



# Nature Photo Times

Founded 1956

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

Vol. 53, No. 3 - Nov 2008

## From the President

We are certainly fortunate to live in the “Land of 10,000 Lakes”! Well it is just not lakes but rivers, streams and wetlands. But with the rivers and streams especially in our state comes “waterfalls”! Waterfalls will always intrigue people to go and investigate and be surprised by the power and beauty of waterfalls. Photographers like us are always trying to not only capture the beauty of waterfalls and the environment they are in but also the power that they have. Many thanks to Rikk Flohr for putting on such a great program in the October meeting to help all of us achieve our goals. Rikk’s program on “Photographing Waterfalls” was not only filled with a lot of great technical information but also gave us some excellent locations. And here I thought that I was the only one that knew that “Fairy Falls” is in Stillwater. Rikk is definitely right that you have to hit that falls after a heavy rain. Much thanks Rikk for a great October program.

After talking to Wayne Sanderson and hearing the news that he wants to enjoy the good retirement life and would not be available to be in charge of digital submissions for most of the winter, I asked for volunteers to help out. Don Tredinnick graciously raised his hand to help out. Thanks Don! It would be nice to get at least one more to help out with our digital images then we would have 3 individuals to work out some type of rotation. Of course digital images do make up the majority of our salon, so this is an area that we do not want to neglect. Anyone can operate a slide projector but it does take someone with a little technical savvy to accept digital submission and prepare for projection.

By the time everyone reads this, fall colors will be over. But that is not to say you cannot still get some fall images. I personally really enjoy photographing Minnesota in late fall. With the trees bare I turn my lens towards the forest floor. Looking for moss covered stumps and fallen leaves, small streams with

fallen leaves lining the banks and being caught in the flow of water. Of course for me this is without a doubt the best time to go after Mr. Whitetail. Bucks are in full rut and in prime condition. Because of the rut the bucks will no longer be as secretive and may present some opportunities as you cruise or hike around some county parks, state parks etc.

The November program is on the Minnesota Botany winners being presented by Mariann Cyr.

Good Shooting  
John Pennoyer

## “Mongolia” By Ron Winch

Mongolia was never on my radar until the Joseph Van Os Photo Safaris catalog arrived in September of 2007. Toni and I go through the catalog independently and list the trips we might be interested in and then rate them. There were several new destinations and a few repeats, but it was no surprise that the Golden Eagle Festival in Mongolia was number one on both our lists. With Toni being a raptor handler at a nearby nature center and I having illustrated two books on raptors, the choice was only natural.

We arrived in Mongolia in late September to crisp cool nights and warm sunny days. The country, about the size of Alaska, has a population of about four million people and topography of mountains, steppes and deserts which are populated by nomads, sheep, goats, cattle, horses, and camels. The nomads, living miles apart, are a wonderful and gracious people who will invite you into their gers (yurts) and share their camel cheese, mutton and fermented mare’s milk with you. In the middle of nowhere you might see a ger with four hundred sheep and goats, a few cattle and yaks, and maybe 50 to 60 camels in view. You may also find a solar

panel, a TV dish and even a generator and a new washing machine. Of course, water must be carried some distance – usually by horses. The standard mode of transportation is by horse or maybe by motorcycle. Having lived this nomadic life for centuries, the people are quite happy and are not yearning for the “civilized” life of the few cities.

Winds, sometimes up to 50 mph, are always a constant companion in Mongolia and the Gobi Desert is no exception. Late one afternoon we were fortunate to photograph a herd of about forty camels near a wetland. They were not particularly wary and allowed us to approach within 100 feet. Great photos of camels with shadowed sand dunes as background were captured. Next morning we trekked over a mile before dawn to be in the best location for sunrise and the shadowed dunes which yielded some fine images. The constant wind and temperatures in the low twenties nipped at the ears and fingers – especially those of us still carrying metal tripods. The dunes cast their sensuous shadows; images were captured and then on to more detailed shots before heading back for breakfast and departure.

Our gers ranged in size from 18 to 25 feet in diameter and were equipped with a small wood, coal, or dung burning stove in the center. The gers warmed quickly – if only for a few hours, and by dawn a skim of ice covered any standing water. Sleeping under 20 pounds of covers I was still cold and anxious to begin the day.

Roads in Mongolia do not fit the dictionary definition. Take 100 miles of Minnesota’s worst roads, compress that into one mile of Mongolian roads and you have an idea of what their roads are like. Old Russian vans rumbled over the rocks and through the potholes without falling apart. No American van could take that kind of abuse.

Genghis Khan – the Mongol war lord – captured and created the largest empire in history and is the patron of Mongolia. His image appears almost everywhere. The latest tribute is a huge monument of stainless steel reaching a full five stories high with hidden access to a height where you look directly into his face. The monument was completed just several weeks before our visit and is a tribute to one of the world’s greatest leaders.

Next month we continue this story with the Golden Eagle Festival and the Kazak nomads.

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## **Field Notes** **“Photography with the Spouse/or other”** **By John Pennoyer**

This could be a very sensitive topic and I understand that I could be walking on some very thin ice. But as I instruct workshops, classes etc. a couple of common questions that I get are---Does your wife go with you when you photograph? Does your wife photograph also? Well here are the answers! Question 1: Yes and No-- Question 2: Yes, but from a different perspective than what I do. So I thought in this month’s “Field Notes” I would discuss how to get in some serious photography when traveling with a non-photographer, whether it be your spouse or someone else that is not as serious as you may be in his/her photography.

We just came back from a two week trip out west and spent considerable time at Grand Teton National Park. My wife photographs with a point and shoot type camera. She is an excellent photographer but her images are more trip recording etc. When we travel together she always makes all of the arrangements on where to stay etc. That is a good thing for her because when I travel alone it is camping or the cheapest motel I can find. But the place she chooses is always convenient for me to make my very early morning forays into areas for sunrise imagery. While we were in the Tetons, every morning I would arise at 5:30 AM and get to my sunrise location by 6:15AM which was about one hour before sunrise. This is the time I like to be on location. This will allow me to get some “Civil Twilight” images before the sun makes its appearance. Usually I would be on location until maybe 8:00AM and hustle back to the resort and join her for breakfast usually around 9:00AM. After a hardy breakfast we would venture out and do things together such as, hiking, rafting trips, horseback riding, site seeing etc. At this time of course both of us are taking various images, she is busy photographing the folks on the raft, our guide and some scenery. My camera will be pointed at the scenery as we float down the Snake River. Usually we eat an early dinner, on this trip it was at about 3:30PM to 4:00PM, this would make it possible to get to a sunset location and she will almost always join me but at times may prefer to go back to the resort and read a book. After darkness sets in, we like to go in the lounge for a nice glass of wine and discuss the day’s events and what tomorrow’s ventures may bring us. My wife is a real trooper

when it comes to my photography. While in Custer State Park we would cruise the wildlife drive, looking for photo possibilities. Of course, like all good photographers it is always important to be ready and not miss out on a photo opportunity. Both of my camera bodies were in the ready position, one system mounted with a wide angle lens mounted on my tripod in the back of the vehicle. My other camera had the 500mm lens and this is always on my wife's lap in case a Pronghorn Antelope would come into view.

There are also times when I think that it is always best to leave the photography equipment at home. A couple of years ago we traveled to California's Wine Country. We traveled with some friends and in this instance it was best to leave my equipment at home which I did. My reason is that if I brought my equipment with me, my photography can greatly interrupt things that everyone else would prefer to do. If my equipment is not with me, I just join in and have a great time. Also when the Pennoyer family gets together in the summer, my nature photography takes a back seat, it may be with me, but the images will have the grand kids swimming, boating, fishing etc.

Well there you have it; after 44 years of marriage many of our trips together work out to be some type of fashion such as just mentioned. But does that mean that I may miss on some images? Absolutely, I took about 700 images on this trip. If this was exclusively a solo photography trip I would have taken easily double or triple the images. I left many bugling bull elk to meet my wife for breakfast, but I wouldn't have it any other way. I take many trips on my own or with a photographer friend when photography is our only purpose. There are times when it is important to put your photography in second place. Of course it is sometimes best to leave the laptop at home also. Instead of enjoying a nice glass of wine together, I would want to be isolated in the room looking/working on images. I just load the cards on some portable hard drives and don't do any editing until I get home.

When it comes to family there are times my photography does have to take a back seat, but what a joy it is to take a photo of my grand kids discovering some mushrooms on the forest floor!



"Backlit Bull"

John Pennoyer



"Moulton Barn"

John Pennoyer

Good Shooting

**Below are the slides that qualify for the year end salon. Please bring them to the November meeting .**

MNPC Slides for 2008 Year-End Salon

Photographer	Title	Month
Ellenbecker, Dave	Wild Geraniums and Ferns	Jan 08
Ellenbecker, Dave	Mushrooms on Tree	Feb 08
Ellenbecker, Dave	American Toad	Apr 08
Ellenbecker, Dave	Trillium #15	May 08
Ellenbecker, Dave	Rocks & Rills	May 08
Ellenbecker, Dave	Trillium #15	Spt 08
Ellenbecker, Dave	Rocks & Rills	Spt 08
Feigenschuh, K.	Hoodoos in Snow	Oct 08
Feigenschuh, K.	Lake in the Clouds Overlook	Oct 08
Gladitsch, Marilyn	Trillium Duo	Mar 08
Gladitsch, Marilyn	Bull Thistle	Mar 08
Gladitsch, Marilyn	Bloodroot in Bloom	Apr 08
Gladitsch, Marilyn	Goats Beard Close-up	Apr 08
Jenkins, John D.	Eye Contact	Feb 08
Jenkins, John D.	Reflection of Red	Feb 08
Jenkins, John D.	Fixed Gaze	Mar 08
Jenkins, John D.	Red Waterlillies	May 08
Jenkins, John D.	Resting	May 08
Jenkins, John D.	Red Waterlillies	Spt 08
Jenkins, John D.	Resting	Spt 08
Nelson, Vern	White-breasted Nuthatch	Mar 08
Nelson, Vern	Male Monarch on Sunflower	May 08
Nelson, Vern	Male Monarch on Sunflower	Spt 08
Samuelson, Tom	Tired Old Man	Jan 08
Samuelson, Tom	Banning State Park	Apr 08
Scholljegerdes, Florence	Water Lilies on Pond	Mar 08
Scholljegerdes, Florence	One Yellow Moccasin Flower	Apr 08
Scholljegerdes, Florence	Fog Over the Tetons #1	May 08
Scholljegerdes, Florence	Fog Over the Tetons #1	Spt 08
Scholljegerdes, Florence	Fall Color in No. Minnesota	Oct 08
Scholljegerdes, Florence	Ready for the Wind	Oct 08

**October Salon Results (Judges John Dykstra and Jean McDonough):**

**Score of 8**

Photographer	Title
K. Feigenschuh	Hoodoos in Snow
Florence Scholljegerdes	Fall Color in No. Minnesota
Florence Scholljegerdes	Ready for the Wind
Rod Blesener	Teton color
Mariann Cyr	Red Squirrel (W)
Rick Graves	Columbine
Kristin Hoyt	Sharpie Strut (W)
David Hoyt	Wetland Rainbow
Mary Olson	Baby Tree Frog
John Pennoyer	Prairie Sunrise
Lil Polley	Showy Ladyslipper
Carollee Ramos	Cattle Egret (W)
Constance Van Valkenberg	Aussie Rainbow
Mariann Cyr	Fall in the Big Woods
Ted Galambos	Wild Horses (W)
Bill Handsaker	CA Wildflower
Wayne Hass	Cascade Rock
Christine Hysell	Pigeon River Falls
Mary Olson	Juv Red Wing Blackbird
Dean Rehphohl	Kyrgyzstan Rose
David Zosel	Mushroom (W)

**Score of 9**

K. Feigenschuh	Lake in the Clouds Overlook
Lynn Hess	Spider
Dean Rehphohl	Kyrgyzstan Gull
Alan Schulz	Grizzlies Runing in Water
Dave Vichich	Mesa Arch 1
Roger Williams	Coutship2 (W)
David Zosel	Resting Canada (W)
Jim Aronson	Yellow Lady Slippers
David Hoyt	Standing Sandhill (W)
John Pennoyer	Bugling Bull (W)
Lil Polley	Bison at Leisure (W)
Carollee Ramos	Pink Plumeria

**Score of 10**

Drew Mattison	St. Louis River
Alan Schulz	Three Adelines on Berg
Dave Vichich	Mesa Arch 2

## **Nature Photo Times**

Published Sept.-May by the  
Minnesota Nature Photography Club  
[www.minnesotanature.org](http://www.minnesotanature.org)

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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 Meeting Wednesday Nov. 19, 2008**

The November program is on the Minnesota Botany  
winners being presented by Mariann Cyr.

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