



CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 16, Number 1

January 2011

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Editor

Barbara Addelson

Contributors

Scott Avetta

Linda Moder

Lori Purk

Margy Terpstra

PEOPLE & PLACES

MoNEP Seminar: Bill Fortney

Join us for the **2011 MoNEP seminar** on **January 29th** from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Our presenter will be **Bill Fortney**, accomplished photographer, writer and speaker.

Bill has over 40 years of experience during his successful career in the field of photography. He is the author of a number of best selling books including: *The Nature of America*; *American Vision*; *America From 500 Feet* and *Bill Fortney's Great Photography Workshop*. Bill is currently working on *America From 500 Feet II*. He is the founder of the **Great American Photography Weekend** and has served as a Nikon Services Representative for the past six years. To learn more about Bill and to preview his work, visit www.billfortney.net.

Bill will cover these digital photography topics during his presentation:

- Camera controls and how to use them creatively
- The importance of light
- Nailing white balance
- Composing for dynamic results
- Taking your photography to the next level
- *It's in the bag* - selecting your gear.

This seminar will be held at **The Ethical Society** at **9001 Clayton Road in Clayton, 63117**. **Registration is \$45 for MoNEP members and \$55 for non-members**. The schedule will follow much the same format as past MoNEP seminars. Morning coffee, tea and lunch are included in the cost of registration. To register, please see the attached form or visit www.monep.org. Thanks to our sponsors: Schiller's and Nikon.

MoNEP President's Message

Happy New Year and thank you all for making our 15th year a memorable one. We look forward to your continued support and participation in 2011.

Our aim is simple: keep the MoNEP mission statement (on page 4) foremost in our thoughts and strive to make each year even better. It takes the help of the members to accomplish this, as well as a wonderful board and volunteer support staff. Their willingness to work together and work long hours is truly inspiring. This is an impressive team, always looking out for what is best for MoNEP.

Also, many thanks to Powder Valley for the outstanding venue and staff support. Meeting attendance was up in 2010, averaging over 100 people per meeting, and the number of memberships rose. Thanks also to our speakers, who were inspiring, as was our Holiday show.

MoNEP funded a scholarship through the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Pierre Laclède Honors College in the fall of 2010 and will offer another for 2011. We funded the first Youth Photo Contest at Shaw Nature Reserve and will again in 2011. In addition, we donated money to the World Bird Sanctuary when a fallen tree damaged their flight cage.

Funding for these charitable efforts comes from the money we raise through our seminars. We hope you will attend our Bill Fortney Seminar in January, enabling MoNEP to continue to help these causes and others. If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2011, we hope you will attend the next meeting and do so. Your participation means a lot. Thanks to everyone for your support during 2010.

-Scott Avetta, MoNEP President



by John Hitzeman

"... a freethinker is an eagle parting the clouds with tireless wing."

~Robert Green Ingersoll
American Statesman and Orator
1833-1899

MoNEP Holiday Party

The MoNEP Holiday Party was a wonderful success. At least 140 people enjoyed the camaraderie, food and both outstanding digital image shows!

We would like to thank the following people for helping with bringing assorted items, contributing food, setup, bartending and cleanup: **Barbara Addelson, Jim and Linda Alessi, Scott Avetta, CJ Baretich, Ken and Mary Biddle, Vearl Brown, Susan and Fred Burk, Sandy Campise, Kathy and Mark Cherry, Jack and Karen Clark, David and Joyce Davis, Jane Deeker, Karla Elliott, Geneva and Jerry Fetsch, Bob Gerbin, Jeff and Kelly Hall, Susan Hauser, Ruth Killian, Carol and Rich Kromnacker, Bill and Judy Lubben, Lori Meier, Patty and Larry Meyer, Rich Merz, Jerry Miller, Linda Moder, Donna and Ted Moreno, Don Morice, Shawn Northrop, Kieran Panther, Lori Purk, Don Sheahan, Lydia Toth, Given Ulbinger, John Watson, Ed and Sharon Whitwam.** Please accept our apologies if we forgot a name. MoNEP members are the very best when it comes to pitching in to help, and some do so without signing up!

Special thanks to **Margy and Dan Terpstra** for the continued excellent organization of the party. Kudos also to **Jerry Miller** and **Pat Burgess** for the fabulous job they did putting together the wonderful holiday presentation. We do so appreciate Jerry's and Pat's hard work. Finally, thanks to all the many members who submitted images for use in the program. Our members outdid themselves this year.

Annual Membership

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2011, it is time to pay your 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 enclosed form. You can submit your membership renewal form, along with payment, to one of the membership co-chairs, **Vicki or Shawn Northrop** at the January meeting. You can also mail your form to **Vicki Northrop, 1111 Wilmington Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63111.** We are unable to accept credit or debit cards. Payment should be made in cash or by check made out to **MoNEP.**

New Members

Welcome to our newest member, **James Hawk.**

Member News

A **Scott Avetta** photo graces the cover of a new book on Shaw Nature Reserve, ***Shaw Nature Reserve; 85 Years of Natural Wonders*** by Cindy Gilberg and Barbara Perry Lawton. Additional images by Scott can be seen throughout this excellent book on one of MoNEP's favorite field trip sites.

Mark Braun's photographs are still on display at **Garland Wines, 15 Old Orchard in Webster Groves.** Please call Garland's at 314-961-9463 before visiting the exhibit, to make sure it is still on display.

Jerry Fetsch's image of Canada geese at Busch Conservation Area was published in the January edition of ***The Missouri Conservationist.***

Richard Spener has an exhibit of 28 images at the **Ethical Society** thru **January 12th.** Richard also had an image of a dickcissel published in **The Prairie Foundation** newsletter, and **Audubon** auctioned one of his photographs of a great egret.

Jim and Judy Stroup have gone greener, installing a geothermal HVAC system in their home. For images visit www.pbase.com/jimslug98/geothermal.

Backyard Bird Festival

MoNEP will participate again in the 6th annual **Backyard Bird Festival** that will be held at the **Missouri Botanical Garden on Saturday, February 5th.** We will have a booth where we will let festival participants know about MoNEP as an organization and will share members' bird photography. The booth will be located in the exhibitor area of the Ridgway Center known as from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you would like to help out for an hour or two please contact **Lori Purk** at **314-869-7427** or by e-mail at purkyl8r@aol.com or **Don Morice** at **314-383-8267, donkm63@charter.net.** No experience is necessary to join us and help out. This is a fun way to give back to the community and to get to know your fellow members better. A sign up sheet will be available at the January meeting.

Eagle Days

The Missouri Department of Conservation is hosting Eagle Days events around the state, with activities in St. Louis and Clarksville, Missouri in January. View eagles from the Chain of Rocks Bridge in St. Louis on January 15th -16th. Travel to the town of Clarksville for Eagle Days on January 29th and 30th. For more information, visit mdc.mo.gov or call 573-242-3771.



THE **Corner Gallery**
featuring
MoNEP
members'
photography



by Ken Biddle



House Finch
by
Margy Terpstra

MEETINGS programs

Meeting Dates and Share & Show Themes

Tuesday, January 18th – Nature's Geometry

Tuesday, February 15th – Monochrome

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.

January Speaker – Richard Day

Join us at the **January 18th** meeting for **Richard Day's** presentation on **Churchill: Polar Bear Capital of the World**. Although Richard is primarily known for his bird, butterfly and dragonfly photography, he has also been a photo specialist tour leader in Churchill, Manitoba, Canada for ten years. He's a guide for Frontiers North Adventures based in Winnipeg, and he typically spends 5-6 weeks at a time in the Arctic teaching people about wildlife, particularly polar bears, and how to photograph it. Richard will give us the ultimate Arctic experience through his photographs. We will travel with him to Churchill to see the polar bears and the wildlife that lives in this small northern town during mid-October to mid-November each year. We will learn why the bears descend on this small community each fall and how they are faring with climate change.

Richard is a professional nature photographer. His images have appeared in: **Audubon, Birder's World, Sierra Club, National Geographic, National Wildlife** and others. He contributes hundreds of images annually to calendars, greeting cards, puzzles, paper products and advertising clients. He has taught photo workshops since 1984. Richard was an instructor for 2 years for the NANPA Road Shows and a leader for the Smokies Regional Event. He and his wife, Susan, both MoNEP members, own Daybreak Imagery www.daybreakimagery.com a stock photography and writing business that they operate from their home in Illinois. They also host numerous photo workshops at their sanctuary on 63 acres for bird, butterfly and dragonfly photography. They were MoNEP seminar speakers in 2009 and have hosted our summer butterfly and dragonfly field trips for several years.

November Speaker Recap

Our November speaker, Ann McMahon took us on a journey skyward as she talked about the heavens and astrophotography. Ann, an amateur astronomer since the age of 10, began by discussing the phases of the moon and tips for determining whether the moon is waxing or waning. A waxing moon, when the moon is transitioning from a new moon to a full moon, can be identified by the fact that the moon's right side is lit by reflected sunlight. You can distinguish a waning moon, one transitioning from full moon to new moon by the fact that a waning moon is lit on the left side. A waxing crescent moon can be seen in the western sky at sunset and sets soon after the sun does. A full moon rises in the east just as the sun sets in the western sky.

Ann also discussed the changing position of the sun in the sky over the course of a year. It is the Earth's revolution around the sun that causes the sun to rise and set in different places depending upon the time of year. The path of the sun from sunrise to sunset is higher in the sky during our summer and lower in the sky during our winter. One of the greatest challenges for astrophotographers is to capture a year's worth of images of the sun's position in the sky from the same vantage point at the same time of day. The path traced is called an analemma. The first person to record this change of the sun's position in the sky on film was Dennis di Cicco who began his analemma photographs in 1978. He took photos of the sun every 7-10 days for a year at the same time of day. The sun is at its highest point in the sky and on photograph of the analemma at noon on the summer solstice each year.

Ann also discussed the movement of the stars in the sky and provided tips for photographing star trails. From the Earth, stars appear to revolve around the North Star. Photographs of star trails show this circular rotation of the stars, while meteors appear on the images as straight-line streaks in different colors, such as green, yellow or white. Star trail photos require a very dark place without light pollution from cities and towns.

Ann finished up with some images of her own. Among them was a wonderful photograph she took of Comet Hale-Bopp in April 1997. Ann took over 400 photos of the comet in order to get seven good ones, bracketing the photos from exposures seconds long up to five-minutes. Ann shared a number of resources with us. For those who want to track what is going on in the skies during any given month, you may want to subscribe to the Sky Calendar produced the Abrams Planetarium at Michigan State University in East Lansing. View a sample calendar at www.pa.msu.edu/abrams/skycalendar.

Our thanks to Ann for a very interesting and informative presentation and for widening the scope of what we consider as subjects for nature photography.

Don't forget – it is time to renew your MoNEP Membership for 2011! Details on page 2.

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MISSION STATEMENT

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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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Kathy Cherry

Susan Day

Jane Deeker

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.



Scott Evers

"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



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.

THE Corner Gallery
featuring
MoNEP
members'
photography

Snow Layered on Red Rocks at Canyonlands
Don Morice

Red Squirrel Eating Snow
Jim Irwin

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.
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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.

January Speaker Recap – Richard Day

Each year from October to November over 12,000 visitors from around the world descend on the quiet town of **Churchill, 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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PEOPLE & PLACES

MoNEP Exhibit at Powder Valley Conservation Area

Powder Valley Nature Center has invited MoNEP to create a photography exhibit for their 20th anniversary celebration this fall. The exhibit will be on display during the month of **October** in the hallway by the classrooms of the Nature Center. We will be looking for submissions that feature natural subject matter that can be found in Missouri. Special consideration will be given to work that features shots taken at **Powder Valley Nature Center** and at the nearby **Emmenegger Nature Park**. With spring on the horizon, now is a great time to get out and start photographing and collecting work that will qualify for this exhibit. We have not yet set a submission deadline, but we hope to have the selections for the show made by mid-summer and the exhibit framed by mid-September.

As always, we will be looking for volunteers to help with matting, framing, putting up and tearing down the exhibit. If you are interested in helping, or have questions about the exhibit please contact the Community Outreach Committee Co-Chair, **Lori Purk** at purkyl8r@aol.com or you may call her at **314-869-7427**. This is a good opportunity to meet your fellow members and show off some of the exceptional shots you capture.

For those of you not familiar with the Emmenegger Nature Park, it 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, which borders the Meramec River.

SNR Youth Photo Contest

MoNEP has once again joined with **Shaw Nature Reserve** 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. We will put out a call for volunteers, as June gets closer.

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.



Scott Avetta

A hush is over everything, Silent as women wait for love; The world is waiting for the spring.

~ Sarah Teasdale
American Poet
1844-1933

Annual Membership!

Dues are past due! Many of our members have renewed for 2011, but roughly 40% have not yet done so. If you haven't renewed and intend to, please fill out and sign the membership form found at www.monep.org under **About Us**. You can mail your membership form, along with a check made out to **MoNEP to Vicki and Shawn Northrop at 1111 Wilmington Ave, St. Louis, MO 63111**. You may also pay by check or cash at the March meeting. Dues are **\$25 per person or \$35 for a two-member household**.

New Members

Welcome to our newest members, **John and Martha McAlister**.

Member News

An image of **Scott Evers'** was featured on **National Geographic's** website as part of their **Daily Dozen** on **February 22nd**. His image is of a bald eagle riding the ice down the Mississippi River at Alton, Illinois. It is the final photo among the images for the fourth week of February. To see Scott's photo, visit: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/your-shot/daily-dozen>.

Mac Mackay is one of the organizers of a local **Meetup Group**, the **St. Louis Creative Photographers**. The group encourages members to share their knowledge with each other with the goal of improving their photographic skills and having fun. The group is holding two events in March. On **March 12th**, there will be a photographic bird scavenger hunt from **8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** at **Rockwoods Reservation**. The event is free of charge, with a request for a donation for the Wild Bird Sanctuary and the Tree House. At **10:30 on March 20th**, they will also offer a presentation on using Off Camera Flash by Matt O'Haver. Participants will learn the basics of using flash off the camera, as well as the use of wireless triggering systems. Matt will also demonstrate the use of Poverty Wizard flash triggers, and will be giving away a set to a lucky member of the group. The location of this meeting is the Barnes and Noble Book Store in Crestwood. This event is open to all.

For additional activities of the St. Louis Creative Photographers Meetup Group, visit www.meetup.com/The-St-Louis-Creative-Photographers-Group.

World Eagle Day

Join the **World Bird Sanctuary** as it celebrates **World Eagle Day** on **March 20th** from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** This free event focuses on eagles from around the world and provides the opportunity to learn more about these majestic birds. WBS will feature presentations by naturalists throughout the day. Bring your camera! There will be live eagle shows as well as photo opportunities with a bald eagle. Visitors can tour the WBS wildlife hospital. This event is geared for the whole family. There will be a free kids craft center, concession stands and eagle gifts and souvenirs for sale. Visit their web site at www.worldbirdsanctuary.org.

Major Photo Competition

Act fast! The **Veolia Environment Wildlife Photographer of the Year** entry deadline is **March 18th**. This prestigious competition is open to both amateur and pro photographers. Sponsored by **London's Natural History Museum** and **BBC Wildlife Magazine**, there are significant financial prizes. Winning images will be shown in an exhibit and published in a commemorative book. For details on entering go to: www.nhm.ac.uk/visit-us/whats-on/temporary-exhibitions/wpy-entry/index.jsp.

Backyard Birding Festival

On February 5th, MoNEP had a table at the Missouri Botanical Garden's annual **Backyard Birding Festival**. Several members helped staff the MoNEP booth during the day, including **Margy and Dan Terpstra, Dennis McCarthy, Ken Biddle and Don Morice**. The day started off with a surprise snowstorm that initially kept attendance to a minimum, but by late morning the sun was out, the snow was melting and people started to arrive. From that time until the display area closed at 3:00 p.m., a steady progression of visitors stopped by the booth to learn about MoNEP. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped at this event. Outreach programs such as these are a good way to inform the public about MoNEP. If any member would like to volunteer to help with future outreach programs, please contact one of the Community Outreach Co-Chairs, Lori Purk at PURKYL8R@aol.com or Don Morice at donkm63@charter.net.

Correction

The editor apologizes for incorrectly attributing Dan Terpstra's images of the Bill Fortney seminar in the printed version of the February issue of Close-Up. Thanks, Dan, for taking and providing the images.



THE Corner Gallery
featuring
MoNEP
members'
photography



Vearl Brown



Joe Schmidt

MEETINGS programs

Meeting Dates and Share & Show Themes

Tuesday, March 15th – Trees

Tuesday, April 19th – Wild Kingdom

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.

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.

April Speaker – Cindy Gilberg

Horticulturist and Missouri native **Cindy Gilberg** will be the presenter at our meeting on **April 19th**. Cindy co-owned and operated Gilberg Perennial Farms until its close in 2006 and now serves as a consultant. Her presentation will be on **Native Plants to Attract Birds and Butterflies**. Cindy will discuss how adding native plants back into our urban landscapes helps replace and enhance much-needed habitat that has been lost to development. A greater diversity of habitat attracts a greater diversity of fauna, from butterflies and birds to the fascinating world of pollinators. Cindy's presentation will cover habitat requirements as well as specific native plants to include in your garden to attract specific species at various times of the season. You won't need to go further than your own property to observe the natural world.

February Speaker Recap

Scott Avetta opened his presentation, **Common Mistakes Photographers Make and How to Avoid Them** at the February meeting with a quote from Albert Einstein: *There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.* Scott suggested that viewing life as if everything were a miracle would not only enhance your life, but would also enhance your photography. By trying to view the natural world this way, photographers will find a greater number of photographic opportunities.

Scott, who teaches photography to shooters of various levels, shared tips and advice to help all of the audience elevate their art to the next level. Among his advice was to know the "rules" of photographic composition, but to treat them more as guidelines. These guidelines, such as the "Rule of Thirds", don't need to be adhered to if you have a good reason to disregard them.

Also bear in mind the story your subject tells and try to capture that story. Although story telling may not create the best image, an image that tells a story adds to its impact.

Scott noted that although a group of photographers may be shooting from essentially the same spot, they can have dramatically different levels of success with the same image. This can be due to small differences in how they approach the subject. Approaching the subject from different perspectives or choosing a different length lens can make a world of difference in the finished product.

Give your subjects space within the frame and consider photographing at eye level for a more personal connection with the subject and better control of the background. If you are shooting an insect on a plant try to get down to its level. Provide it with some breathing room in the image.

Watch for mergers that can cause an image to appear busy and cluttered, unless you are trying to create a busy and cluttered feeling. When shooting an image with lots of elements, compose it so that there is as much separation between objects as possible. Scott showed an image of trees reflected in water. You could see where one tree ended and the other began. Look for objects that help anchor your image and check that the edges of your image are clear.

Perhaps most of all, Scott advised that when shooting an image, you should be sure what your subject is and be able to articulate it. Ask yourself, what is it in an overall scene that caught your eye? That will help you isolate and focus upon your subject.

Scott also emphasized the importance of the mood of an image. Mood can make an ordinary subject extraordinary. He finished by quoting Andrew Wyeth, who said: *I think you have to use your eyes as well as your emotion, and one without the other just doesn't work.*

Many thanks to Scott for a wonderful and enlightening presentation. To see more of Scott's work, visit his web site at www.scottavetta.com.

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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



CLOSEUP

MoNEP
Missouri Nature & Environmental Photographers
c/o Shawn & Vicki Northrop
1111 Wilmington Ave.
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CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 16, Number 4

April 2011

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Barbara Addelson

Contributors

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Susan Day

Lori Purk

Larry Terrell

Lydia Toth

PEOPLE & PLACES

In Celebration of Arbor Day and Earth Day: Take Home Free Tree Seedlings from the April Meeting

Spring is definitely in full swing and April is the month during which we celebrate **Arbor Day** on **April 29th**, and **Earth Day** on **April 22nd**. Both events encourage us to focus on our planet and to take action on its behalf.

The trees we photograph today may have been seedlings a hundred years ago, or started their growth just a few years ago. At the MoNEP April meeting, we will provide two tree seedlings free of charge to those who would like them. These trees are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

All we ask is that you plant them in your yard or that of a family member, friend or a neighbor. The trees were purchased from the Missouri Department of Conservation and will be small and easy to plant. We have 10 varieties of trees and shrubs that are suited for a range of soil and lighting conditions. The varieties were selected based on size, growing conditions, their beauty, whether they are native plants and if they provide food or shelter for wildlife. The largest of the species will grow to a maximum of 35 feet tall.

For every tree our members plant, MoNEP will donate one dollar to the Arbor Day Foundation, up to a maximum of \$250. Each dollar we donate will go toward the planting of one tree in U. S. national forests. Our board and volunteer committee staff will plant an additional 150 trees. That means that MoNEP could be responsible for the planting of as many as 650 trees.

Although the trees are very young seedlings and are quite small at this stage, their impact can be impressive. According to the Arbor Day Foundation website, over a fifty year timeframe one tree can generate \$31,250 in air pollution control, recycle \$37,500 worth of water and control \$31,500 in soil erosion. Financially, that is a little under \$100,000 per tree. That does not include the aesthetic value to humans or benefits to wildlife. Although the trees are little, they can make a big difference as they grow and thrive.

The species we will have to give away are: **flowering dogwood, redbud, ninebark, spicebush, service berry, smooth sumac, roughleaf dogwood, deciduous holly, American beauty berry, false indigo**. For detailed information on these plants visit: mdc.mo.gov and search for **MDC Seedling Order Form**.

Trees will be available starting at 6:00 p.m. on the evening of the April 19th meeting. To get the best choice of trees, members may want to get to Powder Valley as close to 6:00 p.m. as possible. Look for Scott Avetta in the parking lot, where he will be distributing trees, weather permitting. Information will be provided on how to plant the trees and the best habitat for each species.

If you need another enticement to come to the meeting early, remember that the wildflowers should be in bloom at Powder Valley, providing members with opportunities for photos to submit for the MoNEP exhibit in October.



by Norma Mull

Powder Valley Hallway Exhibit

As mentioned last month, we have been invited to create the hallway exhibit for **Powder Valley** in **October** in conjunction with their 20th anniversary.

Submissions

The **MoNEP Community Outreach Committee** will begin collecting submissions at the April meeting 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 web site. 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 **Emmenegger Nature Park**, we will accept a fifth entry from each person if it represents one of those two locations.

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 help frame the show. Those 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.

So, get out there and capture something special. We hope to make this our most spectacular exhibit ever!

NANPA Summit Recap

In March, seven members of MoNEP attended the 17th annual **NANPA Summit** in McAllen, Texas. Among those from MoNEP at the **North American Nature Photography Association** event were **Susan Day**, the current NANPA President, **Richard Day**, **Scott Avetta**, **Don Morice**, **Ken Biddle**, **Ted Moreno** and **Larry Terrell**.

Scott presented a breakout session, with his program **Common Mistakes Photographers Make and How to Avoid Them**.

Most of the members in attendance were able to find time to take a few hundred photographs while in the McAllen area. Expect some of the spectacular birdlife and other images they captured to pop up in the Share and Show presentations over the next few months.

Unfortunately, due to the economy this was the second year in a row with low attendance at the Summit. The NANPA Board has decided to suspend the annual summit in 2012 while they work to revamp the organization. They are making plans to present a new structure to the membership in the near future. As these changes develop we will keep the MoNEP membership posted.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome our newest MoNEP members: **Jim Barrett**, **Katy** and **Denny Clayton**, **Donna Frandsen**, **Corey** and **Susan Isenberg**, **Nancy Otti**, **Marcy Pivin**, **Dale Rentrop**, **Dick Rosenberger**, **Deane Sagehorn**, **Steve Teson**, **Joyce** and **Jon Thompson**. We are happy to have you in MoNEP.

Member News

The **World Wildlife Fund** has contacted **Vearyl Brown** in order to publish one of his African giraffe images on their web site.

Joe Coelho's photo of a common green darner is on the cover of the **American Entomologist** this spring.

Milton Loessberg will have an exhibit at **Phoenix Potteries Studio & Gallery** in Affton, Missouri. The opening reception for the exhibit, **Art of Nature Photographs**, is **Saturday May 7th from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.** The exhibit includes some shadowboxed prints that combine the art of paper quilling with floral photos. It runs through **Sunday, June 25th**. Visit **www.phoenixpotteries.com** for more information.

Sandy Moriarty has a photography exhibit at the **Gateway Gallery** at **7921 Forsyth** in the heart of **Clayton** from **April 4th - May 21st**.



THE Corner Gallery
featuring
MoNEP
members'
photography

by Larry Terrell

Barred Owl
by Margy Terpstra

MEETINGS programs

Meeting Dates and Share & Show Themes

Tuesday, April 19th – Wild Kingdom

Tuesday, May 17th – It's a Bug's Life

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.
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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.

April Speaker – Cindy Gilberg

Horticulturist and Missouri native **Cindy Gilberg** will be the presenter at our meeting on **April 19th**. Cindy is a landscape designer and consultant. She co-owned and operated Gilberg Perennial Farms until its close in 2006. She co-authored the recently published **Shaw Nature Reserve: 85 Years of Natural Wonders**. She writes a monthly column on native plants for **Gateway Gardener** magazine. Cindy's presentation will be on **Native Plants to Attract Birds and Butterflies**. She will discuss how adding native plants back into our urban landscapes helps replace and enhance much-needed habitat that has been lost to development. A greater diversity of habitat attracts a greater diversity of fauna, from butterflies and birds to a fascinating range of pollinators. Cindy's presentation will cover habitat requirements as well as specific native plants to include in your garden to attract specific species at various times of the season. You won't need to go any further than your own property to observe and photograph the natural world.

May Speaker – Joe Coelho

Dr. Joe Coelho is an associate professor of biology at Quincy University in Quincy, Illinois, where he teaches courses in zoology, botany, environmental science and other topics including a class on the ecology of the Galapagos Islands. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California, Riverside and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, both in biology. He performs most of his research on the ecology of wasps and cicadas. An award-winning outdoor writer and photographer, he has also published many scientific papers. Joe will be presenting on photographing in the Galapagos and will share some of his tips for success.

March Speaker Recap

Mike Arduser from the Missouri Department of Conservation started his presentation at the March meeting by saying he wasn't sure he wanted to share a well kept secret with so many people. Fortunately for us, he did divulge a fair bit of information about the **LaBarque Creek Conservation Area**, a 640-acre gem tucked away in northwest Jefferson County. The conservation area is part of the larger LaBarque Creek watershed, which consists of 8,400 acres, most of which is rugged forested land. The area sits upon nearly pure white St. Peter's sandstone and features canyons, waterfalls, some grottos and dolomite boulder fields at higher elevations.

There is a three-mile loop trail through the conservation area, which has some climbs and descents, but also nice vistas from the highest point at 800 feet. The trail traverses an unexpected range of habitats, including several types of forest with closed canopies and open woodlands. There are also streams, sandstone and dolomite glades, cliffs and loose rock communities.

There is a great diversity of living things in the conservation area, including an array of salamanders and birds, ferns, and half of the state's species of mosses and liverworts. The 6.6-mile stream contains the highest diversity of fish species of any other stream in the area. There are many unusual species of sedges along the stream banks, which are home to the green-sided darter, a dragonfly that requires high water quality. Our thanks to Mike for a fine talk and for sharing a very special place.

Since the meeting, our field trip coordinator, **Randy Hunter** visited the conservation area with a friend and reports that there are many good photo opportunities. With stops for shooting, the three-mile loop took him four hours. He indicated that the trail can be a steep and narrow in spots and strongly suggests going with a companion.

April Field Trip

The first field trip of the new year will be held **April 16th** at **Emmenegger Nature Park** in **Kirkwood**. Emmenegger is located just over the highway, beyond the entrance to Powder Valley. However, the group will meet at Powder Valley in front of the Visitor Center **at 8:00 a.m.** and will then head off together to Emmenegger based on current information from nature center staff. Trip leader, **Randy Hunter**, was at the park this week and said the dogwoods are superb. For more information please contact **Randy Hunter** at **314-845-3914**.

Rent-a-Bird-Blind at Daybreak Imagery

Richard and Susan Day offer exclusive bird photography opportunities for 1 to 4 people. They provide blinds and you can photograph orioles, bluebirds, catbirds, cardinals, indigo buntings, goldfinches, and other backyard birds in their flower gardens, at water, or at feeders. They will customize your photo experience, and offer day rates with or without instruction. They block off a couple of weeks each June when the colorful birds are most active. There are a few dates left for 2011. Call **618-547-3522** or email office@daybreakimagery.com to reserve your space.

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Visit our web-site at www.monep.org

MoNEP
Missouri Nature
& Environmental Photographers
Shawn & Vicki Northrop
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CLOSEUP

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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.



John Hitzeman



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.

THE Corner Gallery
featuring
MoNEP
members'
photography



Swallowtail
by Jim Irwin

by Jim Jaeger

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.

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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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

c/o Shawn & Vicki Northrop
1111 Wilmington Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63111
vicki_northrop@yahoo.com



CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 16, Number 6

June 2011

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Editor

Barbara Addelson

Contributors

Scott Avetta
Ken Biddle

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!

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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.



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

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 Encyclopaedia 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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July-August 2011

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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 not 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.



by Bill Lubben

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

~ Ansel Adams
American Photographer
1902-1984

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.



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.

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Visit our web-site at www.monep.org

MoNEP
Missouri Nature
& Environmental Photographers
Shawn & Vicki Northrop
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CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 16, Number 8

September 2011

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Editor

Barbara Addelson

Contributors

Scott Avetta

Ken Biddle

Kathy Cherry

Linda Moder

PEOPLE & PLACES

Holiday Show Submissions

The 2011 MoNEP Holiday Show and party will be held on Tuesday December 13th at Powder Valley Nature Center. One of the highlights of the evening is a digital presentation of members' photographs. If you haven't already submitted images, September 20th is the deadline for doing so.

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 into Vicki or Shawn Northrop at the September 20th meeting. 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 time of year, please include some winter photos.
4. Only submit images you have not 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.



Color of Sand in River in Palo Duro Canyon by Don Morice

Member News

Jim Campbell will have three images on display at the **Old Orchard Gallery in Webster Groves on September 23rd and 24th**. The exhibit features the work of 33 local artists. Join the artists at the reception on Friday the 23rd between 5:30 and 10:00 p.m. The exhibit, which is sponsored by MyStart will be on view at the gallery from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday the 24th.

Mac MacKay will be leading a local **Scott Kelby World Wide Photo Walk on Sunday October 2nd at 8:00 a.m.** The two-hour walk starts in front of the courthouse in Kiener Plaza. There are some spots open for anyone who is interested and photographers at any level. The best image from each local walk will be awarded a prize of a book from Scott Kelby. For information visit: <http://worldwidephotowalk.com/walk/st-louis-mo-united-states-downtown-2/>

Rich Merz has two images that received honorable mentions in the National Park Service's **View From the Park** photo contest at the **Jefferson National Expansion Memorial**. The images will be on view in a projected format until September 15th in the museum area under the Arch.

One of **Kevin Sees'** images was selected by the **Missouri Department of Conservation** to be in the **2012 Natural Events Calendar**. The image of a grass pink orchid image, which was also selected for the upcoming MoNEP Powder Valley exhibit will be one of the inset photos for the month of July in the 2012 MDC calendar.

Volunteer at Two Rivers NWR

Ken Biddle often assists fellow MoNEP member, **Sam Harrison**, as he volunteers doing weekly bird counts at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge. They do their bird counts in the Calhoun Division of the Refuge, located in Calhoun County, Illinois. Sam relayed that additional volunteers are needed to help out with various other jobs at Two Rivers. The refuge staff would welcome help from some eager, self-starting workers. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Sam at 314-752-0905 for additional information.

Top Ten Fall Forests

Visit www.gorp.com to read about the top ten forests in the country in the fall. Among the list is Mark Twain Forest!

Nancy Rotenberg

It is with great sadness that we report that Nancy Rotenberg, distinguished nature photographer, writer and teacher, recently lost her long battle with cancer. MoNEP had the honor of hosting **Nancy Rotenberg** as the presenter of its 2007 seminar. By all accounts, hers was one of the most inspiring seminars MoNEP has sponsored to date. Nancy led workshops around the country. She published several books, and her photographs appeared in many magazines and galleries. On her website Nancy expressed that her goal as a photographer was to "photograph intimately, beyond documentation, and to discover each subject's essence." She also sought to share "the beauty and magic that I have discovered through photography, observation and appreciation." Visit www.naturaltapestries.com to learn more about this remarkable woman.

Fall Color

For the latest update on where the color is in Missouri, check out mdc.mo.gov and search for "fall color." **Linda Moder** also supplied this link for a great road tour including old stone bridges in nearby Illinois: <http://www.greatriverroad.com/stegen/monroe/bridges.htm>

NANPA News

NANPA is pleased to announce the **2011 Houston Road Show Seminar** to be held in Houston, Texas, on **September 24th, 2011** in a classroom at the **Houston Zoo**. Road Shows are indoor seminars hosted by well-known leaders in the field of nature photography. The hosts for this event will be **Kathy Adams Clark** and **Ted Washington**. Topics include: library feature in Lightroom 3, image critiques, Camera Raw Processor in Photoshop CS5 or Develop in Lightroom 3, and the final session of the day will be about pushing the envelope in travel and nature photography with HDR, light blending, painting with light and night photography. The cost is \$99 for NANPA members and \$129 for non-members. For more information visit www.nanpa.org and select NANPA events.

Microsoft 64-bit CODEC

For all those people who have Windows 7 or Vista 64-bit who have been unable to view Canon or Nikon thumbnails in their Windows Browser, Microsoft has finally published a fix. A new 64-bit CODEC was released last month. Members can search for it on the Microsoft web site or download it from the MoNEP tips page.

THE Corner Gallery
featuring
MoNEP
members'
photography



by Jerry Miller



Grand Daddy Long Legs
by Jane Deeker

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates and Share & Show Themes

Tuesday, September 20th – My Backyard

Tuesday, October 18th – Orange

Tuesday, November 15th – Rocks

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

Share and Show Nature Images

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September Speakers

MoNEP member **Richard Spener** and his wife, **Toni Armstrong** will be the speakers at our **September 20th** meeting. They will be presenting a program on ***The Alaskan Arctic - by Camera and Canoe***. It will feature the challenges of photographing and surviving in the wilderness of Alaska north of the Arctic Circle. Avid canoeists, they have traveled to and paddled in Alaska together 15 times. Both Richard and Toni serve on the board of the Alaska Wilderness League, a national organization dedicated to preserving the outstanding places in Alaska. Toni also serves on the Executive Committee of the local Sierra Club, and both of them lead Sierra Club trips in Missouri. Their adventures in Alaska were featured in an article in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Richard has been profiled in *St. Louis Magazine*, *The Webster-Kirkwood Times* and *County Journals* and *Missouri Traveler*. Richard is a regular contributor of photographs to the Alaska Wilderness League publications and their website. To see his work visit www.richardspenerphotography.com.

October Speaker

Harry Jackson will be the speaker at our meeting on **October 19th**. Harry is a writer and photographer with the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. His articles on health and fitness include a weekly column, ***Trail of the Week***, which appears in the Wednesday Community section. Each week he highlights different hikes in the region. His presentation will feature some trails in our area that offer good opportunities for photography, along with ideas on how to find new areas for great photos on your own.



September Field Trip

The September field trip will be at the **St Louis Zoo** on **September 24th**. The group will meet at the entrance to The Living World at **7:00 a.m.** For more information contact **Randy Hunter** at **314-845-3914**.

July Speaker Recap

Stephen Weiss, owner of **Creve Coeur Camera**, spoke at the July meeting about the use of flash and macro photography. He spoke about different types of flash, including using a separate external flash, ring flash and fill flash. Ring flash is a good tool for macro photography. Fill flash is useful in outdoor photography, particularly on high contrast days to fill in shadows. Stephen discussed the challenges of focusing and depth of field in macro photography. He suggested it is best to focus on your subject manually. However, it is important to think about depth of field in macro photography and to stop the camera down to a smaller aperture, which will provide you with a greater depth of field. Stephen also emphasized that a tripod is a necessity when doing macro work. Creve Coeur Camera offers a variety of classes. Visit their website, www.crevecoeurcamera.com for their listings.

August Speaker Recap

At the August meeting, **Bruce Schuette**, a Naturalist with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources since 1978, spoke about **Graham Cave State Park** near Danville, Missouri. Bruce described this 386-acre area as "a wonderful little park, rich in natural and cultural resources". Graham Cave is the central feature of the park. The history of the park is long. Native American tribes used the cave for shelter as far back as 10,000 years ago. In 1847, Robert Graham brought the property, and it remained in his family until 1964. In the late 1940s, the University of Missouri convinced the owners to allow them to excavate the cave and in the process found many artifacts relating to early Native American life. In 1961, the cave was recognized as a Natural Historic Landmark – the first archeological site to be named a landmark in the nation. In 1964, Graham's descendants donated the cave and 250 acres of land to Missouri for a state park.

The park is also home to a number of different natural communities. Bruce shared images of the diverse communities found within the park, including an 82-acre tract of sandstone and dolomite glades. There are an amazing 500 species of plants in the park's bottomland, oak-hickory forests and glades, and the Loutre River runs along the western edge of the park.

Our thanks to both Stephen and Bruce for their very interesting and informative talks.

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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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& Environmental Photographers

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Barbara Addelson

Contributors

Lori Purk

Margy Terpstra

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 Cragwood 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 2-30 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 at by phone at **314-606-6957**.

Jerry Miller and Pat Burgess are already busy planning and preparing the annual holiday slide show. Please note that the submission deadline has passed, and they are unable to accept any additional images. The show 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 holidays and another great year for MoNEP.

MoNEP Photo Exhibit

Celebrating Missouri, the MoNEP photo exhibition, is now hanging at Powder Valley Nature Center thanks to the leadership of **Lori Purk** and **Don Morice**. We thank the many members who assisted with the framing of the mounted prints and those who helped Lori and Don with the exhibit installation on September 30th: **Ken Biddle, Bill Lubben, Jerry Miller, Margy Terpstra** and **Larry Terrell**. Of this effort and all the wonderful volunteers, Lori said, "What a great group of people we have! The framing session was fun and everyone pitched in to get the job done. We had quite a few in attendance. I really appreciate the help from everyone." The exhibit will be on display through most of October.

The exhibit is already such a hit, particularly with the staff of the Missouri Department of Conservation, that they have asked us to hang the exhibit at their **St. Louis Regional Office at Busch Wildlife Area** for the months of November and December.

Thanks to those members who submitted work for the exhibit: **Barbara Addelson, Scott Avetta, Tim Bade, Ken Biddle, Vearl W. Brown, Jim Campbell, Kathy Cherry, Mark Cherry, Joe Coelho, Glenn Curcio, Jane Deeker, Scott Evers, Mark Freeman, Michelle C. Jones, Bill Lubben, Mark McAmish, Monica McAmish-Bahr, Rich Merz, Beverley Miller, Jerry Miller, Don Morice, Vicki Northrop, Shawn Northrop, Randy Oleson, Lori Purk, Joe Schmidt, Kevin Sees, Richard Spener, Susan Standish, Margy Terpstra, Larry Terrell and Dug Threewitt.**



Larry Terrell

Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.

George Eliot
English Novelist
1819-1880

New Members

We want to welcome our newest MoNEP members: Gary Eaves, Tim Engelman and Ed Peck.

Member News

MoNEP member **Lori Purk** was selected to participate for the sixth year in **Celebrating Creativity**, a juried exhibition at the Mildred M. Cox Gallery at William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri. The exhibit was on display from August 25th to September 18th. The jury honored one of her two accepted pieces, **Dewy Morning** with an **Award of Excellence**. Visit www.williamwoods.edu/ur/detail.asp?ID=3131 for an article about the show. Congratulations to Lori.

Kevin Sees has an image of the grass pink orchid on the July page of the **MDC 2012 Natural Events Calendar**.

Membership Renewal

It is time to start collecting membership renewals for 2012. **Dues are \$25 per person or \$35 for a two-member household**. 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 each member. Therefore, they are asking everyone to fill out the entire membership form as though registering for the first time. You can submit your membership renewal form along with payment to Vicki or Shawn beginning at the October meeting. You can also mail your form to: **Vicki 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 the October and November meetings. We are unable to accept credit or debit cards.

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 database, they 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.

Powder Valley Anniversary

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary on **Saturday, October 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** There will be activities for the public including a photo scavenger hunt, live reptiles and amphibians and crafts for children. There will be a performance of songs about nature from the musical duo WildHeart and a comedy-magic act from The Fishin' Magicians. The event is free and open to the public. Reservations are not required. For more details, visit the MDC web site: mdc.mo.gov/newsroom and scroll down to the Powder Valley headline.

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 will also be for sale at Shaw Nature Reserve.

Fall Color

For the latest update on where the color is in Missouri, check out <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/4548>. This page on the Missouri Department of Conservation's web site indicates that mid-October is usually the peak of fall color in Missouri, although it varies from region to region. The web site provides detailed reports, which are updated weekly on the color of the different regions. They specify what trees, shrubs and vines are vibrant and which hues are dominant in the landscape at the time of the update. For a wonderful brochure, **Follow the Show of Missouri's Fall Colors**, view <http://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/resources/2010/05/fallcolors2011.pdf>

September Field Trip Recap

Saturday, September 24th was a day of good weather as eight MoNEP members gathered at the Saint Louis Zoo for the monthly field trip. At 7:00 a.m. the Zoo was fairly empty of visitors, the light was good and the animals were active. Despite extensive construction, there was a lot to see and photograph. The 24th was the first day the new baby elephant was on display and the group visited it as well a number of other animals. By 9:00 a.m. the crowds began to gather, so the group was grateful to have had the Zoo to themselves for a while.





Red Leaf by Chuck Mannis



by Joe Schmidt

MEETINGS *programs*

Meeting Dates and Share & Show Themes

Tuesday, October 18th – Orange

Tuesday, November 15th – Rocks

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.

October Speaker

Harry Jackson will be the speaker at our **October 18th** meeting. Harry is a writer and photographer with the **St. Louis Post-Dispatch**. His articles on health and fitness include a weekly column, **Trail of the Week**, which appears in the Wednesday **Community** section. Each week he highlights different hikes in the region. His talk will feature some trails in our area that offer good opportunities for photography, along with ideas on how to find other new areas for great images. Mr. Jackson will provide tips on where to look for some of our area's gems including web sites he finds useful, magazines and brochures. He will talk about one of the keys to prizewinning photographs, patience, and will cover photography contests within 90 minutes of St. Louis. Mr. Jackson has a journalism degree from Kansas State University. He has been a journalist since 1969 having always worked as a writer-photographer, and he has twice won the Kansas Press Photographer of the Month award. He is a member of the National Press Photographers Association as well as NANPA.

September Speaker Recap

At the September meeting, MoNEP member **Richard Spener** and his wife, **Toni Armstrong**, treated the audience to a presentation on their remarkable adventures canoeing the waters of the North Slope of Alaska. Their presentation on **The Alaskan Arctic - by Camera and Canoe** featured the challenges of paddling, camping and photographing in the wilderness north of the Arctic Circle. They shared awe-inspiring images of the rugged landscape, distinctive wildlife and flowering plants that grow on the tundra in three separate areas of the Arctic

National Wildlife Refuge: the Utukok River, Canning River, and Kealok Creek to Teshekpuk Lake. Few people have ever visited these remote areas.

To get to their starting point Richard and Toni travel as far north as they can by commercial airline, then hire a bush pilot to take them over the Brooks Range to their put-in site. They carry everything they need with them, including two extra days worth of food, in case foul weather prevents their plane from being able to retrieve them as scheduled. In addition to food, they fly in all their gear, including their camping equipment and 16-foot nylon folding canoes. Richard carries his camera equipment securely in Pelican cases and relies heavily upon his 100 mm and 400 mm lenses, as well as a 1.4x teleconverter. He always uses a polarizer in the Arctic light, which is ever present up that far north in the summer. One of the biggest challenges they face is the lack of power to recharge camera batteries. Richard takes six batteries for the nearly two-week trip and minimizes battery usage by turning off the preview function on his camera. He also carries a portable hard drive for downloading images from his memory cards along the way. On the other hand, Toni takes just a fanny pack worth of camera equipment, which she uses to photograph the many beautiful flowers they find along their route.

Their images were breathtaking, with many landscapes, the beautiful low flowers of the tundra and a lot of wildlife, including many species of birds, musk ox, caribou, grizzly bear, ermine and ground squirrels, among others. The only truly off putting creatures were the mosquitoes, which Richard and Toni wisely did not show us until the very end of their talk! Until that point, most everyone in the audience seemed ready to sign up for an excursion to this vast and fascinating land at the top of the world.

Our thanks to Toni and Richard for taking us along on their courageous adventures. We also thank them for the work they do to preserve the special areas of Alaska as board members of the Alaska Wilderness League.



October Field Trip

The October field trip will be at the **August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area** on **Saturday, October 22nd**. The Conservation Area is located off of Highway D in the St. Charles area. From Highway 40 travel south on Highway 94 a short distance to Highway D. Then travel 1.5 miles west on Highway D. The group will meet at the **Visitor Center** at **7:00 a.m.** For more information, contact **Randy Hunter** at **314-845-3914**. For a map of the site, go to: mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/resources/2010/05/6299_4199.pdf

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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



MoNEP
Missouri Nature
& Environmental Photographers

c/o Shawn & Vicki Northrop
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CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 16, Number 10

November-December 2011

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Contact Information

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Editor

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 Cragwood 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

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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.



THE Corner Gallery
featuring
MoNEP
members'
photography



by Scott Avetta



by Norma Mull

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

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- ❖ 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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