



# Nature Photo Times

Founded 1956

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

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## Wind-in-the-Pines

By Ron Winch

On silent soft-edged flight feathers the tiger-of-the-woods zeroed in on his target. The glide path was steep and without an inkling of sound until the long, curved black talons pierced the ribcage of the red squirrel. An anguished cry escaped from the chatterbox-of-the-forest, who only seconds before had discovered a newly fallen white pine cone, gathered it in and raced to his favorite feeding perch. Scales dropped by the wayside as tiny brown teeth girdled the cone and the first of some fifty pine seeds excited his taste buds.

Wham! Sharp pain pierced his ribcage and he was suddenly airborne, but not by choice. The cone followed a sharp downward trajectory and landed on the soft pine duffs as forty-inch wings carried the squirrel upward to a pine branch. The great horned owl's powerful curved beak quickly dispatched its prey with a lightning-quick snap of the neck. The owl dined on red squirrel this evening, then tipped forward and glided to another favorite hunting spot near the edge of a cornfield.

All this was nothing new to this majestic stand of white pines. They had been around for over a hundred and fifty years and had witnessed wildlife species come and go. They were mere youngsters when loggers moved through the St. Croix valley and sent their forefathers down river to mills in Stillwater.

Gazing upward, I noticed a yellow aspen leaf tremble as the cool evening air slid down into the valley. Quaking aspen leaves are borne on petioles longer than the leaf and are oriented at right angles to the leaf. This makes for the fluttering motion of aspen leaves as they tremble or quake. Finally loosing its grip, the yellow leaf alternately floats, tumbles and glides to a soft landing in the cool water of a spring creek that escaped from layers of limestone only a few yards upstream. Meandering a half-mile through a mix of virgin white pine and old growth hardwoods, the cool water is consumed by the warmer St. Croix. Wildflowers such as trillium, bellwort, rue anemone and the rare kittentails bloom here in the spring. With a bit of luck, you may even spot a rare Louisiana water thrush, red-shouldered hawk, mink or raccoon.

No, you don't have to travel hours to find this secluded and tranquil area – it is located in northern Washington County, just off Highway 95.

Not well known, this area is known as Wind-in-the-Pines Township Park and borders on Fall Creek Scientific and Natural Area.

It's a great place to spend a quiet afternoon with or without a camera – but please wait until deer season is past. Enjoy!

**Minnesota Nature  
Photography Club  
April Salon Scores  
Judge:**

<b>Photographer</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Score</b>
Ron Cleveland	Desert lily	8
Karl Fiegenschuh	Three otters (w)	8
Dave Perez	Meadowlark	8
John Pennoyer	Awakening owl (W)	8
Don Specht	Great blue heron feeding baby (w)	8
Larry Weinman	Hérons mating (w)	8
Roger Williams	Spoonbills (w)	8
Ron Cleveland	La Jolla shore	8
Karl Fiegenschuh	Dawn Denali	8
Jerry Hogeboom	Swan with fish (w)	8
Dave Perez	Water lily	8
Don Specht	Egret display (w)	8
Roger Williams	Tri-colored heron (w)	8
Gary Colvard	Maple over Kettle River	8
Keith Nason	Spring swans (w)	8
John Anderson	Swan and sun (w)	9
Dave Klein	Loggerhead shrike (w)	9
John LaMere	Tom & hens (W)	9
Jean McDonough	Hippos fighting (w)	9
John Anderson	Monochrome crow (w)	9
Dave Klein	Displaying egret (w)	9
Larry Weinman	Swans displaying at dawn (w)	
John LaMere	Chickadee (w)	10
Jean McDonough	Kori bustard displaying (w)	10
John Pennoyer	Bluebells in habitat	10

## Split Rock Arts Program

This summer, the Split Rock Arts Program is pleased to host the following photography workshops and retreats:

Digital Nature Photography  
Instructor: Craig Blacklock  
Cloquet Forestry Center (July 18-23)

Working with nature as a subject, this retreat offers serious amateurs and professionals an intensive, step-by-

step guide to the best methods of capturing, and then transforming, photographs to realize a personal vision.

Other photography offerings that may be of interest include:

The Emotional Landscape: At River's Edge  
Instructor: Doug Beasley  
Twin Cities campus (June 27-July 2)

This workshop is not about making "pretty" pictures or "postcard-like" records of nature. It is about making a deeper, more authentic connection to the land and water, and learning to express that connection through photography.

Zen and the Art of Photography  
Instructor: Doug Beasley  
Cloquet Forestry Center (July 11-16)

Revitalize your photography and deepen your artistic vision while exploring relationships with your subject, your camera, and your self. This retreat offers the opportunity to rethink what it means to see; cultivate simplicity in order to produce more insightful photographs; and explore photography as an expressive, rather than a technical, pursuit.

The Creation of Meaning: Using Digital Technology to Produce a Book  
Instructor: Douglas Holleley  
Twin Cities campus (June 13-18)

This workshop is for photographers, designers, and visual artists (and teachers!) from any number of disciplines who have a collection of existing images and would like to publish them in book form. The workshop centers on the idea that the editing and subsequent presentation of visual work is no less than the creation of meaning.

A complete roster of Workshops on the Twin Cities campus and Retreats at the Cloquet Forestry Center, including descriptions and instructor biographies, may be found on the Split Rock Web site or you may prefer to download the Summer 2010 Catalog.

All offerings may be taken noncredit or for undergraduate or graduate credit. On-site accommodations and scholarships are available. Scholarship deadline is April 19. Registration is ongoing.

Questions? Please e-mail the Split Rock office or call 612-625-1976.

## New Salon submission guidelines:


Deadline for submitting images and other instructions


<http://www.minnesotanature.org/Pages/salondigital.html>


### Requirements for Preparing and Submitting Digital Images


E-Mail your one or two images to [salon@minnesotanature.org](mailto:salon@minnesotanature.org) before 6:00 PM the Sunday before the meeting - the earlier the better to allow for the proper archiving and presentation of your image.


\*Digital images need to be in the following format to be accepted:

 Computer adjustments to any image must comply with [PSA rules](#) for "Digital Images"

 JPEG file format (.jpg)


 Image size; minimum 1024 pixels, maximum 1280 pixels along the longest dimension.


 Use the sRGB color space since that is how they will be displayed. If you are not familiar with the concept of color space, don't worry about it.

 File name for each image should be your personal 4-digit identification number\* followed by a 12-letter image title. Add a (W) when the image complies with the PSA definition of [authentic wildlife](#). For example:

**1903 Dawn Swans (W).jpg** - First image for member 903

**2903 MarshMargld.jpg** - Second image for member 903

 Please type your two filenames, each on a new line, in the body of your email. Attach - do not embed - the images to a regular email message and email to [salon@minnesotanature.org](mailto:salon@minnesotanature.org). The subject line should contain something like "Images for October salon".

 If you do not receive a confirmation email then please bring your images on a CD-ROM or USB memory key to the meeting.

Submissions which do not comply with the above requirements hinder file management and could be rejected or delayed entry to a salon until requirements are met.

*\*If you would like to be assigned a four-digit identification number, do not understand these requirements or require help to comply with them, please email your name and phone number to [salon@minnesotanature.org](mailto:salon@minnesotanature.org) and someone will contact you.*

## **Nature Photo Times**

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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

### **May Meeting Wednesday May 19, 2010**

Our May presentation will be

"Owl photography" - Presenter: John Anderson

Minnesota Nature Club member John Anderson, spent three years chronicling a specific Great Horned owl pair and their offspring in the Twin Cities area.

His program will describe some of the challenges associated with photographing owls in the wild, how to locate owls and their seasonal habits.

His images also depict a range of owl behaviors some of which are rarely seen by birders and photographers.

John is a regular contributor to "Minnesota Birding" and his photographs have been used for educational purposes by the DNR in a couple of states and the National Park Service.

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