Celebrate!

A collection of wonderful images from the “Celebrate What’s Right with the World” facebook page - featuring one of our frequent contributors:

Maurice Doepker

There is a moment when we all acknowledge that there is a gentler, more peaceful way to live. I find it in simplicity and tranquility; in a sense of the all-embracing harmony of all living things in relation to the rest of the universe and where I fit in.

I Celebrate Peace and the love of all living beings.
“The advanced lesson of photography is that it's all beautiful.” ~ Dewitt Jones

I was sitting on a hill last mid-summer glassing the area below for any wildlife movement. A storm was moving in, and it was starting to rain in the distance. I had enjoyed the day but hadn't taken any photos when a voice inside [Dewitt Jones] said, “turn around”. This is the shot I was able to get. What a great teacher and inspiration he has been for me. I have been reading his articles in Outdoor Photographer since mid 1980; and when my monthly subscription arrives, I still look for his column first. I think that is a great way to Celebrate What's Right with the World.
Ego says, “Once everything falls into place, I’ll feel peace.”
Spirit says, “Find your peace, and then everything will fall into place.”
~ Marianne Williamson

I had been told by some photographers the only way to get shots of “wild animals” is either use a very large telephoto lens, or use a blind. Fortunately, I am lucky enough to know a couple of wildlife biologists who don’t share that belief. After working with the biologists for some time, I have learned how to become part of the “wilderness/nature” and have the animals accept me, as it can be EXTREMELY dangerous. It took me many years to understand how to act and react to the animals’ “language”. This fall, I was “accepted” by a herd of elk during the rut. It consisted of a male and his harem of about twenty females and their young. This photo is one of my favorites from that shoot. The curiosity of this calf brought her to within 10 ft. of me, which made me quite nervous, as the mother was watching closely to see that her calf was not in danger. I count myself so fortunate to be in a fraction of a percentile of people experiencing these moments where the “wild animals” trust me and accept me as just part of “the group”.
There is no better reason to Celebrate What’s Right with the World.
I was sitting on a log by a dried-out creek bed finishing my lunch when this “mommy bear” brought her baby for me to have a look. As humans do, they also love to show off their young. She gave me the ultimate compliment by showing her absolute trust in me when she allowed her cub to be between her and me. Another great moment in my life to Celebrate What’s Right with the World!
Celebrating Earth Day. A place on this earth where, through cooperation and understanding, we have learned to live and coexist in harmony with nature. The land is ranched by ranchers working with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to allow no overgrazing of the land by moving the cattle regularly and all fencing is wildlife friendly. A compensation fund has been set up so the rancher will be reimbursed for any cattle lost to predators so the predator may live. No further development of this land is permitted. All back roads have been gated and locked and no motorized vehicles are allowed in this area. All ranching and recreation is done the old fashion way, either on foot or by horse. The payback is enormous. It is an area where you can still get a cold drink of water from the streams, and see an abundance of wildlife. This area is proof that we can slow things down and return to clean air, clean rivers and streams, and live with the wild animals being a part of this land.
“Some people don’t understand why I talk to the animals. That’s OK, the animals understand.” ~ Anthony Douglas Williams
The joy of spending large chunks of my time with horses is I have the opportunity to witness the interaction between them. Like other animals I spend large amounts of time with, I am accepted as part of the herd amongst the horses and they carry on with their daily lives not paying attention to me. I find that horses within a herd are very loving and caring toward each other.

Through my experience riding a single horse away from the herd, not only is the horse I am riding distraught, but the whole herd fusses as I leave, whinnying and running up to the fence calling for their friend. The excitement is just as great on my return. The herd is waiting at the gate making big noise. When I return the horse back with the herd they all run up to him and find out where he has been. Within minutes things settle down and they carry on with their lives.

Celebrating the bond between the horses of a herd. It is easy to see why a bond between a human and a horse can be so powerful.
Here is the miracle of new life. I see it with the domesticated animals and the wildlife around me on almost a daily basis. At times like this our scientific accomplishments and all of our i-technology are meaningless to me. I am living in a timeless zone...a space where nothing has changed from hundreds of years ago. The smells and the sounds around me are of nature. Celebrating the peacefulness of another spring day and being a part of nature.
I am his Human, He is my horse. If you are looking for a moment of absolute calm. If you are looking for that moment of peace. If you are looking for unconditional love and trust spend some time with a horse. When you look at him you may see just a Colt. When I look at him I see the power of the wind, the soul and purity of life. I am his voice. He is my spirit. The smell of the horse brings peace to my soul and joy to my heart. Celebrating the beginning of a new Champion.
“Here I am - this is me
I come into this world so wild and free
Here I am - so young and strong
Right here in the place where I belong

It's a new world - it's a new start
It's alive with the beating of young hearts
It's a new day - in a new land
And it's waiting for me
Here I am” - Bryan Adams

Celebrating new life, whatever it may be.
When riding in the back country, high in the Rocky Mountains of Canada, you want to make sure the horse you ride is your best friend. He will be asked to go into not only difficult terrain but there are many large, wild predators as well. His name is Scar. For trails, he is one of my favorites. Cougars cross the path - not a second glance. A Grizzly runs through the trees - he looks over his shoulder with a “so what” look. A wolf stands on the trail and he hurries to scare it away. BUT there is one creature that will stop him dead in his tracks. One mean, wild animal that even terrifies some of the bravest humans. He will stop and pull back, wanting to turn and run. Yes, even this bravest of the brave, hardy, 1200 pound, 16 hand horse has a nemesis. It is...a mouse.

Celebrating small creatures who bring terror to giants.
This is Scar. I purchased him about a year ago. He was on his way to the slaughter house. He is about 20 so he is an older horse but he had a lot of life left in him. By trade he was a race horse, a Standard Bred, a Harness Racing horse to be more exact. He had been used and had a hard life. He was so gentle, I used him under saddle for anyone afraid of horses. He was so gentle, he loved everyone. I knew he didn’t like being under saddle but he did his job as asked. He grew with the herd and eventually became herd leader. He and I have always had a special connection. He seemed to know what I had done for him and it was a lot of work with special feed to bring him back to the horse he is now.
"The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it"
- Chinese proverb.

We can live in harmony with nature and all living beings. We can communicate feelings between species. Humans can have friends amongst all creatures. There are no boundaries if you make none. Accepting that we humans are part of the earth, and what we do effects the rest of the earth, will be the first step toward healing the damage we have already done. Celebrating our awareness toward healing the scars we have placed on the land.
Sometimes you find yourself in the middle of nowhere and sometimes, in the middle of nowhere, you find yourself. The only peace you will find in the wilderness is the peace you bring with you. You are the only one responsible for your own happiness. You are the only one responsible for your own anger. Happiness doesn't come from who you are or what you have. Happiness comes from what you think. Being happy doesn't mean everything is perfect; it means you have accepted the imperfections. Celebrate peace and happiness from just being here and now.
Life just is. Learn to flow with it - give yourself to the moment - let things happen.

If you don't believe other animals have a soul, you have never looked into their eyes ... Listen. They have something to tell you.
We build our lives on permanence when nothing is permanent. Accepting that life is a constant change is hard for some; but to be truly happy, we must realize that every day is change. We can't live in the past; we don't know the future; so TODAY is the most important day of our lives. A close friend who passed away recently told me to live each day like it was my last. I have learned to love deeper, make my words sweeter and always forgive. True happiness is not in the sky. True happiness is in your heart.

Celebrate each new day. We don't know what tomorrow will bring.
Someone once asked me if I was religious. After giving it some thought, I said, “No, I am not religious, I am Spiritual.” Religion poses too many barriers. It has too many rules on what we have to believe. Religion has limits. Spirituality has no limits; it poses no barriers.

Spirituality is the heartbeat, the rhythm of the breath, the flow of the blood. It is something we find from within ourselves. We can find Spirituality in all living beings. We can find it walking in nature. If we listen, everything has a heartbeat. If we feel, everything has a soul. In Spirituality ALL life is sacred.

Spirituality comes from within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness, with the universe and all its powers - and when they realize at the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit and that its center is everywhere...it is within each of us. Celebrating Spirituality within ALL living things.
This is my scene as I walk through the pasture to check horses. Not everyone could live here. I have had the comment from city dwellers - “It's a beautiful place, but a person would feel so isolated, and it's too quiet.” I pondered that statement on this walk and stopped. In the distance, I could hear wolves calling to each other as they hunted. Between calls, I could hear the birds singing in the trees. As I started to walk, I could hear each footstep of my boot as I walked on the crunching snow. I smiled and thought how much I love the noise of this silence.

“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.” ~ Henry David Thoreau
In all the time I travel in the wilderness, I call it my Zen Time. It is the same with the animals I encounter. It is their Zen Time. The past is gone, the future is unknown, we are only living in the present moment, a moment we are sharing together being part of the same environment and the same space. The mutual trust, the understanding that we are sharing this space with no threat, is shown by each of us.

Should this not be the way all of our lives are spent? Live in the moment; share our space and enjoy what we are seeing. The animals don’t speak my language, but they do speak my feelings. When you look inside yourself and find peace, you will find peace on the outside as well. I would like to celebrate the potential we all have to find peace within ourselves—and when finding that peace, being able to enjoy our Zen Time...the time of this present moment.
Solitude, sweet Solitude. What a sad reflection on human civilization when we have to feel guilty and make excuses why we want to practice solitude. Being alone has become suspect of the individual. We have to apologize or hide the fact like we are practicing some kind of vice. No...Solitude is not a vice. In fact, it is the only way to enlightenment...the way to find our true self. Celebrate solitude and the beauty we find in it.
"Most men lead lives of quiet desperation
and go to the grave with the song still in them."
— Henry David Thoreau

After talking to a few people with terminal illness, I found the same message from all.
"I wish I had done......." Why is it we wait until we are on our death bed to wish for the things we wanted to do and didn’t. If there is something on your "bucket list" don't wait. Don't be the person who said "I wish I had done...." Be the person to say "I have no regrets."
Celebrating life and living the dream, whatever it may be.
We are raised in joy, nurtured in love, deranged by pain, nurtured by love again. Thus we go on and I am grateful for the chance to live one more moment perfectly, and to live even one more day successfully....to give thanks.

I don't want to forget what has spilled into my body and what may be lost. It would cheapen the sunrise, it would hasten the night. And I will fight. I will fight for the strength within me to live. I will fight to keep the land whole. This is what we can learn from Niitsitapi. Our way must remain to war with words, to war without violence.

I only hope I can keep finding the funny bone among all the bones scattered on the Mountains. The funny bone is the only weapon that makes sense to me.
When we look at a stream or river, we see it as one entity even though it takes all the individual drops of water moving together to make the stream. If we were a leaf and fell into the stream, we would move with the water and we would also become a part of that stream. Even though we are not a drop of water, as a leaf we are still a part of the growing stream - an individual, but yet a part of the greatness. If we listen, we will hear. If we open our eyes, we will see. No more...no less...we are part of life. We think and worry over so many things we can do nothing about. Where our concerns should lie is in what we can do to help all living beings make a better world. That world may be a small piece of land or a river but we are all part of this - each of us doing something, as small as a droplet of water, which will eventually make the stream and then the river.

This is how I feel about Celebrate What's Right with the World. Every individual starting as a drop and together we are making a river of hope for so many that see no hope. I am so proud to be a part of this river where lives have been changed by showing all the positives that are all around us. Not only have I become a part of this group but I have found myself in a family that cares about each droplet. What a great family to be a part of. I have received so much encouragement and well wishes. I would be proud to have each and every one of you as my neighbor as we flow down the river of life. This is definitely a site that we should, all of us, be proud to be part of.
About Celebrate What’s Right with the World

Over 300,000 people have visited the Celebrate website since it went live 5 years ago. More than 10,000 people have ‘liked’ us on Facebook and more than 20,000 photographic celebrations have been posted!

Amazing! We have shared thousands of uplifting visual stories of joy and beauty, happiness and love.

For all of us who have been involved in the project, we see how much it has changed us. Not so much in an intellectual way, but rather in a deep and abiding emotional way. By seeing life as a celebration, by focusing on all we have to be thankful for, we find ourselves filling with gratitude. First, perhaps, for the big things in life. Now, more and more, for everything - every cloud, every tree, every person, every opportunity, every breath. Living life to the fullest is so much easier through the lens of celebration. Imagine what life would be like if everyone saw life that way.

Come to our sites and join the celebration!
The Celebrate Webpage

This is the webpage that gave rise to the Celebrate Facebook Page. It’s full of images, videos, blogs, and quotes that can help to make everyday a Celebration. We invite you to partake in every part of it. Enjoy!

(www.celebratewhatsright.com)

The Celebrate Themed Celebrations

This is the site where you can find more of our wonderful theme or artist-based PDF collections. Enjoy all of the collections, download the PDFs and share them with your friends and family.

(www.celebratewhatsright.com/theme-celebrations)

The Celebrate Facebook Page

This is the site that all of the images in this PDF come from. Please come visit and enjoy the hundreds of celebrations posted here, then post your own and join the celebration!