

Heaven on Hamlin Workshop

Todd, Brad and Rachel are excited for your upcoming Heaven on Hamlin Workshop! Please read this packet thoroughly, as it contains essential information to the workshop. This should answer any questions you may have. If, after reading the entire packet and other handouts included in the email, you still have questions, please feel free to contact us and we will answer them for you. Our contact information is at the bottom of this page.

Please click on a links below to take you to that section of this informational packet, or scroll through the pages.

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Heaven on Hamlin Workshop

Todd and Brad Reed Photography

Mission Statement and Welcome

Todd, Brad, and Rachel look forward to seeing you all again! Participants will stay at a beautiful home on the north side of Hamlin Lake. Each student will have their own bedroom and the house has several bathrooms as well. Lodging, all meals, and workshop fees are included in the price. The food is amazing, and you won't go away hungry! You will spend about 3 hours inside on the curriculum part of the workshop, but most of the workshop will be spent outside shooting along the Lake Michigan Shoreline, we often visit Point Betsie Lighthouse. During the Picture Perfect Weekend Workshop, you learned how to operate your camera on full manual, as well as how to utilize the 20/20 Vision concepts to compose your image. If you attended the Advanced Weekend Workshop, you were able to put those to work making more consistent homerun images. Now, Todd, Brad, and Rachel will walk you through the steps to Achieving Grade A Photographs by using The 4 Fs: Forethink, Feel, Focus, and Finish. After spending some time looking at and discussing sample images of Todd, Brad, and Rachel's that help show these concepts, you will spend the majority of your time shooting sunsets and sunrises as well as looking for wildlife and putting the steps to Achieving Grade A Photographs to work! As Galen Rowell says, "Photography is an action sport"! Todd, Brad, and Rachel are excited for this workshop!

IMPORTANT:

Please tell us of any dietary restrictions you may have at least two weeks prior to the workshop. We will make every effort to accommodate your needs.

Email us at: info@toddandbradreed.com

If you have any mobility issues, please email us those two weeks prior as well to:

info@toddandbradreed.com

Agenda for Heaven on Hamlin Advanced Weekend Photography Workshop January 23-25

Friday, January 23

We recommend topping your vehicle off with gas in Ludington or Manistee before coming to Jim and Carole's if you plan on using your own vehicle during the workshop. We will be able to take some of you in Brad's truck and Jim and Carole's van.

Students will arrive at Jim and Carole Smith's house at 2pm on Friday. Everyone will pick out their bedrooms and get settled in.

At 2:30pm we will have some kind of light snack.

At 3:15pm We will carpool out to shoot along the Lake Michigan shoreline somewhere. We won't know where we are going for sure until just before we pull out of Carole and Jim's driveway. You can drive your own car or ride with us or another student. We recommend having a vehicle with good snow tires and AWD or FWD if you are driving your own vehicle. Sunset is at 5:38pm.

At 6:45pm we will all sit down for a nice dinner inside Carole and Jim's.

At 8:00pm we will start the curriculum of the workshop with a slide show and packets for each student.

At 9:30pm we will have some cookies, wine, and beer at this point.

Saturday, January 24

At 6am we will have coffee and snacks ready.

At 6:30am we will hit the road together. We will take a bagged breakfast with us that we will provide for each student.

Sunrise is at 8:14am. We may drive around in the morning to a couple of different shooting areas.

At noon we will be back to the house.

At 12:30pm we will have a full sit down lunch.

Nap time or working on images after lunch for a few hours.

At 3pm we will roll out again together for the sunset shoot somewhere along Lake Michigan. Sunset is at 5:40 pm.

At 7:45pm we will have a sit-down dinner together at Carole and Jim's. After dinner, people can download images and work them up.

Sunday, January 25

At 6am we will have coffee and snacks ready.

At 6:30am we will hit the road together. We will take a bagged breakfast with us that we will provide for each student.

Sunrise is around 8:14am.

At 9:45am we will be back for a light snack before we sit down to download and look through everyone's images from the entire weekend as a review. It will be best if you put your 5 best jpegs from either Friday, Saturday, or Sunday on a thumb drive. Please make sure ahead of time that your name is written on the outside of your thumb drive. If you shoot in RAW, please either shoot RAW plus jpeg, or bring a laptop to process your RAW files into a jpeg. You can do post processing on your images if you want to and if time allows, but it is not necessary for the workshop.

At 12:45pm we will eat a final meal together before everyone hits the road.

At around 1:45pm people will head home. Thanks for an awesome weekend!

Heaven on Hamlin Workshop

TODD AND BRAD REED PHOTOGRAPHY

What to Bring

- o A digital SLR, mirrorless camera, or a high-end “point and shoot” with full manual capabilities for aperture, shutter speed, and ISO.
- o We strongly advise bringing a good tripod with a quick-release plate or bracket. See the attached list of recommendations.
- o Bring lots of batteries for your camera and your battery charger. Remember that cold winters, especially near Lake Michigan, can kill battery life.
- o We often use 10 x 42 Binoculars during this workshop, if you have a pair it will be helpful to bring.
- o Dress for the elements. Bring multiple layers you can easily put on or take off as the weather determines, or swap out clothing that gets wet from the snow.
- o Water-resistant boots, and a change of shoes and socks if they get wet while out in the field. **ICE SPIKES or some type of extra grip for your boots is recommended.**
- o A good hat, scarf, etc to protect yourself from the winds coming off of Lake Michigan.
- o Gloves that are easy to take on and off while you are making pictures.
- o You never know what the weather will be like on the shores of Lake Michigan. We shoot in almost any weather and the best shots usually come during storms! *So please come prepared for a good Michigan snowstorm!*
- o A lightweight small flashlight or headlamp that will fit in your camera bag is highly recommended
- o It is preferred (but not required) that you have a way to edit your work down to your ten best digital files and put them on a thumb drive to hand in on Sunday morning. (A laptop would be great with a thumb drive). Brad will collect 10 of your favorite digital files that you captured Saturday morning and Saturday evening. It is your choice which ten you pick. They could all be from the morning or all from the evening. You could choose a couple that didn’t turn out the way you thought they would and you want the groups help on Sunday to figure out what went wrong. It is up to you! Brad prefers to have the 10 jpegs, tiffs, or RAW files turned in on a thumb drive. Please make sure your name is written in permanent marker on your thumb drive when you turn it into Brad at 8 a.m. on Sunday morning before breakfast.
- o If you do not have a laptop or any other way to download your images, don’t worry; we have a work-around for you. Brad will teach everyone how to find the 4-digit file number on the back of your cameras. You will then make a list of photos you want to include - using that file number.

Heaven on Hamlin Workshop
TODD AND BRAD REED PHOTOGRAPHY
What happens in case of inclement weather?

We LOVE shooting in bad weather! Bad weather makes great photo opportunities! **We WILL NOT teach in lightning, but everything else is fair game.** Be prepared for the unexpected, we can never predict Michigan weather!

We recommend keeping plastic bags in your camera bag in case of rain or heavy, wet snow. *You can also purchase a rain cover or rain sleeve for your camera at a local camera shop or online.* Most of these are pretty inexpensive.

We also recommend keeping at least one lens cloth, or something to wipe down the front of your lens when shooting in rain or heavy snow. Lenses can quickly become covered in water droplets, ruining a potentially good shot.

Bring multiples layers, and extra dry clothes to change into if weather takes a turn for the worse. This includes a change of socks and boots/shoes.

In case of high winds, we recommend goggles or sunglasses to keep the sand out of your eyes.

In case of cold weather, always bring spare camera batteries. We recommend keeping them in a pocket close to your body, so the heat will help them last longer.

Heaven on Hamlin Workshop
TODD AND BRAD REED PHOTOGRAPHY
Weather proofing your camera Gear

For weather proofing your camera gear, we recommend using just a small plastic grocery bag. You can carry your camera inside of it. Once you get the camera on your tripod, you can put the bag over your camera and lens. Make a hole for the lens, so just the front of the lens is out of the bag, while everything else stays covered.

You can also purchase a rain cover or rain sleeve for your camera at a local camera shop or online. Most of these are pretty inexpensive.

We also recommend keeping at least one lens cloth, or something to wipe down the front of your lens when shooting in rain or heavy snow. They can quickly become covered in water droplets, ruining a potentially good shot.

DIRECTIONS TO CAROLE AND JIM SMITH'S COTTAGE
5853 W. Pleasant Hill Rd. Free Soil, MI 49411
Coming from the North

This is the North Woods and cell phones aren't reliable, and **navigation systems like Garmin and Google might not follow this route, we strongly suggest NOT USING them and following these directions instead.** We have students get lost every year using their navigation units!! Look for the **red balloons** once you hit Nurnberg Road. The red balloons will mark the turns. We highly recommend printing out a hard copy to use.

Remember, cell phones don't always work so it may be difficult to reach us on the way. If we are at the house, we may have WIFI so if texting or calling isn't working, you can try email as a last resort to ask us questions or give updates.

Carole Smith's Cell 269-929-0635

Jim Smith's Cell 269-929-2060

Brad's Cell 231-690-3804 or email is info@toddandbradreed.com

Rachel's Cell 231-233-5816 or email is info@toddandbradreed.com

Todd's Cell 231-690-5740 or email is info@toddandbradreed.com

Coming from the North:

- Take US 31 South all the way through Manistee
- About 9 miles south of Manistee turn right (West) on W. Forest Trail Rd.
- About 2.5 miles onto W Forest Trail Rd. you will come to a stop sign, this is Quarterline Road.
- Turn left (South) on Quarterline Rd for about 1.5 miles onto until Nurnberg Road. There is a small country store on the corner.... the only little store you'll see on Quarterline.
- Turn Right (West) onto Nurnberg Rd. – a gravel/dirt road
- Drive approximately 5.5 miles on this road – can be rough and dusty...
- **Look for Pleasant Hill Road at the bottom of a slight dip in the road. It is easy to miss if you are traveling too fast... watch for it and look for the balloons.**
- Turn Left onto Pleasant Hill – keep bearing right on this road. There are several other roads leading off this one—don't leave Pleasant Hill Rd.
- 5853 W. Pleasant Hill Rd. – Look for the balloons to make the driveway
- The cottage drive is just west side of D&K COTTAGES sign

- The neighbors to the West are Martha and Steve – Urbin's Pleasant Hill - if you pass their sign, you missed the correct driveway.
- There is a tiny Smith sign up in the tree on our driveway that is very hard to see but it is there.

DIRECTIONS TO CAROLE AND JIM SMITH'S COTTAGE

5853 W. Pleasant Hill Rd. Free Soil, MI 49411

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Coming from South

- Take US 131 North thru Grand Rapids
- Follow I-96 (to Muskegon) to US 31 North
- Take US 31 North to Ludington
- Do not take the first Ludington exit- wait and take second exit Highway 10 which is Exit 170A towards Scottville to the East
- Proceed East on Highway 10 until Stiles Road. You will see a stoplight and farm market.
- Left (North) onto Stiles Road – follow until it ends at a “ T ” stop sign (10 miles)
- Turn Right (East) onto Town Line Rd
- Go 1/2 mile on Townline – turn left at first main road you come to which is Quarterline Rd and head North

- Proceed North on Quarterline Rd for 2 miles until Nurnberg Road. You will see a small country store on your left at the corner of Nurnberg and Quarterline.
- Turn Left (West) onto Nurnberg Rd. – a gravel/dirt road
- Drive approximately 5.2 miles on this road – can be rough and dusty...
- **Look for Pleasant Hill Road at the bottom of a slight dip in the road. It is easy to miss if you are traveling too fast... watch for it.**
- Turn Left onto Pleasant Hill – keep bearing right on this road. There are several other roads leading off this one—don't leave Pleasant Hill Rd.
- 5853 W. Pleasant Hill Rd. – Look for the balloons to make the driveway
- The cottage drive is just west side of D&K COTTAGES sign
- The neighbors to the West are Martha and Steve – Urbin's Pleasant Hill - if you pass their sign, you missed the correct driveway.
- There is a tiny Smith sign up in the tree on our driveway that is very hard to see but it is there.

Grade A (Advanced) Photography

4 Fs = A

The 4 Fs:

- **Forethink**
- **Feel**
- **Focus**
- **Finish**

A = ACHIEVE GRADE A PHOTOGRAPHS

Practicing the 4Fs every day of your photographic lives will, we believe, lead you to make an increasingly high percentage of professional grade images.

We are all different. As photographers our diversity instinctively directs us to think and work differently from each other. Those differences help us to make unique art and that is the high ground of photography. We don't want to change that.

What we want to do and need to do is raise our photographic batting averages. Whether you are decisive or deliberate, shoot a little or shoot a lot, a traditionalist or an innovator, IF you strive to FORETHINK, FEEL, FOCUS, and FINISH, you will become better photographers.

FORETHINK

Dream of photos

Make building photos in your head a required part of your day. Discipline yourself and prepare to put your photographic dreams into action.

Previsualize photos

See photos in your mind's eye finished and hanging on the wall.

Plan the shot

Where will you take the photograph? How will you take it? Study other photographers' work with an eye as to how you can shoot at the same or similar location and come away with an image that is unique to you. Think out of the box.

Prepare for the shot

What photographic equipment will you need? What clothing and personal protective gear may you need? Inspect your equipment and make sure it is in peak operating order. Make travel arrangements.

Warning: Skipping forethinking will cost you a LOT of great photographs!

FEEL

Put feeling into making photographs

Good photography is all about feeling. We believe that approaching photography enthusiastically, passionately, sensitively and as an engaged, active participant is essential to creating strong photographs.

Believe you are going to make a good photograph

Get off the couch, even on those days it looks like a good image can't be made.

Be positive

Cheer yourself on. Cheer up yourself and others. Some days the pictures just keep coming to you; it all seems easy on a golden day. (Some days, such as golden days, the pictures will keep coming to you.) Some days you have to work harder to find the picture, but know it **IS** there waiting to be found.

Be perseverant

Don't quit. Don't retreat to the couch. Accept a less than rosy photographic weather outlook or conditions as a challenge. Work harder at **seeing** the photos; become more alert and sensitive to your surrounding. Feel for pictures.

Sensitize yourself

Consciously raise your visual, and emotional senses. See and feel as though you are one with the environment you are in; act and imagine like you are.

Tell the story

Once you find your subject, try to get emotionally in tune with it. See it; really see it. Feel it. Identify what it is that is moving you; then set out to make an image that conveys that feeling.

FOCUS

Work hard at the Killer Combo

Be both an emotional and technical photographer. Don't leave one at home just because of haste, moodiness, sloppiness, or laziness.

Photography is an Action Sport

Move! Sometimes moving just a little changes a photograph a lot. Microcompose as necessary. Your tripod helps you SEE what your camera is seeing.

Work it

Do what it takes (within the limits of good ethics and risk assessment) to get the shot. Once you think you have it in sight, attack it with emotion and discipline.

Build your image using the 20/20 Vision Concepts as well as your instincts and sensitivities. Consider the optimum combination of aperture, shutter speed, and ASA/ISO to tell the story you want to tell. Make artistic and technical choices that will maximize the feeling you get from the subject and the feelings you want to convey to others. This is sometimes quick and easy and sometimes tricky and time consuming.

Remember, a photograph is a very sensitive thing! It needs to feel just right, so work joyously and painstakingly to make it so! Try to see everything. Evaluate every element of your picture. If it does not add to a picture, it probably detracts.

FINISH

Are you finished in terms of image excellence or just in your own mind? No matter how good we get, FINISHING is how we can be certain the homerun we think we hit does not end up a foul ball on our computer screen. We all hate to lose that way.

Reexamine and reevaluate your image

This is much easier with modern digital cameras. Pay close attention to image sharpness. Is there any unsharpness from focus or camera movement? Correcting now is easy. Correcting on the computer is usually impossible.

Use your Aspherical Vision to explore

Now is the time to entertain other potential camera positions that might be better for telling this story.

Don't walk away yet

Are you satisfied with one winner? Why stop now when a little mind and legwork might get you two or three winners that don't look at all alike. Don't assume you've "got it." Overconfidence and ego can be your enemy.

Think of yourself as a visual storyteller

The Twice As Close Rule (shooting from various distances and perspectives) might tell the story you want to tell more completely and effectively.

Be proud that you are an action photographer who FINISHED the course and ACHIEVED Grade A results.

Release of Liability and Photo Use
Todd & Brad Reed Photography and Carole and Jim Smith

Todd and Brad Reed Photography and **Carole and Jim Smith** of 5853 W. Pleasant Hill Road, Freesoil, MI 49411 will make every effort to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants in their workshops. **Todd and Brad Reed Photography** and **Carole and Jim Smith** will not be held liable for any events beyond their control. **Todd and Brad Reed Photography** and **Carole and Jim Smith** accepts no responsibility whatsoever for injury, loss or damage to person or property in connection with any service resulting directly from: acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays, expenses arising from strikes, thefts, pilferage, failure of any conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, terrorism, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or changes in transit or hotel services over which it has no control. Reasonable changes in the itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the participants.

Please be advised that hiking on and off trails is often part of our workshops. **Todd and Brad Reed Photography** cannot be responsible for broken bones, sprains, bee stings, or any other injuries while in the field. It is the responsibility of each participant to know their own physical limitations. Your participation in any physical activity is your own decision. During the workshop the vehicles being used must be insured. **Todd and Brad Reed Photography** takes no responsibility for incidents arising from transportation to and from shooting locations. Participants must be willing to be responsible for their own actions and accept these and other risks associated with participation in a nature photography field workshop.

Todd and Brad Reed Photography reserves the right to cancel any workshop prior to departure. A full refund will be made to the participant for all fees paid to **Todd and Brad Reed Photography**. However, **Todd and Brad Reed Photography** is not responsible for any other trip pre-departure expenses such as penalized or nonrefundable air tickets, medical related expenses, and any other expenses.

During the course of the workshop, **Todd Reed, Brad Reed**, and other members of the group may take photos of each other during teaching moments. We often use these photos for promotional purposes in print and on websites. Please use the check boxes below to indicate your preference on photo usage.

- ☐ Yes, photos of myself can be published.
- ☐ No, I prefer photos of myself not be published.

I understand and agree to these terms.

Name (Please print):

Signature:

Date: _____

Note: This form must be signed and emailed to info@toddandbradreed.com PRIOR to the workshop.

Participant Questionnaire

Contact Information

Name:

Workshop you are joining us on:

Home Phone: (_____) _____

Cell Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail:

Medical Information

Please Note this info will be kept confidential. We only ask for it in case of an accident.

Date of Birth: _____

Please list any medical conditions we should be aware of:

Medications(s):

Allergies:

My doctor is:

Telephone number: (_____) _____

Emergency Contact

Although it is very unlikely that we'll ever need it, please indicate for our records the name and address of a friend or relative whom we could contact in case of an emergency:

Name & Address:

_____ Relationship:

Telephone: Day (_____)_____

Night(_____)_____

I affirm that I have not recently been treated for, nor am I aware of, any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard to myself or a hazard or inconvenience to other workshop participants.

Signature_____

Date_____