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Nature Photo Times

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

Vol. 54, No. 1 - Sept 2009

NorthStar International

The 2009 NorthStar International Circuit of Nature Photography is a PSA sanctioned competition made up of six competitions rolled into one. The Minnesota Nature Photography Club is hosting one of the six sections (competitions) which we have done since this competition was established. By entering once you get your images judged six times. Each section is hosted by a different Minnesota or Wisconsin camera club and each is judged by a different panel of judges.

There are a couple of changes to this year's Circuit. First, this will be a digital-only competition. Second, the NorthStar will incorporate the Minnesota Botany International Competition. For 25 years the "Botany" has been a separate international competition sponsored by the Minnesota Nature club. However, as a stand alone niche competition the entries have been declining for several years. Combining it with the NorthStar allows us to continue to offer this specialized competition as well as allow the participants of the Circuit to enter additional images.

The deadline for entry is November 10, 2009. The entry form can be obtained from both the club website (www.minnesotanature.org) or the TCACCC website (www.cameracouncil.org).

The Minnesota Nature section will be judged on Saturday, December 12, 2009. We will need 4-5 people from the club to help with the mechanics of the judging. Contact Mike Prokosch if you can help out. The judging dates for the other sections are included on the entry form.

THE VIEW from HERE

by Lawrence C. Duke
Photography Spoken Here

"It's not nice to fool Mother Nature." Change is good but they never tell you for who...

I wish I still had the Shutter Bug issue on the subject of what "Nature Photography" all about, or what makes a

good nature photo. It would have helped with the current question in front of the club or for now, just the board.

Let me see if I can describe what was on the pages of that S.B. 2007. It was by Joe F... sorry, senior moment, who writes about digital and web sites. He also has a couple of books for things photographic.

As I remember, it was a winter scene with a road-kill deer. The deer was a buck, still with antlers and there were two or three ravens feeding on the carcass. The exposure was good: a nice side light, we used to say "3/4's," with some detail in the black birds. Then Joe added an eagle in the right attitude and size. It looked hungry and ready to eat. And the ravens just sat there. The composition was well balanced, still with nice light. From somewhere, Joe added a fox. This was no small buck and the fox went for the hindquarters. Finally, Joe added a lot of little tweety birds and the feast was on!

Thanks to PhotoShop, a lot of work and 14 images, the work came together in what would be an easy 10. If I hadn't read the article and hadn't been involved with nature and photography, I'd have bought it as real. Now, ask yourself - was this a nature scene Joe saw or one he visualized? Or was this just a good show and tell? Not everyone has bio-knowledge, so a Hittite might just take this as a scene from nature.

I believe that it has to do with ethics. Think National Geographic cover moving the Pyramids for a better look, Newsweek and a manipulated combat photo, or Art Wolf and his manipulation of herds of Zebras and Elephants in "Migration," an art book. How many of you know "Bart the Bear," who has more awards than any other bear except maybe "Yogi?"

My own opinion is that I don't think anyone can produce a better nature photo in the computer than the one they see in real time. If it's right there in front of you and you have the photographic knowledge to capture the correct image, why do you have to computerize it? Besides, how many ribbons can you eat?

It's like eyeglasses: "better now? Or better now?"

**Minnesota Nature
Photography Club
May 2009 Salon Scores
Judge: Mariann Cyr**

Photographer	Title	Score
Vichich, Dave	Upper Minneopa	8
Specht, Don	Green Heron Lunch	8
Cleveland, Ron	Six Pasque	8
Hoyt, Kristin	Yellow Warbler Singing (W)	8
Olson, Mary	Dew on Grass	8
Ramos, Carolee	White Pasque Flower 1	8
Vaidya, Pushkar	Sunrise	8
Zosel, David	Male Goldfinch (W)	8
Cleveland, Ron	White Whitetail (W)	8
Dykstra, John	Egret Close (W)	8
Galambos, Ted	Vancouver Storm	8
Nadreau, Don	Island in the Sun	8
Hogeboom, Jerry	Snowy Egret	8
Tredinnick, Don	Upper Minneopa Falls	8
Zosel, David	Male Oriole (W)	8
Vichich, Dave	Mittens	8
Scholljegerdes, Florence	Sunset on Lufoton	8
Specht, Don	Pollinator	8
Pennoyer, John	Bloodroot Pair	9
Williams, Roger	Robin (W)	9
McDonough, Jean	Lone Tree in Landscape	9
Gladitsch, Marilyn	Bloodroot Four	9
Dykstra, John	Wood Duck C (W)	10
McDonough, Jean	Family of Snow Monkeys	10
Schulz, Alan	Eagle with Spray (W)	10
Hoyt, Kristin	Great Grey Glide (W)	10
Schulz, Alan	Long-tailed Meadowlark (W)	10

Upcoming Meeting Programs:

September Program:

"Birds in Flight"

Carrol Henderson, Supervisor of the Non-Game Division for the Department of Natural Resources, will present a program on "Birds in Flight." He has a new book on this subject and will include talk and images from the book. Carrol is an extraordinary photographer but also extremely knowledgeable about avian subjects. He also leads many workshops for birders and photographers. Carrol may be bringing some of his books for purchase.

October Program:

"Capture the Moment"

Former Nature Club member Dale Bohlke will be presenting an "interactive" program on "Capturing the Moment." For the last several years Dale not only has been using his DSLR but has also expanded into shooting HD Video. He is requesting that you bring your camera and as he shows some videos of various wildlife subjects, it will up to you to capture the "defining" moment! This will be a totally different program from any that we have ever had before and I am looking forward to not only seeing this but participating also.

Nature Photo Times

Published Sept.-May by the

Minnesota Nature Photography Club

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

September Meeting Wednesday September 16, 2009

Our September presentation will be "Birds in Flight" by Carrol Henderson, Supervisor of the Non-Game Division for the Department of Natural Resources.

From the new guy.

Welcome to volume 54 of the Nature Photo Times. I'm happy to be here as your new editor. With the help of all of you, I intend to keep the quality of the Times up to the standards set by those before me. Special thanks go out to Don Nadreau, my immediate predecessor. Don's made the transition very easy.

Since I've pretty much come out of nowhere, I'll tell you a little bit about myself and my background.

I'm married without children, and my wife Jennifer and I live in Saint Paul. I work at Ellerbe Becket, but look forward to the day I can retire and do photography instead.

I've been photographing for 35 years, having started when I was in junior high out in Southern California. My casual hobby started getting serious in 1977 with the purchase of a Nikon FM. I have been using Nikons ever since that first one and am currently using a D200.

Jennifer and I like to travel, and documenting that travel is probably my favorite type of photography. Coming in a close second is landscape and nature photography, which I get to do more often.

This is not the first newsletter I've done. From 2001 to 2006 I was editor and publisher of the AAFTA News for the American Airgun Field Target Association. One thing I learned from that experience is that this type of publication is only as good as its readers make it. I am not a writer, and although I may contribute something every once in a while, the quality of this newsletter will depend on the contributions of you, the readers. While getting submissions in Word .doc format would be terrific, I'll take something scribbled on a napkin if that's the only way you can get it to me!

Thanks all,

Jay Olson-Goude

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