



February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday	7 New Moon	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18 President's Day	19	20	21 Full Moon	22	23
24 Flag Day	25	26	27	28	29	

I just can't stand those winter scenes. The images of snow, dead bushes and leafless trees, with little color and no vibrancy. Like last month's calendar. Snow, sky and bark on a tree. Stark reality. I guess that is what winter is all about, but it all leaves me cold, literally.

I have to confess that decades ago, before I had an interest in photography or making calendars, I said that calendar makers should put warm summer scenes in the winter and cold snowy scenes in the summer. Now that I am making calendars, I understand why it is not done, I guess. But now I actually have a choice, I can include anything on my calendar.

"Now every field is clothed with grass, and every tree with leaves; now the woods put forth their blossoms and the year assumes its gay attire." Virgil

So, to break the winter doldrums, I am doing a fast-forward to spring. Just ignore the blistery cold winds, the frost on the windows, the lifeless garden. We are jumping straight to spring. I guess the rich people do that by getting on an airplane and going south, but that is expensive and who has the time? So we will use our imaginations and a nice photographic image.

"The naked earth is warm with Spring, And with green grass and bursting trees, Leans to the sun's kiss glorying, And quivers in the sunny breeze." Julian Grenfell

This image was found in one of my favorite places, mostly because it is close and convenient. John Heinz Tinicum Wildlife Refuge is just a few miles from our house in Tinicum PA. It is surrounded by humanity, but the wildlife has found a place to hide. The area is mostly swamps, marshes, lagoons, ponds and Darby Creek. These Yellow Flags grow in the swampy areas and are hard to get to without getting wet feet. Darby Creek has a tidal rise of 2 or 3 feet twice a day, which affects all the tributaries. Part of the day these Yellow Flags are in water, other times they are not. The lifespan of the flowers is very short, maybe two weeks, so it is only a coincidence if we are there when the blossoms are at their peak; who wants to see faded flowers.

Apparently, this plant is considered a nuisance in nature. And it is a nice ornamental plant for garden ponds. More info at http://www.djroger.com/yellow_flag_water_iris.htm and <http://laurentiancenter.com/content/view/115/67/>. The one article states that "this flower is so hardy that it will likely flourish after a nuclear holocaust". Wow, that is hardy, and I worry about the frost. It's cousins are the many and beautifully colored Iris plants found in your garden.

"O fairest flower, no sooner blown but blasted, Soft silken primrose fading timelessly."
John Milton

There are a few photographic tricks in this image which make it more interesting. First, only take pictures of blossoms that are at their peak bloom. Faded or even slightly discolored flowers are not worth the click. Second, I really like to see contrasting shadows, and try to get back-lighting to add that effect. I couldn't move the sun, so I had to position myself to get the desired lighting. Thirdly, I wanted to have the other flowers in the background as a contrast. They are blurry because the lens is focused on the flowers in the foreground and I used the macro setting on the camera. This is called a narrow "depth-of-field". And then, I used the "Rule of Thirds". If you draw lines on the image to divide it into thirds, horizontally and

vertically, The focal point of the image should be at one of the intersections. On this image, the blossom in the foreground was the focal point. The concept is that the eye will first focus on the focal point, then wander around the image, noticing the other elements. This makes for an "interesting" image. So, I had to find perfect flowers, and I had to position myself to capture both the back-lighting and the flowers in the background while using the "Rule of Thirds". Did I mention they grow in swamps?

"The splendor of the rose and the whiteness of the lily do not rob the little violet of it's scent nor the daisy of it's simple charm. If every tiny flower wanted to be a rose, spring would lose its loveliness." Therese of Lisieux

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If you like this **free** calendar, feel free to e-mail this to your friends and family, so they can enjoy it also.

We had a very enjoyable Christmas holiday. Lots of visiting and parties.

I took my photographic safari into Philadelphia during the week after Christmas. Downtown Philly really is a nice place. I took the train in and walked around the museum area. If you haven't been there or it has been a long time, plan for a two day trip to wander around. Did you know that Philly has more public art/statues than any other city in the world? There were lots of business people but also a lot of families taking in the sights and sounds. The day started out nice but gradually became hazy, dark and cloudy. I didn't get any great iconic shots of City Hall or the Art Museum, but I did get a few nice images. I discovered the Rodin Museum and the Water Works behind the Art Museum. Next time I will go down toward Independence Hall and Old City. As I said, you could spend several days wandering around downtown Philly.

I have added some of the Philly images onto a **new** [Urban Images / City Scenes](http://thecreatorsfingerprints.com/gallery11.htm) page on the website. <http://thecreatorsfingerprints.com/gallery11.htm> Check it out. This is different for me.

I have been cleaning up the website links pages, particularly the Pets page, the Nature page and the Kids page. I have taken off some dead links and other irrelevant links.

Good news- We were approved by "Family Friendly Sites" again this year. They go over everything to make sure we are squeaky clean. You can help us keep this high standard by reporting anything you think is inappropriate to us.

And, don't forget our beautiful prints when you start re-decorating this year.

The Creator's Fingerprints

Doug Haas Nature Photography

Nature is so incredibly diverse, interweaving soft textures with rough elements, adding a splash of color amid dull backgrounds, bold designs among camouflage and secrecy. The variety of shapes and patterns seem limitless. And it all coexists and fits together seamlessly. Often inspiring, mysterious beyond rational explanation, we look to nature to understand our place in the universe, to realize we are part of an incredible, intelligent design.

But much of this beauty goes unseen and unappreciated. My wife Chris and I are always looking for those special images which most people just walk past. It is not necessary to visit exotic far off places. Many stunning images are right in our backyard. We especially marvel over the tiny or insignificant; fungi, centipedes, or fallen autumn leaves. Using our macro lens, close up photos of the ordinary shows detail that is dramatic or vibrant. Then looking across the large panoramic overlooks we drink in the immensity of our surroundings. And we are always looking for the unusual, odd and often fantastic scenes. We love to be artistically moody or abstract, offering prints which are beautiful and interesting.

Prints from Doug Haas Nature Photography will always be eye catching hanging on your wall, in your house or office. We try to capture beauty, things unusual or interesting; hopefully all three. They also make great gifts which show the recipient that you care and you have great taste. Gift certificates are available. The prints are professionally printed on archival paper with non-fading inks, and should last a lifetime. Total satisfaction or your money back.

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