CLOSE UP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 16, Number 7 July-August 2011

FEATURES:

People & Places
Pages 1 & 2

Meeting Information
Page 3

Nature Calls
Page 3

Contact Information
Page 4

Editor
Barbara Addelson

Contributors
Scott Avetta

by Bill Lubben

There are always two people in every picture: the photographer and the viewer.

~ Ansel Adams
American Photographer
1902-1984

PEOPLE & PLACES

Holiday Show Submissions

The **2011 MoNEP Holiday Show and party** will be held on **Tuesday, December 13th**. One of the highlights of the evening is a digital presentation of members' photographs. **Jerry Miller** and **Pat Burgess** create the show, but we need your images!

Submission Guidelines:
Each MoNEP member may submit **up to 20 nature images** for the show. In addition to your 20 nature shots, we would like to include images of other members in action. Submissions should be handed in, **along with your release form**, to **Vicki or Shawn Northrop** at the **August 16th** or **September 20th** meetings. You may also submit your images via File Transfer Protocol (FTP) through the MoNEP website by the deadline of September 20th. Visit **www.monep.org/pages/phototips.html** for instructions on how to facilitate FTP.

Format:
Digital submissions are required. Any slides need to be scanned. Place up to 20 images **on a CD-ROM in a folder with your name as part of the folder's title. Each individual photo file should also have your name included as part of its title.** However, no text should appear on any of the images.

Image size:
Images should be resized to **768 pixels on the longest side**. Vertical images must be sized with a height of 768 pixels and horizontal images with a width of 768 pixels. The resolution can be between 96 and 300 dpi (dots per inch). The size of each image should be less than 2.5 MB. For further information about resizing your image, please see the instructions at **www.monep.org**.

Holiday Show Submissions continued

Image Release
When you submit your photographs, you are providing MoNEP with permission to use your images in the Holiday Show, in the MoNEP newsletter, on the website and in promotional materials for the club. However, you will retain all rights to your images and will be given credit for each use. Your images will only be used to promote MoNEP and the mission of the organization. They will not be sold or used in any other ways than those stated above.

Tips for submissions
When choosing and preparing your images, please consider the following:

1. We would like a variety of your strongest nature subjects.

2. The more images we get, the greater our flexibility in choosing the right subjects for the show. Please provide us with as many quality pictures, up to the limit of 20, as you can.

3. Remember to include images from all seasons. Despite the heat right now, please include some winter photos.

4. Only submit images you have <u>not</u> submitted in the past.

5. We cannot use all of the images provided, but we will try to include everyone who submits photographs.

6. In addition to your 20 images, please submit photos of yourself or other MoNEP members in the act of doing nature photography. We really need your help gathering images of the group.

7. Bear in mind that the absolute final **deadline is September 20th**. Images submitted after that cannot be included.

New Members

Welcome to our newest members: **Art and Kathy Jenkins**, **Nancy Phillips,** and **Debra and George Pratt**.

Member News

Butch and Susi Lama of Wild India, LLC, will be presenting ***The Quest for Tigers: Tracking India's Endangered Bengal Tigers*** to the **International Travel Club of St. Louis** on **August 13th**. The meeting will be held at **the St. Louis County Library Headquarters from 2:00-4:00 p.m**. Butch and Susi will present their program from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the library's auditorium and is open to the public. The St. Louis County Library headquarters is located at 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd, across the street from Plaza Frontenac.

Margy and Dan Terpstra were hosts to many of the 1,100 people who attended the **St. Louis Garden Tour** on June 12th. The tour was sponsored by the **Missouri Botanical Garden** and featured eight spectacular gardens in the area. Each garden represented a different style and theme. The Terpstra's garden, a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat, was billed as a Wildlife Sanctuary, and was a favorite among the visitors.

Insect Photography Workshop

Shaw Nature Reserve is hosting a weekend workshop on insect photography. **BugShot** is scheduled for Labor Day weekend, **September 2nd-5th**. Leading the workshop are three entomologist-photographers, Alex Wild, John Abbott and Thomas Shahan.

The workshop will cover: both macro and microphotography equipment; composition; lighting & flash, working with live insects; special techniques: focus stacking, time-lapse and video; digital asset management and workflow. There will be field sessions in prairie, woodland and aquatic habitats and evening presentations.

The cost of the workshop is $600 and includes all meals and lodging at the Dana Brown Overnight Center. Without accommodations the fee is $510. For more detailed information and registration forms visit:

http://myrmecos.net/2011/03/28/bugshot-2011-improve-your-insect-photography-with-john-abbott-thomas-shahan-and-alex-wild/

June Meeting Recap

MoNEP member, **Scott Evers** opened up his June meeting presentation by citing three topics to avoid in conversation: religion, politics and sex. Scott added a fourth topic to the list: the use of Photoshop among nature photographers! People have widely differing views on the extent to which one should use post-processing software on digital images of nature subjects. We have heard from many presenters who advocate doing your editing in the camera and not on the computer. However, Scott reminded us that Ansel Adams very effectively used techniques in his darkroom to adjust an image to his liking. He referred to a quote from Adams "You don't take a photograph, you make it."

Whatever your view on the topic, Scott made some very interesting points as he discussed bringing out the full potential of your images through the use of post-processing software. Some post-processing editing just involves minor adjustments to white balance, color, contrast and sharpness. In other situations, when you have more stops of light in a scene than your camera can capture, it may involve merging multiple exposures of the same image to make a composite photograph using high dynamic range software or HDR.

Scott noted that there are many fine software programs for editing images. Some are free, including GIMP and Picasa, both of which he finds particularly powerful. There are the top-rated programs for under $100, including the Adobe Photoshop Elements, version 9 and Corel Paint Shop Photo Pro. Among the high-end photo editing programs are Adobe Photoshop CS5, Adobe Lightroom 3, Apple Aperture 3 and Nikon Capture NX2. Scott particularly recommends Lightroom for cataloging your images as well as editing.

Scott showed us a range of examples of images before and after he had processed them so we could see how small tweaks and large-scale adjustments can impact an image. We saw an example of what adding just a touch of warmth did to enhance a fabulous image of an egret. We also saw some of the amazing magic Scott is able to do with panoramic stitching and HDR images. Wherever you fall on the continuum of opinion about how much digital processing is appropriate for nature photography, one of the important messages Scott delivered is that he is always open and honest about the fact that he has edited an image. Many thanks, Scott! To see more of Scott's work, visit his website: **www.scotteversphotography.net**.

THE Corner Gallery

featuring MoNEP members' photography

Abstract Reflection Water Lily
by Jim Campbell

Scott Evers

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates and Share & Show Themes

Tuesday, July 19th – Portraits of Nature
Tuesday, August 16th – What Is It?
Tuesday, September 20th – My Backyard

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 **Pat Burgess** no later than 6:30 p.m. the night of the meeting.

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

July Speaker

Our speaker for the **July 19th** meeting will be **Stephen Weiss, owner of Creve Coeur Camera**. He purchased the company in 1998 and comes from an extensive background in retail, marketing, and photography. Creve Coeur Camera operates in nine locations. Mr. Weiss currently serves on the National Retailers Committee of the Photo Marketing Association Board. In addition to his daily work in the retail side of the camera business, he is the photographer for the St. Louis County Hazmat team and has extensive experience as one of Gateway International Raceway's track photographers specializing in NASCAR and NHRA races.

His presentation will focus on using a macro lens in nature photography and how to deal with some of the special lighting requirements encountered when shooting in the field.

August Speaker

Our speaker on **August 16th** will be **Bruce Schuette**. Bruce has worked as a Park Naturalist at **Cuivre River State Park** since 1978. He also covers **Graham Cave State Park**, the topic of his presentation. Bruce is originally from Ferguson and received a degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Missouri-Columbia. His work entails inventorying flora and fauna, ecological restoration and evaluating areas under consideration for status as Missouri Natural Areas. He also presents interpretive programs. Bruce is an avid photographer.

Bruce's presentation will look briefly at Graham Cave State Park's history, but will focus mostly on the park's natural communities and very diverse flora. He will also discuss ecological management strategies within the park.

NATURE CALLS

July Field Trip

The July field trip will be held at the **Missouri Botanical Garden on July 23rd**. The group will meet at the front entrance to the Garden at **7:00 a.m.** Contact **Randy Hunter** at **314-845-3914** for more information.

Photo Shoot at the Days

There is still some room for the **Saturday, August 6th** photo shoot at **Susan and Richard Day's** wildlife sanctuary in **Alma, Illinois.** This is a great opportunity to photograph butterflies, birds and dragonflies. The Days have won numerous awards for their conservation efforts and their property is certified with the National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat. The cost is **$50 per person**. To reserve a spot, please sign up with **Bill or Judy Lubben** at the July meeting. Members can pay by cash or with a check made out to MoNEP**.**

The Butterfly and Bird Garden at the Days by Richard Day

June Field Trip Recap

A series of storms moved through the St. Louis area just prior to the June 11th field trip to Shaw Nature Reserve. After the passage of the front, there were comfortable temperatures, low winds and nice light. Eight early risers met at the Whitmire Wildflower Garden at 6:15 a.m., followed shortly by four more members. A couple of very young photographers were along, looking to find images for the Youth Photo Contest. The Wildflower Garden provided plenty of subjects including an abundance of Indian pink and poppy mallow. In addition, the dragonflies and damselflies were present in good numbers with at least 10 different species in one concentrated area. For almost the entire morning we were treated to soft and overcast light allowing the last of us to photograph up until 11:00 a.m. As always, the Whitmire Wildflower Garden was a photographer's delight.

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS	*BOARD MEMBERS*	*VOLUNTEER SUPPORT*	*MISSION STATEMENT*
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**	**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**	**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**	**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.** **Meetings are held at the Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center auditorium on 11715 Cragwold Road, near the intersection of I-44 and I-270 in Southwest St. Louis County. Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m., generally on the 3rd Tuesday. 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			

MoNEP
Missouri Nature
& Environmental Photographers
Shawn & Vicki Northrop
1111 Wilmington Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63111