

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

April 2007 Volume 31, Issue 4

What's Wrong With This Picture?

Text and photos by Frank Weston

For several years, *Popular Photography* has had an ongoing series where their photo editors critique an image, making recommendations on how the image can be improved. Do you sometimes wish that you could get an editor's opinion of some of your photos? It's an incredible learning opportunity for those photographers whose images are selected to be reviewed in the magazine. The rest of us have to learn by example from the critique of someone else's photos. To make matters worse, *Pop Photo* only reviews two to three images a month in their magazine. That makes for a very slow learn unless they just happen to focus on an issue that you just happen to be wrestling with at the time.

Fortunately, there is an easier way to learn how to improve your photos. And it's right here at MHWPC. No doubt, your first thought is "What! The club competitions!" and you're not sure you want to risk the embarrassment of having your photos receive a 3 when all the others get 8s and 9s. (I don't blame you. I have photos that I'd like to hear what someone else thinks of, but I don't want to risk the public humiliation of having the whole world see it ripped to shreds.)

But we're in luck. MHWPC has a way to get our photos critiqued and no one will see an embarrassed-face glow in the back of the

auditorium. About a year ago, the club instituted the Critique category for just this reason. It's a place where we can anonymously have our photos evaluated by the competition judge without that tattle-tale score. Think of it as a place to practice our photographic skills. There's no better teacher than experience.

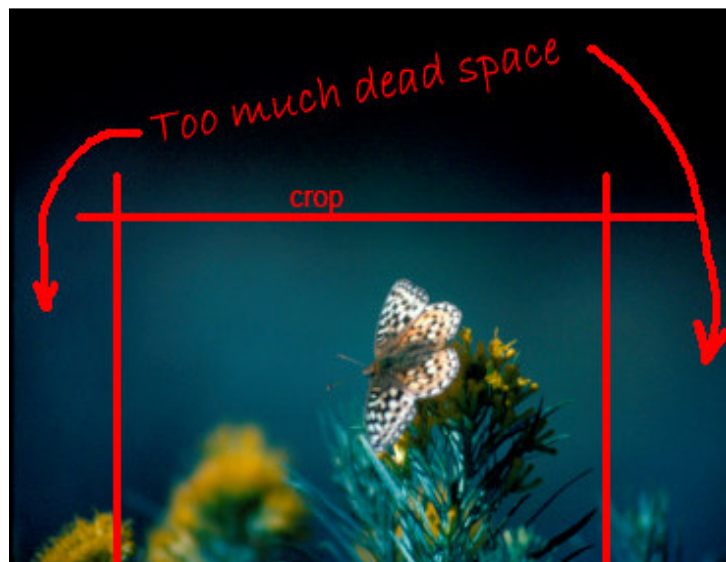
Even better, there's none of those category

restrictions—"Is it Hand of Man?", or "Did I do too much digital alteration?".

The Critique category is wide open. Anything you want to bring in is fair game. Bring in the quick snapshot that you think is pretty good but think it could be

better. Have you learned something new in Photoshop and you're not sure if you've overdone it? Bring it in.

The purpose of this club is to help its members to develop their photographic skills. So what's wrong with this picture? Seminars where you can get your photos professionally evaluated can easily cost \$500 or more. MHWPC photo club membership where you can get your photos professionally evaluated every month costs \$20. You do the math.



At The Last Meeting...

A rundown of the many announcements from the March meeting:

- Kathy Lingo announced that the club has been invited to provide images for a TWE exhibit on wildlife babies.
- Fi Rust announced a board of judges was being put together for the selection of the club's Nature's Best entry.
- Frank Weston announced that summer project conflicts may interfere with his newsletter duties. He will be backed up by Alix Gallivan when conflicts do arise. All newsletter info and inquiries should still be directed to Frank.
- Matt Schaeffer praised Jim Varner's "My Favorite Place is...somewhere in Southern Utah" and encouraged all members to submit articles or ideas for the newsletter.

All of this was followed by Rita and Charlie Summers' highly anticipated presentation on Wild Horses. They led us through the convoluted evolution of the wild horses of the world through words and beautiful photographs from their recently published book. (In the process, it stirred up in this viewer's mind the controversial question of how to define "wildlife".)

"Go out and shoot some babies!"

These are the marching orders delivered by President Chris Loffredo to club members. We all know that Chris is not so ruthless as to literally "shoot babies". He was referring to the upcoming TWE exhibit that MHWPC has been invited to provide. The theme is Baby Animals. The only shooting Chris is asking for is done with a camera.

See Kathy Lingo for competition details.

Braggin' Rights

Reb Babcock will be opening permanent exhibits at the Courtyard Gallery in Buena Vista and at the Buckhorn Exchange in Gunnison around the first of April.

Upcoming Programs

April— Andy Long

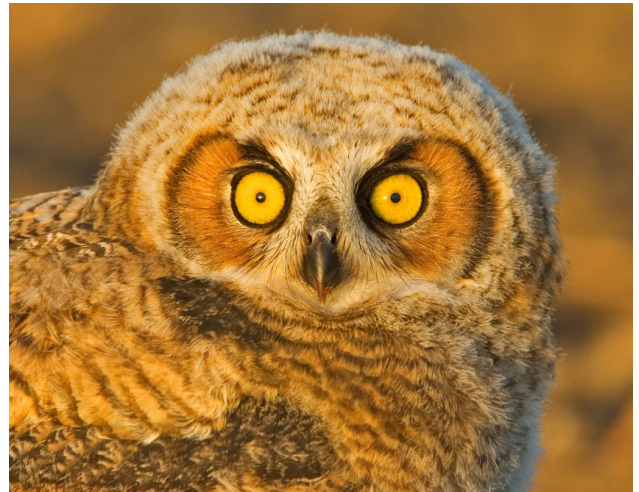
Andy Long of First Light Photo Tours will give a presentation on nature photography tips and techniques for photographing his favorite places. Andy will also give us a sneak preview from the scouting trip he recently completed to South Georgia Island and the Falklands.

March Competition Results

Judge: Gordon Illg

Category: Digital

Wildlife - 15 entries



1st Place

Great Horned Owl Chick at Sunset
Fi Rust

2nd Chacma Baboon Rita Summers
Leaping with Baby
Clinging Under
Stomach RS Botswana

3rd Alert Red Fox Chuck Summers

HM Leaping Goat Russ Burden

HM Grizzly Sow and Cub Fi Rust

Open - 1 entries



1st Place
Buffalo Skull in Snow
Reb Babcock

Scenic - 13 entries



1st Place
Delicate Arch Reflection
Reb Babcock

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 2nd | Rocky Mountain Sunrise | Frank Weston |
| 3rd | Grand Canyon | Jack Davis |
| HM | Boulder Falls | Fi Rust |

HoM Wildlife - 7 entries



1st Place
Harris Hawk in Flight
Fi Rust

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 2nd | Saw Whett Owl | Chris Loffredo |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|

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](#).

Club Field Trips

Listed below are tentative dates for club field trips.

- Denver Zoo—Any members interested photographing animals at the Denver Zoo should meet at the main gate of the zoo at 9:00 AM on Saturday, April 14th, Saturday, April 21st, or Saturday, April 28th.
- Wild Horse Foals, Black Hills—For those participants going on the May 5, 2007 Wild Horse field trip and arriving on Thursday, May 3rd at the Super8 Motel, on Friday we recommend driving north of Hot Springs on Hy 385 by going back through town and entering Wind Cave National Monument.

There are prairie dogs, coyotes, deer, buffalo and antelope in Wind Cave and often some of these can be found near the road. Continue straight at the first prairie dog town and take the next right. Do not go to Pringle, SD. Continue north and you will enter Custer State Park. Take your first right past the entrance warden's shack and you will be on the wildlife loop road. This road is extremely productive for antelope and buffalo however I have seen turkey, bighorn sheep and white-tailed deer on this drive. We will meet up on Saturday morning 30 minutes prior to sunrise in the parking lot of the Super8 Motel. Those of you staying at the motel we will see you at breakfast. We need to be prompt with this meeting time because the Sanctuary is 12 miles south of Hot Springs on Hy 71, the entrance to which is there by the motel.

- Mt. Evans—A field trip to Mt. Evans for the mountain goats is tentatively scheduled for June. Contact Chuck Winter for additional information.

Hospitality for April Meeting

Snacks: Trisha Babbitt & Robin Wilson
Drinks: Emelene Russell

Library News from the Lamb's



Stop by the Library Table and learn something new or enjoy something old.

Check out the DVD, *A Guide to Colorado's Best Photographic Locations* by Randy Cook.

Joe and Betsy Lamb
inblamb@comcast.net or 303-841-2565

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; only a few openings left
- Glacier National Park, July 8 – 13

Russ Burden's Photography Tours
 Visit russburdenphotography.com. Contact
 Russ at 303 791-9997, 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

- 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: Chris Loffredo

ChrisLoff@comcast.net 720-635-6337

Vice-President:

(vacant)

Secretary/Treasurer: Patrick Devereaux

patrick.devereaux@cushwake.com 303-683-7011

Newsletter Editor: Frank Weston

frank@frankweston.com 303-829-7494

TEAM LEADERS

Monthly Programs: *Chuck Winter*

cwinter@mii-rmcc.com 303-972-2538

Membership: *vacant*

Special Programs/Field Trips:

Chuck Winter

cwinter@mii-rmcc.com 303-972-2538

Competition: *Russ Burden*

Competition Scoring: *Chris Loffredo*

Competition Entrees: *Matt Schaefer/Fred Stearns*

Judging Coordinator: *Fred Stearns 303 400-0385*

Snacks/Greeters: *Roger Kinney 303-369-6120*

Publicity: *Buzz Soard 303-779-9933*

Library: *Betsy Lamb 303-841-2565*

Webmaster: *James Hager*

<http://www.mhwpc.org> johager@earthlink.net

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Russ Burden * Tom Lentz *

Rita Summers * Rick Harner * Chuck Winter *

April Meeting

Wednesday April 11

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: Slides/Prints

Submittal Deadline: at the meeting

March Attendance: 60
