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Field Notes

“Look Over Your Shoulder”

By John Pennoyer

Over the course of the last 3-4 summers many of my destinations have been to capture images of Minnesota Prairies. So far this summer alone I have visited at least 8 prairies and there will probably be more to come before the summer is over. Like most subjects we always want to try and work with the best light possible for the image that we want to capture. For me I really enjoy photographing prairies in early morning or late evening light. Often I will be in the prairie up to an hour before the sun rises or sets. I love combining the color of the prairie with the color of the sky. It can result in some magnificent images. This summer I tried to pick and choose what I would consider the best day to go and capture this type of image. Being retired I no longer need to limit my photography to Saturdays. Therefore, I would intently watch the weather report to select the best days to photograph. My ideal sunrise or sunset would be to have a thin layer of clouds to help diffuse the light and also add some color to the setting or rising sun. Blue sky days usually have less color and even using a Graduated Neutral Density filter is never strong enough to control the harsh light of a setting/rising sun. And of course I never wish for a windy day.

Well this just goes to show you that we photographers can never control the weather. When I did finally choose my perfect day, the clouds cleared out by the time I got to the prairie, the wind would pick up, or a very thick cloud bank would totally ruin the color of the sky.

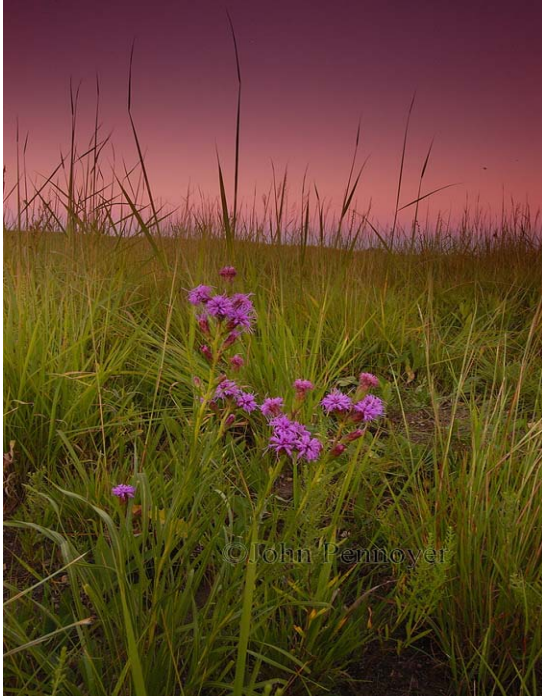
According to one weather report, it sounded like it was going to be a perfect morning sunrise, so I left home at 3:30AM to get to Roscoe Prairie before the sun rises at 6:00 AM. I walked out in the prairie in darkness and positioned my tripod for the perfect prairie sunrise. The red color of the Prairie Blazing Star was going to be accentuated by the beautiful color of the rising sun. But as the eastern horizon began to glow, the moving clouds had formed a cloudless hole where I definitely did not want it to be. There is no GND filter that can compensate for this and once again my perfect day

was ruined by of all things the act of “nature”. As I was standing there moping, I glanced over my shoulder and there was a fabulous cloud formation! When I looked through my view-finder I could not turn my tripod around fast enough to capture the image. It is now one of my favorite images of Roscoe Prairie.



Roscoe Prairie

One of my new prairie ventures was Ordway Prairie by Brooten, MN. Dale Bohlke told me about this prairie so I had to go check it out. Unfortunately it turned out to be one of those perfect days for sun bathing but not for the type of photography that I enjoy doing. It was a blue sky day with not a cloud in sight. Not only do clouds help add color, but also add character to your image. But I was there so I was going to photograph something. As the sun sets or rises on a day such as this, always look opposite the sun as the horizon will begin to turn a beautiful pink and blue which really adds some tremendous color to your image. I was there for both a sunset and sunrise and came away with some marvelous images. But they were for the most part taken “over my shoulder”, opposite the sun.



Ordway Prairie

I never realized how many prairies Minnesota has, even though some are just a few acres in size. But within 100 miles of the twin cities there are probably close to 10-12 prairies and they offer some magnificent opportunities for landscapes and prairie flowers. If I was to give some helpful tips it would be to be sure to have a set of GND filters of at least 2-3-4 stops. Also be sure to keep your camera level. I always use my bubble level on the camera's hot shoe. You can locate prairies by going to The Nature Conservancy web site and also look at the DNR web site under Scientific and Natural Areas. But also many communities have parks that are prairies but are just not registered as such.

Just remember to look all around for the color, especially "over your shoulder!"

Good Shooting!

Patagonia - Where The Wind Was Born

By Ron Winch

El Chalten, Argentina, May 2, 2005, 8 A.M – The sky is as black as a crow's belly as I step out of our little hotel. I look to the Southwest hoping to see the glimmer of a new day breaking, but all I see by the

village lights are snowflakes riding a strong westerly wind and flying horizontally.

Out there, somewhere is Mt. Fitz Roy, the pride of Los Glacires National Park. Fitz Roy, along with Torres Del Paine in Chile, are the pride of Patagonia (and the namesake for the Patagonia clothing line). As the spectacular peaks of the Andes stretch south they form the border between Argentina and Chile. These two peaks and their allies are known worldwide for their exceptional beauty and almost vertical spires. Better known to climbers than tourists, they are some of the most awesome and beautiful mountains in the world.

A shaft of warm light finds a crack in the cloud cover and settles on the mountains. SPECTACULAR! We head for a lookout three miles away which will provide magnificent views of the warm morning sunrise and snowflakes dancing on the mountains. Snow covered and washed by the warm light as only found at high elevations and high latitudes, Fitz Roy and friends make for an outstanding morning as rolls of Velvia wind through the camera.

We journeyed to other parts of the park and photographed a towing waterfall plunging 60 feet over cold gray basalt. Surrounded by fall colors and dancing whitewater downstream this area offers many great photos. Fortunately the sky was overcast again, making for low contrast, which works well on Velvia film.

Moving on, a band of Guanacos (wild cousins of the llama) offered wonderful close-up shots, especially with their large inquiring brown eyes. Eventually the Guanacos graze their way up the valley – with snowcapped mounts as a background – does it get any better? Our photos may not equal the classic shots by Erwin Bauer, done some years ago, but I must say, "Not bad".



Today we have been photographing the Chilean side of the Andes. The main north-south road which runs to the southern tip of South America is a gravel road cut out of the mountainside. In most places you must crane your neck to look up and see the mountain peaks, on the other side you look almost straight down to see rushing rivers in the canyons below. As this is the supply road to the south, it must be kept open all winter. This task falls to the bulldozers and heavy duty snow removal equipment. A job for the rugged.

Darkness settles in as we arrive in Chile Chico, a small mining town and our destination for the evening. Our abode for the night is a small hotel built in the 1800s and run by a direct descendent of the founder. He informs us that we are in for a real treat – an outdoor Chilean barbeque. However, with rain and snow falling, things are rearranged and we dine inside – temperature, about 45 degrees F. Large platters of lamb and beef make the rounds until everyone is stuffed. A bit of conversation about the day and it's off to bed.

The Chilean idea about central heat differs greatly from ours. Central heat is a wood burning stove (burn time about two hours) in a central small room surrounded by a number of small bedrooms. Needless to say, it was invigorating. Toni, my wife, who had sustained a hairline fracture and several torn small ligaments just above the ankle, retired that night fully clothed plus wearing heavy sox, a down vest, gloves and a stocking cap pulled down over her head. This was in the true spirit of an exploratory trip. Next morning one lady was heard to say, "If this is anything like camping I don't want any part of it."

Our small bus boarded a ferry for a three hour lake crossing. Parking only two feet away was an open sided, fully loaded cattle truck. When exiting the bus one had to be sure that vital parts were pointed in the opposite direction.

Is this a trip that I would do again? In true Minnesota speak, "you betcha."

Patagonia is not a country or a state; rather consider it like the Great Plains. It is the southern third of both Chile and Argentina, with only five percent of each countries population living there. Roads are few, people are isolated and the language is 100% Spanish. If you're interested, I'd be happy to share more details and images with you.



Torres Del Paine - Chile

For Sale.

10 rolls of Provia 100
14 rolls of Velvia (50)
11 A & I mailers

All for \$113.00

Since I have been shooting digital this film has been in my freezer. If interested please give me a call. I will sell as complete only. Even though the film is 18 months old, it has always been in freezer.

Also if anyone is interested in a Nikon F-100 let me know. I am converting to all digital. I have not shot any film for about 18 months.

John Pennoyer

Cell: 763-913-8651

Home: 763-416-4134

Two T008 Epson colored ink cartridges

One has been opened but not used, the other is unopened. Both for \$15 (half price).

One package (19 sheets, one was used) Epson Velvet Fine Art paper. \$20.

Call Don Nadreau at 763-377-4589 or see me at the September meeting.

MNPC May 2005 Salon Scores
Judges: John Pennoyer and Alan Schutz

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Photographer	Title
Cyr, Mariann	White-tufted Grebes
Ellenbecker, Dave	White Lady-Slipper Pair
Gladitsch, Marilyn R	Hepaticas by Tree
McDonough, Jean	Baby Harp Seal
McDonough, Jean	Penguins Near Huge Iceberg
Sanderson, Wayne	Egret Fishing

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Photographer	Title
Blesener, Rod	Wax Wing
Cyr, Mariann	Gentoo Colony
Fleury, Cynthia	Yellow Mounds Badlands
Galambos, Ted	Saguaro in Arizona
Hahn, Jeff	Immature Grasshopper
Hahn, Jeff	Immature Stink Bug
Moen, Aaron	Jay Cooke State Park
Morgan, Jeff	Great Blue Herons Nest building (W)
Perez, Dave	Beetle on Geranium
Prokosch, Mike	Oystercatcher Mating Display

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Photographer	Title
Aronson, Jim	Trillium Close Up
Baker, Eric	Owl in Tree
Blesener, Rod	Gray Owl in Snow 2
Cleveland, Ron	Owl Lunch
Gladitsch, Marilyn R	Spring Beauties #26
Jenkins, John D	Mule Deer in Winter Snow
Kandiko, Joe	Autumn Reflections
Mueller, Torsten	Moonrise
Nelson, Vern	American Painted Lady on False Sunflower
Perez, Dave	Mallard Hen in Flight
Polley, Lil	Great Gray
Prokosch, Mike	Silvery Grebe with Chick 0445
Sanderson, Virginia	Burrowing Owl #4
Sanderson, Virginia	Egret in Flight #8
Sanderson, Wayne	Heron with Fish
Scholljegdes, Florence	Three Water Lilies

Welcome to a new MNPC year
By Mariann Cyr

As summer draws to a close and the State Fair starts, I've begun to look forward to fall activities. The resumption of Minnesota Nature Photography Club meetings is of course high on my list.

The new MNPC board met in June to organize responsibilities and address some issues brought forward by members. Items discussed included the increasing length of salons, the decreasing time available for programs, the purchase of a digital projector, and the development of a judging workshop.

One change this year will be that meetings will start at 6:45 p.m. with announcements, followed by a 45 minute program at 7:00 p.m. There will be a 15 minute break and then the salon will start at 8:00 p.m. This is an attempt to tame the increasing length of our meetings and also to give people presenting programs a set time frame to work within. The switch in order of agenda, program before salon, will also give the person handling the digital entries more time to get set up.

Salons do need to move along a bit faster. So instead of giving the acceptance cards out immediately following the salon they will be available for pick-up at the following meeting. This will also give the score keeper a little breathing room and allow them to more fully participate in the rest of the meeting.

John Pennoyer will be leading the effort to put together a workshop later this fall on the process of judging. We will try to cover the what, why and how's of judging. Stay tuned for more details, but if you would be interested in attending a workshop such as this, please let John, Mike Prokosch or myself know and we will put you on the list. This workshop will be for all those interested in judging - new or experienced folks.

We discussed the possible club purchase of a digital projector, but tabled the discussion until we look more fully into the possibility of calibrating the projector at the Wildlife Refuge (the one on the ceiling).

This year e-mail will be the default distribution method for the club newsletter. However a check-box will be added to the membership form to request postal delivery.

The next board meeting will be held prior to the September 21st meeting from 6-6:30 p.m. at the Refuge. The meeting is open to all members, so please come and join us. See you in September!

Do We Have Your Correct E-mail Address?

Nearly all MNPC members have an E-mail address now. If you have not received E-mail from "info@minnesotanature.org" recently then we do not have your correct address. About a dozen of the member addresses we have now are incorrect.

An E-mail delivery problem also occurs when an E-mailbox is allowed to fill up to the maximum allowable space thus preventing new mail from reaching the recipient.

Please make sure your E-mail address is listed correctly when you renew your membership for the coming year. If you do not want your E-mail addressed published in the roster but still want to receive the E-mail notes to members, you may send your E-mail address to Ron Cleveland at info@minnesotanature.org.

An E-mail note is sent when each new issue of the newsletter is available for download. The note also may include news items which were too late for the newsletter and or which may be of general interest to members with an internet connection. Special E-mails are sometimes sent by officers who wish to communicate some club business. People who have an interest in nature photography but are not yet members may also sign up to get a version of the E-mail note.

Clicking on the link at the bottom of the front page of the web site minnesotanature.org will bring up a screen that will enable you or any site visitor, to send a message to info@minnesotanature.org. The web site does change from time to time so we invite you to visit and explore the site.

Keep up to date with all the club news.

The View From Here by Lawrence C. Duke "Photography Spoken Here"

" Well, now there you go again " R.R.

First time I got really interested in digital was in Arizona. Don't need to remember the date, but I think it was the PCC night that I bought 40 rolls of someone's film for a very low price, - \$3.00 p/r -. That wasn't the last deal I got on film from someone either. My wife was the one who asked me to stop the

film buying, ".... please! There's no more room in the freezer! ..."

Digital was the New Thing on the block, and it must still be. At last count on new ways to spend money, there were choices of all kinds. The list has to start with terms like; " NEW ", "Last a Lifetime", "SUPER-COOL", "Mega...something", and of course we have to have a "Shoot-out".

Currently, CANON has 54 models, from Point-n-shoot for hundreds to DSLR for really big bucks. Nikon, isn't that far behind, with 47 models, how'd they get started with just two film cameras in the 50's? And all the rest; Konica Minolta, Olympus, Pentax, and let's not over look Leica and the R9 add-on, for real big \$\$\$\$\$. It shoots both film/digital, with one body, if you've got the money.

And now, we can get to the real reason for this rambling-rant. I have been sitting in the weeds waiting for this to come to life and now , "... they're here ..." I've been getting E-mail on the BEST, BETTER, BIGGEST and FASTEST memory storage cards. Those little floppies that fit somewhere in the camera and if there's enough juice left in the battery, you can capture an image.

Yes, I'm working with digital and use cards of different MB and Speed. And I 'm working with film and use different ISO and Types. They are all part of the tools to get the job done, and have some fun doing it. Besides the wife still wants her freezer back.

I had breakfast two years ago with Rob Sheppard and four other photographers. He did most of the talking, because he got most of the questions. We were talking digital, what else do photographers do, if they can't talk photography? Near the end of our breakfast, Mr. Sheppard laid a little humor on us, and I'll quote him as I remember it.

"... When it comes to which brand memory card to use and how fast it should be, it's time to move to a different table..." I loved it!

"If anyone wants to join me, there is a table over here?"

Submission of Articles for the Newsletter:
If you have articles for submission, and I hope you do, please send them to me via email if at all possible. In addition, I now have my scanner working on my new computer so I can handle slides associated with your articles. Thanks, Don Nadreau.

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Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month,
September through May.

6:15 PM - Set-up and Social Time
6:45 PM - Announcements and Business
7:00 PM - Program
8:00 PM - Nature Salon (Competition and Judge's
Comments).

Meetings are held at:
**Visitor Center, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife
Refuge,
3815 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN**

September Meeting:

The September meeting is scheduled for Wednesday
9/21/2005. **Note the new times above!!!**
The Program will feature a presentation by John Zeiss
concerning Tripod Mounts. The Judges will be Vijay Karai
and Joe Kandiko

FIRST CLASS MAIL



**Your New Officers:
Jim Duncan, Larry Duke, Rod Blesener, Mariann Cyr,
Don Nadreau**