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Editor
Barbara Addelson

Contributors
Scott Avetta
Linda Moder
Lori Purk
Margy Terpstra

by John Hitzeman

"… a freethinker is an eagle parting the clouds with tireless wing."

~Robert Green Ingersoll
American Statesman and Orator
1833-1899

PEOPLE & PLACES

MoNEP Seminar: Bill Fortney

Join us for the **2011 MoNEP seminar** on **January 29th** from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Our presenter will be **Bill Fortney**, accomplished photographer, writer and speaker.

Bill has over 40 years of experience during his successful career in the field of photography. He is the author of a number of best selling books including: ***The Nature of America***; ***American Vision***; ***America From 500 Feet*** and ***Bill Fortney's Great Photography Workshop***. Bill is currently working on ***America From 500 Feet II***. He is the founder of the **Great American Photography Weekend** and has served as a Nikon Services Representative for the past six years. To learn more about Bill and to preview his work, visit **www.billfortney.net**.

Bill will cover these digital photography topics during his presentation:

- Camera controls and how to use them creatively
- The importance of light
- Nailing white balance
- Composing for dynamic results
- Taking your photography to the next level
- *It's in the bag* - selecting your gear.

This seminar will be held at **The Ethical Society** at **9001 Clayton Road in Clayton, 63117**. **Registration is $45 for MoNEP members and $55 for non-members**. The schedule will follow much the same format as past MoNEP seminars. Morning coffee, tea and lunch are included in the cost of registration. To register, please see the attached form or visit **www.monep.org**. Thanks to our sponsors: Schiller's and Nikon.

MoNEP President's Message

Happy New Year and thank you all for making our 15th year a memorable one. We look forward to your continued support and participation in 2011.

Our aim is simple: keep the MoNEP mission statement (on page 4) foremost in our thoughts and strive to make each year even better. It takes the help of the members to accomplish this, as well as a wonderful board and volunteer support staff. Their willingness to work together and work long hours is truly inspiring. This is an impressive team, always looking out for what is best for MoNEP.

Also, many thanks to Powder Valley for the outstanding venue and staff support. Meeting attendance was up in 2010, averaging over 100 people per meeting, and the number of memberships rose. Thanks also to our speakers, who were inspiring, as was our Holiday show.

MoNEP funded a scholarship through the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Pierre Laclede Honors College in the fall of 2010 and will offer another for 2011. We funded the first Youth Photo Contest at Shaw Nature Reserve and will again in 2011. In addition, we donated money to the World Bird Sanctuary when a fallen tree damaged their flight cage.

Funding for these charitable efforts comes from the money we raise through our seminars. We hope you will attend our Bill Fortney Seminar in January, enabling MoNEP to continue to help these causes and others. If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2011, we hope you will attend the next meeting and do so. Your participation means a lot. Thanks to everyone for your support during 2010.

-Scott Avetta, MoNEP President

MoNEP Holiday Party

The MONEP Holiday Party was a wonderful success. At least 140 people enjoyed the camaraderie, food and both outstanding digital image shows!

We would like to thank the following people for helping with bringing assorted items, contributing food, setup, bartending and cleanup: **Barbara Addelson, Jim and Linda Alessi, Scott Avetta, CJ Baretich, Ken and Mary Biddle, Vearl Brown, Susan and Fred Burk, Sandy Campise, Kathy and Mark Cherry, Jack and Karen Clark, David and Joyce Davis, Jane Deeker, Karla Elliott, Geneva and Jerry Fetsch, Bob Gerbin, Jeff and Kelly Hall, Susan Hauser, Ruth Killian, Carol and Rich Kromnacker, Bill and Judy Lubben, Lori Meier, Patty and Larry Meyer, Rich Merz, Jerry Miller, Linda Moder, Donna and Ted Moreno, Don Morice, Shawn Northrop, Kieran Panther, Lori Purk, Don Sheahan, Lydia Toth, Given Ulbinger, John Watson, Ed and Sharon Whitwam**. Please accept our apologies if we forgot a name. MoNEP members are the very best when it comes to pitching in to help, and some do so without signing up!

Special thanks to **Margy and Dan Terpstra** for the continued excellent organization of the party. Kudos also to **Jerry Miller** and **Pat Burgess** for the fabulous job they did putting together the wonderful holiday presentation. We do so appreciate Jerry's and Pat's hard work. Finally, thanks to all the many members who submitted images for use in the program. Our members outdid themselves this year.

Annual Membership

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2011, it is time to pay your dues. **Dues are $25 per person or $35 for a two-member household**. To become a member or to renew, fill out and sign the enclosed form. You can submit your membership renewal form, along with payment, to one of the membership co-chairs, **Vicki or Shawn Northrop** at the January meeting. You can also mail your form to **Vicki Northrop, 1111 Wilmington Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63111**. We are unable to accept credit or debit cards. Payment should be made in cash or by check made out to **MoNEP**.

New Members

Welcome to our newest member, **James Hawk**.

Member News

A **Scott Avetta** photo graces the cover of a new book on Shaw Nature Reserve, ***Shaw Nature Reserve; 85 Years of Natural Wonders*** by Cindy Gilberg and Barbara Perry Lawton. Additional images by Scott can be seen throughout this excellent book on one of MoNEP's favorite field trip sites.

Mark Braun's photographs are still on display at **Garland Wines, 15 Old Orchard in Webster Groves**. Please call Garland's at 314-961-9463 before visiting the exhibit, to make sure it is still on display.

Jerry Fetsch's image of Canada geese at Busch Conservation Area was published in the January edition of ***The Missouri Conservationist***.

Richard Spener has an exhibit of 28 images at the **Ethical Society** thru **January 12th**. Richard also had an image of a dickcissel published in **The Prairie Foundation** newsletter, and **Audubon** auctioned one of his photographs of a great egret.

Jim and Judy Stroup have gone greener, installing a geothermal HVAC system in their home. For images visit **www.pbase.com/jimslug98/geothermal.**

Backyard Bird Festival

MoNEP will participate again in the 6th annual **Backyard Bird Festival** that will be held at the **Missouri Botanical Garden on Saturday, February 5th**. We will have a booth where we will let festival participants know about MoNEP as an organization and will share members' bird photography. The booth will be located in the exhibitor area of the Ridgway Center known as from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you would like to help out for an hour or two please contact **Lori Purk at 314-869-7427** or by e-mail at **purkyl8r@aol.com** or **Don Morice** at **314-383-8267, donkm63@charter.net**. No experience is necessary to join us and help out. This is a fun way to give back to the community and to get to know your fellow members better. A sign up sheet will be available at the January meeting.

Eagle Days

The Missouri Department of Conservation is hosting Eagle Days events around the state, with activities in St. Louis and Clarksville, Missouri in January. View eagles from the Chain of Rocks Bridge in St. Louis on January 15th -16th. Travel to the town of Clarksville for Eagle Days on January 29th and 30th. For more information, visit mdc.mo.gov or call 573-242-3771.

THE Corner Gallery

featuring MoNEP members' photography

by Ken Biddle

House Finch
by
Margy Terpstra

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates and Share & Show Themes

Tuesday, January 18th – Nature's Geometry
Tuesday, February 15th – Monochrome

Meetings begin promptly at **7:00 p.m.** at ***Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center***.

Share and Show Nature Images

Members are invited to share their **nature** images at each MoNEP meeting. If you wish to participate, you should prepare up to **four (4) nature-related images**. Be sure to:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- Save your images as .jpg files.
- Place your four resized images on a drive or disc in a folder with your name and the meeting date.
- Give your images to **Jerry Miller** no later than 6:30 p.m. the night of the meeting.

For more information about Share and Show formatting requirements, please see ***Resize an Image for Submission*** in the photo tips section on the MoNEP web site, **www.monep.org**.

January Speaker – Richard Day

Join us at the **January 18th** meeting for **Richard Day's** presentation on ***Churchill: Polar Bear Capital of the World***. Although Richard is primarily known for his bird, butterfly and dragonfly photography, he has also been a photo specialist tour leader in Churchill, Manitoba, Canada for ten years. He's a guide for Frontiers North Adventures based in Winnipeg, and he typically spends 5-6 weeks at a time in the Arctic teaching people about wildlife, particularly polar bears, and how to photograph it. Richard will give us the ultimate Arctic experience through his photographs. We will travel with him to Churchill to see the polar bears and the wildlife that lives in this small northern town during mid-October to mid-November each year. We will learn why the bears descend on this small community each fall and how they are faring with climate change.

Richard is a professional nature photographer. His images have appeared in: ***Audubon, Birder's World, Sierra Club, National Geographic, National Wildlife*** and others. He contributes hundreds of images annually to calendars, greeting cards, puzzles, paper products and advertising clients. He has taught photo workshops since 1984. Richard was an instructor for 2 years for the NANPA Road Shows and a leader for the Smokies Regional Event. He and his wife, Susan, both MoNEP members, own Daybreak Imagery **www.daybreakimagery.com** a stock photography and writing business that they operate from their home in Illinois. They also host numerous photo workshops at their sanctuary on 63 acres for bird, butterfly and dragonfly photography. They were MoNEP seminar speakers in 2009 and have hosted our summer butterfly and dragonfly field trips for several years.

November Speaker Recap

Our November speaker, Ann McMahon took us on a journey skyward as she talked about the heavens and astrophotography. Ann, an amateur astronomer since the age of 10, began by discussing the phases of the moon and tips for determining whether the moon is waxing or waning. A waxing moon, when the moon is transitioning from a new moon to a full moon, can be identified by the fact that the moon's right side is lit by reflected sunlight. You can distinguish a waning moon, one transitioning from full moon to new moon by the fact that a waning moon is lit on the left side. A waxing crescent moon can be seen in the western sky at sunset and sets soon after the sun does. A full moon rises in the east just as the sun sets in the western sky.

Ann also discussed the changing position of the sun in the sky over the course of a year. It is the Earth's revolution around the sun that causes the sun to rise and set in different places depending upon the time of year. The path of the sun from sunrise to sunset is higher in the sky during our summer and lower in the sky during our winter. One of the greatest challenges for astrophotographers is to capture a year's worth of images of the sun's position in the sky from the same vantage point at the same time of day. The path traced is called an analemma. The first person to record this change of the sun's position in the sky on film was Dennis di Cicco who began his analemma photographs in 1978. He took photos of the sun every 7-10 days for a year at the same time of day. The sun is at its highest point in the sky and on photograph of the analemma at noon on the summer solstice each year.

Ann also discussed the movement of the stars in the sky and provided tips for photographing star trails. From the Earth, stars appear to revolve around the North Star. Photographs of star trails show this circular rotation of the stars, while meteors appear on the images as straight-line streaks in different colors, such as green, yellow or white. Star trail photos require a very dark place without light pollution from cities and towns.

Ann finished up with some images of her own. Among them was a wonderful photograph she took of Comet Hale-Bopp in April 1997. Ann took over 400 photos of the comet in order to get seven good ones, bracketing the photos from exposures seconds long up to five-minutes. Ann shared a number of resources with us. For those who want to track what is going on in the skies during any given month, you may want to subscribe to the Sky Calendar produced the Abrams Planetarium at Michigan State University in East Lansing. View a sample calendar at www.pa.msu.edu/abrams/skycalendar.

Our thanks to Ann for a very interesting and informative presentation and for widening the scope of what we consider as subjects for nature photography.

Don't forget – it is time to renew your MoNEP Membership for 2011! Details on page 2.

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Avetta
President
Program Chairman
3650 Eileen Ann Drive
St. Louis, MO 63129
314-487-3280
scottavetta@hotmail.com

Don Morice
Vice President
63 Bellerive Acres
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-383-8267
donkm63@charter.net

Linda Moder
Treasurer/Secretary
5341 A Sutherland Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63109
314-351-6015
Linda_monep@hotmail.com

Kathy Cherry
Recording Secretary
4370 Marty Ridge Drive
St. Louis, MO 63129
314-487-5105
fishnclick@sbcglobal.net

BOARD MEMBERS

Ken Biddle
Program Co-Chair
62 Chesterfield Lakes Road
Chesterfield, MO 63005
636-532-5669
kdbiddle@swbell.net

Pat Burgess
Webmaster
866 Burgundy Lane
Manchester, MO 63011
314-592-8653
pburgess01@earthlink.net

Jerry Miller
Digital Committee Chair
22 Scarlet Court
St. Charles, MO 63304
314-517-6395
sirlukeman@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Barbara Addelson
Newsletter Editor
314-962-8972
baddelson@sbcglobal.net

Vicki & Shawn Northrop
Membership Co-Chair
1111 Wilmington Ave
St. Louis, MO 63111
314-832-2090
vicki_northrop@yahoo.com
snorth70@gmail.com

Lori Purk
Community Outreach Committee
314-869-7427
PURKYL8R@AOL.COM

Larry Terrell
Audit Committee Chair
636-244-1205
llterrell@hotmail.com

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers is to provide a forum for individuals interested in the field of nature photography and the environment, provide education, gather and disseminate information, and promote nature photography as an art form and medium of communication.

MoNEP meetings are held once a month at the Powder Valley Conservation Area Nature Center on 11715 Cragwold Road, near the intersection of I-44 and I-270 in southwestern St. Louis County. Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, January through November. Meetings take place in the Nature Center auditorium. Specific dates are posted in the newsletter.

MoNEP is an officially registered service mark. Use of the logo without MoNEP board approval is prohibited.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.monep.org

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MoNEP
Missouri Nature & Envrionemtal Photographers
c/o Shawn & Vicki Northrop
1111 Wilmington Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63111
vicki_northrop@yahoo.com