



Photography Exhibit celebrates The Nature Conservancy

Selections from *In Response to Place: Photographs from The Nature Conservancy's Last Great Places* will be at the Minnesota Museum of American Art from August 31 to October 6. This exhibition explores and celebrates the work of The Nature Conservancy. It features the work of twelve leading photographers who were invited to visit one of The Nature Conservancy sites and record their responses. The artists are William Christenberry, Lynn Davis, Terry Evans, Lee Friedlander, Karen Halvorson, Annie Leibovitz, Sally Mann, Mary Ellen Mark, Richard Misrach, Hope Sandrow, Fazal Sheikh, and William Wegman. The resulting range of styles, from landscape photography to portraiture and photojournalism, illustrate the rich and complex splendor of these places, as well as the diversity of artists represented.



Annie Leibovitz, 1999

Frosty, Ice-Coated Pitch Pines in Dwarf Pine Ridge. Sam's Point Dwarf Pine Ridge Preserve, Annie Leibovitz, 1999, copyright 2001 The Nature Conservancy

Six Minnesota photographers have been selected for a related special exhibition entitled *Minnesota's Great Places*, which will be on view with Selections from *In Response to Place: Photographs from The Nature Conservancy's Last Great Places*. This exhibition highlights the beauty of several Nature Conservancy of Minnesota sites. The artists are Craig Blacklock, Jim Brandenburg, Jim Gindorff, John Gregor, Richard Hamilton Smith, and Jeff Korte. Brandenburg presents the majesty of the large animals that live in the north woods, while Jim Gindorff reflects the Weaver Dune Preserve through the eyes of Blanding's turtles. Blacklock captures the early blooming prairie Pasque flowers, and Korte's pinhole camera reveals the Agassiz Dune Preserve, the Francis Lee Jacques Memorial Preserve, and the Upper Manitou Preserve. Gregor's stand of aspen trees on the Wallace C. Dayton Conservation and Wildlife Area

and Hamilton Smith's portraits of Prairie flowers at the Hole in the Mountain and the Pembina Trail Preserves capture the colors of Minnesota. *Minnesota's Great Places* was organized by The Nature Conservancy of Minnesota and the Minnesota Museum of American Art.

Museum hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 11 am - 4 pm; Thursday 11 am - 7:30 pm; Sunday 1 - 5 pm
Location: 2nd floor, Landmark Center, 75 W 5th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Galen and Barbara Rowell Remembered

- Cathy Jones

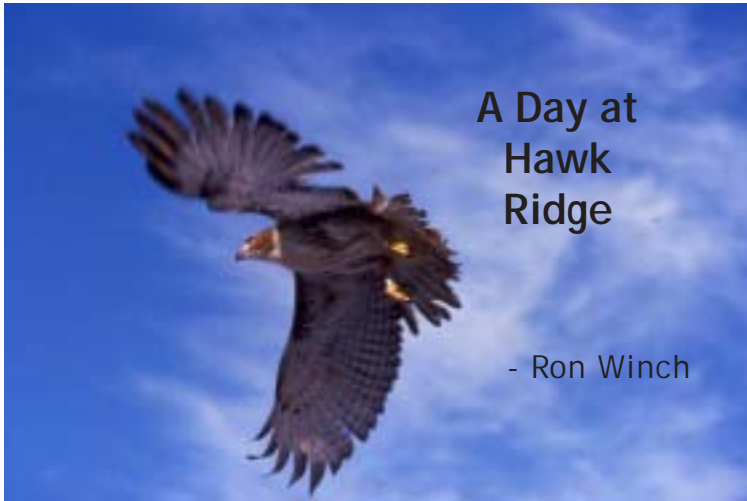
I had never heard of Galen or Barbara Rowell when I first learned of their tragic deaths nearly a month ago. Since that time, I have discovered what I have missed.

Legendary mountain climber, award winning photographer and published author, Galen Rowell found a way to apply all of his passions to create his success. In an article published on his web page, Galen reveals his entry into the world of photography. "My interest in photography did not begin with a burning desire to see the world through a camera. It evolved through an intense devotion to wilderness that eventually shaped all parts of my life and brought them together." He sought to bring viewers into his photographs and to show them what he had experienced. His powerful images reflect this "participatory photography". His 1986 best-selling book "Mountain Light: In Search of the Dynamic Landscape" describes his philosophy that photography is "a continuing pursuit in which the art becomes the adventure, and vice-versa". In addition to this book, Rowell's work has been published in many others including "Bay Area Wild", "North America the Beautiful" and "Galen Rowell's Inner Game of Outdoor Photography".

Rowell's wife Barbara was also an excellent photographer. She traveled extensively with her husband on his photojournalism assignments for Life, National Geographic and Outdoor Photographer and frequently piloted her Cessna 206 for Galen's aerial photographs. Barbara, who was the president of their joint venture Mountain Light Photography, recently finished her own book entitled "Flying South: A Pilot's Inner Journey".

Galen, 62 and his 54-year-old wife Barbara were killed, along with the pilot and another passenger, when their plane crashed on the way home from a photo workshop in Alaska on August 11, 2002. Their remarkable contributions will long be remembered and they will be sadly missed.

For additional information or to offer your condolences, please visit the Mountain Light website at www.mountainlight.com



A Day at Hawk Ridge

- Ron Winch

A fresh northwest wind sweeps across the northern forest, pushing ahead of it the rain clouds and dampness left by two days of rain and fog. The smell of wet earth and pine duff reminds me of campsites on some distant fog-shrouded lake many yesterdays ago. Robins and waxwings contrast with the azure blue sky as they pluck red Mountain Ash berries. Chipmunks glean the few berries that are dropped.

By 10:00 am Hawk Ridge is alive. Birders from around the Midwest have gathered once again to witness the spectacular migration that funnels out of the north, following the land mass to Duluth and then veering south. Down jackets cuddle some of the visitors while the natives sport only tee shirts. Almost all sport binoculars around their necks, and the really serious folks might even carry a tripod mounted spotting scope.

Raptors have been drifting through for several hours. Now, as the earth warms and sends up warm thermals of air, the birds which normally fly above 500 feet attach themselves to the warm rising thermals and spiral upward to great heights until the lift peters out. A long effortless glide to another thermal and the process is repeated. Wouldn't that be fun?

As if by some silent signal all bin-

oculars point upward. Spiraling upward on an unseen warm thermal are over 200 Broad-winged Hawks. On level wings they soar to the top of the column before dropping off to a long glide southward and picking up another thermal. Local birders and Auduboners are on hand to answer questions and tutor the visiting birdwatchers.

Enter now a member of the trapping and banding team with a Sharp-shinned Hawk in a cardboard tube. He explains how the mist nets are set up, the use of a lure bird which, incidentally, is never injured or even touched by the trapped hawk, and how the hawk will be recorded and banded before release.

A hot cup of coffee fresh out of the thermos warms the spirit and the hands. Has coffee ever smelled so good as on a cool morning in the outdoors, mixed with copious amounts of fresh air and a dash of pine duff odor? Down jackets come off and birdwatching continues.



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On a good day the count, done by experienced raptor people, may reach such wild numbers as over 30,000 Broad-winged Hawks, 700 Sharp-shinned Hawks and a

smattering of Cooper's Hawks, Peregines, Bald Eagles, Red-tails and Turkey Vultures.

Thermals dissipate by late afternoon and the great flurry of activity slows down considerably. It's time to find a spot to photograph a spectacular sunset over the lake, or to head back to the motel and make plans for tomorrow.

Maybe Hawk Ridge again to see how many of the 20 raptor species you might see, or record the number of passerines that stop to rest before going south. How about Park Point, or Minnesota Point? Try the St. Louis River and Jay Cooke State Park for early fall color and waterfalls. Many small parks with screaming color and tumbling waterfalls nestle in the hills above Duluth. You may even find an exciting photo or two at the Duluth Zoo or the Lake Superior Aquarium.

Don't forget a few extra rolls of film.

May Awards

Judges: Gerald Moran & Jeff Hahn

10

Vijay Karai - Admiral on Cone
John D. La Mere - St. Mary Lake, Glacier NP

9

Dave Ellenbecker - Wild Ginger
Morrie Holm - Common Blue Violet

8

Paul Hoppe - Pasqueflower
Mariann Cyr - Shooting Star
Tom Samuelson - Hepatica #1
John D. La Mere - Monarch & Blazing Star
Cynthia Fleury - Big Horn Mtns
Paul Hoppe - Common Loon '02
Ted Galambos - Lake Ohai, NZ
Bill Handsaker - Sandhill Crane
Cathy Jones - Sandhill Crane Preening
Cynthia Fleury - Mediterranean Sunset

September Program

Since 1993 John Mullally has spent several spring mornings nearly every year in prairie chicken or sharptail grouse blinds in Minnesota or Wisconsin, most often shared with fellow 3M Camera Club members. However, while alone in 2000 all the right things came together for him for two magical mornings at the prairie chicken dancing grounds near Moorhead, MN - the weather, the light, a large group of active birds going through all of their mating activities, and a new telephoto lens. To help us start our new year of club activities John would like to share with us, in words and with images, his "Morning of Prairie Magic".

Field Notes "Changing Seasons"

- John Pennoyer

A couple of years ago my wife and I took a week long vacation to the North Shore. It was the last week of September and of course my objective was to photograph the glorious fall colors that we have here in Minnesota. The weather was absolutely super, with misty rain and overcast skies all week long! I must have shot 25-30 rolls of film on the magnificent colors, the waterfalls, and Lake Superior. The last night we were there the skies finally cleared and the next morning it was a beautiful blue-sky day. As much as I like to camp, my wife always informs me that now that the kids are grown and gone, her camping days are over. Her idea of roughing it is poor room service. So we were staying at a bed and breakfast and on the last morning another couple, who had just arrived



the night before, joined us at the breakfast table. During the course of our conversation they found out that I was a photographer and that we were just about ready to head for home. This couple felt so bad that I had suffered "lousy" weather all week long and that as I was ready to head for home, the sun had come out with all of this beautiful blue sky. I tried to explain to them how the colors are so much more saturated in the "misty rain" than on a "blue sky" day, but I could tell by their expressions that they didn't believe a word I said.

By the time that you read this news-

letter, the changing of seasons will have started in extreme Northern Minnesota and will have begun to work its way south. I have never considered myself an expert landscape photographer, but I never want to miss the fall season in Minnesota. The beautiful colors can make any one of us seem like an expert. As I have already mentioned, the best weather for fall foliage is an overcast day, especially if the leaves are wet from an overnight rain or if there is a small mist falling. The sun will tend to burn out the color and make it difficult to see the true colors of the fall foliage. When shooting fall foliage, I use an 81B-warming filter



which helps block out the blue that is cast on cloudy or shady days. In addition, be aware of the background when looking through the viewfinder. The gray sky can ruin a good photograph. I usually try to omit the "gray" when doing foliage, or at least minimize it. If the sun is out I

tend to migrate to the waterfalls, Lake Superior and the foliage being secondary to the image. Be careful of the contrast created by the sun, one side of the river will be sunny, the other shaded. Early mornings and the last couple of hours before sunset are my best times on those sunny days however, the best time to photograph from Mt. Oberg is on a bright sunny day with a splash of white puffy clouds. The perspective of looking down on the trees and the light being reflected from the sun will not wash out the color.

My film choice is about 80% Velvia and the other 20% Kodak E100VS. If

you use a Polarizing filter with either of these two films, I would recommend not to fully polarize but to back off a little. Both of these films are sensitive to polarization and will make blue sky appear very unnatural.

I have had a great summer of photography. I went to some places in Minnesota that I have never been to before and therefore was able to get some images that are not in my stock file. But I always look forward to September/October to capture images of the "changing seasons." It's just what comes next that I have a little reservation about!

A Welcome Message From Our President

Greetings and welcome to a new year of the Minnesota Nature Photography Club. We have a new editor, Cathy Jones, and new co-vice presidents, Mike Hagerty and Vijay Karai. I hope you bear with us as we learn. When asked to contribute, whether it be with judging, setting up, cleaning up, or helping with programs, please respond kindly. This is your club. Please be receptive to any and all suggestions.

We are all saddened by the death of Barbara and Galen Rowell in a plane crash. For me at least, he was a tremendous inspiration, not only with his photographs but also with his philosophy.

Looking forward to the new year, Joe Kandiko



Photo Supply Discounts

Linden Hills Photo is interested in working with area camera clubs to provide discounts to club members. Benefits would include reduced prices on photo processing and bulk purchases of film. Further details will be discussed during the September meeting.

Nature Photo Times

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www.minnesotanature.org

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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, MN

Raptors

Minnesota's Birds of Prey



Our own **Ron Winch** and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge invite you to view a photographic exhibit of Minnesota raptors. The photos will be on display at the Refuge Gallery from August 20th - September 29th, 2002

Upcoming Weekend Seminar

**Photographing Prairie and Woodland Beauty:
A Weekend in Minnesota's "Big Woods" and Prairie Country
October 18-20, 2002**

Amid Mt. Olivet Retreat Center's 150 secluded acres of rolling prairie and woodlands, this unique photography workshop offers opportunities to take close-up shots and panoramic views of water, rolling hills, deciduous forests, and grasslands. There will be time for instruction and time to explore the surroundings to discover picturesque places of your own. Designed for beginning and intermediate photographers, this weekend intensive covers scenic, nature, and landscape photography. Through individual and group critiques, learn to see photographs you may have passed by and improve what you thought you captured on film. Learn about film types, filtration, exposure, depth of field, and outdoor lighting issues.

Bring cameras and camera manuals to a pre-trip meeting on Wed., Oct. 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m., on the St. Paul campus. The weekend begins Friday promptly at 1 p.m. and concludes Sunday at 1 p.m. A post-trip session on the St. Paul campus, Wed., Oct. 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m., offers photographic critique and discussion.

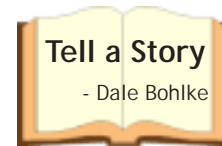
John Gregor, is senior photographer and leader of the ColdSnap Photography team, with over 25 years of photographic experience. A regular contributor to many regional and national magazines, he has illustrated four books, including *Northland Wildflowers*, a guide to the Minnesota region, published by the University of Minnesota Press.

To register or for further information, contact:

University of Minnesota - College of Continuing Education

Phone: 612-625-7777 or on the web at www.cce.umn.edu/scholars

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Sleep late, take great pictures. Sounds too good to be true, like those late night weight loss commercials. Most people use a weekend to get away and shoot some photos. Friday comes and you are ready to hit the road. You are tired, stressed and ready to get away only to join the mass exodus from the city. You wake up the next morning exhausted, but determined to persevere and get your next salon shots.

Why not stay home, get a good night's rest, and leave Saturday morning? Over a cup of coffee, create a checklist so you do not forget something (like a tripod or an extra battery). Plan your subject list, in short get organized. When you arrive at your destination, scout sunset and sunrise locations. Soak up the location and relax. Your creative juices will flow and your photos will show it. Doing this will give you two sunsets, one sunrise, and one creative (not frantic) day of photography. Go home refreshed and relaxed.