

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

February 2007 Volume 31, Issue 2

BIGGER ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER

by Gordon Illg

It's a nice snowy day, and you've got a tolerant red fox that's all but posing for you. Don't laugh. It could happen. In fact, it used to happen on a regular basis at a greenbelt here in the Denver Metro Area. Back to our story, though, which lens would you use on the fox?

Over the years, Cathy and I spent a lot of time focusing a 500mm lens on those foxes, and we came home with some very nice portraits. Even though some of the images were published, a few in some prominent places, we were not satisfied. As nice as our portraits were, there are lots of fox portraits in circulation, and most of them can't help but look similar.

One snowy day, I decided I wanted to make my fox photos look different. I left the 500mm lens at home and grabbed our 28-80 zoom. When I arrived at the greenbelt, there was a fox waiting on the bridge, hoping for a handout. It

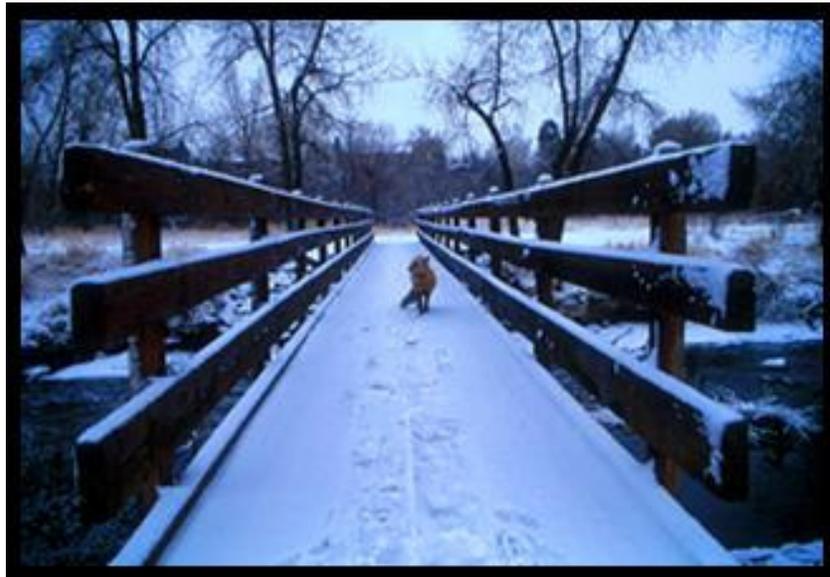
would've been a great opportunity for another tight portrait. At 28mm though, the bridge railings not only frame the fox, but make the perfect leading lines for the center of interest. This image tells a much more complete story than a portrait would. A quick glance tells the viewer that here is an animal who has

adapted to living near humans (it's using a bridge to cross a small creek).

There is no right or wrong answer to which lens a photographer should use to photograph a fox. It's a matter of what you want to say with your photo. To capture the viewer's interest with the beauty of the animal, you probably want to shoot it tight to highlight the details in its fur and the color of its eyes. If you want to show the fox's relationship to its habitat, you will need to shoot it a bit wider. How wide is determined by what elements in the habitat you need to

include in the image.

Creating a strong composition with a small subject is much more difficult than it is with a subject that takes up the entire frame. However, it also makes a more unusual image. And that is one of the reasons



Use a wide angle lens to place the subject in its environment

this photo was Runner Up in the Urban & Garden Wildlife category of the BG Wildlife Photographer of the Year Contest. The judges see lots of fox photos in that contest, mostly portraits (we've sent them quite a few ourselves). All of our portraits were passed over, but this image was different enough to catch the judges' eye.

At The Last Meeting...

Board member Rick Harner proposed that absentee Board member Wayne Smith be removed from the board. Harner then nominated Chuck Winter to fill the vacant seat. Winter's nomination was unanimously approved by the membership.

The ongoing development of the club's new webpage now includes the posting of past and present newsletters. With the newsletters now available to all members online, it was decided to discontinue emailing the newsletter to members. An email will be sent alerting members when the latest newsletter has been posted so they can then read it at their convenience on the club website.

Even though it is costing the club money to mail out hard copies of the newsletter, it was decided that the club should continue subsidizing the cost of producing and mailing hard copies to club members who request it. To ease the burden on the newsletter editor, Chuck Winter has volunteered to mail the hard copy newsletters.

James Hager treated us to an astounding number of truly exceptional images that he has taken on his trips to Africa. Captivating the audience with his soft-spoken presentation, Hager not only showed us the common species, but many rare and unusual species from the Dark Continent as well.

Dues Are Due

Yep, it's a new year and that means that it's time to pay your 2007 club dues. Membership is still only \$20 for the entire year. Please bring your dues to the meeting. Remember only paid members can participate in club competitions or receive the club newsletter. If your dues are not paid by the February meeting, your name will be removed from the members list.

Braggin' Rights

Gary B. Lawrence of Westminster, CO, has won Second Place for December in the prestigious photography contest sponsored by BetterPhoto.com, according to the site's founder, Jim Miotke.

More than 20,000 entries were submitted to the online photography contest, which attracted contestants from around the world and featured ten separate categories. Lawrence's stunning image, "Aspen in Fall", garnered honors after being submitted in the Nature & Landscapes category.

All of the winning images can be viewed at BetterPhoto.com's [contest page](#).

Rick Harner has had one of his photos chosen by Frontier Airlines for use on a tail.

Gordon & Cathy Illg had a mountain lion photo used on the cover of the January issue of *Game & Fish* magazine.

Frank Weston has sold an image of man rowing a boat along the Snake River at Oxbow Bend to a sport travel company for their advertising brochure.

From the Webmaster

The MHWPC website (www.mhwpc.org) has been updated to enhance its usefulness to the club with two major additions: newsletters and links.

Newsletters are now available online in PDF format going back to January 2006. Future newsletters may be distributed via the site instead of through email in order to save your valuable disk space. Of course, you'll be able to download the file to your own machine if you really want to have your very own personal copy. Online newsletters can be accessed through the Newsletter Archive page.

The other major addition is links to member's photo-related websites. The Links page provides a short description of the site

and you'll be able to follow the link to see more of the work of some of our members. Contact the [webmaster](#) for information about adding a link to your site. The Links page will also have links to other photo clubs and businesses.

For those of you who haven't visited the site yet, the Competition Guidelines and Digital Image Submission Guidelines are online, as are the winning images for the 2006 TWE competition.

Coming soon:

- Winning images from the monthly competitions. They will probably be limited to the digital competitions unless digital files are available for the slide/print competitions. Anyone want to volunteer to take digital "snapshots" of slides/prints so all winning images can be included?
- Blog for current events like fall foliage and spring wildflower reports. Everyone will be able to view, but only members will be able to post.
- Broadcast messages where members will be able to email all other members.
- "For Sale" area where members will be able to post, you guessed it, items for sale.

Other ideas for the future:

- Online membership registration and renewal.
- Archive of favorite places to shoot.
- Other informational pages that are submitted (by-laws anyone?).
- An online photo critique area for members. A member will be able to upload an image, and others will be able to provide critiques. It will probably be in an area only for members, or at least only members will be able to enter critiques.

If you have any suggestions for how to improve the website, contact the [webmaster](#).

Upcoming Programs

February— Adobe Lightroom

Craig Lewis of Craig Lewis Imaging will be doing his Adobe Lightroom show and talk about the use of this software for handling digital processing.

March— Wild Horses

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.

January Competition Results

Judge: Rick Harner

Category: Digital

Wildlife - 17 entries



1st Place

King Penguins Courting
James Hager

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 2nd | Polar Bear | Chris Loffredo |
| 3rd | Alert Male Lion | Charles Summers |
| HM | Bottle-nosed Dolphin | Charles Summers |
| HM | Status Check | Dick York |

Open- 4 entries



1st Place
Cimarron Valley Panoramic
 Reb Babcock

Scenic - 11 entries



1st Place
Boulders in Surf
 James Hager

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 2nd | Sunrise | Jack Davis |
| 3rd | Ice and Stone | Jan France |
| HM | Sunwapata Falls Boulder | James Hager |

HoM Wildlife - 5 entries



1st Place
Eagle
 Nick Burden

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------|
| 2nd | Northern Flicker | Fi Rust |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------|

Critique – 2 entries

One of My Favorite Places is...

**Williams Creek Reservoir,
 Pagosa Springs, CO.**

Text and Photos by Matt Schaefer

As a gateway to the eastern side of the Weminuche Wilderness Area, Piedra Road leaves the fast food restaurants and a small airport near Pagosa Springs behind to wind its way through upscale housing developments, ranches, National Forest campgrounds, and both pine and aspen groves. The road crosses the Piedra River before that river continues carving a canyon several hundred feet deep through the San Juan Mountains. The traveler will move through high country meadows, stands of Ponderosa and Lodgepole pines, groves of quacking aspen. Good river and lake fishing is readily available, as are broad vistas and rugged mountain scenery.

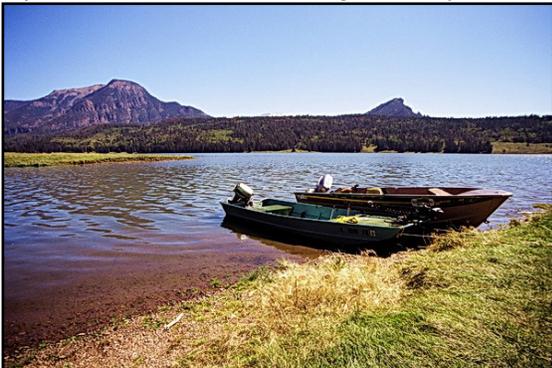


Photographic Opportunities. Wildlife in the area includes bear, deer, elk and numerous smaller species of mammals and birds. Lynx have been reintroduced into the area during the past five years so it is possible to also see them in the wilderness area. Although they are extremely shy. Scenery includes beautiful fall colors, some wildflowers, numerous ranch and mountain scenes and various views of Pagosa Peak at nearly 13,000 feet. There are plenty of wildflowers and some nice spots along the

Piedra 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. 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. 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 300 miles (6–7 hours) to Pagosa Springs via either US 285 and US 160 or I25 and US160. Traveling on US 285, you'll pass through Conifer, Kenosha Pass, Fairplay, Trout Creek Pass, Buena Vista, Poncha Pass and Saguache. At the intersection with State 112 near Center, go west to Del Norte then follow US 160 to South Fork and over Wolf Creek Pass to Pagosa Springs. If you choose to go south on I-25 get off in Walsenburg and take US 160 over La Veta Pass and through Alamosa and Monte Vista before getting to Del Norte.

At about two miles beyond the western end of town, turn right on Piedra Road (Forest Road 600) at the traffic light. Stevenson Field airport will be on the right as you head up this road. Remain on this road for approximately 16 miles when it turns into Forest Road 631. Another six miles takes you to an intersection with Forest Road 640. Follow this road about two miles to Williams Fork Reservoir and another three miles to the wilderness area access point. From the turnoff on US 160, it is about 24 miles to the lake and 26.5 to the wilderness access. There is a basic boat ramp along with camping and picnic facilities at the lake. Several other Forest Service campgrounds and unimproved campsites are available along the way.



Side trips include numerous Forest Roads which skirt the southern base and provide access to Pagosa Peak and logging operations west of Williams Creek Reservoir. Watch out for the big logging trucks, ranch vehicles, and cattle. If you are up for some hiking, there are several good trails along the Piedra River overlooking the canyon it has created and into the wilderness area. Near downtown Pagosa Springs, the San Juan National Forest maintains a district office with good maps and information about the area.

For general mapping, I prefer [Google Maps](#). 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. I have also found DeLorme's Colorado Atlas & Gazetteer map book useful for reasonable detailed topographic maps in book form for the entire state.

Special Considerations. The roads are paved approximately seven miles in, after which they are good gravel roads. Most of the main roads do not require high clearance or 4-wheel drive during dry weather but as you explore other forest service roads in the area, you will find more places where you will appreciate a 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 performed on about the first 20 miles. As the snow can fall heavily and quickly, it is best to be well prepared. Note all improved National Forest campgrounds require a day or annual pass. Forest rangers or hosts do check so it is best to be on the safe side.

When you are done hiking and hauling all that equipment around, consider a soak in the hot springs in Pagosa Springs. They will rejuvenate you for the next day's adventures.

For more information, contact Matt Schaefer, mattscha@aol.com, (303) 972-9882.

Club Field Trips

Listed below are tentative dates for club field trips.

- Ptarmigan, Guanella Pass—tentatively scheduled for late January or early February (January 20th or February 17th or March 3rd). This trip is questionable due to road conditions on Guanella Pass. Contact [Chuck Winter](#), 303-972-2538 for details.
- Wild Horse Foals, Black Hills—May 5, 2007. The trip is full. Charlie will take a short list of folks who might want to go in the event of a cancellation but those who have booked seem certain to go. It is up to the individuals who are staying at Motel 8 to call and make their own reservations. The number is 1-800-800-8000. When calling, please be sure to state you are with the Mile High Wildlife Wild Horse Sanctuary Tour because then you will be put in a special block of rooms. Motel 8 is catering a continental breakfast for us so we can get to the Wild Horse Sanctuary just before sunrise on May 5th. Contact Charlie Summers, 303-840-3355 if you have questions.

Hospitality for February Meeting

Snacks: Doug Hurst, Rita Summers

Drinks: Charlie Summers

Library News from the Lamb's

Stop by the table and check out what the club has for you. Everyday is a new chance to learn. Why not start today?



Watch for a list of available resources and new

items. Pick up a “surprise” in a mystery pic of the month.

Joe and Betsy Lamb

jnlamb@comcast.net or 303-841-2565

For Sale

Camera Equipment in Perfect Condition and Fully Functional:

- Nikon FE2 Black Body
 - Nikon MD-12 3.5 fps motor drive
 - Nikon 50mm 1.4 lens
 - Nikon 105mm 2.5 lens
 - Vivitar Flash
 - Camera and Flash mount
- Asking Price: \$250 for all items
Contact: Chuck Winter, 303-972-2538

- Canon EOS 3 & power booster
- Canon 90mm tilt & shift lens.
- We also have a bunch of Fuji film we're willing to give to whoever wants it. No guarantees on whether or not the color has shifted.

Cathy & Gordon Illg

303-237-7086

gordon@advenphoto.com

Equipment Wanted

I am looking for a close-up filter - I would like the Nikon #5T or 6T if someone has one they want to sell.

Roger L. Kinney

303-369-6120

RLKin@comcast.net

Workshops and Seminars

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

gordon@advenphoto.com

www.advenphoto.com

- 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:

- Apr 21 - 27, 2007 - Monument Valley / Slot Canyons
- May 12 - 18, 2007 - Arches + Canyonlands National Park – 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. Park in Spring
- Sept. 22-Oct. 1, 2007 - Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Park 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 Park
- 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

- Primates in Feb 2007: Chimpanzees and gorillas in Tanzania and Rwanda - 11 days, Feb 17-27
- Kenya in Sept 2007: Classic safari to Samburu and Masai Mara National

Reserves - 20 days, Sept 25 to Oct 14, 2007.

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 Schaefer/Fred Stearns](#)

Judging Coordinator: [David Terbush](#) 303-814-6969

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

Publicity: [Buzz Soard](#) 303-779-9933

Library: [Betsy Lamb](#) 303-841-2565

Newsletter: [Frank Weston](#) 303-829-7494

Club Website: [James Hager](#)

<http://www.mhwpc.org>

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Russ Burden * Tom Lentz *

Rita Summers * Rick Harner * Chuck Winter *

February Meeting

Wednesday February 14

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: Prints/Slides

Submittal Deadline: NA

January Attendance: 52
