

**NEWS RELEASE – August 1, 2007**

*Portraits of the Land: Northwest Iowa Landscapes*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*The Northwest Iowa Center for Photography Puts Focus  
on Humanities and Northwest Iowa Landscapes  
By Amelia Painter*

Milford, IA ~ The Northwest Iowa Center for Photography (NWICP) invites the public to meet its exhibiting artist and Humanities Scholar, Bob Creasey, from 11:00 a.m. to Noon, Saturday, August 25, during which Creasey will provide a Gallery Talk and offer commentary on the value of our natural world, appreciating it, and how our northwest Iowa environment enriches life.

*Portraits of the Land: Northwest Iowa Landscapes* features new photographic art of remarkable natural treasures found in the northwestern portion of the state. All photographic works appearing on display are the work of members of NWICP.

Creasey was selected by the photographic group to act as their Humanities Scholar based on his academic accomplishments as well as his outstanding photographic skill. Creasey began his photographic pursuits when he was in high school. Along with a friend he produced a science fair project: "The Photomicrography of an Amoeba Slide." He was a darkroom devil from an early age. And his penultimate shot had to be the picture he took at Speculator Creek in Montana *circa* 1986. He now considers himself a landscape photographer influenced by Ansel Adams, Robert Glenn Ketchum, David Muench, and Brett Weston.

Bob is the son of William and Elaine Creasey of Kingsley, Iowa; he now resides in Denison, Iowa, where he teaches for Western Iowa Tech Community College at the Denison Center. He has high regards for his friendship with NWICP's Director and fellow photographer, Dan Ruf. His other interests include golf, billiards, music (he can be heard on Dan Ruf's "Out My Backdoor" DVD), cooking (a former Assistant Chef at the New Inn), and fly tying. And of course there's photography.

Creasey seems particularly drawn to photographing rural portraits of the land - most often old

barns and clouds or trees and livestock or flowers and round bales, often making mental notes as he travels from Denison to Sioux City or Cherokee or LeMars or Okoboji where he spends a great deal of time with his mother at her house on Hayward's Bay.

According to Creasey, "photography is a technical medium far more than just point and shoot." Mythological significance and archetypes are the "spark" that is required for Creasey to take a photo. Almost every day he "wastes" gigabytes of shots – assessing the efficacy of a certain combination of light. As his friend and mentor Dan Ruf relates in his DVD "out my backdoor". Light is the key and particularly light from the "Golden Hours" immediately after sunrise and in the twilight of the day. Noted photographer John Sexton (former apprentice to the revered Ansel Adams) realizes that slow shutter speeds taken of subjects reveal subtles Zones of grey.

Both Creasey and Ruf will be on-hand following Creasey's Gallery Talk to answer any questions attendees may have.

*Portraits of the Land: Northwest Iowa Landscapes* images include a range of both black and white and color photographs and cover an assortment of landscapes including wetlands, prairie, wildflowers and wildlife of the Northwest Iowa area.

The intent of this exhibit is to document the region's vast variety of natural resources as both scenic attractions and important wildlands. The habitats of this area include prairie, forests and world renowned lakes that are a linked relationship of natural order. Watersheds that find their way through all of these typical habitats of the area link each of these resources to one another and are of major importance to the water quality of the lakes region.

This exhibit is made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Iowa, making it possible for NWICP to provide the public an opportunity to view the gems of the Northwest Iowa ecosystems. Lakes, tall grass prairies, woodland and marshlands would provide the unique subject matter to encourage people to enjoy, understand and preserve these areas and their inhabitants and in the process help reconnect them to the world just outside their own door.

During the exhibition days, August 23 through September 2, 2007, all of the following programs will be presented, at no cost to the public:

- Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 9pm: **Photographer's Reception** and celebration. During

this open house, the public can get a sneak preview of the exhibition, meet the photographers and purchase an autographed copy of their favorite images appearing in the exhibition.

- Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 11am to Noon: **Gallery Talk** lead by NWICP Director Dan Ruf and humanities scholar Robert C. Creasey will include discussions on the value of our natural world, appreciating it, and how our specific environment enriches life.
- Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 3pm: **Photographing Animals in Nature**, a presentation by Stan Buman that will focus on photographing animals in the wild. Burman will also address the need for natural and human resources to advance environmental and social betterment of Northwest Iowa.

CR Gallery, the home of the Northwest Iowa Center for Photography, 912 Okoboji Avenue (Hwy 71), Milford, Iowa, will host the 11 day celebration of photographic art. The exhibit will be free and open to the public. Membership at the Northwest Iowa Center for Photography is open to anyone in the region interested in photography as art. Humanities Iowa has funded a partial grant in support of this exhibit. Contact Christine Richards at 712-228-4155 for additional information.

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