CLOSE UP

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Barbara Addelson

Contributors
Susi Allison-Lama
Butch Lama
Larry Terrell

Glacier Morning
by Kieran Panther

Fallen leaves lying on the grass in the November sun bring more happiness than the daffodils.

~Cyril Connolly
English Critic and Editor
1903-1974

PEOPLE & PLACES

Holiday Show

The **2011 MoNEP holiday show and party** will be on **Tuesday, December 13th**, starting at **6:00 p.m.** at **Powder Valley Nature Center** at 11715 Cragwold Road in Kirkwood, Missouri.

This will be our first party at Powder Valley, and we are looking forward to a great evening. **Margy** and **Dan Terpstra** are coordinating the logistics for the gathering. This will be an alcohol free event, and we will be providing **finger foods** again this year. If you are willing to bring an appetizer or dessert, please make sure that anything you bring is easily served and can be eaten without cutlery. For planning purposes, we ask that those who are bringing food email Margy to let her know what you are bringing. Margy and Dan would like to have 6 volunteers to help with set-up, starting at 5:30 p.m., and another 10 to help with clean up after the event. They are also seeking two 30-cup coffeemakers to borrow for the evening. If you are able to volunteer for one of these tasks or can provide a coffeemaker, please contact Dan or Margy Terpstra by email at **hummerhaven@sbcglobal.net** or by phone at **314-606-6957**.

Jerry Miller and **Pat Burgess** are busy creating the annual holiday slide show, which features members' nature images set to music. The show is always a very special treat. It will begin around **7:15 p.m.** in the auditorium. Please remember that **food and drinks are not allowed in the auditorium**. We hope you will join us in celebrating the season and another great year for MoNEP. Happy holidays!

MoNEP Photo Exhibit

MoNEP's photo exhibit, ***Celebrating Missouri***, was a big hit at Powder Valley Nature Center while it was on display there during the month of October. If you didn't get a chance to see it, take heart as it is now on display at the **Missouri Department of Conservation's St. Louis Regional Office at Busch Wildlife Area**. It will hang there throughout the months of November and December. The building is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is closed on Thanksgiving.

Membership Renewals

The MoNEP membership year runs from January through December. If you have not already done so, it is time to renew memberships for 2012. Membership chairs, **Vicki and Shawn Northrop**, want to start with a clean slate this year to ensure that they have the most current information for every member. Therefore, they are asking all of us to fill out the entire membership form as though we are registering for the first time. **Dues are $25 per person** or **$35 for a two-member household**.

You can submit your membership renewal form along with your payment to Vicki or Shawn at the November meeting. You can also mail your form and dues to: **Vicki and Shawn Northrop, 1111 Wilmington Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63111**. Payment can be made by check made out to **MoNEP**, or they will accept the exact cash payment at the membership desk at the back of the auditorium at November meeting. Please do not mail them cash payment. We are unable to accept payment by credit or debit cards.

Member News

Greg Basco, member and presenter at our January 2009 meeting, has garnered a very prestigious award in the **BBC/Veolia Wildlife Photographer of the Year** Competition. His image, ***Chachalachascape***, received a highly commended award in the black and white category and was one of nearly 75 images honored in the adult competition. The Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition receives over 40,000 submissions from all over the world. Our congratulations to Greg! To see his winning image visit: **www.deepgreenphotography.com/2011/10/wpoty-prize/**

Gary Eaves has been selected as a new member of the **Fusion** artists' co-op, which has a storefront in the Chesterfield Mall on the second level near Sears. He will be showing his work, a blend of nature, landscape and architecture photography, along with the work of other artists in the co-op. To preview Gary's work, visit his web site: **www.eavesphotography.com**.

MoNEP Vice President, ***Don Morice***, entered two images in the ***North American Indian Photography Contest*** presented by Cahokia Mounds Museum Society and Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site in cooperation with the Collinsville Area Camera Club. They were requesting images that evoke the spirit of North American Indians, their people, character, events, objects, symbols, environment and past or present culture. Don's image, ***Tatonka in Snowstorm***, won second place in the color category. All photographs will be on display in the Interpretive Center at Cahokia Mounds until **Sunday, December 17th**. Well done, Don!

Email Address Change?

If at any point during the year you move or change your email address, please be sure to contact our membership committee chairs, Vicki and Shawn Northrop. Not only do they maintain the MoNEP member database, they also maintain and update the MoNEP email address list. So, if you would like to continue to receive the MoNEP newsletter, Close-Up, by email, please share any email address updates with Vicki and Shawn. To contact them you can send them an email at: **vicki_northrop@yahoo.com**.

October Field Trip Recap

Four members attended the final field trip of the year at August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area in October. It was one of those blue-sky mornings when almost everything is too bright. The lack of wind was the saving grace, and the mirror image stillness of the lake surfaces made for some great reflections. With a little effort, it was possible to get a number of images that showed both trees and color. For those who like macro shots, there were some good thistle heads, milkweed pods and grasses. Although there is not as much color in the fall landscape, this is a great time of year to practice shooting patterns among the dried flower heads and plant stalks. The field trip to Busch certainly provided that opportunity.

Water Lilies in Winter

As the weather gets colder, visit the **Saint Louis Art Museum** for a dose of summer. The museum is hosting an exhibit of **Monet's Water Lilies** through **January 22nd, 2012**. The museum has joined with two other Midwest museums to temporarily reunite the three large panels of the work ***Agapanthus***. Together the panels are 42 feet long. For more on the exhibit and ticket information visit: **www.slam.org/monet**.

MDC 2012 Calendar

The Missouri Department of Conservation's ***2012 Natural Events Calendar*** is now on sale at Powder Valley or at **www.mdcnatureshop.com** for a mere $7. The calendar is great for keeping up to date on the timing of seasonal changes, including what is in bloom, bird nesting dates and a wealth of other natural phenomena. There are also great photos, including those of past MoNEP speaker **Danny Brown**. This is a great holiday gift for the naturalist or photographer on your shopping list. The calendar is also for sale at Shaw Nature Reserve.

Winter Excursions

Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, in Mound City, Missouri is a great late fall destination for bird photographers. It is known for its massive numbers of snow geese and other waterfowl, as well as eagles. Although it is early yet for high numbers of geese, the changing weather can cause their numbers to balloon rapidly. For the latest update on the numbers of waterfowl visit: **www.fws.gov/midwest/SquawCreek** and select waterfowl surveys from the list on the right hand side of the page. Note that if the ponds totally freeze, the birds head south very quickly, so you won't want to wait too long to go.

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates and Share & Show Themes

Tuesday, November 15th – Rocks
Tuesday, January 17th – Far, Far Away

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 please see ***Resize an Image for Submission*** in the photo tips section on the MoNEP web site, **www.monep.org**.

November Speaker

Our speakers for the **November 15th** meeting are MoNEP members **Butch Lama** and **Susi Allison-Lama**. Butch, who has worked in India's wildlife parks since 1990, gave a slide presentation at a MoNEP meeting in 2010, in which he shared his experience working as a field assistant with Nick Nichols of National Geographic for 18 months. This upcoming presentation, titled ***"The Quest for Tigers: Tracking India's Endangered Bengal Tigers,"*** describes tiger behavior and the environment that sustains them. This presentation is less about the many challenges of photographing tigers and more about the first challenge: finding them. Understanding as much as possible about India's tigers helps Butch track this magnificent cat with great success. Butch has a vast collection of images, which capture tigers displaying a wide array of behaviors. Since tigers are not alone in their habitats, Butch will also show us a sample of other wildlife to be found and photographed in India.

by Butch Lama

October Speaker Recap

Harry Jackson is a journalist with the ***St. Louis Post-Dispatch*** who considers himself very fortunate to be paid to turn out nature photographs every week. His articles on health and fitness include a weekly column, ***Trail of the Week***, which appears in the Wednesday ***Community*** section. There are close to 250 trails in the St. Louis Region, which range from a quarter of a mile long to the ten-mile long Green Rock Trail near Six Flags. Each week Harry highlights different hikes in the region. If you are interested in photographing wildlife, Harry suggests that you practice first in your own backyard and then at places like the Saint Louis Zoo and World Bird Sanctuary. That will help you work out some of the issues that face wildlife photographers before you spend the time, energy and money to go out to wild areas.

Among his favorite places to shoot in the region is **Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary** on the Missouri side of the Alton Bridge. Other great places to capture wildlife, particularly migrating or overwintering birds, are **Horseshoe Lake** in Illinois and **Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge** located in beautiful Calhoun County, Illinois. Harry suggested scoping out the Federal Department of Fish and Wildlife web site as well as the Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Department of Natural Resources sites for information about what's going on in our regional refuges.

Moving on to other types of nature photography, Harry emphasized that he feels that capturing everything a flower has to offer is one of a nature photographer's highest callings. Among the spots he likes to visit for flower photography is **Victoria Glade**. This glade, located 1.5 miles southeast of Hillsboro in Jefferson County, is part of a big valley, one side of which is drenched in sunshine. It has great wildflowers, and Harry, like many of us, finds the purple coneflowers that can be found there to be one of the most photogenic flowers of all.

For landscape photography, he is partial to **Mingo National Wildlife Refuge**. It is one place in Missouri where you can look out over the refuge and imagine yourself to be on the edge of a Louisiana bayou.

When photographing along any of the trails in our area, Harry suggested that you go at least a quarter mile down the trail in order to shoot, so that you can escape the dust and debris from nearby traffic and human use.

For more information on trails to visit, you can see ten to twelve weeks of Harry Jackson's weekly column at **STLToday.com**. Each week Harry describes the area of the featured trail, provides directions to it and describes its length, surface and the degree of difficulty of the trail. He also provides information on how the trail can be used, user notes, parking, whether there are any facilities for the public, whether pets are welcome and numbers or web sites for additional information. Other places to find leads on good trails are: the **Gateway Off-Road Cyclists** website **www.gorctrails.com**. Our thanks to Harry for sharing some of his tips and tricks, as well as identifying some wonderful places for nature photography.

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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.

MoNEP
Missouri Nature
& Environmental Photographers

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VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.monep.org