



Nature Photo Times

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“The Awakening”

By Ron Winch

Frozen solid! Wood Frog has spent the entire winter on top of the ground, deep in the woods, under several inches of leaf litter. A few inches of leaves offers little protection against the subzero temperatures of January - when the frost line goes down several feet.

Had Wood Frog erred by not burrowing into the soft mud of a nearby pond? Was he caught unaware by the fast approaching cold front of early November? No! Wood frogs spend most of their lives some distance from water and rather than race back to the pond as winter approaches, Mother Nature has provided them with a unique survival technique of being frozen solid and awakening to the warmth of spring. Strange, for most animals freezing is certain death.

We now know from studies done in Minnesota and Canada that the wood frog, as well as the spring peeper, chorus frogs and the gray tree frog, can withstand being frozen and awaken in the spring. But only the wood frog has a quick reaction response, little more than a half day, which chemically responds to the ices of winter, and produces an antifreeze and glucose that allows ice to form around cells – yet protects them from freezing. Heart and breathing stop as well as metabolism, and the frog freezes “solid”.

And so it spends the winter – only to awaken at the first hint of spring. What a way to spend the winter.

In the soft mud bottom of the pond a snapping turtle burrowed down last fall. Gradually he quit breathing. No, he’s not dead, it is simply his response to the coming winter and his technique for survival as snow and ice locks down the pond. With low water temperature and little or no activity the snapper can still assimilate

oxygen from the water and easily spend the winter under a blanket of snow and ice.

When the pond freezes over before snowfall, sunlight penetrates the clear ice and assists plant life in producing oxygen; but if snow blankets the ice, oxygen production slows and finally stops. Minimal activity and consumption of oxygen by all aquatic creatures is essential if they are to see sunlight in the spring.

Marsh marigolds and pasque flowers emerge and push their colorful blossoms toward the warming sun. Aspen and cotton wood winter buds burst their leathery winter sheaths and unfurl their delicate green. Canada geese have long since flown north on an isotherm of 35 degrees F. Sweet songs of robins and red-winged blackbirds greet the damp morning sunrise. Surely it must be spring – the grand awakening.

Once again it has been my pleasure to share with you a few exquisite moments of our natural world and photography. It is gratifying to know that as a group we are nature photographers – not just photographers who photograph nature. Remember also, there’s a lot more to nature photography than photography. We’ve had a good year, learned a lot, enjoyed friends and once again became the BEST camera club in the metro area.

May the Great Spirit willing we will meet again in September. Enjoy!

Field Notes

“Filters or Photoshop?”

By John Pennoyer

While sitting at my computer reading my e-mail, I noticed a message from club member Ron Cleveland. Ron does a lot of volunteer work for Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge and he was just given an assignment to photograph some

Pasque flowers with Oak Savannahs in the background. The refuge personnel wanted an image like this for brochures, kiosks etc. He asked me if I wanted to tag along! How can you say no when you can get into an area that is off limits to the general public. It was a cloudy day with very little wind so almost perfect for this type of photography. After arriving at the Pasque flower location, I put on my 12-24mm wide angle zoom. When I looked through the view-finder the texture in the clouds, with the exception of a few bright spots, was so dramatic that I knew it would add interest to the image. To help control this I put on a 2-stop graduated neutral density filter, sliding the filter with the gray over the sky with the pasque flowers in the clear portion. This would help balance out the great difference in tones. I took 3 or 4 compositions with this set-up. I was watching Ron and he decided not to use a GND filter, and would finish the image in Photoshop. The next day Ron e-mailed me his images and they were terrific. Well I actually think mine were good also!!

A few months ago in Outdoor Photographer Rob Shepherd was informing the readers on how to do a sunrise/sunset type of image by shooting an exposure for the sky and another exposure for the darker foreground, then merging them in Photoshop. This month's Outdoor Photographer has an article from Bob Krist on shooting landscapes and using Graduated Neutral Density filters! Bob's analogy was that he hates to spend a whole lot of time on the computer. If he can do it in the field that is what he does. That is also the same with me. I spend enough time on the computer and if I can eliminate another step I will!

Some might say that using a computer to accomplish something that can be done in the field is cheating! But am I also not cheating when I use my GND filters! Both of the images look very similar and I don't think anyone could tell if a GND was used or Photoshop was used. Both the computer and filters are tools that allow us to create images that our eyes see, but film or digital does not have the dynamic range to show detail in the range of tones that occur in various situations. Now granted Ron understands that his image

“may” not be eligible for club or nature competition, but he was taking the image for a different reason.

As more of us begin to shoot in the digital world, you will spend much more time on the computer than you probably originally thought. At least that is the case with me. I never dreamed that I would spend as much time on my images as I do. So I still pretty much shoot the same way that I did when I was shooting with film and if using a filter will help eliminate another computer step that is my choice. But if another photographer elects to use a Photoshop function to accomplish the same thing, that is their choice and the image is no different than mine.



Ron Cleveland



John Pennoyer

Good Shooting
John Pennoyer

PS: This article is not intended to create controversy, but just to say that there is more than one way to get the image. All of us nature photographers have our own preferences for capturing an image. All of us will use tools to help us bring our creative vision to print.
HAVE A GREAT SUMMER AND HOPEFULLY I WILL SEE YOU IN THE PRAIRIES!!!

April Salon Results:
Judges: John Pennoyer and Alan Schulz

Score 8

Jim Aronson	Clouded Sunrise
Janet Cardle	Dunes
Nadav Cassuto	Osprey
Dave Ellenbecker	Small Round Leafed Orchid #7
Cynthia Fluery	Clouds
Cynthia Fluery	Fern Fossil
Marilyn Gladitch	Purple Fringed Orchis
Betty Goossens-Bryan	Anna's
Rich Graves	Eagle
Paul Hoppe	May Flower
John Jenkins	Avocet in Winter Plummage
Joe Kandiko	Pond in Autumn
Joe Miller	creek flowers
Tom Samuelson	Pasque Flower Sunset
Virginia Sanderson	GBHs & Snake
Dave Vichich	Gull with Fish
Jon Wilbrecht	Cactus

Score 9

Rod Blesener	dawn moon
Ron Cleveland	RedTailed Hawk
Mariann Cyr	Skua w Chick
Mariann Cyr	Hepatica White
Marilyn Gladitch	Three Pink Hepaticas
Ron Lahr	carver fall
Drew Mattison	Baxter
Jean McDonough	Thro's Hammer #5
Jeff Morgan	Brown Pelican
Virginia Sanderson	Vulture
Dave Vichich	Morning Swans
Jon Wilbrecht	Aloe

Score 10

John Dykstra	Hummingbird
Drew Mattison	Sunrise
Jeff Morgan	Alligator
Wayne Sanderson	Anhinga

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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

May 17, 2006 Meeting

Rod Blesener will discuss his work with a 4x5 camera.

Please Note:

Jean McIntosh, an MNPC Honorary Member, has been diagnosed with cancer and has started chemo treatments. She would welcome cards, calls and visits. Her new address is 7128 France Ave. S., Unit 217, Edina, MN 55435 and her phone number is 952 835-3875.

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Contact Wayne Wenzlaff
Contact email is wow@usmac.net
Contact phone is 952/402-9000

Call or email for pictures or more information.

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Nikon MF-28 Imprinting Multi-Control Back - \$300

NIKON NIKKOR AF-S 80-200mm f2.8D IF-ED AutoFocus lens - \$1000

NIKON NIKKOR 300mm 2.8D AF-S ED-IF lens - \$2600

RARE Nikon F5 50th Anniversary Model - \$2600