

# The Arts

## Nature draws this photog's eye



*Morning Flight* Photos by Hugh Fraser

**By Carrie Vargas**  
**Maricopa Monitor**



**Hugh Fraser**

When Hugh Fraser was growing up, nature played a primary role in shaping his view of the world. Fraser, who is from Setting Lake, Manitoba, Canada, grew up in and around mining communities in Manitoba. His father, a geologist, worked in mining exploration camps for a good portion of Fraser's young life, and he grew to love the natural beauty around him.

"Watching birds and going on nature hikes. It's a great way for a kid to grow up," he said.

Fraser spent most of his adult life in education. For 20 years he was an English teacher and then used his Master's in Educational Administration to become a principal and finally a superintendent. In 2005, when he was going to retire, his staff wanted

to get him a gift and asked his wife what he might like.

"She said, 'You know, he's been showing an interest in photography,'" Fraser said.

So the group got him a 4-megapixel Canon digital PowerShot A520. He was impressed with the camera and took immediately to experimenting with light and shadow.

"I found that I really liked taking images," Fraser said. "People have told me that I have a way with light."



*Barn Owl* Photos by Hugh Fraser

Fraser recently set up his works for display in a monthlong exhibit at the Heritage North Museum in the city of Thompson, Manitoba. His show is called “Kanatan Keewatinok: The Sacred North.” Fraser said that he wanted to pull in the aboriginal aspect of the region.

“It features photographs depicting the spiritual relationship between the land of the north and all that it encompasses,” Fraser said.

In the future, Fraser is looking forward to exploring the nature in Manitoba and Arizona. He plans to do more winter photography in northern Arizona and to visit polar bears in Churchill, Manitoba.

“I also want to photograph the aurora borealis,” Fraser said.

Residents will be able to enjoy Fraser’s works at Art on the Veranda in November, or by visiting his website at [www.hugh-fraserphotography.com](http://www.hugh-fraserphotography.com).

*Oak Creek Canyon* Photos by Hugh Fraser

## **Coming to Maricopa**

Fraser took a business trip to the capital of Manitoba, where he chatted with a man about retirement. The gentleman suggested he look at Arizona, told him about Maricopa and gave him a Realtor’s card. Fraser decided to take a week to check out Arizona with his wife. After looking at several cities in the Valley, the Realtor brought them to Province in Maricopa, where the same man he met on the plane was in the sales office.

They liked it so much, they purchased a home and now split time between Maricopa and their home in Canada.

“We have two homes, truly,” Fraser said. “The people you encounter (in Maricopa) are so friendly.”

One of the people he encountered here is another local photographer, Jack Jackson.

“I am largely self-taught,” Fraser said. “Jack has been a good mentor for me.”

Fraser describes himself as primarily a nature photographer. He believes his experience growing up in mining exploration camps instilled a love of nature.

“I love getting out into the wilderness to capture images of creatures and their natural habitat,” Fraser said.

He considers himself a “modernist,” saying that he agrees with photography artist Ansel Adams and the concept of straight photography.

“I avoid overworking an image and using processes such as HDR in an attempt to produce as natural an image as possible,” Fraser said.

