

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

April 2011

Volume 35, Number 3

Karval Wildlife Photo Days *Text and Photos by Nancy Stocker*

The residents in Karval, Colorado are welcoming photographers from early May until mid-June with an important amenity: reasonably priced lodging in town for up to 6 people at a time. Lodging would be spread among individual homes. Some will be very nice, others more practical.

Karval is located 75 miles east/southeast of Colorado Springs and 55 miles south/southeast of Limon. It's about a 2 1/2 hour drive from central Denver.

May and June are the likely times to photograph:

- ◇ swift fox families near their dens;
- ◇ mountain plovers;
- ◇ nesting raptors;
- ◇ many small birds, including the “butcher bird” (loggerhead shrike) that kills insects and then impales them on thorns, small branches or barbed wire for future use;
- ◇ pronghorn;
- ◇ prairie dog town residents including burrowing owls; and
- ◇ lots more!

The land in Karval is private, except for the Karval State Wildlife Area. So pre-arrangement is necessary. There is a small access fee to enter ranches (typically \$5/day in the past, perhaps more if a blind is provided). Some ranchers can direct you to places they've recently seen wildlife.

There is a restaurant in town currently, but bringing food for most meals may be a good idea. There are no gas stations, motels, or other facilities in Karval. The population of Karval is less than 600 people.

We encourage you to plan ahead for time in Karval. Each year, more photographers are visiting. We want to keep



numbers at any one time small, so each person gets a high quality experience. If Bob and Nancy Stocker can arrange to be there when you are, we'll happily volunteer to help you find the wildlife you want to photograph.

For further information, please see the Colorado Prairie Wildlife Photo Trail website and/or email Nancy Stocker at Stokers@StockerPhotos.com



At Our March Meeting

by Lara Hardesty

The entire March meeting was devoted to judging the entries for our club's upcoming exhibit at The Wildlife Experience. The large number of members attending the March meeting indicates that this is one of our club's more popular events. The theme this year is Close Ups - A Part of the Whole. Each club member was able to submit two images online for consideration. 53 members submitted at least one entry. During the first half of the meeting, each member present was asked to vote (by raising of hands) for which of the two images submitted by a given photographer was the better of the two. Most of the time the audience had a clear preference, but for some the decision was a close one requiring several "recounts". During the break, Chuck Summers took the selected photograph for each participating photographer and created the final list from which to chose the winning photographs. Each member present was able to vote for 22 of the 53 selected photos. Chuck Winters recorded the number of votes that each image received and the 22 images receiving the most votes were chosen to be in the show. The 5 entries receiving the most votes were then in a run off to select the two Best of Shows. Hands of Time by Roger Kinney and Whiskers & Stripes by Cathy Sheeter won top honors. To see all of the wining images, look under the galleries tab on the club's website for TWE Exhibit 2011 or further in this newsletter.

Hospitality for the April Meeting

Ken Winner - Cookies/Snacks

Georgia Hart - Beverages

Volunteers are needed for later this year!



Whoopers!

Text and Photos by Richard Seeley

Whooping Cranes are named for their whooping sound and call. Also known as Whoopers, they are a rare and federally endangered bird. There are about only 550 cranes in North America, and fortunately the population appears to be stable and growing thanks to the protection and fostering of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. At one point the count was down to 16 birds in 1941. The Whooper is the tallest bird in North America, standing at five feet, with a wing span of 7.5 feet. It is white, with black tipped wings and a red and black crown. A flock of about 275 migrate to Aransas Bay, Texas each winter.

We hired Captain Kevin Sims as our guide for the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Aransas Bay, south of Houston. It was a Friday; it was rainy, overcast with poor light. Kevin took us to all of his favorite spots for viewing cranes. We found one pair that was fishing for crabs:



“Lets Share”

But in general it was a disappointing day for photographing the cranes. Kevin was very disappointed as well and offered to take us out again when the weather cleared at no extra charge.

The next morning, Kevin called us at 7am to tell us that 3 cranes were in his back yard feeding. We dropped everything and hustled to his place. We stopped short in his driveway hidden from the cranes, set up our gear and walked slowly and quietly to a tree line. We could see them thru the trees about 250 feet away. There were 2 adults and a juvenile. We moved closer and into the open for a clear shot. Positioned our gear and started shooting.

“Crane Crossing”

We got only a minute of shooting before they took off.....



I usually use my 7D for bird flight or action. But originally the cranes were strutting about slowly and the 5D Mark 2 seemed to be a good choice (low noise, full frame, slow action) for the situation. But then they started to take off. It was amazing to watch them unfold their wing, stretch for a running start and lift off in near perfect formation. I can still see it as a slow motion movie in my head. I had no choice but to use the 5D. I used my tried and true technique of “press and pray”.



“Whopper Family Takeoff”



“Whoopers on Wings”

The “technique” worked!

Richard Seeley
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blog: www.richardseeleyphotography.wordpress.com
[LIKE me on Facebook](#)

Hello from the Library!

Are you all as ready for spring and warmer weather as we are. It has been a great ski season, but I am ready to find new life in the forests during warmer weather. Joe and I will be out of town in California (near San Diego) for a spring vacation and will not open the library for the April meeting. If you have any returns either keep them or see one of the officers and they can hold them for us. We will see you again in May. Happy picture taking!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Joe and Betsy Lamb

Help Needed For Our September Meeting!

Chuck Winter is looking for someone who has some experience in ordering greeting cards and/or note cards from Shutterfly or one of the other printing companies that advertise in Outdoor Photographer.

Chuck is putting a program together for September, and creating note cards or greeting cards via the internet is one of the subjects he intends to cover. Please see Chuck at the club meeting or email him if you could assist. Thank you!



Near or Far or Wherever

by Gordon & Cathy Illg



Hands Of Time by Roger Kinney



Whiskers And Stripes by Cathy Sheeter

Hats off to the makers of all the images submitted for the upcoming TWE exhibit, Close Ups--A Part of the Whole. There were many more great images than the exhibit could accommodate. Since mine and Cathy's livelihoods depend on people traveling to photography hotspots, we were pleased to see that the entered images came from the far corners or the world--Africa, Tropical America, Arctic and Antarctic. Even the images from the U.S. were taken in places that read like a list of must-see locations for all nature photographers--Yellowstone, Antelope Canyon, Alaska--with the exception of the two photos chosen Best of Show. And it is with some trepidation that I point this out because we do not lead photo tours to either the Denver Zoo or the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, where the winning shots were taken. The last thing we want is for photographers to realize they don't need to leave their own backyards to capture fantastic images.

Roger Kinney's "Hands of Time" and Cathy Sheeter's "Whiskers and Stripes" not only outcompeted gorillas and zebras photographed in Africa, but images from everywhere else as well. And that includes mine from Costa Rica and my wife, Cathy's, from Texas. Ordinarily in a situation like this, when my photos don't fare as well as I had hoped, I reach deep within myself, trying to remember those lessons my parents taught about magnanimity and nobility, and I blame the judges for their lack of vision and intelligence. Only in this case, I was one of the judges...and I agreed with their decision for Best of Show.

Deep down I think we all realize that a great photographer doesn't need to go to Africa or Costa Rica or wherever to get those great shots, but it's nice to be reminded of that fact from time to time. I don't know whether the artists were trapped close to home by finances, or if they are so driven that no matter where they are they are constantly pushing those shutter buttons and pushing the envelope. Doesn't matter. Congratulations again to Cathy and Roger, and thanks for reminding us it is the photographer and not the location that make those great images.



TWE Competition Results



Dancing Droplets by Reb Babcock



Spotlight by Russ Burden



Wildebeest Crossing by Donna Carr



Bristlecone Pine Spring Flower
by Patrick Devereaux



Cottonwood River Ripples
by Ronald Eberhart



Fishing Nile Crocodile by Barbara Fleming



Royal Palm Frond by Brenda Fletcher



Sabyinyo Group Silverback
by Sam Fletcher

TWE Competition Results



Cotton Candy by Jan Forseth



Toucan by Steve Goodman



Fox Face by Lara Hardesty



Eagle Eye by Patrick Hayes



Moonlight Crawler by Cathy Illg



Raindrop Reflections by Gordon Illg



Stripes by Ward Mahanke



Paws by Bruce Norman

TWE Competition Results



Bokeh Droplets by Nona Radin



Giraffe with Oxpeckers by Rita Summers



Inner Thoughts by Terri Watson



Black Bear Eating Berries by Bob West

Alternates



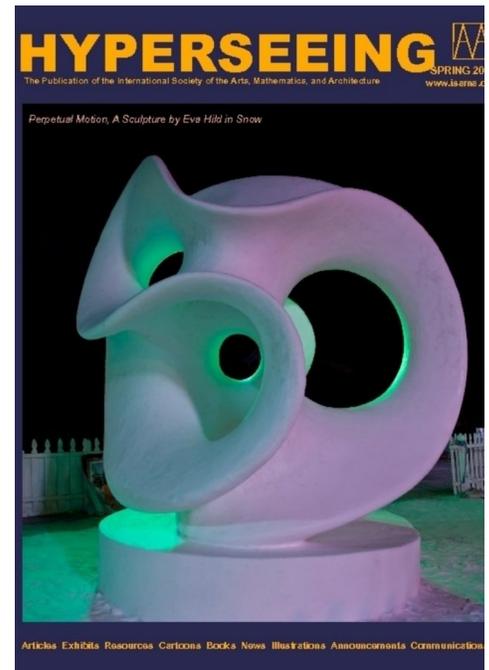
Pine Marten by Mary Paetow



Ocelot by Fi Rust



Richard Seeley's photograph of the "Perpetual Motion" snow sculpture at night under lights is published as the cover photo for Hyperseeing Magazine – a mathematical journal. "Perpetual Motion" was sculpted by team Sweden-USA in the International Snow Sculpture Championships in Breckenridge, Colorado in January 2010 (Rich was a member of the team)



Upcoming Programs

April Bob Smith will present a program on Antarctica this month:

Antarctica - the very name conjures up images of tall icebergs, windswept snow covered mountains, penguins and their chicks, whales, and more! Bob Smith has made six trips to the icy continent and will present his stories and his book "Antarctica - Land of Ice" which was published just last year. Traveling as the photo instructor aboard the National Geographic Explorer, Bob visited more than 25 locations in the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands, landing via Zodiac on barren beaches covered in thousands of penguins who had gathered to lay their eggs on the bare rocks and raise their young in the Antarctic summer. Names like Brown Bluff, Deception Island, The Gullet, Paradise Bay, and Petermann Island will all be a part of this presentation on the continent visited by only 30,000 people per year.

Bob has an extensive background - a marketing rep for Apple for 15 years, he turned his full attention to photography in 2001. He has taught field photography workshops for Rich Clarkson & Associates - Photography at the Summit, Santa Fe Workshops, Rocky Mountain Photo Adventures, Lindblad Expeditions, and leads his own workshops to Alaska, Canada, Wyoming, and Botswana. He is also a part of American Photo magazines' Mentor Series workshops. His images have appeared in the National Geographic, Conservation Society, Evergreen Living, Nature Photographer, and the Nikon product catalog. Bob was also the Director of Stock Images for Thomas D Mangelsen's Images of Nature galleries.

May Dave Showalter will be our presenter in May, with a program on the Colorado Prairie. Dave Showalter is a Colorado based nature and wildlife photographer, and is the author and photographer of the award-winning book "Prairie Thunder - The Nature of Colorado's Great Plains". Check out his website at www.daveshowalter.com for more information.

Winter & Early Spring Bird Photography Opportunities

Many of our club members enjoy bird photography, and, in addition to Karval, there are some great opportunities at these upcoming bird festivals. Many thanks to Chuck Winter for sharing this information!

Kearney Nebraska Sandhill Crane Festival – [Mar 5 to Apr 10](http://www.rowsanctuary.org) information at: www.rowsanctuary.org

Wray Colorado Greater Prairie Chicken Tours – [Mar 25 to Apr 17](http://www.wraychamber.net) information at: www.wraychamber.net

Member Workshops and Tours:

Cathy & Gordon Illg's Adventure Photography Tours:

The Illg's can be contacted at:
Adventure Photography 303 237-7086 or
gordon@advenphoto.com
www.advenphoto.com

2011 Destinations include:

- ◇ Florida Birds—Starting in Orlando, FL.
April 25-May 1, 2011
- ◇ Monument Valley/Slot Canyons—Arizona &
Utah May 15-20, 2011
- ◇ Oregon Coast and the Northern California
Redwoods May 30-June 4, 2011
- ◇ Wildlife Babies, Minnesota June 14-17, 2011
- ◇ Switzerland/Berner Oberland June 26-July 6
- ◇ Rocky Mountain High, Colorado July 17-22
- ◇ Colorado Color, Colorado September 25-30
- ◇ Alaska Eagles, Juneau Alaska November 13-19

James Hager Photography - Small Group Photo Safaris

Visit www.JamesHagerPhoto.com, or email
James@JamesHagerPhoto.com for more
information:

Kenya in Oct 2012: A 20-day classic African photo safari, including visits to Samburu National Reserve, Lake Nakuru National Park, and Masai Mara National Reserve. The safari is intended for photographers, or serious naturalists, who want to spend time with the animals of East Africa.

Gorillas in Oct 2012: 5 days of visiting mountain gorillas in the best environment for photography—Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda. Gorilla trekking in Volcanoes National Park is an amazing experience!

Speaker Workshops and Tours:

GLENN RANDALL:

2011 Workshops in Rocky Mountain National Park

August 19 (evening) to August 21, 2011
August 26 (evening) to August 28, 2011

All workshops will be based at the Rocky Mountain Nature Association's Field Seminar and Conference Center in Estes Park, on the east side of Rocky Mountain National Park. The \$200 workshop fee does not include meals or lodging. These workshops are not sequential; the contents of each weekend-long workshop will be identical. For more information on the seminars, please contact me at 303 499-3009 or glennrandall@glennrandall.com. To register, please visit the Rocky Mountain Nature Association website or call 970 586-3262.

2011 Colorado Photography Festival

Glenn will also be teaching at the Colorado Photography Festival on August 13 and 14, 2011. Six professional nature photographers will give instruction in the classroom and in the field on all aspects of modern professional photography, from capturing your images to optimizing them in Lightroom. This year's instructors are Grant Collier (the festival organizer), Glenn Randall, Nat Coalson, Steve Sieren, Andy Long and Dan Ballard. For more information, please visit www.coloradophotographyfestival.com.

WELDON LEE:

The existence of our wild brothers and sisters is being threatened today as never before in the history of the human race. There is power in photography. I urge you to begin using your photographs for the protection of wild places and wildlife; and, it's not as difficult or involved as you might think. My partner, Lori Huff, has come up with a two-step plan that can make a difference. It only needs you to make it work. Visit Weldon's website at www.weldonlee.com for more information.

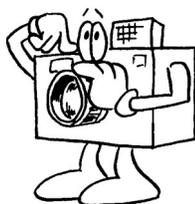
Member Workshops and Tours (continued):

Russ Burden's Photography Tours:

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

2011 Destinations include:

- ◇ Apr 16 - 22, 2011 Monument Valley and the Slot Canyons
- ◇ May 7 - 13, 2011 Arches & Canyonlands National Parks - includes 5 days of Photoshop instruction
- ◇ May 25 - June 3, 2011 The Oregon Coast and the Northern California Coastal Redwoods - a 10 day trip!
- ◇ June 18 - 24, 2011 Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks in the Spring
- ◇ Sept 24 - Oct 3, 2011 Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks in the Fall - a 10 day trip!
- ◇ Oct. 18 - 23, 2011 Hunts Mesa - A special aerial perspective of Monument Valley and Capital Reef National Park
- ◇ Nov. 5 - 11, 2011 Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks
- ◇ Dec 6 -12, 2011 Bosque Del Apache and White Sands National Monument
- ◇ A Vermont Fall Colors Tour is also available by Request with Small Groups. Contact Russ for details and additional information



Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

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Competition Scoring: Chris Loffredo 303-267-3846

Competition Entries/Judging Coordinator:

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Library: Joe & Betsy Lamb 303-841-2565

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Rita Summers • Russ Burden

Chuck Winter • Chris Loffredo • Ron Eberhart

April Meeting

Wednesday, April 13th

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: Special TWE Exhibit Selection

March Attendance: Approximately 62

April Digital Training Meeting

Wednesday, April 27th

7:00 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

Please send your articles and input to

newsletter@mhwpcc.org.

May submission deadline is Monday 05/02/11