

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

December 2007 Volume 31, Issue 12

I See Ice

text and photos by Frank Weston

It's that time of year when our thoughts turn cold. Yep, it's winter time. In Colorado, that means hard water. Although ice can be treacherous, it can also be a photographic delight. Ice comes in a variety of forms, each with its own artistry.



Ice—a clear amorphous form of water in the solid state. It forms when water freezes rapidly, creating icicles that oftentimes contain trapped air to give them a semblance of structure. Ice cubes are this type of ice. Ice may also encase a plant in a

nearly flawless droplet of solid water, creating a uniquely beautiful art form. Ice droplets refract light similar to a water drop,

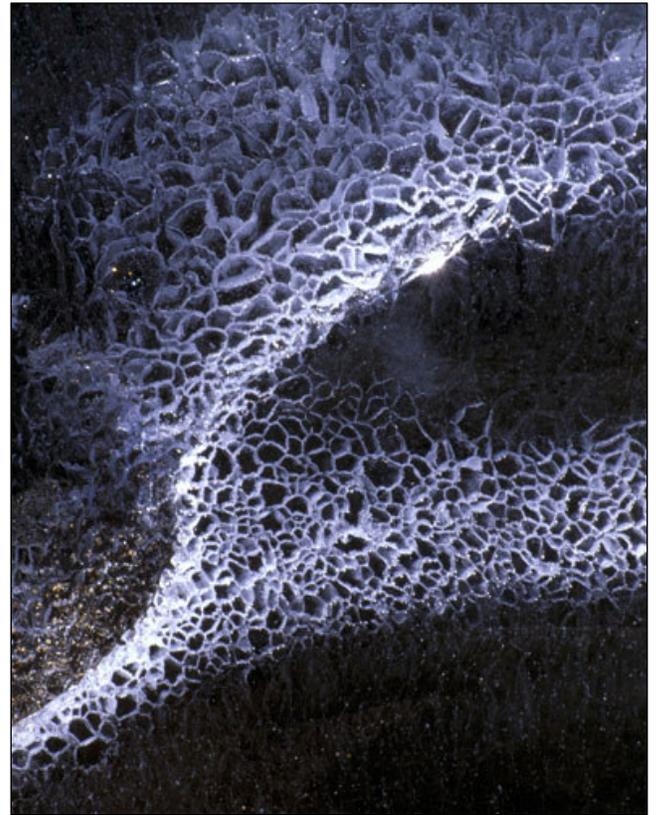


magnifying and creating an inverted image of what is on the other side. On ponds and puddles, sheets of clear ice bear the signs of changing water levels. And when winter

ends, the ice breaks into small pieces for the rising river to sculpt as it pleases.



Ice—a hexagonal-shaped crystalline form of water. When water freezes slowly, it has time to arrange itself to reveal its molecular shape, creating hexagonally shaped crystals. This crystalline shape, commonly seen in snowflakes, may be seen more easily in frost. Frost needs something to attach to, like twigs or leaves where it can grow into fantastical shapes. A leaf stem can provide the support for a role reversal—a frost tree growing on a leaf stem. On a quiet pond, the typically amorphous ice may quicken into dagger-shaped crystals that might be measured in meters not millimeters. And under rare conditions, crystals may ripen into unusual honeycomb patterns creating bizarre abstract, perhaps evocative, patterns.



Ice—a decorative form of solid water that rimes the edges of life. Late in autumn, frost forms on living material giving it the hoary edge of white-haired age. Water, the substance of life, is given a last chance at splendor before the onset of winter.





At The Last Meeting ...

The Nature's Best trophy was on display for all to see. It does not yet have a permanent home, but it was suggested that it be displayed at TWC.



Incumbents President Chris Loffredo, Vice President Matt Schafer and Treasurer Patrick Devereaux were voted to serve another term.

Nancy Stocker volunteered to take over as Snacks/Greeter Coordinator, replacing **Roger Kinney**. Thanks for a job well done, Roger.

Russ Burden ran through an intriguing thumbnail version of his Digital Photo Academy presentation.

From the Board ...

A meeting of the Board of Directors convened before the regular club meeting with four board members in attendance. Two club members also attended.

The key items discussed were:

- To maintain club dues at \$20/year.
- No major expenditures for 2008 were identified.
- Discussed ways to present Photoshop “how to” programs. At least two Photoshop presentations will be made in 2008.
- Due to decreasing participation, it was suggested that print/slide competitions be eliminated. Club member Tammy Hammond spoke out in favor of retaining print/slide competitions. The Board was swayed by Ms. Hammond’s arguments and voted to retain print/slide competitions. Print/slide competitions will be held at the March and October meetings.
- Discussed ways to assist newer photographers in developing their skills. A one-on-one portfolio evaluation by one of the club’s professional photographers was recommended.

Upcoming Programs

December – **Club Christmas Party**

Date: Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Time: 6:30 pm

Place: TWC

The club will provide meat, drinks, plates, cups and silverware. Each member is asked to bring their favorite dish to share.

Of Interest ...

Sherry Timm is planning 4 photo shoots, one in Jan, Feb, March & April of the rescued horses at Harmony Horseworks. The only thing needed is a \$25 donation to Harmony Horseworks. We will definitely get horses in snow since they are in Conifer. Two of their horses are wild horses and are gorgeous!

Contact Sherry Timm for more info.
303-791-9851, timmstephensherr@qwest.net

November Competition Results

Judge: Chuck Winter

Slides

Wildlife HoM – 1 entry

1st Place

Wary Fox, Minnesota
Carolyn Derrington-Tate

Scenic – 4 entries

1st Place

Angel Glacier
Reb Babcock

2nd Autumn Colors in Fog Judy Deist

Prints

Open – 1 entry

1st Place

North Window Rainbow
Russ Burden

Wildlife – 1 entry

1st Place

Talking Wood Duck
Russ Burden

Scenic – 3 entries

1st Place

The Watchman
Russ Burden

Braggin' Rights

Irma Backelant placed as one of 84 finalists in macro photography among 32,400 entries in ten categories in an international online photo contest with BetterPhoto.com.

Nick Burden won one of the 10 NANPA scholarships for students. Open to high school aged kids from around the world, students must complete a lengthy application, answer questions pertaining to their commitment to photography and the environment, and submit a portfolio of three images.

Tammy Hammond's image titled "Bee Focused", a bumblebee in flight, was chosen as the winner of the Panasonic Digital Photo Academy's October: 'In Your Own Backyard' Photo Assignment.

James Hager has had three images selected as part of the NANPA Showcase 2008 competition. One image ("Dung Beetle") was selected for the Showcase and will be featured in a multimedia presentation at the NANPA Summit, will appear on the NANPA website throughout 2008, and be in the NANPA print journal "Expressions." Two other images ("Red-Billed Oxpecker On Cape Buffalo" and "Pallid Bat") were selected to appear in "Expressions" as well.

Hospitality for December Meeting

Club Christmas Party

Date: Wednesday, December 12, 2007
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The club will provide meat, drinks, plates, cups and silverware. Each member is asked to bring their favorite dish to share.

Getting to Know You...



Roger Kinney

1. What drew you to nature or wildlife photography? When?

I've been doing photography for about 30 years. I've always been interested in nature cuz' I'm an outdoors kinda guy. But I did a lot of wedding photography to pay for the equipment.

2. What software do you use to manipulate your photos? Why?

I'm pretty much of a Photoshop CS user because of its versatility. I especially like CS's versatility in with black and white photos. When I was shooting film I worked in a number of formats - 35, 2 1/4, 4x5 - did a lot of B&W work in the darkroom in my home - the converted bathroom darkroom, that is.

3. What's your favorite photo shoot story?

I have one kind of fun story, one about what I shouldn't have been doing. I was up at Rocky Mountain National Park, walking through an area, where there was a little pond with a cow moose standing in the pond eating off bottom. I, ahem, walked out to get a shot of her and thirty feet away, up from grass side of pond, came her twin babies. They got curious about me, and walked to within about ten to fifteen feet of me. The mom snorted at 'em and they went back. She didn't get aggressive, but the park ranger told me to get out of there. I didn't have a great camera or the right lens so I couldn't get the shot of the babies, but I still got to have a great experience.

4. How did you create your most memorable photograph?

I was on a trip in Kansas. It was hazy out and I caught the moon framed in this windrow at my sister-in-law's farm. The colors took on a glow that looked like a sunset. I converted it to blue tones and got those sunset colors. This photo has gotten more reaction than most anything

else I've every done. And I took it with a 2mp digital camera.

5. If you could change one thing about Camera Club what would it be?

I'd like to see more participation from members, more entries into competition, get more interaction over all. I'd like the members to feel comfortable bringing in their stuff, maybe have more critique sessions or Q &A about general photo questions. Maybe a few more field trips.

6. What do you do when you're not behind the camera? (i.e., occupation or other avocations).

I'm in business development for a manufacturing company, general management services, for processing equipment. I started out as an engineer, then went into project management, then into sales, now I'm with a supplier.



Nancy Stocker

1. What drew you to nature or wildlife photography? When?

I grew up in a small town in Massachusetts in the 1940s and 50's. Until the age of 10, I spent a lot of time exploring the woods behind my home. Later I had a horse, and rode along local trails in what would now be called "natural areas." Before college, I started hiking in the White Mountains of NH. So nature has always been an important part of my life.

When I married Bob in 1966, he had a camera which he encouraged me to use. Soon afterwards, I dropped his camera, cracking the lens. He decided to replace it with an SLR. It was the end of that camera but the beginning of our pursuit of wildlife photography. Children, education and careers got in the way of our spending very much time or money on photography until 2000. Since then, it's increasingly been a central focus for us.

2. What software do you use to manipulate your photos?

We use Photoshop CS3. I've been working with it only a few weeks, and at the same time

switched from a PC to a Macintosh computer. I am a bit overwhelmed by it all.

3. What's your favorite photo shoot story?

Bob and I were in Florida shooting near a wildlife refuge. We came upon a culvert where fish flushed through and were promptly eaten by a number of egrets and herons. There was a car already parked there and we pulled in behind it. A man in the car was taking pictures. Soon he came up to us and asked if we had any film we could sell him. After we struck a deal, he introduced himself. It was Tom Manglesen, whose early pictures of polar bears and other really inaccessible animals (at that time) were the first I'd ever seen. Coincidentally, I met him again a couple of years later at a Colorado Wildlife Commission meeting. We both testified to reduce the number of mountain lions hunters could kill annually in Colorado. He's quite active in the conservation of wild cats.

4. How did you create your most memorable photograph?

I have a short memory, so my "most memorable photograph" always seems to be a recent one. I've taken several bird pictures that I really like. I showed one of a yellow warbler at MHWP Club in early summer. Now that digital cameras make good images using ISO 400, I can hand hold a long lens to photograph birds when the light is good. I'm enjoying this a lot because I can be so much more spontaneous without a tripod.

5. If you could change one thing about Camera Club what would it be?

I'm looking forward to a time when the digital/film divide is easier to bridge at club meetings.

6. What do you do when you're not behind the camera? (i.e., occupation or other avocations).

My other avocation is talking to ranchers and farmers about the Colorado Prairie Wildlife Photo Trail. (www.prairiewildlife.net). My primary career was as a Licensed Professional Counselor. Now I'm retired.



Tammy Hammond

1. What drew you to nature or wildlife photography? When?

I've always been connected to nature in some way, shape or form. I grew up in southeast Washington State, near the Columbia River. It was beautiful, with rolling hills, sagebrush, coyotes, pheasants, and quail. I was always outdoors, always drawn to outdoors and wildlife. I was not indoors playing with Barbie dolls. As a child I had an instamatic and I remember playing around with it.

Later when I moved to Idaho and worked for the Forest Service, I took lots of pictures with a fully automatic camera. In the early 1980s when I worked for the ski industry in Stanley, I was out on the back roads on my bicycle and I found this camera bag with a Pentax ME super in it. I put it in the lost and found at work but no one claimed it, so I got it and got started learning the SLR. My interest lingered for a long time since then, but when I moved here I was more consumed with my music. It wasn't until I sought out Camera Club that my interest was reinvigorated.

2. What software do you use to manipulate your photos? Why?

I went digital with a Canon Rebel XTI at the beginning of the year and got a 70-200mm lens to go with it. I use Photoshop CS3. A couple years ago I completed a certificate program in graphics, so I already had the Photoshop background when it came time to work with my photos.

3. What's your favorite photo shoot story?

I love sitting out by myself somewhere and unexpectedly something emerges. Recently, I was up in Custer State Park in the early morning. I drove up over this hill and saw lots of buffalo in the distance. I stopped and they wandered onto the road, until my car was surrounded by buffalo. I was so busy trying to get silhouettes of them that at first I didn't notice the buffalo that came up behind the car and started licking my windows. When he started

chewing on one, though, I decided it was enough and had to leave.

4. How did you create your most memorable photograph?

My most recent memorable photograph was up in Custer again. I had seen this area where I wanted to shoot fall colors. I climbed a hill to get a picture of the fog; instead, I ended up with a picture of a lone pronghorn antelope. He had started marking territory by rubbing trees. It was rutting season and he was obviously a young male. Moments like that when you interact with an animal's behavior makes it more worthwhile for me. I enjoy that the most.

5. If you could change one thing about Camera Club what would it be?

I still kind of feel like an observer. I'm getting so much out of it, though. I get a lot from the presentations and access to library is great. And I learn a lot from the critiques, and interaction with others. Coming from graphic design angle, however, I'd like to see print not go away. To view everything from projector is not realistic; everything ends up in print anyway. I think there is a real value in restoring interest in print competition, if not in competition, then in presentation. Everywhere you go there's things hanging on the wall. Challenge the members to take step a further, so prints are presented as nicely as is they were in a gallery. It'd be great to learn about getting prints to that quality.

6. What do you do when you're not behind the camera? (i.e., occupation or other avocations).

I'm a classical guitarist by training and I primarily teach out of my home studio. I took a break from that a little while ago and worked as a freelance graphic designer, but now I'm back to teaching.

From the Webmaster

The MHWPC website (www.mhwpc.org) now includes two new features:

- A blog for current events like fall foliage and spring wildflower reports where all

visitors can view the entries, but only members can post.

- An ads board where members can list items for sale or want ads, and any visitor to the site will be able to view the ads.

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

Library News from the Lamb's



Merry Christmas and Happy Shooting to you all – photos I mean! We hope that Santa brings you all of the new gadgets you have wished for. Perhaps he'll bring the library some new DVD's. We'll have to

check on that. If you have anything out from the library you can keep it until January or contact me (303-841-2565). We will see you at the pot luck and the library will not be out this month. I'll try to have some new reviews for January. Also, if you would like to run the library for Feb. let me know – Joe and I will be out of town for that meeting – a trip to Los Angeles.

See you at the Christmas Party!

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

For Sale

One Canon EOS 10D Camera (Digital SLR) \$400.
 Two Canon EOS A2 Cameras (Film, SLR), each \$10
 Two Canon EOS 3 Cameras (Film, SLR), each \$20

Each camera Includes body caps. All in good working order. If problem within 7 days return camera for your money. 10D is reasonable first Digital SLR camera. Somewhat problematic Canon 100-300 mm IS zoom will be free with 10D if buyer wants it.

Call Bob or Nancy Stocker 303-759-4056

Workshops and Seminars

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

Destinations include:

- Apr 19 - 25, 2008 - Monument Valley / Slot Canyons
- May 10 - 16, 2008 - Arches & Canyonlands National Parks
- May 24 - June 2, 2008 - Oregon Coast - 10 day trip
- June 6 - 12, 2008 - Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Spring
- Sept. 24-Oct. 3, 2008 - Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Fall - 10 days
- Oct. 21 - 26, 2008 - Hunts Mesa - Aerial perspective of Monument Valley and Capital Reef NP for red rocks and fall color.
- Nov. 2 - 8, 2008 - Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks
- Dec. 10 - 16, 2008 - Bosque Del Apache / White Sands Natl. Mon.

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

- Bosque Del Apache, January 20-25
- Galapagos, February 4-14
- South Texas Birds, May 5-10
- Wild Horses, May 27-31
- Wildlife Babies, June 16-19
- Alaska Coastal Grizzlies, June 26 – July 3
- Rocky Mtn Wildflowers, July 20-25
- South Dakota Badlands, September 14-19
- Costa Rica, November 10-19

We are offering our NANPA discount to all club members also--\$50.00 discount on less than 5 day tours and \$75.00 discount on all other domestic tours.

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

- Kenya in Oct 2008: Classic safari to Samburu and Masai Mara National Reserves - 16 days, Oct 16-31

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: *Nancy Stocker 303-759-4056*

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

December Meeting

Wednesday December 12

6:30 pm – 10:00 pm

at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: No competition

November Attendance: 41
