

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

September 2008 Volume 32, Issue 9

The Backyard Photographic Journal by Tammy Hammond

A backyard, when viewed through the camera lens, can become one of the richest settings for capturing artistic images and in many ways a perfect place to improve composition skills and build upon technique. Ever changing as a stage set, the backyard photographic journal will transform the way you define your own backyard.

In getting started with a backyard photo journal first define your range. This range, for myself, is the immediate boundaries of my home property. Although tempting to add nearby open space or parks, I want to zero in on fewer subjects and explore several exposure and composition options. Besides, limiting subjects simplifies the process of sorting, categorizing, and deciding which images relate to potential viewers as familiar subjects. While backyard photo competitions may accept a qualifying range as a mileage radius close to your home, there are advantages to choosing a small radius. The smaller backyard allows for staying focused, smelling the roses over and over again.

Committed to a specific area, take time to skim through your previous backyard images to get a sense of a common theme: which subjects reappear? Birds? Insects? Botanical? What techniques do you lean toward? Aperture

priority? Macro? and what predominantly draws your attention? Flag the skills to improve upon or individual wildlife behaviors to anticipate.

Each moment is unique, even in a backyard studio, so always be ready for the likeliness of precious moments not returning. Examples of those moments could be a Morning Dove confronting a snake, a mouse doing amazing acrobatics as it leaps to exit an empty planter, migrating Monarch butterflies in crisp autumn light, a Coopers Hawk hunting from a fence post, the activity is endless in both motion and stillness.



The photographic journal becomes a meditation, an opportunity to study natural spot lights of early morning or evening sun rays filtering through trees and shrubs then landing on an unsuspecting soloist. Or, reflective light bouncing off a glass door and illuminating an otherwise shadowed subject. Anticipate the possibilities that an afternoon thunderstorm may leave, all the way into the next morning. You don't have to wake up an hour earlier than sunrise to be positioned for "golden light", and as you saunter from teapot to tripod you'll learn the greater purpose of a clear window, work near them often, following seasonal light patterns and welcoming fleeting visitors.

A backyard photographic journal is not just another project, it's a daily practice.



DIGITAL TRAINING MEETING

It looks as if we're off to a great start!

Twenty-one members showed up at our Digital Training Meeting, on August 27th, and all were very enthusiastic. The presentations had a common theme of combining differently exposed photos to create one image of greater highlight and shadow detail.

Russ Burden demonstrated how to Double Process a RAW file and use a Layer Mask to get the most from each. A sample of Russ's presentation is available at http://www.takegreat-pictures.com/double_process_raw.fci

Merging images in Photoshop using the HDR (High Dynamic Range) Merge function was presented by **Colin McKenna**, and, using the standalone application Photomatrix to create a HDR image was demonstrated by **Bruce Norman**.

All paid members are welcome and encouraged to attend future meetings. It's a great way to learn new ways to improve your digital image post-processing skills.

The meetings start at 7:15pm and will be on the 4th Wednesday of each month, with the exception of November, due to Thanksgiving, which will be held on the third Wednesday of the month.

Enter through the main entrance, not the doors we're used to for the theater. Bring a notebook and writing implement to take your notes.

Please feel free to volunteer to do a presentation. The more people who participate, the better!!

Current Schedule:

September 24th - 4th Wednesday

Sam Fletcher: Using the PASTE INTO command and Using Picture Size defaults.

Bob Cross: Dodge and Burn Alternatives.
Nancy and Bob Stocker: Inputting Metadata and Keywords.

October 29th - 4th Wednesday

Bruce Norman: the ins and outs of the new Nik Viveza program.

Important Information from the Meeting

A. Sam will get name placards for each person to place on the table in front of him or her.

B. Think about doing a presentation on *Lightroom 2* if you use and have the update.

C. In talking with some of the members after the meeting, we may go to doing only two presentations each month allowing each presenter to cover more detail about the topic. The benefit will be twofold:

1. The deeper the concept can be taught, the more will be learned.

2. With two topics, we're thinking about gearing one as a "beginner" topic and the other as an intermediate or advanced. This way all benefit. We'll talk about this at the September meeting and make the decision then. Bring your thoughts to the table to be discussed.

Information provided by Russ Burden

Digital Corner: Photoshop Tips

Add Notes to Your Images

"How did I just do that?" is a common question Photoshop users mutter after making an image adjustment. To save yourself time and frustration develop a habit of adding **Notes** to your work. Touch **N** on your keyboard, or, select the **Note Tool** from the toolbox. Hold the mouse button and drag, then add your settings and adjustments notes.

View > Show > Annotations

to hide or reveal your notes.

Braggin Rights...

Nick Burden has two pictures in the new Nature's Best For Kids magazine: One is a shot taken at Harris Beach in Oregon in a section with the theme of "The Color Blue." The other is in the Student Photo Contest of a shot of Canyonlands with snow. View this issue at: <http://viewer.zmags.com/showmag.php?mid=hpfpw>

There's also a featured article highlighting the NANPA High School Scholarship experience in Destin, Florida in which Nick is pictured.

Hospitality for September Meeting

Snacks: Roger Kinney
Drinks: Tammy Hammond

Getting to Know You...

Alix Gallivan's interview column will return next month. Please contact Alix to be interviewed. Thanks Alix!!!!

Upcoming Programs

September:

"What I got with my Point and Shoot!" Collect your point-and-shoot images that show what is possible with a simple digital point and shoot camera.

Categories will be the four regular club categories: Wildlife/Wildlife-Hand of man/Scenic/Open. For this program there will be an additional category of "Family Snapshots".

Images will need to be sent to Chuck Winter (regular club submission guidelines) or brought to the meeting on a CD (NOT DVD) or a flash drive. cwinter@mii-rmcc.com

October:

Digital Horizons - details forthcoming.

At The Last Meeting... ANNUAL PICNIC/POTLUCK

Thanks to everyone who contributed to a great picnic!



photo courtesy of Russ Burden

This club picture, taken at the picnic, will be sent to NATURES BEST to show our gratitude, as well as display the portion of our 2007 award money which was spent on new polo shirts, with the MHWPC logo, as a gift to members.



Rocky Mountain Arsenal

photo courtesy of Tammy Hammond

If you are interested in participating or are able to lead one of these trips, please contact Chuck Winter, (303)972-2538 or (303)226-1895. cwinter@mii-rmcc.com

Elk: Rocky Mountain National Park

September 20

Annual pilgrimage to the park for elk viewing.

6:00 AM: Meet at the main entrance visitor center, Beaver Meadows, for a morning shoot.

12:00 NOON : reconvene at the Beaver Meadows visitor center to compare notes and share information on where to go for the evening shoot later that day.

Maroon Bells or Mount Wilson

September 26-28

A minimum of 3 people is needed for the trip to Telluride, to photograph Mount Wilson. Please contact Chuck Winter if interested in sharing expenses. phone: (303) 972-2538 or (303) 226-1895.

Scavenger Hunt at Prospect Park

October 18

contact Roger L. Kinney RLKin@comcast.net, Phone 303-369-6120

9:00 AM: Meet at Prospect Park, east end of main parking lot. This is NOT a competition and everyone can participate. There will be no time limit on how long you take in getting your images that day. Paid members will submit their digital images to Roger L. Kinney by October 27, 2008.

Each person will be given a list of 10 -15 subjects to photograph in the park during the hunt. The subjects will vary and allow for creativity, examples of subjects may be: a Bird, a Mammal, Something Dead, Something Alive, Water, a Red Leaf, Something Showing Hand of Man, etc. You will send your selected images to Roger L. Kinney, who will put together a presentation of the images that will be shown at the December Christmas Party. Again this is not a competition - we just want to get more involvement from our club members and let you show some of your creative side.

more field trips...

Bosque del Apache NWR

November 27-30

Rocky Mountain National Park

Big Horn Sheep Rut

December 20

Of Interest...

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal is again a great destination for wildlife photographers.

Sightings reported by Chuck Winter, from a recent field trip, include whitetail deer, mule deer, coyote, pelicans, killdeer, sandpipers, owls, avocets, herons, cormorants, ibises, numerous species of shore birds. The refuge also accommodates a herd of bison.

Refuge Days are in October. Visit the Arsenal website at www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal

Library News from the Lamb's

Hi Everyone,

Stop by the library to thumb through some new places to explore.

If you have checked any things out recently, please bring them back and check them in. In September, I hope to review some new materials. Keep reading and learning new techniques!!!

The Lamb's

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



August Competition Results

Judge: Reed Nelson

Club Members: Wildlife HoM

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Curious Wood Stork
Dick York

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| 2 nd | <i>Eagle</i> | Bob Cross |
| 3 rd | <i>Mountain Bluebird</i> | Brenda Fletcher |

Masters: Wildlife HoM

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Owl
Chris Loffredo

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| 2 nd | <i>Tiger Yawning</i> | Fi Rust |
| 3 rd | <i>Olive Baboon on Railing</i> | Rita Summers |

Club Members: Scenic

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Fern Creek Falls
Shannon Holmes

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| 2 nd | <i>Grand Teton Foggy Morning</i> | Reed Nelson |
| 3 rd | <i>Piney Lake Reflection</i> | Russ Shugart |
| HM | <i>Red Leaf Rose</i> | Tammy Hammond |

Masters: Scenic

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Alaska Sunset
Chris Loffredo

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| 2 nd | <i>Firehole Falls</i> | Sam Fletcher |
| 3 rd | <i>Winter Sandstone</i> | Reb Babcock |

From the Webmaster

The MHWPC Website: www.mhwpc.org

Would you like to receive email notices when competition image submission windows open? Would you like to receive email notices about upcoming meetings? Do you have a photography-related website and want a link to it in order to drive traffic to it? Have you moved or changed email accounts lately? Would you like to post a picture of yourself to be included in the online Membership Directory?

If you answered yes to any of the above, login to your MHWPC website account and go to your Manage Account page. The "Login" button is tucked away in the extreme upper right corner of each page, and after you login, a "Manage Account" link will appear at the very top of the page.

On the Manage Account page, you can update your contact information, control the amount of contact information that is shown to other club members, add a picture of yourself, edit your email preferences (to receive notices or not), and add a link to your photo-related website.

If you and your family member(s) have different contact information, like individual phone numbers or email addresses, you can add this information by adding an additional family member in the "Other Family Members" section of your Manage Account page. All members of the family share the same account (membership status) and physical address, and each member can have his or her own name, phone number, and email address.

In order to prevent spam filters from intercepting emails from the system, add "system@mhwpc.org" to your list of approved email addresses.

Emails that are sent through email lists retain the "from" and "reply-to" information of the original sender.

If you have any questions, or suggestions for how to improve the website, contact the webmaster

Workshops and Seminars

Russ Burden's Photography Tours:

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

Destinations include:

- 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.
- 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.

more workshops and seminars...

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

2008

- South Dakota Badlands, September 14-19
- Colorado Color, September 22-27
- Fall Captives, October 6-9
- Bryce/Zion, November 1-6
- Costa Rica, November 10-19
- Arches/Canyonlands, December 8-13

2009

- Beauty & The Beasts, February 1-6
- Death Valley, February 8-13
- 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.

James Hager Photography - Small Group Photo Safaris

www.JamesHagerPhoto.com
James@JamesHagerPhoto.com

- Bats in Aug 2008: shoot bats in flight in a controlled setting, Arizona, Aug 30- Sept 3
- Kenya in Oct 2008: Classic safari to Samburu and Masai Mara National Reserves, 16 days, Oct 16-31
- Winter Wildlife in Jan 2009: wildlife models in winter (wolf, Siberian tiger, snow leopard, mountain lion, lynx ...), Montana, Jan 25-29

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

President: Chris Loffredo

ChrisLoff@comcast.net 303-267-3846

Vice-President: Matt Schaefer

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Secretary/Treasurer: Patrick Devereaux

patrick.devereaux@cushwake.com 303-683-7011

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Webmaster: James Hager

<http://www.mhwpc.org> webmaster@mhwpc.org

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

September Meeting

Wednesday, September 10th

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: Open and Wildlife

August Attendance: 37

September Digital Training Meeting

Wednesday, September 24th

7:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Please send your articles and input to

newsletter@mhwpc.org.