

Landscape/Cloudscape Photography: six years at one Canaan Valley, WV location



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About Joseph Henry

Joseph Henry specializes in depicting northern landscapes that include sub-arctic tundra areas in the Canaan Valley and Dolly Sods region of West Virginia, Canada and Alaska. Forty of his Dolly Sods images were displayed in a 5-month one-man show in 2007 at the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History in Pittsburgh. He has been closely observing Canaan Valley and Dolly Sods for 36 years.

He is focused on creating images that convey the essence and mood of a landscape. He especially focuses on northern landscapes and plant ecosystems. Dolly Sods is a prime example. The central goals of his work are to evoke emotion in the viewer and inform regarding the unique character of a place. This is accomplished by: selective compositions, quality light and revisiting particular landscapes often. Much of his work is guided by visual perception principles that are focused on leading the viewer's eye with the goal of communicating what he experienced in the field.

Dr. Henry was formerly professor and chairperson of Chemical Engineering at West Virginia University and the Department of Chemical, Bio and Materials Engineering at Arizona State University. He lives in Canaan Valley.

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Foreword

Landscape photography typically is rooted in exploration of a region with a location-to-location strategy. The vast majority of my photography occurs when I am operating in this mode. The story I wish to tell in this eBook is about the amazing transition of graphic elements that occur in landscape/cloudscapes during the rapid weather transitions that are so common to Canaan Valley. These are so fleeting that a location-to-location strategy simply will not do.

The transitions include changes in the graphic content of a composition resulting from cloud movement, color and graphic synergies between the flora in the foreground/middle ground and the cloudscape beyond. These transitions occur on the time scale of minutes or less, not hours or longer. The only way to capture these transitions is to be at a single location and be able to react immediately. Even then there are often compelling photo opportunities that elude me in the fraction of a minute that it takes to frame the shot and capture the image. In my case, the location is the deck of my home that affords a 270° view of the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge to the east and Canaan Mountain to the west.

I hope the lessons I have learned over the last six years will be useful to you.



At this location there are diverse grass textures, wetlands, deciduous trees, beaver ponds, ridges and Cabin Mountain to the east. There are grasses and Canaan Mountain to the west. The location has rapidly moving weather fronts.

Themes

There are several themes in this book that are enabled by the content flow:

1. Benefits of one location
2. Image capture during the morning or evening twilight periods
3. Rapid cloud pattern changes
4. Anticipating cloud alpenglow
5. Anticipating cloud patterns color
6. Composition and emotional elements
7. Seasonal Transitions

All of these are brought to life by discussion that is presented with the photographs. Browsing the entire book occasionally will enhance your observation skills and increase the odds of being at the location at the right time.

This book is intended for photographers, hikers, and others.

This book is intended for those who wish to experience the beauty of landscapes where weather changes and cloud formations are present. This includes hikers, photographers and others. You will soon become more aware of the synergies between the appearance of the cloudscape and the foreground landscape.

I hope the book will provide you with the tools to more effectively experience the impacts of rapid weather changes on landscapes that include cloud patterns. Put another way, I hope to increase the odds that you will be at the right place at the right time.

Twilight

“Trade sleep for light,” Ian Plant

I favor photographing during the twilight periods. The cool colors and their transition during twilight period prior to sunrise and after sunset provide the photographer the option to control the color palette like no other period. These colors which are either transmitted or reflected from clouds provide compelling compositional elements. The twilight creates ethereal color casts on the foreground landscape. Eighty percent of the photos in this eBook were captured during the twilight periods.

The diagram on the next page depicts the color temperature of the twilight period and other periods of the day.



Canaan Mountain, Twilight, 8:55pm, July 26, 2014



7:50pm to 8:40pm, July 26, 2013: five photos and their discussions follow:



8:40pm, July 26, 2013, Rare Mammatus Cloud over Canaan Mountain



These photos depict the color range of cloud alpenglows. Soft, ethereal light bathes the landscapes. Nine landscapes with cloud alpenglows and their discussions follow:



This book is about observing and/or photographing weather and its impacts on the beauty of landscapes. The discussion and photos which follow will help you be at the right place at the right time.



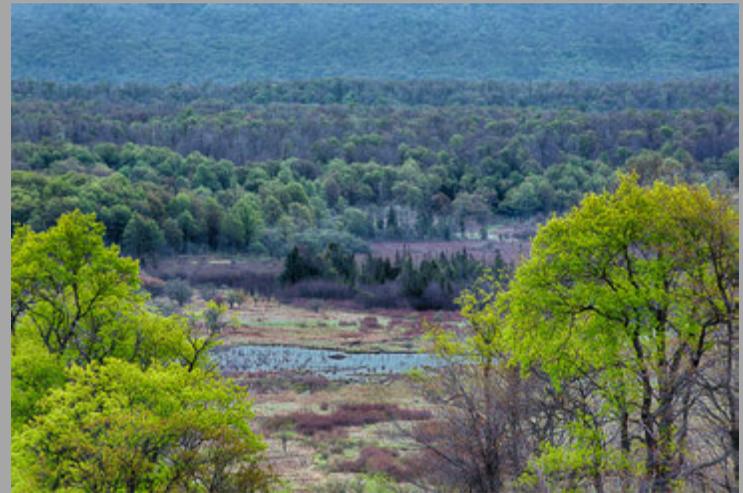
Cloud colors during the twilight periods are diverse and have differing emotional content. Nine photos that depict the diverse colors follow:



What range of emotions do you experience? Five photographs and their discussions follow:



Ground fog can be diffuse and unstructured as well as very structured. Eleven photos that depict the diverse structure and colors of ground the fog follow with discussions.



The spring transition begins with leaf bud emergence and progresses to mature leaves and grasses. Eight photographs follow with related discussion:



Winter is the most monochromatic season. Compositions tend to be simpler. Twelve photographs and their discussions follow:



Above all, give yourself the gift of the morning and evening twilight experiences.



This eBook focuses on one location. Other beautiful locations are abundant here. Explore the Canaan Valley and Dolly Sods region fully. More books to come. Continue to the next page.

Closure

Clouds are an important part of landscapes. By now you understand the impacts of the light transmitted to and from reflected from clouds. During twilight, these are the primary light sources for the foreground landscapes.

Photographing at one location over a long period makes the capture of such fleeting effects possible. Fleeting, because rapidly moving weather fronts are the source of light. This is heightened by the short thirty minute twilight period both morning and evening.

I hope you have gained an understanding of the factors that will help you be at the right place at the right time. By now you should know what to look for.

Be sure to experience the twilight periods. You will be well rewarded for awaking early and also for staying in the field after sunset.

You can see more of Joseph Henry's photographs at www.canaanvalleyphotography.com