

NEWSLETTER

Daymen a Major Contributor in Saving the Grizzlies on the West Coast!

Supplier of photographic equipment makes large donation to Raincoast Conservation Foundation.

In a unique move to permanently end the commercial killing of animals in one of B.C.'s most pristine wilderness areas, the **Raincoast Conservation Foundation** has purchased the guide-outfitting rights to five hunting regions on the west coast. Over 1.3 million was spent to acquire the rights to an area which spans from the northern tip of Vancouver Island to Princess Royal Island, a land mass of over 20,000 square kilometers. The grizzlies, black bears, cougars, wolves, moose, deer and mountain goats which roam this region have often been killed as trophies for some hunters. They now will be free from such danger. 1

One of the largest **private** donations for this project was received from Uwe Mummenhoff and Michael Mayzel.

Mummenhoff is CEO and President and Mayzel is Executive Vice President of **Daymen**, owner of the **Lowepro** line of professional camera bags. **Lowepro** has been a long time supporter of environmental projects both nationally and internationally. They are well known for spearheading the **Spirit Bear Campaign** to save and protect this rare species of black bear with a unique "genetic anomaly" which gives it white fur. **Lowepro** has also supported other worthy projects such as The Conservation Alliance, The Valhalla Wilderness Society, Amazon Watch, Native Planet, and The Kamchatka Grizzlies of the Russian Far East. We at **Beau Photo** applaud Uwe and Michael for their generous donation and continued hard work to preserve B.C.'s precious and threatened wildlife.

Sources:

1 Nicholas Reid, Vancouver Sun,
December 13, 2005, p.A1&A12



PHOTO COURTESY OF Ian McAllister

**Want to help to save B.C.'s
precious marvel for
generations to come?**

Donations can be made to the **Raincoast Conservation Foundation**. Contact Robin Husband at mail@raincoastfoundation.org. Alternatively, send a check or money order made out to "**Raincoast**", to:

**Raincoast Conservation
Foundation**

PO Box 8663

Victoria B.C. Canada

V8W 3S2

Be sure to include your name and return address, and indicate if you would like a tax receipt. You can also visit there web site at www.raincoastfoundation.org

No smiles on Christmas morning?

Let us turn that frown upside down!

Didn't get what you wanted for Christmas? Then come in to Beau Photo and pick out something nice for yourself to make up for all those "not so nice presents" you received. You know that at Beau Photo, you can always find what you need and almost always find what you want. And to help you give yourself a bit more, we have extended our sales on select items until the end of January! That's extra savings on **Susis** trimmers, **Prat Brown Pampa** leather portfolios, **Epson P2000** and many others.



Ken

Product Sales & Purchasing

GOOD NEWS FROM TAP!

The ultra-popular (all black) Concord 46-3 Proof book is now available in 'XL! It comes set up for 330 4x6's, and will expand to a maximum of 420 prints. Stock has arrived!

To provide continuity with the new 'all black' look, we've expanded our folder selection to include **TAP's** black-foil-trimmed Buckeye 'Ebony' folders (priced the same as Aspen). Great value, new look!

But since there's only 'so much room' in our warehouse, we've decided to discontinue the Aspen folders, except as special orders.

Oh yes, that BOXING DAY SALE you keep asking me about? How about 10% off all in stock Aspen black/gold folders. Stock up now!

Barb

Album Sales

RENAISSANCE PRICE FREEZE

Renaissance Album prices will remain the same for 2006! In actuality Renaissance prices are increasing, however due to the strength of the Canadian dollar your price will remain the same as it was last year.

Ahh, but wait, there is more good news! Renaissance has a fresh look for the upcoming year. New cameos, new colours, new covers and new Flush Mount albums! More information to follow in February.

Deborah

Renaissance Albums

HI EVERYONE!

As some of you may know, certain **Agfa** items are difficult to get in, but we are still expecting more of these items in mid-January. There is plenty of 8x10 RC glossy and semi-matt, as well as APX 100 and 400 in 35mm, and APX 400 120 to go around for the new year.

In the meantime, there is **Ilford**, **Oriental**, and **Bergger** for all of your printing needs. In addition, you can still start the new year off right with all of the **Ilford**, **Kodak**, **Lucky**, **Efke**, **Bergger**, and **Fuji** black and white films!

Happy New Year everyone!

Crystal

Film and Paper Sales

RENTAL NEWS FOR THE MONTH.

So the holidays are almost over and it's back to normal life for all of us with no hope of a long weekend until at least April... but don't worry, there are a few things that can keep us entertained until then. The much anticipated **Nikon D200** has arrived, so if you're not on the list to buy one, you can still try it out. The D200 is a 10.2 megapixel camera with the newest in **Nikon** technology. The body comes with batteries, 2 cards, and a card reader for \$150/day. We also have a new monohead kit - the **Broncolor** Minicom 80 lights are 600ws heads, which are sturdy, and produce consistent light which is great for digital. The kit comes with 3 heads, 3 stands and 3 umbrellas and rents for \$110/day. If you're looking for something a little different to have some fun with, come in and talk to us about panoramic cameras, specialty lenses, or anything else you might need to get that creative project done. We wish everyone a great new year and hope to see all of you soon.

Kathy

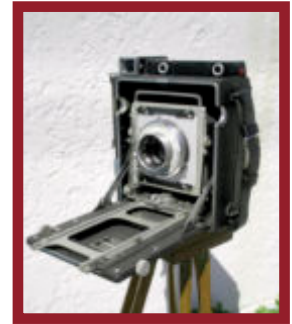
Rentals

News from “da back”

Happy New Year!

And what will 2006 brings us? Starting in February, PMA will be the show at which most suppliers will launch or announce their latest and greatest. Expect a whack of new digital products that will keep everyone scrambling to keep up!

In Nikon's world, the arrival of their highly anticipated D200 will keep their shooters happy for the next year or so as long as Nikon can supply enough of them! We will give you our full report in the new year but I can share a few observations that our digital geek, Mike, has made so far. Top of the list is good low-light and high-ISO performance, noticeably better than the D2x but perhaps not dramatically so. At first “glance”, the AF performance and accuracy seems very good, the auto-white-balance appears slightly improved over the D2x and the handling, controls and viewfinder are all top notch. The weather-seals on all the doors and flaps is reassuring and the shutter release inspires confidence with its speed and smooth and well-damped sound. This will be an absolutely ideal backup camera for someone who already has a D2x since it also shares almost the same control layout and menu system. If you want to have any chance of getting one of these in the next few months, you'd better call us ASAP and get your name of the list!



Chris

Pro Sales

DIGITAL NEWS

This month is essentially a follow-up to my article from the November newsletter, trying to answer the question “Is Apple's new Aperture software really the best reason yet to buy a Macintosh?” Well, the answer is not quite as easy as a simple yes or no. The best I can do for a short answer is “Maybe, depending on your workflow needs.” After testing Aperture extensively in the last few weeks, it does show huge promise in my opinion, and for a version 1.0 release it is surprisingly polished and well thought out. However for many pro photographers, I believe it still has a ways to go before it sees widespread adoption. There will be three sections to this review but since space on our newsletter is limited, the bulk of the review will be presented here in point form, just to give you a quick idea of where we're at with Aperture. For the full and detailed text of this review, please visit our website at www.beauphoto.com/aperturereview/ In order to help me clarify some of Apertures strengths and weaknesses, I will shamelessly borrow from the title of one of my favorite Sergio Leone films to head up the three sections in this review: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly..

The Good

Most people who have taken an interest in Aperture probably already know the good points, so I'll just touch on them here again... for detail, please see the complete article on our website. • On a reasonably fast machine, Aperture is every bit as smooth and fluid as the Apple videos show it to be on their website. • As a front-line editing tool or as a way of giving a slick presentation of photos to a client, it is a very well designed and thought out program. • In typical Apple fashion, the interface is well designed and does not get in your way. • Image stacks are a great way to sort images based on the time between consecutive images. Can be a real boon for portrait, wedding or fashion shooters. • The virtual light tables in Aperture can be a great way of choosing aesthetically pleasing groups of images for layouts or for comparing multiple shots and choosing the perfect version. • The Loupe tool with a capital 'L'... wow. Slick, effective and well thought out. Magnify any image, anywhere, anytime in Aperture's many user interface windows. • Colour rendering seemed quite good on all the different cameras I tried it with. Not necessarily matching other raw converters, but natural and pleasing. • Finally, we have good metadata editing and searching, non-destructive image editing with unlimited undo, a useful lift & stamp tool for choosing and applying edits from one image to many. I could go on...

The Bad

In this section, I mention things that need improvement, tweaking and so on, but that are not necessarily deal-breakers... those are discussed in the final section.

- The slick and fluid performance can degrade quite quickly on slower machines, when one is performing multiple actions or has a large number of edits attached to each image. The cloning or spotting tool is also a CPU hog and limited to the point of being only useful for very simple retouching tasks.
- Single processor machines seem to suffer from more slowdowns than the faster desktop dual or quads.
- Web galleries and journals, while clean and attractive, are lacking in customizability. For example, I could not find how one can change the font style or size even!
- No curves tool. Somewhat alleviated by having quarter and three-quarter tone sliders in the levels tool.
- The sharpening tool is weak and limited to only to a single application, so the common practice of using two or more sharpening steps at different radius settings is not really possible.
- Although this won't effect many, Aperture does not support all DNG files... for example DNG files shot with the new Hasselblad H2D digital back system will import as tiny little web-sized thumbnails, not in their full 22 million pixel glory.

The Ugly

This section details what I consider the real “deal breakers”, the reasons why many pros will probably want to pass by this version of Aperture and wait to see what the first update brings.

- Ugly raw conversions on some cameras, real ugly... possibly the worst I've seen from any raw converter in recent times, filled with de-mosaic artifacts and noise to the point of severely limiting post-sharpening. Not on all cameras though - some are surprisingly good (like the D2X), so your mileage will vary.
- There is no way of sending an original raw “master” directly to an external editor, only an Aperture processed TIF or PSD. If one could, this would help alleviate some of the severity of the above-mentioned ugly raw conversions. One can only export a master out of the Aperture library, process with your software of choice, and then re-import and link back to the original image set. Awkward and not what I would call workflow enhancing.
- Twitchy single pixel white-balance sampling tool – move the tool one pixel, click and get a whole different looking colour balance! Combine the single-pixel sample with an abundance of colour noise on some raw files and well, it is not a pretty picture. even if your photo is!
- No RGB or CMYK numeric colour value readouts. No kidding! So much for by-the-numbers prepress work.
- Lastly, Aperture also suffers from a variety of metadata import and export bugs, will often display inaccurate (but “nicely” smoothed) histograms, has marginal highlight-recovery during raw exposure adjustments, will sometimes shrink down your print size without warning (suddenly an 8x10 is a 7.something by 9.something) and occasionally has had “heart-stopping” crashes.

Anyway, although I could make many more points under all 3 categories, The Good, the Bad and The Ugly (just wanted to say that one more time), I think you probably get the picture by now. The program is, in many ways, very well thought out and has lots of potential, but it still has a way to go before I can whole-heartedly recommend it for true professional use. At this point, if you are willing to simply use it for initial editing and sorting of files, or want a slick presentation tool, and you've got a fast enough Mac to support it, Aperture might be a good choice and worth every penny. If you are a portrait or wedding photographer using a 10 Mp or higher digital SLR, generally shoot at low ISOs and do all your own printing at 16x20 or smaller, then Aperture could likely integrate quite well into your workflow, right from import, to image adjustment, to presentation and lastly to printing, even in its present incarnation. However for the critical commercial, stock, travel, landscape photographer, or anyone who values image quality above all else, I would suggest holding off until Apple corrects some of the more serious issues unless, of course, you are buying Aperture strictly for its image sorting and presentation abilities.

Here's wishing you a Happy and Successful New Year!

Mike Mander

Calendar

On going

The Catriona Jefferies Gallery is pleased to complete the 2005 season with an exhibition of new works by Christos Dikeakos. Domicile/drift is a selection of photographs that pictures several single-family homes, barricades and provisional dwelling places in Vancouver. Show runs from the 25th November, 2005 till the 16th January, 2006

www.catrionajefferies.com

Presentation House

Stephen Shore

Biographical Landscape:

The Photography of Stephen Shore, 1968 - 1993

November 12 – January 15/06

www.presentationhousegall.com

Up and coming

Adobe Photoshop Training

Software Cinema is proud to present Julienne Kost for a one day training camp. You won't want to miss this one!

Hilton Vancouver Airport

Monday January 16 9am-4pm /

[www.software-cinema.com/](http://www.software-cinema.com/view_live_camp_detail.php?camp_id=56&CS=a9805ef6fb7147d9b1c7b0619eacbb95)

[view_live_camp_detail.php?](http://www.software-cinema.com/view_live_camp_detail.php?camp_id=56&CS=a9805ef6fb7147d9b1c7b0619eacbb95)

[camp_id=56&CS=a9805ef6fb7147d9b1c7b0619eacbb95](http://www.software-cinema.com/view_live_camp_detail.php?camp_id=56&CS=a9805ef6fb7147d9b1c7b0619eacbb95)

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