

Photography at Burger's Sierra Retreat



Elizabeth Kennedy-Corathers
October 5–7, 2012

\$300 per person / \$285 for Mono Lake Committee members
includes accommodations and all meals
enrollment limited to 15 participants

Explore photography of the natural environment at the historic Burger's Sierra Retreat off of Tioga Pass Road near the town of Lee Vining. Practical topics will include landscape representation, macrophotography of flora, painting with light, night photography, and time studies, as well as philosophical issues in photographing the natural environment. All skill levels are welcome; either film or digital may be used.

First homesteaded by 18-year-old Sarah Noyes in the late 1800s, Burger's Sierra Retreat was converted to a hunting lodge by L.C. Brand in 1913. Owned by the Burger family since 1943, the Retreat is a designated bird and animal sanctuary and is primarily used today for family and educational purposes. Accommodations are rustic, with 10 beds available in the lodge buildings and camping available anywhere on the grounds (the aspen grove is a particular favorite). Seminar participants may elect to drive in if they wish to stay elsewhere. All meals will be provided by Linda Dore Food Service, a local catering company specializing in truly delicious food.

Elizabeth Kenneday-Corathers is a Photographic Specialist for the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association in Lee Vining, and teaches painting at the Eastern Sierra College Center in Mammoth Lakes. She lives in June Lake and is completing a book of photographs of the Mono Basin.

ITINERARY

Friday, October 5 at 3:00pm we will meet in the gallery in the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining. After brief introductions and final registration we will go over the weekend's itinerary and discuss the guidelines for staying at Burger's Sierra Retreat. Then we will caravan up to the Retreat and have some time to unpack before a discussion/demo of star tracking and painting-with-light at 4:30pm. We will walk to an overlook on the grounds to photograph the sunset (sunset—6:33pm*) followed by dinner at 7:30pm. After dinner, the instructor will give a slide talk on photography and the environment.

Saturday, October 6 at 6:30am we will begin the day shooting sunrise at the overlook on the grounds (sunrise— 6:57am*). We'll have breakfast at 8:00am, followed by a lecture/demonstration on basic camera concepts and natural lighting techniques. The rest of the morning we will photograph at the Retreat and have a macrophotography demonstration before lunch at noon. In the afternoon, we will travel to a spectacular overlook of Mono Lake above the Retreat grounds (sunset—6:31pm*). Dinner will be served at 7:30pm, followed by an evening critique of participants' work.

On **Sunday, October 7 at 5:45am**, breakfast will be available (until 9:00am) so that we can photograph sunrise at South Tufa (sunrise— 6:58am*). If you arrive and there is a ranger at the parking lot, tell him/her you are with the Mono Lake Committee photo workshop and you will be admitted at no charge. As time permits we will visit other locations around the lake, such as the old Clover Ranch site, on the return to the Retreat. In the late morning we will have a wrap-up discussion/critique before the seminar concludes at noon to give participants a chance to make the drive home.

—*As listed online by Old Farmer's Almanac: www.almanac.com

— The itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, etc.

— All participants may join any demos and exercises desired. Attendance is not required if you are already familiar with a technique or not interested in a particular subject.

Altitude and Dehydration Cautions: Remember to bring (and drink!) lots of water because your body loses more water at the higher altitudes of the Mono Basin. Experts recommend that you begin drinking extra water as you drive to higher elevation in order to prevent dehydration and headaches. Also, the sun is rather fierce at high elevations, capable of burning even on cool and cloudy days, so be sure to protect yourself thoroughly using sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat.

ACCOMMODATIONS

There are 10 beds available on a "first-come, first served" basis. Camping is permitted anywhere on the grounds with the aspen grove being the most popular (and comfortable!). If you would like a bed be sure to reserve it as soon as possible by calling or emailing Elin Ljung at (760) 647-6386 x134 or elin@monolake.org. Staying in accommodations other than at the Retreat is fine, but will

not change the registration fee amount. Significant others or friends who are not enrolled in the field seminar may stay at the Retreat for a \$10 per night fee. Since indoor accommodations are reserved for seminar participants, significant others/friends should plan to camp.

MEALS

Linda Dore Food Service will cater all meals. Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, as well as lunch on Saturday, will be buffet style; dinners on Friday and Saturday evenings will be served. Please bring a minimum of your own food—bear- and rodent-proof food storage is very limited at the Retreat. Linda provides plenty of snacks for between meals. Drinking water is available at the Retreat; please bring your own water bottles and refill them frequently!

TO BRING

- personal camera (film or digital, lenses, instruction manual)
- film or memory cards
- extra camera batteries
- downloading device and/or storage device (instructor's laptop will be available for this purpose, if needed)
- tripod and cable release strongly recommended
- flash unit and/or various size flashlights for painting-with-light
- note-taking material or tape recorder
- examples of your work, if desired (you are encouraged to bring at least 10 examples of your work. These will be shown through a digital projector for group viewing making CDs/DVDs, USB drives, etc., the preferred image format, but prints and slides may be used as well.)
- clothing for *all* weather conditions (layering is essential), including knit hat and gloves
- sun protection (sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses)
- cell phone recommended (although cell reception is limited)
- sleeping bag and pillow if staying in a sleeping cabin
- towels, wash cloth
- camping gear, if camping on the grounds
- flashlights of various sizes (both for painting-with-light and night visibility) and/or headlamp
- travel alarm
- insulated travel coffee mug for field work, if desired

RECOMMENDED READING

- Dunaway, Finis. *Natural Visions: The Power of Images in American Environmental Reform*. The University of Chicago Press, 2005.
- Jussim, Estelle and Elizabeth Lindquist-Cock. *Landscape as Photograph*. Yale University Press, 1985.
- Porter, Eliot, and James Gleick. *Nature's Chaos*. Little, Brown; Reprint Edition 2001.
- Shaw, John. *John Shaw's Nature Photography Field Guide*. Amphoto Books, 2001.
- Wood, James. *Era of Exploration: Rise of Landscape Photography in the American West, 1860–85*. Albright-Knox Art Gallery, 1976.



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

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