

# Solitary Vision



## THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF DAVID C. SCHULTZ

Schultz's crowd-pleasing pictures are usually the result of a lot of time alone.

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F IN DAVID C. SCHULTZ'S PHOTOGRAPHY YOU get a sense of solitude and quiet appreciation of nature, then you're getting a pretty good sense of the photographer himself.

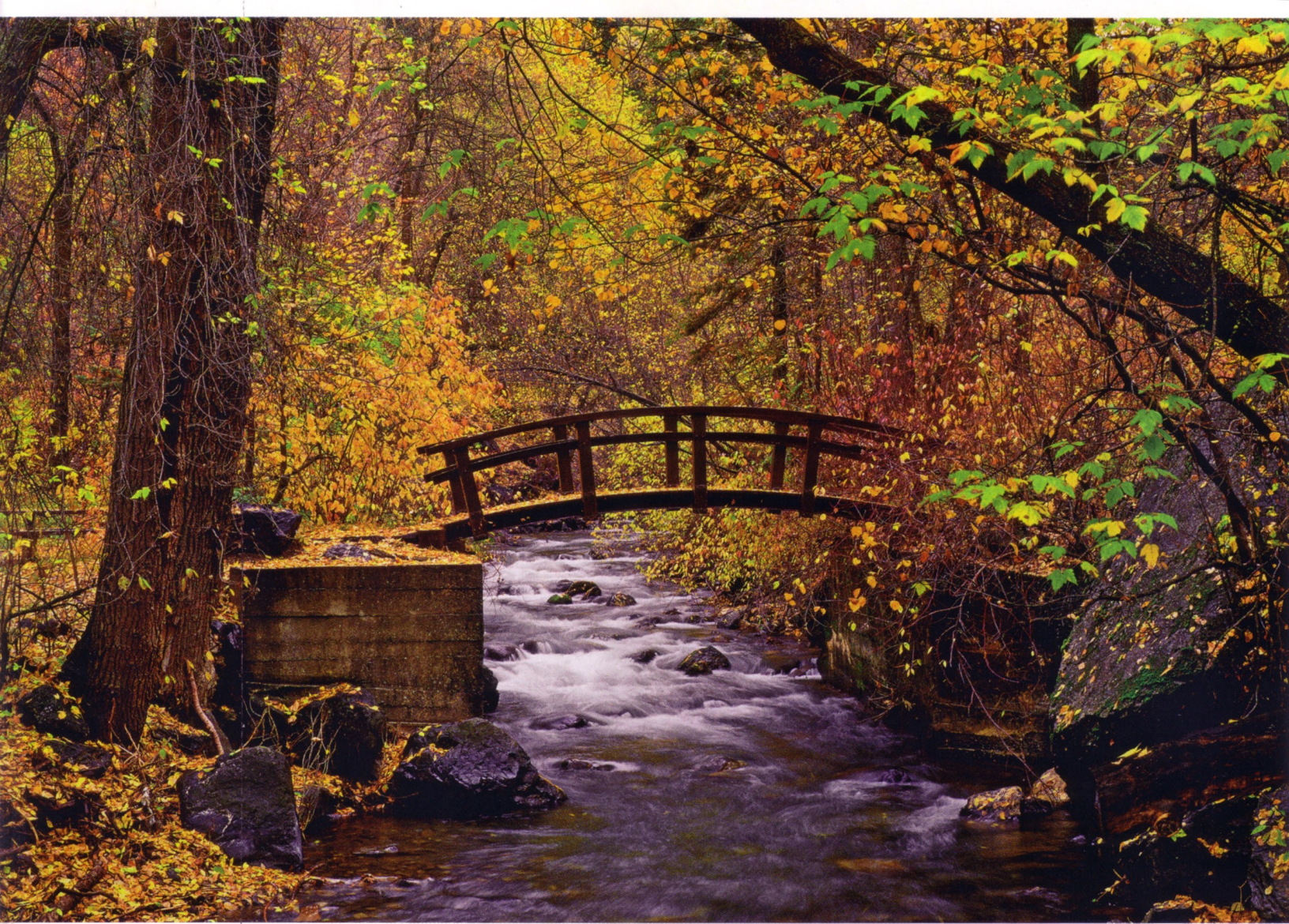
"My heart is really in being out by myself with the dog in places you have to do a little backpacking to get to," says the 52-year-old Utah-based photographer. "On the latest voyage I took to Antarctica, there was a day when 10 or 15 of us were waiting for penguins to come flying out of the water and sailing onto the ice. And three or four people in the group would not shut up. They talked nonstop for hours. It takes away from the experience. Solitude is a big part of what I do."

Fortunately, with 10 national parks within a six-hour drive of his home in Heber City, Utah, Schultz has plenty of empty, quiet country to roam. Outside his door, nearby Wasatch Mountain subjects such as Mount Timpanogos have never ceased to fascinate him.



**CLOCKWISE (from left):** *The North Fields, Mount Timpanogos, Heber, Utah. Tate Barn, Heber Valley, Utah. Tate Barn, Heber Valley, Utah.*

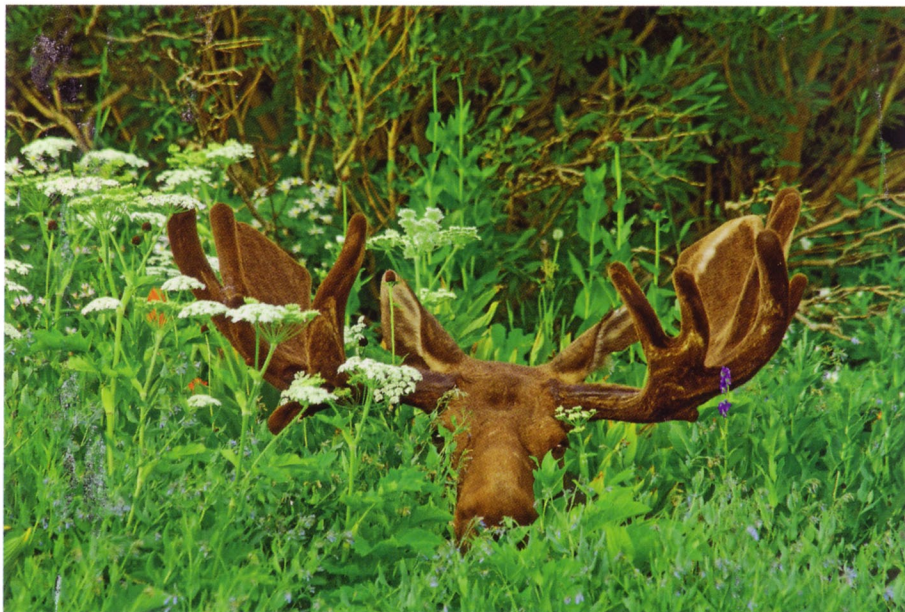




**CLOCKWISE (from top): American Fork Canyon, Utah. Mount Timpanogos, Wasatch Mountains, Utah. Maple and Aspen #1, Wasatch Mountains, Utah. Peekaboo, Deer in Aspen Trees, Sundance, Utah. Translucent, Wasatch Mountains, Utah.**



**CLOCKWISE (from above):** *Moose in Abion Basin, Wasatch Mountains, Utah.*  
*Hidden ... Almost, Wasatch Mountains, Utah.*  
*Socks on the Run, Heber Valley, Utah.*  
*Heber Valley, Utah.*  
*Mount Timpanogos, Wasatch Mountains, Utah.*





**CLOCKWISE (from top):**

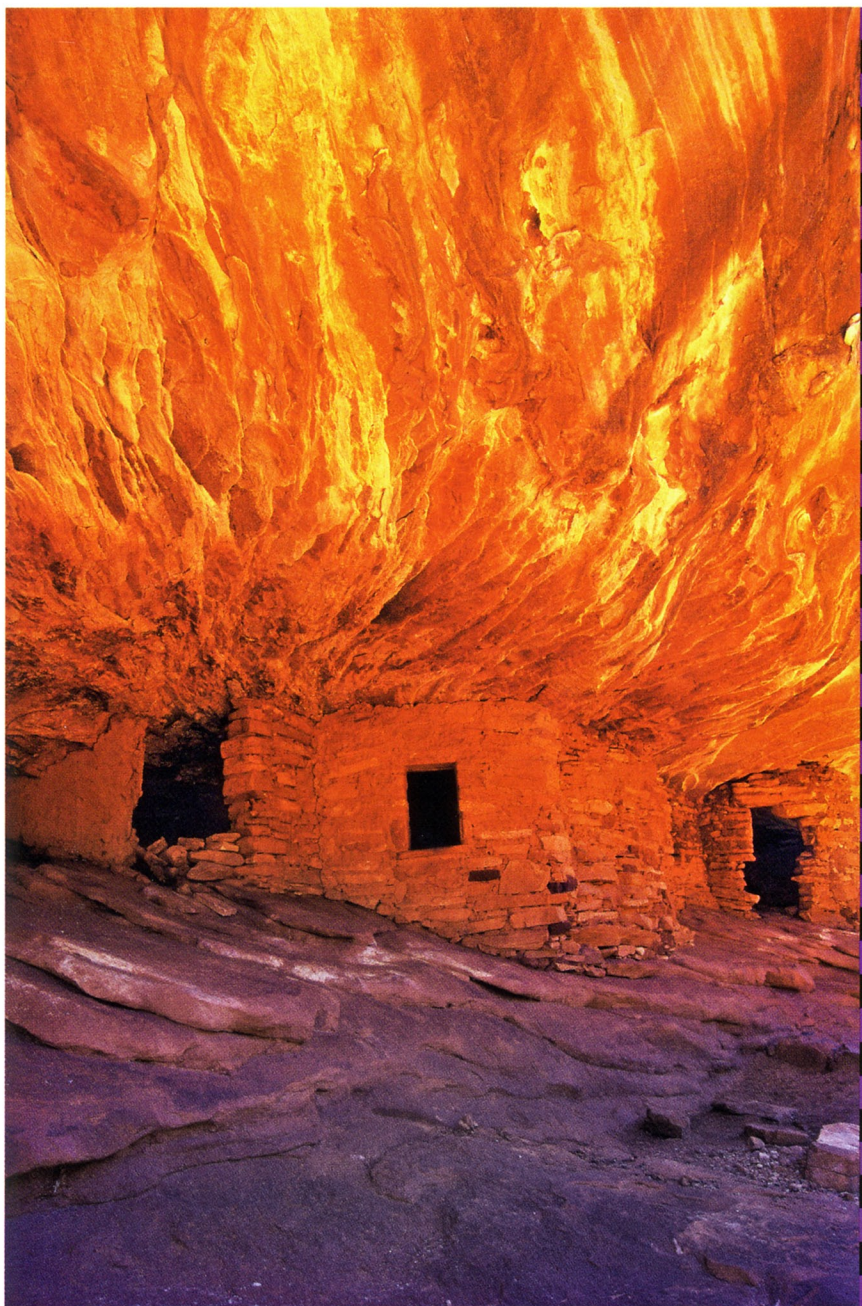
***Maple and Aspen Trees, Wasatch Mountains, Utah.***

***House on Fire Ruins, Cedar Mesa, Utah.***

***Thors Hammer, Bryce National Park, Utah.***

***Gunsight Butte, Lake Powell, Utah.***





“I grew up in Michigan and it’s a beautiful state, but I just find that there’s a clarity of the light here that I don’t notice when I travel east of the Rockies,” says Schultz, whose Park City gallery’s name is, fittingly, West Light Images. “You really get what they call ‘bluebird days’ in Utah in which the skies are an almost unreal blue.”

In Utah’s gorgeous backcountry, Schultz will sit alone for as long as it takes to please his perfectionist soul. In the case of the perfectly lit image of a moose in Utah’s Albion Basin, that meant waiting three weeks.

“Each summer the wildflowers in that area get phenomenal; I went up to take pictures of flowers and noticed several moose hanging around,” he says. “I don’t typically photograph wildlife, but for three weeks almost every morning and evening I was going up there—it’s about 90 minutes from my home—really concentrating on the moose. And it paid off.”

It took him more than four years of trekking to Mount Shuksan and Picture Lake in Washington’s North Cascades to finally beat weather, haze, and other variables to get the shot he wanted. And he’s still waiting to get Yosemite. “I’ve never gotten a good shot of Yosemite,” he says. “I’ve got plenty of pictures that are in focus and composed well, but nothing where the light is just outstanding. In these iconic locations, it’s got to be spectacular.”

Diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at 13 and warned he might go blind, Schultz lit out after high school to see as much of the country as he could before his eyesight deteriorated. A chance encounter with a professional photographer on Ruby Beach on Washington’s Olympic Peninsula got him into the business. He’s since developed diabetic retinopathy that has required several laser treatments and daily management. The condition, ironically, has shaped his unique if solitary vision. “There’s not any time out in the field that I’m not aware of it,” Schultz says of his deteriorating eyesight. “But I’ve been fortunate with this career to get to a lot of special places and bring them back for other people to see.”

—Chuck Thompson



West Light Images Gallery, 738 Main St., Park City, Utah; [www.westlight.net](http://www.westlight.net).