

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

March 2009 Volume 33, Issue 3



few feet away in places like Ding Darling were too skittish here for anything but the most mediocre snapshots. It was another disappointment. The captain, however, told us about some cranes that could be found in a wetland near a retirement community. "What kind of cranes?" I asked. "Whooping cranes, I think," he replied.

Now our spirits were picking up a bit, even though we weren't sure the captain could tell a whooping crane from a construction crane. We located the retirement community easy enough, and lo and behold there were cranes – but, they were sandhill cranes. Around another corner though there were indeed a pair of whooping cranes. At first we were worried about scaring them. Then they started foraging in someone's yard as the homeowner got out of his car and walked past the cranes calling them by name. The birds recognized their names better than our cat does (all that means is that the cranes looked up).

Though it was incredible to be so close to these endangered birds, photographing them in someone's yard wasn't an ideal situation. We hardly had time to wish "if only..." before the birds wandered over to the wetland. Here the birds foraged, preened and danced, sometimes so close we couldn't focus on them. I don't want to get into a debate regarding if it's in the birds' best interest to be this tolerant

MAKING LEMONADE

by Cathy and Gordon Illig

We were crushed. All winter we had been anticipating a boat trip on a Florida lake to photograph snail kites, limpkins and bald eagles, as well as the usual assortment of Florida wading birds. A week before the trip, the Army Corps of Engineers drastically lowered the water level of the lake and virtually all of the birds left! Rather than cancel all of our reservations, and totally give up on the trip, we decided to go ahead with it and hoped we could find some substitute subjects.

A boat trip is what we really had in mind, so we chartered one on a different body of water in the same general area, hoping it would make up for the one we had planned our trip around. There were indeed birds, but they were not very tolerant of photographers. Birds that will casually stare into the barrel of a lens from a

of humans. All I know is it was an incredible experience being accepted as members of the flock – ungainly, uncoordinated flock members. Being able to spend some time with these birds



turned a day that we had already written off as a disaster into a wonderful experience.

There will always be trips that don't go exactly as planned. Either the species that you want to photograph isn't cooperative, the weather you want to photograph the species in never occurs, or any one of a hundred other possible scenarios could happen that force you to either change your plans or return home with lots of unused film or memory cards. If we had not been willing to change our plans and expectations, we would have had a very uneventful day. Be open to alternatives, both locations and species. There are a lot more things going on in an area than most photographers, especially visiting photographers, are generally aware of. 



© Adventure Photography

At the Last Meeting

The February club meeting featured a presentation by the staff of **Denver Digital Imaging**. The presentation included information about different printing methods available, as well as several samples of Denver Digital Imaging's work. The presentation also included a discussion of different scanning levels available at professional labs. A question and answer period followed the presentation, covering topics such as preferred resolutions, file formats, and how post-processing of an image may affect printing.

The theatre was not available, so this month's meeting was held in a conference room at the Wildlife Experience. This room had the advantage of having a larger projection screen available for the competition part of the evening.

A representative of the Wildlife Experience attended, and graciously invited the club to view an exhibit titled "Art of Animals" during the break.

Chuck Summer announced that the club exhibit at the Wildlife Experience later this year will have the theme "Things with Wings".

Newsletter Editor Volunteer(s) Needed

It's been FUN but a volunteer(s) is needed as soon as possible to take over the creative task of compiling and formatting MHWPC's monthly newsletter.

Please contact Tammy Hammond for information and details at 303-806-9145, or, newsletter@mhwpc.org .

PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES DUES INCREASE NEEDED TO COVER FACILITY COSTS

Note from the President:

Within the past two weeks, The Wildlife Experience has contacted the club with some disappointing news. To date, the club has enjoyed the use of TWE's facilities with no "out of pocket" expenses. Unfortunately, the economy has hit TWE, as it has hit nearly all non-profit organizations, and forced some changes to their finances.

Guard service at TWE has recently been subcontracted out and the hours during which guards are present have been curtailed. The guards will now remain at TWE until 7:00 pm each evening unless there are activities extending beyond that. The security for non-TWE events, like MHWPC, will now need to be paid for on an hourly basis with the current rate at \$25/hr. With 12 club meetings and 11 digital training classes throughout the year, at \$75/meeting (7:00 – 10:00 pm), this translates into approximately \$1700 annually in additional club expenses.

The club's Board of Directors and officers met to discuss the options and determined that the benefits of remaining at TWE far outweigh looking for alternative sites at this time. The consistency of meeting nights, the physical facilities, and the availability of preferred meeting times were all factors in this consideration.

Our next course of action was to identify and evaluate some means to both mitigate the costs and address the club's finances. We will continue to look for some means to reduce the costs and will bring those to the club over the next few months. The board and officers would be glad to consider ideas that can reduce these costs and ask members to send these ideas to them.

Our immediate need is to ensure we can now meet TWE's new facilities use charges and that can only be done through some additional revenue. To that end, the Board of Directors and officers voted to raise club dues \$5 per member for 2009 and re-establish the family dues at \$5/ additional family member. We will re-evaluate our financial position late in the year for 2010. As dues have been steady at \$20/ year for eight or nine years and they have been at the lower end of the range for clubs across the metro area, the board and officers felt that this increase should not place too severe of a burden on the members. We will briefly discuss this at the March meeting but because of the program, we will not be spending a lot of time with this.

In summary:

- Single members who have paid for 2009 need to bring an extra \$5 to the next meeting to cover the increase in dues.
- Single members who have not yet paid for 2009 need to bring \$25 to the next meeting.
- Family members who have paid for 2009 need to bring an extra \$5 for the first member and \$5 for each additional family member.
- Family members who have not yet paid for 2009 need to bring \$25 for the first member and \$5 for each additional family member.

As always, checks are preferred (for record keeping purposes) but cash attached to a note will be gladly accepted.

If you have questions about this, please contact me via e-mail or see me or one of the other board members at the meeting.

– Matt Schaefer

Upcoming Field Trips

Anyone interested in field trips should contact Chuck Winter.(303)972-2538, cwinter80127@gmail.com, or, cwinter@mii-rmcc.com

March 28

The Butterfly Pavillion. We will meet at The Butterfly Pavillion at 9:00 AM. Cost of admission is \$7.95.

Colorado Prairie Wildlife Photo Trail

(Mid-March and mid to late summer)

Nancy Stocker is willing to put together a club field trip to photograph opportunities available on the Colorado Prairie Wildlife Photo Trail. This would be a perfect opportunity to get some interesting material for our next exhibit at The Wildlife Experience. To see some of the wildlife that lives around Karval visit <http://www.prairiewildlife.net/Trips/KarvalAreaRanches/index.htm>

Several camera clubs and individuals have expressed interest in having field trips to one or more sites on the Colorado Prairie Photo Trail. Trips are likely to be scheduled between mid-March and mid to late summer, depending on the interests of participants. If you're interested in going with a small group (4-8 people), please let us know what you'd like to see or which ranch you'd like to visit. We are happy to coordinate trips and possibly set up blinds in advance of a group's arrival.

Because it is a relatively close site with a lot of different species, some have already expressed interest in going to the Karval Area Ranches. Reasonably priced overnight accommodations are available in several Karval homes. Overnight stays and access to ranches must be arranged beforehand.

Those interested in going to Karval are invited to send a list of species they are most interested in photographing so efforts can be made to go when and where 'your species' are most likely to be seen. We may be able to set up some temporary blinds before trips to make getting close to some animals easier. The presence of specific animals can't be guaranteed, but some interesting animals are almost certain to be seen.

Although ranches visited and overnight hosts charge fees, the Photo Trail developers receive no money or other benefits from you, the ranchers or any other party. There are several things you should know about liability issues in the event someone is injured on a trip or becomes ill during or after a trip. In Colorado, visiting properties to observe wildlife or take photographs is like skiing, you do so at your own risk. Neither the Photo Trail developers nor the property owners are liable for any accidents or illnesses that should befall you.

Many people have visited Karval without problems. You should be aware that hazards exist there, as they do in most places. West Nile virus sometimes occurs in eastern Colorado, even though mosquitoes have not been a particular problem in Karval. There are a few rattlesnakes in the area and there are always holes that could cause one to trip and a variety of other possible hazards. Wearing protective clothing, using insect repellent and watching where you step are your best protection.

Please contact Nancy@PrairieWildlife.net if you would like to arrange a group trip. Or you can make arrangements directly with ranchers.

More Photo Ops of Interest

If you would like to share **Photo Ops** with other members of the club please send information to newsletter@mhwpc.org.

Sandhill Crane Festival
Monte Vista, Colorado
March 13 - 15
Info: www.cranefest.com

Prairie Chicken Tours
Wray, Colorado
March 27 - April 26.
Info: www.wraychamber.net

Karval Mountain Plover Festival
Karval, Colorado
April 24-26, 2009
Info: <http://www.karval.org>

Like the Snow Goose Festival, this is a great intro to the area and what's there. It's also a chance to meet local people who may be helpful to you if you plan an independent trip to Karval for photography. On Sunday they let you visit any property you'd like that you've seen on Saturday. This is new, and might benefit photographers. The photo contest mentioned is aimed mostly at the locals. School children have been given disposable cameras. – Nancy Stocker

Upcoming Programs

March

Colin McKenna, Bruce Norman and Russ Burden,

High Dynamic Range

Presentation on the options available for handling images with a wide range of contrast.

April

Russ Burden

"America's Natural Wonders"

Program will cover wildlife and scenic locations that are popular photographer destinations as well as shooting fascinating subjects locally.

May

Frank Weston

Photographing Colorado's State Parks and Natural Areas

Program will be based on the content of Frank's recently published book..

June

Glenn Randall

"Colorado Wild & Beautiful"

Program will show images from Randall's two books *Colorado Wild & Beautiful* and *Rocky Mountain National Park Impressions*. He will describe techniques used for best-selling images, offer tips on scouting great locations, and finding beautiful light by understanding atmospheric optics and controlling high-dynamic-range scenes. Glenn Randall has sold over 10,000 prints of his landscape images

July

Selection of Images - MHWPC/TWE Exhibit - "Things With Wings".

August

Speaker TBA

Photographing Colorado Fall Colors

Techniques and tips for finding and capturing great images of Colorado's fall colors.

September

Speaker TBA

Photographing Colorado Wildlife

Best locations for photographing Colorado wildlife: deer, elk, foxes, waterfowl, and more.

October

Gordon and Cathy Illg

How to Photograph Nature

Presentation on the nuts and bolts of nature and wildlife photography

Braggin Rights

Reb Babcock has received an Honorable Mention award in the *Outdoor Photographer Magazine's* "Natures Colors" competition. His "Mittens Reflection" image was taken in Monument Valley two years ago during an unusually wet year in the desert.

Nick Burden is featured in the Student Union column of the Shutterbug magazine March 2009 issue. The article appears on page 44. It's scheduled to appear on the Shutterbug website, http://www.shutterbug.com/student_union/

Carolyn Derrington-Tate's image of a Mountain Gorilla and Baby, "Wild Mountain Mama," was entered in the 2009 NANPA Member Showcase and chosen as a semi-finalist – selected from more than 4,000 entries.

Announcements, Ads, etc...

Bruce Norman had a 25 year career as a Systems / Software engineer and has been building websites for a number of years. Bruce has created a turnkey website service offering for artists. The motivation behind this service is to provide a professional looking web presence for those artists who would rather spend their time creating art than creating HTML & CSS. This service is built around a gallery of artist images plus contact and bio information. If you don't yet have a web presence or are looking for something different please go to <http://www.colorado-gallery.com> for more information or contact Bruce directly at bruce@brucenorman.com or 303-725-4871.

FOR SALE: Canon EOS 5D for sale by Chris Loffredo, see ad on club website or contact me at chrisloff@comcast.net

Upcoming Exhibit: Wildlife Experience

Mile High Wildlife Photo Club has been invited to exhibit 22 images in the Community Gallery at The Wildlife Experience this fall. This exhibit will be in conjunction with a special exhibit at TWE. The title selected for the exhibit is "Things With Wings".

More details and entry rules will be announced at a latter date. The selection of images will be at the July meeting.

From the Webmaster

The club website, www.mhwpc.org, provides a wealth of information to help you get the most out of your membership. You can find out about upcoming meetings and competitions, see the winning images for the monthly competitions, post items for sale, and learn about shooting opportunities.

Have you ever missed the submission window for a monthly competition? You can sign up for reminders on the website. You might also enjoy receiving email reminders about the upcoming general meetings and digital training meetings. Login using the link at the extreme upper right of all pages, then go to your Manage Account page. Your current email preferences are shown, and you can change them by following the link to "Edit Email Preferences."

If you have any questions or suggestions for how to improve the website, contact the webmaster at webmaster@mhwpc.org.

Nature's Best Photography Competition

It's that time of the year again for the club to prepare an entry for the Nature's Best Photography competition in the photography club category. When we win, selected images will appear in Nature's Best Photography Magazine and be displayed in the Smithsonian. It's an exciting way for your images to get worldwide recognition.

To create our submission of twenty (20) images, each club member may submit up to eight (8) images to be considered. Each image must fit into one of the following categories: Animal Antics, Art In Nature, Birds, Creative Digital, Endangered Species, Environmental Issues, Indigenous Cultures, Landscape, Oceans, People In Nature, Plant Life, Small World Spectaculars, Weather, Wildlife, Zoos & Aquariums. (More information about the categories is available at www.naturesbestphotography.com/competition_categories.php.) All photographs must accurately reflect the subject matter as it appeared in the viewfinder. Nothing should be added to an image, and aside from dust spots, nothing should be taken away. Normal processing of RAW image files and minor adjustments to color and contrast are acceptable, as is minimal cropping. EXCEPTIONS: Anything goes in the Creative Digital category! Stitched panoramas may be entered in any category, but they must be identified.

Submit your images on CD or DVD at the February or March meetings or mail them so they arrive on or before March 11, 2009 to

Russ Burden
2323 E. Chesapeake Lane
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

No images will be accepted after March 11, 2009. Put your first and last name and phone number on each CD or DVD (no stick-on labels), and make sure that the files are readable before you send them.

Create low-resolution (72 ppi) JPEG files with each image sized to be 1000 pixels on the longest side and in sRGB IEC61966-2.1 color space. Name the files with your first and last name, image title, and the category like JohnDoe_fox_wildlife.jpg, and put all of your low-res files in a single directory/folder called JPEG.

Create high-resolution (400 ppi) uncompressed and unsharpened TIFF files with each image sized to be 8000 pixels on the longest side. The image may be in any color space. Name the file the same as the low-res file (JohnDoe_fox_wildlife), and place the files on the top level of as many CDs or DVDs are required.

If the image was captured digitally in RAW format, include the RAW file named the same as the low-res file (JohnDoe_fox_wildlife). Place all of your RAW files in a single directory/folder called RAW.

If the image was captured on film, supply low-res and high-res digital files as described above. If your image is selected to be part of the club's submission, you will be notified by the end of April and you will be required to provide the original transparency (not a dupe) by the end of May 2009.

All entries will be scored online by the Masters. Then the 50 highest-scoring images, with no more than four (4) images per photographer, will be presented to a group of six (6) final judges. The final judges will first independently score the 50 final images, then they will meet face to face to create the club's submission of 20 images with no more than three (3) images per photographer.

All CDs and DVDs will be destroyed when they are no longer required. Original transparencies will be returned when they are no longer required.

Contact James Hager at 720-219-4248 or james@jameshagerphoto.com with any questions.

Digital Study Meeting

At the February meeting Bob Cross, Stephanie Lindemann and Bob Stocker shared examples of their creative *start to finish* images, as entered into the OPEN competition category.

It takes a lot of effort to put together a presentation and it's great that we have members who do this. I'd love to see you each get your mention and become part of the "Hall of Fame Presenters" list. Think about what you can do for the group to share your expertise. While I know it's not easy to get in front of a group and perform, I know that some of you simply need a bit of coaxing to put something together to give a presentation. May these words of encouragement act as your motivator. Please get in touch with me to let me know what you'd like to do for the group - thanks.

– Russ Burden

Upcoming Digital Meetings:.

March 25th

My Favorite Photoshop Tip - as many members as we can fit in will each present their favorite one or two Photoshop tips. Presentations should be kept to a maximum of 10 minutes to give several members a chance to share. This is your forum and it's your chance to contribute. Please be thinking of a tip you'd like to present.

April 22nd

"The Stocker Show" - Nancy and Bob Stocker will each give a presentation. Bob will share his expertise using layers and Nancy will share all her tips of how to make selections using the Quick Mask option.

May 27th

Three 30-35 minute presentations:
 Chuck Summers: Workflow Ideas and Tips.
 Stephanie Lindemann: File Management and Handling.
 Matt Schaeffer: Photoshop Elements.

June 24th

Frank Weston: Working with Blend Modes to lighten or darken images.

Volunteer needed to also present a basic level topic.

All paid members are encouraged to attend the digital study meetings. The meetings start at 7:15 PM on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

Enter through the main entrance, not the doors used for accessing the theater. Bring a notebook and writing implement to take your notes. Also, feel free to volunteer to do a presentation. The more people who participate, the better!

Library News from the Lamb's

Hi Everyone,

We're back from our vacation and ready to loan out more books and videos! Plan to stop by and see what is available at the March meeting. We hope that you will keep reading and learning new photographic skills. Let us know if you have ideas for the library. See you at the table in March!

Joe and Betsy Lamb

Contact Joe and Betsy at 303-841-2565 or jnblamb@comcast.net.



Hospitality for March Meeting

Betsy Lamb cookies/snacks

Cathy and Gordon Illig beverages

February Competition Results

Judge: Matt Schaefer

Masters: Wildlife HoM

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Lynx Lick
Jan Forseth

2 ND	<i>Green Sea Turtle</i>	Chris Loffredo
3 RD	<i>Red Panda Portrait</i>	Rita Summers

Club Members: Wildlife HoM



1ST PLACE

Elephant Eye
Cathy Sheeter

2 nd	<i>Snow Sneak</i>	Stephanie Lindemann
3 rd	<i>Snow Leopard Portrait</i>	Sarah Bade

Masters: Scenic



1ST PLACE

Serengeti Morning
Rita Summers

2 ND	<i>Sunburst</i>	Bruce Norman
3 RD	<i>Monument Valley Dunes</i>	Chris Loffredo
HM	<i>Sugar-Frosted Fall Leaves</i>	Jan Forseth
HM	<i>Life's A Beach</i>	Chris Loffredo

Club Members: Scenic



1ST PLACE

First Light
Bob Cross

2 ND	<i>Caught in a High Place</i>	Mary Paetow
3 rd	<i>Arizona Sunset</i>	Bob Cross
HM	<i>Bell Reflection</i>	Tim Visser
HM	<i>Frosted</i>	Frank Weston

Workshops and Seminars

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

2009_

- Galapagos, April 13-23
- Southern Arizona, April 26-May 1
- Oregon Coast/Redwoods, June 3-9
- Wildlife Babies, June 18-21
- Glacier National Park, July 5-10
- Polar Bears, October 30-November 5

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.

Russ Burden's Photography Tours:

Visit www.russburdenphotography.com. Contact Russ at 303-791-9997, rburden@ecentral.com

Destinations include:

- Apr 18 - 24, 2009 - Monument Valley / Slot Canyons
- May 9 - 15, 2009 - Arches + Canyonlands National Parks - includes 5 sessions of Photoshop instruction
- May 23 - June 1, 2009 - Oregon Coast - 10 day trip
- June 6 - 12, 2009 - Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Spring
- Sept. 23-Oct. 2, 2009 - Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Fall - 10 days
- Oct. 20 - 25, 2009 - Hunts Mesa
- Nov. 1 - 7, 2009 - Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks
- Dec. 1 -7, 2009 - Bosque Del Apache / White Sands Natl. Mon.

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

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mattscha@aol.com 303-972-9882

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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

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Rita Summers • Russ Burden
Chuck Winter • Fi Rust • Frank Weston

March Meeting

Wednesday, March 11th

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: Wildlife and Open

February Attendance: n/a

March 2009 Digital Training Meeting

Wednesday, March 25th

7:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Please send your articles and input to
newsletter@mhwpc.org.