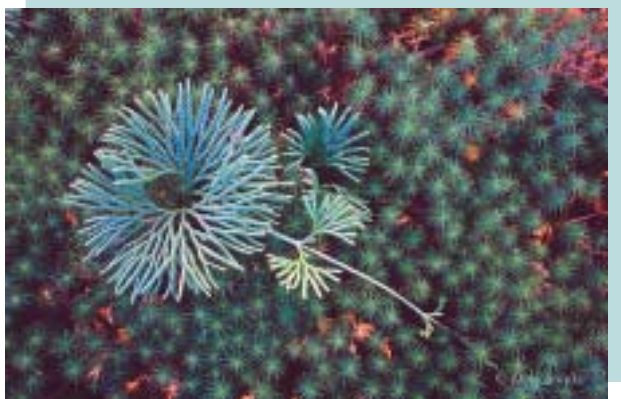


## The Art of Abstracting

- Dale Bohlke



What makes this photo work? I ask this question whenever I look at a photograph. I once compiled a list of what I liked in a few dozen photographs. Another way to analyze your favorites is to make a drawing of the very basic elements you see. This method starts with a rectangle as a visual reminder that everything within the photograph is isolated from its surroundings. Surprisingly there are very few variables in the thousands of pictures we see daily. There are some minor variations but the list looks something like this:

- Shape:** Primary - circle, square, triangle  
Secondary - oval, rectangle
- Line:** Real or imaginary, vertical, horizontal, diagonal, curved
- Texture:** Pattern if a repetitive texture
- Light:** Front, side, back; color

That's about it. It is the challenge of the photographer to communicate his message by creating an effective composition with this limited vocabulary. First consider these elements of design when you make a photo. Then concentrate on placing your elements within the frame (rectangle).

### Club Tidbits...

According to the PSA website... "Marilyn R. Gladitsch garnered her PPSA in September 2003 with three stars in Color Slide and five in Nature. She especially enjoys shooting close-ups of wildflowers, mushrooms, and other nature subjects as well as blacklight tabletop set-ups. Her work is represented in a variety of Tops shows as well as in the PSA Nature Slide Collection. A Society member since 1992, Marilyn has volunteered her efforts over the years in many capacities for PSA International Exhibitions, including judging and

The Monarch butterfly at sunrise can be viewed as a simple photograph consisting of a half circle and triangle, with a supporting diagonal line and ovals. Another much more obvious use of the basic elements is the moss photograph. This is about as simple as it gets. The challenge of this subject is to make it visually interesting by placement of the circle and line within the frame. Since the lighting and background are uniform, the photographer can make the composition however he feels it works best. Some photographs are harder to abstract into simple elements than others, especially birds and animals. See if you can find the rectangle in your next mammal slide or the oval in the next bird photograph you see.

By thinking about visual elements we see the subject with a creative eye and move beyond the snapshot approach to photography. We learn how to show the beauty we see in the subject. Light cannot be ignored but by determining the primary and supporting elements within the frame one can see the intrinsic organization of the natural world. By separating the graphic elements from composition, the photographs are easier to analyze, easier to make, and much more interesting to view. The next step is the art of composition.

chairing sections of the Minnesota Botany Exhibition. She has also participated in PSA Slide Study Groups in both the Nature and Color Slide Divisions. A member of the Minnesota Nature Photography Club since 1985, Ms. Gladitsch has held many offices including president, vice president, secretary, and editor in addition to working on various other committees."

Congratulations Marilyn. Hard earned and well deserved!

## Slide of the Year Candidates

The following slides represent the field from which slides of the year in the categories of botany, zoology and general will be chosen. If your slides are listed and you wish to compete in the year-end salon, please bring them to the November 19th meeting. In addition to the slides listed here, acceptances from the November meeting will also be eligible for slide of the year. The judge for this year's competition will be Layne Kennedy.

<u>Photographer - Slide Title</u>	<u>Salon Month</u>	<u>Photographer - Slide Title</u>	<u>Salon Month</u>
(not recorded) - Small Round-Leaved Orchids #5	Oct 2003	Galambos, Ted - Lake Superior Sunset No. 1	Feb 2003
Arnson, Jim - Early Morning Sharp Tail	Sep 2003	Galambos, Ted - Backyard Butterfly	Oct 2003
Aronson, Jim - Pelican Lake Sunrise	Apr 2003	Gladitsch, Marilyn - Rue Anemone	Jan 2003
Aronson, Jim - Booming Dance	May 2003	Gladitsch, Marilyn - hepatica Trio	Feb 2003
Bahma, Joel - Sunset	Jan 2003	Gladitsch, Marilyn - Trout Lilies Three	May 2003
Bahma, Joel - Lake Superior Sunrise	Oct 2003	Gladitsch, Marilyn - Paintbrushes	May 2003
Bahma, Joel - St. Louis River	Oct 2003	Gladitsch, Marilyn - Trillium Trio	Sep 2003
Bahma, Kim - Morning Fog	Jan 2003	Gladitsch, Marilyn - Amanita Family	Sep 2003
Bahma, Kim - Bitterroot Flowers	Oct 2003	Gladitsch, Marilyn - Bloodroots Together	Oct 2003
Baker, Eric - Dancing Loon	Oct 2003	Gladitsch, Marilyn - Cintonia in Bloom	Oct 2003
Baker, Eric - Loon Dancing 2	Oct 2003	Goossens-Bryan, Betty - Killdeer #1	Feb 2003
Bertas, Mary Kay - Yosemite	Sep 2003	Goossens-Bryan, Betty - House Sparrow #2	Feb 2003
Bertas, Mary Kay - Zion	Sep 2003	Gossens-Bryan, Betty - Mallard - Female #1	Oct 2003
Bertas, Mary Kay - The Tetons	Oct 2003	Hahn, Jeff - Everglades Frog	Jan 2003
Bohlke, Dale - Culver's Root Sunrise	Jan 2003	Hahn, Jeff - Honey Bee	Jan 2003
Bohlke, Dale - New Found Gap	Apr 2003	Hahn, Jeff - Treehoppers Mating	Feb 2003
Bohlke, Dale - Lake Superior Ice Columns	May 2003	Handsaker, Bill - Young Moose in Mud	Apr 2003
Bohlke, Dale - Baskins Falls	May 2003	Handsaker, Bill - Calf Creek Falls, Utah	Sep 2003
Bohlke, Dale - Blazing Star Morning	Sep 2003	Handsaker, Bill - The "Wave"	Oct 2003
Bohlke, Dale - Moose River	Sep 2003	Hansaker, Bill - East End of Long Canyon on Burr Trail	Sep 2003
Bohlke, Dale - Kasota Prairie Morning	Oct 2003	Harlow, Jerry - Wolf Eating Deer Leg	Oct 2003
Bohlke, Dale - Track Along the River	Oct 2003	Hobbs, Kathy - At the Highest Point	Jan 2003
Burkstrand, Michele - A Casual Glimpse	Jan 2003	Hobbs, Kathy - Bathing Time	Jan 2003
Burkstrand, Michele - Raven	Feb 2003	Hobbs, Kathy - Taking a Peek	Sep 2003
Burkstrand, Michele - Grooming Oneself	Feb 2003	Hobbs, Kathy - Hungry Hummer	Sep 2003
Cleveland, Ron - Bloodroot - River Bend	May 2003	Hobbs, Kathy - Curious Threesome	Oct 2003
Cleveland, Ron - False Rue Anemone	May 2003	Hobbs, Kathy - Resting Place	Oct 2003
Cleveland, Ron - Showy Lady's Slipper at Lake Itasca	Sep 2003	Hobbs, Rick - Snow Goose	Jan 2003
Cleveland, Ron - Birds-Eye Primrose	Oct 2003	Jenkins, John D. - Water Fall	Jan 2003
Cleveland, Ron - Tundra Swans at Dawn	Oct 2003	Jenkins, John D. - Desert Light	Jan 2003
Cyr, Mariann - Crane in Motion	Jan 2003	Jenkins, John D. - Arches Court House Rock	Feb 2003
Cyr, Mariann - Yucca at Sunset	Jan 2003	Jenkins, John D. - Thor's Hammer Bryce Canyon	Apr 2003
Cyr, Mariann - Northern Shoveler	Apr 2003	Jenkins, John D. - Where the River Bends, Yellowstone	May 2003
Cyr, Mariann - Soaptree Yucca	Apr 2003	Jenkins, John D. - Death Valley Sunrise	May 2003
Cyr, Mariann - Fireweed Buds	May 2003	Jones, Cathy - Gull #1	Jan 2003
Cyr, Mariann - Puffin in Motion	May 2003	Jones, Cathy - Goose Resting	Sep 2003
Cyr, Mariann - Cactus	Sep 2003	Kandiko, Joe - Icicles	Apr 2003
Duke, Larry - Sunset & Birds	Oct 2003	Kandiko, Joe - Superior Ice	Apr 2003
Duke, Larry - Burrowing Owl	Oct 2003	Kandiko, Joe - Orchids	May 2003
Duncan, Jim - Bottle Brush	Sep 2003	Kandiko, Joe - Garden	Sep 2003
Duncan, Jim - Iris Bud	Sep 2003	Karai, Vijay - Speak No Evil	Jan 2003
Duncan, Jim - Stonecrop - 603	Oct 2003	Karai, Vijay - Trumpeter Swan Wing Flap	Apr 2003
Duncan, Rose - Foxglove	Oct 2003	Karai, Vijay - Wolf on the Run	Apr 2003
Ellenbecker, Dave - Three Showy Lady Slippers	Jan 2003	Karai, Vijay - Caterpillar	Sep 2003
Ellenbecker, Dave - Frosty Pine Needles	Feb 2003	Karai, Vijay - Damselfly on Grass	Oct 2003
Ellenbecker, Dave - Maple in Transition	Apr 2003	Karai, Vijay - Spider in Web	Oct 2003
Ellenbecker, Dave - Cedar Bog Orchids	Sep 2003	Kessler, Charles - Downy	Feb 2003
Ellenbecker, Dave - Orb Web and Dew	Sep 2003	Kessler, Charles - Dragonfly 1	Oct 2003
Ellenbecker, Dave - White Lady-Slipper Trio #5	Oct 2003	Kessler, Charles - Wood Duck with Geese	Oct 2003
Farrell, Tom - Superior Ice	May 2003	Kessler, Marsha - Passing Storm	Jan 2003
Farrell, Tom - Albino Lady's Slipper	Sep 2003	Kessler, Marsha - Valley Sunrise	Feb 2003
Farrell, Tom - Crabapple Blossoms	Oct 2003	Kessler, Marsha - Bluebells	May 2003
Fleury, Cynthia - Wild Geranium	Sep 2003	Kessler, Marsha - White Spider	Oct 2003
Fleury, Cynthia - Badlands Dawn	Oct 2003	Klein, Dave - Preening Snowy Plover	Apr 2003
Galambos, Ted - Surface of a Pond	Jan 2003	Klein, Dave - Sanibel Sanderlings at Sunset	Apr 2003
Galambos, Ted - Sunset at tNaniboujou	Jan 2003	Klein, Dave - Baltimore Oriole	Sep 2003
Galambos, Ted - Sunset No.2 Lake Superior	Feb 2003	Klein, Dave - Wading White Ibis	Oct 2003

## Slide of the Year Candidates (cont'd)

<u>Photographer - Slide Title</u>	<u>Salon Month</u>	<u>Photographer - Slide Title</u>	<u>Salon Month</u>
Klein, Dave - Great Blue Heron Portrait	Oct 2003	Wraalstad, Duane - Web #00	Sep 2003
La Mere, John D. - Marmot	Jan 2003	Wraalstad, Duane - Inidan Pipes	Oct 2003
La Mere, John D. - Roadside Pheasant	Feb 2003	Zeiss, Diane - Blue Bell	May 2003
La Mere, John D. - 3 Trumpeters	Apr 2003	Zeiss, John - Clownfish	Apr 2003
La Mere, John D. - Bosque Crane	Apr 2003	Zeiss, John - Sunset	Apr 2003
La Mere, John D. - Ridgetop Mule Deer	May 2003	Zeiss, John - Star II	May 2003
La Mere, John D. - Green Backed Heron	Sep 2003	Zeiss, John - Trout Lilly	May 2003
La Mere, John D. - September Sunrise	Sep 2003	Zeiss, John - Polar Bear #13	Sep 2003
La Mere, John D. - October Heron	Oct 2003	Zeiss, John - Sax	Sep 2003
La Mere, John D. - Dakota Muley	Oct 2003	Zeiss, John - Pronghorn Buck	Oct 2003
Lillestrand, Dottie - Begonia Leaf #1-03	Jan 2003	Zeiss, John - Ptarmigan	Oct 2003
Lillestrand, Dottie - Red Leaf #1-2002	Apr 2003		
Lillestrand, Dottie - Bloodroot 2003	May 2003		
Lillestrand, Dottie - Jack in Pulpit	Sep 2003		
Lillestrand, Dottie - Zinnea Close-Up	Oct 2003		
McDonough, Jean - Thor's Hammer	Jan 2003		
McDonough, Jean - Slot Canyon #2	Jan 2003		
McDonough, Jean - Gentoo and Baby	Feb 2003		
McDonough, Jean - Antarctic Scene	Apr 2003		
McDonough, Jean - 3 King Penguins	Apr 2003		
McDonough, Jean - Reflections at Mono Lake	May 2003		
McDonough, Jean - Ani	May 2003		
McDonough, Jean - Gentoo and Two Chicks	Sep 2003		
McDonough, Jean - Petrel and Chick	Sep 2003		
McIntosh, Jean - Web #3	Oct 2003		
Meglitsch, Toni - Leopard on Savannah	Sep 2003		
Meglitsch, Toni - Brown Bear at Low Tide	Sep 2003		
Moen, Aaron - Swallowtail	Feb 2003		
Moen, Aaron - Lily	Feb 2003		
Moran, Gerald - Sandhill Cranes	Apr 2003		
Narayanawamy, Venky - Fall Colors	Oct 2003		
Nelson, Vern - Male House Finch	Feb 2003		
Nelson, Vern - Viceroy	Apr 2003		
Nelson, Vern - Canada Goose Incubating 4 Eggs	Apr 2003		
Nystrom, Pauline - Intense Red Fox	Feb 2003		
Nystrom, Pauline - Cheetah on Watch	Feb 2003		
Ryan, George - Iced Teeth	Jan 2003		
Ryan, George - First Snow on Oak	May 2003		
Samuelson, Tom - Mr. Blue	Jan 2003		
Samuelson, Tom - Monarch #1	Feb 2003		
Samuelson, Tom - Goldfinch #1	Feb 2003		
Samuelson, Tom - Unifl Spring	Apr 2003		
Samuelson, Tom - Pressure Ridge	Apr 2003		
Samuelson, Tom - Jeweled Shooting Star	May 2003		
Samuelson, Tom - Goldfinch on Sumac	May 2003		
Samuelson, Tom - Tree Swallow	Sep 2003		
Samuelson, Tom - Foxtail Barley Grass	Oct 2003		
Scholljegerdes, Florence - Autumn Silhouette	Jan 2003		
Scholljegerdes, Florence - Half-Way Up	Jan 2003		
Scholljegerdes, Florence - Spring Beauty #3	May 2003		
Scholljegerdes, Florence - Frosty Fern Pattern	May 2003		
Scholljegerdes, Florence - Skunk Cabbage in Bloom	Sep 2003		
Scholljegerdes, Florence - Poppy Center	Oct 2003		
Wallin, John - Eastern Tailed Blue Pair	May 2003		
Wallin, John - Young Mule Deer Buck	May 2003		
Wraalstad, Duane - Suman #8	Jan 2003		
Wraalstad, Duane - Web 26	Jan 2003		
Wraalstad, Duane - Wood Duck #25	May 2003		
Wraalstad, Duane - Jackson Hole	May 2003		
Wraalstad, Duane - Fern Bud	Sep 2003		

### October Awards

Judges: Mariann Cyr and Mike Prokosch.

#### 10

Joel Bahma	Lake Superior Sunrise
Joel Bahma	St. Louis River
Dale Bohlke	Kasota Prairie Morning
John D. La Mere	October Heron
Tom Samuelson	Foxtail Barley Grass
Duane Wraalstad	Indian Pipes

#### 9

Dale Bohlke	Track Along the River
Ron Cleveland	Birds-Eye Primrose
Ron Cleveland	Tundra Swans at Dawn
Cynthia Fleury	Badlands Dawn
Marilyn Gladitsch	Bloodroots Together
Jerry Harlow	Wolf Eating Deer Leg
Kathy Hobbs	Curious Threesome
Charles Kessler	Dragonfly 1
Marsha Kessler	White Spider
Florence Scholljegerdes	Poppy Center
John Zeiss	Pronghorn Buck
John Zeiss	Ptarmigan

#### 8

Not Recorded	Small Round-Leaved Orchids #5
Kim Bahma	Bitterroot Flowers
Eric Baker	Dancing Loon
Eric Baker	Loon Dancing 2
Mary Kay Bertas	The Tetons
Larry Duke	Burrowing Owl
Larry Duke	Sunset & Birds
Rose Duncan	Foxglove
Jim Duncan	Stoncrop - 603
Dave Ellenbecker	White Lady-Slipper Trio #5
Tom Farrell	Crabapple Blossoms
Ted Galambos	Backyard Butterfly
Marilyn Gladitsch	Cintonia in Bloom
Betty Gossens-Bryan	Mallard - Female #1
Bill Handsaker	The "Wave"
Kathy Hobbs	Resting Place
Vijay Karai	Damselfly on Grass
Vijay Karai	Spider in Web
Charles Kessler	Wood Duck with Geese
Dave Klein	Great Blue Heron Portrait
Dave Klein	Wading White Ibis
John D. La Mere	Dakota Muley
Dottie Lillestrand	Zinnea Close-Up
Jean McIntosh	Web #3
Venky Narayanawamy	Fall Colors



Photos by John Pennoyer

**Above:** Whitetail doe  
**Below:** Small Whitetail buck

Camera: Nikon F100  
 Lens: 500mm  
 Film: Provia 100F @ 200  
 EV: - 1/3  
 Aperture priority @ F5.6



### Sunday, August 25

I generally start my Whitetail hunting at the end of August and on this particular Sunday afternoon it was humid. I left my camera in the car and just slowly walked through the swamp looking for Whitetail signs. This is an area in which the big bucks will spend their days. After a couple of hours, I found very few signs and no deer in sight. This was very unusual because after many years of doing this, I always jump a deer or two.

### Monday, September 2

The larger bucks will always remove their velvet before the smaller ones do. As photographers, we should always try to envision our photographs. My vision has been to photograph a large buck at this time of the year with the velvet just clinging to his antlers. Again I spent some time in the swamp. This time with my 80-200mm zoom around my neck just in case I jumped Mr. Big. Again no signs, no deer.

### Sunday, September 23

As I left the vehicle I could tell that it was going to be a beautiful afternoon to do a little Whitetail hunting. For the end of September the weather was cool with very little wind. I checked the wind and determined where I was going to set-up my blind. I have about 4 or 5 spots where I like to shoot Whitetails. Where I go depends not only on the best light, but also on the wind. The number one defense of Whitetails is their sense of smell. Even though the areas I go to are Regional or Community Parks, big bucks still use their noses to sniff out danger. After about 3 hours of waiting, a doe with her two fawns came wandering out of the woods in my direction. The fawns were beginning to lose their spots. As they got closer to me, I could just barely see the spots. Immediately the doe noticed something unusual in my direction and, of course, it was me! She

recognized that this lump should not be here. Her curiosity made her come closer to me. Her face was full-framed in my viewfinder and I fired off a couple of shots. At the sound of the motor drive she and her two little ones headed back to the woods with white tails flaring.

### Sunday, October 6

The colors on the trees were absolutely gorgeous as I drove to my area. As I got out of my vehicle, I began to second-guess myself thinking that I should have gone somewhere else to photograph some fall colors. With a little rain last night and overcast skies today; this was a perfect time to do some fall photography. I decided that I had a couple of hours and grabbed my small photo pack with all of my other lenses in it and walked around the trails to see if I could collect some color. The area was filled with Maple trees and a few Birches. After a couple of hours I managed to shoot a roll of film mainly on the ground cover, as the trails were covered with fresh fallen Maple leaves. After switching photo packs I headed out to my area and began the long vigil for Mr. Big. After about 4 hours in my blind the only deer I spotted was probably the same doe with twin fawns. As the sun set, no photos were taken and I headed for home.

### Sunday, October 20

The leaves were now totally off the trees and as I walked to my area I noticed that the trails coming out of the swamp were beginning to tell a story. The deer were certainly starting to move around a little more. With this sign, I was comfortable with where I had been setting up my blind even though the only deer I had seen had been the doe with her twins. But this night was very uneventful and after 5 hours I headed back to the car deciding to take a different route through the woods. I was very glad that I did

## Field Notes - (cont'd)

because I found my first buck signs. In one area I found two small buck scrapes and some small saplings that were rubbed. Further down the trail I found the sign I was looking for—a tree that was probably 5-6 inches in diameter that had all of its bark rubbed off. Big Bucks will rub on big trees; little bucks will rub on smaller trees. Bucks use the trees during this time of the year to strengthen their neck muscles, so a big buck must use a large tree that will offer resistance. Signs like this always get me excited and it makes no difference if I am bow hunting or as the case is now, shooting with a 500mm lens.

### Sunday, October 27

Deer signs were everywhere—the trails were really being beaten down, the rubs and scrapes were now throughout the woods. I wasn't settled in my blind for much more than a half-hour when my frequent visitor appeared—the doe with her twin fawns. The fawns now looked just like Mom, but smaller. Shortly, out of the woods appeared a buck, not Mr. Big, but he was probably about 18 months old and sporting a small 8-point set of antlers. I managed to fire off a few shots of him before he disappeared into the swamp. The sun was just beginning to set and my best light was now gone. But I decided to stay just to see if any more deer would appear. I put my camera and lens away and just watched the sun fade into the horizon. With the sun now gone, I heard a commotion in the cattails so as quietly as possible I snuck over to the area and everything was stone quiet. I saw some movement in the cattails and that's when I spotted a very large rack heading further into the swamp. This is the whitetail I am looking for, Mr. Big!

To be continued in the December issue...

## POTPOURRI

### MINNESOTA BOTANY INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Don't forget to enter your slides for the Minnesota Botany International Exhibition. The exhibition is limited to botany slides only - including flowering plants, non-flowering plants (fungi, lichens, mosses, ferns, gymnosperms, etc), habitats and fossil life.



### 2004 National Parks Pass Photo Contest

Gather your favorite, most dramatic National Park pictures from 2003 - there's still time to take more - and send them by January 5, 2004 to the National Parks Pass Experience Your America™ Photo Contest

The Grand Prize is a trip for you and three guests to the park of your choice and your winning photograph will grace the 2004 National Parks Pass. See [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org) for complete contest rules and entry forms.

### Welton Lee's Rocky Mountain Photo Adventures

is offering The Ultimate Winter Wildlife Photo Adventure at a very special price!

#### Yellowstone Winter Wildlife

February 8-14, 2004

Total Cost — \$995 per person

The regular price for this workshop is \$1395. Since there are not enough people signed up at this time, the price has been reduced to \$995. This is the regular full-blown winter workshop in Yellowstone, offering everything but meals.

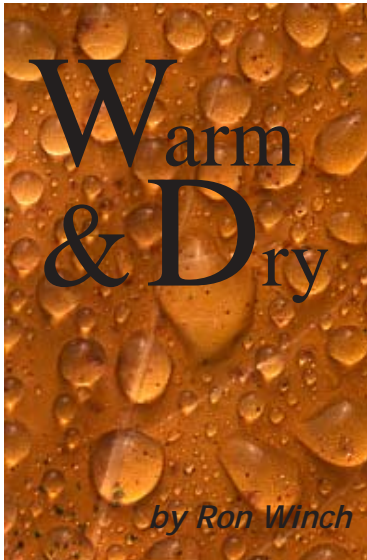
Photograph the geysers and their surroundings (trees, shrubs, and even wild animals) as they become transformed into ghostly white forms under a shower of twinkling ice crystals as the steam freezes in the subzero temperatures. Here's your chance for very unique and wonderful shots.

For more information, check out the website at: [www.rockymountainphotoadventures.com](http://www.rockymountainphotoadventures.com) or call (303) 747-2074.

### 2004 Minneapolis - St. Paul Print Circuit

104 medals will be awarded in five divisions in this print only exhibition. The five divisions include large and small monochrome and small, large and commercial color prints. Judging will take place January 10th and January 17th, 2004.

The closing date is January 5th, 2004 and club members can enter the competition for \$10.00 per division. Club entries should be collected and submitted as one entry to enjoy the discounted entry fee. Rules and entry forms are available at the TCACCC website at [www.cameracouncil.org](http://www.cameracouncil.org). For further details, or to get a printed copy of the entry form contact Bob Dachelet at (952) 933-2787.



A thin wisp of steam curves up from my near-boiling teapot and blends into the cool damp air. A steady light rain has been falling for several hours. The smell of wet earth and aspen leaves emanates from the moist ground. Now, overhead, a light breeze shakes loose the already heavy aspen leaves into a golden blizzard as they ride the wind through the oak-aspen woodlands.

A rambunctious red squirrel speckled with rain-

drops is garnering acorns for his immediate energy needs and likely for his winter midden. In the pond below, a muskrat, oblivious of the rain, feeds on cattail roots and a male green-winged teal in resplendent colors jets in for lunch. Frogs have long been silent - the only sound is the soft patter of falling rain and the distant call of a chickadee.

In the shelter of a three-sided lean-to, I put my book down, turn off the small gas stove and pour boiling water over an Earl Gray teabag. The odor of bergamot rises from the cup. A couple of chocolate chip cookies add the finishing touch as a feeling of luxurious warmth settles in.

It's early October and the temperature hangs out at about 50 degrees. Not cold, but cool enough to give you a chill if

you are inactive and not dressed for the occasion. Today I'm sitting on a double thickness of a blue, closed-cell, foam sleeping pad (available from outdoor stores such as REI or Midwest Mountaineering). These blue pads are available in various sizes and thicknesses and can be cut down to your specifications. They are great in winter as insulation for standing, sitting or kneeling on snow or cold ground. They can easily slip into a backpack or be rolled and tied or bunged to a camera bag. My feet are snug in wool socks and rubber bottom eight-inch boots. Vibram or lug soles give me the best grip and wool or synthetic socks make it easier for moisture to migrate away from my feet, whereas cotton easily becomes moisture saturated and - the result - cold feet! I like long john bottoms such as Patagonia Capilene (a perennial leader in moisture transfer and comfort), which comes in various weights. I follow these with wool or fleece pants topped off with rain pants. Full side-zip rain or wind pants are much easier to get into or out of, especially over boots. A Capilene top under several

layers of fleece topped off with a Gortex rain parka with hood protects my upper body from the elements and keeps me warm. For headgear, I prefer a hat or billed cap to keep the sun out of my eyes or rain off my glasses. I pull my parka hood up and I'm as snug as a bug in a rug except for my hands. Having endured many cold, wet zodiac rides on Polar seas has proven to me that light fleece gloves under industrial grade rubber gloves tucked under jacket cuffs make me one warm happy camper.

A hot slug of teas washes down the last bite of cookie as I begin to think about the many times I've photographed in the rain and how to keep my camera and gear dry. First consideration must be a good weatherproof camera bag or backpack such as the Lowepro All Weather bags, which have



an integral "rain-coat" built into the bag. A testament to their effectiveness need go no farther in time than this year's Alaskan trip - a six-hour drizzle while photograph-

ing Brown Bears on an Alaskan river or a mile hike back to the coast during a downpour. My camera backpack and contents remained totally dry. Next best might have been a plastic bag bungeed in place.

What about shooting in the rain? If I'm not burdened by a long lens, a simple plastic bag from the grocery store check-out does nicely. I cut a small hole for the lens and secure

with heavy rubber bands. If long lenses are my choice, I purchase larger, heavy-duty plastic bags that will cover my outfit. I make sure to get clear or black bags. I've seen white bags spook game too easily.

Of course, the opposite is true in snow country. Again, I place a hole for the hood, and secure with strong rubber bands. And maybe a second bag to protect the outfit when I'm moving. I always keep a well-used soft towel or chamois to blot up any moisture on my gear. Wiping may move water into fittings and joints of a camera lens - and water and electronics are not the best of friends. If none of this suits your needs, there are a number of good commercial rain hoods available for \$60.00 to \$200.00. Personally I can buy a lot of film for that kind of money.

A gentle rain is still falling as the first wave of Juncos invades the forest floor. Golden aspen leaves still filter down as I return to the book and more about Greenland - our next major destination.

Stay warm and dry - and we'll see you in December.



# Minnesota Nature Photography Field Trips

## At A Glance Calendar

All trips will be held regardless of weather. Any changes will be printed in the newsletter.

You now have an opportunity to show all those slides you have taken on the field trips! January's slide presentation will be talking about our field trips, their locations, and their impact on the club. I need about 60 slides for the presentation. We are not talking 10's here, just slides taken at the locations visited during a field trip. You do not need to discuss your slide or do any talking, I will do that, but I really need those slides. Put your name and location on the slide, I will do the rest. Slides will be returned at the January meeting. Get your slides to me before January 1, 2004 so I can put together a presentation

For further information on the field trips or the slide show, contact Dale Bohlke at (952) 445-6125 or [dbohlke@mn.rr.com](mailto:dbohlke@mn.rr.com).

## Trip Details

### DeSoto Field Trip - December 6th and 7th

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri Valley, Iowa, is a major rest stop for snow geese heading south for the winter. There may be up to 100,000 birds almost at arms length. Between 9 AM and 4 PM you can photograph through clear visitor center windows, in shirt sleeve comfort. Early and late shooting will be outdoors, a good windbreaker will be helpful since a prairie wind may be present. The temperatures should be mild (30 to 50 degrees) depending on cloud cover which is totally unpredictable.

The refuge is about 7 hours southwest of the Twin Cities. The closest lodging is in Missouri Valley, Iowa or Blair, Nebraska. Each is about 15 minutes from the refuge. I would recommend staying in Blair, Nebraska because of a better choice in dining and a quieter setting. Most of the travel facilities in Missouri Valley are located at the freeway interchange. For the cost conscious or adventuresome there is a public campground adjacent to the refuge (on the Iowa side).

The following web sources may be useful if you plan to make the trip.

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge:

<http://midwest.fws.gov/DeSoto/>

Blair, Nebraska Information:

<http://www.blairnebraska.com>

Missouri Valley, Iowa Information:

<http://missourivalleyia.areaguides.net/yellow.html>

Area Map: <http://www.mapquest.com>

### Monticello Field Trip - January 11th, 2:00 pm

Meet at the gas station/meat market across from the bank - one block north of the off ramp from I94. Monticello is the winter home for hundreds of the endangered trumpeter swans. The open water on the Mississippi and twice daily feeding brings these big, beautiful, white birds within camera range. Dress warmly to stand out in the January weather. A 400 mm lens is the minimum for satisfactory shots. We will photograph in the afternoon for best lighting of flight shots. If the day is cloudy we will go to Lake Maria State Park to photograph birds at the feeders

### Miscellaneous

A new member is looking to share a ride to Reicks Lake on November 23rd. Please contact Bob Hosker at 952-476-3508 (days) if this would work out for you. Please pass my name along to anyone interested in car pooling to next month's field trip (or any other opportunity to get outside and shoot). Thanks, Dale

<b>November</b>	<b>November 23rd, 8:00 am</b> <i>Location:</i> Reicks Lake Alma, WI <i>Subject:</i> Tundra Swans
<b>December</b>	<b>December 6th &amp; 7th</b> <i>Location:</i> DeSoto NWR Missouri Valley, IA <i>Subject:</i> 50,000 - 100,000 snow geese
<b>January</b>	<b>January 11th, 2:00 pm</b> <i>Location:</i> Monticello, MN <i>Subject:</i> Trumpeter Swans
<b>February</b>	<b>February 14th, 8:00 am</b> <i>Location:</i> Red Wing, MN Bald Eagles
<b>March</b>	<b>March 20th, 8:00 am</b> <i>Location:</i> Minnesota Valley Refuge Visitor Center <i>Subject:</i> Feeder Birds
<b>April</b>	<b>April 18th, 6:00 pm</b> <i>Location:</i> River Terrace <i>Subject:</i> Pasque Flowers  <b>April 24th &amp; 25th, 6:00 pm (Tentative)</b> <i>Location:</i> Blue Stem Prairie <i>Subject:</i> Prairie chickens and pasque flowers
<b>May</b>	<b>May 22nd, 8:00 am</b> <i>Location:</i> Schaefer Prairie <i>Subject:</i> Lady Slippers

# Nature Photo Times

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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,  
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



## November Presentation

For our November meeting we are fortunate to have Brian Peterson, award-winning photographer for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Brian

will showcase some of his nature photography and discuss his latest book, "Voices For the Land".

## Do You Have the Award Winning Slide of the Year?

The only way to find out is to enter your slides in the year end competition! Bring any or all of your acceptances from 2003 (see pages 2 & 3) to this month's meeting to enter. If you can't make it to the meeting, be sure to mail your slides to Mariann Cyr by November 19th. Acceptances from the November meeting are also eligible for the year end awards.

## The View From Here

by Lawrence C. Duke

"There were cameras to the left of me, cameras to the right of me, cameras behind me, cameras in front of me, cameras cameras, cameras." Anyone remember SAPS at SEA, with the all time greats Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy? Stan and Ollie are working in a musical horn factory, testing the horns and it gets too much for Ollie. He becomes fighting mad at the sound of horns.

I just returned from a trip with our two grand children to the San Diego area, which included a morning at the ZOO. Now, after all these years, I really know what they mean when they say "... this place is a zoo...". After standing in line with the other 250 people, the guy at the ticket window tells me my "save up to \$18.00" coupon is only good on the next expensive ticket package.

We buy our tickets and are inside with a map. The kids have already heard "... you wait here and I'll be right back..." (it's a famous photo quote) so we split up. Grandma has the kids, water bottles, a cell phone, a contact radio and a map.

The photographer has a camera cart for bag, tripod, water bottles, cell phone, contact radio and a map.

We are off and running. At the new orangutan exhibit, the point-n-shooters are four deep, not a chance. So I move to the flamingo pond, to witness a child not wanting to pose with the birds, so mother can take her picture. The kid is crying and mom is screaming, the birds are all moving to the far end of the pond. So I move to the elephant compound, where my tripod picks up an earth tremor from a five year old with sticky hands "...don't bother the nice man, honey...". Little does she know. Next, I hurry to the oryx exhibit, where I'm having trouble with my viewfinder, it's gone totally red. I check the camera, I check the lens, I look again, it's still red and out of focus. I look for the oryx, only to see the Jerk in the red shirt standing inside the exhibit with his single use camera. He got told and he got out.

I did manage to shoot five rolls, and the doctor said I will probably get over my day at the ZOO.



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