



# Nature Photo Times

Founded 1956

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

Vol. 52, No. 5 - Jan 2008

## From the President

2007 is now history and we can look forward to 2008. At our December meeting for the End of Year Judging I was firmly convinced that we have some of the best nature photographers anywhere. Congratulations to all that entered in our monthly competitions and to those that received HM's and Awards for the End of Year. We all now know that the bar has again been raised and it is a challenge for each and everyone of us to work harder for next December, but that is why we are all nature photographer to keep shooting and improving. A big thank you to Stan Tekiela for being our Judge, having judged many times, I know how time consuming that it can be. Everyone enjoyed his presentation on his imagery and his talk about being a full time professional. Thanks to Linda Nygren for working so hard to get Stan as our judge. Thanks also to Rod Blessener and Mariann Cyr for working together to put the end of year judging program together.

We would like to know your opinions on our meeting place at REI. I want to confirm a spot for next year by February. We have had a few glitches, but I do think that REI has met our needs. Sometimes the 9:00PM makes me feel rushed, but with a group our size finding another place centrally located could be a challenge. If you know of a central location that may fit our needs better, let someone on the board know where and a contact person if you know of one.

**NOTE: REMEMBER THE JANUARY MEETING WILL BE "THURSDAY NIGHT", January 17<sup>th</sup>, same time-same place!!!**

John Pennoyer

## Field Notes

### "Floating Blinds"

By John Pennoyer

For years I tried photographing waterfowl from my regular blind that I would set on the bank of a creek and wait for the ducks to come swimming by. It is not that the blind didn't work but I just did not like the angle of my shot. I like the lens and eye of the bird or animal to be at the same level. It was probably about 10-12 years ago that I developed my floating blind and after a few years of trial and error it now works beautifully. I should be clear that I really don't float per se, but I only go into areas where the water is never over my hips. So when I sit in my blind my feet are always touching bottom. This gives me better control on turning my blind for better observation for waterfowl. Also I never pursue the waterfowl with my blind, but I find a location I like and just sit and wait for the ducks to come to me. I may move into a different location and wait some more. But what I have discovered is that on this type of blind any movement and the ducks are gone. This blind is not designed for big water, but I use it on a couple of small creeks or in small bay type areas of larger bodies of water. I realize that many of you do not do this type of photography, but for this month I thought that my article will be on the construction of floating blinds and other tips.

### Basic Construction:

**Fishing type floating tube: (Approx cost: \$100.00 to \$200.00)** this can be purchased at any major sporting goods store such as Cabela's, Gander Mountain etc.

**Camera Platform: (Approx Cost: \$50.00)** one 16"X 32" ½" piece of plywood—cut 7 16" X 32" of 2" Styrofoam sheets, (used for home insulation) actually make the Styrofoam sheets just a touch smaller than the plywood you will need to attach some wooden poles to this. Glue the Styrofoam sheets together and glue to bottom of plywood. I also will duct tape the whole assembly. Purchase a wooden pole (the type that is used to hang clothes in closets) Cut the pole into two 60" sections and attach to the plywood. The camera platform is tied to the tube via the wooden poles. In order to mount my camera system I have an old Gitzo short center column that I attached to the plywood and then I attach my Wimberley head to this. Yours will vary based on your equipment. The number of Styrofoam sheets you use will vary (at my 165 lbs this works). All of this is purchased at Menard's or Home Depot type stores.

**Camouflage: (Approx cost: \$20.00)** Wrap the entire camera platform in camo netting and staple. For years I would then just venture out in my water and cover myself in camo netting. But I found out that this was not very good in wind, plus any movement by me would move the netting and the waterfowl would notice my movements and leave in a heartbeat. Camo netting can be purchased at any major sporting goods store, buying a bulk roll is cheaper than package netting, but I have a harder time finding bulk rolls now.

**My final floating blind: (Approx cost: \$40.00)** about 4 years ago I had Midwest Mountaineering make me two custom tent type aluminum poles that are used for tents. After I get in my blind and get to my location with the poles attached, I attach the camo netting to the poles. This gives me room to move inside without the birds noticing any movement. This has worked excellent for me.

**Float Blind Tips:**

**Photographer: ( Approx cost: \$100.00 to \$150.00)** I use neoprene chest waders and insulated underwear and appropriate outer

clothes with hat and gloves. (You may not think it is cold, but in the spring it may be 70 F but the water is just a little above freezing) I am usually good for about 4 hours with this set-up, either I get too cold or Mother Nature calls!

**Camera:** I always have my camera set-up the way I want, with fresh batteries and an empty flash card. I **NEVER** want to change lenses, converters; battery's or cards while in the tube. It would be just my luck to drop my 1.7X in the water.

**Move slowly:** With my final set-up it really works well, but when a bird comes into your area whether flying in or swimming in, any sudden movement by you or your camera system they will notice and will leave quickly. So always make slow deliberate movements.

**Bubble Level:** I always have a tendency to use a bubble level on my camera at all times, but especially when shooting water. If you are not careful your birds will be swimming up or down hill. However even with this, as you move the blind it will tip, so you will spend time in Photoshop leveling the image.

**The unexpected:** Muskrats will be bumping into your legs frequently, and on two occasions I have had them come up into my float tube. Scared the bejeebers out of me and them!!!

**Permission:** So where can you use this floating tube? Actually any public place that allows folks to boat, canoe, fish, hunt etc. My only word of caution - if in a place such as State Park, wildlife Management area, etc. be careful of nesting waterfowl, many agencies will consider that harassment and may even have certain areas closed. If in doubt, always check with the authorities for the area that you want to float in.

**Some of my floating blind conquests:**

**Waterfowl:** Ring-necked ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Pie-billed Grebe, Wood Ducks, (the reason I initially built my floating blind) Greater Scaup, American Coots, Blue-winged Teal, Common Loons and of course our ever present Mallards and geese.

**Wading birds:** Green Heron, Night Heron, Blue Heron, Common Egret

**Other Species:** Muskrats, Mink and Belted Kingfisher

**Funny story or two:** One of the areas that I go to is close to where I live in Maple Grove. I park in a parking lot next to a children's play ground, and carry my stuff about 100 yards to the creek which is hidden by cattails. This year, in March, I had the police called (for the second time in 10 years) to check up on this suspicious looking character.

The first year that I made my blind I used to run around Rice Lake here in Maple Grove, I noticed some herons and Egrets were using a tree branch that had fallen out in the lake, but was hung up about 5 feet above the water. I thought this could be a great back-lit shot during sunrise. So the next morning I got up bright and early and hauled my stuff down to the lake. I finally got set-up in total darkness and was about 10 feet out from shore. After about ½ hour the first egret came in and it was at about that time I noticed water coming in through the top of my waders and my butt was on the bottom. I had just put air in my float tube and in a hurry to get to the lake I did not fully tighten the air inlet and my tube was going flat. No shots that morning and this very wet photographer went home; but I got the shots the next morning.

There probably are many places to get images of waterfowl without going to all the trouble of a floating blind. But for me there is nothing better on a spring day to sit in my blind and observe nature. Even the common Mallards shooting at water level make these images unique.



Good Shooting

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## “Turkey Time” By Ron Winch

Slowly I lift the tripod and rotate about 45 degrees to the right - moving only when their heads are down while feeding. Carefully I bring my eye to the viewfinder and zoom out to 400mm; on the Nikon with a 1.5 crop factor that 400 becomes a 600mm. Add a 1.4 teleconverter and you have an 840mm f5.6 lens. Great for wildlife! Though still not as large an image as I would like. The 11 wild turkeys continue to scratch and feed on seeds and the few remaining insects in the late October afternoon.

When we first discovered the turkeys in early summer there were three blue-headed hens and 24 youngsters. Of course, with so many chicks the adults were extremely wary, so we were content to observe them through binoculars. As with our own kids there are always several adventurous individuals, but a few “cluck-clucks” from the hens brought the group together again.

Eventually they would follow the perimeter evergreens to the north to inspect and feed under our birdfeeders. The count now revealed only 19 young and three hens. This was to be expected as we had coyotes and raccoons in the area, and a nesting pair of Red Shouldered Hawks with three ravenous chicks to feed. They seemed to sense some degree of safety around human habitation as we would see them most afternoons at the fringe of the pine grove just north of the house. Come evening the frantic beating of young wings would laboriously propel young and adults high into the Scotch Pines only 50 feet from the deck. And then quite – except for the frogs and mosquitoes.

Toni always kept a camera handy and got many good documentary photos of their behavior. One afternoon she spotted a white-tailed fawn sleeping in the tall grass behind the house. Naturally she went for the Nikon and upon returning a few minutes later was excited

to see five young turkeys curiously approaching the fawn. At about five feet they stopped and seemed to be befuddled by this tawny spotted creature with the huge soft brown eyes. The chicks just stood there looking at the fawn and then each other until somewhere near the wooden fence and the pine grove an adult called several times. Cautiously they turned and headed toward the pines leaving the fawn probably wondering about its new visitors. Toni, in the meantime, was viewing the encounter through the viewfinder, a double pane glass window, and a screen. The images, of course, were soft, but good enough to document this new wildlife encounter.

And so the summer went and this fall only eight youngsters still remained. All were quite cautious and never closer than 50 yards. The deer – 6 with no antlers and two bucks, came in as close as frame filling. It was a good year learning about our wild neighbors, and now that snow covers the landscape there is an obvious deer highway “across” the pasture.

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For Sale:

Nikon D100 digital camera

MBD100 vertical grip/battery pack

4 Li-ion batteries and charger

RRS mounting plate (mounts on battery grip)

I still have original box for camera and vertical grip.

Entire package for \$500.00 (will also consider best offer)

All components in excellent condition!!

Contact: John Pennoyer

E-mail: [johnpennoyer@comcast.net](mailto:johnpennoyer@comcast.net)

Cell: 763-913-8651

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**2007 Image of the Year**

All the results of the year end competition can be found on the club website. Below are the winners in each category and the image of the year.

**General First Place**



“Boundary Waters Sunset” John Pennoyer

**Botany First Place**



“Dew on Ox-eye Daisy” Mariann Cyr

**Zoology First Place**



“Gull and Clouds” Alan Schulz

**Wildlife Image of the Year**



“Iceberg with Penguin” Mariann Cyr

**2007 Image of the Year**



“Superior Ice” Jim Aronson

## 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

### January 17, 2008 Meeting

Note the meeting this month is on Thursday

### **January Program:**

Northstar International  
Award Winning Images  
- Mike Prokosch

## FIRST CLASS MAIL



### **Winter Photo Shoot Saturday February 9, 2008**

John Pennoyer will be on the Mississippi River in Monticello photographing some of his favorite subjects "Trumpeter Swans". We will possibly do a side trip to Maria State Park searching for winter wonderland images. More information and a sign-up sheet will available at the next meeting on **Thursday night January 17th, 2008**. Feel free to call or e-mail John for more information. As far as time John intends to be at Monticello all day. Even though our field trips are not intended to be "instructional" type outings. John is willing to help anyone in any way, just ask him!



**Monticello Swans**

**by John Pennoyer**



## From the President

Surprisingly we had a great turn out for our January meeting, I thought that maybe having to switch to a Thursday night instead of Wednesday that it might affect some folks. Speaking of our Wednesday night meetings, we have been cleared to use the REI facilities for our club meetings through May 2009. I think that in most cases the facilities has met most of our needs. However, the board will be discussing if we need to possibly change formats to be sure that we make it out by 9:00PM.

Congratulations to Jim Duncan for being nominated and appointed an Honorary Member of the Minnesota Nature Photography Club. Our club has always appreciated all of the hard work Jim has done not just for our club, but for the TCACCC and PSA.

Thanks to Mike Prokosch for again being our chairman for the Northstar International of Nature Photography. I really enjoyed how he and others put together the slide show of the winners of this year's competition. Our club members were well rewarded with many awards and HM's.

For our club meeting in February two of our members will be sharing program duties. Ron Cleveland will be putting on a slide show on his trip to "**New Found Land**". I am sure Ron will explain why I typed it that way! Dean Rehphol will be giving us some information on "How to make our own photo Book".

One final request: I will have the 08 directories at the club meeting, please help save the club some money and pick up your directory. I will be mailing out the ones that have not been picked up. Also if you are a new member and do not have a directory there are some without names for that purpose.

John Pennoyer

## Field Notes "1000's of Slides" By John Pennoyer

My stock agent e-mailed me the other day looking for some images of wild blueberries for a projected book project for one of his clients. I knew that I had some blueberries that I took several years ago, so I looked in my catalog of slides marked "Botany." After

finding the slides, I dug out my Nikon scanner and converted them to digital. It was certainly worth the effort as I just received word from my agent that the client purchased two images. Elm Creek Park Reserve has used many of my images for some of their projects. The naturalist at Eastman Nature Center e-mailed me for some very specific whitetail behavior type images to put together a story on whitetails to tell to young children. So again I looked through some slides and I was able to meet all of her needs. I put about 15 images on a CD for use at the nature center.

I really have not looked at some of my slides seriously for a couple of years so both of these requests made me search through my files. As I was searching for some specific images I realized that I still had some great stuff on slides. I have behavior images of whitetails that I probably will not ever be able to duplicate again. Even though I have scanned some slides and converted to digital I have 1000's that are still in transparency. It has made me make up my mind that I must convert my better images to digital. It is a project that I detest doing because it will be very time consuming, but why let all of these years of shooting 35mm transparencies go to waste. All three of my stock agents are 100% digital and will not even except slides and most publishers are also in digital even though a few will still accept slides. So I will begin the process of converting slides to the digital medium. Having scanned probably 500-600 slides already, I have learned a few things and thought that I would try and save some of you a little time.

This of course brings up a dilemma. Should I use my scanner or have them professionally done. I bought a Nikon scanner about 5 years ago. It is a 2700 DPI scanner and most new scanners are 4000 DPI. The new scanners at 4000 DPI are superior to my old scanner. But I have decided to undertake the task of scanning my good 35mm slides. I will not purchase a new scanner but if I need better resolution I will take select slides and have them professionally scanned. If you are thinking of purchasing a scanner, be sure it is a 35mm slide scanner @ 4000DPI (or higher). Slide Scanners have certainly dropped in price as you can purchase a good 35mm slide/negative scanner for about \$600.00 to \$800.00. Yes, you can purchase used ones on auction houses like e-bay, but scanners do have a life and will wear out. Unless you know how many slides the scanner has converted, I do not recommend purchasing a used one.

Step #1 is to edit all of your slides on a light box. I have probably 20,000 35mm slides so no way will they

all be scanned. My guess will be that I will edit it down to 2000-4000 slides and just keep the rest archived for future possibilities. After scanning the slides you will always need to do some cropping just to get rid of the black border. After cropping your image be sure to zoom image to larger size and use scroll bars and look for scratches, dark spots etc. It is always amazing that the slide may have had minor scratches that you cannot see with the naked eye, but once scanned to digital it will show up like a sore thumb. It will also be necessary to do some work on the images in Photoshop because during the scanning process it loses some contrast, color, and sharpening etc. But I really believe that having taken a slide and turning it to digital you can make the new digital image superior to what it was as a transparency. Once converted to digital I rename my image according to my file system that I use with the exception of an "S" that reminds me it is converted slide.



John Pennoyer

Ex: Original digital image: MWT-7002 (Mammal-Whitetail-2007-number sequence)



John Pennoyer

Ex: Converted Digital image: MWT-S002 (Botany-Blueberry-Slide-number sequence)

If you are now shooting digital don't wait 4 years like I did, go through your transparencies and select the good ones and convert to digital. However just like anything else in our digital world be sure to back-up your newly scanned digital images. Even though you still have the original transparency, backing up will save you a lot of work.

Good Shooting



**January 2008 - MNPC Salon Scores - Judge:  
John Pennoyer**

**Score of 8:**

Photographer	Title
Samuelson, Tom	Tired Old man
Ashley, Charles	Ten Point Buck (W)
Carroll, Tom	Gentle Breeze
Cyr, Mariann	Icicle
Dolan, Claire	Song Sparrow (W)
Galambos, Ted	Lily Interior
Goossens-Bryan, Betty	Young Pronghorn (W)
Graves, Rick	Prairie Smoke
La Mere, John	Chickadee (W)
Polley, Lil	Alberta Falls
Wilson, Gail	Thistle
Blesener, Rod	Stormy Cove
Cleveland, Ron	Gannets Greeting (W)
Cyr, Mariann	Winter Stream
Dykstra, John	Red Squirrel (W)
Galambos, Ted	Summer Storm
Goossens-Bryan, Betty	Resing Coyote (W)
Hysell, Christine	Mammoth
Rehpohl, Dean	Two-in-Line
Zosel, Dave	Killdeer habitat (W)

**Score of 9:**

Bergman, Lyle	Wilbebeest Run
Dykstra, John	Swan Family (W)
Graves, Rick	Beaver Creek
Mattison, Drew	Fallen Leaf
Nadreau, Don	Zebras
Vichich, Dave	Moon Light
Wilson, Tom	Incoming Hen (W)

**Score of 10:**

Ellenbecker, Dave	Wild Geraniums and Ferns
Cassuto, Nadav	Swan M#1 (W)
Mattison, Drew	Bird's Eye
Morgan, Jeff	Shoveler (W)
Ramos, Carolle	Pasque Flower
Wilson, Tom	Preening Drake (W)
Zosel, Dave	Bluejay (W)
Bergman, Lyle	Savanna Storm 2
Ebbbers, Matt	Ice Jam and Sun
La Mere, John	Sunrise Bucks (W)

**ST. CROIX WATERSHED RESEARCH  
STATION ANNOUNCES  
ARTIST/WRITER RESIDENCIES FOR  
SUMMER 2008**

Artist at Pine Needles, a residence program sponsored by the St. Croix Watershed Research Station, seeks applications from artists and writers for summer 2008. The Artist at Pine Needles project invites natural history artists or writers to spend 2 to 4 weeks in residence to immerse themselves in a field experience, gather resource materials, and interact with environmental scientists and the local community.

The St. Croix Watershed Research Station, the field research station of the Science Museum of Minnesota, is located near Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota. The setting for the Artist at Pine Needles project is the James Taylor Dunn Pine Needles Cabin, located just north of the village along the St. Croix River. In 2007, the artists selected were Mark Odegard, Vera Ming Wong, and Kim Gordon, all of the Twin Cities area.

Applications for 2008 will be accepted from writers and visual artists who focus on environmental or natural history topics. Participants will have an opportunity to interact with environmental scientists and to create links between their art, the natural world and the sciences. As part of the program, artists will be encouraged to design an outreach project to share their work with the local community. In addition, the residency requires that participants contribute an original work for the benefit of the research station.

Housing and rustic studio space is provided for the artist's choice of a 2, 3, or 4-week residency; up to three residencies will be awarded for the summer of 2008. Application packets are available from the research station or at:

<http://www.smm.org/scwrs/programs/artist/> The application deadline is March 1, 2008. For more information, contact Sharon Mallman at the St. Croix Watershed Research Station, 651-433-5953, extension 13.

## THE VIEW from HERE By Lawrence C. Duke Photography Spoken Here

Is it really the latest or greatest gimmick in our pursuit of better photography that matters? Or, as a long time friend of mine would say, "I must take time to think, for doing gets in the way. " There is always going to be the hype about the next latest and greatest. It's the way we do business. But, just because I use an Aciel 35mm with an f6.8/560mm doesn't mean I'm going to get the greatest flight shots you will ever see at a MNPC salon on a Wednesday night. I haven't had anything near a ten in a long time. And that's someone else's opinion, not mine.

Maybe I can make this a little clearer, with a story about my racing career. Thankfully that didn't last, I got smarter and older.

In 1954 I started riding a motorcycle and it wasn't long before I was going to races and seeing the excitement of the crowd, the sound of power, and the speed of the bikes and riders, I was hooked.

What's the point? My best friend, Jerry, had the same machine and I couldn't beat him. At some point I asked if he would let me ride his bike. I just wanted to see if it was really a better bike. So we switched, and I could not stay with him. It was obvious that Jerry was the better rider, what else could it have been, both bikes were identical? Jerry had trophies and I had trophies, just not in the same races.

Was it all about equipment ? Sure it's great to be able to work with good equipment, but isn't it just as important to capture a pleasing image ? I shoot for me first, and then for anyone that will look. If it's a client, that's first, then me, next.

This is from NGS, 1906, a self-portrait of George Shiras III and his equipment.



It shouldn't matter what name is on the front of the camera, what matters, is the person behind the camera.

When I was doing classes in photography, I would tell folks that asked "what equipment should I buy

to get really great, frame filling, shots of wildlife ?" and I would say, "buy a good pair of moccasins."

## “Winter Geese at Silver Lake” By Ron Winch

The lake erupted as forty thousand frantically beating wings propelled over a quarter million pounds of geese into the azure December sky. Air rushing thru the primaries and the slap of wing against wing hint of a distant thunderstorm. Each bird seems to be vocalizing its own fear of the moment as they lifted to tree-top height and caught the wind.

Splat! Splat! Splat! It sounded like falling rain but one direct hit proved that it was NOT rain. It was goose \*\*\*\*. Fortunately I'm washable.

The 400mm lens has been following the birds since lift-off and is now pointing up at 75 degrees trying to isolate a few good compositions as the birds milled around.

One, and then another, and then small groups began to settle back onto Silver Lake. Wings set; they would glide by at frame-filling distance. High above, more wary birds would side slip to lose altitude quickly. An occasional goose would tumble down like a falling leaf – sometimes even upside down, but always keeping its head in a normal attitude. I once showed these slides to Dr. Walter Breckenridge and asked if he could explain. His answer, "They're just like people, a few show-offs in every crowd."

For the adventurous, a cold frosty sunrise offers up great photos of geese silhouetted against the golden water and further enhanced by an ethereal cloak of fog. Best opportunities here are south of the bridge when the power plant is returning warm water to the river.

Most of the activity is on the west side of Silver Lake where the geese are more habituated, and can often be hand fed. The east side offers some good bird photography – and a chance to work with gray squirrels. Great flight shots against the sky are best from the higher ground at the south end of the lake. With a south wind at your back, the birds will be coming right over you. Mid-afternoon is the best time for birds and sun.

Most geese will leave the lake before sunrise to feed in cornfields miles away. Returning about 10 am; they come in high and drop quickly to the lake where they rest and socialize until mid afternoon when they again go out to feed.

Less than two hours from the cities, the geese at Silver Lake in Rochester offer a great cure for the winter doldrums. Do dress for the occasion. It is often colder and windier than when you left home. Rubber boots or pac boots are a must since the west side of the lake is much like a barnyard.

Go! Do it! Enjoy! Just head down highway 52 and exit east on 14<sup>th</sup> street. Thousands of geese and the south end of Silver Lake is only a mile away. Good shooting!

## Owl Photography Opportunities

The International Festival of Owls, to be held February 29 – March 2, 2008 in Houston, MN.

There will be two **owl photography sessions** the morning of March 2. In each session 12 photographers will spend an hour photographing six different species of captive owls.

The owls will be on natural looking perches outside, with one handler per bird. There will be two photographers with each owl, and photographers will rotate to the next owl every 10 minutes. Light snacks will be provided, and the cost to participate is \$100 per photographer.

New for 2008 there will also be an **owl photography techniques class** on Sunday afternoon led by Christian Artuso of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Christian is a photographer currently working on a PhD studying Eastern Screech-Owls, so he has an excellent understanding of his subjects. There will be two classroom sessions covering getting familiar with your subject, ambient light versus flashlights, using flashes, setting up action shots, and other tips. There will be an outdoor session photographing captive native owls and an evening session photographing wild owls. The captive owls will be photographed on site, but photographers will drive their own vehicle or carpool to the evening site. There will also be ample time for networking with other photographers during this class. Every effort will be made to locate wild owls in the area to photograph, but understand that these are wild animals, and there can be no 100% guarantees. Cost is \$150 per photographer.

For more information, visit the International Festival of Owls website at [www.festivalofowls.com](http://www.festivalofowls.com) and look under “activities.” Both online and printable registration forms are available on the festival website, but please check program availability by calling 507-896-HOOT (4668) or e-mailing [nature@acegroup.cc](mailto:nature@acegroup.cc).

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750 West American Blvd  
Bloomington, MN 55420

**February Meeting  
Wednesday February 20, 2008**

Ron Cleveland will be putting on a slide show on his trip  
to "**New Found Land**". I am sure Ron will explain why I  
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information on "How to make our own photo Book".

FIRST CLASS MAIL







# Nature Photo Times

Founded 1956

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## From the President

Thanks to Ron Cleveland and Dean Repohl for putting on our February programs. We now know how easy it is to make your own photography book to show friends and relatives or just to have an easy way to keep memories of a great photo excursion. I know that I will be putting together my first book. New Foundland is also one of those places that both my wife and I have talked about visiting, it will be one of those places that may move higher on the list. Also thanks to Jane Myers for bringing all of the snacks at our meeting. Lots of great refreshments including some home made goodies!

Once again during our meeting the sound system failed us, so the board will be looking at possibly purchasing a new portable microphone system. If anyone has any ideas or works in this area, let me know; I would like to improve in this area at least by our September meeting.

Our program for March will be on Botanical Photography by Mariann Cyr. The program will not only be on doing close-ups of Minnesota's botanical subjects, but also on showing the plants in their native habitat. Not only is Mariann a great wildlife photographer, but she, like a lot of us, got her start on Minnesota's native plants and still, every spring and summer she is out searching for those botanical subjects. It will be a great program and have your questions ready!

March is one of those months that it is hard to find subjects to photograph; the Trumpeters, eagles etc. are in the process of going back to

their spring nesting areas. But by the end of March some of the migrating waterfowl that nest in Minnesota will begin arriving. So any open water can hold some unusual species of ducks that at other times of the year can be difficult to photograph. Crex Meadows in Western WI is one of my favorite places to search for migrating waterfowl. Also for you botanical photographers, one of the first plants to push their way through the snow is "Skunk Cabbage". This can be a very photogenic species; one of the best places is in Banning State Park, just remember to bring some water proof type foot wear!

Our club newsletter "Nature Photo Times" will be totally electronic starting with this issue. When Ron Cleveland our web master sends out his e-notes telling us that the newsletter is now on-line through our web site ([www.minnesotanature.org](http://www.minnesotanature.org)) you will be able to read it at that time. If you have an incorrect or different e-mail address it is important for you to e-mail Jim Duncan ([jduncan001@comcast.net](mailto:jduncan001@comcast.net)) your correct address. This is going to save the club lots of postage. If you are not connected to the internet you will still receive a hard copy of the Nature Photo Times.

Good Shooting  
John Pennoyer

Note: Carrol Henderson supervisor of the Non-Game division of the DNR is looking for photos of Dragonfly's and Damselfly's for possible use for the non-game poster. If you have any you can e-mail some low res jpegs to [carrol.henderson@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:carrol.henderson@dnr.state.mn.us). He will than

be in touch with you if any of your images are being considered.

## **“Spring is on the Way”**

**By Ron Winch**

Eagles! Eagles everywhere! As many as forty are in view at any one time. In the trees, over the bluffs, cruising the river valley and feeding at the ice edge.

After being icebound for months, the Mississippi is finally yielding to the warmth of spring. It's no longer a serpentine ribbon of ice. Wind and sun have worked their magic. Shorelines, in places, are ice free. The great ice sheet, rocked by wind and waves, calve myriads of ice flows into the river.

“Ice out.” The cry is heard up and down the valley. Spring is on the way. People and wildlife welcome the change. Fox and coyotes cautiously patrol the ice edge, hoping to feed on winterkill fish. Crows clean up the scraps after eagles dine on dead carp. Sunny days bring warm rising thermals and eagles float on this unseen column of air. Eagles can be seen sunning themselves in the naked cottonwoods along the river, riding the drifting ice floes and pigging-out on easy meals of fish. It feels so good. I could just lean back against a big old cottonwood and daydream – maybe even fall asleep.

But that was yesterday. Today a March storm puts a quiet hush over the valley. Snowflakes as large as feathers tumble down from low dark clouds. I can barely see the birds feeding in ice floes seventy-five yards away. In a huge old cottonwood overlooking the river five ghostly eagles, blanketed with snow, are difficult to discern as they blend into the muted snowy landscape. Snow cascades off their backs as they shift positions, revealing the dark silhouette of an eagle – the only dark blob in the landscape.

Few eagles are flying today, but I still look up frequently hoping to catch a glimpse of those seven foot wings. Down on the ice a dog – no, a coyote looking for an easy meal puts up a

feeding crow and takes advantage of a fee meal, a large carp. Snowflakes pelt my eyes as I look up again; two dark spots coverage. They circle, testing each other for some apparent weakness. Once found, aerial combat erupts. One eagle, tail down and with powerful braking wing beats, pulls up into a stall. The other quickly rolls onto its back. With talons extended the two birds lock onto each other. Wings flashing, each tries to best the other as they tumble earthward. First one, then the other beats its way to the dominant position. Like falling leaves they tumble down through the outer branches of an old cottonwood, parting only a few feet above the ground. With snowflakes in my eyes and snowmelt running down my face I watch as each goes its separate way. Wow!

Was the conflict a mating ritual or just a spring fling? Even the experts agree that it could be any one of these. No one gets into the mind of an eagle!

As you read this eagles are staging all along the great river. Open water unlocks their food supply as they wing their way north. Some will nest in the seven county metro area, but mostly they will disperse to the north.

Photo opportunities exist wherever the eagles are. Kind of like fishing: “you should have been here yesterday.” The DNR aerial count along the Mississippi yields about 700 eagles between the Twin Cities and the Iowa boarder. Some of the best viewing has always been just south of Red Wing, Reed’s Landing, and around Wabasha. Stop in at the National Eagle Center on Main Street in Wabasha for the latest information.

Good luck and good shooting.

**Field Notes**  
**“It’s not always about getting the  
image”**

**By John Pennoyer**

When we had that real cold snap in January, my wife and I decided to spend a few days on the North Shore around the Castle Danger area. It was full moon time and as usual I am always interested in capturing the full moon especially in a winter landscape. I was also hoping to capture some “ice-scapes”.

When I travel with my wife, it does not include camping or staying in the cheap joints that I select! She likes to stay in much nicer places so in this area she selects Grand Superior Lodge where the food is great and after a cold afternoon of shooting I can go in the lounge and sip on a hot toddy. Right across the street is the Rustic Cafe with some great home cooked meals. So you see the life of a photographer does not always have to be roughing it! We always try to choose locations that will allow me to get up early and photograph for a sunrise and the same for the afternoon is to be able to photograph about 1 ½ hours before sunset and stay for about ½ hour after sunset. The rest of the day we will do things together and for this winter outing it was snow shoeing and of course always spending a day driving the back roads looking for Minnesota Moose and wolves.

One of the trails that we really like is on the Baptism River. We have hiked or snow shoed one of the trails to the falls many times, but this time we decided to choose a trail that was not as well traveled. After strapping on the snow shoes we departed down the trail and we could see that many people had been on this trail since the last snow fall which was about a week ago. But as usual they turned down the trail to the falls and we took the other trail. Immediately the people tracks were almost non-existent. After going just a short distance a fresh rabbit track bounded across the trail and by the size of the

track my guess was that it was a snow shoe rabbit. Oh how I wished I could have gotten a photo of that rabbit as there are no snow shoe rabbits in my stock file. Deer tracks were every where but what was interesting was to really observe the tracks. You could see where the deer were feeding on the browse along the trail. Browse is their main source of protein in deep snow as they will eat the buds off of many shrubs/trees/bushes that are easy to get to. Most of the browse is only the very tips of the plant and I always like to say that once the size of the branch gets about the size of a pencil it really has no food value for the deer. After going just a little farther I noticed some polypore fungi growing on the side of a birch tree. Whitetails love this type of food source and of course some whitetail had totally stripped this polypore right to the bark except for a little higher up which the deer could not reach. Of course as I am spotting all of these signs of nature I am trying to educate my wife on all of my great discoveries. Further down the trail I spotted a wolf track. The snow was freshly kicked up so my mind was visioning that he was just around the corner and we spooked him. The tracks stayed with us for about 100 yards and there it was, he had scent marked a sapling tree. Which really only means that it was a male wolf and he peed! It was important that I showed this great nature story to my wife, but she was not very excited about observing pee! Of course we also had observed mouse tracks and a couple of other tracks that I was not able to identify. Our little snow shoe hiked lasted for about two hours. Not sure how far we went but probably about 2 ½ miles round trip. I did carry my photo pack with me so not one photo was taken. It was still a very pleasant afternoon with sunny skies and the temp around 0 F. We did not see one animal but we know they were there because their signs told us so. So my advice, when in the outdoors, keep a look out for subjects to photograph, but also note their signs which will tell you what was there before you.

I did get some great images of the full moon over split rock but my ice-scapes were only so because the fog over the lake would always

hide the sunrise! But that's OK, it just means I get to go back again.



"Lake Superior Sunrise"

By John Pennoyer



"Split Rock in Moonlight"

By John Pennoyer

Good Shooting

### **From the Editor:**

At the last meeting, John Pennoyer may have mentioned the change in the way we distribute our newsletter. I have decided to give this a try this month to see how it works and to get your reactions. Let me know at the next meeting or via email what you think.

There are several benefits to this new distribution method. One, you will get the newsletter with colored photos via your computer screen. Many of the photos are much better in color than we can possibly reproduce them in a paper newsletter. Second, we can reduce the cost considerably by eliminating the printing and mailing of close to 80 letters a month. Third, you don't need to recycle the paper copies or file them (they are achieved online at our website.) Finally, Ron Cleveland adds many links and notices to the note he sends out telling you the newsletter is ready online.

I will continue to send hardcopy to the folks who don't have emails. I would, however, encourage everyone to get us a correct email address so we can add you to the list.

If this has caused undue hardship to anyone, I apologize.

Don Nadreau



MNPC Salon: February  
2008

Judges: Larry Duke & Bill Handsacker

<b>Photographer</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Score</b>
Jenkins, John D.	Eye Contact	8
Jenkins, John D.	Reflection of Red	8
Ellenbecker, Dave	Mushrooms on Tree	8
Cleveland, Ron	Custer Bighorn (W)	8
Dolan Claire	Pairs (W)	8
Dykstra, John	Downy (W)	8
Ebbers, Matt	Fawns (W)	8
Galambos, Ted	Foam Whirl	8
Graves, Rick	Gimmie (W)	8
Hysell, Christine	Animal Tracks	8
McDonough, Jean	Water Buck and Baby	8
Morgan, Jeff	W Falls	8
Rehpohl, Dean	Four-in-Formation	8
Zosel, David	Red Squirrel (W)	8
Cleveland, Ron	Custer Red Wall	8
Cyr, Mariann	Rockhopper Chick in Mud	8
Galambos, Ted	Beach Pebbles	8
Graves, Rick	Yellow	8
Holt, Kristin	Buffalo Moonset (W)	8
Hoyt, David	Lone Wolf (W)	8
Hysell, Christine	Forcefull	8
Lahr, Ron	Floating	8
Morgan, Jeff	Ruddy Duck (W)	8
Rehpohl, Dean	Lopsided	8
Schulz, Alan	Cormmorant Rookery (W)	8
Wilson, Tom	Sunflower Bee	8
Zosel, David	Cottontail (W)	8
Cyr, Mariann	Raven (W)	9
Holt, Kristin	Winter Thermal (W)	9
Lahr, Ron	Chipmunk	9
Ramos, Carolle	Spiderwort	9
Schulz, Alan	Rockhopper (W)	9
Wilson, Tom	Sunset Geese (W)	9
Blesener, Rod	Swan Trio (W)	9
Ebbers, Matt	Old Faithful Rainbow	9
Olson, Mary	The Waiting Game	9
Ramos, Carolle	Eumorpha pandorus	9
Carroll, Tom	San Juan	10
Hoyt, David	Swanny River (W)	10
Vichich, Dave	Take Off (W)	10
Dykstra, John	CA Coast	10
McDonough, Jean	Silhouetted Cougar at Sunrise	10
Vichich, Dave	Cygnet (W)	10

# 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

**March Meeting**  
**Wednesday March 19, 2008**

Our program for March will be on Botanical  
Photography by Mariann Cyr.

FIRST CLASS MAIL





## From the President

I am sitting here in my office the day after our club meeting; the temperature is in the mid 40s with a blue sky sunny day. Most of the snow is gone with only a few piles scattered here and there. Tonight and tomorrow there is a winter storm watch in central and southern Minnesota, doesn't that sound just the way March is supposed to be. All of us get anxious for some spring photography? Than BAM" we get one final attempt at some winter photography! Which if we do get enough snow fall, tomorrow AM I will be in and around Big Woods St. Park. and the Rice County area, some great landscapes and water falls in that area.

Again many folks made our March club meeting a great success. Mariann Cyr put on a great program on Botanical Photography, not only on doing close-ups but also putting the botanical subject into the landscape. I absolutely loved the "wildflowers" growing in her driveway! Joking aside those were great examples of showing digital cropping, focal length of lenses, etc. Al Schulz did a great job as our sole judge for the monthly competition; I want to thank him for agreeing to the single format and his excellent comments on the judging. I personally think comments are more important than the score, we all can learn from comments. At our April Board meeting that will be one of the subjects that will be brought up is "judging". It has been a difficult year getting judges, so shall we use just one judge instead of two, more outside judge's etc. feel free to give me your opinions on judging. It is an important area during our monthly meetings and we want it to be first class. Once again our refreshments were way over the edge! Thanks to Claire Dolan for doing a great job and the time and effort to put it all together. Just as a reminder I thought that I had mentioned this before, but the club will reimburse for refreshments. Save the receipts and give to Jim Duncan, our treasurer, or if he is not there give them to me and I will see that you get reimbursed.

By the time you read this it will be around the middle of April, so no one should have any problems finding subjects to photograph. For me I will be looking for early spring flowers such as Pasque flowers (River Terrace SNA) hepaticas (almost any hardwood forest). Waterfowl will be migrating so almost any open water will hold waterfowl, I have my select areas that I will shoot from my floating blind or just cruise around Crex Meadows and shooting from the car. Of course one of my

favorite subjects in April is the Eastern Wild Turkey like this month's "Field Notes" article.

The April meetings program will be on "Wild Horses of the West" presented by Dominique Braud. Many of you know Dominique from previous judging etc. that he has done for our club. He is an accomplished nature photographer and is a High school teacher and will feel very comfortable with your questions. Judges for April will be Mike Prokosch and Jane Myers.

### Field Trips:

April: Saturday April 12, (sunrise) "White Pelicans" Those that signed up will be receiving an e-mail from Matt Ebbers totally depends when the birds arrive.

May: "Spring Wildflowers" Led by Mariann Cyr dates to be determined, but will be in early May!

John Pennoyer

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## "Winter Survival"

By Ron Winch

It's a beautiful January morning. The sun, up only an hour or so, beams down through azure blue sky, sending long dancing shadows across the landscape.

Through the night a light snow, hurried in by force 5 (25-35 mph) winds of an Alberta Clipper, dusted the sheltered areas with a half inch of snow. Wind chill dropped to minus 45 degrees. A pretty tough night for critters – especially birds.

White-footed mice living in old stumps, dens and even low bird nests venture out on top of six inches of old snow in search of food – leaving their tracks written in the fresh snow. Voles, heavier bodied and with more fur are hardly affected for they live in the subnivian zone where the temperature is likely within a degree or two of freezing. Gray squirrels are snuggled into their dens or curled up in deep sleep in their warm windproof basketball sized leaf nest in the old cottonwood, and being rocked by the wind. Red squirrels, lacking brown fat to burn for extra heat, are huddled together in a log or even in an underground den. They however, will need to venture out soon to feed for they are less furred than their cousins and have virtually no fat reserves. The 'possum is denned up under the garden shed, protecting its hairless ears and tail. A 70 foot hollow cottonwood hosts a raccoon or two. Only the cotton tail seems oblivious to

the sudden arctic blast as his tracks appear everywhere, especially under the bird feeders.

What about these cold temperatures and wind chill? We hear the TV weather people warning us about frostbite when the thermometer drops to zero; and they get really excited when zero is accompanied by a thirty mile wind. Perhaps they are right – Considering today's general population. However; I grew up long before the advent of the TV weatherperson, and it was no big deal to spend hours outdoors – even at 25 degrees below zero. Even now it is not uncommon to spend four or five hours out in the coldest of weather – whether it be photography or taking a five mile stroll through the woods. Even the birds are quiet this morning. Not one has visited the feeders yet. Hopefully they – especially the chickadees – spent the night in a dense spruce or pine, or even better in an old woodpecker nest cavity. These tiny bundles of energy weighting only 10-12 grams (less than half an ounce) have sacrificed fat storage for mobility, and would probably perish if unable to restoke their heating plant throughout the day, thus maintaining a normal daytime temperature of 108 degrees F. Over 50% of the fat they store through the day is burned though the cold night. They simply do not have enough caloric reserves in fat to make it through a cold night if they try to regulate the same body temperature at night as through the day. To counter this, they lower body temperature by 18-20 degrees below normal daytime temps, resulting in an energy savings of 20%. Combine this with their plumage, which is denser than that of similar size birds, and we find that heat loss is mainly from the area around the eyes and bill. When turning in for the night they fluff up and tuck their head under their wing – thus reducing heat loss. All this may not be enough to survive an extremely cold night. By controlled shivering outbreaks, body temp gradually drops until a particular depth of hypothermia is reached. Shivering is then resumed with regular bursts, maintaining a closely regulated hypothermia. In Chickadees this response is not dictated by fat reserves, but is induced by decreasing temperatures and is used as a primary means of energy conservation.

Finally, in the warmth of the noonday sun our resident flock of six chickadees show up at the feeders looking as chipper as ever and feast on black sunflower seeds.

As humans, we are not all that concerned about severe winter conditions. We don't always seek shelter from the cold, but rather venture out into it, buffered by layers of fleece or goose down. And when we get cold we retreat to our warm snug burrow. Wildlife, on the other hand, has a bit more to contend with. Consider a chilly January night. The weather report indicates 0 degrees F in the suburbs. That temp is at 4 to 6 feet above the ground. At the snow surface it is likely 7-10 degrees colder. At ground level, under 10-12 inches of snow the thermometer reads only 2 degrees from the freezing mark. It's little wonder rabbits have such heavy fur, and voles live in tunnels and grass nests beneath the snow. All this matters little to most birds – except for the ruffed grouse

who dive into the snow and tunnel down 10-12 inches, taking advantage of the snows insulation.

Of even greater concern is the wind, for it robs heat quickly. A 20 mph wind at one foot above the ground can easily double to 40 mph at 30-35 feet. At 0 degrees F the wind chill at ground level is minus 22, at 35 feet, minus 44. Pretty tough on our small feathered friends.

Hope this gives you a greater appreciation for all those living outside your snug burrow.

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## Field Notes

### “It's Turkey time”

By John Pennoyer

There have been many wildlife success stories in Minnesota, trumpeter swans and bald eagles just to name a couple of them. But I think one of greatest success stories is the Eastern Wild Turkey. In the 1800's Minnesota was home to 1000s of wild turkeys, but with market hunting their populations plummeted. In the very early 70's groups of conservationists, hunting organization and the Minnesota DNR began a project to reestablish the wild turkey in SE Minnesota. What started with a couple hundred turkeys are now over 30,000 birds. With their range now established in areas of central Minnesota and all points south. Minnesota has had a hunting season for wild turkeys since 1973. Regardless of your opinions of hunting we definitely owe this success to the hunting fraternity. Not only do I pursue this magnificent game bird with shotgun, but also with camera. So I thought that we would learn a little something on Minnesota's Eastern Wild Turkeys.

**Meleagris gallopavo (Eastern Wild Turkey) Facts:** Average weight of the wild turkey is about 10 lbs to 25 lbs with the males being larger. They eat almost anything, from grasses, insects, seeds, and even frogs and snakes, even picking seeds out of a manure pile. The hens are bred in April and May and lay about 10-12 eggs. After hatching this family (excluding the Tom) will stay together until next spring, even joining other family units in winter. A first year male is referred to as a “Jake” it will usually support a short beard of just a couple of inches. The mature males are referred to as “Toms” and of course this is the bird that I want to locate in my camera's view finder, but more about that later. When alarmed they are more likely to run than fly, but they are very fast fliers even though just for short distances. In the evening they roost in trees, usually mature large limb trees such as maples, oaks, pines etc. This keeps them off the ground and away from predators. They fly up into their evening roosting spots at sunset and but will generally fly down maybe ½ hour before sunrise. Their defense is their very keen eyesight, by other bird standards I consider the wild turkey to be, well rather dumb. But their eyesight is why they can survive in an



environment that is full of predators, as a photographer or hunter this is what you must overcome to get that full frame photo of a strutting male tom.

**Photography tips:** Wild turkeys are now located in many local parks and maybe even in your backyard. Many have become habituated to people as they do their fine dining out of local parks or your backyard bird feeder. But I still pursue my Turkey the old fashion way, and that is in a wildlife type area where they are really wild. For me it is not just getting the image but the work (for me enjoyment) that is involved to trick this strutting tom into my viewfinder. Finding a location is probably the hardest, but again an area with so many birds could be the easiest. I have gotten permission on private farms, but I usually go to wildlife management areas that are open to turkey hunting. With an area like that I do not have to be concerned with staying on trails, setting up a blind etc. But if you go to a local park, state park etc. be sure to get permission for your activity. Because of the price of fuel I am now trying to work with a local park to allow me to do some photography this spring.

For many years I used camo from head to toe and camo netting totally surrounding me and camera equipment, that system has proved quite successful. But the problem with that system is if the turkey came in from another direction, I dare not move, because if I did all I would see is the tail feathers as the turkey was running away. So a good friend of mine who is a very dedicated and successful turkey hunter told me just to use a hunting blind that can be purchased at any sporting good stores. Remember I said turkeys are basically dumb birds and newly set-up blind will not make them aware of your presence. I have actually had both Toms and hens so close to my hunting blind that if I reached out through the window I could have given them a pat on the head. One of the benefits of a blind such as this is that you can move inside and the turkeys will not see you. The two photos accompanying this article were taken from my blind and both cases I had to move my tripod around to get the photo from another window. Learning to call in a mature tom is the real key to getting that image. No way can this article help you there but you must master these calls, yelps, gobbles, purrs, and putts. There are others but those are the basics, with the yelp being the number one to master, which by the way it is not hard, with a little information and practice you could be calling in your first strutting tom. Of course the best time to call in a tom is in the spring during the breeding season, toms will come into a call from late March to early June. The best time is actually the first two weeks of May, with the reasoning is that most hens have been bred and the males are out searching for new conquests and when he hears that "yelp" he may come running in. Turkeys have very dark feathers so it is necessary to expose properly, but if a tom is strutting and as all the blood rushes to his head, his waddle will begin to turn a very bright red, but his head turns almost whitish/blue, so be careful not to burn that out. I usually use my Nikons matrix metering and dial in another -1/3 or -2/3 stop of underexposure. There is much more to be successful in photographing a strutting tom,

with some of it being luck, but this is enough information to get you started. But I must for warn you---whether hunting or photographing wild turkeys it is very addictive!!



Mature Tom

John Pennoyer



Gobbling Tom

John Pennoyer

Good Shooting

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Minnesota Nature Photography Club  
 March 2008 Salon Scores  
 Judge: Alan Schulz

Photographer	Title	Score	Format
Scholljegerdes, Florence	Water Lilies on Pond	8	Slide
Jenkins, John D.	Fixed Gaze	8	Slide
Gladitsch, Marilyn	Trillium Duo	8	Slide
Nelson, Vern	White-breasted Nuthatch	8	Slide
Galambos, Ted	Cape Waves	8	Digital
Handsaker, Bill	Grouse	8	Digital
Hass, Wayne	Itasca Dawn	8	Digital
Mattison, Drew	Carver Sunset	8	Digital
Perez, David	Snow Goose	8	Digital
Ramos, Carolle	Frozen Sunrise	8	Digital
Vichich, Dave	Bears (W)	8	Digital
Zosel, David	Swan Parley (W)	8	Digital
Cleveland, Ron	Oyster Catcher Pair (W)	8	Digital
Duke, Lawrence	Swans	8	Digital
Galambos, Ted	Forest Snow	8	Digital
Hoyt, Kristin	Bison Portrait (W)	8	Digital
Hoyt, David	Roseate Catch (W)	8	Digital
McDonough, Jean	Elephants Galore (W)	8	Digital
Perez, David	Monarch on Yellow Flower	8	Digital
Wilbrecht, Jon	Wild Geranium	8	Digital
Gladitsch, Marilyn	Bull Thistle	9	Slide
Nelson, Vern	Black-capped Chickadee	9	Slide
Dykstra, John	Iris	9	Digital
Hass, Lynn	Spoonbill	9	Digital
Mattison, Drew	Landing (W)	9	Digital
Nadreau, Don	El Capitan	9	Digital
Rehpohl, Dean	Trail Surprise	9	Digital
Vichich, Dave	The Grab (W)	9	Digital
Wilson, Tom	Flying Drake 2 (W)	9	Digital
Zosel, David	Bluewing (W)	9	Digital
Hoyt, Kristin	Snowy Coyote (W)	10	Digital
Hoyt, David	Heron Stare (W)	10	Digital
McDonough, Jean	Leopard in Tree with Gazelle (W)	10	Digital
Wilson, Tom	Mama Loon (W)	10	Digital
Cyr, Mariann	Pasqueflower Trio	10	Digital
Dykstra, John	Brown Creek	10	Digital

## Changing of the Guard at MinnesotaNature.org

Ron Cleveland will hand off Webmaster duties over the summer to someone who can update the design and make some general quality improvements. Two people have expressed an interest so far. We want to be sure that all who may be interested have a chance to get the details on what is involved. The board will select a

person in the next few months. A write-up with background information, software currently used and a rough workflow may be requested by E-mail to [clevelandron@comcast.net](mailto:clevelandron@comcast.net). That will also get you on the list of people interested in the position. You are strongly urged to contact Ron if you have ideas and abilities for improving the site.

## “Winter in Yosemite”

By Don Nadreau

I love California, if I could afford it, I would live there (just can't get myself to pay a million dollars for a place the size of an outhouse). My next best option is too visit at least once a year and shoot as many images as possible. This year I decided to spend my time in Yosemite for some winter photography. I joined a workshop for this trip; for the knowledge of the workshop leaders and the company of fellow photographers. We got out to Yosemite on a Wednesday in late February. It rained/snowed the whole five days we were there. It provided some interesting images, but not the ones I envisioned. The following are some recommendations for you to consider if you go out to Yosemite in the winter.

### Equipment:

1. Bring a lens hood for each lens. I didn't have mine and it was a real hassle keeping the snow and rain off the front of the lens.
2. Some type of protection for your camera and lens. We had rain/snow every day and the equipment did get wet.
3. Bring an umbrella. Are you sensing a theme here?
4. A polarizing filter is a great tool for Yosemite. The two fellows that lead the workshop do strictly landscape photography and keep a polarizer on each of their lens at all times, that way they don't have to switch the filter from lens to lens.
5. Bring plenty of lens cloths and a couple of towels to clean water off the equipment.

### Transportation:

1. A four wheel drive vehicle is a good choice. The roads are not real good and they do get some big snow storms.
2. You are required to have, and use when required, a set of chains for your vehicle. This creates some problems if you rent your vehicle as the lease agreement on the rental cars forbids using them. Use your best judgment. Also, you can rent chains in Merced, CA. which is on Highway 140, my recommended route into the park.

### Lodging:

1. El Portal is a small town just outside the park on Highway 140. Lodging is less expensive there, but you have to drive into the park each day.
2. Within the park there are two choices, the Yosemite Lodge (moderately priced) and the Ahwahnee hotel (very expensive). Trust me, you need to see the Ahwahnee, so I recommend a lunch there one day.

### Photography:

1. Best shooting is in the evening for sunset. Sunrise is not too bad but the valley runs east to west and is more open on the west end so you

get good light in the evening more than in the morning.

2. The prime spot for sunset is at the “tunnel view”, which is just before the tunnel on highway 41.
3. I also like the “valley view” which is down on the valley floor along the Merced River. These spots are all marked on the brochure the ranger gives you upon entering the park. I got my favorite sunrise shot here.
4. If it is a nice sunny day with clouds, any of the spots in the valley are good.
5. There are many books which can point you to places to shoot. I recommend the Photo Secrets book on San Francisco & Northern California.
6. February is a good time to do a winter shoot in Yosemite. Allow at least 3-4 days if possible. Watch for clearing storms which will produce some great shots (particularly from Tunnel View where you can see the whole valley).

Finally, here are some miscellaneous thoughts. First, use all your lenses. People tend to get fixed on the wide angle shots when there are many other opportunities. One of the biggest problems in California is the contrails from the many jet planes flying overhead. Sometimes they will dissipate quickly, but often they just ruin a good image. You can always do some Photoshop work to eliminate them, but that is a last resort (and invalidates the image for our salons).

I highly recommend a winter trip to Yosemite. My trip was not as good as hoped, but I did get some good images and I will definitely be going back in the near future.



Half Dome

Don Nadreau



## **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

### **April Meeting**

**Wednesday April 16, 2008**

Our program for April will be on "Wild Horses of the West" presented by Dominique Braud.

## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**



### **Free Photo Items**

I'm David Hansen a photographer at the U of M, headquartered on the St. Paul campus. I shoot our entire horticultural, agricultural, and forestry/wildlife research images. I am cleaning out some of our unused supplies and came across eight boxes (20 per box) of brand new Gepe glass mounts (anti newton glass). And, perhaps 75 Lindia (Swiss) mounts in what was a box of 100.

Can you think of anyone who would like these? I expect you still have some film shooters, and I'd just like to give these to someone who would make use of them.

Let me know and I'll send them or drop them off, I just hate to throw them away.

David L. Hansen

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# Nature Photo Times

Founded 1956

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

Vol. 52, No. 9 - May 2008

## From the President

The May meeting will complete our first fiscal year at our new meeting place REI Bloomington. The folks at REI have been great to work with and the size of the meeting room has met most of our needs. The Board will be looking at getting our own sound system for the September meeting; one of the complaints is that some folks in the back cannot hear the judges. If any of you have any expertise in the "sound" area let us know. The April program on "Photographing Wild Horses" by Dominique Braud was filled with information not only on the horses but also the landscape and geology of Teddy Roosevelt National Park. I have been to Teddy Roosevelt many times and my wife and I will be spending about a week there in early August, I will be very happy to capture just a few images like Dominique showed during his program. Thanks Dominique for taking the time and effort to put together this program.

Thanks to Lil Polley for bringing refreshments to the meeting. There were lots of choices to eat and drink, with popcorn being a big hit.

The Nature Club has lots of volunteer opportunities for the coming year. With everyone pitching in and helping these positions can really help make the meetings and other activities run smoothly.

- **Name tags:** We need someone to keep this area up to date, it really amounts to making new name tags for those that join. We have not had any new name tags since December.
- **TCACCC Representative:** This is the clubs connection to the Twin Cities Area Council of Camera Clubs. It only amounts to attending a meeting they have once a month and reporting club info and council info.
- **Field Trip Coordinator:** We did have about 3-4 field trips this year, it would be nice to have someone take charge of this area and get some more volunteers to conduct field trips.

Speaking of volunteers, Mike Prokosch has volunteered to conduct a judging workshop this summer. We will tentatively hold it at here at REI Bloomington. It will be held the third Wednesdays of June, July and August. Time will probably be from 6:30PM to 9:00PM.

It will be important if you are interested to clear your calendars so you would be able to attend all three sessions. I will again have a sign-up sheet at the May meeting. Maximum size is 10 and participants should be willing to judge with an experience judge at our club competition.

One of our long time members Ron Winch will be a very busy guy at our May meeting, he will be putting on the program "Brown Bears of Alaska". He and his wife Tony have been to Alaska many times photographing this magnificent animal. Ron will also be our sole judge for the meeting.

Have a great summer, with friends and family and be sure to look through that view finder for the "good light"!

Until September---Good Shooting  
John Pennoyer

---

## Minnesota Nature Photography Club Board Minutes 4/14/08

Members Present: John Pennoyer, Don Nadreau, Linda Nygren, Mariann Cyr

Absent: Jim Duncan, Rod Blessener

Others Present: Ron Cleveland, Larry Duke

1. December 07 Minutes
  - a. Minutes were read by John Pennoyer
2. Treasurer's report
  - a. No report was given
3. Officer's for 2008/09
  - a. Present officers for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor all agreed to be nominated for one more year.
  - b. Nominations will still be open from the floor.
4. Web Master
  - a. Ron Cleveland is looking for someone that would be willing to take over as web master to make changes to the Nature Club web site.
5. Judges for 2008/09
  - a. Linda Nygren will take charge of judges for the coming year.

- b. We will allow some judges to judge alone but also give them the opportunity to be paired with someone else especially if new to judging our nature competition.
  - c. Judges will be allowed to review images on a lap top before the meeting or during the program.
  - d. Some names were discussed as possible "End of Year Judge"
  - e. Mike Prokosch has volunteered to lead a judging workshop this summer. John Pennoyer will announce this at the meeting.
6. Programs for 2008/09
- a. Rod Blessener will be in charge of programs (with board assistance) John will give him the information that was discussed at the board meeting.
  - b. John is trying to get someone from the Scientific and Natural Area to be our presenter in September.
7. Discussed some Volunteer opportunities for the club.
- a. Field trip Co-coordinator
  - b. TCACC Representative
8. Other business
- a. Mariann will be conducting a botanical field trip date is tentative but possibly May 3 or 4
  - b. Sound System: We will be checking on purchasing a sound system for next year.
  - c. The board agreed that we should get two signatures on both the Club checking account and the Botany checking account. John Pennoyer and Mariann Cyr will try to arrange a time with Jim Duncan so we can accomplish this.

Next Board Meeting will be in late August or early September

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**Field Notes**  
**"Making use of Technology"**  
 By John Pennoyer

Last September/October was not what I would refer to as a fantastic year for fall colors. But I still did manage to capture some acceptable images. Of course, for me it is a never ending pursuit to capture sunrise and sunsets, especially on Lake Superior. The weather was great for fall colors, overcast and every once in a while a little rain, but for eight straight mornings I would get to my photo site about 1 ½ hours before sunrise hoping the clouds would part just enough to sneak a little light in to give me a creative opportunity. I took an image or two, not to capture a sunrise, but just to show waves crashing, North Shore scenery etc. On the very last morning, I

decided to forgo the sunrise and go down to the river with my 500mm lens and capture images of some Red-Breasted Mergansers that were frequenting the mouth of the Poplar River looking for some easy meals.

As usual I arrived at the river long before sunrise hoping to get my camera and lens all set up to just wait for the Mergansers to come by. As I left the cabin, I threw in my 28-70mm lens in just in case I needed it for some lake shore scenery. Of course, I should have known better, but the next thing I noticed was that a half hour before sunrise the clouds began to depart and the sky was beginning to turn a brilliant yellow/orange. Now I have two camera bags. One bag has all of the accessories, lenses etc. that I use for botanical and scenic photography and the bag that I had with me which was equipped for my wildlife shooting. The sunrise that was opening up before me definitely required the use of GND (graduated neutral density) filters; probably a 3-stop GND filter would be perfect for the brighter sky with the darker water and rocks. Of course, by now you know the filters were in my other camera bag which was in the cabin about 500-600 yards away and not enough time to go get them.

Over the last few years of the digital photography revolution there have been lots of new technology advances that have assisted us nature photographers. It is not unusual for me to have my ISO set to 800 when photographing wildlife in low light situations. In the old film days, you would have packed your bags and headed for home. There has also been some software editing advances that can also allow you to create images that would be impossible to do when shooting film. Some of these advances I will use when necessary but some of it simply is not for my style of photography. I will probably always prefer to create my image as close to accurate as I can in-the-field. But in this situation I always prefer to use GND filters, but they were not with me. So having experimented with multiple exposures and merging them in Photoshop I found that this option was my only alternative. This process is called HDR (High Dynamic Range) and over the years I have probably done a half dozen or so merges, mainly just to get familiar with it. This was going to be a great sunrise, all the ingredients were there, thinning clouds, good color, nice waves, great foreground and I did not want to miss it. So I put on my 28-70mm lens and mounted it to the tripod and composed to get the composition that I wanted and began to take multiple exposures from about +2 1/2 stops over-exposed to - 2 ½ stops under-exposed.

After getting back home I used Photoshop CS2 to merge my photos - the result, for me, is probably one of my top 5 sunrises of Lake Superior. Now a couple items when you use technology to merge multiple images. For one it is not eligible for our nature competition, but remember it is allowed for many other type of image competitions. Also if you ever use images for commercial purposes it is very important that your clients know how this image was created. My stock agents allow this technology, but I must disclose it on the metadata. Many calendars, note card companies etc. do not allow digital



enhanced images, so just be aware of their particular guidelines.

I am not going to get involved in explaining the Photoshop HDR process (remember there are other software's that will do the same thing); however, here is how to set up your camera system to give you the best chance for a good HDR image.

- A. Camera Set-up: (mounted on tripod-bubble level-cable release)
  1. Set to Manual Exposure
  2. Set correct aperture for your desired depth-of-field
  3. Set your composition-
  4. Set ISO setting
  5. Set White Balance
  6. Lock everything down and do not vary any of these settings during your multiple exposures.
- B. Taking the images
  1. Determine the exposure for the highlights and shadow area. A person can do this either by just looking at the scene determine in your exposure for shadow and highlights or actually take two photos of properly exposed shadow and highlight and make your other exposures between those two. Basically whatever will work for you, there is no set process for determining how many exposures to take.
  2. I always take an image for my best in-camera exposure. At ½ to 1 stop intervals I go to over-exposure generally from 2 to 3 stop overexposed. I then go back to my in-camera setting and go to the under-exposure side again by maybe 2 to 3 stop underexposed.
  3. When changing exposure only use your "Shutter speed" control.
  4. Depending on your scene it may be necessary to go beyond the 3 stop over/under exposures.
- C. HDR Images
  1. You now will have anywhere from 7-12 images that will be used by your editing program software. One word of caution if you are like me and your CF cards hold a couple hundred images be sure not to accidentally "delete" these over/under exposed images.
  2. You will probably wind up spending an additional ½ to 1 hour working on these images, but the results may be worth the time.

Even though I still prefer to use GND filters, uneven skylines still might make HDR technology a better alternative, or if you forget your filters in the cabin!



In Camera Image

John Pennoyer



Final HDR Image

John Pennoyer

Good Shooting

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### For Sale

1. Nikon ED 80-200mm AF Zoom Macro f2.8 lens, with caps, Nikon leather hard case (GL-43) and Kirk Enterprises rotating tripod mount all in excellent + condition. \$550

2. 12.4 mg Nikon D2x digital camera, in original box, in excellent condition, including all equipment which is provided with an original purchase which includes: battery, quick start guide (English and Spanish), Nikon instruction book (English and Spanish), monitor cover, battery charger, camera strap, audio/video cable, USB cable, Type B BriteView III focusing screen and Picture Project CDs, plus extra battery compartment cover, all in original box. The camera has been used less than 2 years. Also included is a MAGIC LANTERN Guide for the D2x.

\$2250

**Bernie Friel**  
**651-454-3655**  
[wampy@att.net](mailto:wampy@att.net)

## “Camouflage in Nature” By Ron Winch

Your heart races a little faster and your palms begin to sweat. Your best slide of the evening is on the screen. You agonize through ten seconds of silence – waiting for the score. “Seven,” the judge calls out and then goes on to elaborate. “Good exposure, nice composition, good subject placement, but the subject doesn’t stand out from the background. Next.”

“That should have been a nine – maybe a ten,” you say to yourself. Perhaps the subject didn’t stand out from the background, but how many centuries has it taken to evolve this camouflage? The body form lends itself to the environment, the coloration fits superbly and the spots help breakup the body outline and give depth to the animal – making it a natural part of the environment. What more could you ask for?

The idea of camouflage is not new to nature. It has been evolving since the beginning of time and is likely responsible for the survival of many species. The military picked up on this as evident with battlefield clothing and equipment. Hunters take great advantage of camo clothing for concealment. Even urban planners consider it in more subtle ways when siteing a building into the environment.

If we look-up the word camouflage in the dictionary, we find it defined as concealment by disguise. The disguise may be of such a nature as to actually simulate the immediate background or merely to break up the outline or reduce the solid shape of the object camouflaged.

Most wild creatures live in constant danger from enemies or are themselves ever on the alert for prospective prey. It is not surprising to find animals of all sorts exhibiting countless types, degrees and variations of concealing adaptations. One of the fundamental factors in the lives of wild creatures is the constant struggle between species, generally referred to as the struggle for existence.

The immediate surroundings in which animals are found are quite variable as to vegetation, amount of light, color and type of earth, and consequently the patterns needed for effective concealment are equally diverse. Common to animals in all these backgrounds, regardless of their color pattern, is to become relatively invisible by losing its appearance of being a solid object. Light falling on an animal generally comes from above; consequently, the back is in strong light while the sides and underbelly receive much less light. Color patterns have evolved with darker tops and lighter undersides so as not to make an animal appear so solid.

Counter-shading is a basic principal of animal coloration and is a wide occurrence in nature. Many and quite unrelated groups of animals – mammals, birds, reptiles and fishes in all parts of the world show it. Add to this color resemblance, the general similarity in appearance between some animals and their surroundings, and the effects of camouflage are greatly increased. Examples here might be polar bears, snowshoe hare, artic

fox and shorebirds in general. This accounts for so many green birds, tree snakes, tree frogs and arboreal insects in the forested parts of the world, while on the forest floor we find large numbers of brownish creatures. The salt and pepper mottling of shorebirds is a given on shorelines and coastal areas.

Even with better than average color resemblance and some counter-shading, an animal is often recognized by its easily identifiable contours. For effective concealment, it is essential that the telltale appearance of form be destroyed. Here a combination of color and pattern tends to break-up the visible outline of the animal.

Camouflage in nature is widespread in all parts of the world and within all groups of animals. It may be brought about by coloration alone, by form alone or by any combination of color and morphological characteristics.

Considering the above information, look back at your score of “seven.” You did the photo; you decided it was a keeper; you did the research to learn everything possible about the capture and you decided it was worthy of entry. You should be the expert on your photo. You probably entered the slide to get another opinion or was it just in hopes of a high score? The judge had viewed the slide for only ten seconds and was asked to score and comment on it – based on his or her background and experience. Consider that in judges we find photographer/naturalists or naturalist/photographer and rarely someone who is equally versed in both. Learn from another viewpoint.

Let us – all of us, be aware of the talent we have, being able to “see” and capture vignettes of the natural world and the ever greater joy of sharing and educating others.

**Minnesota Nature Photography Club  
April 2008 Salon Scores  
Judge: Mike  
Prokosch**

Photographer	Title	Score
Gladitsch, Marilyn	Bloodroot in Bloom	8
Gladitsch, Marilyn	Goats Beard Close-up	8
Scholljegerdes, Florence	One Yellow Moccasin	8
Samuelson, Tom	Banning State Park	8
Galambos, Ted	Crex Autumn	8
Nadreau, Don	Seal (W)	8
Ramos, Carolle	Old Man (W)	8
Schillerberg, Matthew	Birch with Sumac	8
Vichich, Dave	Great Grey (W)	8
Blesener, Rod	Swan Tandem	8
Cleveland, Ron	Northern Gannet (W)	8
Graves, Rick	Sunset in North Dakota	8

Hoyt, Kristin	Tricolor Reflection (W)	8
McDonough, Jean	Bison in the Fog (W)	8
Miller, Joe	Merritt Island	8
Perez, David	Cardinal Mohawk (W)	8
Schulz, Alan	King and Chick (W)	8
Ellenbecker, Dave	American Toad	9
Blesener, Rod	Swans in Fog	9
Graves, Rick	Watching the Snow Fall	9
Hoyt, Kristin	Buffalo and Calf (W)	9
Miller, Joe	White Ibis	9
Rehpohl, Dean	Gull-on-Beach	9
Vichich, Dave	Fumble (W)	9
Cyr, Mariann	April Chickadee (W)	10
Pennoyer, John	Turkey Display (W)	10
Pennoyer, John	Male Woodie (W)	10

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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

**May Meeting**  
**Wednesday May 21, 2008**

Our program for May will be by Ron Winch on the "Brown Bears of Alaska."

## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**



## **Call for Entries: Wisconsin Waters Juried Photography Exhibition**

The Center for Photography in Madison is seeking submissions (due July 1, 2008) for a juried show of photography, Wisconsin Waters. Images can depict the weather, bodies of water from lakes to wetlands, plants and creatures that live in water, or people enjoying water. Images must be taken in Wisconsin.

The jurors are Ralph Russo, cultural arts and theater director at the UW-Madison Union, and John Magnuson, past director of the Center for Limnology. The judge will be Craig Wilson, kite photographer extraordinaire. Cash prizes will be awarded.

Winning photographs will be exhibited as part of PHOTOMIDWEST 2008 at the Pyle Center on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus during October 2008. For an entry form and more details, visit CPM's website, <http://www.cpmad.org> and click on Announcements.



# Nature Photo Times

Founded 1956

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

Vol. 53, No. 1 - Sep 2008

## From the President

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

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

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

competition, plus may allow for more constructive comments.

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

Good Shooting  
John Pennoyer

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

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

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

3. Microphone

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

4. Field Trip Coordinator

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

5. Refreshments

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

6. N4C Convention

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

D. New Business

1. Name tag Volunteer

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

2. Business Cards

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

3. Picture Directory

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

Next Board Meeting: Late November or early December

---

## **“Would You Believe”**

**By Ron Winch**

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota  
2008 Prairie Photo Contest

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



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

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

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

If questions or more information contact  
Photo Contest Coordinator  
Lauren Michelsen  
Email: [lmichelsen@tnc.org](mailto:lmichelsen@tnc.org)  
Phone: (612) 331 0742 or ext 0750

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

**Score of 8:**

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

**Score of 9:**

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

**Score of 10:**

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

**Field Notes**  
**“Second Camera Body?”**  
**By John Pennoyer**

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

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

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

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

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

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



Pigeon Falls

John Pennoyer



Bear in the Drink

By John Pennoyer

Good Shooting

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## **Nature Photo Times**

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[www.minnesotanature.org](http://www.minnesotanature.org)

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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

**September Meeting**  
**Wednesday Sept. 17, 2008**

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

Judge for the September Salon will be Joe Kandiko.

## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**



Editor's notes:

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



# Nature Photo Times

Founded 1956

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

Vol. 53, No. 2 - Oct 2008

## From the President

What a great turn out we had for our September meeting, not only with members but we also had many visitors. I believe some of the visitors also became members last night. Those of you that did not make the September meeting you missed a great program that was put on by Peggy Booth DNR Supervisor of Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas. I want to thank Peggy for taking her time to put on a great Power Point presentation. She gave us some inside information on how to search the DNR web site for a SNA area. Also she showed us some of her favorite SNA's to visit and photograph. Thanks again Peggy!

One of my goals this year is to try and get more field trips for photography and fellowship. Drew Mattison will be sending out a Yahoo group e-mail as the colors begin to change in the Twin Cities area. He has a couple of local areas that should be colorful. Also I will be at Crex Meadows WMA near Grantsburg, WI on Friday night 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday morning the 25<sup>th</sup> to photograph migrating Sandhill Cranes during sunrise/sunset and of course any other subjects that nature provides. I will again have the sign-up sheet at the October club meeting. If anyone would be interested in organizing a field trip this year, let myself or Drew know.

[andrewmattison@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewmattison@hotmail.com)

Hopefully I get this name right, if not I will apologize at the club meeting! But after 7-8 months with no one to take charge of "name badges". Pam Carroll came forward and she said that she will be glad to handle this important task. But we also are going to change the

procedure, instead of having the name badges as present, she will be changing them all and you will be responsible and take them home and wear them when you come to club meetings. This is the best way because even when we had someone to do the name badges, with our present system when that person was not able to make the meetings he/she had to find someone to bring the name badges in or they were never there. So thanks again Pam. Look for new name badges very shortly!

One of the topics at our Board meeting in early September was to have club "business cards" Jim Duncan very quickly went to work and "viola" he brings in some business cards at our September meeting. These business cards have club info for meeting place, time and web site etc. If you are like me and run into folks out in the field or at workshops etc. I like to have these cards to give them with all of our club info. These cards will allow them to search our web site and get much more information. If you would like to have a few cards to promote our club let me know at the meeting.

I hope to see you at the October meeting our program for October is "Photographing Waterfalls" by club member Rikk Flohr.

John Pennoyer



**Field Notes**  
**“Shooting on the Fly”**  
**By John Pennoyer**

Being old certainly has advantages. Of course by “old” I don’t mean age I mean having many years of photography experience. My Photography started in about 1978 when my brother gave me his Pentax Spotmatic camera with a 100-300mm zoom lens. In about 1980 I traded that in for a Nikon FE camera and a couple of lenses. Although my goal at that time was wildlife photography the lenses I bought were not conducive to that type of photography so I slowly got into landscape and flowers. A few years later I bought my first “biggie” lens a Nikon 400mm F3.5 and I used that lens for about 20 years. Of course being a manual focus lens and shooting film, the majority of my wildlife was portrait style. Although I tried on occasion, shooting birds on the “wing” was usually an act of futility. However as time progresses, somewhere in the middle 80”s auto focus began to make its arrival, and this did help a little. The auto focus allowed the camera to capture fast moving subjects such as birds. But it was still quite expensive because your “keepers” were still quite low. On occasion I tried to shoot flying waterfowl and managed to get some keepers of flying trumpeters. No need to talk about the rolls of film that I shot to get the one or two keepers.

Camera manufacturers over time improved with multiple focus points etc, but without a doubt the biggest change is right now with digital cameras. I have been shooting digital for over 5 years now and I shoot more birds on the wing in one day that I did over the previous 20+ years combined.

All camera manufacturers have certainly improved on their auto focus accuracy and with digital there is absolutely no costs to shooting- just keep the keepers and delete-delete-delete! So with winter coming and many of us going to shoot trumpeters at Monticello and eagles on the Mississippi, I thought that I would write on my process of “Shooting on the Fly”.

First of all it is important to set your camera up properly. For my Nikons it is “focus tracking”, dynamic auto focus, and continuous high speed shooting. Read your owner’s manual on how to set up your particular camera. The terms I am talking about should be familiar to Nikon shooters, but all manufacturers will set up the same way just maybe different terms. Of course the faster shutter speeds will allow more keepers. My D100 was 3 fps, D200 is 5 fps and now my D300 is 8 fps. Of course for the wildlife photographer we want the cameras with multiple dynamic focus areas and the faster the shutter the better.

My personal preference for shooting flying birds is to stop action while they are flying, so the biggest obstacle is to get fast enough shutter speed. For larger birds such as eagles, herons, swans, etc I try for at least 1/1000 of a second and maybe 1/640 will work in certain situations. However for smaller waterfowl such as ducks I like to get to 1/2000 of a second. A photographer can achieve these fast shutter speeds by working with close to wide open apertures and of course with digital we can get to higher ISO settings. The newer camera models have improved considerably on “noise” at the higher ISO settings. But remember to stop action, faster is better.

Handholding your camera system is the best way to track flying birds. The lenses in the 80-400/100-400 range are excellent for handholding. With such fast shutter speeds there is no reason to even need VR/IS. As a matter of fact in cold weather when I am shooting trumpeter swans “on the wing” my VR is off to save on battery life. If using one of the big lenses there is absolutely nothing better than having that system mounted on a “Gimbal Head”. Yes! Yes! There is nothing better than these heads for tracking flying birds or even fast moving animals. The Gimbal heads (Wimberly, 5<sup>th</sup> Generation, Custom brackets, Kirk, Jobu just to name a few of the Gimbal manufacturers) allow the photographer to keep level horizons, shore line’s etc. but still move your camera system vertical and horizontal with ease.



The real key to “Shooting on the fly” is to get your system to lock on the bird. Many times if the bird/s are at a distance I will manual focus on the bird and then let the auto focus take over. If the birds are in a group usually be sure to focus on the lead bird. As you pan with the bird/s when the composition looks good, I fire off in short bursts as compared to just holding the shutter down all the time. I may do that once in a while, but still prefer to compose birds in flight and fire when ready. Many times I never hit the trigger because as I look through the view finder it just does not come together. There are two real keys for this; panning with the flying birds to maintain composition and auto focus locking on. Of course with shooting digital it is so easy to practice.

But like anything else in nature photography understanding habits, behavior etc .of your subject is an asset that allows you to capture images that others may miss. So here are some “Hot Tips”. All birds will take off and land into the wind. So if you are on the river in Monticello and a group of Trumpeters all of a sudden begin to swim in the opposite direction and it is into the wind, be ready because they may be ready to take flight. Also, many birds will circle before they land, so if they come by and the opportunity does not present itself, stay ready they may give you a 2<sup>nd</sup> or even a 3<sup>rd</sup> chance. Many times birds on the water may give clues that they are ready to take flight from head bobbing, lots of noise, etc. Perched birds may defecate just before leaving their perch. Many ducks will try to get a partner or two to take flight with them. Also when one bird or group of bird takes off it will many times encourage others to follow, so look around and stay ready.

Well there you have it. These are just some ideas on “Shooting on the Fly”. If you have never experienced this type of photography, no better place than now, Crex Meadows for Sand hill Cranes in October to middle of November and for some winter flying, Trumpeters of Monticello, and Bald Eagles of Red Wing.



“Eagle after Prey”

John Pennoyer



“Goldeneyes on the Mississippi”

John Pennoyer

Good Shooting

---

## September Salon Results

<b>Title</b>	<b>Photographer</b>	<b>Score</b>
Bumble Bee (W)	David Zosel	8
Cascade Falls	Rod Blessener	8
	Dave	
Fern Patterns	Ellenbecker	8
Fox Pup (W)	David Zosel	8
Full Curl Ram	John Pennoyer	8
Osprey #2 (W)	Nadav Cassuto	8
Pelican Profile (W)	Drew Mattison	8
Prairie Sunset (W)	David Hoyt	8
Snake River	Ron Cleveland	8
Sunset	Tom Samuelson	8
Tree & Mountain	Rick Graves	8
Courtship (W)	Roger Williams	9
	Marilyn	
Hepaticas	Gladitsch	9
Osprey #1 (W)	Nadav Cassuto	9
Red Eye (W)	Kristin Hoyt	9
My Dinner	Rick Graves	10
Sandhill	Dave Vichich	10
Shaefer Prairie	Tom Samuelson	10
Common Loon (W)	Roger Williams	10

## Nature Photo Times

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**September Meeting  
Wednesday Oct. 15, 2008**

“Photographing Waterfalls” by club member  
Rikk Flohr.

Judge for the October Salon will be .

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



Editor's notes:

Ron Winch is in Mongolia this month and did not  
submit an article. He will have an article next month  
and we look forward to hearing tales and seeing images  
from his trip.



# Nature Photo Times

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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.

---

## **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

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**Meetings** are held on the third Wednesday of  
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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

**November Meeting  
Wednesday Nov. 19, 2008**

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

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**





# Nature Photo Times

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

Founded 1956

Vol. 53, No. 4 - Dec 2008

## From the President

The November meeting was one of the fastest that I have seen in over 26 years of going to our club meetings. But at the same time I don't think we skipped a beat on quality. Mariann Cyr's presentation of the winners of the Minnesota Botany was in a slide show format, which was very well done and congratulations to all of you winners who got acceptances or higher awards in the competition, and thanks Mariann for once again being in charge of this event. Mariann will probably be giving a report on the future of our Minnesota Botany at a future meeting.

The good thing about having such a speedy program was that this gave our salon judge Dale Bohlke lots of time to make comments on each and every image. Not only is Dale an accomplished photographer but I always like his comments, they usually are not the ordinary comments, but gives us a little more insight on how to improve an image. Thanks Dale for judging, let us know if anyone in the club can reciprocate for your club. Of course our December meeting will be our End of Year competition. All images that scored an 8 or higher from January 08 to November 08 will be entered. Our Judge will be Jay Steinke ([www.jaysteinke.com](http://www.jaysteinke.com)) a full time professional photographer out of Duluth. His work is featured in many galleries throughout the Midwest and has been in many magazines. He also is the author of a couple of books on his photography.

After the judging we will of course have some great refreshments that all of you will bring to satisfy our palates. Hopefully I will get more than one piece of celery this time! (You had to be at the November meeting) This will allow us to not only talk individually with Jay but to fellowship with all and possibly we can all indulge in a little bit of bragging! See you at the December Meeting!

Good Shooting  
John Pennoyer

## "Mongolia and the Golden Eagle Festival" By Ron Winch

The golden eagle sprang from its mountain-side perch with powerful wing beats and in a long sweeping dive headed for his horse mounted Kazak handler, who was racing away from him. The eagle should land on the arm of the horseman as any hunting raptor would. But the bird obviously saw a more interesting prey. Powering past his galloping handler the eagle dove into a small opening in the fascinated observers. The boy ducked as the ten pound eagle struck – both went tumbling to the dry grassy steppe as the boys fur cap went flying in the dust. Fortunately an eagle hunter nearby on horseback dismounted, grabbed the jesses and got the eagle onto his heavily-gloved hand. Fortunately the boy was not injured and hopefully he learned a good lesson, as there had been three warning announcements that anyone wearing fur caps or red jackets should remove them and keep them out of sight. The eagles had been trained to regard these as prey. Some folks had not heeded the warnings and two more were struck by eagles that same afternoon. And this was only day one of the three-day Golden Eagle Festival.

Ten years ago several eagle hunters and a couple of tour companies ran eagle hunting as a dying way of life. They began promoting a festival as a revival of old Kazak ways and as a tourism event. The festival began slowly in the early years and now has become a three day event among the nomads in far northwestern Mongolia. This year 84 eagle hunters rode in on horseback from as far as 100 miles with an eagle on their arm. The event began in the town of Ulgi with opening ceremonies in the town square. Eighty-four Kazak eagle hunters renewed old acquaintances and milled around the town square before heading out for the 45 minute ride to the event grounds. Some five hundred spectators had gathered to enjoy the warm sunny afternoon and watch the various contests such as a horseback tug of war, where each rider tries to pull the other off his horse; or while riding along reaching down to pick up a stone from the ground; or the best traditional costume.

Of course the eagle events were the highlights of the day. The birds were released from the mountain side to swoop down and capture a fox skin dragged by their owner on horseback. Another test for the eagles was to fly down from the mountain and land on the arm of his owner who was galloping away. A few eagles have a mind of their own and quickly caught an updraft and soared

high above the event rounds, only to come down when ready.

Spectators came from the U.K., the USA and several European countries. An English lady traveled with her 6 year old daughter, a German man was there because he was a falconer, and a European lady who had attended several festivals and befriended a nomadic family discovered that this year they had no means of getting to the event. She then arranged for transportation, food and a ger for the family during the festival. The best thing was that our ger camp was only a quarter mile from the event grounds. We travelled first class – lodging was ger where night-time temps got into the 20 degree range, the toilet was a hole in the ground, tea water was dipped from the river and boiled, and mutton for every meal.

If you are interested, I'm willing to share more information.

## Field Notes

### "What Lens/Camera Should I Buy?"

By John Pennoyer

When Nikon came out with their very first Vibration Reduction lens (VR) it was an 80-400mm F4.5-5.6 VR lens. I was ecstatic; finally Nikon has something to compete with Canon. I did not purchase one at that time and it was not long that the next VR lens was the 70-200mm F 2.8 S VR lens. This really put me into a dilemma, I had just sold my old 70-200mm S non-VR lens on eBay, but due to the fact that both of the newer lenses are in the same focal length up to 200mm I could see no reason to have both. Luckily for me a good friend of mine happen to have purchased the 80-400 VR lens and he let me use it for a few days. I used that lens for 3 days during one of my photo workshops. Here is what I discovered; the auto focus of the 80-400 is old technology it is the older version with the AF built in camera and not the newer "Silent Wave Motor" (S) with the AF built in the lens. The S series AF is very fast and very quiet. The older technology is very slow to AF and also very noisy. Shooting fast moving subjects with this lens in my opinion would be very difficult, not that you may not capture some images, but I know that the "S" type AF is considerably faster. Of course being a variable aperture, as you would zoom the aperture would change from wide open F4.5 at 80mm to F5.6 at 400mm. Also to switch between AF and MF on the 80-400 is very cumbersome as compared to the S series lenses. At the time I was making this decision I was shooting film so the "crop factor" was not a consideration for me. My decision was to purchase a Nikon 70-200mm F2.8 S VR lens. I figured that, coupled with the Nikon 1.7 X convertor, would give me a focal length of 340mm, a little shorter length than 400mm but with faster AF and a fixed aperture of F2.8. With the prices of both lenses being very close that was the route that I chose. I also recommended a combination such as this to other individuals that have asked me. (However I am not completely sold on the 1.7X convertor!!)

Let's now fast forward to about 5 years later, as a matter of fact today! Over the last 5 years I have used that combination for anything from close-ups (with a 500D Canon close-up attachment) wildlife, scenic's, etc. It has been one of my most frequently used lenses and I love it with no regrets on my decision. But this last summer I was noticing some VR "clunks" and at times the AF and VR would not operate. I took it into Marquette Camera and they agreed something was wrong and suggested that I send it into Nikon. I checked all my papers and found out that I still had some of my extended 5 year warranty left. I sent it into Nikon and even right now (6 weeks later) it is being repaired under warranty. After over 25 years of shooting Nikon my very first issue of any type that required repair. But what was I going to do for a lens of that focal length especially at this time of the year, Sandhill Crane flight shooting and of course one of my favorite subjects rutting Whitetail Bucks!! Well it certainly pays to have friends, another friend of mine had the 80-400mm VR lens and he has let me borrow it! I have now been using that lens for about 6 weeks and have taken well over 1300 images with it. My first target was at Crex Meadows for Sandhill Cranes. Although I did get some good images of flying cranes, my first impression 5 years ago was right on. Very slow to AF and difficult to stay locked on to bird, but using this lens on birds that were on the ground really posed very little problems. The images were tack sharp, so again my biggest concern was the slow AF on fast moving subjects. I have also used this lens as a "walk around" lens, simply walking some trails at community parks hoping to locate a rutting whitetail buck and capture some images. I succeeded on many occasions and captured some great images with this lens. Of course now that I am shooting digital this lens is equivalent to a 120mm to 600mm Zoom VR lens. Both lenses the VR functions are fantastic I have captured images handholding at 1/40 to 1/60 second with tack sharp images.

After many years of instructing classes/workshops etc., I am asked many times on what type of equipment they should purchase. I learned long ago to never recommend buying a particular lens, camera, model, brand etc. The reason is that what you like may not apply to their financial means, type of use, and many other reasons. I may tell them what I like about my camera/lenses but if I have never used the type of equipment they are asking about, I really cannot give an accurate opinion. I always suggest they go to a good camera store such as National Camera, West Photo etc. and "touchy feely" the equipment they are thinking of. Also check internet sources for reviews of this equipment and talk to those that have and use the type of equipment they are interested in. I do feel many photographers will recommend something that they may have no experience with and just because it is of the name brand they shoot so it must mean that it is great! I will be the first to admit that I fell into that category, but have learned my lesson. Depending on your shooting style and subjects, it is very possible the 80-400mm VR lens will be a great lens addition to your camera bag if a Nikon shooter.

As much as I still love my 70-200mm S VR lens, when using this lens in my canoe for some waterfowl and Loon photography, shooting digital would make it an equivalent 300mm focal length and at times will add a 1.7X convertor, but there are still times that I wished that I had more focal length. Ummmmmm!! I wonder if the 80-400mm VR lens should be in my camera bag for certain photo situations!! Stay tuned!!!



“Sandhill Cranes”

By John Pennoyer



“November Rut”

By John Pennoyer

Good shooting

## November Salon Results (Judge Dale Bohlke ):

### Score of 8

Nadav Cassuto	Crane_With_Fall_Colors1(W)
Ted Galambos	Woplf Creek
John Ringquist	MuleshowAreaElk (W)
Mariann Cyr	Leaves on Log
Lawrence Duke	Woker Bee
Joe Fierst	MothOnLadyslipper
Jean McDonough	Gazelle drinking at Etosha (W)
Lil Polley	Mountain Goat (W)
John Jenkins	Couger Grooming
Marylin Gladitsch	Nine Mile Marigolds

### Score of 9

Mariann Cyr	Mallard Family (W)
Lawrence Duke	Eagle at Nest
John Dykstra	Shuksan
Don Tredinnick	GiantMushroom
Roger Williams	In Flight (W)
Jim Aronson	Swans in Fog (W)
Rod Blesener	Chaos (W)
Nadav Cassuto	Crane_With_Fall_Colors2(W)
Ron Cleveland	Aubrey Falls
Christine Hysell	Raven Lake
Marylin Gladitsch	Indian Paintbrush Duo

### Score of 10

Karl Fiegenschuh	Sandhill and Chick (W)
Drew Mattison	Porkies
Jean McDonough	Male Impala Portrait (W)
John Pennoyer	Pileated Family (W)
Carolle Ramos	Foggy Sunrise
David Zosel	Autumn Birches (W)
Karl Fiegenschuh	White Sands Sunset
Dave Vichich	In Fog (W)

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### **December Meeting Wednesday Dec. 17, 2008**

The December program will consist of the year end  
competition which Jay Steinke of Duluth has  
graciously volunteered to judge. Jay has a  
website at <http://www.jaysteinke.com>.

We will also have our **annual holiday buffet**. Be  
sure to bring a food item to pass around!!

## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**



### **Note from the Editor:**

This will be my last year as your newsletter editor. If  
anyone is interested in picking up the mantle, please  
drop me a note, call me at 763-377-4589, or see me at  
one of the meetings. I will be more than happy to help  
you get started. It is an interesting job if you enjoy  
working on the PC and writing. This position is an  
elected position and is also a member of the club board  
of directors.