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PEOPLE & PLACES

MoNEP Exhibit at Powder Valley Conservation Area

MoNEP has been invited to create the hallway exhibit for **Powder Valley Nature Center** in **October** in conjunction with their 20th anniversary.

Submissions

The **MoNEP Community Outreach Committee** is currently collecting submissions and will continue accepting them through the night of the **June 21st** meeting. We encourage you to submit four nature related images of subjects that can be found in Missouri. Please save your submissions on a CD in the same manner as required for our monthly *Share and Show*. Information on how to format submissions can be found on the MoNEP website. Don't forget to put your name, phone number and email address on the CD. We also ask that you include information identifying your subject and where it was taken in each image's file name. Images may be either horizontal or vertical. In order to encourage members to submit images taken at either **Powder Valley** or nearby **Emmenegger Nature Park**, we will accept a fifth entry from each person if it represents one of those two locations. So, get out to Powder Valley or Emmenegger and capture something special. We hope to make this our most spectacular exhibit ever!

Emmenegger Nature Park

Emmenegger Nature Park is located west of Powder Valley across the bridge that crosses Highway I-44, just beyond the entrance to Powder Valley. Visit **mdc.mo.gov/atlas/region/stl** for more information about this 93-acre site.

Selections

Selections will be made and members will be notified at the July meeting. Images that are selected will need to be printed at a minimum of 11" x 14". They should be mounted and matted in white or off-white mats to a finished size of 16" x 20" in time for the August meeting. We will provide information on members who have businesses that can help participants meet these requirements. Members will be responsible for the cost of matting and framing their images.

Framing

When it gets closer to the exhibit date, we will have a framing session, and those whose images are selected for the exhibit will be asked to help frame the show. Members who are not able to attend this session will need to get their work to one of the other participants and your work will be framed for you. Framing costs have been approximately $20 per photograph in the past. MoNEP will obtain the framing supplies, so all of the work is uniformly framed.

Jefferson County Panorama by Dug Threewit

SNR Youth Photo Contest

MoNEP has once again joined with **Shaw Nature Reserve** (SNR) to sponsor its 2011 youth nature photography contest. ***Take A Shot!*** is open to children ages 14 and under. Entries must be taken at Shaw Nature Reserve between **April 1st and July 15th, 2011**. All entries must be received by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 15th**.

Submissions should represent one of the following four categories:

- Flora – any plant found at SNR
- Wildlife – amphibians, reptiles, birds or mammals found at the Reserve
- Miniature World – insects, spiders, mosses or fungi
- Trees – close-ups or landscapes featuring trees at SNR

MoNEP will also be offering a one and a half hour session on the morning of **Saturday, June 11th** to provide contestants with help in the form of technical and compositional guidance. This is a great opportunity for MoNEP volunteers to share some of their knowledge while mentoring children who are interested in entering the contest. If you are interested in helping, please contact **Scott Avetta**.

MoNEP will also provide the judges for the contest, as well as the prizes. Judging will be based upon the subject matter, composition, creativity and technical difficulty of the images. There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes in each category and honorable mentions.

Visit **www.shawnature.org** for SNR hours and other contest details, including how to submit images, acceptable formats, entry forms and delivery instructions.

Member News

Becky Joseph will have an exhibit of her work at **Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center** in June. Her exhibit, ***Everyday Wonders***, will open **June 4th** and will run through July. In conjunction with the exhibit, Becky will do a presentation on nature photography at Burr Oak, located in Blue Springs, Missouri on Saturday, **June 4th from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

Greg Basco has two images from Costa Rica in the Spring 2011 ***Nature Conservancy Magazine***.

MoNEP Tree Giveaway

Strong winds, heavy rains, hail and tornado warnings meant lower than normal attendance at the April meeting. However, those who braved the elements benefitted from our tree giveaway and received free tree seedlings MoNEP had purchased from the **Missouri Department of Conservation** (MDC). We handed out approximately 150 trees for members to plant. Several members indicated that they had also made their own tree purchases from the annual MDC sale of seedlings.

The trees are grown at the George O. White State Forest Nursery near Licking, Missouri. Through the nursery, MDC offers Missouri residents a variety of tree seedlings for reforestation, windbreaks and erosion control, as well as wildlife food and cover. Seedling bundles can be ordered from mid-November to the end of April each year. We estimate that MoNEP members have planted over 500 trees this spring. In honor of our members' efforts to create wildlife habitat and reforest the region, we will make a donation to The Arbor Day Foundation. The money we give to them will allow the foundation to plant additional trees around the country. Thanks to all who helped make a difference by planting for the future.

Photo Shoot at the Days

Susan and Richard Day have once again offered MoNEP members the opportunity to visit their wondrous wildlife sanctuary in **Alma, Illinois** to photograph butterflies, birds and dragonflies. The date of this special event is **Saturday, August 6th**.

For those who have never been to the Days before, they have landscaped their property to attract wildlife with features that include a five-acre native grass and wildflower prairie and two shallow water wetlands. They've won numerous awards for their conservation efforts and their yard is certified with the National Wildlife Federation and Illinois Audubon Society Backyard Habitat Programs.

The cost is **$50 per person**. To secure a spot, please sign up with **Bill or Judy Lubben** at the May meeting. You may pay by cash or a check made out to MoNEP**.** You may also contact Bill and Judy at **314-965-2639** or **billlubben@hotmail.com**.

Missouri Natural Areas

MDC has recently published ***Discover Missouri Natural Areas - A guide to 50 great places*** by **Michael Leahy**. This book guides you to some of state's premier natural areas. The book is only $9.00 and is available at Powder Valley and other MDC offices.

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates and *Share & Show* Themes

Tuesday, May 17th– *It's a Bug's Life*
Tuesday, June 21st – *Patterns* / Speaker: Scott Evers

Meetings begin 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, visit the photo tips section on the MoNEP web site, **www.monep.org**.

May 17th Speaker – Joe Coelho

The **Galapagos Islands**, sometimes known as the Ends of the Earth, are a mostly pristine archipelago teeming with unique wildlife. **Dr. Joe Coelho**, Associate Professor of Biology at Quincy University, has led three trips to the Galapagos. An avid photographer and MoNEP member, Coelho will describe the islands, their flora and fauna, and some strategies for photographing them. The time of year and the particular islands visited, as well as your equipment choices will determine what kinds of subjects can be successfully shot. Coelho's talk will be punctuated with striking photos, wildlife facts and interesting vignettes.

April Speaker Recap – Cindy Gilberg

Many thanks to **Cindy Gilberg** for her inspiring presentation at the April meeting. Cindy spoke extensively about ***Native Plants to Attract Birds and Butterflies*.** She touched on ways to provide for the needs of wildlife, including a diversity of foods, water and shelter. She highlighted native plants to include in the garden to attract specific species of birds and butterflies at various times of year. Although adult butterflies don't generally require specific plants for nectar feeding, caterpillars often do have specific host plants. Monarch caterpillars feed only on milkweeds. Spicebush swallowtail larvae feed only on sassafras and spicebush. To attract adults there are lots of plant choices. Butterfly milkweed and blazing stars are butterfly magnets. Blazing stars also produce lots of seed for the birds, as do plants like asters and coneflowers. Columbines and copper iris attract hummingbirds early in the season. Cindy cautioned against being too tidy in your garden. She suggested allowing the flowers to go to seed and leaving the seed heads on the plants for year round food and structure. For Cindy's list of plants to use in your garden, visit the MoNEP website at **www.monep.org**.

NATURE CALLS

May Field Trip – LaBarque Creek

The next MoNEP field trip will be held on **May 21st** at **LaBarque Creek Nature Area**. Details are still being formulated and will be discussed at the May meeting. They will also be sent out in a separate e-mail. Contact **Randy Hunter** at **314-845-3914** for more information.

June Field Trip – Shaw Nature Reserve

There will be a field trip at **Shaw Nature Reserve** on **June 11th.** It will serve a dual purpose. For the first part of the morning we will meet at the Bascom House parking lot at **6:15 a.m.** We will take a very short walk to the **Whitmire Wildflower Garden** and the surrounding areas, prime areas for shooting. For more information on the trip, **contact Randy Hunter at 314-845-3914**.

June Field Trip Part 2

As we did last year, for those who are willing and interested, the second half of the morning on **June 11th** is set aside to assist youngsters who are hoping to enter **SNR's Youth Nature Photography Contest**. This is a great opportunity for MoNEP to help the children and the Nature Reserve. MoNEP is co-sponsoring the contest and, as part of that sponsorship, is offering to help the contestants. You do not need to be an expert to make a difference. If you have never photographed with children, know that you will learn as much as you teach!

For those willing to help the young photographers, we will meet back at the **Bascom House at 9:00 a.m**. Scott Avetta will go over a few items to focus on with the children. The contest categories are:

- Flora of Shaw Nature Reserve
- Wildlife found at the Reserve: amphibians, reptiles, birds or mammals found at the Reserve
- Miniature World of Nature: insects, spiders, mosses or fungi
- Trees of Shaw Nature Reserve

We will try to direct the children to scenes that fit these categories. Many of the kids may have point and shoot cameras and little camera knowledge. We will need to keep it simple. The actual event starts at 9:30 a.m. We have no way of knowing how many young photographers will show up, and we could have a couple or dozens. If you are interested in helping with this shoot, please contact Scott Avetta at **314-487-3280 or by e-mail at scottavetta@hotmail.com**.

We also need assistance in marketing the contest. Please mention the contest to at least one person who may know a child interested in participating. We appreciate everyone's help on this project.

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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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