

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

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Licking Lecturing

By Vic Attardo

Besides doing this thing I do that earns me a living, I am also the mayor of my small town, Red Hill. Red Hill is in the southeastern corner of the state and most maps don't even bother to print its name, so if you are interested look around the towns of East Greenville and Pennsburg. Anyway, as mayor I am often called upon "to say a few words."

I didn't know at the time I first became mayor, which was about 10 years ago, that I hated public speaking. In fact, I soon learned I loathed and feared public speaking. Whenever I had an upcoming engagement, I would practice my remarks for days ahead of time. I'd memorize and repeat and memorize and repeat. By the time I got to the actual event, I had myself so uptight and tongue-tied that the words came out like lead. I even considered giving up the mayoral post after the first year because I so hated those stuttering mental moments, although I liked other things about the job.

Then one day, before a rededication of the fire company hall - the kind of thing the mayor is supposed to preside over - I got tired of my whole speech phobia. Though I was the master of ceremonies, I didn't bother to prepare, I didn't bother to practice and I certainly didn't bother to memorize. I figured I knew my subject so well - which was, truly, the dedicated work of our firemen - that I could get up there and wing it. Which I did. I also had two beers before I started. In all honesty it came out well. Afterwards people actually said that my jokes were funny. I wish I could remember some of them because I don't mind plagiarizing my own words.

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Sow grizzly with cub

Ron Kerr Photo



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Newsletter articles, photography tips and photos needed

Rocky Mountain Outdoors is looking for tips, hints, articles and photos for the newsletter. If you have found a more efficient way to do something, share your ideas. We all make the mistake of thinking that because we know something everyone else has the same information. Not true.

If you went someplace interesting that may generate an article (after you have done yours, or course) pass the information along. If you find sites that will provide photo opportunities pass those places along, as well.

Tips and hints can be any length up to 300 words. If you have information that will help members improve their writing or photography skills, but require more space it can be submitted as a craft improvement article. Please keep articles to 1000 words or less.

Photos are always needed. They can be digital or slides, sent via e-mail, disc or snail mail. Please insure all photos have a caption indicating who, where, what and when along with the photographer's name.

E-mail to ron.kerr@shaw.ca. Mailing address: PO Box 310, Kimberley, BC V1A 2Y9 Canada.

The editor

“Each generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before it, and wiser than the one that comes after it”.

George Orwell

Licking Lecturing cont'd

I had learned a real lesson in public speaking. Well two lessons actually. The first was to know your subject. If you know that you have a lot of experience and knowledge in what you're talking about, then just let the words fly. They should come out fine.

The second is to be yourself. Relax. Don't try to be something you're not. If you have a way of talking, which some folks say I do, then just talk your natural way. Speak from the heart. It doesn't matter what you're talking about, get to the core of it and then speak honestly about it.

And that is what I realized.

Somewhere shortly after this epiphany, I got roped into giving my first lecture on the outdoors. I had prepared a slide show, which I figured would take me about a half-hour to get through. Since this was a good bulk of the time I was allotted, I felt sort of comfortable. The idea of speaking about fishing didn't bother me as much as, say, having to address the Memorial Day Parade.

When I gave that "talk," I ran through my slides in 10 minutes and suddenly I was left with empty airtime. Did I panic? For about 30 seconds, I did. Then I remembered to just be yourself, to relax, and all the other things I had learned from before. And I did. I started to spew. I talked about this and that and I told about my past fishing experiences. And I learned one other thing that day about lecturing. People want to hear details.

Every time I got into something like exactly how to rig the plastic worm on the offset hook (I had carried a few props), and then when I went into action demonstrating how to set the hook with a soft plastic bait, (you can imagine what the topic was), the audience perked up. They lost that sleepy look on their collective faces. So I had learned something else about public speaking: people want to learn. If you can tell them something they might not have already heard or you can give them something they can take with them, they will listen.

Now I don't mind these speaking and lecturing engagements too much, especially if I can get myself to remember all those things I think I've learned. Of course, it still can go very wrong, no matter how much you know your subject and speak about it honestly and with details to impart your experience.

Two years ago I had to talk on behalf of a magazine I write for at the Harrisburg sports show. A day or two before the talk, I had a cavity filled.

Don't ask me how, but the dentist and the oral surgeon later said that perhaps the drilling or the nerve sensitivity had set off a chain reaction to a neighboring wisdom tooth that had needed extraction for some time. Anyway, I drove to Harrisburg knowing something was wrong with my jaw. I gave two lectures that afternoon and was building on such *esscrew-she-ating* pain that I didn't even want to open my mouth, let alone talk.

If you don't believe any of this, I can give you the name of the POWAer magazine editor with whom I roomed that night. Anyway, I completed the lectures and even had to stand around for questions afterward.

I then drove back to my neck of the woods, ran to the dentist, who a day later got me fixed up with an oral surgeon, who then, with another oral surgeon and two nurses, proceeded to wrench the offending tooth from my jaw while I was under full anesthesia. Unfortunately this evolved into nearly seven weeks of painkillers, infections and more mouth surgery. It was an ordeal that I won't soon forget.

And this led me to another important point in lecturing, one that is really the most important of all. No matter how many talks you are scheduled to give in a season, make sure you make enough money from your regular job to pay for adequate dental insurance. It's a must.

Licking Lecturing was first printed in the August/September, 2005 issue of *PowWow*, the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association's newsletter, and is reprinted here with the authors' permission



Setting sun

Ron Kerr photo

Conference Information

Next Stop Moab!

Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers next annual conference will take place in beautiful Moab, Utah, on May 3rd through 7th, 2006, with a variety of workshops, programs, and field trips.

Moab is famous for its spectacular red rock scenery, and we'll have plenty of opportunities to see and photograph it on guided field trips to Arches National Park and other scenic areas, plus an early-morning photo shoot at one of photographer (and RMOWP member) Jack Olson's favorite secret spots.

We'll have an opportunity to experience the Colorado River, explore a rich riparian area that is home to waterfowl and raptors, see prehistoric petroglyphs, sample the local wine, and discover why this is one of Hollywood's favorite filming locations.

The conference won't be all play, though. Also scheduled are a photography workshop presented by nationally-known scenic photographer Tom Till, plus programs on writing, website design, the move from film to digital photography, and how to actually earn some money as a freelance writer.

Exact costs for everything have not yet been finalized, but we expect the registration fee to be \$40 per person, which will include most activities, plus additional charges for some meals. A packet of information plus a registration form will be mailed to RMOWP members in January.

For more information on the conference contact conference organizers Don Laine (505-758-8922; lainedb@newmex.com) or Jack Olson (303-777-8998; jackolson1@aol.com). For additional information about the Moab area, check out www.discovermoab.com.

Moab Conference Headquarters and Lodging Headquarters for the RMOWP 2006 conference in Moab will be La Quinta Inn, a very attractive property with meeting facilities, spacious and comfortable guest rooms, an above-average continental breakfast, a pool, an exercise room, and a friendly staff. Most of our indoor activities will take place there, including the Saturday evening Banquet and Awards Ceremony.

RMOWP has reserved 22 guest rooms from Wednesday, May 3 until Sunday morning, May 7, at a special discounted rate of \$68 per night for one or two people. These rates and availability are guaranteed only until April 1, 2006, and because the La Quinta will quite possibly be booked solid in May we suggest that you make your reservations as early as possible.

For reservations, contact La Quinta directly at 435-259-8700 (fax 435-259-8601) and tell the reservations person that you are with Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers.

If by chance there is any confusion about this, or if you have any special requests, ask for Kelly Frandsen, our main contact at the motel.

For information and photos of the La Quinta, see the motel's website, www.laquintamoab.com, and for additional details go to www.lq.com and type in Moab, Utah in the Find a La Quinta section.

More details and probably some schedule changes will be forthcoming, but this is how the 2006 RMOWP Conference in Moab, Utah is shaping up. Prices below are approximate, and note that there are some alternative events - you'll just have to choose! All events are in the La Quinta Inn Meeting Room unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, May 3

1-5:00 pm Registration

2-5:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting

6:00 pm Welcome from RMOWP President Jim Baker and Moab Area Travel Council Director Marian Delay. Followed by Happy Hour & Light Buffet

8:00 pm Presentation of Photo Contest Submissions

Thursday, May 4

8:00 am Guided Field Trip: Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve

10:00 am Photography Tom Till Style – A Digital Slide Show & Workshop with Internationally-known Photographer Tom Till

11:00 am Round Table Discussion: Making A Living from Freelance Writing

12:30 pm Carpool to Red Cliffs Lodge (14 miles northeast of Moab)

1:00 pm Buffet Lunch at Red Cliffs Lodge (\$12)

2:00 pm Tour Moab Movie Museum & Castle Creek Winery on Your Own (both at Red Cliffs Lodge)

2:30 pm Drive back to Moab via La Sal Mountains Loop Drive (map provided. 45 miles; allow at least 2 hours)

OR

2:30 pm Tour Canyonlands National Park on Your Own (map & suggested itinerary provided)

6:00 pm Dinner at Moab Brewery, Order Off Menu (most items \$7-\$15)

8:00 pm Photography Critique: Jack Olson

Friday, May 5

7:00 am Hiking/Photography Excursion at Arches National Park (for serious hiker/photographers) with Jack Olson

OR

Continued on next page

8:00 am Guided Bus Tour of Arches National Park, with Time for Photos & Short Walks

12:00 pm Box Lunch Along the Colorado River, compliments of the Moab Area Travel Council

1:30 pm Workshop: Migrating to Digital Photography

3:00 pm Workshop: The Future of TV & Video Production, and Why We Need to Know About It

OR

3:00 pm The Digital Workflow - From Camera to Print

4:30 pm General Membership Meeting

6:00 pm A Romantic (or whatever) Dinner on Your Own

OR

6:45 pm Canyonlands by Night – Dutch Oven Dinner, Sunset Jet Boat Ride (\$50 adult)

Saturday, May 6

5:30 am Sunrise Photo Shoot with Jack Olson

9:00 am Workshop: Website Creation 101

10:15 am Writers Critique with Anne Sullivan

11:30 am Lunch on Your Own

1:00 pm Meet at Dan O'Laurie Museum of Moab for Tour by Museum Director Rusty Salmon, followed by a Guided Petroglyph Tour (carpool)

3:30 pm Auction to Benefit Scholarship Fund - John Catsis and Jim Baker

6:30 pm Happy Half Hour

7:00 pm Banquet and Awards (\$18)

Sunday, May 7

8:30 am Board of Directors Meeting (Laine room at La Quinta Inn)

Do's and Don'ts for Outdoor Photographers

By Tim Flanigan

1. "Shoot 'em in the eye." Autofocus or manual focus on the subject's eye; also expose for the eye.
2. Make the eye come alive, by getting sun glint or flash highlight on it.
3. If the camera shakes, use a tripod.
4. Play with shutter speed and depth of field settings for outstanding images.
5. Be careful where autofocus focuses. You might find it automatically focused on the rear of the deer, for example. Focus only on the eye.
6. Know how to switch to manual operation of your camera/lenses.

Directory Updates

Individual Members

Zurey, Frank – e-mail: zurey.photo@mric.net

Supporting Members

Coleman Company – contact info for Jim Reid, Senior Director; phone: 316-219-7535; fax: 316-219-1929, e-mail: jvreid@coleman.com

Delisting coming for the gray wolf?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has concluded that it may be warranted to remove the northern Rocky Mountain population of the gray wolf from the federal list of threatened and endangered species.

7. For head studies or portraits, place the eye in the upper 1/3 of the photo.
8. Place the subject at lower left or right for a magazine cover shot, so there's room for text. Get to know what a publication wants for its covers and other photos.
9. Try to get wildlife in its natural habitat, even in zoo. Frame out or blur fences (depth of field control).
10. The subject tells you how to hold the camera – vertical/horizontal for tall/wide subjects. Be attuned to obvious compositioning clues.
11. Side lighting brings out details. "Side light is wonderful," says Flanigan.
12. Capture the light that's there; that's what the camera does. Pay attention to the direction or quality of the light and use it.
13. Don't throw away all your bad slides. Learn from bad examples, analyzing them and "seeing how you goofed up."
14. Try back lighting. Either silhouette or open up an f-stop (or reduce shutter speed) to gain some detail in the subject.
15. Turn the fisherman's face and the fish into the sun, or use fill flash (applies to other similar subject situations).
16. Use a polarizing filter to reduce glare and intensify color.
17. Frame the subject naturally.

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Member News and Views

Snowmobiling allowed to continue

Last month the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington issued an order enjoining limited aspects of snowmobile trail grooming on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The order was issued as the result of a motion for preliminary injunction in a lawsuit filed by local and national organizations invoking the Endangered Species Act, and asserting the U.S. Forest Service had failed to properly consult over the effects of snowmobile trail grooming on the woodland caribou, which is listed as “threatened” under the Act.

Significant snowmobiling opportunities still exist and are unaffected by the Court’s ruling. The order only restricts trail-grooming activity, and does not restrict snowmobile access to any portion of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Further, the order only addresses grooming on a handful of trails within a specific “caribou recovery zone” on U.S. Forest Service-managed lands, and does not affect the grooming of hundreds of miles of trails on Forest Service-managed lands outside the recovery zone, or upon the extensive lands east of Priest Lake managed by the State of Idaho.

“We would have preferred the Court deny Plaintiffs’ motion altogether, but note the very limited scope of the order, which reflects Plaintiffs’ retreat from their initial

claim for relief,” observed Paul Turcke, a Boise-based attorney representing snowmobile clubs and local business interests who successfully intervened in the case. “What started as a request to stop all trail grooming on the Forest became a symbolic effort to obtain narrow relief in a very limited area. In the bigger picture, North Idaho is still pretty much ‘open’ as before to snowmobile access. It is no secret that the Endangered Species Act has been used in other instances to inflict substantial harm to local communities, and we are happy to have avoided the sweeping injunction that Plaintiffs originally requested,” Turcke concluded.

The snowmobile groups indicated they will remain active during the ongoing Forest planning process, will conduct a detailed review of the Court’s order and will evaluate all available legal options in continuing their participation in the lawsuit.

Contact: Paul A. Turcke 208-331-1807 or Brian Hawthorne 208-237-1008 ext. 102. The BlueRibbon Coalition is a national recreation group that champions responsible use of public and private lands, and encourages individual environmental stewardship.

Do’s and Don’ts cont’d

18. Add color to dead shots, like sprinkling some red berries with grouse or other muted-color harvested game.

19. Have your subject wear a bright colored shirt on a dull day (keep a couple of spares in your vehicle).

20. The viewer’s eye likes the subject to be in 1/3 of the frame (rule of thirds).

21. Lead the eye into the photograph. Example, show an entry road running up to and through a covered bridge.

22. Meter on the midtones, even of sunsets.

23. Show the double image in reflections.

24. Look for contrast. The greater the contrast, the more interest in the photo.

25. Vary compositions by turning the camera horizontal or vertical.

26. The viewer’s eye likes subjects that are in groups of three.

27. The photo occurs in the mind.

28. Think perspective. Shoot the same photo at many different angles.

29. Get down to the level of the subject. Example, instead of showing bluebirds on the nest by shooting down through the top of the box, shoot through the side entrance hole, with the box top removed for light. It’s a more natural, bird’s-eye view.

30. Show as a still life all parts and accessories of an activity.

31. Take game photos in the field.

32. Have subjects doing something interesting, like the hunter looking at the dog, the fisherman looking at the fish, so the eye of the viewer knows to go to the dog/fish.

33. On water especially, make sure the horizon is straight.

34. Show the subject moving into the frame, the rest of the photo, not out to the edge

35. Add scale by using items with generally known sizes, such as dollar bills, pennies, a person or human hand.