



Field Notes "Technology Revolution"

John Pennoyer

When I first joined this camera club back in 1983, I was just starting to get serious about nature photography. My equipment consisted of a Nikon FE2 with a 50mm lens. A short time later I bought a 200mm micro lens. This lens was necessary for some of the beautiful flower photographs that I had seen during club competitions. Over the next couple of years I purchased other lenses including a 400mm for wildlife photography. This equipment was my system for the next 17 years. I have been able to win some PSA medals and many of those photos have been published.



However, in 2000 I decided to update to newer equipment. I now shoot with some of the newer Nikon systems including AF and multiple sensors etc. With this equipment I know that I get photos that were not possible with my old manual systems. But the technology revolution in photography is forever moving forward. At my workshops this summer three of my participants were shooting digital. According to the September edition of *Outdoor Photographer*, digital in 35mm is 25% of the worldwide market. By 2006, it is estimated to be 63% of 35mm camera sales worldwide.

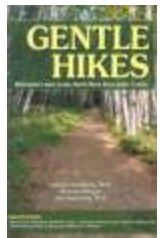
I have viewed many photos taken with the newer Nikon and Canon digital cameras and I am simply amazed at the fine detail of the photos. They certainly will stand their own against any print/slide photo. The purpose of this article is not to move any individual into digital photography, but it will be interesting to see what type of system some of us will be shooting 5 years from now. I am slowly feeling out this "digital revolution". I just bought a Nikon LS 40 slide scanner and PhotoShop Elements software. The bear image that accompanies this article was sent to Cathy by way of the Internet! This slide scanner allows me to do a little experimenting with this digital business. Believe me it has been a real learning experience!

In a very short time I do feel that the Minnesota Nature Photography Club will need to address this new technology revolution. Some of our club members are already shooting digital, and I will guarantee you that within a few short years many of our members will be shooting new 35mm digital systems. So when does this club look into getting a digital projector for our club competitions? We would certainly have to start slowly, maybe only one or two months for the year would be for digital competition. Whether we personally go digital or not, it is a bona fide and accepted way to photograph nature. I would like to see this club take the initiative on this new technology and be the first to offer a digital competition in the area of nature. Good Shooting.

Take a Hike

Ron Cleveland

Fall is prime hiking season. The bugs are gone, the weather is cool and it's a great time to go prospecting for colorful scenics and close-ups. The unique book *Gentle Hikes* can help you find trails to suit your interests and available time. The book concentrates on the short, easy hikes of the North Shore - some of them within the city of Duluth. The Bagley Nature Area on the UMD campus offers "...an awesome wooded hike with a quaint pond and small bridges...Especially gorgeous in fall...Forest abounds with maple." The hike is less than half a mile for the west loop. The book is well organized with good maps, descriptions and directions. An Author's Corner section lists several "bests": Lake Superior views, waterfalls, vistas, wooded trails, river views, flattest trails, etc.



Other hiking books of interest include:

[60 Hikes Within 60 Miles Twin Cities \(61 Hikes Within 60 Miles\)](#) by Watson, Tom

[Great Minnesota Walks 49 Strolls, Rambles, Hikes & Treks](#) by McGrath, Wm. Chad

[Walking Minnesota](#) by Malach, Mary Jo

These and many other hiking books can be found at www.Amazon.com, Minnesota State Parks and local bookstores.



October Program



"Africa the Last Continent" - is a slide show from a group of photographers who visited Africa in 2001 in search of wildlife. Come and see what they discovered...



Introducing Cathy Jones New Editor of "Nature Photo Times"

Ron Cleveland

You won't find Cathy sporting Vikings purple this fall. Born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, she's a Packer fan by default. Her studies in computer science at the University of Wisconsin Madison are now applied as a computer programmer at Carlson Wagonlit Travel. An entrepreneurial sort, Cathy owned her own retail gift shop from 1988 to 1992 in both Bonaventure and Ridgedale Malls in Minnetonka (The Cat House - gifts for cat lovers). She bought a home in Bloomington in 1999.

Cathy got her first (and only) SLR camera from her husband on April 14, 2000, became interested in nature photography and joined the Minnesota Nature Photography Club the very next month. A chance encounter with Dale Bohlke at Wood Lake Nature Center tipped her off to the club. Cathy's favorite photo spots are her back yard, Wood Lake Nature Center and the lakes around her mother's home in Lakeland, Florida.

Cathy is married to fellow computer person Dylan Jones (they have his and hers computers, of course). Her hobbies include photography, cross-stitch, quilting, reading, and stained glass. She is the youngest of seven children. Her hero is her mother who raised the kids alone after her father died in 1965.

Please welcome Cathy to her new job with MNPC and let her know whenever you may have something of interest to the members. You can contact Cathy at (952) 897-1881 or by email at cathyj@toomuchheat.com.

September Awards

Judges: Dale Bohlke & Mike Prokosch

	10
Mariann Cyr	Ptarmigan
Tom Samuelson	Baby Blue
	9
Thelma Beers	Badger Digging Hole
Jeff Hahn	Weevil on Oak
Joyce Moran	Eagle in Lake
Marilyn Gladitsch	Mushroom Cluster #35
Joe Kandiko	Roadside Glory
Mariann Cyr	Snow on Oak Leaves
Dave Ellenbecker	Small White Lady Slipper #8
Vijay Karai	Hummingbird
	8
Jeff Hahn	Yellowjacket Nest
Joyce Moran	Barred Owl Portrait
Vern Nelson	Female Malachite
John D. Jenkins	Stream in the Rockies
John D. La Mere	Tree Frog Hangout
Tom Samuelson	Meadowhawk
Dave Ellenbecker	Trillium & Fern
Aaron Moen	Snowy Egret
Betty Gossens-Bryan	Fern #1
Gerald Moran	Great Horned Owl
Thelma Beers	Papa Fox Getting Acquainted
Jean McDonough	3 Cheetahs
John D. Jenkins	Courtship Display
Kathy Hobbs	Wading Wood Stork
Ted Galambos	Untitled (winter scene)

Minnesota Nature Photography Field Trips



These are informal gatherings where specific subjects or locations can be explored photographically with other club members. Most will be within an hour of the Metro area and followed by lunch, dinner, etc. No RSVP will be necessary. All shoots are rain or shine, some preferably in the rain. Most are scheduled to coincide with sunrise or sunset. No instruction or education is planned, just a gathering of photographers to shoot and share an experience. Bring your favorite lens and imagination. At bird shoots a 500 mm Canon lens will be available for use. Details will be announced in the newsletter as they become available. Any offer of assistance or ideas will be appreciated. For further information contact Dale Bohlke at (952) 445-6125 or dbohlke@aol.com.



October 13



4 to 6:30 PM at Tierney Woods, Eden Prairie

Subject: Big woods fall color.

Explore the color of the big woods at Tierney Woods in Eden Prairie. This hardwood forest remnant is a treasure of color with oak and maple trees in the fall. Typical ground plants and mushrooms can also be found. Deer may be seen but tend to be shy. Bring your favorite lens and creative juices. A single lens is recommended to stretch your vision on these common subjects. Arrive at 4 PM and plan to shoot until 6:30 (sunset). Directions: Take the first left on 169 south of the 169/494 intersection, Tierney Woods is located on the right. The parking lot is about 100 yards from the lights on the right. This is an undeveloped area administered by Three Rivers Parks and no fee is required, also no facilities available. For further information contact Dale Bohlke at (952) 445-6125 or dbohlke@aol.com.

November 16 and/or 17

Alma, Wisconsin

Subject: Tundra Swans, Mississippi Valley sunset

December 15

8 AM to Noon, Red Wing

Subject: Bald Eagles

January 12

AM or PM, Monticello

Subject: Trumpeter Swans, Lake Maria in Winter?

February

PM, Rapids Lake Unit, Carver County

Subject: Prairie snow designs and sunset

March

Subject: Any ideas?

April

3rd weekend PM, Cannon Falls or Shakopee

Subject: Pasque flowers and sunset

May

Subject: Ephemerals, Ferns



The Porkies

Ron Winch

I was standing at the edge of a 300-foot precipice with my head in the clouds. In fact,

I was in the midst of an all-encompassing cloud bank. Somewhere below was Porcupine Mountain's aptly named Lake of the Clouds, and the source of the sinuous Big Carp River.

The sun should be up by now, but there is no hint of color in the eastern sky. Except for a red squirrel gathering breakfast in the stunted oak trees, silence blankets the folding hills of the Porkies. A bit later the lone plaintive call of a Canada goose drifts up through the fog. For me, it is one of those wild sounds, much like the loon or wolf, that I will always associate with wild and magical places.



As I wait, a soft breeze from Lake Superior, a half mile to the north, gently pushes the cloud bank to the south. Patches of blue sky appear and the sun reflects on the lake below. The Big Carp River squeezes under a rustic footbridge and winds its way toward Lake Superior nine miles away. Damp saturated colors begin to pop - a perfect Velvia morning.

Lake of the Clouds is to most people the showpiece of Porcupine Mountain State Park in Michigan's upper peninsula, but there are hundreds of spectacular scenics in this 60,000-acre park. Twenty six miles long, 10 miles at its widest point, four lakes, rivers and streams choked with spawning salmon in the fall and over a dozen named waterfalls and dozens more that are not. The topography is much too rough to ever have been logged and now virgin forests of maple, beech, birch, hemlock and white pine exhibit

a spectacular palette of autumn colors. Rivers like the Big Carp which begins at Lake of the Clouds and flows into Lake Superior is contained entirely within the park. On the west side the Presque Isle sources outside of the park, rushes through narrow canyons and plunges over spectacular waterfalls before cascading into the big lake.

Photo opportunities abound. Waterfalls, quiet pools reflecting a wash of fall colors, maple forests showing off the brilliance of carotenes and anthocyanins as leaf scars dam the flow of chlorophyll into the leaf cells, colorful ground patterns of fallen leaves and straw colored grasses. Mammals and birds are plentiful but are easier viewed than photographed. Resident critters include black bear, deer, porcupine, fisher, river otter, red squirrel, coyote and bobcat. You may also see bald eagle, peregrine falcon, barred owl and northern goshawk.

Roads are sparse, as they should be in a wilderness park, but over 90 miles of trails lead you through some of the most rugged and scenic country in the upper Midwest. Out before sunrise, in after sunset and you will have captured many great images and more than your share of lasting memories.

I have spent 35 days in a single year in the Porkies and that was not enough. Give 'em a try.

September Survey Results

The results of last month's informal survey are in. Twenty-eight people responded to the survey. Many members listed more than one film that they like to use and several listed multiple places to get their film developed. The results indicate that Fuji film is preferred 2 to 1 over Kodak film and that Fuji Velvia is the #1 film of choice for those members surveyed. The survey also shows that more of you have your film processed by mail than have it processed locally. The final results are as follows:

What is your favorite film?

Film Type	Responses
Fuji Velvia	14
Fuji Provia	11
Kodak E 100 VS	9
Kodak E 100 SW	2
Kodak EBX 100	1
Kodak Professional 200	1
Fuji Sensia	1

Where do you get your film developed ?

Film Developing	Responses
Fuji Mailers	7
Linhoff	7
Kodak Mailers	5
National Camera	4
A&I Mailers	3
Other Mail Order	2
ProColor	2
ProEx	1
Photos Inc.	1

Upcoming Seminars & Workshops

Rick Hobbs

Oct. 19-22, 2002

Crex Meadows Grantsburg, WI

Dec. 6-14, 2002

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge & White Sands National Monument

For more information visit Rick's website at www.rickhobbs.com.

Nikon School

Dec. 7, 2002

Mpls- *Digital 101* - designed for the beginning digital photographer.

Dec. 8, 2002

Mpls- *Advanced Digital Workflow* - intended for advanced digital users. For more information call (631) 547-8666 or register on the Web at www.nikonschool.com.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month,
Sept-May at the Visitor Center of the Minnesota Valley
National Wildlife Refuge, 3815 East 80th Street,
Bloomington, MN

The following members have volunteered to be mentors:

Dale Bohlke	952-445-6125	Shakopee
Jeff Hahn	651-697-1151	Roseville
Joe Kandiko	952-445-3406	Chaska
Vijay Karai	763-757-6300	Blaine
John Pennoyer	763-416-4134	Maple Grove

Please feel free to contact the mentor in your area if you would like advice or feedback on your work.

Prairie Bird Blinds

For those of you who enjoyed John Mullally's "Mornings of Prairie Magic" presentation last month, here is some information about prairie bird blinds.

Prairie Chicken

Nature Conservancy Bluestem Prairie
Glyndon, MN

Contact Brian & Sonia Winter:
218-498-2679

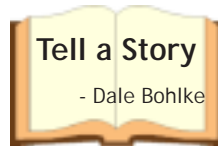
One wood blind handles two photographers with gear. Two small canvas blinds each handle one with gear. No fee.

Sharptail Grouse

Wisconsin DNR at Crex Meadows
Grantsburg, WI

Contact Jim Hoefler: 715-463-2896
Two canvas blinds each handle two photographers with gear. \$5.00 donation per blind

Blinds are available from early April to mid May. You MUST be in the blind one hour before sunrise. Expect to remain inside the blind for two to three hours.



Books have been written about making photographs but I like to dream about making them. Don't get me wrong, I read everything I can find about photography. It's just that I prefer to daydream about building photographs. Dream about the perfect photo, write it down or remember it for the future. Plan the equipment, lighting, and point of view needed to tell your story. Some ideas take years (pasque flowers in bloom showing through the snow) of waiting for nature to cooperate.

Keep a dream list with the subject, equipment needed, best lighting, and point of view on it. When that magic moment arrives, take a deep breath and enjoy, then make the photo of your dreams.



Travel Corner

- Gerald Moran

Articles in several photography magazines in the past 6 months have featured Bighorn Canyon on the Wyoming and Montana border, as a beautiful, lightly visited site for nature photographers. My wife Joyce and I visited it in late May. Unfortunately, Bighorn valley is in the midst of a three year drought. The Canyon water level as seen from the Bighorn overlook, is 60 feet below normal and not as beautiful as pictured. Worse, the wildflowers were nearly non-existent as the surrounding desert areas are all parched brown. There were some old sheep droppings in the area but not any evidence of real traffic. The lake, where it is crossed by Highway 14, is gone; the water level has receded to the level of the old streambed. Sad, because the site, from photos at the visitor's center, was obviously unique and beautiful. The Ranger at the Center guessed that with good rains each year it might take 3-5 years to return the river and canyon to normal levels.