

# Moose Podcast #513

**Moose Peterson** Howdy, folks, and welcome to Moose. Podcast number five hundred and thirteen. Corps of discovery. Thanks so much for dropping by giving the podcast a listen. I'm very grateful. Keep meeting new folks, at least to me, who have listened to the podcast and, uh, scarily, uh, can, uh, quote parts of it, which kind of makes me nervous, but hey, I appreciate the support and the fellowship. I want to make a special shout out to all my friends there in Spokane who are dealing with three pretty major wildfires. Please, all of you, be safe. I know some of you have had to evacuate. Makes me nervous and scared and let you know you're in my prayers and thoughts. Been there. Uh. Wildfires are a scary thing. More and more common as well. Retribution to what we've done to screw up our environment. But, uh. Hey, you guys, take care and be safe. This edition of the Moose podcast again is being recorded using Adobe Podcast Beta. Trying to make me sound better and of course, creating the transcript, both of which you can find at the blog post on the website Moose Pearson dot com. You can head there. You can go to your favorite spot Spotify, Amazon, YouTube, iTunes, whatever it happens to be. Um, please, uh, I'm here to help you anyway I can. So if you got comments questions, that's the place to do it. Spotify, I think, is the easiest platform for both sides. But you know, I'm here to help any way I can. Trivia or not. Um, uh, all this trivia that I got in my head, you know, sometimes it's got to get out. If you don't ask questions, it's explodes in the office and Sharon spends days cleaning it up. So please reach out. Just came back from an absolute marvelous time with some really great people, some new folks looking at, uh, the Western Montana had a great, great time. There's quite a bit of smoke. Uh, the smoke has been here for about a week, maybe ten days. And other than making a colorful sunrise and sunset, it's a bit depressing. The heat is really depressed. The critter photography, uh, unless you're at a water feature or bird bath. So that makes things tough. Now I keep adding items to my doodad list, which you can find at the very bottom right corner of the landing page for the website. Now it's there for a number of reasons. Um, you know, most of my stuff that I get your basic, uh, kind of camera gear concept from Bedfords, but all the other little support stuff, uh, cages and things like that, uh, fanny pack, water bottles and of course books. Books, which the reason why I first went to Amazon. Hey, all that's there in the due date list, you can click on it, you can find it. Hopefully it helps because some of it are important tools. Now I'm reading two books for a project that I've picked up, so I and it's kind of, uh, on the q.t. So I can't really talk about those books because that gives away the project, which I'm supposed to keep us under the under wraps until it actually gets published. But a book that I want to recommend that I have read twice, that is really good. This past week, really brought back to the forefront is Undaunted Courage by Stephen Ambrose at all. It undaunted courage. So Lewis and Clark, their journals are seven massive books. Which. Way back when I was a kid, I started going through. I think it got to like number three and I like gave up because man, Meriwether could write. There's a ton of information in there. And that's what Undaunted Courage is all about. It is very inspirational. How I mean, you could there's not a page you couldn't, uh, reference to photography and being a photographer, you know, of, of what it took to go from Saint Louis all the way to the Pacific and back and, and all they went through and experienced, it's, uh, it's if you've not read that book, I can't recommend it enough to you undaunted Courage by Stephen Ambrose at all. It is absolutely just, a just a page burner. It's a great read. I want to thank my good friends at

Bedfords bedfords dot com. If you haven't signed up for their pop up ads that come up, it might be the wrong phrase, but you know, all of a sudden you'll get a text that says we are for the next twenty four or forty eight hours, have this on sale. I can't recommend enough that you do it because it, uh, I've picked up things. I continually pick up things. Last time was some LED lights, you know, it's, uh, and that was on their used sale. It just, they just have so much inventory and such killer prices. And, you know, when you check out, you get that moose discount. I mean, that's five percent back in your pocket. That makes a difference. And I wasn't aware of this. I have a friend of mine who just bought a Z8 and they received, uh, a bunch of Pro guard pro grade goodies, um, a reader, uh, I forget the card like a two hundred and fifty gig card, and then the card organizer, which I can't live without anymore when I travel for, um, when I come back, I can put my cards in it so I get them uploaded correctly and put back the cameras. Well, that all came with the, the, the Z eight which was on sale and they got the discount. I mean, jeez, Bedfords, how do you stay in business doing that giving stuff away. But hey, they you, they got seven stores, got a massive website, great phone number and amazing folks. So hey, call click go inside Bedfords. I'm telling you, they're great. Well, this past week I went back to Great Falls, Montana, took five folks who wanted to explore, and as one native, Montanan who came with me wanted to see the Montana through my eyes. And that native said at the end of the week that they had a whole new appreciation for the state of Montana. You know, there's all sorts of of you got people who put Montana in their name. You've got some crazy TV series that really, uh, don't reflect Montana or its people or its heritage very well. And that was the goal of the if there was a goal for our adventure was really all about Corps of discovery. Now, Corps of discovery can be interpreted in many ways. In this way I'm thinking one the Lewis and Clark expeditions. They came up the Missouri, hit the Great Falls, and then had to overcome that major obstacle to go on and do what they did. And it's it's so reflective of us as photographers. So quick little history lesson. So they going up the Missouri River, how they did it, you know, going up river. Right. They had their boats and then they went to dugout canoes and they got to the Great Falls, which when you look at them historically, these things were just magnificent efficacy of, of nature, just gorgeous, um, really just spectacular. And there are five of them. So they had to portage all they had with them, which was a lot up basically a four hundred and fifty foot cliff. I mean, it wasn't just a little slope. These were of volcanic rock that had been eroded and carved by the Missouri for a millennia. May get all this up the hill through cactus and. And there's nothing worse than Montana cactus. I mean, I've seen them go through twelve ply tires, these things. And these guys just had two leather sole moccasins, and then they portage. What they thought would take just a day took almost three weeks. Then they got back in the river and kept on going. And that's really oversimplifying the whole process. Well, the original idea behind my adventure was to take advantage of the normal, really amazing afternoon thunderstorm lightning displays across the gorgeous plains of the area around, um, Great Falls from like Fort Benton to Fort Shaw down towards, uh, um, uh, past cascade and, and Hardy Creek and and in that area and then up towards Fairfield, that big basin area. Well, between the smoke and the really incredible heat wave, no moisture can make it. And so there was nothing, there was bald skies. And as you know, bald skies suck. So our core discovery had to switch gears, which is typical for photography, right? Well, I went back to my roots with the area and my basic core discovery when it comes to Great Falls. And we, we kind of, you could say follow the tracks of Lewis and

Clark. We, we went to the Great Falls and shooting water and photographing water. Everybody has their own preferences, be it sharp water, blurry water, blown out, out of focus water, and getting to that point takes some time. So we actually started at Rainbow Point, uh, probably the least photographic of the spots and shot that fall. There are, like I mentioned, five. Then the second morning we went to the spectacular Ryan Island, which is at the base of the original Great Falls, which has in all the falls, have hydroelectric power units on them. Now built just after the turn of the nineteenth century, twentieth century. And, you know, like nineteen twelve, nineteen twenty, somewhere in there depends which dam you're at. And at Ryan boy, it's spectacular. It's absolutely gorgeous. And if you just with your imagination and they have some old historic photographs there, you look at The earth and the breadth of these falls and the amount of water that came through them. And then you put yourself in a dugout canoe with moccasins, and you look at these cliffs photographically. That's really quite inspirational. It really does start to bring out what's happening. Now, the first morning we were there at Rainbow Falls, it was kind of fun. We're photographing it and all of a sudden they turned off the water literally because they're doing some, some maintenance, uh, dam maintenance work. And that was like, wow, that was a little shocking to see the water just go boop. But rain at Ryan Island, that didn't happen. So we kept on venturing through and. If you've not been in that area, some of the photographs that I have simply don't do it justice. Now, I've already put a couple on Instagram of the sunrises and sunsets which between the topography, the normal dust that's in the air and the smoke from the wildfires, they were off the chart. They were off the chart. Um, the sun rises like a tower of Rock State Park or out at Fort Benton, the sunset. Oh my gosh. They were some of the most spectacular I had the good fortune to photograph. Yes, I did my normal. I set the camera at ten thousand Kelvin. I underexposed by one stop because I want that fireball information. I want to see that that orange, not that bright yellow, but otherwise it's all just mother nature doing her her magic. And I shot from fourteen millimeter out to all the way two hundred some locations, depending on if we could find any clouds. And then we could make those clouds do something photographically for us. And that's kind of how the core discovery went about. they, they, they had their, their basic plans, right? I mean, they had their basic supplies, but then they had to, uh, basically make up things as they went dealing with what was put in front of them. That's, that's no different than us as photographers. It's the same thing. And you, if you get frustrated and you're like, just sometimes want to strangle your camera or yourself, go read undaunted courage and look what these these gentlemen who had, I mean, Lewis and Clark literally made the map. They didn't have a map. And their maps are incredibly accurate. Um, the measurements they did, even when you look at doing a thirty three at a time, just off the chart, really amazingly accurate, all the options they made of critters and, and flora and weather. I, you know, I don't, can't think of a better, better, uh, Textbook to become a better photographer. Then undaunted courage and how the original Corps of Discovery pretty much changed our world. Some for the better. Some of it's not so much. And that's what your photography can do as well. Your photography, when you make that go out and you make those discoveries and you and you share them, they can change the world. And there's so many aspects of our world that need changing. I can't encourage you enough, often enough with enough, emphasize emphasis. You know what I'm trying to say to get you out there and sharing it is such an important thing. And when you think about Lewis and Clark, when they got to what is now Great Falls, they sent back all their notes, all their

maps up to that point in time. They actually sent some critters with them. You know, they sent some some live prairie dogs and magpies, some other things and send it back. So Jefferson and the East Coast could learn about what was out there. And that's truly what photography is all about. It's going out and discovering those new places. Photographing them with our hearts and sending them back and sharing to infect others with the awe that we felt at that moment. I can't think of a better, you know, definition of core of discovery. You folks have a great week. Enjoy the coolness while it's here. Again, all my friends in Spokane and all those who are dealing with fires right now, uh, up in Canada as well. Please take care, be safe. And remember to make every click your story.