

# Contact Sheet

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## Craters of the Moon Beauty in Our Backyard

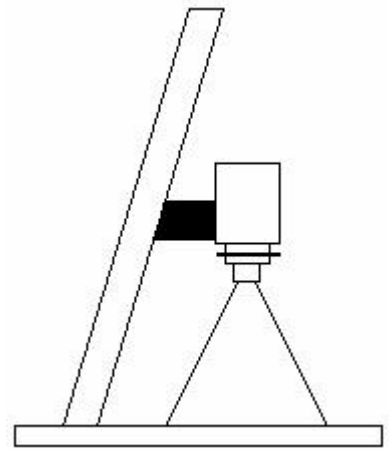
Anytime we drive west out of Idaho Falls, we go across the lava flows that originated from the Craters of the Moon. The landscape is just boring, everyday lava rock. Nothing grows there. Just BORING lava rocks. Wrong! **Roger Boe**, a long time member of the Pocatello Camera Club, gave us his insights into a place he loves to photograph and why we need to change our view of this magical place. Roger stated that he has always had a strong attraction to the lava flows of the Craters of the Moon, and he has spent many hours there wearing out countless pairs of shoes and shooting numerous photos (he has over 2000 medium format images just of the COTM). But he says that he still doesn't feel that he has captured the true beauty of the site. Lately, he has been shooting some digital images and feels that his images have gotten better as he is able to work on them in PhotoShop.

Part of the incentive for this talk was a presentation that he has worked on with two other people in Pocatello. Tim Frazier of the Idaho State University photography department recently spent a year on a government grant documenting the newly protected areas that are adjacent to the Craters of the Moon. Dr. Boe went with him on many of these

trips - - or he would run into him when he went out on his own to do some photography of the area. Roger also took along his friend, Will Peterson, who used the area and trips for inspiration for his poetry. Together the three have put together a poetry - photography exposition that is hanging today in the museum at ISU.

The COTM area is a very harsh area. In the most recent flow areas (2000 years ago) there is still no life growing on the flows. The first life forms to start are the lichen and moss which can be a multitude of colors. The lichen break down the lava to start creating soil. Some soil is dropped into crevices by our ever present wind also. In time there is enough to sustain plant growth. On the main loop that we all have been on at COTM, there is the triple twist tree that died just forty years ago. When they studied its growth rings, they found that it was 1300 years old and still not a very large tree like we think of when we think of other old trees such as redwoods or sequoias.

Roger showed us some of the spectacular flowers that he has captured over the years of travel - - and they were spectacular. There are fleabane, five different types of buckwheat, dwarf monkeyflower, many variations of bitterroot, scab penstannon, antelope bitterbrush just to name a few. He stated that each year brings him surprises with blooms at different times than in prior years. One year may be great for one



variety but not for other flowers, again part of the mystery of the region.

Tree types of flora are not as abundant although there are limber pines and junipers, some with very thick bark. There is only one stand of aspen on the entire preserve. But keep your eyes open at all times. Roger has found several collapsed lava tubes with lush ferns down in the collapsed areas. We always associate ferns with moist cool areas, not hot dry deserts.

Wildlife is not as abundant, however, because of the limitation of the amount of plants. Very few large animals call the COTM their home, although there are many small critters. One word of caution is that there are rattlesnakes in the area. In spite of the large number of hours he has spent at the Craters, Roger felt that most of the time the rattler wanted to avoid him just as much as he wanted to avoid the snake.

All of us have tried to capture some of the beauty of the spring wildflowers at COTM. But Roger stated that we shouldn't forget other seasons. Spring rains can lead to steam coming off the rocks. He stated that it can be a magical place in the winter, especially when there is fog. The rock formations just don't look the same covered with snow. The Park Service even has guided cross country ski trips that they lead into the park.

So, the next time you drive across the boring lava flows to our west, just stop and open your eyes. There really can be some spectacular beauty in that forsaken land. Thanks, Roger, for making us open our eyes!

## Club Notes

Roger Heng issued a plea for us to get our images into him for inclusion

in the publication of the Eastern Idaho Magazine. Remember that the magazine is running three months ahead of where your photography is. They need winter pictures in the fall, spring photos in the winter, etc. Also, they like a little humor in the image, pictures that tell a story of why you like to be in eastern Idaho. This has been a good source of getting our images into print. Also, they have included an ad about our club in their magazine - - and how can we turn down free advertising! They usually will use one of our images in "Parting Shot" which needs to tell a story. And then a second one of our images is used on their contents page.

The deadline dates for 2006 are as follows:

January 18 – spring photos

April 13 – summer

July 13 – fall

October 12 - winter

**This is the end of another year of the Eastern Idaho Photographic Society. We need to thank Krista, Doug, Mary, Bob, Joe, Jan, Roger, Sue for their service on our behalf. Your officers have given their time for all of our enjoyment and betterment of our photography. We want to have as good of a year in 2006.**

The officers for 2006 are as follows:

**President – Ken and Kriss Russell**

**Vice President – Bob Seidel**

**Treasurer – Doug Jensen**

**Secretary – Mary Dunhour**

**Web Master – Roger Heng**

**Field Trips – Mike Woodhouse and Joe Landon**

**Publicity – Krista Soderquist**

**Public Relations – Sue Heng**

## **Advancement Program**

**As in past years the January Advancement Program is our annual awards banquet. This has been a good year for us with a lot of excellent images. Thanks for sharing your work with your fellow photographers. For the banquet please bring a pot luck dish and your table service for yourself at 7:00 p.m. on Jan. 19 in our meeting room. Drinks will be provided by the club.**

**We try to give you some lead time to get the images for our Advancement Program themes. Below are the themes for 2006. Please note that these categories were taken from the categories that you can enter in the Eastern Idaho State Fair. In this way, images shown in the Advancement Program can be used for your fair entry in September. Shooting some themes that you normally don't shoot will make your work better in all aspects of your work. Not only does it expand your horizon but you learn skills that can be adapted to your main area of interest. Also, the topics are broad enough to find many avenues of expression.**

**January – Banquet**

**February – Photographer's Choice**

**March – Travel**

**April – Photographer's Choice**

**May – Wood**

**June - Photographer's Choice**

**July – Lights or Fire**

**August - Photographer's Choice**

**September – Nature**

**October - Photographer's Choice**

**November – Cityscape**

**December - Photographer's Choice**

## **Lots of choices! Have Fun!**

The Advancement Program has always been a work in progress and we have modified it several times over the years to make it better for the people who want to participate. . In fact, we even gave extra points for being a judge when no one would volunteer for that task in the early years of the club. We have given extra points to those who have done extra work on their images in the darkroom since it would take from 30 to 60 minutes to get a good image - - and this was a good learning tool for the photographer. A really good negative made a good print very quickly, but a difficult negative was a bear to achieve any image at all. But now, the darkroom is virtually dead with papers and chemicals disappearing from the marketplace. With the shift toward digital images and the use of PhotoShop, we need to find a way to award those who are doing extensive work on the images. And yet there are problems with this approach. If you have a really good image on your shot and you just have to press the print button on your computer, should this person be awarded extra effort over the person who had to correct many areas of an image in PhotoShop? How can you tell? The end point may be the same.

## **Field Trip**

**Joe Landon has arranged for a snow coach into Yellowstone National Park for January 14. This year we will be going to Norris Geyser Basin and maybe Canyonlands, if there is enough time. There is room for 10 people in the snow coach. Please contact Joe quickly since it is on a first come first served basis.**

## Monthly Meeting

**Date: Jan. 5, 2006**

**Time: 7:30 p.m.**

**Location: 1900 Grandview  
– Conference Room**

**Program:**

There has been some discussion about judging at our Advancement Program. **Jan Larcom and Roger Heng**, two long time members of EIPS will lead a very informal discussion of that process. Come and give your input!

## Graffiti

EIPS is a group of amateur and professional photographers who have joined together to further the art and craft of photography. Please join us and expand your horizons. Sharing knowledge makes all participants better at their craft. We meet on the first Thursday of each month for our educational lecture. Then the third Thursday is our Advancement Program where we share some of the images we have done. We meet at 7:30 p.m. at 1900 Grandview Ave in the conference room. You will be a better photographer as you learn from us and we learn from you!

**DUES ARE DUE!**

**Contact Doug! \$25 per family per year! What a deal!**

**Krista Soderquist – President**  
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