

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

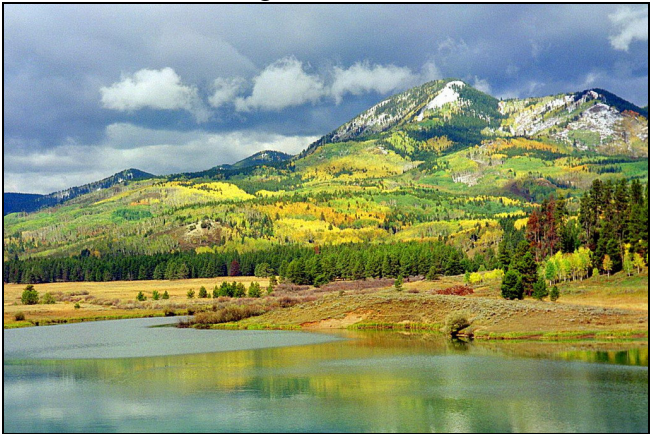
November 2006 Volume 30, Issue 11

My Favorite Place is...

by Matt Schaefer

Location Name. Steamboat Lake State Park, CO.

Winter comes early and stays late in the northern Colorado mountains. Last year Steamboat Springs enjoyed some of the heaviest snowfall seen in years and this year's first snow has already been shoveled. North of Steamboat Springs are two Colorado State Parks and several access points for the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area in Routt National Forest. Steamboat Lake and Pearl Lake State Parks provide beautiful lake views with aspen and pine forests surrounding them.



Also in the area are historic sites of the Hahn Peak mining district and numerous ranches. Several years ago, a major wildfire swept through the national forest lands east of the state parks so traces of this burn are still readily identifiable. A few months after the fire, an incredibly strong windstorm, possibly a series of microbursts, passed through the same area and downed tens of thousands of acres of trees. Several roadside signs describe the effects and ongoing studies being conducted in the

area. North of the Steamboat Lake State Park are several additional good sites for fall colors and intimate landscapes around the small settlement of Columbine.

Photographic Opportunities. Wildlife in the area includes bear, deer, elk and numerous smaller species of mammals and birds. Scenery includes beautiful fall colors, lake scenes, and the high Mt. Zirkel Wilderness area. There are plenty of wildflowers and some nice spots along the Elk River along the way so don't miss them.



Getting the grand landscapes requires getting on top of the peaks and that involves some hiking and climbing. Early in the morning, the air is calmer (and there is less boat traffic) so reflections in the lakes are better. Wide angle and mid-level telephotos are most useful unless you are going for the game and then you will need the long glass and don't forget the standard filter package of split level ND and polarizer. You will find plenty of old mining and ranching sites as the history of the area includes numerous ranches and mines dating back to the 1880s. Ranching,

hunting guides, and other outdoor activities, such as snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and fishing, are still available today.

Driving directions.

From Denver, it is about 160 miles (4 hours) to Steamboat Springs via either I-70 and US 40 (Berthoud Pass, Winter Park, Granby, Kremmling) or I-70, State 9, and US 40 (Silverthorne and Kremmling). On the western



end of town, turn right on Elk River Road, also marked as Routt County Rd. 129. The Steamboat Springs/Bob Adams Field will be on the left as you head up this road. It merges with Routt County Rd. 64. From the turnoff on US 40, it is about 25 miles to Steamboat Lake State Park Visitor's Center where you can by a Colorado State Park pass. There are gravel roads which circle the lake, providing access to marina, camping, and picnic facilities,

For general mapping, try Google Maps <http://www.google.com/maphp?hl=en&tab=wl&q=>. The map quality and ability to match up to satellite photos is very useful.

For topographical maps online, check out www.topozone.com and click on the View Maps link. Select the state, county, and specific map to access detailed topographic maps of nearly the entire country.

DeLorme's Colorado Atlas & Gazetteer map book is also useful for reasonable detailed topographic maps in book form for the entire state.

Special Considerations. The county highways are paved approximately 20 miles in after which they are good gravel roads. Most of the lower roads do not require high

clearance or 4-wheel drive during dry weather but as you explore forest service roads east of Clark or north of Steamboat Lake State Park, you will find more places where you will appreciate high clearance vehicle. Some of the more remote roads are narrow so anticipate approaching traffic. Watch for cattle along the roads as there are many places in which you are on open range. During the winter, the road maintenance is probably less than ideal. As the snow can fall heavily and quickly, it is best to be well prepared. Note all facilities on state parks require a day or annual pass. Park rangers do check so it is best to be on the safe side.

For More Information. Matt Schaefer, mattscha@aol.com, (303) 972-9882

At The Last Meeting...

Gordon and Cathy Illg gave us a sometimes humorous, sometimes discouraging, but definitely insightful look into the life of a professional photographer during their ICF competition last spring. Although professional photography may be fun, there are probably more times when it's boring, miserable, hard work—just like any other job.

November Meeting Change

Due to a scheduling conflict, our November 8 meeting will be held in the Great Hall at The Wildlife Experience.

MHWPC Webpage

The beginnings of a new club webpage are taking shape. This isn't simply a chat group, but a real, bona fide web site. You can see the beginnings of our webpage at www.MHWPC.org. What you see so far is due to the efforts of members **James Hager** and **Anne Hughes** who volunteered their services when Ron suggested we create our own website. Take moment to check it out. If you have any suggestions for the webpage (layout, content, colors scheme, etc.) please forward

them to [Ron Eberhart](#). And don't forget to thank James and Anne for this monumental accomplishment in such a short time. Unfortunately, neither James nor Anne were at the October meeting to hear the amazed comments of the members.

Upcoming Programs

November—Galapagos Islands

Rick Harner will show his slides from his trip this year to the Galapagos Islands. Great trip, great photography. Plus some good tips on how to approach the trip, what to take, etc

December—Potluck

Our December 13 Holiday Potluck will be held in the Community Gallery, with our exhibit still on display! Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. The club will provide the plates, utensils, napkins, and drinks.

Of Interest

If you ever get locked out of the building during one of our meetings, go to the security office on the west side of the building at the loading dock.

A Note of Thanks

We all owe a big *"thank you"* to Denver Digital Imaging Center on Alameda (formerly The Slideprinter) for sponsoring and printing our club exhibit. Please remember them for your next scanning or printing job. Let's all take the time to thank them at (303) 698-2962. This is the fourth exhibit they have sponsored for us!

Development of a Colorado Prairie Wildlife Photo Trail (CPWPT) and Related Photo Contests

The initial idea was to get a Texas-style (Images for Conservation Fund) photo contest going for professionals to stimulate interest in

wildlife conservation, particularly on the eastern Colorado plains. The concept is to

- Develop a Colorado Prairie Wildlife Photo Trail, a number of places within reasonable driving distance where the landowners have erected blinds (or had others do so) in ideal places to observe wildlife, such as watering holes and let us pay to photograph.
- Utilize amateur photo contests to stimulate interest in paying landowners on the trail or going with pro photographer-led trips to these locations.
- If there is the time and energy, the next step would be a Texas-style contest. I think at this point, if the CPWPT is proving somewhat profitable and the amateur contests have stimulate interest, there might be a much greater landowner backing for the undertaking of an IFC contest.

An important development involves the Colorado Birding Trail that is being created at this time in the SE Colorado prairie region. I have been invited to a meeting of the Steering Committee of this group to see how much my ideas fit with theirs, and whether we can "cross-pollinate" in mutually beneficial ways.

They have 50 landowners who have expressed some level of interest in being involved in the birding trail. While they've been surveying this land for bird species, they've also been thoughtfully observing habitat that makes it likely other wildlife species would be present. This could be a huge contribution to the CPWPT project.

Other opportunities that have been offered include a meeting with the Colorado Cattlemen's Association to talk about the possibility of people there becoming involved in CPWPT. This would allow us to become involved with landowners in the NE region of the state.

We need others to become actively involved in developing the CPWPT. We need people to:

- Look at the lands to see whether they hold promise for photo tourism.
- Think about where blinds could be situated to optimize opportunities.
- Help landowners think realistically about what photographers need to enjoy their visit. Many of the landowners may be interested in doing bed/board if there seems to be enough interest from birders and photographers in their location.

Please contact me if you have ideas, comments, or especially if you want to offer your help. This is a long term project—several years. But the right individual's involvement on the day a blind placement is to be decided could be a major contribution. So let me know what level of involvement you would like.

Nancy Stocker
 nstocker@comcast.net
 303-759-4056

Update on Fielder Presentation

The Wildlife Experience presents A Month with John Fielder

Wednesday, November 8 7:00-9:00 p.m. *How To and The Best of Colorado*

This presentation will focus on the basic elements of photography, based on his book *Photographing the Landscape: The Art of Seeing and where to go in Colorado*, based on his book *John Fielder's Best of Colorado*.

Wednesday, November 15 7:00-9:00 p.m. *Ecosystems of Colorado*

This presentation will discuss the “science” of Colorado, featuring the many diverse biomes and the flora and fauna found in these ecosystems. This presentation is based on his books *The Complete Guide to Colorado's*

Wilderness Areas, and Explore Colorado: A Naturalist's Notebook.

Wednesday, November 29 7:00-9:00 p.m. *Colorado: Then and Now*

A comparison of photography from William H. Jackson in 1870 to John Fielder's photography in 2000. These photos document the enormous changes that have occurred (mostly due to the hand of man) in the past 130 years. The presentation will utilize photos from his books *Colorado 1870-2000 William H. Jackson/John Fielder* and *Colorado 1870-2000 II William H. Jackson/John Fielder*.

Prices for individual events are \$8.00 for members, \$10.00 for non-members. Attend all four events for \$24.00 for members and \$30.00 for non-members.

For more information on John Fielder's *Intimate Colorado Landscapes* exhibit, his lecture series and *The Wildlife Experience*, visit thewildlifeexperience.org or call (720) 488-3300.

Braggin' Rights

Texas Highways has used two of **Cathy Illg's** photos for an article on the ICF Competition, and **Gordon and Cathy** have a white-tail on the cover of *Game & Fish*.

Position Available

Beginning in January 2007, the club needs a volunteer to maintain the club library. This is a simple task that involves checking materials in and out of the club library during break time at meetings.

TWE Exhibit

The winners of the club's TWE competition will be available for viewing at in the Community Gallery, October 7, 2006 – January 28, 2007.

Call for Papers

by **Matt Schaefer**

And Another One of My Favorite Places is...

For many of us, we each have favorite places which we have found to be full of rich photographic treasures. Most of us are also always looking for more such places to practice our vocation or avocation. This is a call for club members to share some information on your favorite places so that all of us can enjoy them, as well. This would become a regular column in the newsletter and would include location, special considerations, type of photographs available (flowers, landscapes, wildlife, etc.), and directions.

Since the purpose is report on places available for everyone, let's try to limit them to the continental U.S. for now. Maybe later, we can expand to "my favorite international places". Also, let's see if we can report on the out-of-the-way places not reported in every tourist and photo guide to the country. It doesn't have to be expensive or famous to a favorite place.

Some ideas to include in a report would be:

- why it is special
- state and county names, as well as other commonly used names for the area (i.e.: Blanco Basin, Archuleta County, Colorado)
- a couple of sample photos (these don't have to be competition quality, but should show some examples of what a person could expect to see there)
- a simple map, or links to Google Maps or Mapquest
- directions and distances to nearby towns including highway numbers and key turnoffs
- distance and time from Denver
- special considerations such as weather, road conditions, traffic, crowd reports, best time of day/year, special equipment to bring, fees, and what not to miss
- your name and POC information in case someone has additional questions

Please submit them to [Frank Weston](#) in the normal manner for inclusion in the

newsletter. Hopefully, we'll have enough submissions to run one each month.

September Competition Results

Judge: Gordon Illg

Category: Prints/Slides

Slides

Wildlife - 4 entries



1st Place

Mara Breakfast

Chris Loffredo

2nd Misty Pelican

Pat Hayes

Scenic - 6 entries

"Image Not Available"

1st Place

Maroon Bells

Ron Eberhart

2nd Mesa Arch

Pat Hayes

HoM Wildlife - 3 entries

"Image Not Available"

1st Place

Mountain Goat Nanny Nursing Kid

Fi Rust

Prints

Wildlife – 4 entries



1st Place
Full Spread
Sam Fletcher

HoM Wildlife – 2 entries

“Image Not Available”

1st Place
Turtle Family
Dick York

Wildlife – 2 entries

“Image Not Available”

1st Place
Pacific Sunset
Dick York

Club Field Trips

Listed below are tentative dates for club field trips.

- Wild Horse Foals, Black Hills—May 5, 2007. The trip will be at the Wild Horse Sanctuary, Hot Springs, SD. The cost will be \$26/session, with two 3-hour sessions, one

at sunrise and one at sunset. Contact [Charlie Summers](#), 303-840-3355 for more information.

Hospitality

Greeter(s):

Snacks: Randy Copsey, Shannon Holmes

Drinks/Ice: Rich Spellman

Club Library

The club library contains books, videos, magazines and CDs about nature photography. Club members may check out one item for one month. Overdue fines of \$1.00 per month will be due on any item not returned the next month. Please be considerate of others who want to use the library resources! Do not check out an item unless you will return it at the next month's meeting. If you miss the next meeting, please contact **Kathy Lingo** to make arrangements to return the item to her. kathy@arch2000.net or (303) 733- 9844

Workshops and Seminars

Cathy & Gordon Illg – Workshops:
Adventure Photography 303 237-7086

gordon@advenphoto.com

www.advenphoto.com

- Bryce & Zion, November 5-10
- Arches & Canyonlands, November 12-17
- Bosque del Apache (Full Moon), December 3-8
- Death Valley/Alabama Hills, December 31 – January 6
- Beauty & the Beasts (Monarchs & Elephant Seals), January 8-13
- Winter Wildlife, February 6-9
- Southern Arizona, April 22–27
- Texas Birds, April 30 – May 5
- Louisiana/Texas Birds & Bayous, May 7–12
- Wild Horses, May 29 – June 2
- Mt. Evans/Alpine Adventure, June 12 –15
- Wildlife Babies, June 19 –22
- Glacier National Park, July 8 – 13

Russ Burden's Photography Tours
Visit russburdenphotography.com. Contact
Russ at 303 791-9997 or
rburden@ecentral.com

Destinations include:

- Nov. 4 - 10 2006 Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks
- Dec. 3 -10 2006 Bosque Del Apache / White Sands Natl. Mon. with full moon
- Apr 21 - 27, 2007 - Monument Valley / Slot Canyons
- May 12 - 18, 2007 - Arches + Canyonlands National Parks – includes 5 days of Photoshop instruction with a certified Photoshop Instructor.
- May 26 - June 4, 2007 - Oregon Coast and Northern California - 10 day trip
- June 16 - 22, 2007 - Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Spring
- Sept. 22-Oct. 1, 2007 - Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Fall -10 day trip
- Oct. 6 - 12, 2007 - Vermont in Autumn
- Oct. 20 - 25, 2007 - Hunts Mesa in Monument Valley and Capital Reef NP.
- Nov. 3 - 9, 2007 - Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks
- Dec. 1 - 7, 2007 - Bosque Del Apache and White Sands Natl. Mon.

James Hager Photography - Small Group Photo Safaris, www.JamesHagerPhoto.com
James@JamesHagerPhoto.com

- Tanzania in Feb 2007: Wildebeest birthing season in Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti NP- 15 days, Feb 3-17
- Primates in Feb 2007: Chimpanzees and gorillas in Tanzania and Rwanda - 11 days, Feb 17-27

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

President: [Ron Eberhart](#)

720-635-6337

Vice-President: [Chris Loffredo](#)

720-200-0792

Secretary/Treasurer: [Patrick Devereaux](#)

303-683-7011

TEAM LEADERS

Monthly Programs: [Chuck Winter](#) 303-972-2538

Membership: *vacant*

Special Programs/Field Trips:

[Chuck Winter](#) 303-972-2538

Competition: [Russ Burden](#)

Competition Scoring: *Chris Loffredo*

Competition Entrees: *Matt Schaeffer/Fred Stearns*

Judging Coordinator: *David Terbush* 303-814-6969

Snacks/Greeters: [Roger Kinney](#) 303-369-6120

Publicity: *Buzz Soard* 303-779-9933

Library: *Lingo Family* 303-733-9844

Newsletter: [Frank Weston](#) 720-981-8087

Club Website: [James Hager](#)

<http://www.mhwpc.org>

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Russ Burden * Tom Lentz *

Wayne Smith * Rita Summers * Rick Harner

November Meeting

Wednesday November 8

7:00pm – 10:00pm

at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: Digital

Submittal Deadline: Saturday, Nov 4

October Attendance: 52
