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Bob Watson Photography

Reflecting The Spirit of Nature

NATURE - LANDSCAPES - WILDLIFE

March 1, 2017 Newsletter - No. 63

THOR'S WELL - THE STORY BEHIND THE SHOT

Featured Photograph

Thor's Well, Cape Perpetua Scenic Area, Oregon - CLICK ON IMAGE TO ENLARGE

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THOR'S WELL - THE STORY BEHIND THE SHOT

Along the central coast of Oregon lies Cape Perpetua Scenic Area. Please see next month's newsletter where I plan to talk more about this wild part of the coast.

In this newsletter, I want to discuss only one small part of Cape Perpetua, called "Thor's Well". It's also been referred to as "Drainpipe of the Pacific", "Gaping Sinkhole", and even, "Gate to Hell".

Thor's Well is an amazing wonder of nature. It's a large circular hole in the basalt rock shoreline that likely was formed when a sea cave was dug out by crashing waves, and the hole formed when the roof caved in. Although the hole is only approx. 20 feet deep, it gives the appearance of continuing indefinitely. It's in an area where the wave action is fierce, and it's near high tide when the spectacle begins. The waves roll underneath the hole, filling it from the bottom until it bursts and sprays out the top. This together with the huge waves rolling over the hole near high tide, drain through the hole, and make it look as if it's filling and draining continuously. This is a majestic display that's almost hypnotic.

Now, For The Story Behind The Featured Photograph:

This story can best be told through the two following images. PLEASE CLICK TO ENLARGE.

No. 1

No. 2

Cherise Glaze, living near the Oregon Coast, captured these images in the early evening just as a Sneaker Wave hit the coast. A Sneaker Wave is defined as an unanticipated wave that is much greater in force and height than the preceding waves. I was among 5 other photographers photographing Thor's well, when this wave hit. In image No. 1, you can only see one of us holding his tripod and camera in the air to avoid the wave's thrust. You can't see the rest of us who are shrouded by the wave. In image No. 2 (right after the wave had gone through), you can again see all of us. I'm the one with the red plastic covering my camera body. All the photographers left after this, but me. The photographer shown in image No. 1 came back to join me until almost dark. The other 3 photographers had equipment damage and didn't return. It was that evening after this Sneaker Wave that I captured the Featured Photograph Shown above.

Although this wasn't quite as dangerous as it looks, I did make sure as soon as I started shooting that my feet were firmly planted. I withstood numerous other waves throughout this evening and the next evening, but nothing like this one. To say this was a "Rush" would be an understatement.

March's Featured Photograph

When you purchase ANY SIZE FINE ART PRINT OR CANVAS WRAP of this month's Featured Photograph in the month of March, you'll receive a Featured Discount of 30%. Click on the photograph below and you'll be directed to my website. Choose the size Fine Art Print or Canvas Wrap you'd like, proceed to add the image to your shopping cart and use the Coupon Code, MAR17, during checkout.

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