



Nature Photo Times

Founded 1956

Member: Photographic Society of America & Twin Cities Area Council of Camera Clubs

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From the President

We certainly have had a very different summer this year. Winter never seemed to want to let go, with snow storms even in late April. It was also a very wet and cold May and June. All of the spring/summer flowers are at least two weeks later than normal. Just this week (July 25) the Prairie Blazing Star will be peak in 3-4 days; in most years the Prairie Blazing star are just about over with and I get ready for Rough/Meadow Blazing star that is usually 2-3 weeks later. So my timing has been off most of the summer for certain botanical species. Although my spring/summer photography has been reduced this year for various reasons I did manage to get some great images. I am now looking forward to some late summer and fall photography.

Your Minnesota Nature Photography Club Board has been hard at work this summer; it looks like the programs are all set for 2008/09. We will be kicking off this fall meeting with a program on Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA's). Peggy Booth who is the supervisor of the SNA's will be presenting a program on this very unique department of the DNR. If I had to choose only one public land to photograph in it would certainly be SNA's, probably 70% of my botanical photography is done here. For the second year in a row we are setting a month aside for "mini-programs". Last year we had two great programs on making your own photo book and New Foundland. We would like to do the same this year. The subject could be anything that you might think would interest the club members, photo trip, photo tip, a photo technique that you have found helpful, photo equipment, photo location or anything else that you think may be of interest. The presentation would be about 20 minutes; if you are interested let me or Rod Blesener know.

For the last couple of years it has been difficult getting judges for our monthly competitions, so we made some changes at last spring's Board meeting. We may only have one experienced judge but will still try to get new judges to judge with an experienced judge. Judges will be allowed to view the digital images before judging, they can view on the lap top before the meeting starts or during the program. This will allow them to better see the

competition, plus may allow for more constructive comments.

As usual we are always looking for volunteers to help make things run smoothly for the club meetings in 2008/09. Drew Mattison has agreed to be in charge of helping co-ordinate club field trips. If you would be willing to assist in this area let me or Drew know. I would like to try and get at least 6 field trips for this year. Also Lil Polley volunteered to organize the refreshments for our monthly meetings. There will be a sign-up sheet and I will have more information about this at the meeting.

Good Shooting
John Pennoyer

Minnesota Nature Photography Club Board Meeting Minutes 9-3-08

- A. Minutes from Board Meeting on 4-14-08 were reviewed with no changes
- B. Treasures Report: Jim Duncan
 1. \$5388.35 in checking account
- C. Old Business
 1. Programs for 2008/09
 - a. September: Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas Peggy Booth SNA Supervisor
 - b. October: Photographing Waterfalls Rikk Flohr
 - c. November: Minnesota Botany Mariann Cyr
 - d. December: End of Year Judging
 - e. January: Northstar International Mike Prokosch
 - f. February : 2 Mini programs by club member (TBD)
 - g. March: Talkin Turkey John Pennoyer
 - h. April: Three Rivers Park District Derek Dickinson (Tentative)
 - i. May: Subject TBD Ron Winch (Tentative)
 2. Judges for 2008/09

No judges have been scheduled yet for monthly competition or for End of Year. The Board recommend that Linda Nygren contact Bob Firth, Jay Steinke and Dale Bohlke to see if one of them would be available. Also we gave her some names to contact for our monthly competition for September. John Pennoyer mentioned if she needed some help to let him know and he will make some phone calls.

3. Microphone

John will contact someone at REI to be sure the mike has fresh batteries and to find out what type of battery's and John will always have some in stock for our meetings

4. Field Trip Coordinator

Drew Mattison agreed to be field trip coordinator for 2008/09. John mentioned that he would like to see 5-6 field trips this year. John mentioned that he would be willing to do an October field trip to Crex Meadows for Sandhill Cranes and a winter trip in January or February.

5. Refreshments

a. Lil Polley agreed to be coordinator for 2008/09. The Board has set a limit for reimbursement to a maximum of \$50.00. Receipts must be provided.

6. N4C Convention

a. Mariann will see that we have a table with some our club info on it.

D. New Business

1. Name tag Volunteer

John will again ask at the club meeting for someone to take on this responsibility

2. Business Cards

a. Jim Duncan will make some more Nature Club Business cards for members to use to promote our club. Also these will be used at the N4C convention

3. Picture Directory

a. Linda Nygren was wondering about getting a picture directory of some type whether it be on CD, web site or directory. This would be a way for members to identify other members etc.

Next Board Meeting: Late November or early December

“Would You Believe”

By Ron Winch

Several years ago, in late winter, some folks in Wisconsin discovered a black bear sleeping (hibernating?) in a sturdy eagle's nest. The weather was cold and a recent snowfall blanketed the bear, but he didn't arouse from the deep, seemingly comfortable sleep. The folks photographed this never before documented event and photos appeared in several newspapers. They then contacted a national magazine which indicated that it may be a once in a lifetime happening but they were not interested unless the photo was taken by a professional photographer. End of story!

This spring a friend living in the St. Croix Valley called to say he had just photographed an active eagle's nest only 100 feet from a residence. Unusual, yes, but becoming more common as wildlife continues to move into urban areas. What was unusual was the remains of a wild turkey overhanging the nest. Did the eagle take the turkey, or was it the remains of a road-kill? The adult Bald Eagle can weigh up to 9.5 pounds – the same as a female wild turkey, but the male turkey can go 16 pounds. The folks at the Raptor Center speculate that it was probably the remains of a road kill.

One of the most unusual photos appeared in the club's May salon. Mariann Cyr submitted an image of a Rough-legged Hawk on top of a Prairie Chicken. Mariann says the Prairie Chicken was dead, but in a normal sitting position. The hawk had his meal and returned the next morning for seconds. This scene unfolded not on the golden brown lek that we so often see on early spring mornings, but during or after an early spring snow storm.

The Osprey, known in some circles as the Fish Hawk, feeds primarily on fish, but will occasionally take frogs, turtles and small mammals. But what about a cat? I saw a photo taken by Dennis Kantor in May of '07 of an Osprey carrying a limp, dead cat. This may have been a skinny cat, but still it probably weighed more than a pound – a weight that may be difficult for an Osprey to carry away, although the birds are questionably reputed to be able to take fish weighing up to almost four pounds. Quite a load for a bird weighing only three and a half pounds.

During an Osprey banding session in July I was fortunate to photograph a flying Osprey with a 7-8 inch goldfish. One of the banders said it was a common sight where she lives, as people have dumped goldfish into a nearby lake and by now they have grown considerably.

Maybe high on testosterone this spring a male Downy Woodpecker began drumming on the cover of a 500 pound propane tank. Surely his bill must look like a potato masher. But no, within a week he was at a metal mailbox sounding his tattoo for the entire world to hear. Suppose he wanted to be a drummer in a rock band? A week later his sounding board was an oak fence board – and that’s the last we heard of him. Maybe his testosterone level dropped – or he became lunch.

Many more strange tales to tell, but that’s enough for now.

Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota 2008 Prairie Photo Contest

In Celebration of **The Nature Conservancy Minnesota Chapter’s 50th year**, we invite you to step outside, enjoy nature, and capture what you discover in your state



through the lens of your camera. The Conservancy invites Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota residents to enter your stunning nature images in our first annual digital photography competition. **Deadline Monday September 15th 11:59pm Central Time.**

The Nature Conservancy is conducting the Prairie Photo Contest in conjunction with the [Federal Duck Stamp Contest](#). For the first time ever, the Duck Stamp contest is being held in Minnesota, at the [Bloomington Art Center](#). The contest is the most prestigious wildlife art event in the world, and draws thousands of artists and spectators each year. **The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**---the federal agency that administers the stamp and contest; is assembling a packed calendar of events to complement the contest. Many conservation partners will be sponsoring related events.

Take your photos anytime day or night and you could be a possible winner for a grand prize of \$250. Send us photos, get involved showcase your state by representing it with a beautiful photo you have captured and were inspired by. Check out more details and how to submit your photos at www.nature.org/mnphotocontest --- it’s that easy!!

If questions or more information contact
Photo Contest Coordinator

Lauren Michelsen

Email: lmichelsen@tnc.org

Phone: (612) 331 0742 or ext 0750

Minnesota Nature Photography Club May 2008 Salon Scores Judge: Ron Winch

Score of 8:

Scholljegerdes, Florence	Fog Over the Tetons #1
Jenkins, John D.	Red Waterlillies
Ellenbecker, Dave	Trillium #15
Jenkins, John D.	Resting
Duke, Laurence	Eagle at Nest
Graves, Rick	Marsh Marigolds
Olson, Mary	American Redstart
Vichich, Dave	Barn Owl
Galambos, Ted	Pelican
Hysell, Christine	Crazy Woman Mnts
Mattison, Drew	Splashing Superior
Olson, Mary	Yellow Warbler
Pennoyer, John	Male Hoodie (W)

Score of 9:

Ellenbecker, Dave	Rocks & Rills
	Male Monarch Nectaring on Sunflower
Nelson, Vern	Hepatica
Cleveland, Ron	Hepatica
Hoyt, David	Myrtle Warbler (W)
Hysell, Christine	Bee on Flower
Cleveland, Ron	Spring Beauty
Graves, Rick	Smokey Glacier Park Sunset
Hoyt, Kristin	Farm Island Loon (W)
Hoyt, David	Blackburnian Warbler (W)
Rehpohl, Dean	Reflection in Brown

Score of 10:

Cassuto, Nadav	Bee-Eater #1 (W)
	Hawk with Prairie Chicken (W)
Cyr, Mariann	Hawk with Prairie Chicken (W)
Hoyt, Kristin	Black & White Warbler (W)
McDonough, Jean	Prairie Dog Standing Up
Pennoyer, John	Eye on Prey (W)
Zosel, David	Pasque Flower (W)
Cassuto, Nadav	Bee Eater #2 (W)
McDonough, Jean	Reticulated Giraf Portrait
Ramos, Carolle	Hawaii Chameleon (W)
Schulz, Alan	Eagles in Flight (W)

Field Notes
“Second Camera Body?”
By John Pennoyer

It was probably around 20 years ago that I made my first trip to Alaska. Bears have always intrigued me so I wanted to make a trip to Alaska to photograph Alaskan Brown Bears. After a little research I settled on Katmai National Park. Everything that I had read about this place made it one of the least expensive if you camped. But this article is not about Brown Bears. It is on a mind set on how important it is to have a second camera body. Here is the story-----

While standing on the platform photographing bears, I met a fellow who was with a Joseph Van Os photo tour. He was telling me the story on how earlier in the tour they were photographing at Mt. McKinley National Park. He accidentally dropped his Canon camera down a little outcropping and it fell about 10-12 feet and after coming to rest it was in multiple pieces. It was just two days into his two week photo tour and he figured that his photography was done with. However, a member in the tour group just happened to have a second camera body, and as luck would have it, it was exactly the same model that he dropped. He graciously let him use the camera for the rest of the tour. As he was telling me this story I was there with only one Nikon FE2 camera body! Had anything gone wrong with my camera either by a malfunction or accident what would I have done! After spending lots of money to get to Alaska for the sole purpose of photography, I would have been--well to keep it polite “frustrated”! As soon as I got back to the cities, I picked up a used Nikon FE body from National Camera Exchange. I have never been without two camera bodies ever since.

There are many reasons to have two camera bodies. One of them being in case something happens to your primary camera body you can keep photographing with your back-up body. If you do a lot of wildlife photography I think two camera bodies are essential. On many wildlife photo excursions I may have my primary body on the most obvious lens for the situation but my back-up body will also have a lens attached. So for an example the primary body on my 500mm lens and my back-up connected to the 70-200mm VR lens usually with my tele-converto attached. I may be photographing Trumpeter Swans near Monticello concentrating on the river with my primary system, when all of a sudden I notice a group of swans flying by and very quickly I can grab my back-up and get some great images of flying Trumpeters. Just this summer I got very lucky and was able to photograph nesting Pileated Woodpeckers at their nest cavity. Most images were taken with my 500mm lens. One of my goals was to get photos of both parents and the youngsters. Usually the parents arrived solo. But on my last morning both parents arrived at the cavity and of course with my 500mm lens the narrow field of view would not have captured both parents. So my back-up

body had the 70-200 VR with Tele-converto and I was able to capture two images before both parents flew away. The image certainly will not be an award winning type of image, but it will show both parents together and allow me to explain various and different features of male vs female in slide shows etc. I never would have gotten the image had I not had my second body ready to go.

When having a second camera body it is always important to know how all of the controls work for in wildlife photography speed is many times a virtue. Some folks will have the same model for both primary and back-up. My procedure is a little different and I have been doing this since about 1988. My primary body is always the most recent purchase and my back-up is the oldest. So as an example when I bought my first digital the Nikon D100; my F100 (film) was my back-up. I purchased the Nikon D200 and my D100 was back-up. I now use the D300 as my primary and my D200 is my back-up. Well you get the idea.

With all of the electronics that we now use in cameras, I now hear of more and more electronic issues that seem to cause problems. So for peace of mind and if making an extended photo excursion I think that if you don’t have a second body it is a good idea to consider one. Our cameras are now like computers. As soon as the new model comes out, the older model drops drastically in price. So if you are looking for a second camera body why not consider buying a camera body that has just been replaced by a newer model. I guarantee that it will take great photos, but just may be lacking a whistle or bell that the newer model has. After all it will only be your back-up---“Just in case”!!!



Pigeon Falls

John Pennoyer



Bear in the Drink

By John Pennoyer

Good Shooting

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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

September Meeting
Wednesday Sept. 17, 2008

Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas . Peggy Booth
SNA Supervisor.

Judge for the September Salon will be Joe Kandiko.

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Editor's notes:

We have a new look to our website, go out and take a
peek. In addition to the new look, we will post the
images rated a 10 each month in our monthly salon.