



VIEWFINDER THE NEWSLETTER

Alaska Society of Outdoor and Nature Photographers

May 2018
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www.asonp.org

More than a Rock *Essays on Creativity, Photography, Nature and Life*

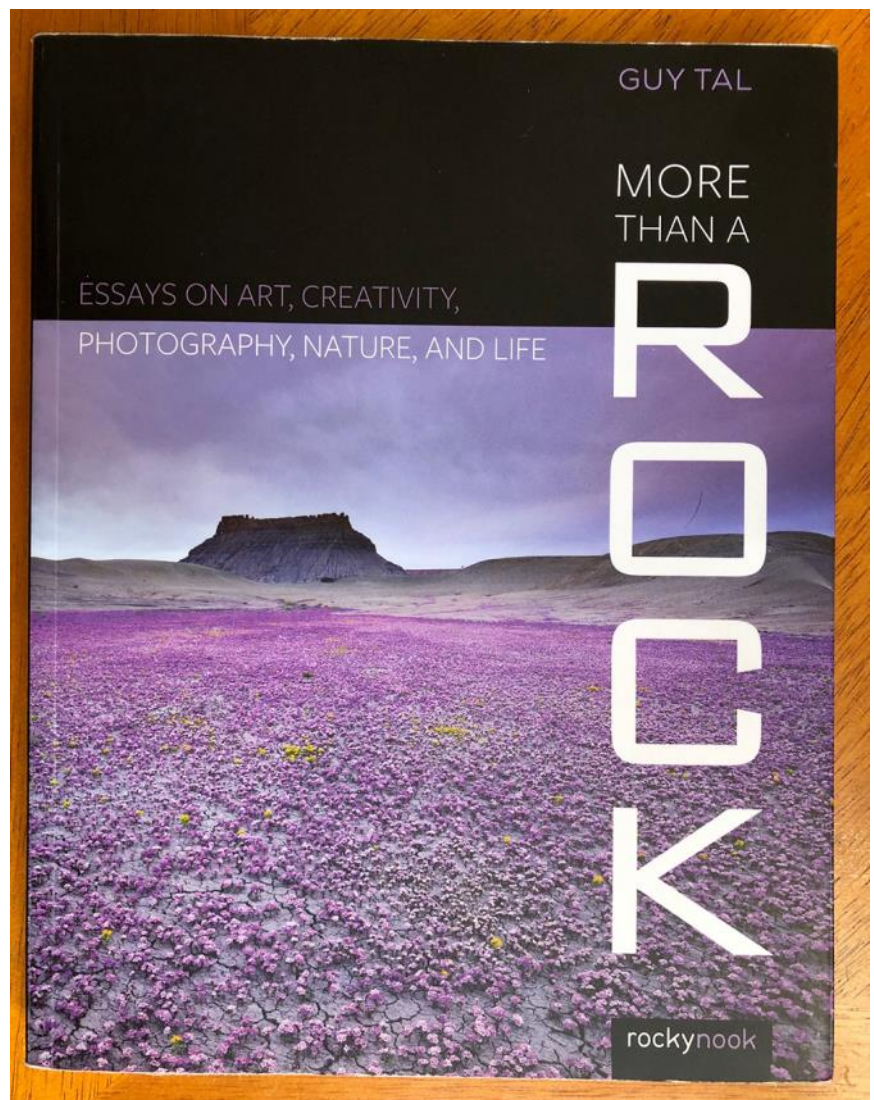
By Guy Tal

Book Review by Bruce Herman

**“This then: to photograph a rock, have it look like a rock, but be more than a rock.”
- Edward Weston**

Guy Tal opens his book, “More than a Rock”, with this quote from Edward Weston. Not only does it inspire the title of his book, it is at the heart of the discussion that Tal carries through the sixty-nine 2-4 page essays that comprise the book. The essays are distributed into four sections, Art, Craft, Experiences and Meditations. With the exception of the final section, most of the essays are only loosely related to the section in which they appear because Tal returns his major theme repeatedly throughout the book. Each essay begins with a relevant quote from a creative person. These include photographers, composers, writers, philosophers, and scientists.

So how does one make a photograph of a rock that is more than just a photograph of a rock? Tal doesn’t come right to the point, nor does he explicitly present a prescription for making landscape photographic art. Rather he takes the reader through a somewhat circuitous path that includes his own personal struggle to recognize what it means to him to be an artist working in the vernacular of landscape photography. Some of the essays are more about him than the art, per se, but ultimately you come to understand his



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ASONP AlaskaWild Photography Exhibit and Awards Reception: The 2018 AlaskaWild exhibit will be opening on "First Friday" (April 6) at Doriolas Resturant from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. There will be a reception and awards presented for the Best of Show and other category winning photographs. Open to the public.

AlaskaWild Photography Exhibit Schedule

May 3 – May 30, 2018:	Fat Ptarmigan 441 W 5th Ave Ste 100, Anchorage, AK 99501
June 1 – July 25, 2018:	Island and Oceans Visitor Center 95 Sterling Hwy, Homer, AK 99603
July 29 – Sept. 30, 2018:	Jitters 11401 Old Glenn Hwy #107, Eagle River, AK 99577
Oct. 3 – Oct. 26, 2018:	Venue 514 2nd Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99701
Nov. 1, 2018 – Jan. 3, 2019:	Side Street Espresso 412 G St, Anchorage, AK 99501
Jan. 4 – Jan. 27, 2019:	Kaladi Brothers 6901 E Tudor Rd, Anchorage, AK 99507
Feb. 1 – Feb. 24, 2019:	Crush 328 G St, Anchorage, AK 99501
March 1 – Mar. 31, 2019:	SteamDot at Williwaw 609 F St. Anchorage, AK

ASONP general membership meetings: Held the second Tuesday of each month from October through May at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at the Anchorage Museum, Rasmuson Center. We have an exciting and interesting series of speakers lined up for our monthly meetings this coming year, including the following:

May: Tom Kline—*"The Salmon Year"*

June thru September: Summer break—no general meetings

Members Photos: As time permits, we encourage members to share up to 20 images at our monthly meetings. Files should be in the JPEG format and sized to 1920 pixels on the long side. Please keep your narrative short (think caption length for each image). To expedite the process, we prefer to have the files before the meeting. There are two ways to do this: Upload your files to our Member Slides Dropbox folder. You can do so by pressing this link below:

[Member Slides Upload](#)

You don't have to have a DropBox account to use and only ASONP Board Members will have access to the files once they are uploaded. Or, you can send the files by e-mail to Alan Musy at musya@admphoto.com. Please name the file as: Photographer's name or initials-sequence number-name of photo. Sequence number should be 2-digit (01,02,03, etc.). This will make Alan's job easier.

WORKSHOPS, OUTINGS, & OTHER INTERESTS

Speedlighting Simplified for Outdoor Photographers

Michael DeYoung is leading a 3-Day 'Speedlighting Simplified for Outdoor Photographers' workshop on **July 6 - 8, 2018** (start time on Friday, July 6 is 7PM)

This workshop is for the outdoor photographer shooting travel, action, environmental portraits, and even landscape imagery who wants to learn to light with dramatic results using small and mobile speed lights. Learn to blend artificial and natural light and create studio quality lighting at any location without heavy light stands, battery packs or big soft boxes.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Three hands-on practice sessions with talent
- Classroom presentations and demonstrations
- Great outdoor locations in Alaska's premiere ski town of Girdwood

ASONP Members get 10% off by entering 'ASONP18' into the registration coupon code field. More information and registration can be found at:

[SPEEDLIGHTING SIMPLIFIED FOR OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHERS](#)

Harriman Fjord Tour

Join **Michael DeYoung** in this one-day 10-hour+ photo-driven photo tour in **Harriman Fjord** on Wednesday, **July 16**, from 8 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. in collaboration with **Lazy Otter Charters**. Not only is this photo-driven, the boat is exclusive to our group of photographers and we stay at least 2 hours longer in Harriman Fjord than typical charters.

We board the Explorer which has an open back deck, bow hatch for forward viewing, bow landing capabilities, and onboard restroom. Keep an eye out for marine wildlife as we travel to Harriman Fjord where we find 5 tidewater glaciers, icebergs, spectacular waterfalls, wildflowers and massive peaks of the Chugach Mountains thrusting 8,000 feet above the water.

Along the way and once in Harriman Fjord, there will be ample opportunities to capture glaciers and mountain views as well as the possibility to photograph sea otters, birds, harbor seals, and other marine wildlife. We attempt our first planned beach landing in the morning to take advantage of the low tide where we stand a good chance of taking close-up photos of icebergs with glaciers and mountains in the background. The second planned beach landing presents opportunities to capture wildflowers and pools of water with Surprise Glacier and mountains in the background. The photo tour is limited to 6 people.

There are spots available. A boxed lunch is provided as well as expert photography guidance. For more information or to register go to:

<https://deyoungphotoworkshops.com/alaska-photo-tours/glaciers-icebergs-wildflowers-up-close/>

Spencer Glacier Tour

Want a little more adventure? Join **Michael DeYoung** on this one-day 12-hour+ photo driven instructional tour at **Spencer Glacier** on Tuesday, July 31, from 7 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. in collaboration with **Ascending Path**.

We arrive on location via a very scenic ride on the Alaska Railroad to the remote Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop. From our remote stop off the highway, we travel 2 miles by van to Ascending Path's base camp along the shores of Spencer Lake where the landscape is usually dominated by wildflowers and icebergs with the glacier and surrounding Chugach Mountains as our backdrop.

Next, we kayak across Spencer Lake amidst icebergs, paddle to the shore near the glacier, put on crampons, and explore the glacier landscapes up close with a professional glacier and kayak guide. See and photograph crevasses and a high likelihood of ice caves (conditions permitting).

We return on the 8:15pm train returning to Girdwood.

The photo tour is limited to 10 people. **There are spots available.** Lunch, kayaks, paddling gear, and glacier hiking gear is provided as well as expert photography guidance. For more information or to register go to:

[SPENCER GLACIER ADVENTURE](#)

WORKSHOPS, OUTINGS, & OTHER INTERESTS, continued

Michael DeYoung Private Instruction

Wanting to take your photography to a higher level? Michael offers private one-on-one instruction session to help individuals become a better, more empowered, creative and confident outdoor photographer. He is available for consultations in Alaska June 27 - August 1. Learn more at:

[PRIVATE INSTRUCTION](#)

Eddie Soloway Workshop

Eddie Soloway's photographs are the expression of his passion for the natural world. In 1998, he received the Excellence in Photographic Teaching Award presented by the Santa Fe Center for Photography, and in 2010 Photo District News named Eddie one of America's best photography workshop teachers. In 2014 he was one of twenty photographers selected into the international "Power of the Image" exhibition which premiered in Beijing. He divides his time between speaking on photography and creativity for National Geographic and other organizations, teaching for leading photographic institutions, making fine-art prints, and publishing photographic projects. His book, *One Thousand Moons*, was published in 2004, the dvd, *A Natural Eye Workshop*, in 2009, and *A Natural Eye* video series in 2015. His workshops and educational offerings may be seen at www.anaturaleye.com

JULY 13-15, 2018

LOCATION: EAGLE RIVER NATURE CENTER

COST \$400

DEPOSIT \$100 WITH BALANCE DUE IN APRIL

THIS IS FOR WORKSHOP ONLY, NO LODGING IS INCLUDING

For more information or to sign up for this workshop, please contact Cathy Hart at:

cathylynnhart@gmail.com

Sam Abell Workshops

Sam Abell (born 1945 in Sylvania, Ohio) is an American photographer known for his frequent publication of photographs in *National Geographic*. He first worked for *National Geographic* in 1967, and is one of the more overtly artistic photographers among his magazine peers. Sam Abell's style of photography is documentary in the sense that his major avenue, the *National Geographic* magazine, is a publication of record. However, his best work is known for its transcendent qualities, starting at the documentary level yet open to interpretation on an aesthetic level.

AUGUST 29-31 or SEPTEMBER 1-3, 2018

(Both dates are identical workshops)

LOCATION: HOMER, ALASKA, LANDS END RESORT

COST: \$450

DEPOSIT \$100 WITH BALANCE DUE IN APRIL.

THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE LODGING.....

LANDS END IS GIVING A DISCOUNT TO WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS. CONTACT THEM DIRECTLY FOR RESERVATIONS AND JUST MENTION ASONP.

For more information or to sign up for this workshop, please contact Cathy Hart at:

cathylynnhart@gmail.com

Riding into the Heart of Patagonia

A book by Nancy Pfeiffer

As a novice horsewoman, Nancy Pfeiffer took off across Patagonia alone on horseback. Over the next two decades and three thousand kilometers of rugged horse trail, the hospitable people who live there took her in, and Patagonia slipped silently into her soul. As if watching a beloved child grow up, Nancy bore witness to the subtle, yet disturbing, changes barreling down on Patagonia. **“Riding Into the Heart of Patagonia,”** is the story of that journey. It is also a deep insiders exploration of landscape, culture and what it means to care about place. Photographs in the book are by **Fredrik Norrsell**, a member of the **Alaska Society of Outdoor and Nature Photographers**.

The public is invited to events which will include stories and photographs from the Patagonia region, a region which has inspired millions of people.

Schedule of Events:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Palmer:
May 7, 4-6pm—Fireside
May 7, 6 pm—Turkey Red | Anchorage:
May 4, 7:30 pm—The Firm Line
May 10, 7 pm—The Writer’s Block |
| Girdwood:
May 5, 6:30 pm—Community Ctr. | Fairbanks:
May 23, 6 pm—REI |



Copies of **Riding into the Heart of Patagonia** are available now and will be available at the Palmer event, Barnes and Noble, and directly from www.nancypfeiffer.com.

Jil Fredston, local author of “Rowing to Latitude”, made these comments about “Riding into the Heart of Patagonia”:

“Saddle up. These gutsy journeys will not only take you into the wild, tangled, changing heart of Patagonia, but also lead you deep into its soul. Pfeiffer is extraordinarily spunky and tough, but it is her gentleness, astute observations, and seasoned insight that will make her story resonate long after you have warmed up by the fire.”



LOOKING TO SUBMIT TO THE VIEWFINDER?

Please consider submitting your story and/or photographs to be published in the **Viewfinder**. The **Viewfinder** is a member exclusive publication, written for members by members. The vision of this publication is to inform, inspire, and educate those interested in photography, especially outdoor and nature photography in Alaska. The success of the **Viewfinder** depends upon lively contribution from our Board, business members, and members. Submit text and photos as separate files; word.doc or .docx files for text, and photos should be jpeg format, sRGB color, sized for online use (approx. 1200 pixels on long side at 96 dpi, high compression level). Questions? Email to info@asonp.org.

view of photographic art better as you learn more about Tal the person. In fact, one of the points that Tal makes is that when a person creates art, the art is imbued with that persona.

Tal would not say that all landscape photography is art. It's quite possible to make landscape photographs that are little more than records of place. These images, which may be technically well composed and have beautiful evening or morning light, are otherwise uninspired and have nothing to say. Note that this is not to say that beauty has no place in photographic art. Part of the art can be finding beauty where one would not normally look or in something that at first glance would not appear to have beauty.

So how do you distinguish pretty pictures from art? I'm not sure that Tal is fully successful at making this clear, any more than anyone else has. His book has roughly 70 of Tal's own photographs, mostly reproduced at about 3"x5". The images have no captions. They tend to be "inspired" by the content of the essay in which they appear, although generally not in a literal sense. Sometimes however, when Tal writes about being at home or in a nearby canyon to which he likes to escape, the photographs accompanying the essays could be from that geographic area. But mostly, I suspect, they are images that Tal believes reflect his vision of photographic art. I happen to like Tal's photography

and wish that the book had been produced in a larger format with larger photographs.

Tal personally has spent much time studying photographs made by other people, as well as what these and other people who are not photographers wrote about creativity. He believes that the process of creating the art is integral to the art itself. An artist who creates landscape photographs must have something to say, must connect with the landscape, and then through composition and post-processing bring forth an image that speaks to the viewer. Interestingly, Tal does not view the photograph as necessarily the final creation. There are limitations to what one can communicate through the photograph alone. Tal prefers a combination of writing and photographs because the two together can be more evocative.

I highly recommend Guy Tal's "More than a Rock" to anyone who has an interest in the motivation behind creating photographs. The essays stand alone and can be read individually. Some books that I own never make it to my bookcase because I find myself constantly returning to them. "More than a Rock" is one of those books.

"More than a Rock, Essays on Creativity, Photography, Nature and Life"

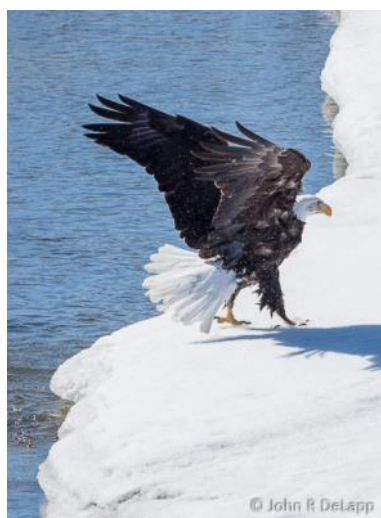
by Guy Tal

2015

Published by Rocky Nook, Inc.

246 pages

* * *



A Cold Water Bath By John DeLapp

I watched this eagle take a bath in the creek at Potter Marsh a couple of weeks ago. He/she repeated the process several times while I was there. I thought, "Hmm, a new Alaska water bird".

DEAR JOHN COLUMN

By John R. DeLapp

What were the results of AlaskaWild 2018?



In case you missed the results of ASONP's AlaskaWild juried photography exhibit, 34 images were selected out of 154 images submitted. Shown here are the images selected by the jurors for Best of Show and Category Winners. Congratulations to all who were selected for the exhibit and a big thanks to Tara Horton for coordinating the event! The show was exhibited at Doriolas in April and will be moving to Fat Ptarmigan in Anchorage for the month of May.

Best of Show



© Andy Renkert

Black & White



© Mark Stadskev

Landscape



© Mark Morones

Fauna



© Ray Bulson

Flora



© Chuck Maas

Creative



© Mark Morones

Reflections

By Ken Baehr

Whenever I am out and about, camera in hand, I reflect a lot on the world around me. For me it is quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of modern life. Often there is no cell service, a welcome respite from the constant notifications that ding in my ears. I am not interrupted by the texts and e-mails that demand instant attention. I don't have to respond to them, because I can't. Life moves at a much slower pace. I actually have time to think, contemplate and reflect. This article presented itself to me while I was watching a Trumpeter Swan preening itself near the shore of a glass smooth lake. I originally thought I would delve into the meditative benefits of reflecting on such an encounter, and indeed there are many. I decided, however, to take a more literal approach to concept of reflection.

Nancy Rotenberg constantly encouraged her students to keep their hearts and minds open to the gifts that universe has to offer at any given time. She taught that if you focus only on getting the specific shot you have planned in your head, you will pass by many opportunities to capture a gift that renders the photograph of a lifetime, or at least something very special. For me, that concept was one of the most profound lessons she ever taught me. As a result, I try to keep my head on a swivel, my eyes wide open, and my mind tuned in to the unexpected gifts the universe might place in my path. I often find these gifts in things reflected in water, and glass. Sometimes it simply involves light reflected onto an object off a colored surface. I never know when or where I might find them, but I try to be open to the opportunities, always.

One of my favorites involved a family of Canada Geese. I was down at Potter Marsh in Anchorage, hoping to get some flight shots of a pair of nesting eagles that frequented the north end of the marsh. I saw a pair of Canada Geese in the distance and almost ignored them. After all I already had over a thousand goose images in my library. As they swam toward me I noticed they had three chicks with them. Maybe there was an opportunity here. The light was OK, but the



Reflection of birch trees, Taku Lake, 1/640, F/6.3, ISO 400, 200mm.



Trumpeter swan, Potter Marsh, 1/1250, F/7.1, ISO 800, 250 mm.

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Reflections, continued from page 8

By Ken Baehr

marsh was a bit choppy and I wasn't getting much separation between the water and the geese. Then the gift presented itself. They briefly passed through a small, calm patch of water that was shielded from the wind. The wake created by them swimming created a horizon between the choppy water, the geese, and their reflection in the calm water. Here was a rare gift, and I almost let it pass me by. By the way, the eagles never showed up that day.

Sometimes a reflection is tack sharp on a glass surface or glass smooth water. Sometimes it is blurred by rippled water or distorted by the curves inherent in a glass surface. Sometimes you find reflections where you least expect them. I have learned to look for them and include them in my compositions. I remember a time, all too clearly, when I was so focused on the moose, bear, bird or landscape that I ignored the reflections around them, cut them off and either ruined the shot, or at least reduced it to mediocrity. As my momma used to say, "you may be slow, but eventually you get there." Today, as I reflect on my collection of images I am pleased that so many of them contain reflections.

* * *



Ken Baehr Photography
Canada Geese, Potter Marsh, 1/320, f/5.6, ISO 200, 700mm.



Ken Baehr Photography
Self portrait reflected in moose eye, 1/400, f/4.5, ISO 2500, 200mm.



Ken Baehr Photography
Red-breasted Merganser, Kelly Lake, 1/1250, f/8, ISO 400, 700mm.



Ken Baehr Photography
Mural of Anchorage in windows, 1/320, F/7.1, ISO 500, 61mm.

MEMBERS' PHOTOS

Patterns in Nature, Death Valley National Park, California
All images, ©2018 John R. DeLapp





ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Alaska Society of Outdoor and Nature Photographers (ASONP) is a non-profit organization with the purpose of promoting individual self improvement in, and exchanging information about outdoor and nature photography, promoting ethics among outdoor and nature photographers, assisting members with marketing and selling their photographs, and informing and educating the public on outdoor and nature photography. Yearly membership is \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families, \$10 for students, and \$100 for business members. ASONP holds meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month from October through May at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, 121 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska. The public is welcome to attend all meetings.

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**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR
MEMBERSHIP YET?**

2018 ASONP Membership Application

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Work Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email _____

Web Site _____

____ New Member? ____ Renewal (same email & address?) ____ Yes ____ No

The Viewfinder newsletters are sent by email 10 times a year in PDF format

WE TAKE CREDIT CARDS AT THE MEETINGS!

DUES: Individual (\$25) _____ Family (\$35) _____

Student (\$10) _____ Business (\$100) _____

Make checks payable to ASONP and mail to:

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Anchorage, AK 99503**