Howdy! How are you folks? And welcome to Lose podcast number 348 planning those summer projects. How are you folks doing? Hey, heard from a number of you this past week. Thanks so much. I love your questions. I truly love your support. It it means the world and it keeps giving me fuel to keep movements forward. So thanks ever so much. Hey, this is going to be another podcast recorded on the Adobe podcast better. I appreciate you guys keep telling me that you like it. You're hearing the improvements. Anything I can do to sound better is a really good thing. So remember also that on the podcast blog post there's a link to the transcript, which I don't think is going to be any cleaner this week, but it is there and many of you said you enjoy it. So there it is. Couple folks emailed this week asking What happened to my guess? Bottom line is, one needs to stay at home in order to talk to guests. And I have been going crazy this whole journey since last November, really. So I it's on my mind. I'm trying to do it, trying to sync up calendars, working out or talking with my peers. They're just as busy. So it is on the list. I appreciate you asking, folks. Some people asked. I had two people ask also what happened and how am I doing on my New Year's resolution now that it's month six car where the time go. All right. So articles. Yeah. Cranking on the articles. Two more this past week. I've got a couple coming out shooting at the yard. Yes, I got a lot done in May, right? Yeah, May in April or May. So I felt really good about that. And videos. I got a couple more videos out. So in the short run, doing really well over this, the whole six months probably falling behind, but that's better than having a goose egg. So appreciate you keeping my toes. I need that help. Hey, I also want to thank my good friend of Bedford's camera Bedford's dot com. Hey, this six folks coming up tomorrow. Tuesday, I am doing a live online bird photography class brand new class that. Yeah. Not quite finished yet. Well, it's it's outline done. I haven't polished it. Polishing always takes the longest, but I'm not talking really about starting to continuing to take in it to the best you can where you are right now in your photography it's free it's online hosted by Bedford dot com brought to you by Nikon. I mean that's just a just a small sampling of what Bedford does to help us photographers move things forward. You know, they've got killer prices, great staff and knowledge. I know a whole lot of you folks got your Zia from Killer. Killer. Great stuff. So, hey, give them a call drop by the store. They got a bunch of them. When you do, make sure you say hello. Thank them for sponsoring the Moose podcast. Make sure when you make those purchases, you get that moose discount. Yeah. If you check out, you can see 5% back mad, big time, 5%. That's just killer. That's even on sale prices. So Bedford Scott, thank you guys for supporting the Moose podcast. One of the question that has come up. Many different ways. The Z eight or the Z nine. Which one is Moos going with? Well, I haven't changed that much over all these years. You know, I always had the bigger D five DS sixes. That was always my main body. I just liked the. The bulk of the size in my hand. It just. It just works. And until my arthritis takes over, I can't hold anything anymore. I don't see that changing. That said, the Z8 still in the bag. It's a great camera. We're shooting again with it over the weekend, you know, attached to that Z 404 or five. It's just a just a sweet, sweet aircraft or a birds in the wing combo. I love the performance, so I have them both. But the one I'm going to grab the majority, the time and bus is on that 405 will be the Z nine. That's just my own preference. And in case you missed it, missed it, I did post my latest and probably last settings for the Z eight last Friday on the website. So. So many questions. I actually had a I actually wrote down a list of stuff which is so unlike me, but I did. All right. Let's get right to this episode, planning those summer projects. Now, I'm not talking about the ones the spouse has on that whiteboard, on the door leading into the house from the garage. That To-

Do list. Nope, nope, nope. Not talking about those summer projects because those are a given. They are going to be done. No, no, no, no. I'm talking about those photographic ones. Okay. Those ones that. Light our fires, set our imaginations going, get us wanting to get out and take photographs, those summer projects. Now I'm planning them first. Remember that on Kelby one. I got a whole lot of classes, a couple of them shooting Montana. Big Skies and Northern Lights just to name two have very big sections on planning all the nuts and bolts. We're talking a minimum of about 40 minutes there of all the things you go through in planning any kind of photographic adventure. So that's there. I'm not going to take time right now to duplicate it. I was going to take it and go on to some other things. It's June. It is Memorial Weekend is now in the rearview mirror. We are moving forward. Summer is, as far as I'm concerned, is here, even though it's not stop raining or being gray skies here in the Bitterroot Valley. But anyway, everywhere else, it's warm. So planning for summer and fall shooting projects when I start with that. Now planning. Couple of things to think about and look at is the experience you want to have. I'm not talking about the one behind the camera. I'm talking about everything else. In between and around that actual moment of going click. I don't know if you've noticed or have done any reading yet, but the number of folks traveling is. Big. It's much bigger than I've seen in years. I go through Denver a lot. That's my main hub as I travel and there are certain periods of the day and certain days of the week where I knew I would kind of have the place to myself. I had certain places I'd like to sit and relax. Between flights, if I have a long layover. Yeah, not now, man. There are people. People, people. So first thing you hear about planning is when you go somewhere to shoot a lot of that success you're going to have when you're out there shooting is the tranquility of having it the place to yourself. So one thing you want to plan is, is that now doesn't mean that, okay, so you have a family and you want to go to Yellowstone and you've got a block a time when you've got that vacation and kids are out of school. And because they're going to people, you abandon that idea of not saying that at all. In fact, you can work around that many places. Yellowstone. Arches. Yosemite. Glacier. Smokies. Well, the vast majority of time folks want to go out. Is not when you, a photographer, want to go out the early mornings, late evenings, that's where you're going to find the fewest number of folks in many of the places. The next thing to do when you're planning is look at trails. It is really surprising and perhaps really sad, but you can just walk literally ten feet off the road and a lot of times leave millions of people behind. And also that you have it all to yourself. So in your planning. One thing to think about is the tranquility of having the moment to yourself or your family or your friend. Who are we doing it with? And why would you be planning fall now? Well. Fall color depends on a couple of things. One has to do with the amount of rainfall that happens during the spring and then when the cold temperatures snap, well, you'd be surprised that. A lot of places right now have got a lot of rain. Some had huge amounts, like the east side of the Sierras. Some parts of the Rocky. So if you're into fall color, now is the time to start looking at those rain totals, looking at what actually fell. Start seeing what region you want to go to and then seeing if you can find lodging. I bring that up because a lot of the great places for fall color, the lodging kind of get sucked up really quick. So there's a lot of places you can reserve the rooms and then you you within 30 days, you don't get deigned for it. But if you wait until three days out and try to find the room, there are none. Then, hey, there ain't no shooting. So now is the time to start planning and thinking those kind of things through. All right, so that's some basics for planning, some trips to think about. I'm not going to really go into locations because if

you're in the U.S., there are and we are incredibly fortunate to have so many that fit whatever genre of photography and passion you want to pursue. So I'm gonna leave that up to you. But I do have a few suggestions over there on Kelby one classes. Next thing I want to bring up when it comes to planning and probably maybe, you know, start executing now for next summer because you'll get some bump this summer but you'll get more next summer is start planning it acting and working and building that backyard shooting gallery for the birds. Now is a great time for a couple of reasons. One, you've got Capital Region. You've got some regions the birds have already nested, and the kids are out looking around for a place to hang out. And if their migratory places come back to other areas, you've got birds perhaps coming in for the nesting season and you've got everything in between. Now, when it comes to creating your own shooting gallery, there's a there's I have got a lot of classes out there online. Fact, a little bit of what I'm doing Tuesday, Tuesday, tomorrow, Tuesday will be a little bit about that backyard shooting gallery. But you have three basic things that if you bring those in, you can have the birds. That's food, water and cover. Now. Talk about this a lot. I have people say, well, I live in an apartment. I did too once. And there are solutions. If you want food, water and cover and you live in an apartment, well, sometimes you can't have food because it makes too much of a mess. But water. Yeah. No one ever complains about water making too much of a mess. You can get one of those windowsill plant holders put in a little bowl in there, and then you get one of those plant holders if you want to sell. So you have a little shrub, potted shrub right next to this birdbath, and you can shoot out the window of your apartment. You can make it happen, but you've got to start working on it. Might be a summer project in which to, you know, put in the back of the mind and actually act on it. Doesn't cost much money. Does it take much time but brings in lots of photographic benefits? The best one is to start helping you improve your photography, making the most of the gear you've got. Now, if you have no idea, for example, you're new to this whole thing, which a lot it happens, right? I was new once. And you're curious? Like what? Birds are in my backyard. Because if you go to a nursery or go online to buy birdseed, you'll see that, for example, birdseed will say it's good for this, that and the other bird species, but you might not even know bird species, let alone know they're in your backyard There's a killer app. It's called Merlin, as in the Wizard. And Merlin is free and it has a sound option on it and you click it. If your iPhone or smartphone listens and it will tell you what birds it's hearing literally tell you, you know, of its American Robin or American Goldfinch or, you know, wax wings or whatever the bird might be or birds, plural. And then you can look at that. Oh, I've got these birds. And so if it says you have, you know, Tangiers birds, he won't do you any good, but says you have hummingbirds. Birdseed won't do you any good. If it says you have cardinals, then bird seed is the way to go. So that Merlin app, so really simple way of taking on that summer project of building your own shooting gallery in the backyard, which I've been doing for decades. And I'm here to tell you. Not only do I get to improve my bird photography and try out new techniques and new gear, it makes money because the images that I dig in the backyard. Yeah, I get them published, I get paid. So. There you go. Another great project. What's another great project right now? Does it have to be in your backyard? Probably won't be. But getting out with your binoculars and just watching birds, you're going to start seeing some nesting birds. Again, that Merlin app will tell you what birds are around. And some birds have, you know, different broadcasting calls when they're trying to track the mate. Sometimes when they're there, they're actually have a nest. Not that everything is going to be, you know, that cut and simple with the Merlin app, but it gives you some insight you

might not have. And nesting birds are just a marvelous way. That you can celebrate and tell their story. Now, when it comes to nesting birds, the website is got a big paper on it because you have to do it with some care. I mean, the bottom line is the birds have had to see that their nest. Your photographs? Yeah. They come secondary. It's the survival that species that's important. But telling a story that is really a big deal and telling their nesting story, you'd be surprised how many people you can pull in when you share those photographs. I can't think of a better summer project to plan and execute than working on those nesting bears nesting birds. Last thing I think about that I want to mention there comes the planning of several projects. August. The month of August is typically a very quiet, quiet, quiet, quiet month for critters. Most big game is off somewhere, trying to stay cool and get fat for the winter and getting ready to grow their new pelts. Most birds have finished their nesting and have moved on, so like it's quiet. The light gets a bit hard. So planning your shooting time and your summer projects, think about that quiet month of August. What can you accomplish? Is that the time, for example, to you're thinking about buying that new lens or a new camera? Maybe August would be the time to rent. Rent that first test to make sure it's what you think you want and then get ready to make the purchase. One possible use of that kind of dead time, you could self assign yourself something for the month of August. You know, thinking about those planning those summer projects, maybe you want to try to conquer really hard light. Maybe depending on where you are nowadays, you could be getting rid of the color cars from wildfire smoke. Another project to take on. You could think about August as a month for planning your winter projects trips you want to go on. So there's there is so much but if you had to wrap up the whole podcast, the whole thing is start doing your homework today so you can get the shots tomorrow. That's what planning those summer projects really is all about. You guys are great. Thanks so much for all your TLC that you throw out to me. I'm grateful for it. Have a great week shooting and remember to make every click your story.