-of-focus.

As the winter of 2002 is almost history, we can look forward to a spring of photographing some beautiful migrating birds and spring floral. However I for one will also look forward to the winter of 2003!

Good Shooting

# Eagle Watching in Wabasha Area



There are several spots for viewing overwintering bald eagles in the Wabasha area:

1. Three pullout areas along Highway 61 between Camp LaCupolis and Reads Landing.
2. Read's Landing
3. Future home of the National Eagle Center at the end of Main Street in Wabasha.
4. Along Lawrence Boulevard in Wabasha and from the EagleWatch™ deck.

# Nature Photo Times

published Sept-May by the

Minnesota Nature Photography Club

[www.minnesotanature.org](http://www.minnesotanature.org)

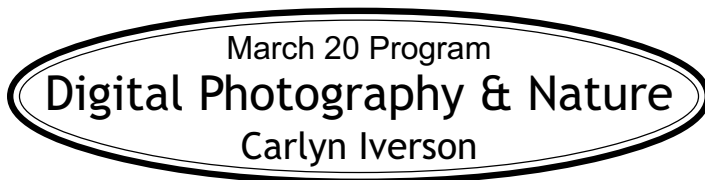
Editor: Ron Cleveland, 763-425-6009, [rcland@minn.net](mailto:rcland@minn.net)  
146 W. Eagle Lake Drive  
Maple Grove, MN 55369

Production Manager: Lynne Pennoyer

President: Joe Kandiko 952-445-3406 [jgkandiko@msn.com](mailto:jgkandiko@msn.com)  
Vice Pres.: Dave Klein 612-829-7650 [dwkdds@aol.com](mailto:dwkdds@aol.com)  
Secretary: Mariann Cyr 651-636-3738 [mcyr@mmm.com](mailto:mcyr@mmm.com)  
Treasurer: Jim Duncan 651-459-3558 [jduncan1@isd.net](mailto:jduncan1@isd.net)

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



## Tell a Story

Dale Bohlke

Look at that! I have to get a picture! Wait a minute. What do I really see that is so beautiful? Is it the color, shape, or light? Is it the cool crisp air or the joy of being outside? What is my emotional response? Is it a natural history event you have never seen or heard of before? Each of these can be communicated on film. The first step (the hardest) is to truly be aware of the isolated visual stimulus that made you stop and look. The next step is to put that feeling on film. You can sit down and think about how to compose your shot or burn film hoping you are lucky to get a frame that conveys your message. The next time you see that perfect subject, sit down, let the world vanish, and concentrate on your mental image. Try different techniques to capture this and review your success on the light box.



## Black Bear Photo Workshop

John Pennoyer will again be instructing a workshop in Orr, MN on July 27-28-29. The Cost is \$225.00.

If interested, ask him for a brochure at the March meeting. Or, e-mail him at [impnatur@aol.com](mailto:impnatur@aol.com)

## Rick Hobbs Presents...

Nature Photography Seminar with John Shaw  
8AM-5PM, May 5, 2002 at the Hilton/Airport Hotel

This will be a one-day intensive seminar and is designed to help you create high-quality photographs while working in the field. Using slide programs and discussion, John will cover a variety of techniques he uses to create his extraordinary images of landscapes, animals and close-ups of natural subjects. He will address topics such as composition, lighting, exposure and films, equipment, TTL flash, and much more. John will also cover some advanced techniques for photographing a variety of natural subjects. As a result, nature photographers of all skill levels from beginning to professional should find this seminar beneficial.

John will also discuss how he incorporates digital photography into his business. This seminar will include a two-hour discussion on digital photography including recommended equipment, setting up a digital darkroom, the process from scanning the image to creating John's high quality digital prints, using Photoshop or other imaging software, storing images, and more.

Register by April 13th to receive the Early Bird Registration fee of \$95. This includes the seminar and lunch. For registrations received after April 13th the fee is \$125. Registrations will also be accepted at the door on the morning of the seminar for \$125. Call Rick at 651-994-4778 or go to [www.rickhobbs.com](http://www.rickhobbs.com) for more information.