



The Viewfinder

Newsletter of the Peterborough Photographic Society

February 2019

Editor: Judith Bain

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President's Message By Margaret Hamilton

PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS FOR EXTREMELY COLD WEATHER

I must admit to not being a cold weather photographer. I know; wimp right? It's just not something I particularly enjoy. Having made that disclaimer I have heard from photographers who seem to love cold weather photography, and they tell me how it's definitely different shooting in the cold. There's a lot more to consider!

I asked someone who is definitely a pro when it comes to shooting in extremely cold and rugged conditions. Many of you know him and admire his work. His name is Arnold Zageris. He currently has an exhibit at the Art Gallery of Peterborough. It is on until March 31st. If you have not seen his work, he will be speaking and presenting a slideshow of some of his work on March 2, at 2 p.m. His photographs from Labrador and Antarctica are absolutely breathtaking! When I asked Arnold for his tips, he was kind enough to respond and I've basically copied and pasted his words verbatim, so as not to get anything wrong. Here's what he advised:

“ There are probably a few things to be concerned about in cold weather photography. Luckily brittle film is no longer an issue, and film was never affected by cold or heat anyway, only light. But, the digital world is battery dependent, so the first thing to make sure is that you keep your extra battery close to your body heat (inside chest pocket) and not in the camera bag. A cold battery loses its power very quickly.

Also fogging and condensation could be a problem if you bring the cold camera into a warm car or house. At least make sure the lens cap is on or even better put the camera in a plastic bag to avoid condensation buildup. Just take the bag off when getting out and you are good to go. When coming home leave the camera in the plastic bag or camera bag for a few hours till it warms up.

If using a tripod, remember that your face is close to the tripod head and will build up frozen condensation from your breath, which could interfere with the holding mechanism that holds the camera. It has happened to me, and friends, where the camera seems solid, but is really not attached and could fall off. Just be aware of it.

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President's Message Continued

Sometimes after a few hours of breathing on the holding mechanism the tripod head moving parts can freeze and your camera is stuck. Remove the camera after all has melted to avoid breakage. Do not force the brittle metal.

Cold can affect some tripod legs and they get stuck easily. You can leave the legs extended, but if necessary to collapse the legs do so only partially. It is easier to grab and then pull apart.

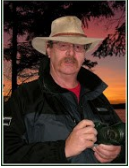
A clean lens cloth should be handy in case you get moisture on your camera or lens. Especially for the viewfinder which gets fogged quickly.

A shot of brandy. (One)"

For you brave souls who think you'd like to try shooting in the cold, cold winter, I hope some of Arnold's tips will be of some help. I might add choosing to wear long underwear, many layers and a stock of those hand and foot warmers, a very warm coat, warm gloves and cozy boots. This might be something to definitely consider as well. Enjoy! I can't wait to see who has braved the cold and submits some images for our member submissions.

I've included just a few shots I have taken in winter/cold conditions.





Program Notes By Terry Carpenter

JANUARY SPEAKER

The speaker at our January meeting was our very own George Dimitroff, and what a great presentation it was. His show was very professionally presented, yet with much humour. It was as if we were travelling with George as he shopped in the markets of Morocco, bargained with the merchants and then rode on the camels in the sand dunes. Well done, George, and thanks again. The members of PPS look forward to seeing another presentation from George; maybe of his travels in Peru.

FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Our speaker for February was to be Dave Duffus about Night Photography. However, Dave is unable to do his presentation at this time. So, I am happy to say we have, for the next meeting, Henry Christiansen who will be giving a presentation on Infrared Photography. Henry is from Bancroft, and I am sure many of you remember Henry from a couple of years back, when we hosted him at PPS. Below is Henry's description of his presentation in February.

“Digital infrared photography is much easier than film-based IR photography. However, there are some significant considerations and important decisions that have to be made. In this presentation, I will initially deal with some of the reasons for considering IR photography. I will discuss the pros and cons of IR lens filtration versus camera conversion. The types of conversions will be detailed. Camera, lens, and focussing concerns will be outlined. The Electromagnetic spectrum will be reviewed with respect to the application of photography to the IR and UV spectrums. I will deal with IR internal filter selection for the desired effect. Camera settings, subject selection and shooting considerations will be discussed. The process of setting a custom IR white balance and IR DNG profile for Lightroom and Photoshop will be described. Details of the entire editing process will be demonstrated. The presentation will be populated with several of my IR shots. I hope this helps to get any interested photographer to consider and start in IR photography.”

Terry



“The Garden”, IR photograph by Judith Bain

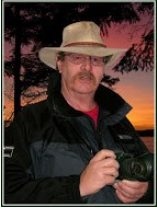
Photos



George Thanks George. Photo by Brian Crangle



At the Haliburton Wolf Centre. Photo by Lydia Dotto



Brown Bag Alert by Terry Carpenter

At the next meeting, on February 5th, you will find a brown bag on your chair, upon your arrival. (No, this isn't for air sickness.) This will be for our up-coming Brown Bag images. As we have done in the past, please take the bag home with you. Bring it back to the March meeting, with some sort of trinkets or junk, (oops, I mean photographically inspiring objects). We will place all of the bags on the table provided, and at coffee break please take one of the bags home with you. Over the next month, with the objects you received, create an award-winning image that we can show at April's meeting. This should be a fun and entertaining evening. If you are unable to attend the February meeting, please supply your own bag and place your objects in it for the March meeting. This way, we can all join in.

Terry



2018—2019 IMAGE THEMES

Feb.: Portrait

Mar.: Graffiti

Apr.: Holes

May: What Is It?

Jun.: Clouds

February Outings

Regular Outing

February 9th

National Air Museum

Breakfast Outing

February 23rd

Rogers Cove



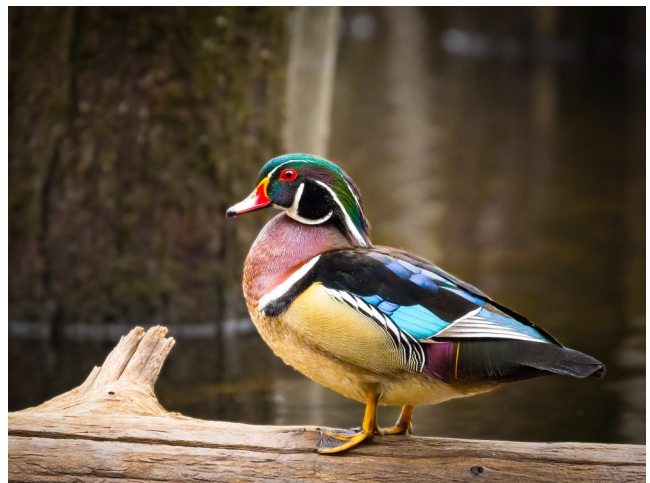
Featured Photographer:

Robert Ferguson

I am pleased to be selected as the Featured Photographer in our Society's newsletter. When our Editor, Judith Bain, first approached me, I hesitated and was a bit reluctant because I don't often think of myself as a photographer. Yes, my camera bags are overflowing with lenses, filters and accessories, but I have had no formal training in photography and I have never earned a living by making and selling images. My knowledge of digital photography comes from reading books, from scouring the internet for "how to" tutorials and for "tips" from camera enthusiasts, and from an experimental approach to making images – hundreds and hundreds of images – and learning from my many, many mistakes.

My first experience with making images, back in the days of 35mm film, was related to my graduate studies in wildlife ecology, and later, to my 30-year career. I was born in Lindsay, Ontario, and attended the University of Guelph and the University of Manitoba for my undergraduate and graduate studies. Most of my professional career as a wildlife ecologist was spent in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and British Columbia.

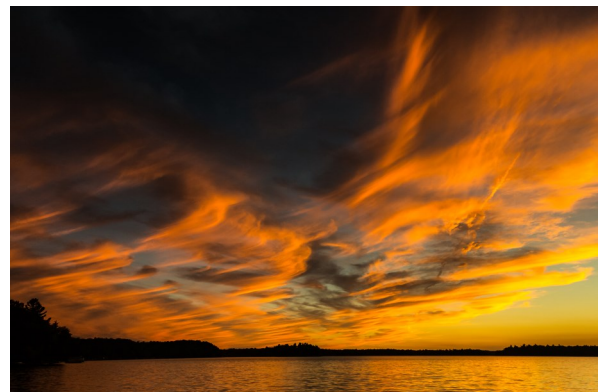
My work frequently involved wildlife research and documenting the ecological relationships that exist between wild critters and their habitats. Photographs played an important role and were instrumental in communicating research results to the scientific community and to the general public. My photographs depicted the tremendous diversity of wildlife and wildlife habitats in Canada, and helped to inform the public of the need to protect critical habitats that are essential for a species' long-term survival.



Featured Photographer Continued

Today, with my fast-paced working years now behind me, I am able to take a more relaxed approach to photography. But, 'the song remains the same' – wildlife and nature photography is still my primary passion. It is an innate passion that stems from my deep personal connections with nature, a connection I have had since my childhood on a family farm in Ontario's Brock Township. Using a camera is like having a sixth sense, because my images often illuminate details and subtle differences in colour and pattern, which otherwise, I might have missed.

My inspiration comes primarily from the beauty of nature that is all around us, every day of the year. We share planet Earth with thousands upon thousands of other living creatures. I derive immense personal satisfaction from viewing them, from understanding their place in the world, and from photographing them. I am inspired in other ways too, especially by the photographs and writings of Dave Brosha, David Duchemin, Marcus McAdam, Chris Orwig and many others. We can learn so much from the works of photographers we admire.



Featured Photographer Continued



Often, I use photography to satisfy my inborn scientific curiosity. For example, learning the names of our non-human neighbours is a necessary starting point for understanding any wild animal. A few years ago, I learned that there are more than 130 species of dragonflies and damselflies in southeastern Ontario. Sadly, at that moment, I couldn't identify even five. The challenge was on! Rather quickly, I encountered a problem: how does one identify a dragonfly from a fleeting glimpse as it darts past in a blur of wings? Binoculars were of little help. So, I reached for my camera and began patiently stalking dragonflies in hopes of capturing detailed images that would allow me to identify them. Seven years and 800 dragonfly images later, I can proudly say that now I am able to recognize more than half of the 130 species. I have developed such an appreciation for these highly-skilled, aerial predators that I am always on the hunt for them, whenever I am tramping about in the fields and forests of Hastings County.

Patience is key in wildlife photography. Whether you are photographing boisterous blue jays in your back yard, or relatively shy creatures such as river otters and wood ducks, patience and perseverance are essential. For wildlife that is easily spooked by the presence of humans, I frequently use a blind to provide camouflage and to get closer to the action.

Featured Photographer Continued

One of my favourite destinations in Canada is Newfoundland. I think it is the untamed wildness that draws me to its rugged landscapes and breathtaking seascapes. On my recent trip in 2018, I was fortunate to photograph Atlantic puffins, northern gannets, red foxes, hump-back whales and many others – all while surrounded by stunning coastal scenery.

A highlight of my 2018 visit was Cape St. Mary's Ecological Reserve on the southernmost tip of the Avalon Peninsula. Information brochures for Cape St. Mary's proclaim: "You may never come closer to knowing what it is to be a bird". Standing on the end of the peninsula, I soon realized that truer words were never written. The promontories and sea cliffs support thousands of nesting pairs of gannets, murrelets, razorbills, and kittiwakes. One morning before dawn, with coffee in one hand and camera in the other, I made the 20-minute trek from the parking area to catch the sunrise. Luck was on my side; the coastal fog, for which the cape is famous, had not materialized. Sleepyheads were still in bed. For the next four hours I was in earthly heaven – there was just me, warm sunshine, the crashing of the sea, and 30,000+ seabirds. Pure magic!





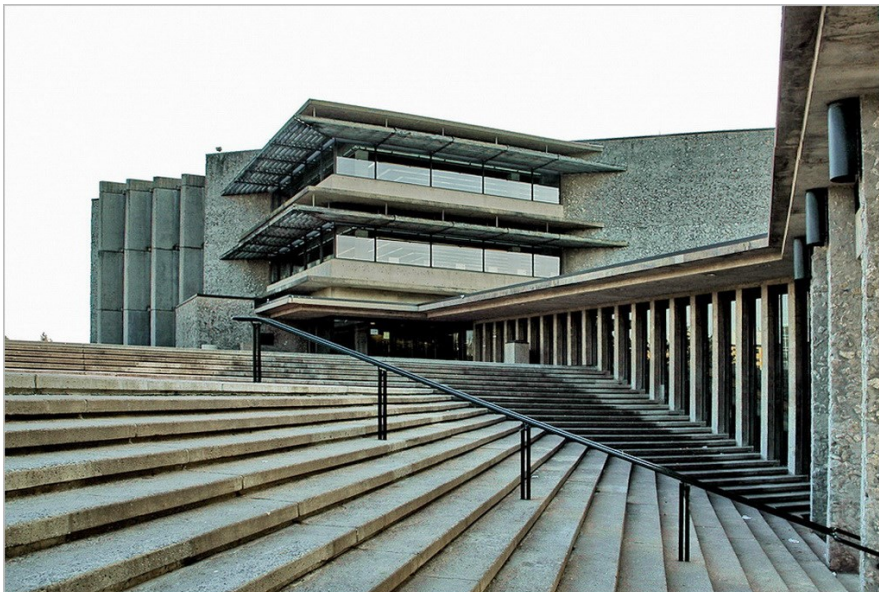
Location Challenge By Brian Crangle

Bata Library at Trent University

Many thanks to all of you who braved the cold for the difficult "Rotary Outdoor Gym" Challenge. On reflection, I decided to give everyone a less challenging challenge, which will be due at the April meeting. The Bata Library at Trent University is your next project. A lot of opportunities here. It can be taken from both sides of the river; you can take the entire building, or a detail, or even the interior.

Hopefully, things will warm up and you won't need your long underwear..

B.C.ing U Brian





Outings By Dave Duffus

February Outings

NOTE: If you plan to go on one of the Outings, please sign the sheet at the meeting, or send Dave an e-mail. It's much easier to make reservations when we know how many will be attending.

Regular Outing:

February 9th: We will head down to the National Air Museum, 220 RCAF Road, Trenton. Admission is \$10.00 per person. We will car pool from Harper Road parking lot, leaving at 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast Outing:

February 23rd: We will visit Rogers Cove. Meet at Rogers Cove at 8:30 a.m., and we will explore the surrounding area. Breakfast location TBD. Rogers Cove is south off Maria Street, between Armour Road and Mark Street.



National Air Museum Memorial. Photo by Judith Bain

If you are unable to drive, or you need a lift to an Outing, please be sure to call another PPS Member who will be attending the Outing and ask for a ride.

There will always be someone available to help.



The Story Behind the Photo

By Lydia Dotto

Game of Thrones (or “Don’t Mess With Mom”)

During the PPS outing to the Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre, I noticed that the behaviour of one of the wolves, Polly (upper photo), suddenly changed. For much of the morning, when she’d been the only wolf near the observation area, she’d strutted around confidently. But, all of a sudden, she was slouching down with her tail between her legs and looking over her shoulder anxiously. I saw, then, that another wolf had entered the scene. This was Luna (lower photo), the matriarch of the pack.

I asked one of the Centre’s staff members to explain the dynamic. She said that Luna is a very dominant – and domineering – leader who wants the other wolves to know she’s boss. Polly, who is Luna’s daughter, comes in for an extra helping of discipline, despite being next in line for the throne – or perhaps because of it. Luna won’t even let her participate in their wolf howls. Polly has learned that the best way to stay out of trouble is to adopt a seriously submissive attitude whenever Luna’s around.





Word Images By Murray Palmer

For The Love of Wolves

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"Hey, Mur, you awake? Did you hear that howl?", asked Ray.
The night we spent camping on Stoplog Lake was for me
One of the most thrilling renditions of a wild symphony,
Which stirred our hearts as do the sounds of loons in their way.

We lay transfixed in our sleeping bags in the darkness of the tent.
We felt no fear, no desire to put a log on the fire.
We were entranced, our trip enhanced like none prior.
Comfortable in Nature's domain, we couldn't be more content.

Several years later I was included in a pack at Ursa -
Of Ron and Sharon Lawrence and two timber wolf infants,
Who clambered for their bottles and, later, dominance
As Tundra challenged his sister, Taiga, and vice versa.

These wolves must have thought me a long lost member ...
On every arrival I was mobbed with tongues and feet.
I've never experienced a demonstration of affection to beat
That of wolves, a feeling of belonging I'll always remember.





From the Editor's desk By Judith Bain

Your Newsletter Needs You!

This is a reminder to all PPS members that ***The Viewfinder*** is YOUR newsletter.

We can only continue to publish our monthly editions if we have contributions from the membership. Please contribute to the PPS by sending articles, photos, and photography-related information for inclusion in *The Viewfinder*. Thank you!

NOTICE! George Giarratana sent this in, in case any PPS members are interested in participating in Photo Contests: <https://www.photocontestinsider.com/>

Equipment Sell / Swap

A table will be available at every meeting so members may display any photography-related gear that you wish to sell or trade.

February Meeting

Tuesday, February 5th
7:00 p.m.
@ the Lions Centre,
347 Burnham St.,
Peterborough, ON.

Viewfinder Seeks Submissions From Members

The Viewfinder invites PPS members to submit their work for any of the following features:

- **The Story Behind My Photograph:** Send in one or more photos and the story behind them.
- **Photo Essay:** Send in a series of photographs on a topic or location.
- **Insights:** If you would like to contribute an essay with photos on anything to do with photography, you are welcome to send it to us.
- **The Parting Shot:** Send in a photo with date, time, location, aperture, shutter speed, and ISO.



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Editorial

Editor: Judith Bain

Columns

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Word Images: Murray Palmer

Contributors

Brian Crangle, Lydia Dotto, Robert Ferguson, Judith Bain

Viewfinder Submissions

We encourage PPS members to submit their photos and personal news, as well as articles, poetry, writing, and humour about photography and our club.

Text submissions should be in one of the following file formats: .doc, .rtf, .odt, or .pub. Image files in formats such as .jpeg, .tiff, .gif, or .png graphic file.

The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for size, content, and style without consultation.

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Program Director: Terry Carpenter

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Member-at-Large: Guy Ridgway

Projectionist: Terry Carpenter

The Viewfinder Editor: Judith Bain

Website & Social Media Director:
George Giarratana



Contact Us

The Viewfinder is the newsletter of the Peterborough Photographic Society. It is published 10 times a year from September to June.

Write to us or send us your stories, images, articles, poetry, ideas, and your humour, here at ppsviewfinder@gmail.com. You can also visit our website at:

www.peterboroughphotographicociety.com.

We're also on Facebook! You can find us at www.facebook.com/PeterboroughPhotographicSocietyCanada.