

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

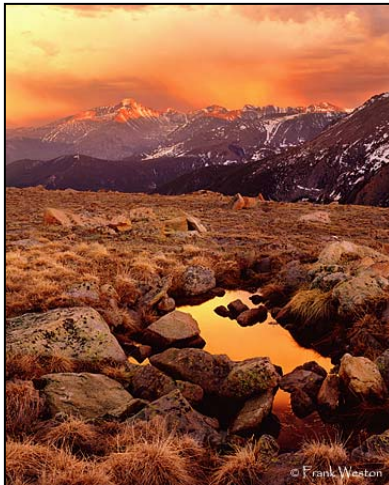
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Brave the Storm

Text & photos by Frank Weston

Storms are both a blessing and a bane to photographers. They challenge the hardest souls with extremes of wind, rain, snow, bitterly cold temperatures, and lightning. Storms can also provide some of the most dramatic natural lighting imaginable. It is this hope that sends me forth against the rigors of the storm.

A storm's unique ability to alter mood defies verbal description. Only a photograph can begin to do it justice. Sometimes the effects are subtle, at other times they can be very



very dramatic. The most important change for a photographer is, naturally, the light. Storm light can be anything you can envision and some things that you might never imagine. Occasionally the effects are so bizarre that people will accuse you of altering the photograph. Clouds and sun, working together provide an ever-changing kaleidoscope of light and shadow.

A storm presents two chances for capturing dramatic scenes, once as the storm approaches and again as it is breaking up. Either way, there is ample material for dramatic photographs. Another benefit to the photographer is that the weather ahead

of a storm front usually tends to be mild -- a chance to get some great shots before the weather makes shooting more difficult.

My preference, though, is the backside of the storm, just as it's beginning to break up. The weather may not be as mild as ahead of the storm, but the advantages more than make up for the typically cooler temperatures. As a landscape photographer, the biggest advantage is the absence of the high winds that are often pushed ahead of a storm front. Since I like the saturation achieved through long exposures, I find it difficult to photograph trees that are cavorting in 30 mph winds. Therefore, I much prefer the calmer winds behind the storm.

Since the storm's trailing edge is usually less well defined than the leading edge, I find that the transition period between storm and mild weather tends to last longer. This lengthens the time that I have to find those great shots. It also means that there will be more highly variable and often dramatic light. The ultimate situation is when the storm is breaking right at sunrise or sunset. Not only do I get dramatic clouds altering the light, but it is combined with the dramatic light of the "magic hour."

Without doubt, there are risks involved in setting out to face a storm. Beautiful photographs taken during storms do not mean that storms are benevolent and should be taken lightly. Our evolution-born fear of storms comes from the very real danger storms present. Storms can, and sometimes do, kill. Even in our modern,

technologically advanced world that insulates us from the rigors of nature, storms can still be very dangerous. A healthy dose of caution and preparation are needed before venturing out to face the



storm.

I face the storm forewarned and forearmed by diligently checking the local weather reports. When a storm is predicted, I try to position myself in a suitable location before the storm hits so I can shoot it as it moves in and out. I also make sure that I am prepared to survive the worst conditions I can imagine. Here in the Rocky Mountains, storms have a nasty habit of doing something other than what was predicted. Always carry extra food, water and cold-weather gear. I strongly recommend familiarizing yourself with the local weather forecasts before facing a storm. Then check with local outdoor outfitters regarding basic survival equipment and techniques before tackling storm photography.

I find great inspiration in shooting the edge of the storm. Storms are well known for their ability to cleanse the air and the earth. For me, they also have a way of cleansing the spirit. It's as if the storm clears and refreshes my creative vision. With my storm-cleansed vision, it is not difficult to

find abundant beauty that cries out to be shared on film.

February Meeting Date Changed

Our February meeting will be on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 at 7:00 pm** rather than our usual Wednesday meeting night. Please mark your calendar.

NANPA Conference

Mark February 8-12 on your calendar for NANPA's Twelfth Annual Nature Photography Summit and Trade Show being held at the Denver Hyatt Regency. Get complete details at www.nanpa.org.

At The Last Meeting...

Approximately 50 people enjoyed good food and good company at our annual Holiday Potluck. We definitely have some talented chefs in our midst. We also were able to tour all of Wildlife Experience's exhibits and to shop the gift shop—attractions that are normally closed during club meetings.

Upcoming Programs

January – Bosque del Apache

Chuck Winter will provide travel info and commentary set to images provided by **Rick Harner, Gordon and Cathy Illg**.

February - Michael Francis

Past president and NANPA Board Member, Michael Francis, is a full time wildlife photographer specializing in North American subjects with an emphasis on large mammals. His work has been published in almost every animal, nature, conservation, wildlife, and hunting magazine.

March - Digital Trial Run

This will be a test run for digital projection at MHWPC. You don't want to miss this one.

Braggin' Rights

Russ Burden has a four page article in the November issue of Petersen's Photographic titled *Five Tips for Framing Your Images*. It's instructional in focus and each tip is accompanied by an image that depicts the framing technique. It's a quick and easy read and it may motivate you to start using the technique if you're not already doing so.

Gordon and Cathy Illg have a picture of frost patterns on a window being used in the 2006 Inner Reflections calendar. They also have an ocelot photo being used by Defenders of Wildlife.

Devendra Kumar has an article and photos published on the Nature Wildlife and Pet Photography Forum. [Click here](#) to read his article.

Name Tags

In addition to her duties as our club treasurer, **Kathy Nolasco** has graciously agreed to take on the task of providing name tags for club members. Thank you, Kathy.

Club Library

The club library contains books, videos, magazines and CDs about nature photography. Club members may check out one item for one month. Overdue fines of \$1.00 per month will be due on any item not returned the next month. Please be considerate of others who want to use the library resources! Do not check out an item unless you will return it at the next month's meeting. If you miss the next meeting, please contact **Kathy Lingo** to make arrangements to return the item to her. kathy@arch2000.net or (303) 733- 9844

Snax and Beverages

Roger Kinney has taken over coordinating the volunteers for snacks and greeting. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Roger. 303-369-6120 RLKin@comcast.net

Photo Tip

text & photo by Russ Burden

Now that the cold weather is firmly upon us, a good place to capture great images of animals is the zoo.



Most are open year round and welcome the winter visitor. Animals are often more active as opposed to the summer when they bed down during the heat of the day. If you're shooting outdoors, use fill flash to fill in the shadow areas on a sunny day. If you're using flash indoors and the rules of the zoo allow it, put the flash and your lens against the glass of the display to prevent the flash from kicking back light into the lens as it bounces off the glass enclosure.

Competition Rules

SLIDE COMPETITION

Up to three slides may be entered in the Wildlife or Scenic categories with no more than two in either. Additionally you may submit one image into the Hand of Man or Creative categories.

WILDLIFE - Living wild animals whose normal, everyday movements are not controlled by man. No evidence of man permitted in the photo. Image as seen in wild (e.g. backlit subjects, smooth water) are permitted.

SCENIC - Nature photos of geological, botanical, meteorological subjects. Incidental presence of animal(s) is allowed as long as they are not the key elements of the composition and take up no more than 10% of the image area. Example: an insect on a flower wherein the flower takes up 90% or more of the image, an elk that resides in

its environment wherein the environment is 90% or more of the image. If the animal or insect takes up more than 10% of the image area, the photograph must be placed in the wildlife category. The 10% guideline will be left to the judge's discretion as to whether or not the limitation is exceeded. No evidence of hand of man is allowed

HAND OF MAN - Two sub-categories: Animals & Scenic

WILDLIFE - photos of wild animals or wild hybrids that include evidence of man. Controlled animals are included in this category. No domesticated animals.

SCENICS – photos of scenic, botanical, meteorological subjects that show evidence of the hand of man. Included are photos of hybrid plants, but no domesticated ones. Evidence of hand of man may include trails or roads. Man made structures such as fence lines, barns, piers, boats, etc. may be included as long as the take up no more than 10% of the image area and are incidental to the composition. The 10% guideline will be left to the judge's discretion as to whether or not the limitation is exceeded.

CREATIVE - This category includes natural subjects in which a pictorial effect is portrayed or some sort of manipulation has been applied to the image. Examples include double exposures, slide sandwiches, digital manipulations, or effect altering means via slide duplication. Note: If you have questions about the placement of an image in a category, please see the competition chairman before entering the image.

DIGITALLY ENHANCED: Two sub-categories: Wildlife & Scenic
For both categories, the same rules apply. Digital touching up may be performed to images entered in this category to enhance the presentation. Examples include, but are not limited to, selective darkening or lightening, removing minor distractions, eliminating clutter, toning down hot spots, selective saturation adjustments. Major enhancements such as changing out a sky, cloning in extra primary subjects, or adding/deleting primary parts of the composition should be entered into the Creative category.

PRINT COMPETITION

Up to three prints may be entered in the Wildlife or Scenic categories with no more than two in either. Additionally you may submit one image into the Hand of Man, Creative or Digitally Enhanced categories. Maximum size for any image with matting is 16"x20". The smallest image size is 8"x10" if not matted. Prints may be black & white or color. Prints should be mounted, but not framed. Prints will be divided and judged based on categories used for monthly slide competition. The size guideline will be left to the judge's discretion as to whether or not the limitation is exceeded.

ADDITIONAL SCHEDULED /ADHOC COMPETITIONS

In addition to the normal monthly competition outlined above, the following additional events will occur on a scheduled or ad-hoc basis. Specialty Subjects: 1) to be scheduled during gaps in programs where no presenter is available. Note: these subjects and the schedule will be announced in March. 2) Schedule will be decided by program coordinator and communicated to club in advance 3) Subject assignment decided by competition coordinator and program coordinator. Member suggestions are welcome. 4) Open Categories (e.g. wildlife/scenic/HOM competing and judged together)

JUDGING - Single judging provided by presenter. Evaluation scale will be 1-10. If the presenter is not judging, then 3 club members will judge and the scale will be 1-5.

Volunteers

Greeter(s): Kathy Nolasco
Snacks: Roger Kinney
Drinks/Ice: Roger Kinney

Workshops and Seminars

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

- California Birds, January 15-20
- Death Valley/Valley of Fire, January 22-27
- Florida Adventure, February 26-March 3
- Texas Birds, May 8-13
- Wild Horses, May 31-June 4

- Alpine Adventure, June 11-16
- Glacier National Park, July 9-14
- Rocky Mtn High, July 23-28
- Colorado Color, September 24-29
- Fall Wildlife & Photoshop, October 4-7
- Texas Birds, October 10-15
- Bryce & Zion, November 5-10
- Arches & Canyonlands, November 12-17
- Bosque del Apache (Full Moon), December 3-8

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

Destinations include:

- Apr 22-28 2006 Monument Valley / Slot Canyons
- May 13 - 19 2006 Arches National Park / Monument Valley Trip includes five afternoons of Photoshop instruction: 2 – 3 hours each
- May 27-June 5 2006 Oregon Coast - 10 day trip
- June 17 - 23 2006 Tetons / Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Spring
- Sept. 22-Oct. 1 2006 Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Fall -10 days
- Oct. 7 - 13 2006 Vermont in Autumn
- Oct. 21 - 26 2006 Hunts Mesa - in Monument Valley and two days in Capital Reef.
- Nov. 4 - 10 2006 Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks
- Dec. 3 -10 2006 Bosque Del Apache / White Sands Natl. Mon. with full moon

BORN FREE SAFARIS- Africa Trips 2006

Don Mammoser is leading two photo safari trips to Africa for Born Free Safaris next year. More information at www.bornfreesafaris.com

- Tanzania, May 22, 2006. All-inclusive cost (including airfare from Denver) for this 12 day trip is \$6300.

- Kenya, October 2, 2006. This 14 day trip is \$6400, including airfare from Denver.

Equipment for Sale

- Tokina ATX 80-400 lens w/ hood and tripod collar, \$250.00
 - Canon EF 35-105 lens, \$50.00
 - Canon EOS Elan body, \$100.00
- Contact Gary Lawrence, (303) 438-6988, lawrencephotos@comcast.net

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

President: Ron Eberhart
 720-635-6337

Vice-President: Chris Loffredo
 720-200-0792

Secretary/Treasurer: Kathy Nolasco
 303-690-3118

TEAM LEADERS

Monthly Programs: Chuck Winter 303- 972-2538
 Special Programs/Field Trips: Chuck Winter 303- 972-2538

Competition: Russ Burden

Competition Scoring: Chris Loffredo

Competition Entrees: Matt Schaeffer/Fred Stearns

Judging Coordinator: David Terbush 303-814-6969

Snacks/Greeters: Roger Kinney

303-369-6120 RLKin@comcast.net

Publicity: Buzz Soard 303-779-9933

Library: Lingo Family 303-733-9844

Newsletter: Frank Weston

720 981-8087 frank@frankweston.com

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Russ Burden * Tom Lentz *

Wayne Smith * Rita Summers * Rick Harner

January Meeting

Wednesday January 11

7:00pm – 10:00pm

at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: Slides

December Attendance: 50

New Members
