



Ursula Dubrick

# fStop Foundation Newsletter

## July, 2016

PHOTOGRAPH, EDUCATE, CONSERVE

IN THIS ISSUE

## Onwards!

by William Freund, President

As we finish our first six months of operations and begin the second half of the year, we continue to make positive strides forward.

The fStop Foundation is now a 501(c)(3) designated foundation which allows us to offer tax deductions for any donations made to us.

We now also have a "DONATE" button set up on our website allowing people to make direct donations to us and receive electronic confirmation of that donation which serves as their tax deduction receipt. Any and all donations are welcome! In the near future we will be setting up specific programs that you can donate to as well. Please support our efforts!

Additionally, we have developed our logo which is now incorporated into our correspondence. In the near future we hope to be able to offer different clothing options with our logo on them. Look for more details on that in the months to come.



We are proud to welcome Raymond Gehman and Marc Serota as Contributing Photographers. They both have amazing backgrounds and experiences. We thank them for their efforts and desires to help and look forward to working with them.

Both Raymond and Marc are also instructors on our Photo Meetups. Marc was our instructor for our Jungle Island Photo Meetup and you can see some of the incredible work that the students produced during that workshop on page 3 of this newsletter.

We are also very excited about our developing partnership with Polaroid University and look forward to developing educational video content with them.

Finally, thank you to both Ursula for her "A Walk on the Beach" article and to Alexa for her "From the Field" posting. You can find those on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.

Thank you all for your interest and your support!



Polaroid University



New Contributing Photographers



Jungle Island Photo Meetup



A Walk on the Beach



From the Field

# Introducing our new Partner: Polaroid University



Polaroid University is a leader in creating educational video content. Whether you are looking to get the most out of your smartphone, are a serious amateur who wants to master a new HD/SLR, or are a professional looking to upgrade your skills (such as drone photography), Polaroid University has entertaining and educational episodes to help you achieve your goals.

Our goal is to work with Polaroid University to produce episodes that will illustrate and highlight how photography can be used for conservation as well as video content highlighting important environmental issues. Exciting things to come!

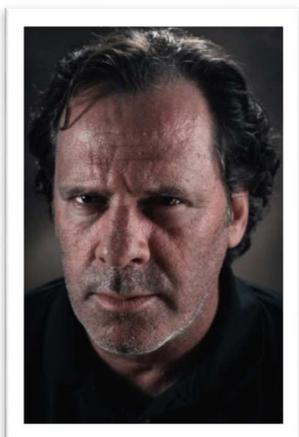
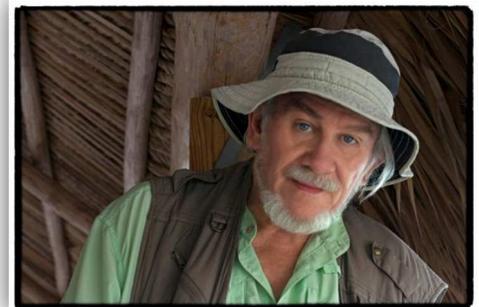
You can learn more about Polaroid University as well as get a free preview at [www.polaroiduniversity.com](http://www.polaroiduniversity.com)

## Meet our new Contributing Photographers

### Raymond Gehman

Raymond has worked for the National Geographic Society for over 25 years, traveling and photographing the world. He has been awarded three Nat Geo cover photographs and has published numerous book covers, books, and magazine articles. His photographs have been featured in seven Nat Geo magazine articles and he has also done over a dozen single-photographer Nat Geo books including "Yellowstone to Yukon".

His travels have taken him to Wyoming's Bighorn Country, the Gulf Coast of Florida, Canadian Rockies, Icelandic glaciers, and even rural China. He has photographed grizzly bears, the aftermath of hurricanes, hot pools that can boil a drifting duck, and nocturnal Apache ceremonial dancers. Raymond is also one of our instructors. You can see more of Raymond's pictures as well as get information on the tours that he leads around the world at [www.raymondgehman.com](http://www.raymondgehman.com)



### Marc Serota

Marc Serota is the Co-founder and the "Dean" of Polaroid University. He is a globally recognized Award Winning photographer who has shot some of the biggest moments in the past 25 years. Serota has shot several Olympic Games, the MTV awards, the World Series, many US Presidents and world leaders, the Victoria Secret fashion shows, Sports Illustrated covers, and even the Pope. He has covered some of the world's biggest stories like Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the 9-11 Al Qaeda Prisoners at camp X-Ray in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He is a contributing photographer to publications such as: The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Associated Press, Getty Images, ESPN, Sports Illustrated, Vanity Fair, Rolling Stone, Time Magazine, Golf Magazine and many more.

Some of his environmental work includes an assignment for Greenpeace photographing whale conservation efforts in Dominica, an investigative feature for the LA Times on the "Drought of Lake Okeechobee", and coverage of the Gulf Oil Spill for Getty Images. Marc is also one of our instructors. You can see more of Marc's images and learn more about his workshops at [www.marcserota.com](http://www.marcserota.com)

# Jungle Island Photo Meetup

In April we had our second Photo Meetup which took place at Jungle Island in Miami. We were fortunate to have Marc Serota as our expert photographer/instructor.

Marc has a love not only for photography, but also for instructing and teaching, especially younger photographers. This was apparent at our Meetup at which we had over 20 students participate and Marc was able to instruct all levels of participants.

It was a great Meetup with some incredible results, some of which you can see below.



# A Walk on the Beach

by Ursula Dubrick, Contributing Photographer

Florida's beaches are destination points for tourists during the winter months, but does anyone really make it a point to go in the summer? The answer is "Yes!" Any Florida beach can become a nature photographer's dream, even during the heat and humidity of summer. Some of the most photographed images I see of Florida are the beach sunrises as they ignite the sky, spreading warm colors through the dark morning clouds. Images abound of the sunrise painting the sky with pinks, reminding me of the feathers of a Roseate Spoonbill.

Equipment needed for photographing at the beach is minimal; a camera and an 18-200mm lens are all that I usually carry. Long telephoto lenses are not required, although when it comes to photographing nesting birds, that it is preferable.



Beaches are alive with all sorts of wildlife; the ghost crabs tossing sand out of their burrows, blue land crabs that migrate to the beach to breed, the shore birds busily poking in the sand, the pelicans diving, ospreys looking for fish, and the list goes on.



Florida's beaches are home for a number of nesting shorebirds, on both the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.

Caution should be taken when

photographing these birds to keep a respectful distance from them. Beaches set up protective areas using wooden stakes and tape to prevent disturbance of the nests or newly hatched chicks. Photographers need to stay outside of those restricted areas.



To observe and photograph nesting colonies like the Least Terns, American Oystercatchers, Black Skimmers, or Snowy Plovers, gives one a sense of the tremendous challenges these birds face to survive. Environmental conditions are harsh and unpredictable, and recent storms on the Gulf Coast destroyed entire nesting colonies. The parents work hard to feed and protect the chicks from predators, and when the chicks do survive, they are a joy to photograph as they are fed, interact with one another, and scurry around in the sand.

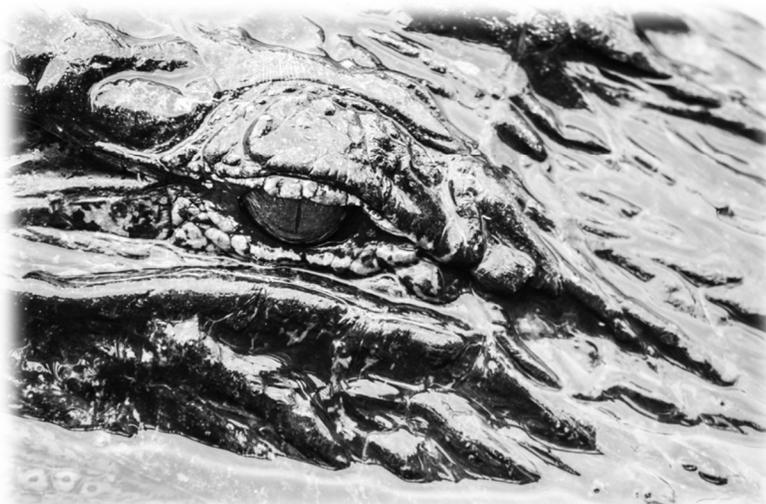
Sea Turtles that have survived millions of years, nest on Florida's beaches. To watch a 300 lb. sea turtle make her way back to the ocean in the early light of dawn after having nested, is amazing. These prehistoric behemoths are slow on land, but once they reach water they gracefully glide away into the ocean's depths. Using a flash to photograph sea turtles in low light is not permitted on the beaches as this may interfere with nesting, and the females can be frightened or disoriented by the bright lights. The "no flash" photography rule applies to cell phones as well.



# From the field - Big Cypress Swamp Walk

by Alexa Redlich, Student Contributing Photographer

Hi. I'm Alexa Redlich. I'm a contributing photographer for the fStop foundation. Big Cypress National Park was a mysterious and fear inducing setting for me, but also a welcome adventure. Growing up here in Florida, I was surprisingly unexposed to the swamps of my state, having only visited the Everglades a few times from the safety of an airboat. In the predawn hours, I was filled with apprehension as we headed to our destination. Waist deep in dark water that could hold alligators or snakes, what awaited us was the beauty of unspoiled nature. Armed with only a monopod, I was on alert for creatures as we observed the morning light filter through the trees onto the water. This was truly a magical experience and unique place, a beautiful ecosystem where Florida continues to thrive. I would love to go back with my family, so that we can all enjoy the beauty together.



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[www.fstopfoundation.org](http://www.fstopfoundation.org)

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