

November 1, 2012 - No. 11

## Bob Watson Photography

Reflecting the Spirit of Nature  
NATURE • WILDLIFE • LANDSCAPES



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### Featured Photograph No. 1



*A New Branch on a Northern Red Oak Shows It's Autumn Colors*

*Featured Photograph No. 1 above is an example of how brilliant autumn colors can be. This photograph of a new branch on a young Northern Red Oak tree was shot in the [Robinson Woods Preserve](#). The Robinson Woods Preserve is a beautifully diverse 80 acre woods located just east of Lakeside, Michigan (southwestern Michigan). The Robinson Woods Preserve is named after William and Jean Robinson who donated the property to The Nature Conservancy in 1968. The preserve was subsequently sold to [Chikaming Open Lands](#), a non-profit conservation organization. Anyone wanting exact directions, please email me.*

*Autumn colors remind us that nature will take a rest before spring arrives again. Trees have worked hard all summer to store food allowing for the brilliance of fall and their final show before a long winters nap. What causes the change in color is truly a complicated ordeal. Simply explained, there are three main factors. Length of night, weather, and leaf pigments drive the change. Length of night is the one factor that changes identically from year to year. All leaves have chlorophyll (green), carotenoids (yellow, orange, brown) and anthocyanins (reds and purples). During the growing season chlorophyll is in constant production. When chlorophyll production stops the green goes away, and the reds, oranges, yellows, etc. of the carotenoids and anthocyanins, which until now were hidden, become gloriously prevalent.*

*In the northern latitudes the peak period of leaf color is short. In Featured Photograph No. 2 from Alaska, I was fortunate to hit the peak just right. Just a couple days either way would have missed the peak period.*

*Featured Photograph No. 2*



*Long Lake, Alaska*

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*If you have any questions (i.e., additional description, special sizes, print paper, etc.) about the Featured Photograph or any photographs on my website, please email me. Don't hesitate to email me; if just to say Hi.*

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