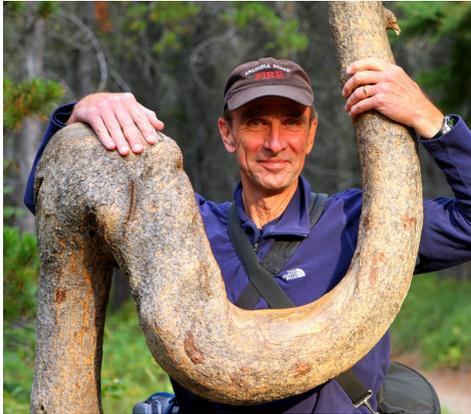


March 2017: *Richard Havenga*

Background: Richard is a wonderful artist and naturalist that I met on LinkedIn. His *Walk With Father Nature* (<http://walkwithfathernature.blogspot.com/>) is filled with a variety of wonderful haikus, photos, poems and non-fiction. Please enjoy his featured photographs for the month of March and visit his website. - Kirsten Walker, **Founder**



TPNC: What attracted you to the type of art you create?

Havenga: My love for all aspects of the natural world. My childlike curiosity. My love for writing and photography, then the challenge of blending them together into an appealing art form to share with the world, online, at my blog.

TPNC: What do you like about your art?

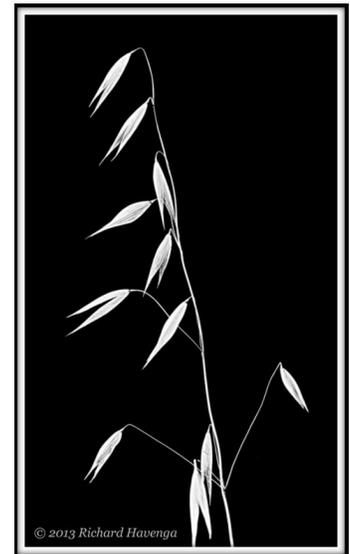
Havenga: I like the processes involved in each category.

Writing: Generating ideas, revision, revision, revision, playing with the words, and the fulfillment of delivering my intended message.

Photography: Pursuit, exploration, awareness, seeing through the eyes of the heart, trying to capture fresh ways of looking at nature. I will never run out of topics/subjects. I can practice my art anywhere, as I travel throughout this bountiful country. Each new day offers new opportunities.

TPNC: What do you find challenging about your art?

Havenga: I have a good eye for composition, light, mood, etc., but sometimes the extreme technology of digital photography interferes with the creative process.



TPNC: What kind of education (if any) did you find helpful in creating your art?

Havenga: My Environmental Education degree from Grand Valley State University. For the most part, I am self-taught through close, continuous, personal observation and extensive reading in the life sciences of interest to me: Botany, Ornithology, Entomology, Dendrology, Meteorology, Zoology, etc. Plus extensive travel to a variety of habitats and natural areas.

March 2017: *Richard Havenga*

TPNC: Who influences your work?

Havenga: Mary Oliver, William Stafford, Jane Kenyon, Ted Kooser, Luci Shaw, John McPhee, Diane Ackerman, Rick Bass, Annie Dillard, Thomas Merton, Bernd Heinrich Rainer Maria Rilke.

TPNC: What kind of advice would you give someone looking to get into this type of art?

Havenga: Get outside as often as you can; every season, every environment. Always have your camera along in your car, on your hikes. Travel extensively. Stop frequently. Explore closely on foot. Be patient. Examine your subject from all angles. Don't be afraid to get dirty, go out in storms, endure the cold. Capture anything that appeals to you. Learn to see with new vision.



Favorite quote:

"Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it." ~ Mary Oliver

