

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

January 2007 Volume 31, Issue 1

Get Motivated

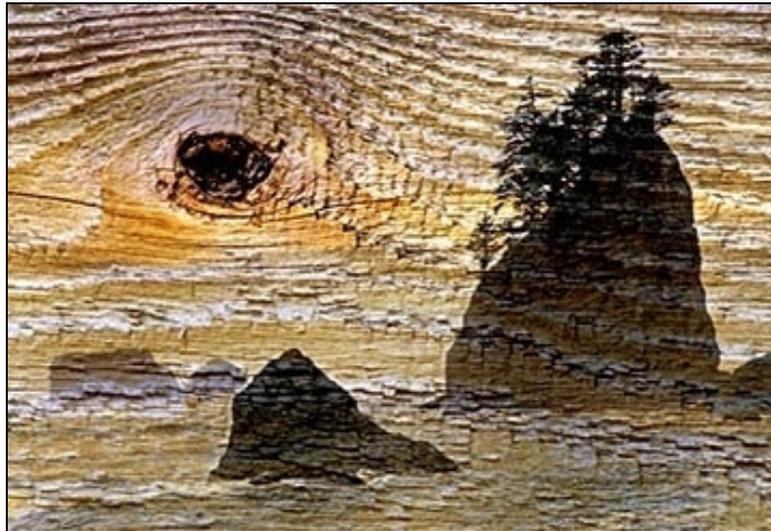
by Russ Burden

Every photographer I know has experienced a period when, at one time or another, he or she hits the wall and needs to create distance between themselves and the camera. Call it a lull, rejuvenation period or simply time off, it's necessary to maintain creativity. These periods of down time are normal and should be taken in stride. But what happens if these lulls of a few days evolve into a week or even longer. Then it becomes an issue. If this happens to you, try some of the following techniques I've heard about or used first hand to get re-motivated.

Give Yourself an Assignment: A sure fire way to get yourself revved up is to develop a photo theme in which you're interested. It may be one you've already started but want to expand on or it may be something completely new and different. Pick a topic that won't require long drives as I don't want you to use the drive as an excuse to not pick up the camera. It can be broad based like macro photography or more specific like parts of a car, architectural details, motion, etc. Create a schedule you

can adhere to but not too rigorous to become a burden. Try something new such as portraiture, flowers, still life etc.

Vacation Time: Nothing gets the creative juices flowing more than going on a trip. It can be a long weekend, an overnight camping trip, or a full blown vacation. Regardless of their duration or distance from home, they get you to think photographically, try new ideas or techniques, and relax the mind resulting in more carefully planned images. If it's a local trip, treat it as if you were going around the world as it will get you more fired up.



A little experimenting in Photoshop can produce some surprising results.

Photograph people as if they're native to a foreign country looking for interesting faces. A bonus is you may get a model release and use the image commercially.

Snap Away: Buy a digital point and shoot and go for short walks around the neighborhood. Take pictures of everything you encounter but try to add a new twist to the image. Try unique angles, experiment with flash, get in close, lay down on the ground, use slow shutter speeds to convey

motion, etc. When you get back home, download the images. You may find a shot that really clicks resulting in a newly found style. In that you're capturing the images digitally, it costs you nothing but time and effort. Try converting some of the files to black and white. It may spark an interest in that medium. Carrying a point and shoot frees you up from carrying an SLR system which gets heavy and eases your peace of mind of having it stolen out of the car.

If none of the above get you going, here are a number of other ideas that may peak your interest. Take a photography course from one of the local colleges in your area. If there are none, look to see what your local camera store may offer with regards to instruction. Devote time to playing with Photoshop and try a new technique. Buy a photography instructional book and try some of the techniques explained in it. Plan to shoot the same location during all the seasons showing how it changes. Enter a photo contest. If you win, it will motivate you to shoot more. Shoot everything as an abstract. It will force you to look at the ordinary in unordinary ways.



Try converting your favorite image to black and white.

At The Last Meeting...

About 35 people attended our annual holiday potluck in December. The weather cooperated and all had a great time. We dined in the

Community Gallery, where the MHWPC exhibit is still on display.

Dues Are Due

Yep, it's a new year and that means that it's time to pay your 2007 club dues. Membership is still only \$20 for the entire year. Please bring your dues to the meeting. Remember only paid members can participate in club competitions or receive the club newsletter.

Braggin' Rights

Nick Burden has an image of a flower in a section of bark in a bristle cone pine tree taken on Mount Evans. The image appears as a result of winning an Honorable Mention in the National Wildlife Photography Contest in the Youth Division. The image will also appear as the Photo of the Week on the National Wildlife website the beginning of August.

Club Webpage

by 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](#).

January—Images of Africa

James Hager will present some of his stunning images of the Dark Continent.

February—TBA

March— Wild Horses

Of Interest

If you ever get locked out of the building during one of our meetings, go to the security office on

the west side of the building at the loading dock.

The winners of the club's TWE competition will be available for viewing at in the Community Gallery, October 7, 2006 – January 28, 2007.

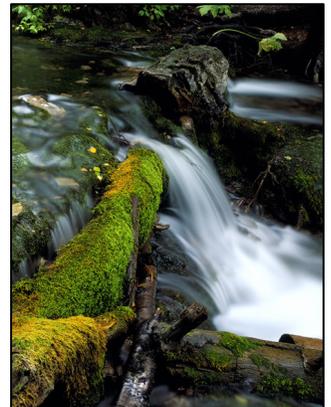
Refuge Association Launches 2nd Annual Refuge Photo Contest

The National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) announces its 2nd annual digital photo contest showcasing America's national wildlife refuges. Entry deadline is January 31, 2007 with results to be announced March 14, 2007 at the 104th anniversary of the establishment of the first National Wildlife Refuge.

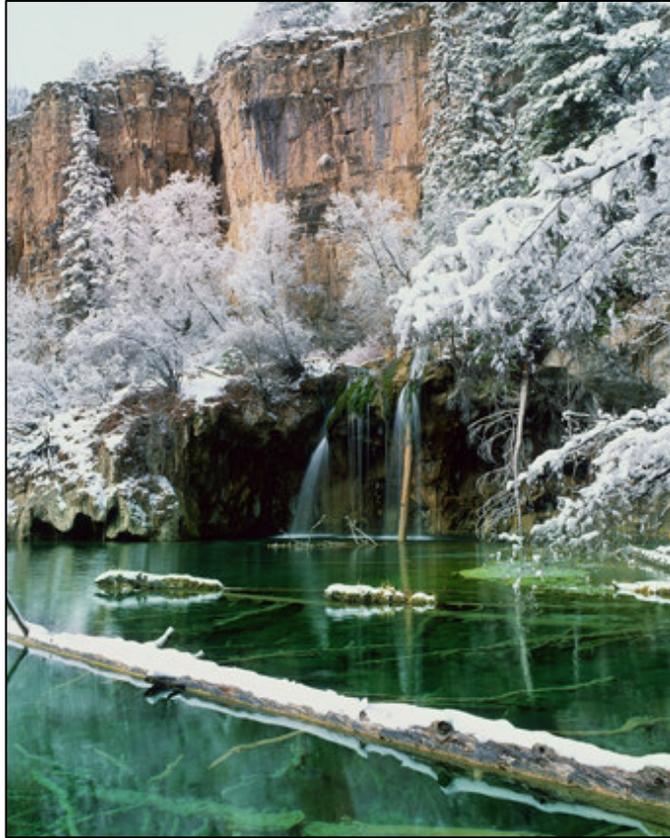
For photo contest details, requirements, and procedures, visit <http://www.refugenet.org>, and click on "2007 Refuge Photo Contest."

One of My Favorite Places is... Hanging Lake, CO.

Having grown up in Colorado, I've known about Hanging Lake all my life. Located in Glenwood Canyon about 8 miles east of Glenwood Springs, Hanging Lake received little publicity until I-70 was completed through Glenwood Canyon. The highway department created a major rest area along I-70 and named it the Hanging Lake Rest Area. Even with this publicity, I'm surprised by the number of people who have not heard of Hanging Lake.



Hanging Lake is a stunning little gem of lake tucked up against the limestone cliffs along Deadhorse Creek, a tributary of the Colorado River in Glenwood Canyon. The spring-fed waters are crystal strikingly clear allowing you to see the bottom in detail and fish swimming the depths.



*First snow at Hanging Lake.
Frank Weston*

Photographic Opportunities.

The hike up to Hanging Lake can be a bit challenging, but it's well worth the effort. The trail is only about 1¼ miles long, but the elevation gain is a bit over 1,000 feet. Most people require an hour or more to reach the lake. I recommend a slower hike. The trail follows Deadhorse Creek up the canyon, offering many splendid photographic opportunities en route to the lake. Vegetation shrouds numerous tiny pools and cataracts as the creek tumbles toward the Colorado River. This narrow canyon isn't a good place for grand scenics, but it offers countless opportunities for intimate landscapes and closeup work.

When you reach the lake, the canyon is still pretty tight, making a wide-angle lens highly desirable. Access around the lake is limited. A board walk built by the Boy Scouts allows easy access along the scenic lower edge of the lake. A side trail takes off up the canyon just before the boardwalk. It leads to the source of the lake's water—

Spouting Rock, a spring that spouts directly out of the cliff face in a dramatic display. It's well worth the extra climb.

Driving directions.

From Denver drive west on I-70 about 150 miles. About 8 miles after you enter Glenwood Canyon at Dotsero, watch for the Hanging Lake Rest Area exit. You can't actually exit at Hanging Lake when heading west on I-70. You must drive past the rest area a couple of miles to the Grizzly Creek Rest Area. Here you can get back on I-70

eastbound and return to the Hanging Lake exit. Note that you cannot directly return to I-70 eastbound from the Hanging Lake Rest Area. To return to Denver, you must travel west on I-70 to the Grizzly Creek Rest Area again to get on I-70 eastbound.



Online, Google Maps and Topozone provide excellent aerial photos and maps of the area.

DeLorme's Colorado Atlas & Gazetteer map book is also useful for reasonable detailed topographic maps in book form for the entire state.

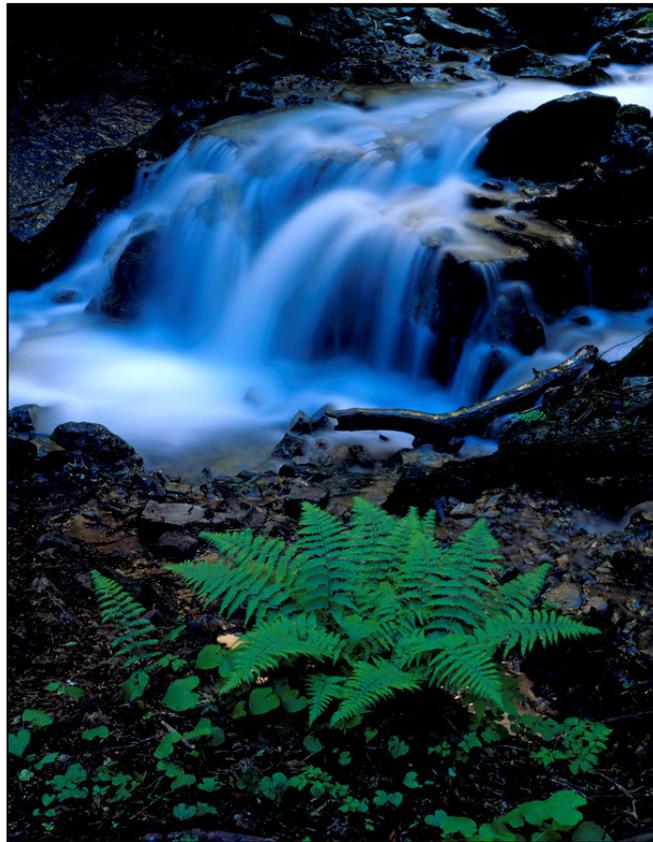
Special Considerations.

Obviously, this is an easy drive since it's interstate all the way—except on weekends when a bazillion other people are also driving the interstate.



From the parking area, hike along the paved bike path about a ¼-mile east to the Hanging Lake Trailhead. From here the trail gets tough. You'll be climbing a sometimes steep and always rocky trail along the edge of Deadhorse Creek. The last hundred yards below the lake require you to climb some very steep stairs carved into the rock. A steel handrail aids in the climb, but when it's crowded, the stairs become a bottleneck. If you go in the spring, plan on getting wet as Deadhorse Creek frequently overflows its banks, drowning the trail in several inches of water. In the winter, ice and snow make the trail very slippery and treacherous.

As you hike Deadhorse Canyon, keep an eye on the creek. There are plenty of photo ops as cataracts leap over the rocky streambed, then rest in quiet pools. Just below the lake, a steep waterfall



*Cataract along Deadhorse Creek.
Frank Weston*

descends the canyon wall.

Early morning and late afternoon are the best times to photograph Hanging Lake. Since the canyon opens to the south, the lower angled sun cannot reach into the canyon's depths, but it does provide a soft, warm bounce light.

For More Information. Frank Weston, frank@frankweston.com, (303) 829-7494.

Call for Papers

by **Matt Schaefer**

One of My Favorite Places is...

For many of us, we each have favorite places which we have found to be full of rich photographic treasures. Most of us are also always looking for more such places to practice our vocation or avocation. This is a call for club members to share some information on your favorite places so that all of us can enjoy them, as well. This would become a regular column

in the newsletter and would include location, special considerations, type of photographs available (flowers, landscapes, wildlife, etc.), and directions.

Since the purpose is report on places available for everyone, let's try to limit them to the continental U.S. for now. Maybe later, we can expand to "my favorite international places". Also, let's see if we can report on the out-of-the-way places not reported in every tourist and photo guide to the country. It doesn't have to be expensive or famous to a favorite place.

Some ideas to include in a report would be:

- why it is special
- state and county names, as well as other commonly used names for the area (i.e.,: Blanco Basin, Archuleta County, Colorado)
- a couple of sample photos (these don't have to be competition quality, but should show some examples of what a person could expect to see there)
- a simple map, or links to Google Maps or Mapquest
- directions and distances to nearby towns including highway numbers and key turnoffs
- distance and time from Denver
- special considerations such as weather, road conditions, traffic, crowd reports, best time of day/year, special equipment to bring, fees, and what not to miss
- your name and POC information in case someone has additional questions

Please submit them to [Frank Weston](#) in the normal manner for inclusion in the newsletter. Hopefully, we'll have enough submissions to run one each month.

Club Field Trips

Listed below are tentative dates for club field trips.

- Ptarmigan, Guanella Pass—tentatively scheduled for late January or early February (January 20th or February 17th or March 3 rd). Contact [Chuck Winter](#), 303-972-2538 for details.
- Wild Horse Foals, Black Hills—May 5, 2007. The trip will be at the Wild Horse Sanctuary, Hot Springs, SD. The cost will be \$26/session, with two 3-hour sessions, one at sunrise and one at sunset. Contact for more information. This trip is filling up fast. Contact [Charlie Summers](#), 303-840-3355 to make your reservations.

Hospitality

Greeter(s):

Snacks:

Drinks/Ice:

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 **Betsy Lamb** to make arrangements to return the item to her. jnblamb@comcast.net or 303-841-2565

For Sale

I have three Gitzo tripods I want to sell.

Studex 323 (three sections 23" collapsed) \$75.00. Studex 328 (three sections 28" collapsed) \$70.00. Reporter Performance with four sections that collapses to 17.5 inches making it nice for travel \$75.00. Contact Charlie Summers, 303-791-9851.

Workshops and Seminars

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

- Winter Wildlife, February 6-9
 - 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
 - Glacier National Park, July 8 – 13
-

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

- Tanzania in Feb 2007: Wildebeest birthing season in Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti NP- 15 days, Feb 3-17
- Primates in Feb 2007: Chimpanzees and gorillas in Tanzania and Rwanda - 11 days, Feb 17-27
- 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: [Ron Eberhart](#)

720-635-6337

Vice-President: [Chris Loffredo](#)

720-200-0792

Secretary/Treasurer: [Patrick Devereaux](#)

303-683-7011

TEAM LEADERS

Monthly Programs: [Chuck Winter](#) 303-972-2538

Membership: *vacant*

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

Publicity: *Buzz Soard* 303-779-9933

Library: [Betsy Lamb](#) 303-841-2565

Newsletter: [Frank Weston](#) 720-981-8087

Club Website: [James Hager](#)

<http://www.mhwpc.org>

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Russ Burden * Tom Lentz *

Wayne Smith * Rita Summers * Rick Harner

January Meeting

Wednesday January 10

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: Digital

Submittal Deadline: Saturday, January 6

December Attendance: 35
