

LIFE

Allan Brooks invites budding filmmakers

MORNING STAR STAFF

The marmots are the stars in the Allan Brooks Nature Centre video workshop.

The workshop teaches participants how to plan, shoot and edit a short documentary about the marmots, nature and other topics.

Instructor Bruce Mol, owner of Instructional Design and Delivery, was captured by the power of video to make the message and feeling clear.

"Video is like a language with phrases and nuances. Videographers can create and change moods with lighting, camera angles and pacing to convey ideas and feelings, such as the setting sun... the stillness of water... the expressions of people in love. The full impact comes from the fact that the images are in motion, often accompanied by narrative and music," he said. "I made my first movies with my dad's 8mm camera in the '70s. They were expensive to develop and difficult to edit. In fact, I didn't edit, I planned my shots and got them in the order I needed them.

"Today's digital camcorders are less expensive and videos are far easier to make and edit, but planning is still needed."

The two-hour workshop runs July 19. Creating Short Videos of Family & Nature, will feature a short talk indoors about planning videos, then it's outdoors to video what you need to produce your nature video story — or a story about your family. Great for all ages. See www.abnc.ca for details or call 250-260-4227 to register.

In addition to the workshop, Mol has partnered with the centre to offer the The Allan Brooks Nature Centre Video Contest.

This is a chance to crystallize your message down to 120 seconds, using structure and design to

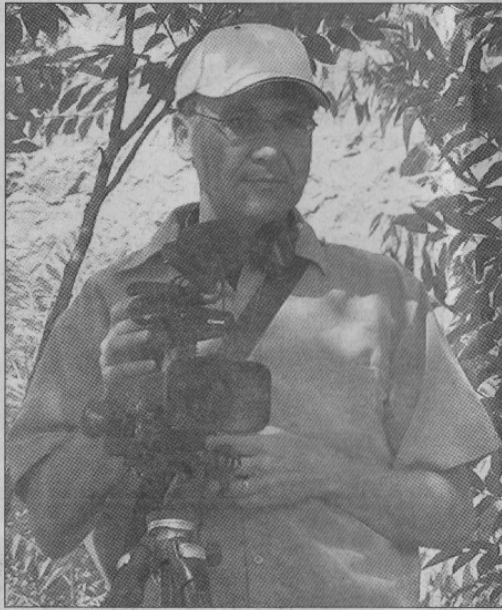


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BRUCE MOL will lead a workshop and head up a video contest at the Allan Brooks Nature Centre.

convey your ideas following Mol's steps on how to plan and produce a video. Using the example of marmots, Mol has posted videos both 60 and 120 seconds in length to illustrate how a methodical approach to videos can result in a short and interesting documentary. The two marmot videos and *Making of Marmots* video demonstrates the value of organizing visual intentions to prepare the story to be told. From a marmot's perspective 120 seconds tells it all.

"We have all squirmed embarrassingly while viewing long or poorly made videos. Quite often, with a little more time, effort, organization and the development of planning and production skills, a much more informative and entertaining video can be produced — videos that are far more respectful to its audience," said Mol, who is providing free planning material on his Web site (www.bmidd.com) to help budding videographers develop their video creation skills.

The contest is open to residents of the North

pick one winner in each category, and those videos will be displayed on the centre's Web site.

To keep the expense of producing a video to a minimum, no tapes or discs are required to enter this contest. Contestants are asked to provide the link to their video, not the video itself. Video entries

can be posted on YouTube or any such free online video service.

The motivation behind this project is the chance for people to upgrade their skills, be creative and excel.

"Nothing is more satisfying than the pleasure of seeing people express themselves well in any

medium, whether it be Spielberg or a three-year-old with her crayon set," said Mol.

He said this is a chance to bring families and individuals together, learning through creative action to make memorable fun.

For more information, please call Mol at 250-306-2894.