



Zumwalt Prairie Photography Workshop

May 29 - 31, 2009
The Gift is in Discovery



This Spring Workshop is the prime time for viewing some of the 48 species of butterflies, 17 species of grassland songbirds, colonies of Belding's ground squirrels, mule deer, red-tailed hawks, and the expansive fields of wildflowers. The Zumwalt is also home of the elk, coyote, cougar, badger, prairie falcon, golden eagle, ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, and great horned owl. In addition, there has also been a documented sighting of a lone wolf. Although we are not guaranteed to see all this wildlife, weather-permitting, our dawn to sunset visit on Saturday will provide excellent opportunities.



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The Zumwalt Prairie is unique among the remaining 2% of North American prairies and will be the setting for this workshop of discoveries. A wild expanse of nearly 220 square miles, it is bordered on the south by mountains, the north by forest, and the east and west by cavernous river canyons. Several species of endangered plants and animals inhabit this region. A remnant of the Palouse Prairie, now Washington's richest wheat land, the Zumwalt Prairie is North America's largest remaining expanse of native bunchgrass, supporting a massive Belding's ground squirrel population that feeds one of the highest known concentrations of nesting birds of prey in North America.

The Nature Conservancy, In the year 2000, purchased 42 square miles (about 27,000 acres) of Zumwalt Prairie, the largest single Oregon acquisition in the organization's 50-year history. In 2006, the Conservancy purchased an additional 6,065 acres, making the preserve Oregon's largest private nature sanctuary.

Since acquiring the preserve, Conservancy scientists have learned much about the Zumwalt's natural history and ecology. A new study of nesting raptors by Oregon State University researcher, Pat Kennedy, has expanded on the original research done by Marcy Houle 23 years ago. Ms. Houle's book, *The Prairie Keepers*, showed the Zumwalt Prairie to be a world-class haven for birds of prey. Research in songbirds and entomology bring many scientists each year to the wonders of the Zumwalt.



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Oregon State University is currently in the process of completing a four-year grazing research project on the Zumwalt preserve.

Photographer, Rick McEwan, lives in Wallowa County and frequently explores The Zumwalt Prairie area. He received a BFA degree in Painting and Printmaking from the San Francisco Art Institute and an MFA degree in Creative Arts Interdisciplinary from San Francisco State University. Rick has worked as a free-lance Graphic Artist, owned and operated Visual Dialogues, a nationally acclaimed screen-printing company, and has exhibited photographic work throughout the Western United States. His computer knowledge in digital imaging dates back to 1990 with Photoshop3. He has worked exclusively with digital photography since 2000. Rick has 20 years professional experience in the Arts and Education. His varied teaching experience includes Artist-in-Residence for Arts in Education, College Printmaking and Photography Instructor, Art Instructor for developmentally challenged adults, and high school teacher for Computer Arts. Rick left teaching seven years ago to pursue full-time his life-long passion for photography. During the past four years he has been photographing for The Nature Conservancy. Rick's work for the Conservancy has been featured in The Nature Conservancy Magazine, the Conservancy's website, public presentations, Conservancy brochures and newsletters, Nature Conservancy ads, and many other publications. He regularly spends weeks on the road photographing for The Nature Conservancy, working to capture images that reflect the remarkable work of The Nature Conservancy's conservation priorities.



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Rick's work can be viewed at PhotographyforConservation.com



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To Truly Capture a Place — It Must be Experienced !



This is true of all locations, but none more so than the prairie. The grandeur of Mountain scenes speaks loud and clear and for this reason has inspired photographers for decades to capture their magnificence. Mountain wilderness was the first of the great wild places to be protected. Prairies, on the other hand, have been overlooked, passed over as inconsequential. Their beauty does not speak loudly, but subtly. It does not instantly touch one's soul with its majesty. It must be sought out and experienced intimately over quiet periods of time, time that many people are not willing to spend. Prairie grasslands are a much more personal experience and the Zumwalt remains

one of the more extraordinary prairie experiences. Experience two days of **Discovery** with Rick as he takes you to some of his favorite Zumwalt locations, and shares how to use the camera to enhance one's experience of the world.



The Workshop Begins at 3:30 on May 29 with a discussion of The Zumwalt Prairie, digital photography and file types, color in a digital world, equipment choices including filters, and lenses for a variety of different subjects and conditions. During the weekend we will confront issues of low lighting, wildlife in motion, depth of field focus, creative composition, macro photography, shooting for digital panoramas, photographing for minimal processing, and ethical field practices. Our schedule will be packed with wildlife observations, dawn through evening photography, and hiking amongst landscapes punctuated by wildflowers. Wildlife photography will be scheduled based on accessible locations, weather, approachability, and other factors challenging all wildlife photographers.

The Workshop Cost of \$150 includes dinner May 29 through lunch and snacks on May 31. It is limited to ten participants, all of whom should have a digital SLR camera and an understanding of computer use. Does not include lodging and travel.

For registration and additional information write to:
info@PhotographyforConservation.com

Participants in Need of Lodging should make separate arrangements with Barking Mad Farm. Book early; workshop participants receive a 10% discount. Barking Mad Farm will also be hosting all meals on the Zumwalt preserve and our Sunday breakfast meeting. Phone: **541-215-2758 or 541-426-0360**



barkingmadfarm.com

"Rick McEwan takes both eye and heart into the field and brings back images you can't look away from. Stellar landscape and wildlife photographer, committed conservationist, and visual story teller, Rick reveals the natural world in ways that make you want to protect more of it. The world needs more people doing what he does."

-- **Stephen Anderson, Oregon Communications Director, The Nature Conservancy**