

Images by Davenport

Volume 1



Front Cover:

The Plunge – Lake Clark National Park, Alaska – September 2, 2014 – Photographed by Keith Davenport

Silver Salmon Creek flows directly into the Cook Inlet and photographing the grizzly bears during the salmon run is incredible. The bears eyes are naturally polarized, so they often stand up to view what they hope will be their next meal. Then their huge bodies catapult with such force that it causes an enormous splash. We gained a lot of respect for how hard the bears work to catch a fish, often spending hours at a time with little or no success.

Nikon D4s
1/2000 sec at f/9.0
ISO 800
Nikon 600 f/4.0



KEEPING IT REAL . . .

All our photographs are taken with the subjects in their natural habitat and without disturbing their normal activities. We respect the subjects needs and their environment. We give them all the room and time they need to feel comfortable with our presence in their domain.

ABOUT US . . .

In 1997 we discovered a mutual love for the outdoors and nature that allowed us to develop our photography together. Keith loves the eyeball shots and close ups, so he handles the big lens. Wanda prefers to capture the critters in their natural surroundings. Together, their work complements each other.

SHARE THE LOVE . . .

Our photography has become a way for us to share our love of nature and wildlife with others who appreciate the beauty of the world that we all live in. We hope that you enjoy reading the stories behind how we captured these images. As you will see, there were some peaceful moments and some very exciting experiences.



Thank you,
Keith & Wanda Davenport
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Silver Salmon Lake, Alaska, Sept. 2014

USA 25

WELCOME TO IMAGES BY DAVENPORT

Our goal is to capture the essence of the beauty of the world so that others may experience the miracles of nature that we have experienced. Look through our gallery to see:

- ◆ The mother and father bald eagles as they nurture their eaglet.
- ◆ The expressions on the faces of the grizzly bears in Alaska.
- ◆ The moose as they race through the snow in the Grand Teton's.
- ◆ The light at the base of El Capitan as a snow storm moves through Yosemite valley.
- ◆ The morning light on Moulton's Barn in the Grand Teton's.
- ◆ The fresh snow on the roof tops of buildings on the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, which is our home.

Please join us in celebrating the world we live in.

We find immense joy in sharing our stories and images at art shows and festivals. Visit www.imagesbydavenport.com for a calendar of events and to view more landscapes, mammals and birds in our gallery. Please contact us for sizes, prices, and printing options.

Retina Scan – Lake Clark National Park, Alaska – July 12, 2007 – Photographed by Keith Davenport

This brown bear (also known as a grizzly bear) saw us, and we saw her, about a half mile away. Bears are like many animals as they are grazing, they generally continue to travel in the same direction. We decided to set up along this slew and see how far she would come. She was eating the goose tongue grass which is high in protein and a stable part of a bear's diet along the coast.

We photographed her, periodically for the entire four hours that we waited. She finally came down into the slew in front of us and took a drink. We stayed calm and silent. The only sound was the clicking of the cameras. We have photos of the water dripping off her lips, then she came up on our side of the bank. When you are behind the lens of the camera, you know that she must be close, but you don't realize how close until it's over. We are with a guide when we photograph bears, so we knew that he would tell us if we were in danger. As the bear walked past us, she just gave us the eye (click, click) and kept on walking.

We know she must have been about 20 feet away because the lens that Keith was using will only close focus to 18 feet and he had trouble with the lens not wanting to focus. We were with five other photographers and since Keith had the biggest lens, one of them said, "Keith, you must be getting a retina scan." Hence the name of the photo. Retina Scan.

Nikon D2x
1/640 sec at f/5.0
ISO 400
Nikon 600mm f/4.0



Mothers Love – Custer State Park, South Dakota – May 7, 2006 – Photographed by
Keith Davenport

This trip to South Dakota was planned to specifically find and photograph bison calves. Research showed that the first two weeks of May was the best time for calving in this area, and it was perfect. Lots of pregnant cows, great weather, full sun and an ideal temperature. Most of the calves were only a week or two old and fun to watch as they bounced and played.

After the breeding season, the adult male bison (bulls) do not participate in raising the young. They are off doing their own thing. The females (cows) and adolescent bison stay close to eat and roam as a group. It was fascinating to watch, every time we stopped to photograph a herd, the youth would form a straight line of protection between us and the cows and calves. At one of the larger herds, there were about 15 bison all lined up on defense. They stood at attention and stared like they were ready to charge if needed. We were careful to not give them a reason to. What a wonderful protective instinct they have built into their existence.

At Custer State Park there are many back roads that weave in and out of the country side between the rolling prairies and hills with large pine trees. We were there for five days on this trip with many wonderful shots, but this one is special. The lesson on this image is to stay focused on the subject in the lens. Don't stop and chimp (look at the back of your camera) to see what you have, there is time for that later. Have patience and be ready with your finger on the shutter release and your eye in the lens or you will miss the shot. Mothers Love.

Nikon D2H
1/400 sec at f/5.6
ISO 100
Nikon 600mm lens



Winter Wander – Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming – December 25, 2010 – Photographed by Wanda Davenport

We love to travel to the Tetons in northwest Wyoming in the winter because most travelers to the mountains are up on the ski slopes which leaves the park to us. It was a cold Christmas morning as we drove from Jackson Hole up into the park. The frost kept getting prettier and heavier the further north we went. We pulled over at our normal spot to get camera gear out and ready for the day. Wanda was prepared so she started photographing the scenery. The air was crisp and clean with a little fog on the distant hill. The sun was just starting to poke through the clouds and the hoar frost was thick and gleaming. It was a silent, peaceful time photograph the beauty of this place.

Suddenly, this moose comes up from the river. With excitement Wanda went about capturing this moment and took a burst of shots. The moose only walked about 30 yards, and then he went right back down into the river.

When reviewing the images that night, Wanda realized that she had captured a gift. This image was the only one that revealed his antlers, his beard, and you can tell that he was just wandering around. Winter Wander.

Nikon D3Xs

1/320 sec at f/9.0

ISO 200

70mm (Nikon 24.0 – 70.0 f/2.8)



Great Horned Owl – Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming – December 26, 2016 –
Photographed by Keith Davenport

It was a cloudy, windy morning with grey skies and predictions for more snow. With excitement we drove to our favorite photography area to see what we could find. The day before we found a large herd of bison and spent many hours photographing them. But this morning, we couldn't find anything, so we headed back toward town.

Driving along the road we spied something in the tree. It was round and larger than the other birds in that area. Could it be an owl? It's unusual to see an owl during the day, since they are nocturnal creatures. But there he was, a great horned owl, sleeping in the trees. It was difficult to get a clean shot of him, due to all the branches and the wind, so after an hour and a half we continued back to Jackson Hole for lunch.

He was still in the same tree when we returned, but we still couldn't capture a great shot, so we continued our search for other critters. With nothing to be found we traveled back to the owl. At first, we were disappointed, as he was not in the same tree. Then with delight, we spied him about 30 yards away with a better view, but he was still sleeping. His new perch by the tree trunk gave him more protection from the wind, but you can tell that the wind was still howling. As we waited and watched, we noticed when there were noises along the road, his eyes would open giving us a clean shot. We spent two and a half hours waiting to see that glint of gold in his eyes, and we were not disappointed. The Great Horned Owl.

Nikon D4s

1/1000 sec at f/7.1

ISO 640

Nikon 600mm (600mm f/4.0)



The Otter Family – December 26, 2013 – Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming –
Photographed by Keith Davenport

The morning air was fresh with a winter temperature that was still tolerable. Oxbow bend is an area where we often find moose, so that's what we were looking for. We stopped along this pull-off to take a closer look at Mount Moran and the frozen Snake River. But instead of a moose at the edge of the bank, we found a large lodge of river otters around a hole in the ice.

Eight of them were taking turns diving in and out of the river looking for their next meal. Some were better than others at catching fish, and it was fun to watch. We found it intriguing that the first thing they did when they brought a fish up on the ice, was to bite the tail off. We photographed them about two hours when we noticed this pattern, if the fish falls back into the water, it won't swim away – ingenious.

The otter eating the fish in this photograph was smaller and the fish was given to him. So, we presume that this is a mother, father, and pup. The Otter Family.

Nikon D3X
1/1250 sec at f/9.0
ISO 320
Nikon 600mm f/4.0



Firefall at Horsetail Falls – Yosemite National Park – February 16, 2007 – Photographed by Wanda Davenport

This sunset on a waterfall in Yosemite National Park is a natural phenomenon. The last two weeks of February is the only time that the sun sets at the right latitude to concentrate its evening light on Horsetail Falls. Horsetail Falls is not creek or spring fed; therefore it only has water during the snow melt. (The wet granite is necessary to increase the reflection of the light which is part of the colorful brilliance.) So, there must be snow on the mountain in the winter; yet warm enough on these days to melt the snow; no clouds in the sky during sunset; and the middle to the end of February.

We were only there for three sunsets. The first night it was raining so it didn't happen. The second day was warm and beautiful with lots of sunshine, so we set up early with high hopes of beautiful color. However, a cloud came through at the end, diminishing the light on the waterfall. The third day was partly cloudy, but we anxiously awaited. It was 3:30 in the afternoon before it was warm enough to start melting the snow and wet the face of the grey cliff. For over two hours, we patiently waited and wondered where on this lifeless grey rock to point the camera. Then at approximately 5:30 PM it started to gain a glow. We quickly composed, checked the camera settings, and started shooting. It only lasted about 10 minutes and this shot was taken at 5:36. We were inspired and almost breathless at what nature had just shown us. The Firefall at Horsetail Falls.

Nikon D2Xs

1/10 sec at f/8.0

ISO 160

140mm (Nikon 70-200mm f/2.8)



Three Little Bears in the Clam Bed – Lake Clark National Park, Alaska – July 14, 2011 – Photographed by Keith Davenport

It was low tide on the western edge of the Cook Inlet, so we went to the shore to look for clamming bears. We discovered a female bear (sow) and three cubs in one of the clam beds and slowly approached by walking the ocean floor about a half mile. We wanted to get the sun at our back and give momma bear plenty of time to understand that we were not there to bother her or the cubs. These spring cubs were intently watching her dig a hole in the sand and reach shoulder deep into the hole, with hopes of pulling up a clam. When she broke open the shell to eat the razor clam, they were determined to discover what mom thought was so good. Their little faces were licking and smelling to learn what to eat. That's why there is mud and sand all over their faces.

We had been photographing mom and these cubs for over an hour when the cubs decided to walk toward the shore. They were probably hungry and wanted to nurse. They only went about 15 yards when they stopped and looked back at mom, who was still eating. You could tell that they were trying to decide what to do. After a few minutes, they walked another 15 yards and stopped again. Mom was hungry and needed as much nourishment as she could get, to keep up her milk to feed the three cubs. She continued to clam. This photo was taken after their third jaunt away from mom. The look their faces tells the story. They were in shock that she wasn't coming. They must have been thinking, "Why isn't she following us? I wonder how long she is going to stay there? What if she doesn't come?" But they patiently waited in that same spot for about 20 minutes before mom relented and took them back to the beach – most likely to nurse.

There is a sense of wonderment and awe that comes from seeing other creatures express similar emotions and intent as humans. The mother bear getting the nutrition she needs to feed these little guys, and the precious looks on the faces. Three Little Bears in the Clam Bed.

Nikon D3
1/1000 sec at f/9.0
ISO 800
Nikon 600mm f/4.0



Polar Bear Brawl – Churchill, Manitoba Canada – November 10, 2012 – Photographed by Wanda Davenport

The polar bears' preferred meal are seals. Seals live on and under the ice, so polar bears look forward to the winter season when their favorite meal is available. Early November is when the ice starts to accumulate along the Hudson Bay so that is the best time to view polar bears.

Churchill, Canada is often referred to as the polar bear capital of the world. The land-mass where Churchill is located protrudes into the Hudson Bay. The natural flow of the water causes the ice to dam up in that location first and the bears have learned that this is the place to start their foraging.

These two polar bears were play fighting. They really weren't trying to hurt each other so it was fun to watch. We think of it like pre-season football. They are just warming up – getting ready for the winter eating frenzy. They went at it, off and on for about 15 minutes. Then they laid down to rest and save their energy for the real fight later, on the ice. Polar Bear Brawl.

Nikon D3Xs

1/000 sec at f/5.6

ISO 200

Nikon 300mm f/2.8



Polar Bear Just Resting – Churchill, Manitoba Canada – November 10, 2012 –
Photographed by Keith Davenport

We had photographed grizzly bears in Alaska four times prior to going to Churchill. So, we knew that polar bears were bigger, but we didn't realize how much bigger until we saw them. There is another significant difference between grizzly bears and polar bears. Grizzly bears will kill you if they feel threatened, but they don't necessarily want to. Polar bears WANT TO KILL YOU. You must be in an enclosure to safely view polar bears – hence the Tundra Buggy. The Tundra Buggy is like a school bus on steroids. The buggy deck is about 10 feet off the ground, so that if a bear stands up along the side of the vehicle (which they often do), we are still safe.

It was 25 degrees below zero and that didn't factor in the wind chill. We knew how to dress for the cold weather, so it didn't hinder our time photographing from the back deck of the Tundra Buggy.

We found this guy just resting behind some bushes. You can tell that he had dug himself a wonderful place to take a break and was quite comfortable. The wind was howling and blowing the snow so hard that it would sting when it hit your face. Notice the little hollow spot in the snow he had burrowed to protect his face from the blowing snow. Nature has prepared these creatures to survive the blustery weather. Just Resting.

Nikon D3X
1/1600 sec at f/7.1
ISO 400
Nikon 600mm f/4.0





Moose Head On – Grand Teton National Park – December 30, 2004 – Photographed by Keith Dav-enport

There were still some snowflakes drifting down on this beautiful winter morning. It had snowed the night before and the white fluff was still laying on the trees. At the Willow Flats pull off, Keith spied a moose down in the willows and said that he was going to photograph him. Wanda went another direction to capture the beauty of the fresh snow.

The snow was about seven inches deep, so Keith didn't think he needed his snow shoes. When he got to a safe distance to photograph the moose, he heard a noise just behind him in the willows. In his quest to capture the big bull (male) moose with his large rack, he forgot to check his surroundings and scared up a cow (female) and a calf. He found himself right in between the three of them. The calf started bawling and the cow and bull went on high alert and were getting anxious. Keith started talking to them softly and calmly. (We learned this from our bear guides in Alaska.) Once they all calmed down a little, Keith began to back up to leave the way he came, but the cow started grazing on the willows and coming toward him, which would position him even closer to the calf. Keith made the decision to push straight past the bull to get out of harm's way. Wanda came back to the ridge and saw the predicament that Keith was in. She immediately pushed "91" on her cell phone, praying that she didn't have to push the other "1".

Keith is now in knee-deep snow (remember now snow shoes) so the walk was extremely difficult with the heavy camera, lens and tripod and he still hadn't taken a photograph. After a safe distance had been reached, he decided to try a shot of the bull moose. Setting his tripod down and turning – the bull became excited again and took one step forward. Keith picked up his gear and speaking softly, took two steps backward. The moose was showing his authority and Keith was showing his submission. They went back and forth a couple of times like this before Keith took this shot and knew it was time to leave.

You can see in the photo that his ears are pinned back, and his eyes are red – he was not happy! The color the winter willows and the soft snow blowing in the foreground completes the scene. This was the closest we have come to being in danger with any critter. Moose Head On.

Nikon D2H
1/125 sec at f/10
ISO 200
Nikon 600mm f/4.0



Standing Strong – Homer, Alaska – July 6, 2009 – Photographed by Keith Davenport

After a full day of photographing eagles along the Kenai Peninsula we were relaxing in our room. Our motel in Homer was only 30 yards from the beach and had a beautiful view of the mountains on the other side of the Kachemak Bay. We were proofing images when from the window, Keith spied this eagle sitting on a rock as the tide was going out. Summer in Alaska has between 18 and 22 hours of sunlight each day. The sun was getting low, but there was still enough light to shoot.

As the tide continued to lower it created a sand bar that Keith could follow to slowly approach. The eagle was watching and waiting for fish to get washed up as the water receded. That would be an easy dinner for him, but to no avail. It took an hour and a half to get this close. This shot was full frame with the lens that Keith was shooting. He knew that he got the shot he wanted and slowly retraced his steps back to the room. The eagle continued to sit on that same rock until we retired for the evening.

This shot was taken at 11:00 PM. The warm colors in the background were the soft tones of dusk as the sun was setting. The bald eagle has been our national bird of the United States of America since 1782, and he was standing strong and proud. Standing Strong.

Nikon D3

1/160 sec at f/5.6

ISO 250

850mm (Nikon 600mm f/4.0)



Total Solar Eclipse – August 21, 2017 – Lathrop, Missouri – Photographed by Keith Davenport

The anticipation of this total solar eclipse across the United States was exhilarating. So many things to do and decisions to make in preparation for the event. One by one we check them off our list:

- Location – Our friends had a farm just east of Lathrop, Missouri that was directly on the totality line. No lights to distract during totality.
- Protection for the camera and gear – We had to make our own solar filter from large sheets of the solar protective film. Then figured out how to attach it to the lens hood so it can be easily removed and replaced during the 2 minutes and 38 seconds of total darkness. This also required some practice.
- Camera settings – During the partial and the total eclipse, the camera settings were completely different. ISO, f-stop, bracketing settings all had to be changed during total darkness.

After an hour of set up, we started taking test shots of the sun to make sure our position, focus and focal length was correct. Then, it started to rain. Hurriedly we got the gear under the tent and worked to keep the equipment dry. The wind and rain continued when the partial eclipse started around 11:30 but with disappointment all we could do was watch and wait. When the rain finally subsided, the partial eclipse shot on the left was our first image. In awe, we continued to shoot even with the stress of the clouds and rain.

At our location we had less than three minutes of totality, and so many unusual things happened during that brief time. It was dark, like dusk or dawn but the glow was in all directions not just east or west. The geese on the pond started honking; the horses were whinnying; the goats at the farm were on top of the shed and making all kinds of noise. Even the air smelled fresh and different. BUT, the clouds were in the way! We were only able to visualize the totality for 15 seconds because of the cloud cover.

The euphoria escalated while proofing the images that night, because we captured the Baily's beads (the glow on the left and the red flares along the right) on the center totality shot. Keith stitched these seven photos together to show what nature has to offer. As a finished piece, the clouds exhibit the reality of the event. The Total Solar Eclipse.

Nikon D4s

1/1600 sec at f/8.0

ISO 500

Nikon 600mm f/4.0



Total Solar Eclipse
August 21, 2017

Back Cover:

Bear Paws in the Mud – Lake Clark National Park, Alaska – September 2, 2014 –
Photographed by Keith Davenport

In all forms of art, it is often important to pre-visualize what you want to create. Prior to this trip to Alaska, we had envisioned paw prints in the sand.

On this sunny afternoon, the bears we found we all napping, so while Wanda was photographing flowers, Keith found these prints in the mud. The back paw is much larger and has a heel much like humans, to provide balance when standing up. They stand up often to see at a distance and while fishing. The front paw just has a pad much like our hand. The claws went so deep into the mud it makes this photograph appear almost three-dimensional.

Nikon D3
1/200 sec at f/1.4
ISO 200
Nikon 50mm f/1.4



Two large animal tracks are visible in the mud. The track on the left is a single, large, somewhat rectangular impression with a textured, cracked surface. The track on the right is a larger, more complex impression with several distinct, deep claw marks along its top edge. The mud is a mix of grey and brownish-orange colors, with some cracks and small debris scattered around the tracks.

Images
B4 Davenport