



Nature Photo Times

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From the President

Wow!! We really had a great turn out for our October meeting. The program on "The Badlands" by Rikk Flohr was great and makes me want to visit there within the next year or two; it has been many years since I have been there.

I did learn a couple of things at the October meeting; one was that some folks had a hard time hearing the judges, so I will make a point to be sure the next judges speak clearly and right into the microphone. We will also have to be sure to set up more chairs. Being in a new place will always have some rough edges and the Board will do its best to get them smoothed out. Even with 10 slides and 45 digital images to be judged, we still made it out by 9:00 PM.

So what is there to photograph during the month of November? I know of many folks that think November is like March kind of in between seasons. But actually November can be a very productive month. The Sandhills should still be around until about the middle of November. Many times we will get our first freeze on some of the lakes and quiet part of stream, this can make some great images of new ice formations and especially if a leaf or other object enhances the image. Actually late fall is also a great time to photograph fall foliage, maybe its not as colorful but you can still capture some unique images. Goose Island County Park in WI is a great place to photograph Whitetails, the rut is on and the Bucks will be in their prime. I have been there many times, even though by my standards the bucks are average at best, it is still a great place. Also in the middle of November the Tundra Swans will be arriving at Reick Park in WI. Even though over the last few years their numbers have diminished it is still a great place to go especially if you have never been there. So don't put your camera gear away yet. (Actually never put it away)

Eric Baker volunteered to bring some snacks next month and our judges for November will be Dale Bohlke and Dave Vivich. See you in November.

John Pennoyer

On Safari By Ron Winch

Threading our way through the rush hour traffic in Nairobi is definitely not for the faint-of-heart. We have four lanes of SLOW moving traffic, cars and trucks, plus everyone trying to change lanes, and pedestrians weaving their way through it all. Suddenly a crouching young chap, pinned in by the heavy traffic, is seen running along side our Land Rover. Quickly he speeds up – an arm coming through an open window, reaching for a beltbag hanging over the back of the driver's seat. Just as quickly the driver's muscular arm swings into action and around the intruder's neck, quickly the thief forgets about the beltbag while struggling to get away. With one valiant effort he breaks the neck-hold, falls to his knees and is narrowly missed being run over by an eighteen wheeler beside us. As he dodges the other lanes of traffic, our guide tells us that if the police had seen the incident, they would have shot to kill, with no questions asked. And if he had been hit by the truck – mince meat. So rampant is crime on the streets of Nairobi that the consequences are harsh.

International flights arrive in Nairobi in the evening, so at that time the streets are not crowded and it's an easy ride to your lodging. If you must stay in the city I would suggest the Norfolk Hotel near the Nairobi Museum. Better yet is the Safari Park Hotel, a gated complex some 45 minutes from the airport. It is only on your return flight that you will run into traffic problems. Outgoing

international flights leave in the late evening, so you are on the road at 6-7 PM.

If you are interested in photography, go only on a photo safari. Good photo safaris will have no more than three photographers in a nine passenger Land Rover for maximum shooting opportunities. We have always gone with Joe Van Os Photo Safaris (except for two trips) and have never been disappointed. You say they are too expensive, but once you pay for the trip – leave your wallet at home – except for personal expenses and tips to guides and camp staff. You will have some of the best guides in Kenya and a good 4-wheel drive vehicle. To save time you may even fly to your camp.

Once you are settled into camp and have had lunch, it's time for an afternoon game drive. You'll be shooting from an open top Land Rover – only three of you – with camera and long lens supported on a bean bag (usually two stuff sacks from REI, filled with beans from the camp). This will round out to about the size of an 8.5 X 11 bag. I have seen others shooting from a monopod or a ballhead secured to the vehicle's top rail with a Bogen Super Clamp. The ballhead, Super Clamp is very workable but you should remove the camera when moving or you will shake your outfit to pieces. A tripod is useful for sunrise shots, but 99% of your shooting is from the beanbag.

The guides are great naturalists and have been through the extensive Guide College and will position the vehicle to give you the best light on the subject.

Through the years I have stayed at many of the camps in the Masa Mara. This year's camp may be the best. The Mara Intrepids is a fine tented camp with a great staff, and centrally located in the Mara and only 12 miles from the Mara River and the great wildebeest crossings of late August and September.

The day begins with a wake-up "JAMBO", (good morning) and a tray of coffee, tea or hot chocolate and cookies at your tent at 5 AM. By 6 AM – it's still dark – all the safari vehicles are rolling. You're decked out in two fleece jackets and a windbreaker, fumbling to get your camera and big

lens mated! It is light enough to discern shapes, but not colors as we descend a steep bank to cross a small river. Fortunately our guides have crossed here many times. Still the vehicle drops off the upper rock shelf and leans precariously up river, especially so as we stare into the face of a 20 foot Nile crocodile and 2 hippos nearly submerged, waiting in the background. As the vehicle ahead of us clears the river and churns up the far muddy bank, our guide gooses the engine, all four wheels grab and we are on our way again.

We come upon a small pride of lions, including one female with a cub no larger than a house cat. Unfortunately it has an injured hind leg and can't keep up. Mom leaves him a hundred yards behind. Two days later he is not to be seen again.

The day continues with cheetahs, hippos and elephants, several cats and wildebeest. We arrive at the Mara River to discover thousands of Wildebeests and zebras milling about on the other side, just waiting for one to be daring enough or foolish enough to jump and begin a mass crossing with crocodiles waiting for a hearty warm meal.

To be continued.

Field Notes
By John Pennover

"It's all in the clouds"

When it comes to vacations in Minnesota both my wife and I think the two best places to spend some quality time together and, of course for photography, is in the Ely area and also along the North Shore from Two Harbors to Grand Portage. We have been going to the North shore for over 40 years and to the Ely area for only the last five years. Even with the development going on along the shore it is still a great place, but I have also found some very interesting areas in Ely. With the big lake, inland lakes, large white water rivers, small flowing streams, deciduous forest, boreal forest, numerous waterfalls and loads of flora

and fauna there is something for everyone regardless of your photographic interest in northeast Minnesota. If your interest is nature photography these are great places to be in any of our four seasons.

A couple of years ago we were driving north on the Gunflint trail and it was a magnificent blue sky day with typical late September temperatures. As I crossed the South Brule River I found what looked like a great photo possibility. Walking along the river with camera in hand trying to figure out a composition I decided that the blue sky was not adding any interest to my image. It was what I refer to as “negative space”. The blue sky needed some clouds to add interest to my image. I left without taking a photo. After 5-6 hours of photographing along the Gunflint, we decided to head back to Highway 61 and while crossing the South Brule again I noticed that some white puffy clouds had begun to move in ahead of an approaching storm. I stopped and took several compositions of this “Moosie” looking habitat with clouds over this great northern river and captured the picture I was looking for.

All of us enjoy those very infrequent blue sky days that we have here in Minnesota. But when it comes to my landscape photography give me some clouds! Clouds can take an average landscape and make it something very special. There are many very common photogenic locations in North America that are photographed at the same spot, same time of the year, time of the day etc. by thousands of photographers both professional and amateurs and what makes that location special is the clouds and light, with the clouds having a major impact on quality of light. However I do have some rules for the clouds when it comes to my landscapes. In order for the sky part of your landscape to be included the clouds must be interesting and absolutely must show some detail. A flat dull gray sky with no detail is

much worse than plain blue sky. A nice thin cloud cover is a necessary ingredient for those magnificent sunrises and sunsets that all of us go after numerous times over the course of a year. (However I do like cloudless nights for civil twilight photography - the colors can be phenomenal.) Over the last several years I have been doing lots of landscapes in Minnesota’s numerous prairies. From my perspective a prairie landscape image just about has to include the sky with some very interesting clouds to enhance the prairie. A person cannot look at a prairie without seeing the sky. So I do my best to include that in my prairie landscapes.

But what does a photographer do when they are at a location for a landscape and the sky has no interest. It may be that blue sky or one of those dreadful days with a flat, dull gray sky. My advice would be to eliminate the sky entirely or to at least minimize the sky in your composition. However, to be able to make that work it is still necessary to have interest throughout the frame and I try to do that by giving the image a strong foreground which is the central focus point for the viewer. That way the middle and background can be weaker but still compliment the stronger foreground. Of course sometimes the best way is to just come back when the sky will meet your expectations.

Of course all of us know that clouds with there patterns, texture and creative way of forming such unique artistic designs are an image in the making all by themselves.

My one final thought for you digital shooters is you will be surprised how the tone adjustments in Photoshop can really bring out detail in what you may think is a dull gray sky. Levels, curves, shadow/highlights are great tools to work with to bring out some detail in those types of images. I personally like shadow/highlight tool to work on those types of gray dull clouds. This tool will bring out the

various tones of gray of what you think is dull gray, and the image will now show some texture and detail in the various gray tones.



“Lake Superior at Twilight”



“Misty Morning at Stearns Prairie”

Good Shooting

PS: This photographer realizes that many photographers do not think of a “blue sky” day as “negative space”!

Waterfowl Outing: December 8th, 2007

Please join me for a morning of fun and excitement photographing waterfowl. There will be much in the way of opportunity to be close to multiple species of ducks and several subspecies of Canada goose. There will also be numerous species of songbirds, plus the

possibility of sightings of Bald Eagles, several Hawk species, and Trumpeter Swans.

We will meet at the county park just East of Dangerfield’s restaurant in Shakopee, Minnesota (West of Valleyfair about 3miles) on hwy 101. There will be no set time for arrival, but I will be there at about sunrise. The best time to shoot will be from sunrise to about 11am. Dangerfield’s serves a nice lunch and there is a Perkin’s within a ½ mile of the pond as well if others would like to do lunch afterwards.

Suggestions from experience: **DRESS VERY WARM!** I have spent many a morning there at temps well into the single digits. Bring fresh batteries. Tripods are a good deal, but most flight shooting is done handheld. Bring the longest lenses you have. (300mm is perfect for handheld flight shots) There will be birds as close as ten yards, but the majority of the truly wild birds will keep a distance of around 50 yards or better. The geese and ducks will come and go in large flocks, so the action is fairly consistent for the morning by that time of the year. At this time, there are no plans for any kind of formal instruction or seminar on my part, but I would be happy to share as much information as you can stand about waterfowl, and about photographing birds in flight. I look forward to a great day, and hope you can attend.

Thanks and God bless,

Tom Wilson – Images of Creation Photography

P.S. Meeting will be cancelled if it is raining, snowing heavily, or the temps are below zero.

Salons Scores October, 2007

Judges: John Dykstra & Doug Livingston

Score of 8:

Bertus, Mary Kay	Closhuas Full Moon
Cleveland, Ron	Elliston Newfoundland
Cleveland, Ron	Humpback 1851 (W)
Cyr, Mariann	Cones
Cyr, Mariann	Dew on Ox-eye Daisy

Gladitsch, Marilyn	Wild Geranium #30
Goossens-Bryan, Betty	Coyote (W)
Graves, Rick	Upper Goosberry Falls Roller with a Grasshopper (W)
McDonough, Jean	Partridge (W)
Morgan, Jeff	Gray Jay (W)
Olson, Mary	Lake Superior Twilight 001
Pennoyer, John	Mountain Goat (W)
Polley, Lil	Grinnell Lake
Rach, Eric	Teton Deer (W)
Rach, Eric	Graceful Take-Off
Ringquist, John	Staredown (W)
Vichich, Dave	Lynx
Wilbrecht, Jon	Dandelion Heart
Wilson, Gail	Sunrise Oaks
Wilson, Gail	Yellow Head Bbird (W)
Wilson, Tom	Swallowtail (W)
Wilson, Tom	Eastern King Bird (W)
Zosel, Dave	Chickadee (W)
Zosel, Dave	

Score of 9:

Aronson, Jim	Nesting Loon
Cassuto, Nadav	Osprey #4
McDonough, Jean	Running Gazelle (W)
Morgan, Jeff	Robin (W)
Sanderson, Virginia	Osprey
Sanderson, Virginia	Laughing Gulls
Vichich, Dave	Hide and Seek (W)
Wilbrecht, Jon	Cougars

Score of 10:

Blesener, Rod	Breakfast (W)
Pennoyer, John	Relaxing Cub 001
Polley, Lil	Mountain Goats (W)
Ringquist, John	Fishing

Accepted Slides for Year End

Competition:

The following slides qualify for the year end competition; you need to bring these to the November meeting if you want them entered into the year end competition. All accepted digital images are automatically entered. If you have any questions, please contact Marianne Cyr.

Photographer

Baker, Eric
 Baker, Eric
 Baker, Eric
 Baker, Eric
 Bertas, Mary Kay
 Bertas, Mary Kay
 Bertas, Mary Kay
 Bertus, Mary Kay
 Dave Ellenbecker
 Dave Ellenbecker
 Ellenbecker, Dave
 Ellenbecker, Dave
 Ellenbecker, Dave
 Galambos, Ted
 Gladitsch, Marilyn
 Gladitsch, Marilyn
 Gladitsch, Marilyn
 Gladitsch, Marilyn
 Gladitsch, Marilyn
 John D. Jenkins
 John D. Jenkins
 Lillestrand, Dottie
 Lillestrand, Dottie
 Lillestrand, Dottie
 Lillestrand, Dottie
 Marilyn Gladitsch
 Marilyn Gladitsch
 Marilyn Gladitsch
 Marilyn Gladitsch
 Mary Kay Bertas

 Nelson, Vern
 Nelson, Vern

 Nelson, Vern
 Nygren, Linda
 Samuelson, Tom
 Samuelson, Tom
 Schollegerdes, Flo
 Scholljegerdes, Flo
 Scholljegerdes, Flo
 Ted Galambos
 Tom Samuelson
 Vern Nelson
 Vern Nelson

Image

Surfing Ibis
 Ruff Grouse
 Great Horned Owl #1
 Blue Heron at Beach #2
 Sunrise
 Moon Over Rock Dog
 Morning Light
 Closhuas Full Moon
 Spiderwort #6
 September Sumac
 Yellow Jewel Weed
 October Oak Leaves
 Oak Leaves & Frost Hz
 Rock Pattern
 Nature's Pattern
 Amanita #30
 Purple Hepatica #26
 May Bloodroots
 Wild Geranium #30
 Waterfall
 Light on Angel Arch
 One Milkweed Seed
 Rough Blazing Star
 Sticky Geranium
 Purple Hepatica
 Lobed Leaf Bloodroot
 Marsh Marigolds
 Toad in Habitat
 Bellworts Four
 Firery Sky
 Green Heron in Duck Weed
 Male House Finch
 Black-capped
 Chickadee
 Cascade Ice
 Pheasant Tracks
 A Superior Morning
 Autumn Splendor
 Prairie Smoke
 White Pelican
 Crex Sunset
 Kasota Prairie Sunset
 European Starling
 Female Sparrow

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

6:00 PM - Set-up and Social Time
6:30 PM - Announcements and Business
6:45 PM - Program
7:45 PM - Nature Salon (Competition and
Judge's Comments).

Meetings are held at:

REI
750 West American Blvd
Bloomington, MN 55420

November 21, 2007 Meeting

November Program:

"Minnesota Botany" by Marianne Cyr
Marianne will share the 2007 Minnesota Botany
winners with us.

November judges will be Dale Bohlke and Dave
Vivich.

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Refreshment coordinator: Would someone be willing
to help coordinate refreshments for our monthly
meetings? If you are interested let John Pennoyer know.

Field Trips: If you would be interested in leading one or
two field trips sometime in the future, I will have a sign
up sheet and just pick a month and type of trip or
location. We have not had field trips for the last couple
of years and I would like to get this started again.

The field trip leader would not be expected to
do any type of instruction, but like all photographers try
to pick the optimum time of year, day etc **to**
photograph the location or subject.

For Sale: New, in the box Canon Pixma
Pro9000 inkjet printer. I purchased the printer
as part of the current Canon 5D promotion and
do not need a new printer. Will sell for \$300.
Check ebay and Adorama or B&H Photo for
price comparison. If interested, give me a call
at 763-377-4589.