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The Ultimate Fall Color Landscape Photography Workshop

in Michigan's Gorgeous Upper Peninsula

Instruction by John Gerlach and Dixie Calderone

Limited to 14 Participants

John Gerlach originated the fall color workshops here in 1988. Nobody knows this area's photo opportunities as well as he does.

October 3 – 9, 2021

October 10 – 16, 2021



Figure 1- On a dark cloudy morning, I liked the calm water and the yellows of the maple leaves, but it needed some sunlight to bring out the yellows. I waited for the sun to peak through a hole in the cloud deck, and when that did not happen, I made my own sun. This is a multiple exposure of two shots where I fired a flash that had a Full CTO gel filter over the flash to color the light emitted by the flash yellow. I backlit the leaves with one shot on the right, and then one shot on the left, and the camera combined both images to produce this. Learn how to make photos like this at the workshop.

Join John and Dixie to learn nature photography in the spectacular Upper Peninsula. Learn to photograph waterfalls, magnificent landscapes along the shores of Lake Superior, spectacular walls of

autumn color along the numerous lakes found here, and their fabulous colorful reflections. We make dawn and evening field trips each day Monday through Friday to productive places we have found over the 32 years of leading photo workshops here where photo subjects abound.

Field trips are led in the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, on private land, and in Hiawatha National Forest. The shorelines of numerous small lakes, waterfalls, and forest provide a wide array of wonderful natural subjects to photograph during October. On cool and calm mornings, we explore lake shorelines for exquisite color and their reflections. On cloudy mornings, we photograph nearby woodland waterfalls. On clear evenings, enjoy photographing gorgeous rocks formations along the Lake Superior shoreline and eventually sunset at the lake. And on a clear night, we will conduct a session of night sky photography!

This photo workshop is carefully planned to take you to special places where there are plenty of marvelous subjects to photograph. Learn how to select attractive photo prospects from the chaos of nature. We teach you how to shoot high-quality photos with cutting-edge photo techniques that anyone can master. We spend 100% of our time in the field helping you shoot photos with your photo gear. We do not shoot our own photos in the workshop except to demonstrate advanced photo techniques with our gear from time to time.

Key Photo Skills You'll Learn:

- Determine superb exposures for JPEG or RAW files quickly and easily
- Understanding the histogram and highlight alert
- The ease of full manual exposure
- When to use the powerful Auto ISO exposure mode
- Use a tripod properly
- Shoot the sharpest images possible on a tripod, or handheld when necessary
- Use live view for focus, exposure, and shooting the image
- Focus precisely using manual focus or autofocus
- Use flash for fill, main, and balanced light applications
- Shoot perfectly exposed and sharp close-ups every time
- Focus stack for the ultimate control over depth of field
- How to process a set of focus-stacked images, and stack them with Helicon Focus
- Use front, side, back, and reflected light to best advantage
- LED lights to improve your close-up images
- When and how to use the polarizing filter
- Compose powerful compositions
- Become an expert at using wide-angle lenses
- How to use mirrorless cameras more effectively



Figure 2 Dawn at Moccasin Lake. This is a 2-shot focus stack with flash. One shot is focused on the log and the second is focused on the trees in the background. For both shots, a flash is fired to light up the log in the foreground, and then the two images are combined with Helicon Focus software.

John and Dixie are avid photography instructors who do not hold anything back. We have no secrets. We share everything. We teach our workshops with the assumption that you want to become a super photographer because that makes photography more fun and rewarding. While we teach the ultimate photo skills you must master to shoot superb images, they are not hard, and everyone can learn them. The easiest participants to teach are beginners because they haven't acquired many poor photo habits. Advanced photographers learn new techniques for thinking "outside of the box" to easily render great photographic results. We teach everyone how to advance their photo skills by several notches.

To ensure that our instruction is complete, informative, and helpful, our group size is limited to 14 participants. That is a 1:7 instructor/student ratio. About 20% of the workshop is spent viewing instructional slide programs that are carefully put together to teach you the most.



Figure 3- A small spring bubbles out of the ground. This is a 12-shot focus stack to capture sharp leaves throughout the scene.

Image Review

We have a spirited showing Friday night of the best images participants shoot during the week. Please give ten images to Dixie on a jump drive to add to the program. We also view ten of your images brought from home during the middle of the week. Sharing images is optional, of course, but this is an excellent way for everyone to see what appeals to you.

Instructor Programs Presented

At noon on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and Friday, John presents digital image programs that teach:

Monday – Digital Exposure

Tuesday – Close-up Photography

Wednesday – Outdoor Flash Photography

Thursday – View Participant Photos brought from home

Friday – Wildlife Photography Techniques

Friday evening – View Participant Photos shot during the week

Special Demonstrations to be fit into Schedule

Participating in our nature photography workshop is the perfect way to tremendously improve your nature photography skills and learn about nature while enjoying the beautiful outdoors. We teach photography with great passion and enjoy it immensely.



Hand- holding the camera and moving it slowly during a long ½ second exposure produces a pleasing blur of fall colors in the white birch forest.



Figure 4 Scott Falls is especially photogenic when the wind blows new autumn leaves into the pool at its base.



Figure 5 The meadows are loaded with maple trees in their autumn glory.

The Workshop Schedule

We believe in taking our field trips at the times when photo conditions are best. Therefore, we lead morning field trips that begin ½ hour before sunrise and stay out till about 10 a.m. Don't worry. Getting up for our early morning field trips is easy. Our workshop takes place on the far western edge of the Eastern Time Zone, so sunrise is about 8 a.m. Our morning departure time is about 7:20 a.m.

Evening field trips begin 3 hours before sunset and we always stay out for sunset if weather permits.

All prime times (morning and evening) for excellent light and photos are reserved for field trips. We conduct our instructional programs that cover flash, exposure, close-ups, and wildlife during the middle of the day when photo conditions tend to be less favorable.

About Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Pictured Rocks is named for the colorful rocks and towering cliffs along the southern Lake Superior shoreline between Munising and Grand Marais. The entire area is a photographer's paradise. The land is a mixture of beech-maple and conifer forests, clear meandering creeks, quiet beaver ponds, undeveloped Lake Superior shorelines, twenty charming waterfalls, and hundreds of small, secluded lakes that light up with colorful reflections. Since this area is sparsely populated, it's a land of unspoiled beauty that abounds with wildlife.

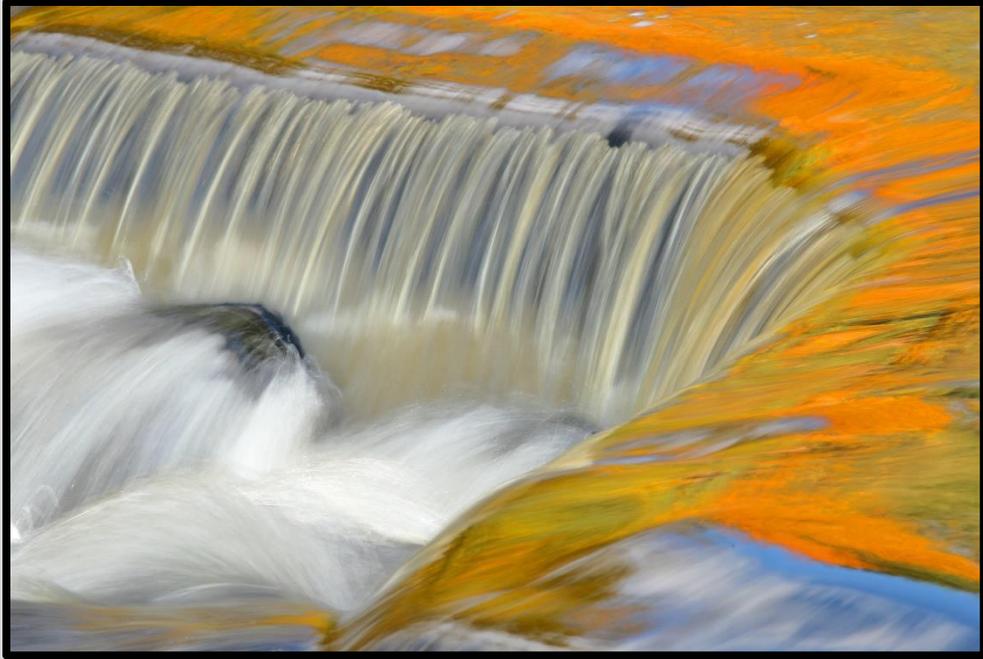


Figure 6 We always look for colored reflections in the rivers.

Field Trips

These are about 3 hours long to allow you time to shoot numerous photos. We'll lead one all-afternoon field trip to distant areas of Pictured Rocks by boat on Lake Superior to photograph the incredible colored rocks of the 100-foot high cliffs, but only if the lake is calm. Weather always dictates what is possible. John has led more than 80 week-long autumn color photo workshops here over the years. He knows where to take you for productive photography no matter what the weather conditions are. Since field trip destinations are determined by prevailing weather conditions, a "set in stone" daily scheduled is not possible. John decides the field trip destination 5 minutes before we leave, and that works perfectly. From years of leading photo workshops here, he has dozens of choice photo locations and simply matches them up a photo site with the weather conditions.

Transportation

Most of our participants drive to the workshop, so we always have plenty of vehicles. Those who fly in can rent a car or take a taxi to the hotel and join someone else in a carpool. We carpool on each field trip. Clients prefer carpooling because they can leave much of their gear in the vehicle.

Viewing your Digital Images

We use a high-resolution TV to view the images brought from home and shot in the workshop. Load the images to share on a jump drive and give them to Dixie.

Working on Your Images

Most clients bring a laptop computer and download images to the computer or external hard drive. If you have several large capacity memory cards for your camera, you can leave them on the cards.



Figure 7 - Elliott Falls on Miner's Beach – A flashlight lights the falls. Green northern lights are flickering in the North sky, and I double-exposed the full moon into the scene two nights later. We always visit this waterfall during the Michigan workshops.

Meals

Weather determines where and when we lead field trips. Meals must be worked in around photography. We eat a group breakfast after the morning field trip in Munising, usually at the Falling Rock Cafe. All other meals depend on our daily schedule and that varies due to weather. By the way, the Timber Ridge Lodge has a full kitchen and the Timber Ridge Motel rooms have a microwave ovens and refrigerators.

Usually we eat a late breakfast around 10:00 a.m. Most participants eat a snack before we depart in the morning or take something with them. The real breakfast happens in late morning. As a result, nobody is hungry around noon, so John conducts teaching programs at 1pm. Many then eat an early dinner/lunch about 4 p.m. just before we head out for the evening field trip that can last till 8 p.m. if the sunset is promising. We always work in eating around shooting beautiful photos, not the other way around.



Figure 8 Even with some light clouds in the western sky, Pete's Lake is a colorful scene during peak color at dawn.

Farewell Dinner Friday Evening

John and Dixie provide you with a pizza dinner that includes salad and ice cream. Then we view your images made during the week. Limit the images to ten per person. Eating a wonderful meal together and viewing the images you shot this week is a wonderful way to crown such a busy and productive week. And this is our treat as John and Dixie are picking up the tab!

Non-photographer Spouse/Friend

If space permits, a few non-photographer spouses or friends who don't shoot photos can attend the program for \$150. Non-participants (that means they don't shoot photos) may attend the programs and go on in the field trips. And the \$150 fee covers the Friday night pizza dinner and the user fees for Hiawatha National Forest and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

2021

Week #1

The week begins Sunday evening at 7 p.m. at the Timber Ridge Lodge on Oct. 3 and ends Saturday morning on Oct. 9.

Week #2

The week begins Sunday evening at 7 p.m. at the Timber Ridge Lodge on Oct. 10 and ends Saturday morning on Oct. 16.

If the weather is favorable, we lead a dawn field trip Saturday morning for those who have time to participate, and then eat breakfast.



Figure 9 Laughing Whitefish Falls at the peak of autumn color. John discovered this small viewpoint decades ago, and it is not easy to find, but easy to reach when we lead you there.

Tuition

Tuition is \$1050. A \$200 non-refundable deposit is required to hold your space in the workshop. Tuition includes all classroom and field instruction, detailed digital notes, national park and forest user fees, and the Friday night dinner. Meals, lodging, boat ride to photograph the Pictured Rocks (weather dependent), and personal items are **NOT** included.

Sending Payment

Once we let you know space is available in the workshop, please send the \$200 deposit or the full payment of \$1050 to:

**John Gerlach
PO Box 318
Island Park, ID 83429**

Make the check payable to **Gerlach Nature Photography**

Lodging

Our base is the Timber Ridge Motel and Lodge that is nestled among the hills and lakes in the heart of Hiawatha National Forest. The lodge is on the shore of Hovey Lake and the motel overlooks the lake. This location is the perfect place to begin our field trips as it is centrally located, and most destinations are close.

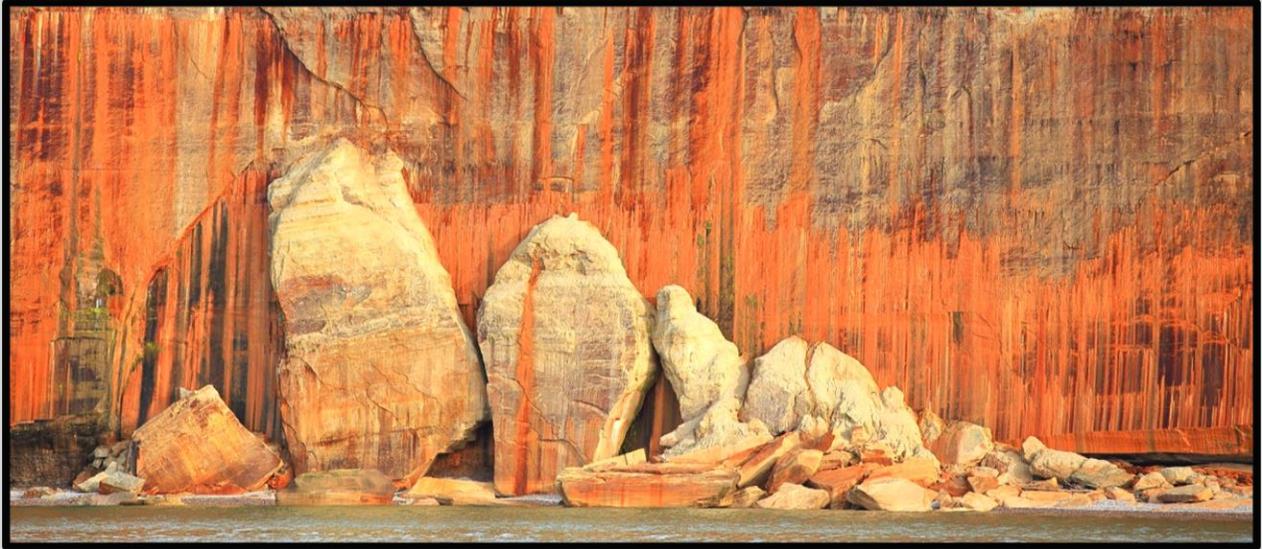


Figure 10 The Lake Superior shoreline along Pictured Rocks from the tour boat we hope to take. We won't take that tour if a north wind is blowing as the lake is far too rough.

Timber Ridge Lodge

2021 Prices for Rooming at the Lodge

The lodge has two bedrooms upstairs and each room has two queen beds. A bathroom is shared between the two rooms. Participants staying at the lodge have access to the rest of the home and full kitchen. The workshop meeting room is here too, so you won't miss a program and you get to use all the space when the group isn't meeting and that is most of the time. This is a relaxing place to stay, and it is on the shores of Hovey Lake. The house is reserved for non-smoking participants. John and Dixie live in the basement of the home where we have our own facilities. Everyone loves the space provided by the lodge.

(Note: these are 2020 prices. Mike said they might raise the price by \$5 in 2021.) These accommodations are wonderful. Due to tourist demand, all other hotels in Munising are far more expensive and not nearly as nice!

Private Room

\$300, plus tax for six nights.

\$330, Two people in one room

We rent the two upstairs rooms to participants. At most, we only allow 3 clients living at the house to provide plenty of space for everyone.

Timber Ridge Motel

This motel has nine rooms, each with private bathroom, microwave, refrigerator, coffee maker, a deck overlooking the lake, TV, and Internet. The motel and lodge are very well-maintained! Visa, MasterCard, Discover, traveler's checks, and cash are accepted.

Single Person: \$84 per night plus tax.

Two People and 1 bed per Room: \$89 per night plus tax.

Two People and 2 beds per room: \$94 per night plus tax.

Timber Ridge Motel and Lodge Contact Info:

Mike and Mary Sue Nolan
Timber Ridge Motel
(HCR 1), Box 52
Munising, MI 49862
(906) 387-3790

Camping options!

Otter Lake Campground

The best choice for anyone wishing to camp or stay in their recreational vehicle. Cost depends on the exact site, but most sites are \$30 per night. The campground is 1 mile from the Timber Ridge Lodge. Make reservations by calling (906) 387-4648. <http://playatotterlake.com/rates/>

Otter Lake Campground (906) 387-4648

Reservations (855) 723-3662

Otter Lake Campground
E 7609 Otter Lake Road
Munising, MI 49862

Travel and Equipment Information

After making a reservation, we will send pre-departure information describing the photo equipment and clothing that is most suitable for the workshop. We will send you a detailed map showing how to get to the Timber Ridge Lodge and Motel.

Getting to the Workshop

Since most drive to the workshop, we rely on carpooling to transfer everyone to the field trip sites. You can fly into K.I. Sawyer Airport south of Marquette, MI. That is about 40 miles from the Timber Ridge. Car rentals are available at the airport. We suggest renting a car because it is useful to have your own wheels. If you prefer to share a rented car with another participant, let us know and we will connect all interested parties. All the roads we drive on are suitable for any vehicle.

To Reserve Your Spot

Contact John Gerlach or Dixie Calderone by phone or email. Dixie is happy to get your phone call too. We can then let you know if space is available.

johngerlachphotography@gmail.com

Dixie (812) 350-0799



Figure 11 The famous white birch forest in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. It looks like this for about five days in mid-October. Best photo conditions are bright overcast and no breeze!

Seven reasons to attend this photo workshop with John and Dixie!

1. John Gerlach pioneered the fall color photography workshops around Munising over three decades ago. Nobody knows the fall color hot spots in this area as well as John.
2. John and Dixie are enthusiastic photo instructors who teach cutting-edge photo techniques.
3. John and Dixie present numerous teaching programs during the middle of the day when photography conditions are less favorable.
4. John is a former professional wildlife biologist in the state of Michigan, and he will teach you a lot about the natural history here.

5. Both John and Dixie are fun to be around. Everyone loves being with us!!!!
6. We know you won't remember everything we say about photo techniques. Therefore, more than 100 pages of notes are emailed to all participants.
7. The secret is getting out. Even the national press is now saying, "the Upper Peninsula of Michigan has the best fall color anywhere." We knew that decades ago!



Figure 12 A tiny sample of the subjects we find when the autumn leaves turn ablaze in northern Michigan during October! These subjects are perfect for developing your landscape photography skills!