

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

May 2007 Volume 31, Issue 5

Landscape Light

Text and photos by Russ Burden

“It’s all about the light!” I can’t emphasize this enough when it comes to landscape photography. The quality of the light, the time of day, the direction from where it comes, the contrast, and the drama all factor in to determine the impact of the image. On one hand, there really is no such thing as non photographable light depending on the subject you wish to capture. On the other, the more dramatic it is when photographing the grand landscape, the bigger the smile that appears on my face. Have I been out on days where I haven’t even lifted the camera to my eye? Of course, but that’s what makes hunting for and capturing the perfect light most special.

If landscape photography is all about the light, what kind of light provides the best opportunity? Actually, there are many variables that affect a definitive answer. If the goal is to emphasize texture, shadows and highlights, shapes and form, then what you want is bright sidelight at sunrise or sunset. If soft details are the focus of the shoot, then bright overcast conditions are desirable. If you’re looking for impact, clearing or impending storms are prime. If the conditions you desire don’t come together, this is when you need to punt and photograph subjects that work given the hand you’re dealt. Knowing an area well and visiting it often offers you the knowledge of where to go given the conditions. One can never go to the same location too many times.

In the images that accompany this article, each was made under different conditions that offered desirable light for each subject. I’m not a proponent of shooting front lit landscapes except when



I’m photographing during the first or last five minutes of sunrise or sunset. Add in storm clouds on the opposite horizon and a big smile lights up my face. This is what occurred in the first image of Balanced Rock in Arches National Park. In image number two, the strong sidelight at sunset was the key. It created the brightly lit right

side of the dune and the strong shadow on



the left. Without the bright sun, the shadow wouldn't be dark and the image would lose its punch. In the intimate landscape of photo number three, the conditions for the subject we initially wanted did not pan out, so I punted and photographed soft details in the overcast light that filled the sky.



At The Last Meeting...

Voting was the hot topic of the day. A large number of members turned out to vote on a number of issues. When all was said and done, the members had chosen new officers,

President—Chris Loffredo
Vice President—Matt Shaefer

and new Board members,

Fi Rust
Frank Weston.

The members also approved

- revisions to the Articles of Association,
- guidelines for the TWE *Baby Animals* exhibit,
- a competition rotation of digital/digital/prints & slides.

This was followed by a presentation of photography do's and don'ts by photographer Andy Long.

The Wildlife Experience Exhibit

DATES TO REMEMBER

(THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE DEADLINES!)

- July 5** 6:00 PM emailed entries. **NOTE this is Thursday after July 4!**
- July 5** 6:00 PM slides to Charlie Summers for scanning
- July 11** Competition at the regular meeting.
- July 20** Written description of winning images to Kathy Lingo
- Sept 1** Exhibit opens

FAQ's

The Wildlife Experience has invited our club to exhibit our work from September 1 through November 11 in the Community Gallery. The theme will be Wildlife Babies. At the July 11 meeting, club members will choose 22 images to be included in the show. All club members may enter a maximum of three images into the competition. No member will have more than one image selected for the exhibit. Only club members that have paid their club dues may participate.

- 1. How do I enter?** Before 6:00 pm Thursday July 5, email your entries to Milehighphotoclub@gmail.com. **Please title you email with "TWE". Give your images a short recognizable name, like "Bobcat in Snow" so competition organizers can tell which image is which. You must also include your name in the image title too.**

You will have a chance to give your image a more artistic title later if you get into the show. Competition entries should follow standard club competition JPG format of 72 dpi and 1024x768ppi if it is a horizontal shot, or 768 on the vertical if it is a vertical shot. Files should be 350Kb or less for emailing. If you want to enter any images from an original slide (not digital), you must submit a digital scan for the competition. Local photo shops like Wolf, Mike's Camera, Denver Digital can scan slides for a few dollars or Charlie Summers has offered to scan slides for you. **Please refer to the Digital Image Submission Guidelines published on the club website www.MHWPC.org or in the newsletter for more details on image requirements.**

2. How are images selected to the show?

The club members in attendance on July 11 will vote to select 22 images for the show, including two "Best of Show" images that will be prominently featured and displayed at a larger size in the show. Initially, the single best image from each member will be selected. Then the top 22 exhibit images will be selected and lastly 2 of these images will be selected as Best of Show. It may help your voting to have a piece of paper and a pen to take some notes on your favorite images as they are shown.

3. Who pays for the prints and frames?

The Wildlife Experience pays for printing, matting, and framing. Denver Digital (formerly, The Slideprinter) makes the prints for the show. They donate much of the cost, so stop in and say thanks. And if your image is in the show, you will get to keep the print (without matte) after the show is over!

4. If I enter digital images, what else should I bring July 11? If you are entering digital files, bring a CD with high-resolution TIFF files to the July 11 competition. 20 of the images will be printed on 16x24 inch paper. The two best of show images will be printed on 20x30 inch paper. The files should be at least 300ppi and 24 inches on the long side. Even though you already emailed low-

resolution files, we will need a high-resolution file for printing from all the winners. It is okay to put all three of your digital high resolution images on one CD.

5. If I want to enter slides, what else should I bring July 11?

Bring the original slide with you, even though it has already been scanned at low resolution for the competition. If your image is selected, we'll need the slide from you, the night of the competition, to get a high-resolution scan made. If you already have a high-resolution scan of your slide, please bring that instead.

6. Can I enter a mix of digital and slides?

Absolutely. Just bring the original slides and high-resolution files of the digital captures to the competition.

7. If my image is selected to the show, what happens next?

The night of the competition, we will need your CD or original slide to get the print made. You'll get the CD or slide back at the August meeting. Also the night of the competition, the winning photographers need to sign a permission form to get the prints made. By Friday July 20, you will need to email or snail-mail a 50-word maximum written description of your selected image to Kathy Lingo. This will be displayed alongside the image so museum visitors can learn something about it - what kind of animal it is, where did you take the picture, were there any interesting things going on, etc. Ask Kathy for suggestions if you want help with this.

8. What if I want to enter the competition, but can't come to the July 11 meeting?

You might win! So you need to send the applicable items listed in items 4, 5, 6, and 7 above to the meeting with someone else: the high-resolution files on CD; and/or original slides; and written, signed permission for Denver Digital to make one print for the exhibition.

9. Are captive subjects allowed? Yes, at the April club meeting it was voted that images of captive or animals in controlled

conditions are allowed. So entries that would fit the regular club category Wildlife – Hand of Man are allowed. After that, it's up to the judges.

Braggin' Rights

Cathy Illg had a photo chosen by Environmental Photography Invitational for their gallery showing.

Irma Backelant is now showing at the Great Western Art Gallery on 14th and Curtis downtown Denver and at Designs by Carol in Castle Rock.

Fi Rust's Swift Fox Family image that was Highly Honored in last year's Nature's Best Awards has been selected as one of 100 images chosen from the Environmental Photography Invitational to be exhibited at Art Wolfe's gallery in Seattle.

Wildlife Blinds

Have you dreamed of being able to photograph the wildlife that lives on or migrates through the farms and ranches on our eastern Colorado plains—animals like badgers, swift fox, mountain plover, and green herons? You can help make this possible.

Show your support by answering the survey at prairiewildlife.net/survey.html. You may answer the survey anonymously. Or you can include your email address if you might want to help even more to shape the landowners' visions of what would actually bring you and other photographers to their property.

Volunteer to be on a team of skilled photographers (amateur or professional) who visit ranches in late April, May and June. There is a lot of flexibility about how many ranches you might visit and when. You would let the landowner use some of your photos for publicity, but maintain the copyrights otherwise.

You may wonder how this project got started. At the NANPA Summit in Denver in February '06, John Martin shared a brilliant concept: Landowners could supplement their ranch or farm income by hosting wildlife photographers. This encourages the landowners to conserve wildlife they might otherwise eliminate. And wildlife photographers have a chance to pay a fee to photograph species that are hard to find elsewhere. Martin added another piece: Use photo contests, from small amateur contests to high-stakes professional ones to stimulate interest and publicity.

I think the man is a genius. This is a WIN-WIN-WIN for landowners, wildlife and wildlife photographers.

Last June Cathy Illg won 3rd prize, as you well know, in the Texas Hill Country ICF contest. I attended the awards ceremony at John's suggestion, while I was down in Texas learning more about the contests and ranches. I invited Cathy to be on the "Board" of what I, at that time, envisioned as being an organization to run contests. She accepted.

As I talked with people, from the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Audubon, etc., I realized recruiting landowners and developing blinds was the first step. It could be as far as I'll get in the foreseeable future. Cathy agreed that was appropriate. Ken Morgan from the Division of Wildlife put me in touch with the organization developing the Colorado Birding Trail. It includes representatives from Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado State Parks, Colorado Audubon, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, the Colorado and Denver Field Ornithologists, a web page expert, and some publicity people, as well as County representatives from rural counties.

They very kindly accepted the idea of encouraging landowners to host photographers as a legitimate part of what they were doing--trying to increase tourism in Colorado, helping landowners survive financially, conserving wildlife, and offering ordinary people a chance to see wildlife on private property. At this time, more than a dozen landowners in the Southeast quadrant

of the Colorado have asked to be involved. But they need your help to know how to do it.

For more information contact:
Nancy Stocker
303-759-4056
Nancy@PrairieWildlife.net

Upcoming Programs

May— Guided Tour of Photoshop

Mile High Wildlife Photo Club's own Digital Study Group will be giving the members a guided tour of Photoshop. Learn the basics and the advanced tricks and techniques you need to get the most out of your image files.

April Competition Results

Judge: Andy Long

Category: Slides

Wildlife - 4 entries



1st Place

Male Broadtail On Coral Bells
Russ Burden

2nd Untitled

Chris Loffredo

HoM Wildlife - 3 entries



1st Place

Untitled

Chris Loffredo

Open - 1 entry



1st Place

Yucca in Silhouette
Russ Burden

Scenic - 7 entries



1st Place
Yucca Pair
Russ Burden

- 2nd Peak Teton Color Russ Burden
- 3rd Gateway Rock Framed Nick Burden

Critique: 6 entries

Category: Prints

Wildlife - 7 entries



1st Place
Good Catch
Donna Carr

- 2nd Untitled Georgia Hart
- 3rd Untitled Georgia Hart

Scenic - 5 entries



1st Place
Still Standing
Reb Babcock

- 2nd Shoreline Dick York

HoM Wildlife - 6 entries

Image Not Available

1st Place
Long-Eared Owl in Autumn
Nick Burden

- 2nd Untitled Donna Carr

From the Webmaster

The MHWPC website (www.mhwpc.org) is continuing to grow.

- Random winning images from the monthly competitions are shown on each page, and all winning images for the month are available in a gallery.
- The club's Articles of Association are available through the News & Information menu.
- Many members have added links to their photo-related websites. Contact the webmaster (webmaster@mhwpc.org) to add a link.

Additions in the near term are geared towards enhancing communication within the club.

- Rules for the 2007 TWE competition will be posted.
- A schedule of competitions (digital and slides/prints), with submission windows for the digital competitions, will be added.
- Every member will get an account to access the member's-only part of the site.
- A blog for current events like fall foliage and spring wildflower reports where 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.

If you have any suggestions for how to improve the website, contact the webmaster (webmaster@mhwpc.org).

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.
- Baby Waterfowl—Saturday May 12 to Belmar Park. Contact Russ Burden for more information.
- 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: Ed Dlugokecki
Drinks: Anne Hughes
 Carolyn Derrington-Tate

Library News from the Lamb's



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

The Library materials are circulating out and in very well. In Feb we checked out 11 items, March, 12 items and April, 3. If you have checked out items please return them or see me at the meeting.

Would you like a particular book or DVD on photography? Let me know of specific titles and I'll see if we can purchase something new for the library.

Winner of the checkout drawing in April – Colin McKenna! Stop by and select your prize!

PICK OF THE MONTH

Colorado Wildlife Viewing Guide by Mary Tyler Gray is a very interesting book with over 70 excellent photographic areas in our state – many within 30 miles of Denver. Come over and check it out.

Note: If you checked out the video Fair Game or Let's Get Closer, please see me.

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

For Sale

- Epson Photo Paper
 Panorama 8.3"x23.4" – 7 sheets
 Super A3 13"x19" - 8 sheets
 B(Ledger) 11"X17" - 4 sheets
 Letter 8.5"X11 - 120 sheets
 Postcard 4X6 - 32 sheets
- Konica Postcard 4X6 - 30 sheets
- Slide Protector Sheets
- Archival slide protector sheets, 12 packets, 20 sheets per pack. \$5.00 per pack. \$50.00 for all 12 packs (\$120 value).
- Projection Screen – \$50.00
- Da-Lite Deluxe B Hanging Wall Screen 70"X70" with Matte Finish.

Rick Harner – rharn303@msn.com 303-979-2295

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- One used Lens Baby 2.0 for canon camera slightly used new \$270.00 buy now for \$100.00
 - One Tamaron AF lens 28-200mm \$125.00
 - One canon remote release cable - new \$30.00
 - One new Delkn Pop-up shade F/eos Rebel xti snap \$25.00
 - One DVD: intro to the Canon Dig Rebel xti \$20.00
I purchased a new xti and had to return it and have this equipment which I bought at the same time- never used

Irma Backelant 303-841-2294

Panoramic Equipment For Sale - Perfect panos all the time.

1. Kaidan Twin Axis Horizontal calibrated plate - sells at B&H for \$90.00
2. Kaidan Quick Pan Rotator calibrated plate - sells at B&H for \$195.00
3. Kaidan Quick Pan Standard Bracket - sells at B&H for \$105.00

All equipment has never been used. It was won in a photo contest. Total value at B&H is \$390.00. Will sell all pieces as a kit for 265.00 or a reasonable offer.

Call Russ @ 303 791-9997 or email at rburden@ecentral.com

Workshops and Seminars

Cathy & Gordon Illg – Workshops:
Adventure Photography 303 237-7086
gordon@advenphoto.com
www.advenphoto.com

- 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:

- 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 303-267-3846

Vice-President: Matt Schaefer

mattscha@aol.com 303-972-9882

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: *Rita Summers*

ritasummers@gmail.com 303-840-3355

Special Programs/Field Trips:

Chuck Winter

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

Competition: *Russ Burden*

Competition Scoring: *Chris Loffredo*

Competition Entries:

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

Rita Summers * Russ Burden

Chuck Winter * Fi Rust * Frank Weston

May Meeting

Wednesday May 9

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: Digital

Submittal Deadline: May 5, 2007

April Attendance: 64
