

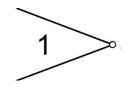
Photography is a tool to express ourselves in many unique ways and the mind set responsible for this is as unique as each member of the club. I would like to thank Kelly Stout for sharing some of her time with us as we get a glimpse of how she sees the world.

#### Malcolm McElvaney – I asked online recently the following question "Every photographer has their own reason for pursuing photography. What motivates you to keep taking photographs?" You responded that photography gives you a greater outlook on life including self challenges to better yourself. - Is there some aspect of photography that helps enable this greater outlook on life?

Kelly Stout - Photography that helps enable a greater outlook on life ... hmm ... the challenges, the personal challenges of different types of photography. I am not big on portrait or using flash with my work. With great help of fellow club members I am becoming more comfortable with this. The skills that are needed for those types of photography have opened avenues and have widen my circle.

### How did you get started doing photography initially?

Back in the mid 70's I took 2 semesters of Black and white film at Midland College. I was so gun ho.... I wanted my own home dark room and the whole works. Oh, but wait. I was just a poor college student and really could not even afford a camera, (the school allowed us to check them out.) I took tons of sports photos, of the Tennis players, Swimmers, Basketball players, and even worked on the school newspaper for awhile. Then about 10 years ago, I fell in love with a small mountain town of ESTES Park, Co. I was up there during Thanksgiving week one year, I was looking for something to do. Looking through things to do. I found a ad for Yellow Wood Guiding photo Safari. I said OK, I can do that. I was planning to use my cell phone. If nothing else, I was going to get to see places, I might not of ventured out to find myself. As luck would have it, I slipped on some ice, and broke my cell phone, so I had to go buy a cheap point and shoot Camera for my adventure. I took a 3 hour safari, for less then 200.00. I learned more about that little point and shoot camera then I ever dreamed of learning. Jerad, was very knowledgeable about the area, and all camera. I have taken a safari with him, every time,



I have gone to Estes Park. After that first time, I decided, I was not that poor little college student anymore, and went and bought a beginning Canon camera that came with 2 lens. I have certainly upgraded since then. Took a continuing Ed class at Midland college, and Susan Benham, talked me into joining Sibley Camera Club. I have learned so much with the Camera club and outing's that we have gone on.

#### Finding a place you can connect with and look forward to visiting again has a kind of magic to it but I also noticed you have experience with film cameras, digital via a cell phone camera, and dedicated digital cameras. What was it about upgrading to a dedicated camera that helped you the most?

By upgrading to dedicate digital camera, I have been able to work more on technique. You also have the chance to use different lens, thanks to places like Borrowlens.com. Also by upgrading to a dedicated digital camera, I have been able to "learn my camera". Which is a must in my book. That little pamphlet that is so hard to read because it is so small.. I learned that I could download the owners manual, and then print it out on  $81/2 \times 11$  paper and put it in a binder. Makes it much easier to read, and learn, all the cool stuff your camera(s) can do.

## Final question regarding photography. Where can people find examples of your work that you share?

The only place at this time that people can find examples of my work is my personal Facebook page.

# Thank you again for sharing some of your time with the group. As part of the Sibley Camera Club how do you view your role in it?

Hmm, I see my role in the camera club as trying my best, to make it a member ran club. I listen to other club members as to what they want to learn, or what type of outings they would like to go on. I do my best to make those happen. I certainly know that none of what I do could be done without the help and input of each and every member of the club's help and input. I am certainly not the best photographer in the club. But I try, and I listen to each speaker, to see what I can do differently. One thing that I have learned is that each and everyone of us, has our own style. We need to learn to embrace our strengths and work on our weaknesses, and learn from each other.