CLOSE UP

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"Don't believe anything I tell you unless you try it yourself and see if it works for you."
"Light either happens or it doesn't."
"Photography is a communicative art."
"Sharpness is spelled TRIPOD."
~Bill Fortney
American Photographer and Aviator
1946-present

PEOPLE & PLACES

MoNEP Seminar with Bill Fortney

Bill Fortney opened his seminar, ***Taking it to the Next Level,*** last weekend by describing himself as having over 40 years experience as a serious amateur photographer! That is quite a statement from someone who has made his living through photography for all of those years. He is not a commercial photographer whose sole focus is earning money. He is passionate about the art of photography, and he loves what he does and is not a commercial photographer. Bill shared his vast knowledge with us with humor and enthusiasm.

Bill highlighted what he considers to be the three key principles of photography: focusing, depth-of-field and rendition of motion. He emphasized that what you focus on in a scene is the subject. You can change the subject of a scene by changing what is in focus. He displayed many visual examples, which exemplified this and other points. Bill stressed cropping the image to get to its essence and to emphasize the main subject. He reviewed how important depth-of-field is in determining what elements of the image are in focus. A shallow depth-of-field can very successfully isolate a subject from its background, leaving no doubt as to what the subject is. Whereas, a greater depth-of-field is key to making a strong landscape image. Rendition of motion was the third principle Bill covered as he reviewed the impact of slow and fast shutter speeds on images of moving objects. He summed up this segment by saying "The artistic and effective use of these controls will determine the scope of your photography!"

Among the other things Bill covered were exposure, including The 5 Stop Method, histograms, white balance, a range of lighting situations and how to make the best use of the light that is available. He talked about the principles of composition as well as the equipment upon which he relies. He emphasized that there are four things you must have in a great image: a definable subject, appropriate light for the subject, workable conditions for the image you hope to make and control over the elements in the frame.

Bill very kindly provided us with his digital presentation containing many of the images, his outlines and diagrams. These are posted on the MoNEP web site, **www.monep.org**, in the photo tips section. Bill was wonderfully warm and engaging. He is a great storyteller and a magnificent photographer. Our sincere thanks to him for spending the day with us and sharing some of his vast knowledge. Many thanks also to our sponsors: Nikon and Schiller's.

Dan Terpstra

Dan Terpstra

Member News

A **Ken Biddle** image is included as part of the official map and guide for the **Colorado National Monument** near Grand Junction, Colorado. The guide is given out to all of the monument visitors as they enter the grounds of this spectacular site.

Mark Braun is co-hosting a joint art show and reception at **Remington's** on 302 North Main Street in St. Charles on **Friday, February 25th**, from **5:30 to 9:00 p.m.** There will be food, wine, music and art. The show features Mark's photographs and the paintings of Fraser Leonard. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=172326996143366

Don Love recently received his **Master of Photography Degree** at the annual **Professional Photographers of America** (PPA) National Convention. His parents, who owned a portrait studio for over 50 years, joined him at the award ceremony, where his father was the one who put the ribbon around his neck. Don also scored well in the PPA International Photo Contest with some of his nature images.

Dennis McCarthy and his wife, **Maggie**, will share the hallway at **Powder Valley in March** for a combined exhibit. Maggie is a watercolor artist who focuses mainly on watercolor landscapes of scenes and seasons around the US. Dennis will display local nature photos, including some taken in the urban environment.

New Members

Please join me in welcoming our newest members: **Dan and Genie Burke, Aaron Hampton, Michelle Jones, Lisa Kee, Ted Kingery, Christina Laws, Mike Mullen, Kristina Oswald, James Rhodes** and **Alison Telschow**.

Annual Membership

If you have not already done so, it is time to pay annual 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 membership form, found at **monep.org** under **About Us**. You can mail your membership form along with your cash payment or a check made out to **MoNEP** to **Vicki or Shawn Northrop** (address on p. 4) or you can turn it in at the February meeting.

Camera Club Seminar

The **St. Louis Camera Club** is hosting its annual seminar on **Saturday, March 5th**. This year's presenter will be **Adam Jones**, who will present on both nature and travel photography. The seminar will be held at the **Maritz Auditorium in Fenton** and begins at **9:00 a.m.** Registration is $25 and includes lunch. Please note that the **registration deadline is February 27th**. No registrations will be taken after that date, and no walk-in registrations will be allowed.

Adam is a member of Canon's **Explorers of Light**, a group of 60 of the world's best photographers. He is an author as well as a popular and respected workshop instructor and lecturer. He has taught photography workshops for Canon, Popular Photography & Imaging, Maine Photographic Workshops, the Rocky Mountain School of Photography, Great American Photography Workshops and Joe Van Os Photo Safaris. Adam is noted for his enthusiastic, down to earth approach and his ability to communicate effectively with photographers of all skill levels. This workshop is sponsored by Canon USA. Visit **www.stlcameraclub.com** for more information and to register. Registration is on-line only.

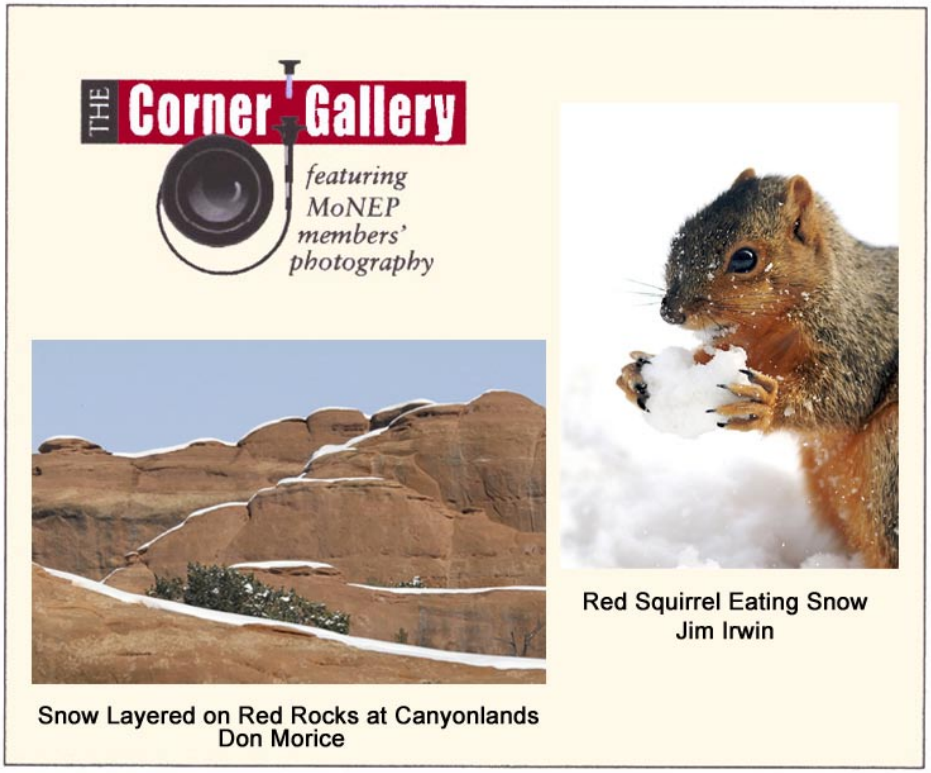
NANPA Summit Updates

For those of you headed to the NANPA Summit in McAllen Texas, some of the ranch field trips on March 9th to 13th have sold out. However, two more have been added for March 8th. There are still slots open for Estero Llano Grande State Park on March 9th, as well as spaces in the Adobe Workshop with Julieanne Kost, Social Media Marketing, HDR, portfolio reviews with photo editors and more.

NANPA has a new website and blog set up specifically for the NANPA Summit. Visit this site for the latest updates: www.naturephotographysummit.com

MoNEP members who register for the NANPA Summit are eligible for a 15% discount on their registration fee. To receive the discount, mention MoNEP in the comments section of the registration form. Now non-NANPA members can sign up for the same price as members.

The Summit iPad drawing is still underway. The first 300 people who register at full price are automatically entered in a drawing to win a 16GB iPad with Wi-Fi. If you recommend the Summit to a friend and they register between now and the Summit, you will receive an additional chance in the iPad drawing.



MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates and Share & Show Themes

Tuesday, February 15th – Monochrome
Tuesday, March 15th – Trees

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**.

February Speaker – Scott Avetta

MoNEP president, **Scott Avetta** will be the speaker at the **February 15th** meeting. Scott will address ***Common Mistakes Photographers Make and How to Avoid Them***. His presentation will highlight the differences between a great photograph and a good one. He will touch upon some of the minor decisions we make before we release the shutter and how the selection of subject, light, angle, lens and aperture all affect the impact of an image. The difference of less than a second or smaller than an inch can impact the success of the final result. Scott will share ideas of how to improve your compositions and how to view obstacles as opportunities. Scott has published a number of books and regularly teaches photography classes at the Garden. He will be teaching five classes at the Garden this spring and one at Shaw Nature Reserve.

March Speaker – Mike Arduser

Missouri Department of Conservation biologist, **Mike Arduser** will take us on a "virtual" trip to the **LaBarque Creek Natural Area** at the **March 15th** meeting. Mike will introduce us to a natural gem on the edge of the St. Louis metropolitan area. LaBarque Creek Natural Area, located in northwest Jefferson County, is a rugged landscape with an interesting geology and biological richness. An impressive variety of natural communities thrive in the area, including small sandstone and dolomite glades, sandstone cliffs, acid seeps, forests, woodlands and an Ozark stream with a remarkable assemblage of fishes. In the deep, cool, moist sandstone canyons, a number of plants and animals typical of more northern regions hold on, sheltered from the extremes of Missouri's climate. Learn about this unique area, which is located only a half hour from downtown St. Louis.

nuary Speaker Recap – Richard Day

ch year from October to November over 12,000 visitors n around the world descend on the quiet town of **urchill, Manitoba**, to enjoy the experience of seeing and photographing polar bears. Churchill is known as the polar bear capital of the world for good reason. Located on the shores of Hudson Bay, Churchill is home to several hundred polar bears as they wait for Hudson Bay to freeze so they can hunt for their favorite meal, the ringed seal.

For the past ten years, **Richard Day** has spent six weeks each fall in Churchill, leading tours for **Frontiers North Adventures**. He teaches visitors about the bears and how to photograph these marvelous mammals. Richard shared some interesting facts about Churchill and his experiences there. He also showed us some beautiful photographs of the area and the bears.

Polar bears are found in five nations: Greenland, Russia, Norway, the United States and Canada. Canada is the most accessible of these regions and is home to the largest polar bear population.

The area where the bears congregate in the autumn is mostly tundra, and there is not a lot of food for them there. They generally stop eating in July, when the ice on the Hudson Bay melts. The bears have the ability to reduce their metabolic rate and conserve energy when there is no food available to them. Scientists call this state walking hibernation. The bears move slowly and nap a lot during this time, although young males will engage in play fighting for exercise. Male polar bear weighs from 750 to 1500 pounds, while the females weigh 350 to 500 pounds.

Churchill attracts many visitors at other times throughout the year as well. Birders travel to Churchill from May through August hoping to catch sight of the more than 250 bird species that occur in that region. Several thousand beluga whales travel through the Hudson Bay near Churchill between June and August. For those willing to brave the weather from January to March, one can catch the greatest light show in the northern hemisphere, the Aurora Borealis.

Thank you, Richard, for sharing your amazing experiences and wonderful images with us. If anyone is interested in joining Richard on one of his polar bear excursions, you can email him at **office@daybreakimagery.com** or call **618.547.3522** for more information.

A Message from Susan Day

Susan Day, the current president of NANPA, and co-owner of **Day Break Imagery** with her husband, Richard, also made an appearance at the January meeting. She provided us with information about the upcoming NANPA Summit, in McAllen, Texas in March. (see page 2 for more details.) She also wrote to say that she and Richard hope to see some of us this summer for field trips to photograph butterflies at their farm, in Alma, Illinois. For anyone interested in photographing birds from their blinds, they have a few dates left in early June. You can find them at **www.daybreakimagery.com** or follow them on Facebook by searching for **Daybreak Imagery**.

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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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