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Ken Biddle

Sea Oats and Sand Dunes
Gulf State Park at Sunrise
Don Morice

I have a seashell collection; maybe you've seen it? I keep it scattered on beaches all over the world.

~ Steven Wright (1955 to present)
American comedian

PEOPLE & PLACES

MoNEP Exhibit at Powder Valley Conservation Area

There is still time to submit images for the hallway exhibit for **Powder Valley Nature Center** in **October**. This exhibit will be held in conjunction with Powder Valley's 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.

Shaw Nature Reserve Youth Photo Contest Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the 2011 ***Take A Shot!*** youth photo contest is **Friday, July 15th**. The contest is open to children ages 14 and under. Entries must be taken at Shaw Nature Reserve between **April 1st and July 15th, 2011**. Submissions should represent one of the following four categories: Flora, Wildlife, Miniature World and Trees. For more information go to **www.shawnature.org**.

Member News

Michael Abbene will be teaching a photo class for high school students at the **Saint Louis Zoo** as part of their regular summer education series. It is scheduled for two consecutive Saturday mornings, **July 9th and 16th**. The class is called ***Photography at the Zoo 2*** and people can register through the Zoo's website **www.stlzoo.org.**

Congratulations to **Scott Evers** who was one of ten **Britannica Award Winners** in the ***Witness to Nature Contest***. His image, ***White Lace Feathers***, is of a great egret spreading its beautiful breeding plumage in the early morning light. Ohio Distinctive Publishing sponsors the contest and judges are from their staff and Encyclopeadia Britannica. To see Scott's photo, visit: **www.ohio-distinctive.com/britannica/photo_contest/winners/#wtn_britannicaAward_ScottEvers_WhiteLaceFeathers**.

Photo Shoot at the Days

There is still some room for the **Saturday, August 6th** photo shoot at **Susan and Richard Day's** wildlife haven in **Alma, Illinois.**

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. It is a great place to photograph butterflies, birds and dragonflies. The Days have 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 reserve a spot, please sign up with **Linda Moder** at the June meeting. Payment can be made by cash or a check made out to MoNEP**.**

Tigers in India

If you are looking for something a little more exotic for your next vacation or photo shoot, consider joining MoNEP members, **Butch Lama** and **Susi Allison** on a tour to see tigers in the wild. Travel with them to central India and visit **Bandhavgarh National Park**, considered the best place in the world to observe endangered Bengal tigers in their natural habitat, shared with other wildlife. For more information visit **Wild India LLC** at **www.butchlama.com**.

May Meeting Recap

Dr. Joe Coelho, Associate Professor of Biology at Quincy University, has led three trips with his students to study the ecology of the Galapagos Islands. At the May meeting he took us on a virtual tour of the Galapagos and shared information both about the ecology of the islands and suggestions for photographing on such a trip.

The islands were formed from volcanic activity in the ocean. They are a great place to see an array of volcanic features, such as pit chambers, lava tubes and fumaroles.

The vegetation is mostly arid but there are several vegetation zones, which are determined by the elevation of an area and the amount of moisture it receives. The arid zone is a place of cactus and other plants adapted to very dry conditions. Other major zones include the Scalesia, or humid zone, which has regular rain during the wet season. It is quite lush with trees that belong to the sunflower family and mosses and ferns throughout. The Pampa zone is the highest of the vegetation zones. It is found at the summits of the island's volcanoes, where it is windy and wet. Ferns and grasses thrive there, but there is only one type of tree; a tree fern that grows to 10 feet tall.

May meeting, continued.

Despite being on the equator, the Galapagos are not as hot as you would expect. The temperature is 75-80° F daily, year round. The weather in May to December is slightly milder than the other half of the year. The Peru or Humboldt Current brings cold water to the region from the Antarctic. These cold nutrient rich waters provide plentiful food for the plankton, which are eaten by invertebrates and small fish. They are, in turn, food for large numbers and varieties of fish, birds and sea lions. There are over 500 species of endemic fish; fish that are found there and nowhere else.

January through April is the warm season when the winds change and the Peru Current stops. The coastal water becomes low in nutrients and sea life is less plentiful. But, as the air becomes slightly warmer, there can be more rainfall. It is at this time that the land plants and animals flourish.

Joe introduced us to a number of species from both land and sea. Among the most interesting of the birds and reptiles was the marine iguana, which are the only ocean going lizards on the planet. They dive underwater and eat algae off of rocks!

Thank you, Joe, for a very informative presentation on the Galapagos.

THE Corner Gallery

featuring MoNEP members' photography

Red-eyed Cicada
Sandy Campese

Dragonfly Lookout
Lori Purk

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates

Tuesdays: June 21st, July 19th, August 16th

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

Share and Show Nature Images

June Theme: *Patterns*

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**.

June Meeting – Scott Evers

MoNEP member, **Scott Evers**, will be the speaker at our June meeting. Scott's program will be about bringing out the full potential of your images through the use of post processing software. He will touch on the various computer programs that are available to photographers, including those that are free as well as some of the higher end software programs, and those in between. Scott will show us some examples of images before and after they were processed so we can see the impact of the work that can be done in the digital darkroom.

Scott is a career law enforcement officer with the Edwardsville Police Department, and a professional freelance photographer. His interest in photography began early with an old Kodak Brownie Box Camera. In high school he graduated to shooting and developing his own black and white film. His career and family kept photography at the hobby level for many years.

While heading the investigations division of the police department, digital photography started to replace the 35mm film camera. Scott was charged with learning the digital process in order to maintain his department's evidence photography needs. In this way, Scott's passion for creating great photographic images was reignited.

Scott enrolled at Lewis and Clark Community College and took all the photography and Adobe Photoshop classes that the college offered. After some success at a regional art show and selling a number of his nature prints, he decided to pursue a career in photography. Scott's prints grace the halls of several hospitals and his images appear in various newspapers and magazines. He has also won numerous awards. To get a preview of Scott's work, visit his website: **www.scotteversphotography.net**.

A Preview of Upcoming Meetings

July 19th: Stephen Weiss, President and CEO of Creve Coeur Camera

August 16th: Bruce Schuette on Graham State Park

May Field Trip Recap

Dawn brought light drizzle with overcast skies, and the forecast predicted isolated showers throughout the morning. Not the best of conditions to encourage a good turnout for our field trip to **LaBarque Creek Conservation Area**. However, three members did make the trip and were rewarded with clearing skies and beautiful light that filtered through the forest canopy. The thickly wooded slopes were covered with many ferns and woodland plants, interspersed with pockets of horsemint and orange pucoon in bloom. There were a variety of sandstone glades, with cliffs and seeps, and the creek itself, which exhibited many interesting cuts and banks, and unusual formations. The group heard many birds and spotted a few, including a pileated woodpecker, an eastern kingbird, and a great-crested flycatcher.

LaBarque Creek Conservation Area is a beautiful spot, which offers many photographic opportunities and challenges. It is important to note, however, that the trail is a three-mile loop, and is rather narrow and steep in places. It is a primitive hiking trail, with lots of rocks and tree roots, and no developed steps. It can be muddy and slippery when wet. By taking a counter-clockwise route, we avoided the longer, steeper climbs to the highest elevations at nearly 800 feet, and then retraced our steps after approximately 1.5 miles. We were back in the parking lot by 11:30 a.m., with many shots recorded and plans to return for the seasonal changes, making LaBarque Creek a favorite photographic location.

Many thanks to Randy Hunter for organizing our field trips, scouting out, and guiding us to lots of great locations.

Ken Biddle Shooting at LaBarque Creek by Dug Threewitt

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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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