



VIEWFINDER THE NEWSLETTER

Alaska Society of Outdoor and Nature Photographers

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www.asonp.org

Playing Favorites



**By Margaret
Gaines**

Over the years I have heard people talk about having a favorite camera or lens. I thought that was a nice idea but didn't really apply it to my gear. I had several cameras and lenses, each had its strengths and weaknesses and I learned to use them to the best of my ability. I knew which lens I wanted for which effect and style of photography, but a favorite? Nope. But that changed this year.

In March I went to Lake Tahoe for a 3-day workshop led by Karen Hutton who is a Fujifilm X Photographer and was able to arrange for Fujifilm to send a rep with gear for us to play with. I had already switched to a Fuji X-T2 a few months earlier and had two good zoom lenses that I enjoyed using but I did not have a lens that was able to focus close to what I was photographing. I like my 16-55 f/2.8 zoom, but it has a minimum focusing distance of 11.81" and that just didn't get me close enough to some things. I tried extension tubes with it, which helped with the focusing distance but really limited the depth of field and made it very hard to find the focal plane. And my other lens, a 100-400 zoom really doesn't focus close. At the workshop though, I was able to play with a number of lenses and get a feel for what they could do.

I tried a 50mm f/2, a 35mm f/1.4, a 23mm f/2, and a 14 mm f/2.8, all prime lenses, as well as a couple zoom lenses just for the heck of it. They were all very nice lenses, but none of them "spoke" to me. They were good, but they didn't do what I was looking for—a lightweight, close focusing, shallow depth of field, versatile lens. In particular, they didn't focus close enough for the images I wanted to make.



All text and photos © Margaret Gaines

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AlaskaWild 2018 Photography Exhibit Schedule

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:	Steam Dot 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 will have an exciting and interesting series of speakers lined up for our monthly meetings this coming year beginning in the fall of 2018.

June thru September: Summer break—no general meetings

October 9 :	Member's Images
November 13:	Daryl Pederson—Prince William Sound
December 11:	Gayle Neufeld—Africa Trip
January 8:	Charles Mason—Denali Wet Plate Photography
February 12:	Jackie Sawyer—Bohemian Waxwing Bird Photography
March 12:	Roy Corral—A 50-year Odyssey of a Photojournalist
April 9:	AlaskaWild 2019 Exhibit photos showcased
May 14:	Brendan Smith—Research Photography: Capturing the science, life, and times of an arctic voyage aboard R?V Sikuliaq

AlaskaWild 2019 Photography Exhibit

It's not too soon to be thinking about getting your images ready for the 2019 AlaskaWild show. Submission rules and schedule are available at www.asonp.org.

Submission deadline: January 25, 2019

Please join us for our January 8th meeting. If you would like to share up to 20 images during the member slides portion of the meeting, please use the following link to submit them through dropbox.

[Member Slides Upload](#)

We are looking for up to 20 images per member. Files should be in the JPEG format and sized to 1200 pixels on the long side. 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 Musy's job easier. If you want to e-mail the files send them to Alan at musya@admphoto.com by Monday evening prior to the meeting.

ASONP Business Reminders:

1- The end of the fiscal year is approaching and with it the end of your 2018 membership. Please renew your membership either through the link on our website asonp.org or at one of our monthly meetings.

2- We are looking for a new editor for The Viewfinder, if you are interested please talk to Margaret Gaines or John DeLapp.

3- The Board will be having it's annual work retreat on January 12 from 10– 2. Members are welcome to attend, please let [Margaret Gaines](#) know if you would like to join us.

WORKSHOPS, OUTINGS, & OTHER INTERESTS

Landscape/Wildflower Workshop

Mark your calendars for July of 2019 to visit the quaint town of Hope for this three-day landscape and wildflower workshop.

Photographer Ray Bulson will lead you to a remote alpine valley near Hope filled with streams, ponds, waterfalls and tarns. In mid-summer this lush place explodes with dozens of wildflowers. This is a target-rich place for macro and landscape photographers. We'll also explore the tidal flats around Hope during low tide to photograph the unique glacial silt patterns.

Discussions indoors at a local lodge will include photographic techniques, equipment and Lightroom post-processing as well as image reviews.

You won't want to miss this chance to discover this charming location a short distance away from the hustle and bustle of the big city.

For more information visit the website: <https://www.raybulson.com/hope-workshop.html>

Post-processing with Lightroom Classic CC - New Workshop by Ray Bulson

RAW digital files straight out of the camera lack contrast and vibrancy. In short - they are flat and dull. In this workshop I will show you how to post-process your RAW images using Adobe Lightroom Classic CC. You will learn essential techniques that can be applied in a matter of minutes to bring out the full potential of your photos. Among the topics covered include: global adjustments, local adjustments, luminance and color range masking, develop presets, export presets, additional topics of your choosing.

Much of the workshop will be spent having you apply the techniques to your images and addressing specific post-processing needs. Participants need a laptop computer with Lightroom Classic CC/6 installed. Don't forget your computer's power cord and an extension cord/power strip (if possible).

Carr-Gottstein Hall, Classroom 226, Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage ([map](#))

January 12, 2018 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$179 (workshop limited to 15)

Macro Master Series Workshop

Andrea Gulickx, Don Komarechka, & Jackie Kramer

Anchorage, Alaska July 18 – 20, 2019. Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/PhlorographyMS>
Three vastly different styles, gear, vision, & techniques come together in this high energy & intensely focused workshop. \$575.00 [\$525 before 9/1/18] \$200 payment to hold spot

Workshop will include focused sessions with each instructor in small groups of 15 or less on photography & editing techniques that can be applied in the field or indoors when shooting flow-ers. After the initial plenary session, the group will be split into 3 breakout groups who will work directly with Andrea, Don, and Jackie. Everyone will go home with creative images that reflect each of their teachings.

Call Jackie if you have any questions at 907-317-4667

Playing Favorites

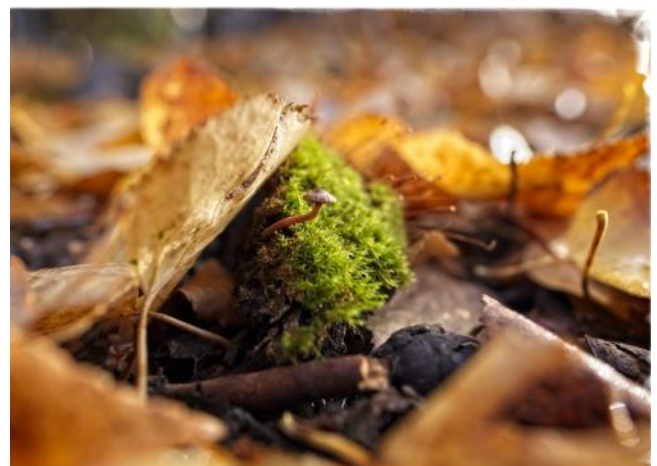
By Margaret Gaines

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Lightweight was important since my other two lenses were on the heavy side. I like to travel light and move a lot when making photographs, often finding myself outside the limits of what a tripod can do. There was one lens though that stole my heart. It was the 16 mm f/1.4. It's light, fast, tack sharp and it focuses as close as 5.91 inches from the subject, half the distance of my 16-55 zoom.

I played with the lens for half a day. That's all the time I had. But I loved it. I came home and mulled over spending the money on another lens. Did I REALLY need it? Turns out the answer was YES.

This past year I've used that lens more than any other lens. While most people would likely intend to use a 16mm lens for landscapes or aurora photography (which I do/will do), what I do most with it is close up nature photography. I love to find details in nature and bring them to life as abstracts and sometimes as intimate landscapes, frequently using a very shallow depth of field. This fall I must have made 1000 images of mushrooms, almost all of them with this lens. I kept going back to Forsyth Park and chronicled the rise and fall of many mushrooms. Some captured my imagination and called me back many times, while others were content to star in only one or two images. Without this particular lens I would not have been able to make the images I saw in my head. I now understand what it means to have a favorite lens. I always expected a long telephoto would be my favorite, but for now it is my 16 mm wide angle.



All text and photos © Margaret Gaines

DEAR JOHN COLUMN

By John R. DeLapp

What Are Pellets?



If you haven't already guessed, this question relates to birds, specifically carnivorous predatory birds. Birds are one of my favorite subjects to photograph and the more I learn about them, the more respect I have for their abilities to survive and navigate. It is truly amazing how some birds, such as the Bar-tailed Godwit, can fly such long distances (6,000 kilometers!) without stopping for food or water. Others, like the tiny chickadees and nuthatches can somehow survive our long, frigid winters.

I still have much to learn about the hundreds of bird species and their characteristics, but I am aware that many (most?) birds expel pellets, a mass of indigestible parts from the food (prey) which was eaten, consisting of bones, teeth, hair, feathers, claws, and plant matter. Researchers, who examine pellets, have sometimes found bird bands from the prey which was eaten by a larger carnivorous

bird. Pellets from owls are often studied as they are produced daily around their frequently used sites of barns or outdoor storage buildings. For some birds, the production and regurgitation of a pellet is required in the digestion process before they can eat again.

The accompanying photograph is a Northern Shrike that I photographed along Denali Park road. This bird was perched and was in the process making strange movements (upper body yoga moves?) which attracted me, and it eventually expelled a pellet. If you are not familiar with shrikes, they are one of the smallest predatory birds with a length of about nine or ten inches and they feed on small birds, rodents, and insects. They are usually found singularly in open country perching on the top of bushes or small trees.



Northern Shrike expelling a pellet.

MEMBERS' PHOTOS

There are a variety of subjects for the outdoor photographer. All photographs © John R DeLapp



Coastal brown bear sow with cub coming in close, Hallo Bay, Alaska.



© John R DeLapp

Hikers with a drum beat, Anza-Borrego State Park, California.



ALASKA SOCIETY OF OUTDOOR & NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS

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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(Note: Two board positions are vacant at the present time. Anyone interested in joining the board should contact Margaret Gaines.)

2018 BUSINESS MEMBERS

Alaska Photo Treks

www.alaskaphototreks.com

Ike Waits

www.denailguidebook.com

NitaRae Photography

www.nitaboysel.com

Arctic Light Gallery & Excursions

www.arcticlight-ak.com

Jackie Kramer Photography

www.jackiekramerphotography.com

Ray Bulson/Wilderness Visions

www.raybulson.com

Auklet Charters

www.auklet.com

James Norman Photography

www.jamesnorman.com

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Aurora Dora

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Wayde Carroll Photography

www.waydecarroll.com

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www.brendansmith.photography

Kristin Leavitt Photography

www.kristinleavittphotography.com

William McKinley/McKnight Family Photography Adventures

www.mcknightfamilyphotographyadventures.com

Ed Boudreau - EAB Photography

www.edboudreau.artistwebsites.com

Marion Owen Photography

www.marionowenphotography.com

Hal Gage

www.halgage.com

Michael DeYoung Photography

www.deyoungphotoworkshops.com



**ALASKA SOCIETY OF OUTDOOR
& NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS**

**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:

**Alaska Society of Outdoor and Nature Photographers
3705 Arctic Blvd. #991
Anchorage, AK 99503**