

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS

LEARN ♦ EXPLORE ♦ ADVENTURE

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

JUNE 26-28, 2008

COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #: 08-018

FEE: \$200

INSTRUCTOR: LEE KLINE

LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Field Seminar & Conference Center
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado

TIME: Thursday: 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM
 Friday: 6:30 AM – Sundown
 Saturday: 6:30 AM – 4:30 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Truly great wildlife images “connect” with a viewer and elicit a variety of emotional reactions—humor, joy, excitement, reverence, apprehension, a sense of wonder, and much more. Creating a wildlife photograph with the power to “connect” is the result of a unique combination of skills, including knowledge of animal behavior and habits, understanding photographic equipment and technique, a bit of woodsmanship, and a large portion of patience, practice and perseverance. This course will introduce beginning and intermediate photographers to methods, equipment and techniques they should consider to further their understanding, development and enjoyment as wildlife photographers.

COURSE LEVEL: II

Short-distance walks throughout the day on primarily level terrain

BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at www.rmna.org):

Lee Kline’s love of nature and wildlife is clearly epitomized in his award-winning photography. His work is recognized internationally for its excellence in capturing the most intimate moments of wildlife in their natural habitats. A native Coloradan, avid outdoorsman, and amateur naturalist, Lee has spent his entire life at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. An accomplished writer as well as photographer, Lee’s articles and images have regularly appeared for more than 26 years in scores of magazines, books, calendars, natural history interpretive displays, advertising, and other media. Lee’s photography has earned several prestigious commendations, including multiple Nikon Sports Optics/Outdoor Writers Association of America awards for excellence. His latest book, *Colorado Wildlife Portfolio* (2005 Farcountry Press, 120-pages hardbound), is a collection of images and narratives from his favorite encounters in wild Colorado.

INSTRUCTOR’S WEBSITE: www.leekline.com

EXPECTATIONS: Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Individual ideas will be respected. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.



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CAR-POOLING: Rocky Mountain Field seminars utilize car-pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the Park. Car-pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car-pooling to course locations.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

Thursday

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Introductions; discussion of students' photography experience and expectations for the course (students to bring their camera, equipment and optional work for critique). Review of seminar itinerary, field safety and logistics, and distribution of handouts. AV program of instructor's work with questions and answers, and critique of students, work.

Friday

6:30 AM – Noon Meet at Field Seminar Center for classroom session, In the Field Part I: Photography Equipment and Techniques for Wildlife Work, (instruction, demonstrations, discussion and continued critique of students work).

12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch - students' discretion (optional: group picnic in the field and continued discussion of morning session)

1:00 - 2:00 PM Meet at location to be announced for presentation and discussion of photographer behavior and ethics in the field.

2:00 – sundown In the Field Part II: How to Find Your Subjects (when, where and what to look for, and field photography session)

Saturday

6:30 AM – Noon Meet at location to be announced for In the Field Part III: Working with Wild Subjects (how to approach, blinds, wardrobe and field photography session).

Noon - 1:00 PM Lunch - students' discretion (optional: group picnic in the field and discussion of morning session)

1:00 - 4:30 PM Meet at Field Seminar Center for review, students' evaluations of seminar and course conclusion

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, & **WATER**
- 10 Photos for Friday evening discussion
- Chemical hand-warmers, particularly in the September session
- **Camera equipment & accessories**

WHAT TO BRING (continued)

Photographing wildlife requires a photographer to get close—but not too close—to the intended subject. To maintain a comfortable working distance (for the wild subjects), telephoto lenses are preferred, the longer the better; on 35mm format, a 200mm lens would be considered the minimum. However, opportunities may arise to use shorter lenses and even macro lenses. For versatility, a 35mm SLR camera system, digital or film, is recommended. Medium format SLR systems can be used with appropriate long lenses. Operational requirements of large format camera systems seriously limit their suitability for wildlife photography, but they can still be usable in the hands of skilled photographers. Fixed lens rangefinder cameras usually do not have sufficient telephoto capabilities to be very useful for wildlife work. Regardless of the system, the camera body should have built-in exposure metering. All that said, please bring the photography equipment you have, are most familiar with, and as much of it as you are willing to carry. And, if at all possible, bring the camera manual. Your photography equipment must also include:

- Camera bag/backpack large enough to comfortably carry gear (can double as a daypack for raingear, extra jacket, etc.)
- Tripod, monopod, or shoulder stock sturdy enough to handle your camera/lens
- Cable release or electronic shutter release
- Extra film or memory cards
- Small notebook and pen for note taking
- Optional: filters, hand-held light meters, and other tools of personal preference

REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

- Raingear
- Map & compass
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Sunglasses & sunscreen
- Candles
- Matches or other fire starter
- Pocketknife
- First-aid kit
- Extra layers of clothing
- Sack lunch, snacks, & water

TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT

All courses are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The new fee is \$25.00 per seminar (.5 units) or \$25.00 per series of threaded seminars (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded seminars can be found in the Field Seminar catalog or online at www.rmna.org. Participants must enroll in all seminars of a threaded series in order to qualify for the \$25.00 multi-unit fee. Please be prepared to pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a seminar or on the final day of a threaded series of seminars.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS PURSUING CSU CREDIT

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will learn the following:

1. To research wild subjects and find them in the field
2. To identify necessary photography equipment requirements and various techniques for wildlife photography
3. To discuss responsible photographer field behavior and ethics when approaching and working with wild subjects.

CONTACT HOURS: 26 hours

EVALUATION TECHNIQUES: Students will be evaluated on attendance, level of participation in classroom and field sessions, final session review of the course and photography work during the sessions.

GRADING METHOD: Pass/Fail