



No. 136 Joel Sartore  
February 2013

Acclaimed National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore drew a record number of Face on the Barroom Floor roasters --- 10 -- ranging from school pals and university professors to family members and his National Geographic editor who flew in from Washington, D.C. They teased him about being “cheap” and about being a prankster gone wild.

His editor, Kathy Moran, expressed amazement that “I came all this way and Joel still made me buy my own dinner.” Boyhood friend attorney Mark Quandahl recalled that for a senior prank at Ralston High, prankster Joel released pigeons in the school’s gym and was expelled.

Retired journalism professor Bud Pagel said that a picture may be worth a thousand words, “but I don’t know any photographer who knows a thousand words.”

Other roasters were Michael Forsberg, photographer and star of NET’s documentary, “Great Plains“; UNL photography professor George Tuck;

Katie Joseph, Sartore's former assistant; Alan Bone, database administrator for the Westside Community Schools; Tom Swanson, University of Nebraska Press; Joel's daughter, Ellen, and his brother Paul.

Sartore has chased photos from the Arctic to the Antarctic, on all seven continents and all 50 states. His home base is Lincoln where he lives in a home that he renovated. The house is now on the National Register of Historic Homes. He grew up in Ralston, Neb., and got his journalism degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He and his wife, Kathy, have three children.

Sartore is a contributor to the CBS Sunday Morning Show with Charles Osgood. He is a photojournalist, speaker, author (see his books on Amazon) and teacher.

Artist Jim Horan's "Face on the Barroom Floor" pictures Sartore wading through a swamp to photograph its creatures. Joel also has set up an office in the swamp with a TV tuned to "CBS Sunday Morning," a program to which he contributes.

A coffee table displays his latest book, "Let's Be Reasonable." In the background of the caricature are some of the famous Sartore photos, including with his family. Sartore brought some photos with him to the roast/toast to display in the OPC Hall of History.

He and his work have been the subject of national broadcasts that include National Geographic's "Explorer," the NBC Night News, NPR's "Weekend Edition" and "At Close Range", an hour-long documentary

A photo he took in Uganda of a lion in a tree was voted National Geographic Magazine's "Best Photo of 2012." He became a freelance photographer for the magazine in 1991.

He also is a conservationist. His focus is on wildlife and endangered species "to show a world worth saving," he says. He is known for his creation called "The Photo Ark," his attempt to document "as many species as I can

in the world's zoos and aquariums. It'll be what defines my career.”

“The goal is to get the public to care about the extinction crisis and try and save at least a few of the animals I've documented, while there's still time,” he said.