

Wild In The Hole

Jerry Grasso



Welcome to my ***Through My Eyes!*** coverage of some amazing locations my wife Jayne and I have visited around the world. Some are iconic while the majority of the images presented here require a more intimate exploration of the location. This particular ebook is devoted to our travels through the the Grand Tetons and Jockson Hole, Wyoming. My goal is not to present a definitive study of this location, but rather to provide hopefully a tantalizing glimpse to peak your interest! You may find that these images are not just your typical iconic scenes, but also contain some rather different ones as well.

Jayne and I traveled to [Jackson Hole](#), Wyoming, for an off-season getaway to photograph the Spring wildlife [migrations](#) in Grand Teton National Park.

During this trip, we were blessed to experience [wildlife](#) like we never had seen before. We had seen some “wild” life in our travels over the years, but nothing for us compared to what we experienced in [Jackson Hole](#). This truly is a special, [wild place](#), and one of the last remaining places of its kind in the country. As a result, I put together this book in an attempt to convey my feeling of awe. In addition to the legendary scenery of the [Grand Tetons](#), I also tried to include a variety of the amazing animals and birds we saw.

When Jayne and I arrived in [Jackson Hole](#) at the beginning of April, we discovered, much to our dismay, that most of the park roads leading into [Grand Teton National Park](#), as well as Yellowstone, were closed for the annual maintenance. I expected Yellowstone and the main [Grand Teton access to be closed](#), but the minor access points were closed as well. We had planned on doing some hiking in an attempt to get off the beaten path and explore some wildlife on our own. Instead, we were forced to rely upon the research I had done prior to the trip. I had mapped out the locations I wanted to explore in terms of landscapes and wildlife. Once we arrived there, the first thing we did was stop at the Visitor Center. The knowledgeable and helpful staff gave us excellent location suggestions as well as maps to get us there. Sometimes it is good to have Plan B!

Explore the many informational hyperlinks included within the ebook!

Any image found within this book or on my website is available as a print purchase. Just email me at jerrygrasso96@yahoo.com, or visit my website at jerrygrasso.com.

Enjoy life!





[The Miller Cabin](#)

The [National Elk Refuge](#) was established in 1912 from nearly 2,000 acres of Miller's land, and was administered from the house adjoining Miller's cabin.



[Jackson Hole Mountain Resort](#)



The [osprey](#)















The Tetons and the [Snake River](#)







[Jackson Lake](#)





[J.P. Cunningham Cabin](#)

According to historical accounts, [John Pierce Cunningham](#) was one of the first homesteaders in Jackson Hole, arriving in 1885 from New York. Reports vary, but most claim that he hunted and trapped for a few years before finding a wife and settling down in 1888. In 1888-1889 John and his wife Margaret built a modest cabin, which still stands today. By 1895, the cabin was used as a barn and as a blacksmith shop.¹⁸







Sheep Mountain is better known as [Sleeping Indian](#) because the mountain forms the façade of a headdress and nose.



The highlight of our visit to Jackson Hole was getting to photograph the [grizzlies](#) in the wild. Late morning we drove to the Oxbow Bend area of the park. While driving by one of the hills there, I spotted movement on the distant downslope. By pure luck, it turned out to actually be a grizzly! We quickly stopped the car and got my equipment out. At the time, I had my Canon 1D Mark 3 setup with a 1.4 coupler on a 100-400mm IS USM in aperture priority set at f11. Handheld, I was able to photograph the approach. As it turned out, it was a mother and three cubs! We were later told to identify this mother by the name “[610](#)” which refers to the official tag number of this bear. Many local followers have tracked this bear for years, watching her cubs grow.





I was so excited and now in a zone, so much so that I did not hear the calls of caution others were shouting as the bear family got even closer. One of the problems with shooting with a long lens is the false sense of security it gives you. The thought is that there would be plenty of time to back away before the bears get too close. After all, a long lens compresses the distance, right? Needless to say I caught on and slowly backed away.







The [elk refuge](#) offers premium opportunities for [wildlife viewing](#) and photography of wildlife ranging from bighorn sheep to swans and of course, elk. A multi-use gravel road runs along the refuge's eastern boundary, allowing visitors to get a closer glimpse. Cars, bikes and pedestrians are confined to this road-way and are not permitted off-road. The entrance via the road is free.























The [Chapel of the Sacred Heart](#) at Jackson Lake is better known as Our Lady of the Mountains Church. Built in the 1930s, the Chapel was remodeled in 2003.





[John Moulton Barn](#) along [Mormon Row](#)



The National Elk Refuge represents a singular conservation effort. The refuge was designed to provide a wintertime habitat for herds of elk under siege by weather conditions and the migratory disruptions caused by the influx of settlers coming into Jackson Hole.















Seen several times in the 1953 motion picture [Shane](#), this cabin and homestead is commonly called “[The Shane Cabin](#)”. To be historically accurate, however, the area is actually known as the Luther Taylor Cabin and Homestead. Originally established in 1916 by John Erwin, Luther Taylor purchased the property in 1923 and built this homestead cabin.















My Artistic Mission

Child-like wonder and inquisitiveness

are qualities frequently put aside once we become adults. We tend to slowly become sterilized by our right-or-wrong kind of world which too often has too little time to explore the what-if's and the what-could-be's. I believe we all need to re-connect with these qualities to re-enrich our lives. A first glance at a photograph of an onion often reveals the fact that, indeed, it is an onion. But what also lies beneath its surface? We won't know until we peel back its layers.

Animation innovator, Walt Disney, recognized this and tried to bring back the power and importance of imagination. Inspired by his spirit, my mission therefore is to encourage the use of viewer imagination. My work attempts to explore and suggest what often lies hidden within the personalities and mysteries present in the world that was, and the world that is around us.

For me, my photography often is not so much about the decisive moment. Rather, it is about creating an awareness of place and a sense of history, with an aura of mystery. It is the starting point for my artistic journey, not the destination. I try to use what I produce

as personal metaphors for my reactions to what I saw and felt. My favorite motivational quote is that "Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone." My works attempt to reflect this as I probe the emotional, mind's eye after-image that was captured by both the eye and the heart, and which often defies logical explanation by the mind.

My goal is that my projects will serve as a springboard into inventiveness and exploration with the hopes of awakening my viewer's inner child. I try hard to show the connections and implications of things that others may not readily see. My hope is that my work may also help viewers discover the beginnings of their attempt to understand and perhaps even learn to tolerate and sympathize with the human condition and the world in which we live. I will try to do whatever I can to make viewers linger longer in front of my works so as to ignite their imaginative response through discovery and inquisitiveness.

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Enjoy life!



JERRY GRASSO has been an award-winning, international fine art photographer and visual artist since 2002. He has mentored locally with photographer, [Mallorie Ostrowitz](#), and then with internationally-renowned visual artist, [John Paul Caponigro](#). Photography is only the starting point for many of his projects. His favorite motivational quote is that “Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone.”

In addition to his travel photography, Jerry specializes in the intimately abstracted architectural photography, the photo essay, and the photo composite series.

Jerry’s mission is to awaken his viewer’s inquisitive inner child by creating an awareness of place and a sense of history, with an aura of mystery.



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