



Founded 1956

Nature Photo Times

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

Vol. 54, No. 5 - Jan 2010



General 1st Place – Ron Cleveland – Mt. Mahtotopa



Botany 1st Place – Lil Polley - Acorn



Zoology 1st Place – Alan Schulz – Eagle with spray (W)



Wildlife Image of the Year – John Lamere – Woodland Drummer (W)



Image of the Year – Alan Schulz – Fox and two kits (W)

Lake Superior; The Circle Tour by ColdSnap Photography

October 9-17, 2010

There are only 4 spots left in the ultimate photographic adventure! Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake in the world. It covers over 31,000 square miles; it stretches 382 miles east to west and 160 miles north to south. The Circle Tour will cover 3 states, and two countries. We will explore the hidden treasures and well known landmarks. ColdSnap Photography has over 15 years experience leading photography workshops on the shores of Lake Superior.

Cost:

\$3495.00 transportation provided from Mpls to Mpls

\$2395.00 transportation not provided

(Payment schedule on request.) This photographic adventure is limited to 10 participants.

For more information go to www.coldsnap.com or call (218) 830-0767.

If you need any more information please feel free to email me or call me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

John Gregor

ColdSnap Photography
628 First Ave
Two Harbors, MN 55616
Ph. (218) 830-0767

**MEMBERS--NOTE CHANGE IN
SUBMITTING IMAGES**

Please submit your two images before 5:00 p.m. the day **before** the meeting--third Wednesday of the month. Images submitted after that time will be entered in the following month's competition.

**Spring Break 2010
Chippewa Middle School
Saturday, March 27,
2010**

The day will be filled with photo seminars, vendor booths, animals from the Minnesota Wildlife Connection, door prizes, great food, and the 2010 Interclub awards. Presenters include Cannon Explorer of Light Darrel Gulin and Brian Peterson from the Minneapolis Star Tribune. All for the Special 25th anniversary price of \$25. Go to web site for more details.

www.cameracouncil.org

**CLUB COMPETITION
INTERCLUB**

Up to 20 images may be submitted for each club. We are encouraging nature club members submit up to 3 images and send them to Mike Prokosch's e-mail: mjprokosch1@comcast.net. If you prefer, you can put your images on a CD and Mike Prokosch will collect them at the January meeting. Your images should be in jpeg format and the image size should not exceed 1024 pixels along the longest dimension. Your first and last name and image name will be the title of your image.

Images may be of any topic and computer manipulation is allowed; however, nature club members may want to consider submitting images not designated as nature because we may have too many images in this category.

The deadline for submitting these images will be January 27. A committee will decide the images to be chosen. A club member will be allowed only one image in the final 20 images.

www.cameracouncil.org

Upcoming Meeting Programs:

February: John Gregor

March: Ron Winch

April: Bill Handsaker

May: Mariann Cyr

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Published Sept.-May by the

Minnesota Nature Photography Club

www.minnesotanature.org

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Vice Pres.: Lil Polley 952-474-7375
polley28@mchsi.com
Treasurer: Don Nadreau 763-377-4589
don.nadreau@gmail.com
Secretary: Linda Nygren 651-778-0340
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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

January Meeting
Wednesday January 20, 2010

Our January presentation will be

2010 Northstar International Award Winning Images will be presented by club member Mike Prokosch

Florence Scholljegerdes broke her pelvis in three places in a fall in her home.

She was in the hospital several days and now is in the Minnesota Masonic home in Bloomington for rehabilitation. Her address:

Minnesota Masonic Home
11501 Masonic Home Drive
Bloomington, MN 55437
Phone: 952-948-7444
952-948-7000

We wish you a speedy recovery!

Amateur/Professional Photographers,

Many of you know that Monticello, MN., here on the Mississippi River, is home to "Swan Park". Swan Park is possibly the greatest viewing and photography opportunity to the largest collection of wintering Trumpeter Swans in the world. I am happy to announce that you have available an exciting opportunity to view and photograph from a better vantage point the 1,200 Trumpeters and over 1,000 Canadian geese and ducks here in my back yard. I live right next to swan park. We have world class photographers from all North America come to take pictures of all these magnificent water fowl.

Traditionally, all photographers are required to take pictures of these birds only from Swan Park. The park is located on Mississippi Drive here in Monticello. Pictures from Swan Park are limited because of trees directly on the river in between the park and the river. After working with Sheila Lawrence, the "Swan Lady" I have constructed a huge heavy duty 10' by 24" deck in my back yard. This deck is located much lower to the water level than pictures taken from the park. It is within 10 yards of the birds, and capable of safely holding 4 photographers at a time. The deck allows all photographers panoramic shots up to 180 degrees rather than being limited to 90 degrees from Swan Park.

My goal is to use the profits from the use of the deck to help pay for the 1200-1500 lbs of corn it takes each day to feed the birds each winter. Sheila and her husband pay out of pocket for any corn that is not covered by private donations. For \$20/hour per person in cash you can use the deck for one hour or all day. If you are flying in from out of town you can block off any time slot you desire.

Our first professional photographer from MN. has already used the deck. He told me by using the deck he got much better quality low flying shots. Please contact me as soon as possible so I can lock in your preferred time slot on my calendar. Walkups are welcome also. Please forward this to other photographers who would want to take advantage of this opportunity.....and thanks for your help.

When you arrive, come to my front door to sign a liability wavier first, and then I will walk you down to the deck.

Respectfully,
Rich Thurman,
201 Mississippi Drive
Monticello, MN. 55362
763-295-4228
richthurman@charter.net

FIRST CLASS MAIL





Nature Photo Times

Founded 1956

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

Vol. 54, No. 6 - Feb 2010

Backyard Birds By Ron Winch

Birds exploded from my backyard feeders. Flashing wings and drab winter colors streaked for cover in the tangle of forsythia and snow-laden spruce trees. Then, all was quiet.

Still clad in a down parka and fleece pants, I had just come in from my photo blind on the deck to make another cup of belly-warming Earl Gray tea. Certainly, it had to be a raptor to spook the birds so violently. Forget about the tea and try and locate the hungry hawk. Peering out the window, there it was – about thirty feet up in a young walnut tree – a sharp-shinned hawk. Fierce red eyes searched for any movement that might make a warm late afternoon meal. Still, all was quiet. Only trouble was I was indoors and it was outdoors and about 120 degrees to the left of my blind.

Quietly I opened the door, got down on all fours and crawled to the blind – never looking up. The sharpie was still there, but could I rotate the blind that 120 degrees before it spooked? Once inside, I slowly lifted the tripod –mounted camera outfit, cautiously pushed my head against the top of the blind and carefully covered the 120 degrees. The bird hadn't moved. Now, very slowly tilting the camera up and rotating it for a vertical framing and spot metering off the breast, I clicked off 20 frames in the next few minutes. Now, time to observe and study behavior. Gradually, the bird leaned forward and seemed headed directly toward me. Instead, it landed on the ground four feet below the deck and not more than twelve feet from me. Impossible to frame it from my position, I watched. Sharp talons flexed open and shut, puncturing the life out of a red-backed vole. Taking wing, this striking small raptor, only about the size of a robin, lifted off, carrying its lifeless prey to a low branch in a white pine and devoured a warm meal.

Not all backyard photography is this exciting. The norm is photographing woodpeckers and other common winter visitors at feeders specially designed for photography and placed eight to ten feet away. The regular feeders are always well maintained with water, suet, fine sunflower chips, black sunflower seeds and Joe's mix from The Wild Bird store. There is intense activity at the feeders in the late afternoon when the birds stock up for the fifteen-hour night and again in the early hours of daylight when they replenish for the day. Activity drops off through the midday, but there's always someone looking for an afternoon snack.

Come photo time, these feeders are taken down and the photo feeders are set in place. The blind is set in place on the deck with a folding chair and a mug of hot tea. Tripod adjusted to the proper height and long lens eased into the camo snoot and focused on the feeder. This gear allows me to capture full-frame blue jays as desired. Snug and warm and with feeding activity, I may stay in the blind for an hour and a half, and capture 100 images – leaving in time for the birds to stock up for another cold night. The camera and lens are slipped into a plastic bag, sealed shut, brought inside and allowed to warm up to room temperature so as to not fog up or have moisture condense on delicate electronics.

Later, in the final edit the keepers are well composed and exposed, usually full profile or three-quarter poses with some activity. The usual discards are probably the same ones you would toss. I usually delete all or most shots of a bird with food in its bill – personal choice.

I hope this was entertaining, enlightening and educational, and gives you an idea about spending a winter afternoon doing something besides watching TV.

Good shooting.



THE VIEW FROM HERE by Lawrence C. Duke "Photography Spoken Here"

Play Your Cards Right.

I still remember the breakfast with Rob Sheppard in Las Vegas when someone asked him, "What is the best card to use for 'Digital Capture' when out shooting wildlife?" Mr. Sheppard smiled and said, "... when someone asks you which is the best card to use, start looking for a new table...."

My own life with digital started with a Nikon D1 and the first card was a Lexar 128 MB, purchased for \$69 and capable of 46 Raw or a whopping 104 Jpg. Worked like a charm, but new to the new game I was able to screw it up without too much of a problem. D1 batteries were really fast at dying at the worst time. And I was even faster at shutting down. So some images never made it to the card. It took awhile to see what I was doing: I knew that I shot the critter, but when I took a look it wasn't there. Whatever could it be?

One thing that I started, after I got my brain around it, was that I needed more than one card. Some "Pro" said something about all the eggs in one nest. As a farm boy, I never had a basket. So I bought the big 512MB card for almost the same price as the SanDisk 8GB today.

Along with all the cards I was carrying, Rob Sheppard wrote in OP '03, about needing a good back up system like the one he used, the EZ-Magic CD burner. So now I was carrying 10 cards of different MB's, a Ez-Magic burner and a couple dozen CD's. Also, I had started using a Nikon D1x with a "Buffer." Oh man can I shoot now! I try not to fill the card to the max - I may have heard that somewhere or just decided to do the same thing I did when shooting film: I shot 135/36 but reloaded at 30, 34, or what ever, depending on what was happening. I always wanted to be ready for the next shot.

The manufactures tell us there's not much that can go wrong with their cards. Go to their sites read about your next card. Learn about the specs or how someone else used the very same card. Most of the problems for cards can come up with our mishandling them. Like not running them through the washing machine or taking a saltwater dunk getting in to the Zodiac: oh yes I did, and my guide says, "Hey, what you doing Man?"

If a card is going to fail, it will most likely do it right away. Just as Big Foot walks into the light. I've also read that some cards are too good to be true - like really cheap and from a small town in China. You used to see some on e-Bay. Do yourself a favor and buy high quality cards, not just the cheapest

And now, my life has changed and gone to a 12 MP camera. The old cards hold fewer shots and now that the cards are in GB's, my Ez-Magic can't burn DVD's and the new laptop is really heavy. In weighting the whole thing for the last big trip, I asked, and was told to buy more cards and not carry all the stuff that I had been carrying before. So I have. I now work with card readers, I format cards in-camera after complete back up, I still keep an eye on the camera battery and the little green light on the camera back while it's writing. I'm now working with enough cards to spend a whole evening down loading my images.

A lot of cards will have to go bad before I even think of buying this one or the "New" 100 GB.

I always liked what George D. Lepp said "... Just because you can doesn't mean you should ..."



**Minnesota Nature
Photography Club
January 2010 Salon
Scores
Judge: Michael
Prokosch**

Photographer	Title	Score
John Anderson	Ruffed Grouse (w)	8
Mariann Cyr	Rainier Fox (w)	8
Lawrence Duke	Bee on Flower	8
Alan Schulz	Albatross and Fog (w)	8
Don Specht	Grooming Spoonbill	8
Larry Weinman	Flying High (w)	8
Eric Baker	Running Moose (w)	8
Ted Galambos	Three Stems	8
Kristin Holt	Hoarfrost Tree and Sun	8

Dave Klein	American Bittern (w)	8
Carol Madison	Schwabacher Landing	8
Jean McDonough	Three Wolves in Snowy Scene	8
Alan Schulz	Brown Bear Looking Back (w)	8
Don Specht	Butterball (w)	8
Ron Cleveland	Aquasabon River	9
Dave Ellenbecker	October Sumac	9
John LaMere	Little Chipper	9
Jean McDonough	Grey Fox Portrait	9
Dave Vichich	Frosty Deer (w)	9
Barbara Wilson	Grand Pacific Glacier	9
Mariann Cyr	South Georgia	9
Dave Vichich	Ermine (w)	9
Larry Weinman	Orbweaver Spider in Web (w)	9
Karl Fiegenschuh (s)	Light Snow in Red Rock	9
Dave Klein	Snow Goose (w)	10
John Anderson	Robin (w)	10
Ron Cleveland	Sand River	10
Jerry Hogeboom	Hawk with Rabbit (w)	10
John LaMere	Common Redpoll (w)	10
Karl Fiegenschuh (s)	Caribou Kill #1	10

Upcoming Meeting Programs:

March: Ron Winch

April: Bill Handsaker

May: Mariann Cyr

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REI
750 West American Blvd
Bloomington, MN 55420

**February Meeting
Wednesday February 17, 2010**

Our February presentation will be

Minnesota professional wildlife and nature photographer, John Gregor of ColdSnap Photography, will be presenting a program on recent work from Lake Superior . The program will include some black and white and panoramic images along with photographic techniques and favorite places to shoot.

John's website is: john@coldsnap.com where you can find information on current workshops.



Monticello Trumpeter Swans,

FEB. SPECIAL for taking images of the Trumpeter swans in Monticello from the deck next to Swan Park

February is a special time of the year for the swans wintering on the Mississippi River in front of Swan Park and provides the start of a variety of activities which usually have not been seen with such "aggressive flair" during their stay here in the month prior. As the weather warms and hormonal changes associated with mating urges begin, a high percentage of the adult birds take on a total different "attitude" towards their mates and the rest of the flock.

The territorial activities of family units bonding, which usually include excessive head bobbing and wing fluttering with family members, and family posturing and fighting with other family groups, becomes a normal daily occurrence and often can produce pictures that are or can be a once in a lifetime shot. For those interested, during this time, close observation of mated pair activity often can result in being able to witness the foreplay leading up to and including the mating act.

In addition each year, there are also the activities involving "single" individuals and first year breeders in search of mates that during the normal course of action, put on courtship displays as well as fighting displays that are often worthy of comparison to heavy weight boxing matches. Often the fighting between individuals can result in several minutes of continued abuse to each other. Again, the activities referenced provide for unique pictures of trumpeter swans for those interested and prepared for a special once in a lifetime shot.

All profits from the deck and concession stand on my property go to help provide for corn to feed the trumpeter swans here in Swan Park. I have given Sheila Lawrence \$491 this winter in 09/10 from the use of the deck and the concession stand on my property. This is the first year for the use of the deck. In 08/09 I gave Sheila \$508 from the concession stand. In 07/08 I gave Sheila \$602 from the concession stand. Thanks to all of you who have used the "deck" and the concession stand, thereby contributing towards helping the Swan Lady to provide corn for these magnificent waterfowl. It's truly appreciated. Rich Thurman

Normal deck rates are \$20/hr per person

February rates:

Option 1 - Individual rates

1. One hour = \$15 per person
2. Two hours = \$25 per person
3. Four hours = \$40 per person

Option 2 - Group rates for photography clubs/observers.

1. 1-2 people on the deck = \$15/hr per individual for 2 hours

2. 3-4 people on the deck = \$10/hr per person for 4 hours

BE SURE to email in advance to confirm there will be a spot available for your reservations. I will be out of town from Jan. 28-31. I will go thru all your emails and get you on my calendar when I return on the 31st, and confirm your reservation. Thanks to all of you for your support.

Rich Thurman

201 Mississippi Drive

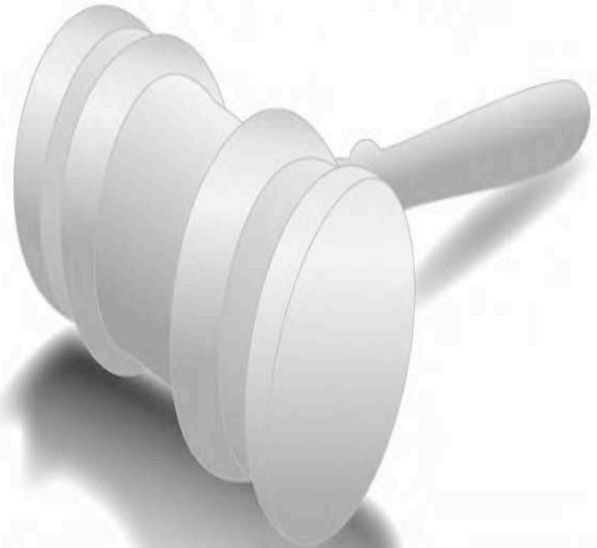
Monticello, MN. 55362

home 763-295-4228

richthurman@charter.net

Camera Council JUDGING SCHOOL

Learn to become a better photographer and a
Camera Council Certified Judge



COMPLETION of this excellent 6 week course plus 3 practice judging sessions at local competitions under the guidance of a senior judge will qualify graduates to judge Photography Competitions through the Camera Council.

Requirements to become eligible to take this course:

- Be a member of one of the Camera Council member camera clubs
- Have been a competitor for at least one year at the local club level

Class dates are Thursdays on April 15 and 22, June 17 and 24, and July 15 and 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. The class location is Ridgepointe (North of Ridgedale Shopping Center).

Partial course contents include defining the role of a judge, discussion on judging rules, presentations on lighting and composition, judging competition criteria, practice judging sessions, and photography assignments on various subjects with review in class.

Register early as class size is limited.

For more information please contact Ron Timm at 612-701-9647 or rontimm@msn.com

FIRST CLASS MAIL





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Vol. 54, No. 7 - Mar 2010

Art and Seeing

By Ron Winch

Every other artist begins with a blank canvas or piece of paper; the photographer begins with the finished product before him. The artist, with his innate ability to visualize the final picture, assembles various elements into a strong and pleasing composition using forms and colors. His outward desire is probably to create a piece of art that excites your emotions and tugs at your heartstrings and he may not be concerned about the total points a critic or judge may assign to it. It may be his innate ability or his training that allows him to work without considering the fine points of art.

And so, his finished piece is relished by viewers who may not comprehend the unstated "Art" that went into the piece. Rather, they may sense an emotional tie to the picture. It is an image that resonates with people far beyond the actual subject.

The photographer has a similar, but opposite, problem. He is faced with the finished product before him. Our eyes see what we want to see; we filter everything through our experiences and emotions. The camera makes no such distinctions and records everything it sees. It then becomes the photographer's responsibility to eliminate or minimize the distractions and record only those elements that make for a strong composition. Understanding that strong composition is simply the strongest way of seeing can improve the photographer's final results. One has the sense that nothing can be added or subtracted from the picture.

Freeman Patterson explains it this way, "The camera points both ways. I'm expressing the subject, you also express yourself."

**Minnesota Nature
Photography Club
February 2009 Salon
Scores**

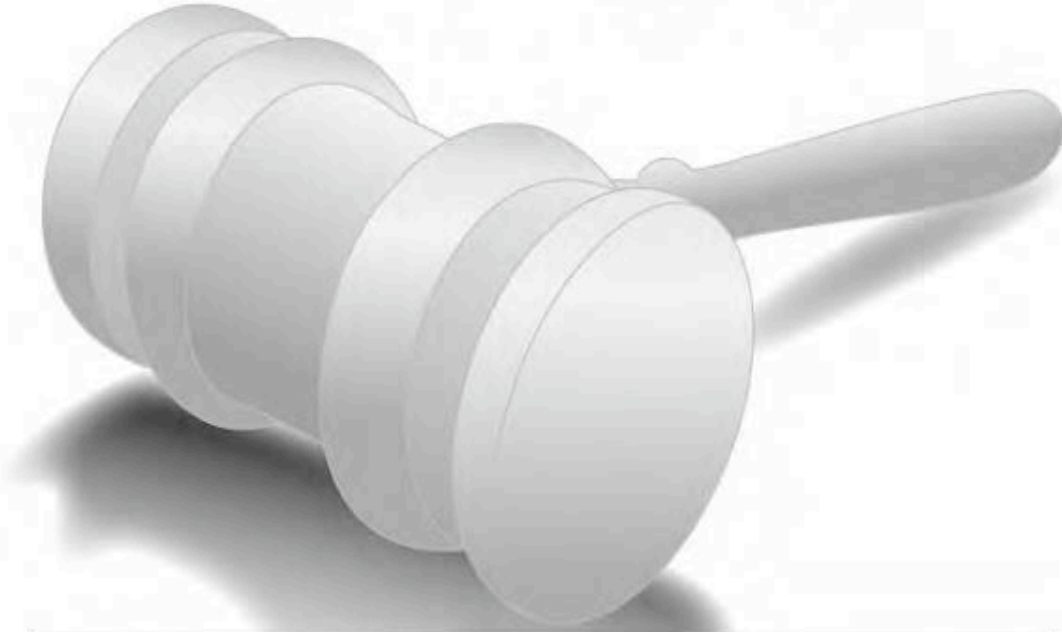
Judge: Dave Vichich

Photographer	Title	Score
John Anderson	The Hunt (W)	8
Ron Cleveland	Cascade Dawn	8
Mariann Cyr	Magellanic Oystercatcher (W)	8
Jean Carol Madison	Buffalo on the move	8
Dean Rehphohl	Nesting	8
Carolee Ramos	Lenticular Clouds at Mt. Rainer	8
Harold Schertner	Giraffe 1	8
Larry Weinman	Blue Damsel (W)	8
Karl Fiegenschuh	Eagle Lake Acadia	8
Ted Galambos	Summer Meadow 1	8
Kirsten Holt	Great Grey landing	8
Don Specht	Sittin' Pretty (W)	8
Lil Polley	Two Opposum	8
John Jenkins	Elk	8
Ted Galambos	Leaf Veins 1	9
Betty Goossens-Bryan	Bee on Coneflower (W)	9
Charles Habermann	Fuzzy Lobster	9
John Pennoyer	Yellow Ladies Slipper pair	9
Don Specht	Not a care - bear	9
John Jenkins	Owl	9
Joe Fierst	Late afternoon Pasques	9
Rick Graves	Sunlit tree	9
Jerry Hogeboom	Swan Courtship	9
John LaMere	Watson Lake	9
Jean McDonough	Arctic Fox looking back	9
Don Nadreau	Sunny Fox (W)	9
Dave Perez	Swans in Mist	9
Carolee Ramos	Butterfly 1 (W)	9
Roger Williams	Out of the Mist	9
Karl Fiegenschuh	Alambi Hummingbird (W)	10
Don Nadreau	Superior Sunrise	10
Dave Perez	Fall Stream	10
Roger Williams	Foggy Takeoff	10
John Anderson	Badlands Family (W)	10
Ron Cleveland	Terrace Spring	10
Mariann Cyr	Moulting King (W)	10
John Pennoyer	Prairie Sunrise	10

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March Meeting Wednesday March 17, 2010

Our March presentation will be

"Mongolia and the Golden Eagle Festival "

The Nature Club's program for March will feature photographers Ron Winch and his wife, Toni Megletsch, showcasing their travels to Mongolia.

The title of the program is "Mongolia and the Golden Eagle Festival". Ron and Toni are long time members of Minnesota Nature Photography Club and have written and presented their programs to many different organizations throughout the state.

Upcoming Meeting Programs:

April program:

Presenter: Bill Handsaker

May program:

"Owl photography" - Presenter: John Anderson

FIRST CLASS MAIL





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Vol. 54, No. 8 - Apr 2010

Interstate State Park St. Croix Falls Wisconsin

By Ron Winch

The beautiful St Croix river muscles its way through the basaltic gorge as kayakers play in the surging rapids. Overhead, a bald eagle circling on the rising warm air currents lets go with a scream. Majestic red and white pines squeeze their roots into seemingly solid basalt. Rock climbers test their skill on the sheer 150 foot rock faces to the tune of pitons being driven into almost invisible cracks. Tourists, enjoying an ice cream cone, feel the mighty surge of the great river, and, listening to the music of the wild river are transported back to an earlier time.

Somewhere in that lichen-rich landscape of tumbling rocks and mosses a nature photographer searches for a semblance of spring. He should have no trouble, for as the song goes, "Spring is bustin' out all over." The pines are in bloom. Their flowers, heavy with pollen, shed clouds of yellow pollen dust with each slight breeze. The fresh oak leaves, light green to red in color, stand guard over their dangling pollen flowers and the flowers of the wild plum flood the area with their seductive fragrance. In the seeps and along the creek the last skunk cabbage is beginning to fade. Higher ground yields bloodroot, hepatica, and Dutchmans' breeches in full bloom. Dry rocky outcrops may even yield a cactus.

Whitetailed deer are abundant in the park, however at this time of year they are not in the best of shape due to shedding. You may find a very pregnant doe worthy of a photo or two. Later, in May or June you might be fortunate to view and maybe photograph a young spotted fawn hidden in dense foliage or frolicking in an open field of flowers. The headquarters area usually draws a number red, gray and the seldom-seen fox squirrels that visit the bird feeders during the winter. You'll likely find the usual feeder birds here also. A keen observer may identify nearly 200 bird species in the park throughout the year and at least 75 species nest here,

including a dozen different warblers. Spring and fall migrations see many more birds moving through the park.

The flood plain forest is made up of primarily silver maple, black and green ash and American elm. You're likely to find a raccoon or barred owl in the large old trees. Several frog species inhabit the many ponds, also puddle ducks, muskrat and an occasional mink.

Surely the jewels of the river bottom are the vernal pools: those temporary pools that fill with snowmelt and early spring rains and later dry up. Here you will find a myriad of insect larvae. Salamanders, blue-spotted and tiger, come to the pools shortly after ice-out to breed and deposit eggs. Red-backed salamanders are also found here, but it is strictly a woodland salamander, and unlike other salamanders does not go to water to breed. You might be surprised to find shrimp in these pools. The fairy shrimp, semi-transparent and pinkish green in color, is only about an inch long and swims on its back by waving its appendages. As the pools dry up in summer the adults perish, but the eggs overwinter in the moist bottom and hatch after ice-out the following spring.

Fifteen feet away, a scarlet tanager settles onto a silver maple branch and feeds on tender young insects – and here I am with a macro lens on the camera. Oh well, nature photography is as much – maybe more – about nature as it is about photography.

If you've never been here, give it a try. Almost three square miles of park, miles of trails and as varied a terrain as you could ask for. Don't forget good sturdy shoes or boots.

Maybe I'll see you there.

**Minnesota Nature
Photography Club
March Salon Scores
Judge: Mariann Cyr**

Photographer	Title	Score
Ron Cleveland	Sandhill Crane (W)	8
Jerry Hogeboom	Swan Flight (W)	8
Don Nadreau	Winter Sunset	8
John Pennoyer	Belling Bull (W)	8
Dean Rehpohl	Sad Daze	8
Keith Nason	Sunset Loon (W)	8
John Anderson	Badlands Family II	8
Dave Ellenbecker	Early Riser	8
Karl Fiegenschuh	Flycatcher (W)	8
Jerry Hogeboom	That Bugs Me	8
Don Nadreau	Eastern Waterfall	8
John Pennoyer	Napping Goslings (W)	8
Dean Rehpohl	White Patience	8
Alan Schulz	Oystercatcher feeding (W)	8
Don Specht	Spring Song (W)	8
Dave Vichich	Head Butt (W)	8
Roger Williams	Reddish Egret (W)	8
Dave Ellenbecker	First Image	9
Jean McDonough	Four Lions Looking	9
Alan Schulz	Rockhopper Reflections (W)	9
Ron Cleveland	Aubry Falls II	9
Jean McDonough	Lilac Breasted Roller No. 5	9
Eric Baker	Loon Dancing #2 (W)	10
Roger Williams	Osprey (W)	10
Larry Weinman	Trumpeter Swan #11 (W)	10

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

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Twin Cites campus (June 27-July 2)

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- ☑ 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.
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2010 TCACCC INTERCLUB - Club Digital

<u>Place</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Total</u>
First	Minnesota Nature Photography Club	236
Second	Crosstown Camera Club	234
Third	St Paul Camera Club	230
Fourth	Western Wisconsin Photography Club	227
Fifth	North Metro Photo Club	226
Sixth	Minneapolis Photographic Society	225
Seventh	Women's Color Photo Club	221
Eighth	West Photo Club	220
Nineth	3M Club Camera Club	219

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don.nadreau@gmail.com
Secretary: Linda Nygren 651-778-0340
stereogal@gmail.com

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

April Meeting Wednesday April 21, 2010

Our April presentation will be

Bill Handsaker, member of Minnesota Nature Photography Club, has traveled the world extensively and one of his favorite places on this planet is the Southwestern portion of the U.S. which will be the subject of his slide program on April 21st.

The Colorado Plateau is a geologically unique region that covers a large portion of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona.

The federal government has designated 23 places in this strange landscape of stone as national parks, monuments, recreation

areas, or landmarks. This show will take you to both the familiar and the unfamiliar places in the plateau.

Upcoming Meeting Programs:

May program:

“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.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL





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

Vol. 54, No. 9 - May 2010

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:**

Photographer	Title	Score
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

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Vol. 55, No. 1 - Sept 2010

Florence Scholljegerdes



Florence Scholljegerdes was a member of Women's Color Photo Club for almost 30 years. She was a member of Nature Club for many years. She was an impressive lady who competed in both clubs until the very end.

Florence broke her pelvic bone this winter and after going through that trauma and rehabilitation, she finally came to the WCPC meeting in June. I took her photo to be used in our Newsletter for WCPC (she celebrated her 90th birthday in March) and she seemed so vibrant. Last Thursday she suffered a stroke and never regained consciousness.

Photo by Jean McDonough

Minnesota Nature Photography Club May Salon Scores Judge: Vijay Karai

Photographer	Title	Score
Jerry Hogeboom	Northern Harrier Hunting (w)	8
Ron Cleveland	Baltimore Oriole (w)	8
John Anderson	Pileated (w)	8
Dennis Hensche	Superstition Mountain WEB	8
Nancy Cox	Napa Iris	8
Gary Colvard	Maple Pass	8
John Pennoyer	Morning Stretch (w)	8
Linda Nygren	Gatorhead (w)	8
Carole Mannheim	Wild geranium (1 of 1)	8
Charles Habermann	Hover Fly (w)	8
Bill Handsaker	Rifle Falls	8
Jean McDonough	Verreaux Sifka On Branch (w)	8
Lil Polley	Young Cougar	8
Don Tredinnick	Osprey With Fish	8
David Zosel	Osprey (w)	8
John Anderson	Badlands Mare and Colt (w)	9
Rod Blessner	Cardinal (w)	9
John LaMere	Grouse Portrait (W)	9
David Zosel	Cardinal (w)	9
Gary Colvard	Osprey (w)	9
Jean McDonough	Diademed Sifka Holding On (w)	10
Lil Polley	Gosling (w)	10
Dave Vichich	Heron (w)	10
Roger Williams	Koi Caper	10
Don Specht	Lady in the Rain (w)	10
Roger Williams	Woodie Drake (w)	10
Dave Vichich	Two of a Kind (w)	10

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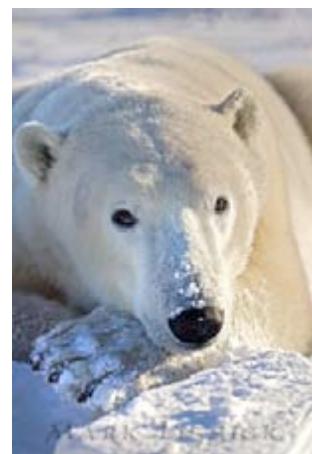
750 West American Blvd

Bloomington, MN 55420

September Meeting Wednesday September 15, 2010

Our May presentation will be

"Land of the Ice Bears" - Presenter: Mark Lissick



Description: Over his 20 year career as a professional nature photographer, Mark Lissick has spent eight years photographing polar bears in northern Alaska and Hudson Bay. A land rich in wildlife and northern lights, Mark's Land of the Ice Bears presentation is a photographic essay

FIRST CLASS MAIL





Nature Photo Times

Founded 1956

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

Vol. 55, No. 2 - Oct 2010

Minnesota Bogs

By Ron Winch

It was like walking on a trampoline; with each step the “ground” yielded a foot or more. Cautiously I chose each footfall to land on the root system of some ericaceous shrub. Still I sank deep into the sphagnum moss. Acidic water soaked my jeans to the knees. I was wading wet for there was absolutely no guarantee of staying dry; maybe even plunging through the sphagnum mat into the cold brown acidic water below.

What sort of environment was I in - some exotic location hours from anywhere? Yes and No!

I was picking my way through a northern quaking bog hoping to learn more about the flora that inhabit this extremely harsh environment. Some peat bogs in northwestern Minnesota may be more than fifty miles long, and for all practical purposes impenetrable. A sense of caution led me back to this small bog; half the size of a football field, where I had seen previously a seventh grade environmental class exploring the ecology of a northern bog.

Today, reaching close to its northern zenith, the sun beats down from an azure blue sky. The heat, combined with the extreme effort of trudging through almost knee-deep sphagnum moss, invited rivulets of perspiration to cascade down my clammy skin. My wet feet were almost freezing, as the thick mat of moss is an excellent insulator.

Even in Mid-June, ice can be found below the mat where it is not floating. Since there is no inflow or outflow of water (only rain and snow replenish the moisture) the bog is very acidic, having a pH as low as 4.2. The bog is an unforgiving habitat for most plants. Its hard terms of existence protect its well-adapted flora from invasion by other species. While low in plant diversity, the acidic bog is a unique and irreplaceable botanical garden.

Three of Minnesota’s carnivorous plants are common residents here, as well as our only “deciduous conifer”, the tamarack tree. Tallest and most conspicuous of the carnivores is the pitcher plant. It sports a unique burgundy flower nearly two feet above the ground. The leaves are elongated pitchers or vase-like, green and burgundy in

color: with less sun, more burgundy – and usually half full of water. Inside the pitcher, tiny hairs angle downward. An investigating insect makes its way down to the water, finds it can’t retreat, falls into the water and is eventually digested, releasing much-needed nitrogen to the plant.

Sundew, only three or four inches tall, uses the several hundred liquid-tipped spines of its leaves to trap and digest its prey. The hairs seem able to distinguish between edible and inedible items. Once an insect lands on the odorous spiny leaf, it is usually trapped. Adjacent spines bend toward the point of contact and enclose the prey in a temporary stomach and digestion takes place.

Horned bladderwort is the least noticeable of the three. Small snapdragon-like flowers indicate its presence, but all action takes place below the surface.

The “deciduous conifer” is the smoky gold tamarack of autumn, which, along with the black spruce, is able to withstand the nutrient-poor environment of the bog.

You’ll also find such plants as bog rosemary, bog bean, leatherleaf, blueberry and several sedges. Birds flit in and out over the bog in search of the insects that are able to live there.

Deer may browse the edges, and maybe you’ll happen upon a mink frog.

Since few species are able to survive in this harsh environment, bogs are considered to be quite sterile. However, to a keen observer with a good eye and a macro lens, they will yield spectacular photos of plants that eat animals. And no, you don’t have to drive 200 miles to find a bog. The metro area has several of the southernmost bogs in the state. Try Boot Lake SNA just west of Carlos Avery WMA, or the quaking bog at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. This is definitely “wet belly” photography and may not be for everyone. Maybe I’ll see you there.

Nikon user tip:

You know how awkward it is to get your threaded cable release on or off? Even with bare, non-frozen fingers I

sometimes find it tough to get it screwed down. I won't even attempt it wearing gloves.

Make your way to your local hardware store and find their washer department. It shouldn't take you too long to locate a rubber washer that will fit around the locking collar of your cable release. I found one that was the right size in both diameters: it was even black, but it was too thick. I easily cut it in half with a reasonably sharp utility knife and it works beautifully.



**Minnesota Nature
Photography Club
September Salon
Scores
Judge: Mark Lissick**

Photographer	Title	Score
Alan Boucher	Wading Deer	8
Alan Boucher	Chipmunk	8
Ron Cleveland	Toads Mating (w)	8
Ron Cleveland	Cheetah Pair	8
Mariann Cyr	Red Tail Nest (w)	8
Rick Graves	Columbine & Buds	8
Carol Madison	Reflection	8
Carole Mannheim	Starflower	8
John Pennoyer	Burntside Sunrise	8
Lil Polley	Arches	8
Carolee Ramos	Lake Fanny Loon (w)	8
Roger Williams	Molt Wood Duck (w)	8

David Zosel	Great Blue (w)	8
John Anderson	Mama You're A Fox (w)	9
John Anderson	Silverback (w)	9
Eric Baker	Baby Loon Eating On Back	9
Mariann Cyr	Fly Red-tail (w)	9
Karl Fiegenschuh	Loon and Chicks (w)	9
Karl Fiegenschuh	Grebe and Chicks (w)	9
Rick Graves	Hickman Bridge	9
Dave Klein	Egret Landing (w)	9
Dave Klein	Laughing Gull Portrait (w)	9
John LaMere	Grosbeak Portrait (w)	9
John LaMere	Monarch (w)	9
Lil Polley	Bighorn Zion (w)	9
Steve Ryhn	Lizard Gaze (w)	9
Don Specht	Lunch (w)	9
Don Tredinnick	Middle Falls Side Shot	9
Larry Weinman	Heron Flying (w)	9
Larry Weinman	Cormorant #2 (w)	9
David Zosel	Black Bear (w)	9
Gary Colvard	Red Tailed Hawk (w)	
Gary Colvard	Maroon Bells	
Dave Ellenbecker	DSC 0370	
Jean McDonough	A Bevy of Impalas (w)	10
Jean McDonough	Red Billed Teal (w)	10
Carol Madison	Tree Reflections	10
John Pennoyer	Prairie Sunrise	10
Don Specht	Gotcha (w)	10
Don Tredinnick	Green Heron on a Stick (w)	10
Roger Williams	Clouded Sulfur (w)	10

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don.nadreau@gmail.com

Secretary: Linda Nygren 651-778-0340

stereogal@gmail.com

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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

October Meeting Wednesday October 20, 2010

Our October presentation will be

“The Gooney Birds of Midway Atoll” –
Presenter Mariann Cyr

Minnesota Nature Photography Club member Mariann Cyr traveled to Midway Atoll in early 2010, one of the most remote coral atolls on earth, to experience and photograph the world's largest population of Laysan Albatrosses or “gooney birds.” In addition to the Laysan Albatrosses, her program will depict some of the other wildlife calling Midway home, including Hawaiian monk seals, green sea turtles, and Laysan ducks. Mariann routinely judges area club competitions and gives programs. She also has served as a judge for a number of Photographic Society of America (PSA) international competitions and is listed in the PSA "Who's Who" list for nature images. She has had images published in the Minnesota Weatherguide calendars and the Minnesota Monthly Magazine.

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Thanks,

Jay

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Nature Photo Times

Founded 1956

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

Vol. 55, No. 3 - Nov 2010

The Beauty of Water

By Ron Winch

Fog and clouds; rain and snow; bubbling streams and waterfalls; Lake Superior and the Mississippi; snow-capped mountains and glaciers in Greenland. Stunning images capture the exquisite beauty of water in its many forms. Earth is a living planet bound together with water. In a cloud, extremely fine droplets whose diameter does not exceed a tenth of a millimeter simply float. As their size increases they fall, first as a drizzle, then when they get beyond a quarter of a millimeter, as rain. One inch of rain deposits about 27,000 gallons of water on a single acre of land, and the process begins anew. The transit of water molecules from a river up to the clouds and back again is approximately 16 days.

That molecule of water, formed as the earth evolved, has been recycled millions of times. It has seen life in the early morning dew, the golden fog of sunrise, the quiet pond that harbors young mallards, the wilderness stream that hosts the elusive brook trout, the mighty water of the Mississippi and the Superior, the snows of winter and the blue ice of glaciers. Surely, in the land of 10,000 lakes, thousands of miles of rivers and bubbling streams, hundreds of waterfalls and cascades and innumerable spring ponds there is no dearth of exciting subject matter or opportunity for photographers to capture their own scintillating images. The first requirement, of course, is common sense in matching your footwear to the environment. Tennies are fine for well established trails, but could invite disaster on wet, rocky, mossy unimproved terrain. Appropriate footwear and watching your step is essential to any outdoor experience, especially in rough terrain.

Now, gather your gear and head out. Since you'll be carrying a camera body and two or three lenses a shoulder bag may be fine – or a small backpack will easily handle a 70-200mm zoom, a medium range zoom and a wide angle. A cable or electronic release can be used for those longer exposures to show moving water.. A tripod with independent legs that can be set to any angle facilitates a level tripod on uneven ground. A polarizer, especially a blue-yellow polarizer may also have some usefulness. Lens hoods or any means of shading the front element of your lens is a must.

Generally an overcast day reduces contrast when shooting waterfalls, but there are times when the blazing sun will yield great photos. Go ahead, be daring, be creative, even silly. Remember, you are shooting for yourself and the real disasters can be deleted later. Shooting in all seasons and weather conditions and you'll soon discover what you like best – and you're on your way.

Maybe we'll meet on the trail someday and have a chance to exchange more ideas.

A guy is walking down the road when he stops a big bunch of people mostly carrying large white lenses. Impressed by the huge arsenal of equipment the guys are carrying the guy goes for a closer look. Further scrutiny reveals that they all have Canon 1Ds except for one guy with a beat-up old Nikon. Curiosity piqued the guy, so he approaches the guy with the Nikon and asks why he has chosen Nikon when all of the other pros are using Canon? "You mean these guys," replies the guy with the Nikon, "they are all members of the local amateur photography club. They just hired me to take their picture."

Eagle Swoops in for Lunch

By Mary “Karlie” Carlson
Volunteer, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge



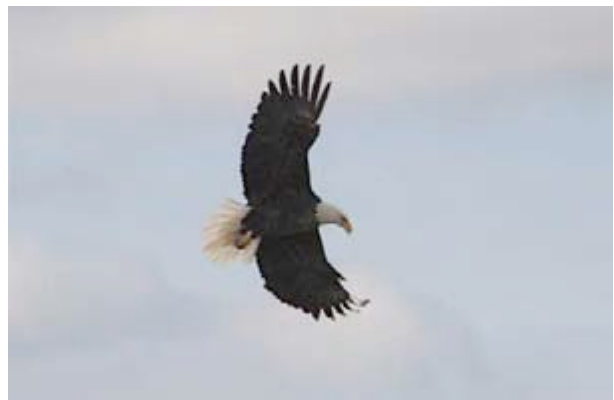
I watched the eagle for about two hours as it went from the tree and hovered over the Memorial Overlook area of the Wildlife Drive. The area has a lot of ducks, Canada geese, trumpeter swans and some sandhill cranes at this time of year.

The eagle concentrated on one general area. He would fly and hover and go back up in a tree. He did this repeatedly until he went down into the water, picked up a coot (a common water bird) and flew back up into the tree to devour it. I was amazed and overjoyed to witness and photograph the action.

The photos were taken on The Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Drive on October 12, 2010. The drive is a seven-mile gravel road through the refuge.

The 33,000-acre refuge is on County Road 9 between Zimmerman and Princeton. It's five miles west of Highway 169 - a wonderful place for photographers interested in birding, wildflowers, and nature in general.

Right now the sandhill cranes are in the wildlife refuge. The last official count was 4,000 cranes. If you should visit there, stop at headquarters and get directions for seeing them. The cranes come into the refuge every night about 5pm and leave early in the morning to feed in the nearby corn and bean fields.





My gear for these photos was a Canon 7D with a 200-500mm Tamron Lens. The photos shown here are a selection from over 400 frames shot during the observation.

The Sherburne Refuge web site is <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/sherburne/>

The Sherburne Friends site is <http://www.exploresherburne.org/>

**Minnesota Nature
Photography Club**

October Salon Scores

Judge: John Pennoyer

Photographer	Title	Score
Eric Baker	Baby Loon on Back	8
Gary Colvard	Mountain Goat (w)	8
Ron Cleveland	McCarthy Beach Color	8
Karl Fiegenschuh	Loons Feeding (w)	8
Rick Fenstermaker	Monarch (w)	8
Rick Graves	Lady Slipper	8
Rick Graves	Keeping Watch (w)	8
John LaMere	Norberg Lake HDR	8
Keith Nason	Hillside Buck (w)	8
Lil Polley	Courthouse Towers	8
Lil Polley	Female and Cub (w)	8
Dave Vichich	Ram	8
Roger Williams	Cruiser (w)	8
Marilyn Gladitsch	Mushroom (s)	
Marilyn Gladitsch	Flower (s)	
Romaine Bayless	Barred Owl (w)	9
Gary Colvard	Mount Baker	9
David Ellenbecker	Lupine 0460	9
Karl Fiegenschuh	ObergMountain Pano #2	9
Charles Habermann	Aerodynamic Anomaly	9
Mary Lundeberg	Loon Dance (w)	9
Mary Lundeberg	Eagle Stare (w)	9
Jean McDonough	Ringtail Lemur Posing (w)	9
Don Specht	Chickadee on Wild Rice (w)	9
Larry Weinman	Willow River Falls	9
David Zosel	Fishing Heron (w)	9
Tom Samuelson	Bluebird (s)	9
Romaine Bayless	Roller Pair (w)	10
Ron Cleveland	Horseshoe Bend	10
John LaMere	Hawk Hunting (w)	10
Don Specht	Singing Savannah (w)	10
Roger Williams	Down the Hatch (w)	10
David Zosel	Swan Flight (w)	10

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


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

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Nature Photo Times

Published Sept.-May by the

Minnesota Nature Photography Club

www.minnesotanature.org

Editor: Jay Olson-Goude, 651-699-3048,
jolson-goude@msn.com
2062 Berkeley Avenue
Saint Paul MN 55105-1202

President: Jean McDonough 763-574-1450
mcd30@msn.com
Vice Pres.: Lil Polley 952-474-7375

polley28@mchsi.com

Treasurer: Don Nadreau 763-377-4589

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**November Meeting
Wednesday November 17, 2010**

Our November presentation will be

It's a Jungle Out There! A retrospective of Costa Rican photo workshops from recent years. Presented by Rikk Flohr.

Included will be imagery, travel photography tips, gear recommendations and strategies for taking a workshop abroad.

Rikk Flohr has been a professional photographer since the mid 80s and a graphic designer since the early 90s. In January of 2006 he left the corporate world in favor of his imaging company, Fleeting Glimpse Images, founded in 1998. Since then, Rikk has served the imaging community with a variety of services related to photography, graphic design and instruction,

Rikk was a featured-columnist for CorelDraw unleashed magazine, writing about various Digital Photography and Image Editing topics. He teaches at national software conferences like CorelWorld, the CorelDraw User's Conference, PowerPoint Live and the Presentation Summit. Rikk regularly presents at regional photographic societies and teaches a variety of topics in

digital capture and processing. Twice, Rikk has served as Artist in Residence at Badlands National Park. In addition, Rikk conducts workshops, both in classroom and in the field on all aspects of digital imaging. He currently serves as Field and Classroom Instructor for Worldesigns Photo's Costa Rica tours and is a veteran of 6 photography expeditions to this Central American country.

Rikk currently maintains two blogs: Fleeting Glimpse Images Weblog on all things imaging and Holy Crop! a blog devoted solely to cropping of images.

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Vol. 55, No. 4 - Dec 2010

WHY I COULD NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT MY CAMERA

Submitted by Jean McDonough, President

Several years ago a member of one of the four camera clubs in which I belong, mentioned that she just returned spending a week in the Seattle area and I asked if she took a lot of pictures. She replied, "I did not take my camera with me." My eyes doubled in size. I thought that I could never do that. I even have my camera handy in my house; otherwise, I would have missed a raccoon in my back yard carrying two babies up a tree with an open top several years ago. Last summer, I looked out on my town house patio and spotted a red tailed hawk sitting on the electrical box. I ran for my camera and slowly opened the patio door and got 3 images before the hawk flew away. Serendipity is the word used for this experience.

For me, each photo outing is a unique adventure exploring new techniques, new subject matter and new locales. I think I have photography on my mind at all times. Reading photo magazines and books, visiting galleries and viewing images at camera clubs has enhanced my photo skills. With the advent of "digital," "photoshop," "elements," "lightroom," (the list is endless) it has become more challenging to keep up.

There is always something to photograph and learn about the digital world. Of course, experience has taught me that we have to look for the interplay of light and shadow, shapes and forms, color, contrast, texture, lines, and patterns.

Sometimes you just need to sit, put the camera aside and absorb the land and life around you; smell the flowers and the pines. Listen to the birds. Watch the animal's movements and behavior. Watch people, their movements and interactions with their surroundings or other people; the beauty around us is infinite.

On a recent trip not long ago after a full day of sight seeing, three of us decided to walk downtown from our hotel to basically go souvenir hunting and find a restaurant for dinner. I was the only one carrying a camera and we ran into a man walking on the sidewalk with the biggest Merino sheep I have ever seen. I had my flash on, found a youngster about 3 years old and told the little tyke to pet the sheep. It was a great moment for me. Without my camera, I would have missed the experience.

One afternoon while driving in Richfield, I came upon a car upside down in the intersection. I was able to grab my camera and shoot several shots while waiting for the green light. The action just happened to be on the driver's side. The policemen and medical attendants surrounding the auto added to the drama. No more "if only" regrets for leaving the camera at home. I am still bewildered how that car got in that position on a city street.

When I return from a trip, someone is bound to comment: "Please tell me you did not take your camera with you." Everyone laughs.

The subject of cropping was broached recently and commentators have provided some elucidation on the topic. We are familiar with the proportions of 2x3 (same as 4x6), 5x7, 4x5 (same as 8x10), and 8x12. These are the standard sizes of prints and frames that have influenced the cropping options that pop up in Lightroom™, Photoshop™ and other image editing software.

I will generally stoop to any legal means for an image of mine to be held in high esteem by my peers and especially those in a position to rank the value of a particular image.

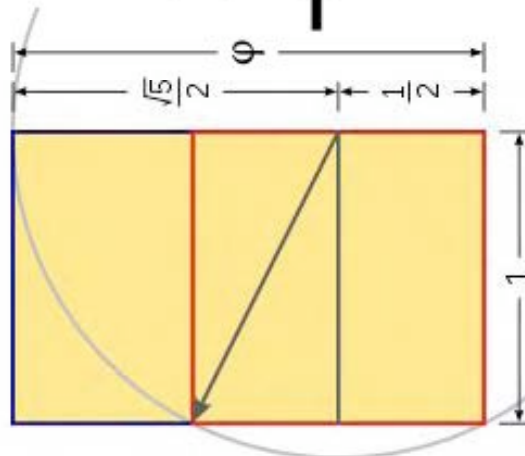
One such means I recently began to employ in order to gain some subliminal advantage is the Golden Mean; that is a cropping ratio of 1x1.6180339887 (though not necessarily using all those digits). This ratio has become known as “phi” and was used in the construction of the pyramids (along with pi), Greek temples, the Cathedral of Notre Dame, and Da Vinci’s Last Supper among other valued artifacts of antiquity.

Artists and architects of old had different names for this ratio. Leonardo called it “divine”. Mathematicians are keenly aware, of course, that phi and the Fibonacci sequence are intimately interconnected. Ah, but I digress. In any event, I added 1x1.618 to the cropping ratio options in Lightroom™. (The 3x5 ratio comes close for those who like whole numbers). Now, should you feel an ancient attraction to my otherwise modest rendering and feel mysteriously compelled to rate it somewhere above average, you will know at least part of the secret.

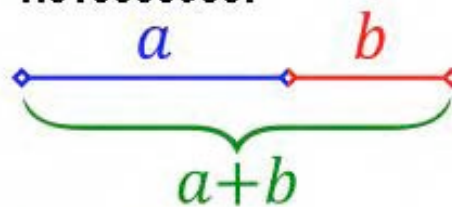
Ron Cleveland

Golden Ratio

phi
Φ φ



The golden ratio is an irrational mathematical constant, approximately 1.6180339887



The golden section is a line segment divided according to the golden ratio: The total length $a + b$ is to the longer segment a as a is to the shorter segment b .

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phi>

**Minnesota Nature
Photography Club**

**November Salon
Scores**

Judge: Rikk Flohr

Photographer	Title	Score
Eric Baker	Moose Swimming	8
Joe Fierst	Glacier Creek	8
Rick Graves	Snow Day	8
Charles Habermann	Fishing Mink	8
Jay Olson-Goude	Pine Creek	8
Lil Polley	Mountain Sunset	8
Carolee Ramos	Queen Anne's Lace	8
Barbara Wilson	Pigeon Falls	8
Marilyn Gladitsch	Roadside Sunflower (s)	8
Ron Cleveland	Bryce and Beyond	8
Joe Fierst	Ominous Wyoming Sky	8
Rick Graves	Pink Lady	8
John LaMere	Turkey	8
Jay Olson-Goude	Brazos Bend	8
Carolee Ramos	Southern Waterfall	8
Dave Vichich	Camo	8
Roger Williams	Moon Over Crex (w)	8
Barbara Wilson	Lake Superior Sunset	8
Gary Colvard	Wolf Lake	8
Mary Lundeberg	Roseate Spoonbill (w)	8
John Anderson	Teton Fox (w)	9
Tom Samuelson	November Cardinal (s)	9
Ron Cleveland	Canyon Rain	9
Dave Ellenbecker	Skunk Cabbage	9
Karl Fiegenschuh	River Bridge Zion NP	9
Ted Galambos	Loving Owls	9
Dave Klein	Western Sandpiper (w)	9
John LaMere	November Buck (w)	9
Carole Mannheim	Osprey (w)	9
Wayne Sanderson	Elk Rut (w)	9
Dave Vichich	In Tree	9
Gary Colvard	Green Heron (w)	9
John Anderson	Three Wet Bears (w)	9
Tom Samuelson	Cardinal (s)	9
Eric Baker	Bearskin Lake	9
Karl Fiegenschuh	Smokies Waterfall No. 2	9
Jean McDonough	Yellow Ladyslipper No. 5	9
John Pennoyer	Lake Superior Sunrise	9
Larry Weinman	Cranes Ascending (w)	

Mary Lundeberg	Tricolor Heron's snack (w)	10
Charles Habermann	Autumn Meadowlark (w)	10
Dave Klein	Roseate Spoonbill (w)	10
Wayne Sanderson	Osprey (w)	10
Roger Williams	Sunset Crane (w)	10
Don Specht	Family Time (w)	10

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December Meeting Wednesday December 15, 2010

Our December program features the end-of-year competition results.

Minnesota wildlife and nature photographer, John Gregor, will judge this event. He will also present a program with recent images from Lake Superior. John's web site is <http://www.coldsnap.com>

There you can find information on current workshops. John can be reached via email at john@coldsnap.com or by telephone at 218-830-0767

We will also have our annual holiday buffet. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

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