

Bare Essentials



Unique Eco-Friendly
Adventure Lifestyle
Magazine

"All you need for a life of Action"

Embrace your Ability, Expand your Horizons and Engage your Senses

GARDEN OF ICE

Exploring the Arctic Ecosystem



CREATING A LEGEND

The Magic Behind Merlin

PROJECT PIKA

Plight of the Pint-sized!

Sept/Oct 2011

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Dartia

Polar Bear's
Birthday Wish



A polar bear cub of the Hudson Bay population that is recently out of the den. Manitoba, Canada. © Daniel J. Cox www.naturexposures.com

INSPIRATION



"Beautifully illustrated with engaging narrative this charming tale is sure to become a children's classic."

Inga Yandell - Chief Editor Bare Essentials

Portia Polar Bear's Birthday Wish, a new children's book written by Margie Carroll with accompanying photography by Daniel J. Cox, is a story about a young polar bear that thinks she's much different than her other Arctic friends. With love and encouragement from her mother and other animals from the far north she finds in the end that she IS different than the other animal characters but perfect in the eyes of her mother and all the Arctic's polar bears.

Parents and children alike will delight in the exquisite photography of world-renowned wildlife photographer **Daniel J. Cox** who captures intimate expressions of the endangered polar bear — inspiring universal compassion and curiosity for these iconic creatures.

Fellow photographer and retired educator of more than 30 years **Margie Carroll** creatively appoints images with clever parable teaching self acceptance and pride in ones uniqueness. Observing and documenting animal behavior has been a passion for much of her life and with her new collection of children's books she has now turned that love for all things in nature into a second career.

Portia Polar Bear's Birthday Wish is just one in a series of five new children's books that uses her story telling creativity along with hers and others photography to capture the lives of wild animals and present their stories from the point of view of the animals offspring.

Meet the stars of this story...



RRP US/Canada
Book \$19.95
Portia HD \$4.99
Audio Version \$0.99

Become a Facebook Fan!

To find Portia's Facebook search for "Portia Polar Bear" Here you can watch a special 'behind the scenes' video on the crafting of this tale with author Margie Carroll.

Explore Margie's other titles and online galleries.

<http://margiecarroll.com>

Checkout Daniel's amazing wildlife photography and learn about his work for conservation foundations like Polar Bears International.

<http://naturalexposures.com>



In the spirit of helping to save polar bears and the arctic, Margie Carroll Press and Natural Exposures, Inc. have pledged to donate 1% of net total sales from Portia Polar Bear's Birthday Wish to the conservation group Polar Bears International www.polarbearsinternational.org Help us help polar bears. **Buy Portia Polar Bear's Birthday Wish today!**



**Mobile editions
Available from the
iTunes App Store!**

Portia! HD for iPad includes a video on the crafting of Portia Polar Bear's Birthday Wish.

Whilst Portia! for iPhone and iPod Touch features narration by the author.

INSPIRATION





Brave in curiosity and broad of cause—a true luminary of the lens, **Daniel J. Cox** has contributed more than just fine art photography over a career spanning nearly three decades. His journeys give people around the world unique insight into the natural world making a connection through powerful visuals which inspire us all to take action for the protection of wildlife. Many a conservation foundation has benefited from the visual impact Daniel's photos provide, garnering attention for issues that remain silenced by complicated science or sheer lack of awareness. His images translate universally and awaken a sense of urgency to save our wild kin, fulfilling a genuine need to expose the hard truths and heartwarming story of survival these creatures face.

Engaging children in the trials of life is yet one more way this photographer endures nature's inspiration, with his most recent contribution the story of Portia a young polar bear finding her way in life. This beautiful tale teaches children to embrace who they are and celebrate their uniqueness. A message that is all the more relatable through animal characters which captivate young minds and help cultivate their interest in the well-being of wildlife.

Many of the locations ventured are not without peril, and the intimate photos which place Daniel meters away from earth's great predators come with a deadly risk, a dedication that speaks to the adventurous spirit and abiding passion of the man and his craft. As such, no better a person could have been chosen to accompany researchers and conservationists from Polar Bear International on an expedition to unearth the secrets of the Arctic ecosystem, this being his most recent expedition. Lifting the veil of unknown in the Arctic is crucial to our understanding of how this icy world sustains itself and the impact to result should human-induced climate change continue.

What lead to your passion of wildlife photography?

It was my childhood that brought me down the road to become a natural history journalist. I grew up with a father and close family members that had a tremendous love for the outdoors. My dad was the consummate hunter, gatherer who was passionate for hunting and very early on he shared this passion by taking me and the rest of our family in to the wild lands of Washington State. It was this early time in my development that I came to love being in wild places, searching for animals and enjoying the freedom of nature. My father also enjoyed the hobby of photography and it was his early days of taking pictures that inspired me to think about doing the same. There was just something about the camera that really excited me. The idea of developing my own photos and capturing images of my adventures was almost all I could think about as a teenager.







GARDEN OF ICE

Exploring the Arctic Ecosystem!



© Daniel J. Cox www.naturalexposures.com

Northern Lights shine brightly over the black spruce trees in Wapusk National Park in temperatures of -46F. Canada

INSPIRATION

How did this grow into a partnership with conservation?

My desire to work in the conservation field also started very early. I found the people who worked with wild animals fascinating and I realized early on that wild places and wild creatures were constantly at odds with the so called civilized world. My youthful naivete led me to believe that if someone just presented these stories to people, humans would do the right thing by protecting or conserving the animals and places that were constantly turning up in the cross hairs of so called "progress". So from the very start I sought out people who worked in the conservation world.

What governs the expeditions you undertake? Do the subjects create the story or visa versa?

Most of the documentary work I do for Polar Bears International has a very simple goal. That being to document the animals, landscapes and people who currently depend on the arctic ecosystem, as we currently know it, for survival. All of the images, video and other types of multimedia materials I produce are donated to PBI at no charge so it can be used in the numerous educational projects PBI produces.

The biggest beneficiaries of this cooperative effort are the 40+ Arctic Ambassador Centers that PBI supports in an equal number of zoos throughout the world. Zoos offer a tremendous opportunity for educating the public to the issues we're seeing in the arctic. More people visit zoos each year than all professional sporting events in North America combined. With that in mind PBI works very closely with the worlds most prestigious zoological gardens to offer first rate educational materials from some of the worlds leading scientists known for their work in the arctic.

Which adventures have been the most arduous and why?

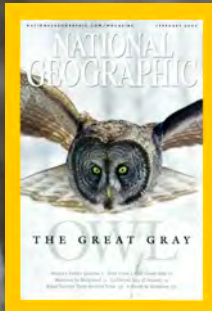
Probably my most difficult shoot was the cover story feature I originally produced for National Geographic on the Snowy Owl in 2002. Working from a hide/blind was painful due to the need to make sure it was low enough to the ground not to be blown away by the high arctic winds. It was unusually small and lying in a cramped position for up to twelve hours a day created back issues that are hard to imagine. My wife was with me on that shoot and each time I returned from the field she would have to massage my knotted back just to be able to stand upright again.



The Owl Research Institute provides wildlife conservation through research and education. Because owls are chronically under-researched and poorly understood, we provide high-quality, long-term studies and use our findings to inform wildlife research, resource management, and conservation. Our long-term studies focus on eleven owl species in Montana and Alaska.

The Owl Research Institute www.owlinstitute.org

View more of Daniel's work in **National Geographic**







There is humor and tragedy in your images how vital is it to reflect both?

I don't typically set out to capture either of these emotions but when you work for extended periods of time with a particular species those things are naturally part of the context of their lives. Working a subject for many months, sometimes years is what allows me to start to understand some of their natural behaviors. Being more in tune with how they live gives me many more opportunities for documenting the things most people don't see due to their desire to move on or better yet, not have an interest to begin with. So many people will see animals briefly, but few take the time to get to know them. When you do you are able to see the humor and the tragedy that is a normal part of all animals lives.

Capturing such expressive images how do you manage your emotions in the field?

It's actually quite difficult and I've been roundly criticized by people who have seen some of my work and accuse me of being heartless to watch such difficult events unfold. Take for example my video footage of a mother polar bear and her two starving cubs that I captured last year during my work on Hudson Bay. It's a short video sequence of a mother polar bear who was obviously very malnourished. Her two cubs were in equally poor shape. The video shows the two cubs huddling with their mother and one of the cubs begins to convulse. Scientists who have seen the video suggest that the cub was going through the last symptoms of starvation.

I filmed the entire event and it was emotional to watch but unfortunately there was nothing I could do for many, many reasons. In brief, the event took place in a National Park where it is illegal to interfere with wildlife in any way. Second there is no easy way to capture and evacuate a family of polar bears. Those who think otherwise are not dealing with reality. The good news is that due to this event and others that have taken place in the recent years in Churchill, there will soon be a special rehabilitation center built in Winnipeg for just such events. it will be a place where the proper authorities can bring rescued cubs to try and save them from certain death.



<http://vimeo.com/17469748>



Polar Bears International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the worldwide conservation of the polar bear and its habitat through **research**, stewardship, and **education**. We provide scientific resources and information on polar bears and their habitat to institutions and the general public worldwide.

Polar Bears International www.polarbearsinternational.org







Some animals come quite close have there been any moments which particularly tested your courage?

Quite frankly, not really. Most of the images that show animals at very close range, in particular bears, were shot with a remote camera. Unfortunately this is not the story most people want to hear. Everyone wants a good story about the close calls or near death experience I've had in the presence of an animal. However, I firmly believe if you have even one scary bear story, tied to capturing a photograph, you are not doing your job to stay out of the way and not get involved. Any time you become part of the story, then you have crossed the line.

That's not to say it can't happen but I do everything possible to make sure it doesn't. There are many people in the world of natural history photography that look at these situations as a badge of honor to be proud of. Quite simply I don't. I refer the story to be about the land or the creature I'm documenting. If it's becomes about me and how I survived an animal attack, then the animal loses. The bear, the wolf, whatever is the attacker will be punished most typically by death, and I may be maimed in the process. In the end nobody wins so I do everything possible to stay out of such circumstances. So far that has worked quit well.

On the other hand, getting to some of the destinations can be more hazardous than the creatures I'm after. Helicopters are my biggest nightmare. Bush planes come a close second. Both are flying machines that we use in difficult to access, remote areas that leave no room for mishaps or accidents. I would much rather sleep in a tent on the island of Kodiak. Alaska with free roaming brown bears than to take the bush plane out to a camp.

A shoot I did for PBI several years ago required that we set the chopper down in a pouring rain and ice storm. We sat in the remote wilderness of Manitoba waiting for the storm to pass for two hours. What's even more astounding is that I was the one that asked the pilot to land. He was going to power us through it. Several years earlier a well know polar bear biologist Malcomb Ramsay lost his life in a storm in the arctic where the pilot tried flying through a storm and lost control, plowing nose first into the arctic tundra. On the arctic icebreaker expedition a helicopter lost its main GPS device and barely made it back to the ship in the middle of the Arctic ocean.

The Vital Ground Foundation helps preserve the threatened grizzly bear, other animals, plants, and natural communities through the conservation of habitat and wildlife linkage areas. With the grizzly bear as its compass, Vital Ground works to reconnect fragmented landscapes in the U.S. and Canada critical to wildlife movement and biodiversity!



Vital Ground www.vitalground.org

© Daniel J. Cox www.naturalexposures.com

Brown Bear mother and cubs in Alaska



The National Wildlife Federation is the largest American conservation organization, with over 5 million members and supporters in 47 state-affiliated organizations. Its mission statement is: "inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future." Daniel has been involved with National Wildlife Federation for over 20 years.

www.nwf.org



The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation was founded by four hunters from Troy, Montana in 1984 - to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat.

www.rmef.org



© Daniel J. Cox www.naturalexposures.com

Top Large: Sea Otter adult resting among seaweed-covered rocks in southwest Alaska. **Top Small:** Sea Otter mother and her baby on seaweed-covered rocks. Aleutian Islands, Alaska. **Bottom:** A lone elk bull with antlers in velvet near a stream in a meadow on a misty brisk morning.

The Cheetah Conservation Fund resolves to be internationally recognized as a centre of excellence in the conservation of cheetahs and their ecosystems. CCF will work with all stakeholders to develop best practices in research, education, and land use to benefit all species, including people.

www.cheetah.org

You have been involved in many conservation projects which are you most proud of?

Most assuredly it is my work for Polar Bears International. Of that work I would have to say has been my ongoing Capture and Release project with Dr. Steve Amstrup and other arctic scientists. Dr. Amstrup allowed me to produce some very intimate field images, things that had never been shot before. The second project was my work on the Polar Sea Icebreaker Expedition where Scientists worked with the National Science Foundation and the US Coast Guard to capture polar bears far out on to the sea ice. The idea was to investigate the condition of these animals far from land. It was the first attempt at capturing polar bears from an icebreaker.

What wisdoms have you garnered working with so many great scientists?

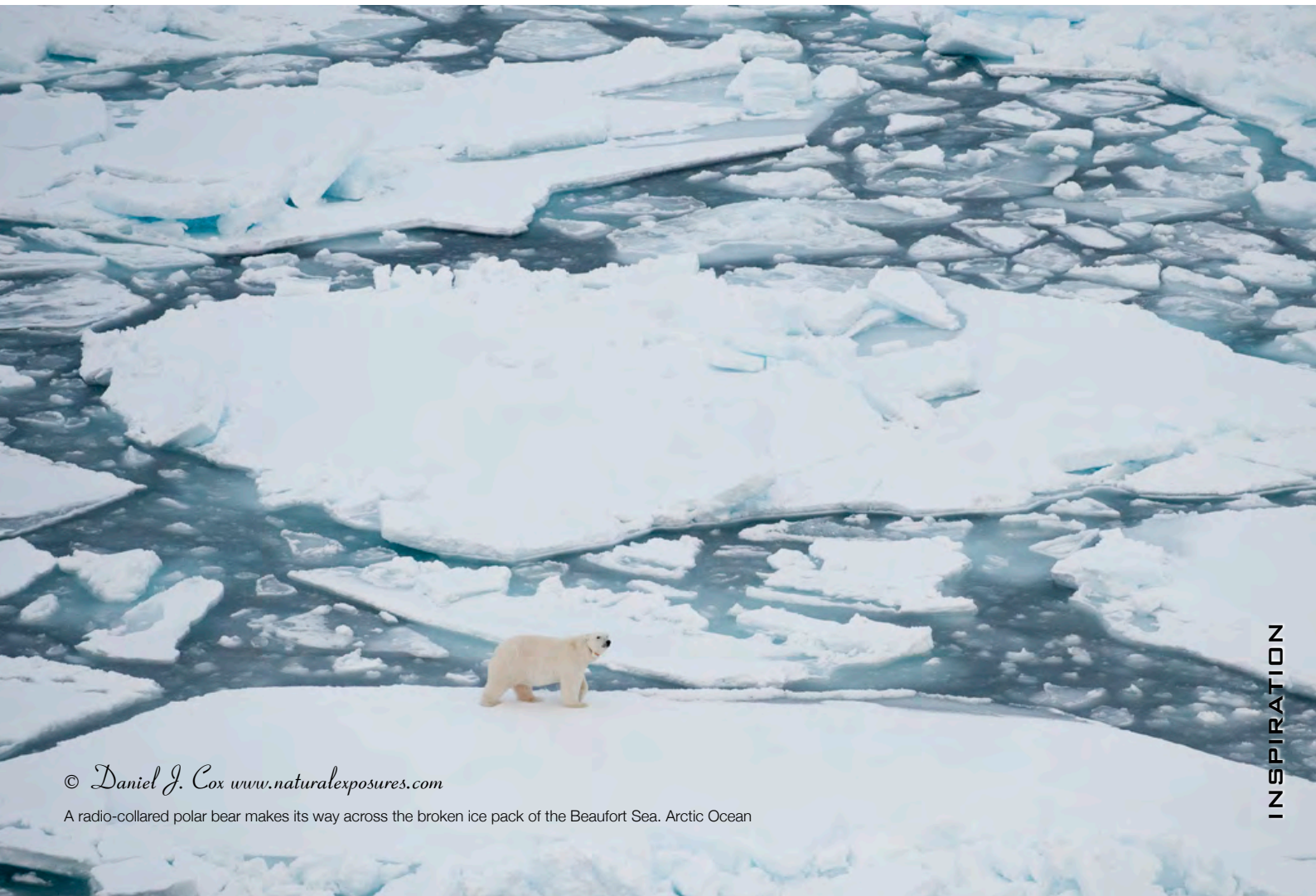
Probably the understanding that most biologists work really hard at what they do. It seems anything that involves the wildlife industry requires lots of long hours, difficult living conditions,—compared to what most people are used to— low pay and a dedication to their work that normal people don't understand. All of this tied to their desire to help make a difference. Additionally, all good science takes decades of work to get quality findings and most of the good biologists have dedicated their entire lives to their studies. It's a great example of how sticking with something for the long haul is beneficial compared to the immediate gratification of short term projects that don't produce quality science. I admire that and can actually relate to it since I've been doing my work for over thirty years now. Changing occupations even once in your lifetime just doesn't work when it comes to the world of natural history.

How do their perspectives influence your work?

I would like to think that they don't but in reality that most likely wouldn't be an accurate statement. Admittedly, most of the scientists I respect and want to work with have similar thoughts pertaining to the importance of getting the message out about how climate change is effecting the arctic. I most certainly could work with the side that claims global warming is all hogwash but it would be difficult. That being said, I do believe it is important to give all sides to a discussion and with this issue there are plenty of folks on both sides. Fortunately the vast majority of scientists are in agreement that significant changes are taking place. I'm just hopeful to document some of those changes with their help.

What were your objectives for the recent Arctic expedition?

We actually had two objectives. First and foremost was my attention to our guests who shared the cost of the expedition. Even with PBI's support, my wife Tanya and I find it necessary to organize expeditions with others who can help share the financial load. All shoots are expensive but working in the European arctic is exceptionally so. To that end we bring a small group of people along with us on some of our trips. This is part of our current business model that we call Invitational Photo Tours and it works quite well. I teach photography, Tanya makes certain people are well fed and having a good time. In the end I'm able to be in the right places to record the wonders of the arctic.





"If we could just see the immense amount of life below the ice we might have a greater appreciation for all that we will lose!"

© Daniel J. Cox www.naturalexposures.com

Top Large: Katrin Iken, biologist from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, collects an amphipod removed from under the ice of the Arctic Ocean. **Top Small:** John Whiteman displays the LButton Thermochron deep core body temperature device that is implanted inside the abdominal wall of a polar bear for long term body temperature data. **Bottom:** A pteropod commonly called a Sea Angel from the Arctic Ocean.



And the greatest discoveries unearthed thus far by this project?

Probably two of the most interesting discoveries I've been part of documenting included an understanding of how far polar bears can swim. During my shoot on the Polar Sea Icebreaker Expedition I was with scientists that had captured a female polar bear and her cub several months earlier on the coast of Alaska. At that time they implanted a monitor which provided a measure of her body temperature. She was also fitted with a Satellite collar.

Six months later they recaptured her but this time minus the cub that should have still been with her. The data the satellite collar and core temperature device provided proved to the scientists that this female swam about 450 miles through the open ocean to get to the sea ice that would normally have been a short distance of 80 or so miles. Never had a distance of this magnitude ever been recorded. Cubs remain with their mother for over 2 years suggesting this cub didn't survive the swim. Dr. Steve Amstrup's 30 years of work in the Beaufort sea has produced information highlighting reductions in physical stature body condition, and survival of young that are linked to the retreating sea ice cover.

How vital is ice to the health of the ecosystem?

For polar bears it is life or death. What people don't understand is how important to all life in the arctic the ice is. A good friend of mine, Geoff York from WWF summed it up brilliantly. Geoff said, "the arctic ice pack is like an upside down environment. On top of the ice pack where the polar bear is dominant it looks bleak and lifeless. But below is an immense amount of living creatures that support the web above." If we could just see the immense amount of life below the ice we might have a greater appreciation for all that we will lose.

What are the unique challenges of the region for a photographer?

First and foremost is the cold but that is fairly easily dealt with. It's very possible to dress properly and be comfortable in -50F. I actually find it more difficult to stay comfortable in warm climates than I do in the cold. The second biggest obstacle is logistics of getting into the arctic. The distances are extreme, there are few people who want to operate there so finding good guides and transportation is very hit or miss.



'Icebreaker' in the arctic pack ice of the Beaufort Sea.







Save the Manatee Club is an award-winning national nonprofit 501(c)(3) and membership-based organization established in 1981 to protect endangered manatees and their aquatic habitat for future generations.

www.savethemanatee.org

© Daniel J. Cox www.naturalexposures.com

West Indian Manatee in a freshwater river on the west coast of Florida.

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Is there specific equipment you use for this environment?

As is the case in many outdoor activities, layering is always essential. For my most extreme adventures where freezing temperatures are certain I use the **Canada Goose Snow Mantra parka**. Nothing comes close to the Mantra's warmth and durability. Additionally, I might add an inner down sweater, light jacket, a pile fleece beneath that and finally a breathable shirt near my skin. If sitting for extended periods of time I would wear boots by **Northern Outfitters**. Absolutely no boot is warmer. A close second is the **Cabela's Saskatchewan Pac Boot**. All camera's are Nikon digital bodies. I do nothing special to them for the cold weather other than to make sure I don't bring them into a warm environment if they've been out in the cold for more than 5-10 minutes. The most important thing I do to protect my lenses and bodies is to make sure I have a sizable camera case or typically camera pack in the field with me such as the **LowePro Pro Trekker 400AW** or the **Pro Roller X200**. I then wrap my camera bodies and lenses individually in their own separate plastic garbage bag. Each is placed in to the camera pack then zipped tightly. I then move it to the lodge or other warm enclosure and there it will sit for up to six hours, allowing the metal cameras to warm very slowly. The plastic bag helps to avoid condensation and the camera pack acts like a reverse refrigerator. The outside temps have a difficult time penetrating the protective enclosure so the equipment isn't susceptible to the ravages of condensation. A good tripod is an additional must have when working with long lenses that allow me to keep a safe distance from my subjects. I've used Gitzo tripods for nearly thirty years and the one I currently prefer is the **Gitzo GT3541LS Carbon Fiber** with the **Manfrotto 504HD Fluid Video Head**.

What makes the plight of the polar bear an especially urgent story to tell?

It all revolves around time and how short that time is for us to make a difference. Scientists predicted just a few years ago the arctic may be ice free in the summer time by 2050. But now the new predictions suggest that may happen as soon as 2015. The arctic is warming far faster than any of the scientists had originally predicted. Time is of the essence if we are to change any of the things we humans are doing to contribute to this massive problem. That said, there is hope. Dr. Amstrup believes that we can make those changes in enough time if we all decide to do our part. That includes contacting our governments leaders to let them know we want leadership on the issues effecting our climate and we want them NOW. The polar bear is not the only animal that will be harmed by a warming climate.



The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative or Y2Y is a joint Canada-US network of over 800 organizations and individuals interested in restoring and maintaining the Yellowstone to Yukon region. The group works with local communities, through education and stewardship programs, to encourage conservation of the area and create a life-sustaining web of protected wildlife cores and connecting wildlife movement corridors.

Yellowstone To Yukon www.y2y.net



The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is dedicated to the protection and preservation of Africa's wilderness and its denizens, particularly endangered species such as elephants and black rhino

www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org



© Daniel J. Cox www.naturalexposures.com

Top: Topi silhouetted against a horizon and sunrise. Masai Mara National Reserve, Kenya, Africa **Bottom:** African Elephant baby holding an adult's trunk. Kenya, Africa

INSPIRATION



Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots, the Jane Goodall Institute's global environmental and humanitarian youth program, is a powerful, youth-driven, global network of tens of thousands of members in more than 120 countries. Together, youth from pre-K through college are taking action to make the world a better place for people, animals and the environment.

www.rootsandshoots.org



© Daniel J. Cox www.naturalexposures.com

Mountain Gorilla portrait of a female. Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda, Africa

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www.rootsandshoots.org

INSPIRATION

How can conservation foundations like PBI reclaim public interest when people become desensitized to the issues?

We're very fortunate at PBI to have the polar bear as our mascot and icon. It is the polar bear that attracts people with its majesty and charisma. The attention the polar bear creates leads people to our door with an interest to find out more about the issues the bears will face. Thankfully, what is good for the polar bear is also good for other species including homo sapiens. Furthermore, PBI is one of the most efficient and effective conservation groups ever established with over 90% of it's collected donations going directly to in field operations for scientists and other supported groups.

For aspiring wildlife photographers what advice can you share?

First and foremost you must have a blinding passion for this work. If you have to ask what that means, you don't have it. Secondly, to make a living in this business you must be more than a still photographer. It's imperative that you be skilled in video, sound and all aspects of multi-media. The future does not look bright for a person who only knows how to capture still images. **You can read more about Mentoring on my blog.** Study everything you can, books, magazines, internet etc. to look at the best photography out there. It's amazing what you can learn by just looking and taking notes about what you see in an image.

And for all who desire a lesson first hand where do you offer photo tours?

My wife Tanya and I lead photographic trips all over the world. We spend time in Costa Rica, Kenya, India, Yellowstone National Park, Alaska, Galapagos, Brazil and many other destinations. This part of our business falls under the heading of our **Invitational Photo Tours** and I really enjoy sharing the amazing world of nature along with the inspiration of teaching others how to document it. Our groups are small, guests are amateur photo enthusiasts who want to learn more about quality photography. The majority of guests travel with us multiple times a year. Tanya grew up in the tourism industry, running the Tundra Buggy Lodge in Churchill, Manitoba, "Polar Bear Capital of the World". Our partnership of hospitality and photographic instruction is unique to all others in the photo tours industry. Our students have a lot of fun and learn the ins and outs of good photography as well. In short the way I like to describe it is, Tanya is the warm and fuzzy and I'm Mr. 250th. at F/8. It works quite well.



www.naturalexposures.com/photography-tours



The International Wolf Center advances the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wild lands and the human role in their future. Our response to controversies as they arise is to provide information that helps people to make their own informed decisions. We pledge to educate the public by offering the most up-to-date, accurate wolf information possible.

International Wolf Center www.wolf.org

© Daniel J. Cox www.naturalexposures.com

"The Druid pack in the Lamar Valley is another success story. Seeing these animals up close is by pure chance. They are elusive and shy, even in Yellowstone. However, distant shots of animals can be very rewarding by giving me a chance to include the land upon which they live. It was just such an opportunity the Druid pack presented one cold January day in 2009. Wolves in Yellowstone represent a long lost and badly needed link in the environmental food chain, and their presence in Yellowstone and other parts of the west bring back a part of the wilds that nearly went extinct."



Panthera's Munyawana Leopard Project is a shining example of how good science can impact policies for the benefit of a species. Using scientific data collected over the years, Panthera has helped rewrite public policy regulating leopard trophy hunting and the management of "problem" animals in the region. Working with local communities to improve livestock husbandry techniques and reduce leopard-human conflicts.

www.panthera.org



Vital Ground is taking action to reverse loss of habitat and declining grizzly numbers by launching The Right Place™ Campaign, an endeavor to purchase biologically important tracts of private land in northwestern Montana, northern Idaho and British Columbia.



“We don’t need to save thousands and thousands of acres—just those acres in exactly the right place!”

~ Douglas Chadwick Wildlife Biologist, Author

GOAL | Protecting the Right Places: The goal of the campaign is to help facilitate the recovery of the struggling grizzly bear populations in the Cabinet-Purcell-Selkirk mountain region *and* to identify and protect wildlife linkages that will allow grizzlies to naturally move south into the Bitterroot Ecosystem—a 3.7 million-acre wildlife paradise made up of two wilderness areas in Central Idaho.

In the northern Rockies, millions of acres of public lands are fairly well protected and serve as core habitat areas for grizzlies and other wildlife species. But separating these core habitats are strips of privately owned property containing homes, businesses, ranches and transportation corridors. The increased development and traffic in these areas disrupt wildlife movement across the landscape. Given the vastness and natural abundance already found in our forests and parks, we don't need to save thousands and thousands of acres of private lands. We only need to save the tens or hundreds of acres that strategically connect these core habitats —only those acres that are in exactly the *right place*. Vital Ground has been working with conservation and wildlife management partners for several years to strategically identify the private lands—the right places—that, if permanently protected, will allow natural grizzly bear movements between ecosystems and help prevent possible demographic and genetic isolation.

The Right Place™ Campaign contains two fundraising initiatives to address habitat conservation in this trans-border region: the **Cabinet-Purcell Wildlife Linkage Initiative** and the **Selkirk Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation Initiative**. Through these initiatives, Vital Ground is conserving key lands via fee title acquisitions and conservation easements in identified **linkage areas**.



Lower 48 grizzly bear habitat and populations Map.



Linking Landscapes Recovery Zones Map.

To view maps click on the links below!



Historically, as many as 10,000 grizzlies once roamed the western half of North America. Today, the lower 48 states hold roughly 1,600 grizzlies.

Sadly, fewer than 100 grizzlies persist in the Cabinet-Purcell-Selkirk region south of the Canada border—an area that biologists believe should hold more than 200 bears.

Unless conservation measures on key private lands are put into place soon, the region's grizzlies and other wildlife could disappear in the near future.

Donate: The Right Place™ Campaign represents one of the greatest fundraising challenges in Vital Ground's twenty-year history. Every dollar you contribute helps us secure key parcels and makes a huge impact on protecting grizzly bear habitat and wildlife corridors in the trans-border region. We are currently raising funds to purchase properties in two defined linkage areas (Highway 2/Troy and Highway 200/Noxon) under the Cabinet-Purcell Fund.

