



Field Notes

Organizing Your Images By John Pennoyer

Over the last few months I have had many people ask me how I organize my images. When I was shooting slides a friend of mine, who was very computer savvy, made me a program for labeling and searching images. In my opinion, it was better than any program that you could purchase. But since I went to digital I had to generate my own system. So in this article I thought that I would write on how I organize and label my images.

With digital you store your images in “folders”. My very first folder is titled “2004 Photos” and within that folder I have sub-folders such as mammals, birds, MN scenes, flowers, botany etc. Within these folders I use additional sub-sub folder. Let’s take a look at some bird images. The sequence is 2004 Photos—Birds—Loon. All of my Loon images will be stored in this folder. At times it may be necessary to expand your folder system. Maybe I have images of Common Loons, Red Throated Loons and Pacific Loons. In my Loon folder I would than have more sub folders marked for those specific Loons. It is always easy to start a new folder. I highlight the Loon folder by clicking once and than Ctrl N will open a “new folder” under Loons. Just rename it for the sub-category you need..

Also important is how you label your images. I use a very simple method, here are some examples. My prefix would be Mammals—Bighorn Sheep= MBS. For my numbering system I just use numbers in sequence. So MBS0001 would be Mammal Bighorn Sheep 1. An image numbered BBE0278 would be Birds-Bald Eagle

278. When I send my images to my two stock agents I put JP in front. As an example BBE0278 would now be JPBBE0278.

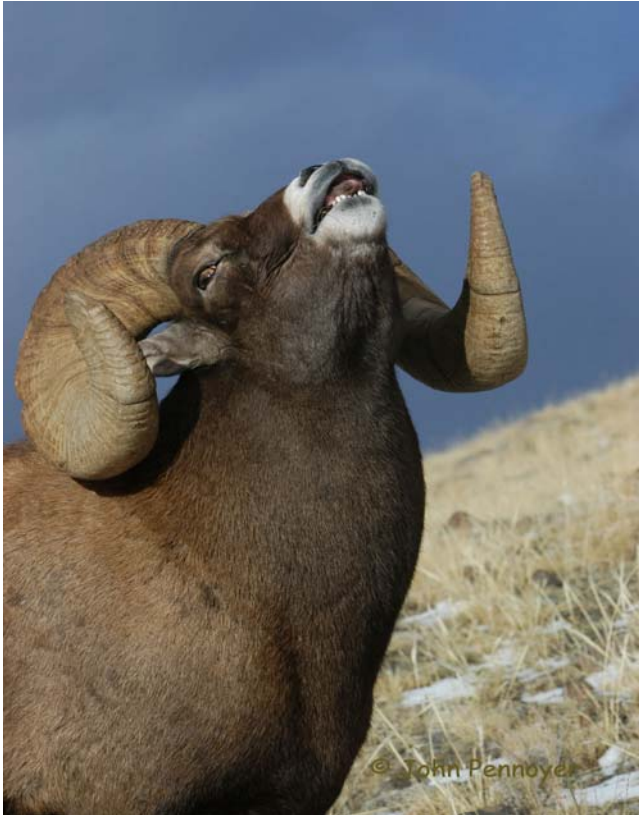
There are some people that use dates for their numbering system as in BBE2-05. This would say Bald Eagle February of 2005. However, I avoid this method because the software that I use is very easy to batch mark my images and I can use this method to include the date.

Now this may sound very confusing but it really isn’t. Remember, the only person you’re filing and labeling system has to make sense to is you! Unless you have other people looking for your images, using a folder system and filing system that makes sense to you is the only system that matters.

Here are two images I shot with their associated image numbers:



BBE0376



MBH0226

The software program that I use to organize and catalog my images is Digital Pro 2. This works very well for me. However, there are many other excellent software programs, such as Breeze Browser and AC/Dsee. I really like Digital Pro 2; however, it is mainly for photographers that submit many images. Most software programs have a 30 day free trial. Just download several and give them a try. While no software program is necessary if you are purely storing photos, they will make it easier when you shoot 400 images of Bighorn Sheep in one trip. Also my program allows me to store other pertinent data that I can input on the image (such as title, location date, etc). For example, title: Bald Eagle fighting over fish---location: Homer spit---Date: March 04---time: 9:00 AM.

I use three programs for working on my images; Nikon Capture for working on my RAW files, Photoshop 7 for working on them when converted to Tiff files, and Digital Pro 2 for

cataloging and labeling. As far as storing my images I do not store any of them on my computer hard drive. I use my computer exclusively to work on the images. My original RAW files are stored on CD's and my working Tiff files are stored on external hard drives.

My biggest learning curve when I switched to digital was never the act of taking the image because for me there was very little difference than shooting with slides. The learning curve starts after the image is taken and I am still learning this process. If you ask me two months from now maybe I will be doing something different but right now this works very well for me. The sooner you get started managing your digital images the more you will enjoy the venture into digital photography.

Good Shooting!

November Awards

Judges: John Pennoyer & Dale Bohlke

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Aronson, Jim	Stormy Sunset	
Fleury, Cynthis	Mount Moran	D
Handsaker, Bill	Paw Hole	
Harlow, Jerry	Sedona Sunset	
Hoyt, David	Reddish Egret (W)	D
McDonough, Jean	Mule Deer in Fall Color (W)	
Perez, David	Buck in Velvet at Sunset (W)	D
Wildnecht, Jon	Windy Autumn	D

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Cleveland, Ron	Crane Group	D
Cyr, Mariann	Banning Mushrooms (W)	D
Graves, Rick	Light Blue Morning Glory	D
Harlow, Jerry	Prairie Chicken '04'	
Jenkins, John D.	Autumn Leaves	
La Mere, John D.	Prairie Dog (W)	
	Gentoo Penguins Squacking (W)	
McDonough, Jean	Beaver Brook Falls in Autumn	
Miller, Joe	Yucca Plant, White Sands Nat'l Monument	
Miller, Joe	White Ibis	D
Morgan, Jeff	Maroon Bells	
Snowden, Curt	Lassen Nat'l Park Painted Dunes	
Swanson, Robert		D

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Cyr, Mariann	Bison (W)	D
Duncan, Jim	Leaf 1	D
Duncan, Jim	Milkweed Pods	D
Graves, Rick	Wild Geranium Bud	D
Jones, Cathy	Angry Goose (W)	
Jones, Cathy	Mute Swan Bathing (W)	
Kandiko, Joe	Wonder Lake View	
Kandiko, Joe	Fall Reflection	
Moen, Aaron	Falls at Night	
Moen, Aaron	Sunrise	
Morgan, Jeff	Badlands Skyline (W)	D
Prokosch, Mike	Gentoo Profile (W)	D
Prokosch, Mike	King in the Landscape	D
Samuelson, Tom	Tree Swallow	
Zosel, David T.	BOP-1 Osprey	
Zosel, David T.	WB-202 Snowy Egret	

California Dreaming

By Don Nadreau

Last July I combined a wedding in California with a training class that I have wanted to do for several years. The class was conducted by George Lepp at his facility in Los Osos, California. The appeal of the course for me was a combination of shooting photographs and working in the digital darkroom. I had just recently converted to digital and wanted to get up-to-speed fast. In addition, this was a reward to me for surviving until retirement.

The class I took was entitled “Photography and The Digital Darkroom”. It was a five day course that included a day and a half of shooting in the field with the remaining time working in the digital darkroom. There were 16 students and three instructors, including George.

The photo portion of the class was conducted on the California coast, at Montana de Oro State Park, and at a location just north of San Simeon where we shot photos of California Seal Lions. George and his assistances were very generous with help and also allowed class participants to try different pieces of equipment. I

tried a 90mm tilt shift lens that George had and also used his variable neutral density filter. George also had a 500mm lens he allowed folks to use.

The digital darkroom portion of the class consisted of training and free time to setup and prints your own photos. The instructor had a PC hooked to an overhead screen so the class could see what he was doing. Photos used by the instructor were available to each student on their own computer so they could follow the demo and perform the steps on the same photos. It worked well. Each student had a PC with two screens. One screen had the photo being worked and the other had the tools used in Photoshop CS. You could move the cursor back and forth between the screens as if they were one. In addition, there was one Epson 2200 printer for two students.

We covered color management, film scanning, image editing (including a digital workflow), printmaking, and archiving images to a CD. The digital workshop was available from 8:00 am until 9:00 pm with an hour off for lunch and dinner. Classes ran from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. At the end of the five days, we kept all photos we produced and Lepp provided mailing tubes if you wanted to mail your photos home. On the last day of the class, we each put together a set of our best 6-8 photos for review. George reviewed each photo and provided feedback.

One of the midweek evenings was devoted to a barbecue at George’s home. After dinner we looked at the photos he has framed and mounted in his home. We also got a tour of his office and darkroom. He has about 10 five foot high file cabinets filled with slides he has taken over the years. He is now shooting exclusively in digital but is working on converting the best of his slides to digital.

The class was terrific and I would definitely like to do another.

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Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month, September through May. Set-up and social time with light refreshments begins at 6:30 pm. The nature slide salon starts at 7:00 pm and a program follows the salon. Meetings are held at:

Visitor Center, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge,
3815 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN

Editors Corner

December Meeting (12/15/04):

Program: "Images of the Year"
Christmas Social – Bring a plate or treat to pass around.

Step-up and Contribute

We need articles for future additions of the newsletter. Consider sharing your experience or knowledge via an article. This is one of the primary educational features of the club. Also, let me know if you have suggestions or comments that would help improve this newsletter. If you have equipment for sale, let me know and I will include it in the next letter. In addition, if you know of photo opportunities or outings, send me an email, or call me. Thanks and have a happy holiday.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

