



CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 19, Number 1

January 2014

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Editor

Barbara Addelson

Contributors

Scott Avetta
Mark McAmish

PEOPLE & PLACES

New Year Message from Scott

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy New Year! I hope everyone managed alright during the winter blast we just experienced. Please stay warm and be careful during this weather.

As you know 2013 required a change in venue due to budget cuts at Powder Valley Nature Center. After considering all of our options, we have decided to move the monthly meetings to The Ethical Society. There were two major reasons for this change. First the earlier meeting times required at Powder Valley did not make it feasible for many of our members to attend. Second, Powder Valley is only able to allow any one organization to use their facilities for 6 meetings a year. That would force us to change venues and times during the year, causing additional confusion. Our decision was based on what was best for MoNEP as a whole.

I am proud to announce that MoNEP surpassed the \$10,000 mark in gifting in 2013. MoNEP has donated money to causes related to our mission for many years. However, in 2010 a specific fund for giving was created. Money for the fund was raised through registration fees from our seminars. We hope you will attend this year's seminar, enabling MoNEP to continue to help events such as the Youth Photo Contest at Shaw Nature Reserve and organizations like the World Bird Sanctuary.

Finally, it is time to renew memberships for 2014. We hope you will fill out the attached renewal form. Thank you all for participating in MoNEP and thank you for bearing with us during all the changes this past year. Happy 2014!

2014 Membership Renewals

As many of you may remember, the MoNEP membership year runs from January through December. Therefore, it is time for all members to renew memberships for 2014. Membership chairs, **Shawn Northrop** and **Michelle Jones**, would like all members to fill out a new membership form this year to ensure that they have the most current information for every member. Please submit your completed form with dues this month at the January meeting or by mail. **Dues are \$25 per person or \$35 for a two-member household.** If you choose to mail your renewal, please send the form along with your dues to: **Michelle Jones, 45 Bellerive Acres, St. Louis, Missouri 63121.** Payment can be by check made out to **MoNEP**, or we will accept the exact cash payment at the membership desk during the January meeting. Please do not mail cash payment. We are unable to accept payment by credit or debit cards.

During the year, if you need to update any of your information, such as your email or postal address, please contact Michelle or Shawn. Michelle's email address is **michelle@mmjones.us**. Shawn's is **snorth70@gmail.com**. To contact the co-chairs by phone, please call Michelle at **314.383.6256**.

Meeting Dates for 2014:

The regular MoNEP meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, except in December. The dates for this year are: January 21st, February 18th, March 18th, April 15th, May 20th, June 17th, July 15th, August 19th, September 16th, October 21st, November 18th and the holiday show is on December, 9th.



Closeup of Red Fox
Don Morice

2013 Holiday Show

Thanks to all who made the 2013 MoNEP Holiday Show such a success. We would especially like to thank **Margy and Dan Terpstra** for all their hard work organizing this and numerous past parties. As Jerry Miller said, "The efforts Dan and Margy have put forth truly made each Holiday Show an event to be remembered." Margy and Dan have coordinated the logistics and volunteers as well as buying, toting, delivering and organizing the food, drinks and set up for our annual gatherings for the past nine years! They are now ready to pass on the torch, and we thank them so very much for all they have done to make MoNEP's annual celebration such a nice affair.

This year **Judy and Jim Stroup** worked alongside Margy and Dan, taking on some of the tasks that go into making the evening so pleasant. Thanks also to the many additional volunteers who helped with setup and cleanup or who brought food to share. We are fortunate to have so many people who are willing to dig in to make it a great celebration.

Jerry Miller and Pat Burgess created yet another wonderful presentation of members' images set to delightful music. We really appreciate the time and hard work that goes into selecting and arranging so many photographs and setting them to music. As always, our sincere thanks to both of them.

Finally, there would be no holiday show were it not for our members and their willingness to share their work. Thank you to all of the members who participated: **Barbara Addelson, Linda Alessi, Tim Bade, Ken Biddle, Vearl Brown, Jim Campbell, Kathy and Mark Cherry, Patricia Collins, Mike Davidson, Scott Evers, Kelly Hall, Jane Griesenauer, Joe Klipsch, Milton Loessberg, Christy Lonerio, Chuck and Fran Mannis, Beverley, Jerry, Jeremy and Sandra Miller, Mark McAmish, Monica McAmish-Bahr, Rich Merz, Linda Moder, Don Morice, Larry Morrison, Norma Mull, Marcy Pivin, Jim Rhodes, Dick Roman, Don Sheahan, Richard Spener, Jim Stroup, Rheba Symeonoglou, Dan and Margy Terpstra, Larry Terrell, Dug Threewit and Susan Vollmer.** Great job!

Member News

Toni Armstrong won first place in the **2013 St. Louis Post-Dispatch Travel Photo Contest**. Her winning image was of a lone bison on a hillside in Theodore Roosevelt National Park at sunset. You can see her stunning image in the December 27th travel section of **www.stltoday.com**, the paper's website. Congratulations Toni!

Native Landscaping Program

Mark your calendars for **Friday and Saturday March 21st and 22nd** for the third annual **Partners for Native Landscaping: A Workshop for Homeowners**. The keynote speaker will be **Doug Tallamy**, renowned author of **Bringing Nature Home**. On Friday evening, Doug will present **Your Role in Building Biological Corridors: Networks for Life**, followed by a book signing and cocktail reception. On Saturday, Doug will lead two sessions. Other speakers on Saturday include local experts such as **Dave Tylka, Cindy Gilberg and Scott Woodbury**. Registration for the Friday evening event is \$30 and includes the book signing and reception with a cash bar. Registration for the Saturday program is \$25 and includes lunch and a native landscape guide. To learn more and to register visit <http://stlouisaudubon.org/PNL/>

Shaw Photo Series 2014

The Shaw Photography Series: Finding your Focus has announced its workshops for this spring and summer. Registration is currently open for Jeff Hirsch's workshop on sharing photography through social media on February 8th. Registration for the remainder of the classes, listed below, will open on February 1st. For further information visit **shawnature.org** and search for Shaw Photography Series.


- *Shooting & Sharing: Photography in the Age of Social Media* with Jeff Hirsch, 2/8/14
- *The Fine Art of Ink Jet Printing* with Robert Bullivant, 3/22/14
- *Photographing the Virginia Bluebells* with Scott Avetta, 4/5/14
- *Lightroom Bootcamp* with Jeff Hirsch, 5/31 – 6/1/14
- *Let's Talk Images* with Stewart Halperin 6/21/14
- *How to Photograph Butterflies and Dragonflies* with Richard and Susan Day, 7/12/14

Florida Photo Locations


Mark McAmish sent this link to **The Great Florida Bird and Wildlife Photography Locations** for those who may be heading that way.

<http://flwildlife.proboards.com/board/14/great-florida-wildlife-photography-locations>

THE Corner Gallery
featuring
MoNEP
members'
photography



Ken Biddle



Red-shouldered Hawk
Mark Cherry

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, January 21st from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 18th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

All 2014 meetings will be held at **The Ethical Society** at **9001 Clayton Avenue, St. Louis, 63117**. Parking and the evening entry to The Ethical Society are at the rear of the building. Follow the driveway down the hill and along the side of the building to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right hand side of the lower level as you face the building from that lot.

Share and Show Nature Images – due 1/18

January Theme: Winter Shadows

Members are invited to share up to **four (4) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for **January is Winter Shadows**. Please follow the instructions on **Uploading Share and Show Images** in the tips section at **monep.org**. We ask that you:

- ❖ Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- ❖ Name your images according to the directions at **monep.org** under tips.
- ❖ Save your images as .jpg files.
- ❖ Compress your four resized images into a zip file.
- ❖ Send your images via email to **share@monep.org** by **midnight, Saturday, 1/18**.

January Meeting – Richard Day

Professional nature photographer and MoNEP member, **Richard Day** will be the presenter at the January 21st meeting. Richard's topic will be **Photo Workflow and Backups**. He will explain the workflow he uses to organize, file, and backup photos for Daybreak Imagery. He'll give tips for photo editing, downloading images and setting up a filing system so you can find your images later. Also included will be a brief processing session followed by a discussion of various backup options.

Richard has been publishing photos and teaching photo workshops since 1984. He specializes in birds, butterflies, dragonflies and backyard habitats. His work has been published in *Audubon*, *Birds & Blooms*, *National Wildlife*, *National Geographic* and many other nature-related publications, calendars and books worldwide. Richard leads photo tours, teaches butterfly and dragonfly workshops and is a guide for Frontiers North to photograph polar bears in Churchill, Manitoba.

Richard and his wife, Susan, own Daybreak Imagery, a stock photography and writing business, near Alma, Illinois. The Days present numerous programs throughout the country each year on backyard wildlife, nature photography and the photo business. You can learn more about them at their website: **www.daybreakimagery.com**.

November Speaker Recap

Dr. **Jim Flasar** gave a stunning presentation of some of his underwater images at the November meeting. During his talk, he shared stories of his 28 years of experience diving with and photographing sharks and other sea creatures. He provided information on the equipment and techniques he uses for this very special kind of nature photography. He introduced us to several different species of sharks, including tiger, oceanic white tip, bull and great white sharks. He also included images of the spectacular sailfish and explained their fascinating strategy for herding sardines in a "bait ball". They then take turns grabbing a meal from the school of fish, communicating who goes next by a flash of their sail-like fins. Jim also showed images of a number of other species and the amazing ways they coexist, survive and communicate.

Generally, Jim uses a digital camera with two housings and two strobe lights. He uses a 10-17mm Tokina lens on a Nikon camera. Lighting is challenging so he works on all manual exposure. Our thanks to Jim for a beautiful program and the inspiration to get back in the water for a snorkel or scuba dive and a visit to the beautiful coral reefs, if not specifically the sharks!

Eagle Days

Winter is here and that means that large numbers of bald eagles have moved into the area. **The Missouri Department of Conservation** will host **Eagle Days** at several locations around the state this year. For 2014 they have reinstated **Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge on Saturday January 18th and Sunday the 19th from 9 to 3** each day. Eagle Days will once again be held in **Clarksville, Missouri, on Saturday January 25th from 9 to 4 and Sunday the 26th from 9 to 3**. Both events will feature live eagle presentations along with activities and displays. Spotting scopes to view eagles will also be available. For more information on these or other Eagle Days events around the state, visit the MDC website: **<http://mdc.mo.gov/events/eagledays>**.

Where to View Winter Birds

If you want to avoid the crowds at Eagle Days but still want to see these fabulous birds, there are many places in the area to reliably view eagles. Some other prime spots for eagle watching include **Lock & Dam 24 in Clarksville, Missouri, Lock & Dam 25, East of Winfield** and **The Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary**, on the Missouri side of the river near Alton, Illinois. In addition to eagles, Riverlands has had record numbers of trumpeter swans this year, with nearly 900 seen on January 10th.

Throughout January and early February, from 10 to 2 each day, the Audubon Center at Riverlands is hosting its own celebration of eagles and other birds with **Birds of Winter at Riverlands!** In addition to providing spotting scopes to look out at eagles, trumpeter swans and a great mix of ducks, they will have a raptor on hand each Saturday and an eagle each Sunday. Check out **<http://riverlands.audubon.org/events/birds-winter>** for more details, or call **636.899.0090**.

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<p>Visit our web-site at www.monep.org</p>			

MoNEP
 45 Bellerive Acres
 St. Louis, MO 63121





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2014 Membership Renewals

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St. Louis Camera Club Exhibit

St. Louis Camera Club is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. They have mounted the **St. Louis Camera Club Centennial Exhibition** at the **Sheldon Art Galleries** through **August 16th**. This juried exhibit features 50 photographs by current camera club members. Images fall into one of four categories: Photojournalism, Nature, Color and Travel. The Galleries are located at **3648 Washington Boulevard** in St. Louis. For details about the exhibition and to learn about other centennial activities planned by the SLCC, visit **www.stlcameraclub.com**.

Meeting Update

As those of you who attended the January meeting know, our scheduled presenter, **Richard Day**, was unable to make the 200 mile roundtrip drive to St. Louis due to the questionable forecast, high winds and bitter cold. In lieu of a presenter, we replayed a Holiday Show from the past, an option we are fortunate to have as an enjoyable emergency backup. We are pleased to announce that we have been able to reschedule Richard for the February meeting. See page 3 for details.

Show and Share Changes

The Board has revisited the topic of the low number of submissions for the **Show and Share** segment of our monthly meetings. We would really like to see more members participate and share their work with the group. Seeing others' work can be most informative and inspiring. To that end, we are taking several steps over the next few months to see if that encourages more participation. The two changes to be instituted are:

1. Members may now submit up to **five** of their nature images each month, as we used to do, until we had too many submissions for the time frame.
2. We will also broaden the themes for the next few months so that members don't feel restricted as to what they can submit. To that end, the **February 18th** topic will be **Photographer's Choice**. Please see Page 3 for more details.

We will still need to submit images prior to the meeting. The deadline for submissions this month is midnight, Saturday, February 15th. Please email your images to **share@monep.org**.



Dick Roman

PSA Interclub Competition Honorable Mention

Member News

MoNEP members **Mark Braun, Jack Clark, Dennis McCarthy, Chuck Mannis, Fran Mannis, Rich Merz, Randy Oleson, Bob Schmidt, Margaret Schmidt, Dave Schmitt, Susan Standish and Sammylane Wirth** all have images in the St. Louis Camera Club 100th Anniversary Exhibition. The exhibit, highlighted on Page 1, is at the Sheldon Galleries now through August 16th.

Three of **Dick Roman's** images made it to submission to the **Photographic Society of America's (PSA) Interclub Competition**. Two of his images received honorable mentions in the Pictorial Print Division (PPD). They are on display in a slideshow at psa-photo.org/index.php?2013-2014-ppd-ic-2.

Scott Avetta is teaching the following classes this spring at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Butterfly House and Shaw Nature Reserve:

- *Behind the Scenes: Orchid Show Photography*, 3/10 or 3/17
- *Simplifying Your Camera*, 3/11, 18 & 25 or 3/12, 19 & 26
- *Behind the Scenes: March Morpho Mania Photography*, 3/24 or 3/31
- *Photographing the Virginia Bluebells* at Shaw Nature Reserve, 4/5
- *Creating a Stronger Image*, 4/8, 15 & 22 or 4/9, 13, 16 & 23
- *Sunset Photography*, 5/14, 21 & 28
- *Butterfly House Photography*, 5/19
- *Photography: Summer Blooms – Iris*, 5/19
- *Behind the Scenes: Teahouse Island Photography* 6/3 or 6/10
- *Capturing Native Butterflies: Outdoor Photography*, 8/11

For class descriptions, costs, and to register visit the Garden website at <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/learn-discover/classes.aspx>. There you can select classes by subject or by location: the Garden, Shaw Nature Reserve or the Butterfly House.



Florida Keys Sunset
Marcy Pivin

Native Landscaping Program

MoNEP is proud to be a co-sponsor of the third annual **Partners for Native Landscaping: A Workshop for Homeowners**. The workshop offers information and resources on how to landscape with native plants. The event will be held on **Friday and Saturday March 21st and 22nd** at the Missouri Botanical Garden. This year the keynote speaker will be **Doug Tallamy**, author of *Bringing Nature Home*. On Friday evening, Doug will present a talk on *Your Role in Building Biological Corridors: Networks for Life*. Registration for the Friday evening is \$30 and includes a book signing and reception after the talk with a cash bar. On Saturday, Doug will lead two sessions: *Bringing Nature Home* and *Are Alien Plants Bad?* Other speakers on Saturday include local experts such as **Dave Tylka, Cindy Gilberg** and **Scott Woodbury**. Topics will include landscaping for birds and butterflies, managing invasive plants, developing a rain garden and gardening in the shade. Registration for the Saturday program is \$25 and includes lunch and a native landscape guide. There will also be Missouri native wildflowers for sale. To learn more about this event and how to register visit <http://stlouisaudubon.org/PNL/>.

Shaw Photo Series 2014

The Shaw Photography Series: Finding your Focus is hosting these workshops this spring and summer:

- *The Fine Art of Ink Jet Printing* with Robert Bullivant, 3/22
- *Photographing the Virginia Bluebells* with Scott Avetta, 4/5
- *Lightroom Bootcamp* with Jeff Hirsch, 5/31 – 6/1
- *Let's Talk Images* with Stewart Halperin, 6/21
- *How to Photograph Butterflies and Dragonflies* with Richard and Susan Day, 7/12

For details and to register, visit shawnature.org and search for Shaw Photography Series.

Signs of Spring

What a long cold winter we've had! Yet there are already signs promising lovely days ahead. With the hours of daylight lengthening, we have heard snippets of songs from white-throated sparrows and cardinals. The **MDC Natural Events Calendar** says that over the next month we should keep an eye or ear out for: screech owls calling, large flocks of robins, the arrival of turkey vultures and, at the end of the month, killdeer. Chipmunks will emerge from hibernation and chorus frogs will start singing!

THE Corner Gallery
featuring
MoNEP
members'
photography



Owls
Kelly Hall

Burrowing Owl
Scott Evers

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

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Tuesday, March 18th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

All 2014 meetings will be held at **The Ethical Society** at **9001 Clayton Avenue, St. Louis, 63117**. Parking and the evening entry to The Ethical Society are at the rear of the building. Follow the driveway down the hill and along the side of the building to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right hand side of the lower level as you face the building from that lot.

Share and Show Nature Images – due 2/15

February Theme: Photographer's Choice

Members are invited to share up to **five (5) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for **February is Photographer's Choice**. Please follow the instructions on **Uploading Share and Show Images** in the tips section at **monep.org**. We ask that you:

- ❖ Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
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- ❖ Save your images as .jpg files.
- ❖ Compress your four resized images into a zip file.
- ❖ Send your images via email to **share@monep.org** by **midnight, Saturday, 2/15**.

February Meeting – Richard Day (rescheduled)

Due to bad weather, our January presenter, professional nature photographer and MoNEP member, **Richard Day**, has been rescheduled to be the presenter at the February 18th meeting. Richard's topic will be **Photo Workflow and Backups**. He will explain the workflow he uses to organize, file, and backup photos for Daybreak Imagery. He'll give tips for photo editing, downloading images and setting up a filing system so you can find your images later. Also included will be a brief processing session followed by a discussion of various backup options.

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Richard and his wife, Susan, own Daybreak Imagery, a stock photography and writing business near Alma, Illinois. The Days present numerous programs throughout the country each year on backyard wildlife, nature photography and the photo business. You can learn more about them at their website: **www.daybreakimagery.com**.

March 18th Meeting

Dr. Godfrey Bourne, Associate Professor of Evolutionary and Tropical Ecology at the University of Missouri - St. Louis will be our presenter in March. Dr. Bourne has spent more than 40 years conducting behavioral and ecological research in the country of Guyana, where he was raised. He will be presenting on **Rainforests and Savannas of Guyana**. He founded and is executive director of the CEIBA Biological Station, a research center on the outskirts of Georgetown, Guyana. Students from universities around the country go there to study tropical plants, insects, birds and aquatic life. He is also on the board of trustees of the Karanambu Trust, which offers ecology and biology research opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students, as well as operating a full service ecotourism lodge. Visit **www.karanambutrustandlodge.org** for more information about Dr. Bourne, CEIBA and Karanambu.

St. Louis Camera Club Seminar

The St. Louis Camera Club will be hosting its annual seminar on **Saturday, March 29th**. This year's speaker will be renowned documentary photographer **Sam Abell**. He worked as a contract and staff photographer with National Geographic for three decades. An author and lecturer, he has been a teacher with The Santa Fe Photographic Workshops for 22 years. Stay tuned for more workshop details here or keep an eye on the camera club's website **www.stlcameracclub.com** for updates.

MoNEP Seminar – August 2nd with Bill Lea

MoNEP will be holding its biennial seminar on **August 2nd**. Our presenter will be **Bill Lea**. Bill is a wildlife and landscape photographer from the Smoky Mountains National Park region. He focuses on shooting in "just the right light" and, because of that, he often shoots in the rain. He will cover both topics during the seminar. He has authored four books and is currently working on a book about the Everglades. His images appear in many magazines. He has been teaching photo workshops at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont for over twenty years. A sample of Bill's work is below. Visit his website at **www.billlea.com** to learn and see more. We will keep you posted with updates on the seminar.



Bill Lea

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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. Specific dates and meeting locations are posted in the newsletter and on the MoNEP web site.

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VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.monep.org



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Volunteers Needed for 3/22

Don Morice is looking for volunteers to help staff the MoNEP table during the Native Landscaping Program on **March 22nd at the Garden**. He is looking for 2-4 members who would be willing to help between 11 and 3. These volunteers would not have to do any setup or take down but would need to be able to represent MoNEP and talk about the mission, goals and activities of the group. If you can help, please contact Don at donkm63@att.net.

St. Louis Camera Club Seminar

Attend **St. Louis Camera Club's** annual seminar on **Saturday, March 29th**, and learn from world-renowned National Geographic Photographer and Canon Explorer of Light **Sam Abell**. He will present ***The Life of A Photograph: The adventures and misadventures of creating a photo with a long and meaningful life.***

Sam Abell's career has been dedicated to achieving artistic expression through documentary photography. He worked for over 30 years as a staff and contract photographer with National Geographic. An author and lecturer as well, he has been a teacher with The Santa Fe Photographic Workshops for 22 years. The seminar will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Maritz Campus in Fenton. Registration is \$25 per person and includes beverages and a box lunch. To access the registration form, visit the St. Louis Camera Club's website at www.stlcameraclub.com.

St. Louis Camera Club Exhibit

St. Louis Camera Club is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. They have mounted the **St. Louis Camera Club Centennial Exhibition** at the **Sheldon Art Galleries** through **August 16th**. This juried exhibit features 50 photographs by current camera club members, 12 of whom are also MoNEP members. Images fall into one of four categories: Photojournalism, Nature, Color and Travel. The Galleries are located at **3648 Washington Boulevard** in St. Louis. Visit the SLCC website at www.stlcameraclub.com for details on this and other planned activities to celebrate the club's centennial.



Strutting Flamingos
by Chuck Mannis

Part of the St. Louis Camera Club
Centennial Exhibition
at the
Sheldon Art Galleries

*One swallow does not make a summer,
but one skein of geese, cleaving the
murk of March thaw, is the Spring.*

~ Aldo Leopold
Environmentalist and Author
1887-1948

New Members

Welcome to our newest MoNEP members, **Al Ahner** and **Alan and Samantha Gales**. We are happy to have you join us.

Member News

Michael Abbene will be teaching three photography classes at the **Saint Louis Zoo** this spring and summer. The first is for adults and Michael will co-teach it with Zoo Photographer, Ray Meibaum. The two summer classes are for middle and high school students. The classes are:

- *Point-and-Shoot Zootography* for Adults (16 and over) – Saturday, 4/26 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- *Photography at the Zoo* for Grades 7 & 8 – Saturday, 6/21 & 6/28 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- *Photography at the Zoo 2* for Grades 9-12 – Saturday, 7/12 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For more details or to register visit www.stlzoo.org.

Scott Avetta is teaching a number of classes this spring at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Butterfly House and Shaw Nature Reserve. There are a few openings remaining in the following classes:

- *Creating a Stronger Image*, 4/8, 15 & 22 or 4/9, 13, 16 & 23
- *Photography: Summer Blooms – Iris*, 5/19
- *Capturing Native Butterflies: Outdoor Photography*, 8/11

For class descriptions, costs and to register visit the Garden website at <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/learn-discover/classes.aspx>.

Shaw Photo Series 2014

The Shaw Photography Series: Finding your Focus is hosting these workshops this spring and summer:

- *The Fine Art of Ink Jet Printing* with Robert Bullivant, 3/22
- *Lightroom Bootcamp* with Jeff Hirsch, 5/31 – 6/1
- *Let's Talk Images* with Stewart Halperin, 6/21
- *How to Photograph Butterflies and Dragonflies* with Richard and Susan Day, 7/12

For details and to register visit shawnature.org

MoNEP Seminar with Bill Lea

MoNEP will be holding its biennial seminar on **August 2nd**. Our presenter will be **Bill Lea**. Bill is a wildlife and landscape photographer from the Smoky Mountains National Park region. He captures intimate images of nature in "just the right light", and, because of that, he often shoots in the rain. He focuses on deer and bear behavior, the moods of the Smokies, the Everglades and other southern ecosystems. He has authored four books and is currently working on one about the Everglades. His images appear in many magazines. He has been teaching photo workshops at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont for over twenty years. A sample of Bill's work is below. Visit his website at www.billlea.com to learn and see more. We will keep you posted with updates on the seminar.



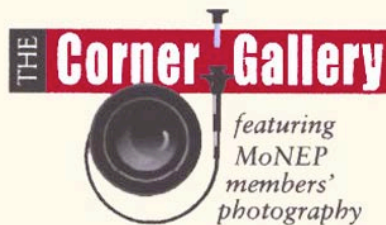
Bill Lea

Danny Brown Exhibit at SNR

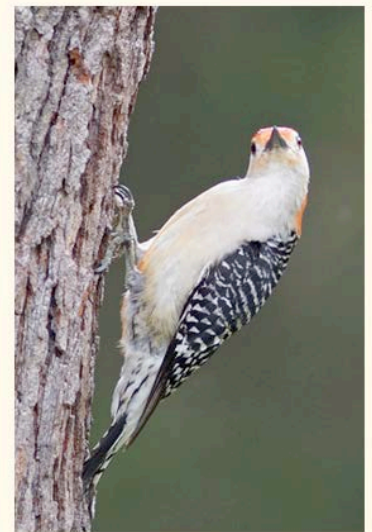
Shaw Nature Reserve is hosting an exhibit by wildlife photographer **Danny Brown**. **A Selection of Creatures from Shaw Nature Reserve** is on display at the Bascom House, adjacent to the Whitmire Wildflower Garden through May 31st. Sixteen images taken at SNR are on display and are also for sale. The Bascom House is open daily from 10 to 4.

2014 Membership Renewals

Haven't yet renewed your MoNEP membership for 2014? Now is the time if you want to keep receiving newsletters and MoNEP event information. Please fill out a membership form and turn it in, along with your dues, to our membership co-chairs, **Shawn Northrop** and **Michelle Jones** at the March meeting. Or mail your form and check to Michelle at **45 Bellerive Acres, St. Louis, Missouri 63121**. Dues are **\$25 per person** or **\$35 for a two-member household**. Payment can be by check made out to **MoNEP**, or we will accept the exact cash payment at the membership table during the March meeting. Please do not mail cash. We do not accept payment by credit or debit cards. Contact Michelle or Shawn at michelle@mmjones.us or snorth70@gmail.com with questions.



Wood Duck in Snow
Mark Cherry



Linda Alessi

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, March 18th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

All 2014 meetings will be held at **The Ethical Society** at **9001 Clayton Avenue, St. Louis, 63117**. Parking and the evening entry to The Ethical Society are at the rear of the building. Follow the driveway down the hill and along the side of the building to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right hand side of the lower level as you face the building from that lot.

Share and Show Nature Images – due 3/15

March Theme: Potpourri

Members are invited to share up to **five (5) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for **March is Potpourri**. Please follow the instructions on **Uploading Share and Show Images** in the tips section at **monep.org**. We ask that you:

- ❖ Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- ❖ Name your images according to the directions at **monep.org** under tips.
- ❖ Save your images as .jpg files.
- ❖ Compress your five resized images into a zip file.
- ❖ Attach the zip file to an email to **share@monep.org** by midnight, Saturday, 3/15.

March 18th Meeting – Dr. Godfrey Bourne

Dr. Godfrey Bourne, Associate Professor of Evolutionary and Tropical Ecology at the University of Missouri - St. Louis, will be our presenter in March. Dr. Bourne has spent more than 40 years conducting behavioral and ecological research in the country of Guyana. He will be presenting on **Rainforests and Savannas of Guyana**. His slide program will include his natural history photography and a few of his paintings of bird portraits. He will explain why nutrient poor white sands soil support such high biodiversity on the Guiana Shield in northeastern South America. Dr. Bourne founded and is executive director of the CEIBA Biological Station, a research center on the outskirts of Georgetown, Guyana. Students from universities around the country travel there to study tropical plants, insects, birds and aquatic life. He is also on the board of trustees of the Karanambu Trust, which offers ecology and biology research opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students, as well as operating a full service ecotourism lodge. Visit **www.karanambutrustandlodge.org** for more information about Dr. Bourne, CEIBA and Karanambu.

February Speaker Recap

In his presentation, **From Start to Finish: Photo Workflow, Image Management and Backups**, professional nature photographer **Richard Day** provided tips for photo editing, setting up a photo filing system and the all important options for backing up your photo library. Richard's workflow consists of downloading his images,

February recap, continued

going through two rounds of edits, making adjustments to the images he keeps, adding keywords to each image and then backing everything up. He uses *Adobe Photoshop* and noted that in both *Photoshop* and *Lightroom* you can set up a metadata template with your copyright information. Your copyright will automatically be applied to every image as it is downloaded.

His first round of editing is a rough edit. He deletes any images that are out of focus, poorly composed, contain stray objects or are not well exposed. His second edit is much tighter. As a professional, he does not keep any image that isn't useable. He checks all images of animals at 100% in *Adobe Camera Raw* to make sure the animal's eyes are in focus. If not, he deletes the image. Then he checks composition, the position of the wildlife, exposure and lighting. He deletes anything with a flaw. Of 1,500 images he took of polar bears in 2013, he kept only 200.

Once he has gone through the second round of edits, he does some adjustments within Camera Raw. He checks every image and adjusts exposure, contrast and clarity. Next, Richard opens the image in Photoshop, where he will do some additional edits. He doesn't tend to change the saturation level of his images, but will add a touch of vibrancy. He demonstrated this with a photo of a bison with its very dark head and deep-set dark eye. He created a new layer and used a spot healing brush at 20% opacity to lighten the head around the eye just a touch to make the eye pop. It was very subtle but quite effective. Richard saves both the RAW file and the edited PSD image in two separate locations.

Once he has finished editing the pictures he adds captions and keywords using as much detail as possible. He shared an example of a towhee in the snow. Among his long list of keywords were the bird's common name, its Latin name and 'bird in snow'. Sometimes he isn't searching for an image of a specific bird, but rather for a scene of birds in winter. He also includes what the bird is doing, its location, colors, seasons and behavior. For instance, if the bird is flying or hovering, soaring or hunting, it will be noted in the keywords. All of this makes finding an image of a particular subject much faster.

Richard talked about filing systems. He noted that there are many different filing systems out there but whichever you choose its purpose is to help you find your images. Therefore, he encouraged each of us to think hard about our subjects and how to best organize them in a structure that works for our own searches. He has one main folder of PSDs. Within that he has a separate subfolder for birds, further divided by species. He does the same for butterflies and dragonflies.

Finally, Richard emphasized that backing up your images is critical. He backs up constantly throughout the process. His computers run auto backup everyday, and every 30 days he takes backup hard drives offsite for safe storage. He uses a program called *Retrospect*, which actually makes duplicates of the images. There are also a number of online sites for storage as well.

Thank you, Richard, for reviewing such an important topic in a very entertaining manner!

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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. Specific dates and meeting locations are posted in the newsletter and on the MoNEP web site.

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

45 Bellerive Acres
St. Louis, MO 63121



CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 19, Number 4

April 2014

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Editor

Barbara Addelson
Scott Avetta

PEOPLE & PLACES

Holiday Show Heads Up

2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of MoNEP. In honor of that occasion, the board has discussed having a "Best of MoNEP" Holiday Show in **December 2015**. Although that is a long way off, we wanted to let you know so you can bear it in mind as you photograph and choose images for the 2014 Holiday Show. In 2015, we will glean some of the very best images from past holiday shows, including those submitted in 2014, for our end of the year celebration. That means that members will not submit any images in 2015. So please plan to give us your best shots this year!

Show and Share

It was so nice to see so many more members' images during the March meeting's Show and Share segment. Now that people are getting the hang of submitting their photographs by email each month, it has been suggested that we should take a little more time to learn from each other's images. In fact, part of MoNEP's mission is education. One way we can continually learn and improve our own photography is by viewing and hearing about others' images. To that end, it would be great if members who feel comfortable doing so would talk a little about the images they show. Presenters might mention what drew them to the subject, where the image was taken and what the conditions and lighting were like. One could also include some of the technical aspects such as lens choice, ISO and the aperture and shutter speed used. By sharing this information about the images we show, we can help make this more of a learning experience.

Citizen Science Programs

Spring finally seems to be settling in. The temperatures have moderated and some plants have started to leaf out, adding much welcome green to the landscape. The leafing out and blooming of plants and other natural events tend to follow a predictable pattern. People in and around St. Louis have reported hearing phoebes singing. Spring peepers and other frogs and toads have started calling. Phenology is the study of the timing of these natural events, and many of us participate in this study either informally or formally.

I, and many other people, record the arrival of different birds in my backyard in both spring and fall. I also submit data to several citizen science projects, supplying information to scientists so they can track the population fluctuations of different species or the changes in timing of natural events due to climate change. There are an increasing number of citizen science programs that engage the public in research, while vastly increasing the amount of data scientists can gather. Among a few of these programs are: **Project Feeder Watch** (Cornell Lab of Ornithology: feederwatch.org), **Project BudBurst** (National Ecological Observatory Network or NEON: budburst.org) and **FrogWatch USA**, (the Association of Zoos & Aquariums or AZA: aza.org/frogwatch). Participating is relatively easy and fun, and knowing that you are contributing in some small way to scientific understanding is very rewarding. It is also a great way to engage your family outdoors.

For information on natural events to watch for in April, see page 3.



Green Heron Fishing
Fran Mannis

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month.

~ Henry Van Dyke
American Poet
1852 - 1933

New Members

MoNEP welcomes these new members: **Tammi Elbert, Kevin McDonald and Barbara Steps**. Please take a moment to introduce yourselves to them.

Member News

Norma Mull has had several of her images accepted by the **Butterfly Palace in Branson, Missouri**. You can get a preview by visiting their Facebook page (search for Butterfly Palace and Rainforest Adventures in Facebook and then click on photos). Norma says that the palace is a beautiful place to visit. For more information on it, visit www.thebutterflypalace.com.

Dick Roman's black and white close-up of a cactus won second place in this month's BetterPhoto.com contest. The image was selected from among 5,900 photos entered and was picked as one of the site's staff favorites. You can view his photo at: www.betterphoto.com/gallery/dynoGallDetail.asp?photoID=14370747

Richard Spener and his wife, **Toni Armstrong** will be presenting **The Alaskan Arctic by Camera and Canoe** as part of the Explorers Club St. Louis' Speakers Series. The event, which includes cocktails (cash bar), dinner and their presentation, will be held on **Wednesday, April 23rd**, at **The Racquet Club**. The cost is \$55 per member of the Explorers Club, \$60 for non-members. If you are interested in attending you must pre-pay. To do so, mail a check prior to **April 18, 2014** made payable to: The Explorers Club – St. Louis Chapter, c/o Mr. Benjamin Hulse, One US Bank Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63101. Payments are not accepted at the door. Richard was also featured in an article in the March issue of **Town & Style Magazine**.

March Meeting Recap

Our scheduled speaker for the March meeting, Dr. Godfrey Bourne, was unable to present due to illness. Fortunately for us, **Michelle Jones** and **Don Morice** graciously stepped in to fill the void. They had both joined Dr. Bourne and his college students on trips into the interior of Guyana in 2013 and again in 2014 and were able to share a great deal of information on the ecology and people of Guyana as well as their fine photographs.

Guyana, a country the size of Kansas, located on the northeast coast of South America, has a population of just 750,000 people. 85% of the country is covered by tropical rainforest. The remainder is savanna, open grassland with trees that are not close enough to form a canopy. The country experiences two seasons, the rainy season and a dry season. River levels can vary 20 feet depending upon the season. The soil is mostly nutrient poor white sand, yet it supports an incredible diversity of plants, especially in the rainforest. Don and Michelle shared images of the varied bird life, as well as mammals such as the giant river otter, giant anteater and the saki monkey. Rivers are abundant and are the primary means of transportation in the country's interior. They are also home to a wealth of fish and two species of crocodiles. The very large black caiman grows up to 15 feet, and the spectacled caiman is less than half that size. They told stories of their adventures in this wondrous place as well as some of the challenges of photographing in an area that is either very bright on the savannas or dark in the midst of the rainforest. We want to thank Don and Michelle for sharing their experiences with us, especially on such short notice. Well done!

MoNEP Seminar with Bill Lea

MoNEP will host photographer, **Bill Lea**, during our seminar on **August 2nd**. Bill is a wildlife and landscape photographer based in the Smoky Mountains. He captures intimate images of nature in "just the right light" and often shoots in the rain. He focuses on deer and bear behavior, the moods of the Smokies, the Everglades and other southern ecosystems. He has authored four books and is currently working on one about the Everglades. His images appear in many magazines. Bill has been teaching photo workshops at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont for over twenty years. Visit his website at www.billlea.com to learn more. We will keep you posted with updates on the seminar.

Shaw Wildflower Market

Shaw Nature Reserve and several nurseries will offer Missouri native plants for sale during their annual **Wildflower Market** on **Saturday, May 10th**, from **9-4**. Admission is \$5 per person or \$3 for seniors and is free to Garden members. This event has the largest selection of native wildflowers in the area. There is also a **pre-sale for Garden members only on Friday, May 9th from 4-7:30**. Visit shawnature.org for details.

THE Corner Gallery
featuring
MoNEP
members'
photography



Wooded Spring Pathway Wisconsin
Jim Campbell



Dug Threewitt

MEETINGS & programs



Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, April 15th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

All 2014 meetings will be held at **The Ethical Society** at **9001 Clayton Avenue, St. Louis, 63117**. Parking and the evening entry to The Ethical Society are at the rear of the building. Follow the driveway down the hill and along the side of the building to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right hand side of the lower level as you face the building from that lot.

Share and Show Nature Images – due 4/12

Members are invited to share up to **five (5) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for **April is Photographer's Choice**. Please follow the instructions on **Uploading Share and Show Images** in the tips section at **monep.org**. We ask that you:

- ❖ Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- ❖ Name your images according to the directions at monep.org under tips.
- ❖ Save your images as .jpg files.
- ❖ Compress your five resized images into a zip file.
- ❖ Attach the zip file to an email addressed to **share@monep.org** by **midnight, Saturday, 4/12**.

April Meeting – Richard Spener

MoNEP member, **Richard Spener**, will present **Taking Better Digital Images** at the **April 15th** meeting. Richard will touch on a range of topics during his presentation including: chasing light in all weather conditions, composition from leading lines and backgrounds to focusing on often overlooked patterns. He will also show examples of the impact of polarizing filters, different shutter speeds, depth of field and the number of megapixels of your camera on the quality of the final image. Richard will compare images shot in Raw vs. Jpg and share examples of images taken using split neutral density filters. There will also be a special section of tips on taking photographs from a kayak or canoe. The program wraps up with different ways to capture sunsets.

Richard is an avid canoeist and kayaker, environmentalist and photographer. He and his wife, Toni, have traveled and paddled extensively throughout the U.S. including numerous trips to Alaska, as well as Central America.

Richard's photographs have been widely published by the St. Louis Post Dispatch, the National Wildlife Federation, St. Louis Audubon and the Alaska Wilderness League. He has had several one-man photo exhibits in the St. Louis area. Richard and Toni recently had a joint exhibit at the Missouri History Museum on *50 Years of Wilderness Through the Lens of Missouri's 8 Wilderness Areas*. The exhibit was mounted in honor of the 50th anniversary of the wilderness act and is now traveling around the state. Richard's image of a buffalo at Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota is the header on the park's website and appears in their 2014 calendar.

Field Trips Return

With the return of spring, MoNEP field trips are starting up again. Because of the late winter, the organizers decided on a city location, expecting that places outside the city will be several weeks behind their usual spring progression. The April field trip will be on **Saturday, April 26th** in **Forest Park**. The meeting time will be **6:30 a.m.**, and the gathering spot will be announced at the April meeting and will be posted on the MoNEP website. We will also send out a reminder prior to the trip.

In addition to your camera gear, you may also want to bring along water, sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat and a snack. For more information on the field trip, please contact trip organizers **Bill Lubben** or **Randy Hunter**. Bill can be reached at **314-965-2639**. Randy can be reached at **314-845-3914**.

Future spring field trips include:

Saturday, May 24th with a focus on spring flowers. The location and time will be announced in next month's newsletter and on the MoNEP web site.

Friday, June 13th: Shaw Nature Reserve Sunset Shoot

This trip will feature a ride on the Nature Reserve's Wilderness Wagon from the Visitor's Center to the Trail House where we will have easy access to the glade and prairie for early evening and sunset photography. Wine and cheese and other refreshments will be provided. Space is limited and there is a **fee of \$15** per person to cover the nature reserve's expenses. **To register please give your name and payment to Barb Addelson at the April meeting.** Checks should be made out to MoNEP. We will also accept cash in the exact amount.

April Natural Events

According to the Missouri Department of Conservation Natural Events Calendar, these are some of the things we can expect to see during the month of April:

- White Pelicans migrate through Missouri
- Northern Orioles begin to arrive
- Look for morel mushrooms
- Turtles crossing the road. Watch out!
- Copperheads leave their dens
- Bluebells, celandine poppy and shooting star bloom
- Warbler migration is under way

Earth Day 2014

St. Louis' Earth Day Festival will be held on **Sunday, April 27th**, from **11-6** on **The Muny grounds in Forest Park**. The festival is free and features booths focusing on sustainable practices, products and services and hands-on educational activities. There will also be three stages with entertainment. For details visit **stlouisearthday.org**.

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<p>Visit our web-site at www.monep.org</p>			

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Missouri Nature
& Environmental Photographers
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CLOSEUP

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May 2014

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Barbara Addelson

PEOPLE & PLACES

MoNEP Seminar with Bill Lea

MoNEP will host photographer, **Bill Lea**, during our seminar on **August 2nd**. Bill is a wildlife and landscape photographer based in the Smoky Mountains.

Capturing intimate images of wildlife, scenery, wildflowers, and a variety of other natural subjects in "just the right light" has long been the trademark of Bill's photography. He may best be known for his artistic documentation of deer and bear behavior, the various moods of the Great Smoky Mountains, the Florida Everglades and other southern ecosystems.

Photographing in the Smokies since 1975 has afforded Bill limitless opportunities to observe and record the flora, fauna, and scenery of the region. Bill's craft reflects his deep appreciation for nature and he communicates his enthusiasm and expertise as a natural history photographer and writer to others through his books, workshops, feature articles and presentations. He has been teaching photo workshops at **Great Smoky Mountains Institute** at Tremont since 1992.

More than 7,000 of Bill's photos have been published. His work has appeared in Audubon Calendars, BBC Wildlife, Defenders of Wildlife, The Great Smoky Mountains Association publications, National Geographic books, Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife, and many others. His three front covers in a row was a first in **Field & Stream's** more than 100-year history. Bill authored a coffee-table book titled **Great Smoky Mountains Wildlife Portfolio** and coauthored **Great Smoky Mountains Wonder & Light** and **The Ultimate Guide to Digital Nature Photography**.

His most recent book, **Cades Cove - Window to a Secret World** is in its fourth printing. He is currently working on a book about the Florida Everglades. When asked what he would most like to achieve through his photography, Bill replies that he hopes his images will promote a better understanding and appreciation for the natural world.

Bill is an excellent speaker and educator and is very passionate about his subject matter and work. Please join MoNEP as Bill Lea presents the art of nature photography in a refreshing new way. For more information about Bill's work, visit his website at www.billlea.com.

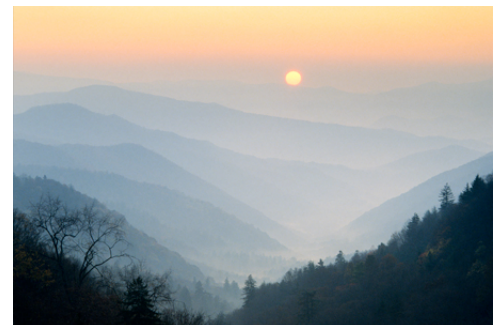
Seminar Logistics:

The seminar will be held on **August 2nd** from **9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Ethical Society** in their upstairs auditorium. Registration is **\$50 for MoNEP members and \$60 for non-members** and includes lunch from Honey Baked Ham. To register, please use the enclosed form and bring it, along with your payment by check or cash, to an upcoming meeting. You can also mail your registration and a check, made out to MoNEP, to **Linda Moder at 5341A Sutherland, St. Louis, MO, 63109**. The registration deadline is July 25th.



Norma Mull

I am going to try to pay attention to the spring. I am going to look around at all the flowers, and look up at the hectic trees. I am going to close my eyes and listen. ~ Anne Lamott, American writer



Bill Lea

Member News

Lori Purk has been invited to exhibit one of her photographs at the Missouri Governor's Mansion along with seven other Missouri photographers. The eight-piece exhibit will be installed in a special artisan showcase that was built to house rotating themed exhibits. The photographers' exhibit will be the third rotation. The first featured glasswork and the second, painting. Lori's work will be on display for at least a year and for as long as 18 months. That was a nice surprise phone call to get!

Holiday Show

2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of MoNEP. In honor of that occasion, the board has discussed having a "Best of MoNEP" Holiday Show in **December 2015**. Although that is a long way off, we wanted to let you know so you can bear it in mind as you photograph and choose images for the 2014 Holiday Show. In 2015, we will glean some of the very best images from past holiday shows, including those submitted in 2014, for our end of the year celebration. That means that members will not submit any images in 2015. So please plan to give us your best shots this year!

Show and Share Presentation

Last month's effort to have members talk a bit about the images they chose for Show and Share was very well received. Thanks to those who participated. We want to encourage members who feel comfortable doing so to talk a little about the images they show. Presenters might mention what drew them to the subject, where the image was taken and what the conditions and lighting were like. One could also include some of the technical aspects such as lens choice, ISO and the aperture and shutter speed used. One way we can continually learn and improve our own photography is by viewing and hearing about others' images. By sharing this information about your images, we can help make this more of a learning experience.

Upcoming Meeting Topics

Tuesday, June 17th: Ray Kersting of Schiller's Camera.

Tuesday, July 15th: Robert Bullivant of Bullivant Gallery on the art and science of ink jet printing.

April Meeting Recap

MoNEP member, **Richard Spener**, presented ***Taking Better Digital Images*** at the **April** meeting. He reviewed some of the important basics, illustrating his points with examples from his own stunning images. Richard started by talking about chasing light and emphasized how different lighting conditions can have a tremendous impact on your images. He particularly loves to shoot backlit subjects, scenes capturing the beauty of glory light; the warm golden light towards the end of the day and the soft pink light that can come after the sun goes down.

He discussed aspects of composition, including the Rule of Thirds, which often helps create pleasing images. Leading lines are another important compositional element, in that they lead the viewer's eye into and through the image. Backgrounds play an important role in your composition. As you compose the scene, look at all of its elements, including the background before you take the shot.

Patterns can make very interesting subjects, whether you photograph the parts of a flower with its repeated patterns or a mass of ginkgo leaves. There are lots of patterns in nature.

Richard advocates, "view big and take




small", which means look for the details within a large object, as they may make good subjects themselves. Zoom in and find the image within.

Richard showed examples of the impact of using polarizing filters to make clouds stand out, to remove the glare from water so you can see the rocks on the bottom of a lake, or to make the colors of fall leaves pop.

He reviewed the effect of using different shutter speeds and f-stops, on the resulting image. Richard talked about and showed examples of the flexibility provided by shooting in raw format rather than jpeg. He described jpeg as being akin to shooting slide film, where you have to be right on the mark with your settings because once it is shot there is not much you can do to adjust the image. Shooting in raw allows you the freedom to adjust your images significantly in digital post-processing. That includes being able to apply a graduated neutral density filter in Adobe Lightroom!

In addition to being a superb photographer, Richard is an avid canoeist and kayaker. He talked about preparing, carrying and using his camera gear when on the water.

Richard ended by encouraging us to try different things and to have fun. Thank you, Richard, for a great talk!



Mike Davidson

Scott Evers

MEETINGS & programs



Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, May 20th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at **The Ethical Society** at **9001 Clayton Avenue, St. Louis, 63117**. Parking and the evening entry to The Ethical Society are at the rear of the building. Follow the driveway down the hill and along the side of the building to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right hand side of the lower level as you face the building from that lot.

Show and Share Nature Images – due 5/17

Members are invited to share up to **five (5) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for **May is Photographer's Choice**. Please follow the instructions on **Uploading Show and Share Images** in the tips section at **monep.org**. We ask that you:

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- ❖ Attach the zip file to an email addressed to **share@monep.org** by **midnight, Saturday, 5/17**.

May Meeting - Insects

Our speakers for the **May 20th** meeting will be **Yvonne Homeyer** and **Pat Garner**. Their presentation will focus on how photography can provide a unique opportunity for observing the world of insects. Using photos they have taken in the St. Louis area, they will examine a number of butterfly, dragonfly, and other insect species with an emphasis on interesting or unusual behaviors that would go unnoticed without the aid of close-up photography.

Yvonne is a Brentwood resident and practices law in her own firm in Clayton in the areas of family law, divorce mediation, and estate planning. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the **North American Butterfly Association (NABA)**, and is the current President of the St. Louis Chapter of NABA. When not in the office, she can usually be found in the field with her binoculars and camera. Her initial interest in bird watching quickly expanded into butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and wildflowers – and photography.

Pat Garner and her husband live outside Hawk Point in Lincoln County on 45 acres of mixed habitat, including woods, open fields, and a pond. Many native species of plants and trees are found on their land, providing an abundance of host plants and nectaring plants for butterflies. As a result, Pat has observed and photographed approximately 65 butterfly species on their land. That accounts for almost 2/3 of all the species seen in the St. Louis area! A wide variety of dragonfly and damselfly species are also present on their property. Pat is an accomplished photographer who delights in telling stories with her images.

May Field Trip – 5/17

The May field trip will be on **Saturday, May 17th** at **Valley View Glades**, near Hillsboro, Missouri. The group will meet at **6:15 a.m.** in the **parking lot behind the Phillips 66 Station, across from St. Anthony's Hospital on Highway 21** also known as Tesson Ferry Road. The gas station is at the junction of Tesson Ferry and Schuessler Roads. The group will leave the lot by 6:30. In addition to your camera gear, you may also want to bring along water, sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat and a snack. For more information on the field trip, please contact **Randy Hunter** at **314-845-3914**.

June Field Trip – 6/13

We have a very special field trip scheduled for **Friday, June 13th**. Join us for a **Sunset Shoot at Shaw Nature Reserve**. This trip will feature a ride on the Nature Reserve's Wilderness Wagon from the Visitor's Center to the Trail House where we will have easy access to the glade and prairie for early evening and sunset photography. Wine and cheese and other refreshments will be provided. Space is limited and there is a **fee of \$15** per person to cover the nature reserve's expenses. **To register please give your name and payment to Barb Addelson at the May meeting.** Checks should be made out to MoNEP. We also accept cash, but would appreciate it if members would provide it in the exact amount.

May Natural Events

According to the Missouri Department of Conservation Natural Events Calendar, these are some of the things we can expect to see during the month of May:

- Black locust trees start to bloom.
- Carpenter bees lay their eggs in wood.
- Cuckoos begin nesting.
- Lightning bugs begin to be seen on warm evenings.
- Listen for cricket frogs. Their calls sound like small rocks being struck rapidly together.
- Stinging nettle is tall enough to sting!
- Chigger season begins! (Also check for ticks.)
- Coneflowers and coreopsis bloom on prairies.
- Missouri primroses bloom on Ozark glades.

Board Member Contact Updates

Please note that **Scott Avetta**, the President of MoNEP has changed the number you can use to reach him. You can best get him on his cell phone, which is **314-800-6375**. Also, **Don Morice**, MoNEP's Vice President changed his email address some time ago, but the newsletter editor occasionally uses the wrong address. It should be **donkm63@att.net**

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CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 19, Number 6

June 2014

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Editor

Barbara Addelson

Contributor

Scott Avetta

PEOPLE & PLACES

MoNEP Seminar with Bill Lea

MoNEP will host photographer, **Bill Lea**, during our seminar on **August 2nd**. Bill is a wildlife and landscape photographer based in the Smoky Mountains.

Capturing intimate images of wildlife, scenery, wildflowers, and a variety of other natural subjects in "just the right light" has long been the trademark of Bill's photography. He may best be known for his artistic documentation of deer and bear behavior, the various moods of the Great Smoky Mountains, the Florida Everglades and other southern ecosystems.

Photographing in the Smokies since 1975 has afforded Bill limitless opportunities to observe and record the flora, fauna, and scenery of the region. Bill's craft reflects his deep appreciation for nature and he communicates his enthusiasm and expertise as a natural history photographer and writer to others through his books, workshops, feature articles and presentations. He has been teaching photo workshops at **Great Smoky Mountains Institute** at Tremont since 1992.

More than 7,000 of Bill's photos have been published. His work has appeared in Audubon Calendars, BBC Wildlife, Defenders of Wildlife, The Great Smoky Mountains Association publications, National Geographic books, Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife, and many others. His three front covers in a row was a first in **Field & Stream's** more than 100-year history. Bill authored a coffee-table book titled **Great Smoky Mountains Wildlife Portfolio** and coauthored **Great Smoky Mountains Wonder & Light** and **The Ultimate Guide to Digital Nature Photography**.

His most recent book, **Cades Cove - Window to a Secret World**, is in its fourth printing. He is currently working on a book about the Florida Everglades. When asked what he would most like to achieve through his photography, Bill replies that he hopes his images will promote a better understanding and appreciation for the natural world.

Bill is an excellent speaker and educator and is very passionate about his subject matter and work. Topics to be covered will include:

- Light – The Driving Force
- Putting New Life into Wildlife Photography
- Nature Photography in the Rain
- Understanding the Black Bear
- The Everglades – Where Wonders Only Whisper

During the last segment, Bill will share his thoughts on large bird photography and how to shoot landscapes on flat land well, without the benefit of having mountains in the background.

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For more information about Bill's work, visit his website at **www.billlea.com**.



Ken Biddle

Member News

Scott Evers will be doing a program on HDR photography at the **Collinsville Area Camera Club** on **June 24th** at **7 p.m.** The club meets at the **Collinsville Area Recreation District Building, #10 Gateway Drive in Collinsville, Illinois.** HDR stands for High Dynamic Range and is a method for capturing the broader range of light levels that humans see as opposed to the more limited range that the camera records.

This year **Jim and Judy Stroup** will once again participate as hosts in the fourth annual **Sustainable Backyard Tour**, on **Sunday, June 22nd** from **11 to 4.** The tour is a free, self-guided tour of green backyards in St. Louis City and County. It provides a great opportunity to see how to integrate sustainable living practices into your life. Some of the hosts will feature gardens of native plants and rain gardens to help mitigate rainwater runoff. Others will focus on energy or water efficiency. Some may highlight beekeeping and how to keep backyard chickens. Others, such as the Stroups, will feature a mix of ways to have a more sustainable backyard. Although the tour is free, the organizers ask that you register so the hosts can prepare materials for an appropriate number of visitors. For more information, and to register, visit the: **www.sustainablebackyardtour.com**.

Are you interested in a website with great bird and garden photography that also serves as an excellent tool for learning to identify the amazing array of birds that migrate through St. Louis in the springtime? Fortunately for all of us, MoNEP member, **Margy Terpstra** shares both her fabulous images and her knowledge of birds and gardening for wildlife on the website she and her husband, **Dan Terpstra**, maintain **<http://hummerhavenunltd.com>**. Take a look to check out their image galleries and the accompanying blog. It is one of the best sites for familiarizing yourself with the different warbler species as they are actually seen in the field.

Special thanks to **Jerry Miller** and **John Watson** for attending to technical difficulties at the May meeting. An audio cable needed to be replaced and the projector bulb blew mid-program. They deftly resolved the issue and we appreciate their speedy action.

May Meeting Recap

Local butterfly enthusiasts, **Yvonne Homeyer** and **Pat Garner**, gave the May presentation on the identification, life stages and behavior of butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies and other insects of the St. Louis region. They took turns presenting and shared their own images of some colorful and amazing insects. Many insects tend to move so quickly that photography is a great way to capture their images for identification, as some of their field marks are subtle.

Yvonne is the current President of the **St. Louis Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA)** and serves on the Board of Directors of the national NABA. Pat lives on a 45-acre farm in Lincoln County with many native plants that provide the right host and nectar plants for butterflies. She has actually identified 72 different species of butterflies on her property. There are a total of 109 species listed for all of the St. Louis area. As Yvonne pointed out, the diversity on Pat's property is remarkable. In St. Louis there are seven families of butterflies. The classification hierarchy is: Kingdom > Phylum > Class > Order > Family > Genus > Species. Butterflies have smooth antennae with knobbed ends as compared to moths, which have

May Meeting Recap, cont'd.

feathery antennae and are generally nocturnal. Another difference is that moth caterpillars spin cocoons from the silk they produce. A butterfly forms a chrysalis from the inside out. Within the moth's cocoon and the butterfly's chrysalis, the insects go through metamorphosis and emerge as adults.

They showed images of butterflies "puddling"; gathering on the ground to drink up minerals and salts from the moist soil. We also saw examples of the five stages or instars of caterpillars. The spicebush swallowtail caterpillar starts out green and turns gold as it enters its fifth instar.

In addition to discussing butterflies, Yvonne and Pat showed many pictures of stunningly colored dragonflies and their relatives, the damselflies. Damselflies are daintier than dragonflies and, when perched, they hold their wings folded above their backs. Dragonflies, when perched, typically hold their wings spread out to their sides, forming the letter "t". During hot weather some dragonflies will raise their abdomens vertically to help cool down.

We saw an amazing variety of insects and gleaned some good tips for photographing them. Thanks, Yvonne and Pat, for sharing your knowledge and love of insects!



MEETINGS & programs



Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

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June Meeting – Ray Kersting

Ray Kersting of **Schiller's** will be the presenter at the June 17th meeting. He will talk about the latest in off camera lighting with portable strobes, including new radio TTL (Through The Lens) capability. He will also discuss the advantages of the flash modifiers that are currently available, among other things. Ray has been in the photography industry for more than 20 years. He started out assisting and shooting as a freelancer and has shot everything from weddings and portraits to architecture and catalogue images. He started at Schiller's in 1996, and has served in a number of roles as his position has evolved. In addition to helping out in the retail store, Ray manages Schiller's Pro Shop. Outside the retail store, he deals with corporate, commercial and educational accounts. His core specialty is lighting, but he has a general base of knowledge of all things photographic.

July Meeting – Scott Evers

MoNEP member, **Scott Evers**, will present the program at the **July 15th** meeting. Scott is a member of the **National Association of Photoshop Professionals**. He will cover the many options that are available for processing your digital images. Scott will cover workflow from the export of your files from the camera through the editing process to the final step of printing. He will discuss various popular software programs for processing and editing your digital images. He will provide instruction including on screen demonstrations, and advice on how to edit your digital photos to bring out the best quality possible that has been captured in your digital files.

May Field Trip Recap

Fourteen members attended the May field trip to Valley View Glades. The majority of the members met at the designated spot for those who wanted to carpool and a few met the group at the glade. Temperatures were cooler than normal for the middle of May, with temperatures in the low 40's to start and calm winds. There was fog in the valleys along the way.

Indian paintbrush and Freemont's leather flower were in bloom and were plentiful on the glade. Missouri evening primrose was present in the area, but it was not blooming on most of the glade. Members saw a large number of butterflies, the majority of which were checker spots. Some of the birds that were noted were indigo buntings, summer tanagers and a possible cerulean warbler. Bright blue skies made shooting in the open glade a bit of a challenge so people found it best to shoot along the edges of the glade or they found the use of a diffuser helpful. Because of the number of people who attended, several members were able to help each other with setups by holding diffusers for others. The wind started picking up at about 8:30 a.m. and the last members left at nearly 10:30 after chatting in the parking lot.

Note: If you are interested in visiting Valley View Glades, please be advised that there were signs posted that Highway B is closed Monday through Friday from 9-3. If you are headed to the glades from Highway 30, you may want to check road conditions.

June Field Trip

The sunset shoot scheduled for June 13th at Shaw Nature Reserve is full, with a waiting list. If this event is well received, we may schedule it again in the future depending on the availability of SNR staff and volunteers.

Nature Photography Day – June 15th

In addition to being Father's Day, Sunday, June 15th is **Nature Photography Day**. This will be the ninth year for this event, sponsored by **NANPA**, The North American Nature Photography Association. NANPA encourages people around North America, both young and old, to capture a scene of the natural world on that date with a camera. Inspiration can be close to home: a garden, trail, or even your own backyard or some wonderful far away setting. Visit **www.nanpa.org** for details and consider posting your image to their Facebook page.

June Natural Events

According to the Missouri Department of Conservation Natural Events Calendar, these are some of the things we can expect to see or experience during the month of June: butterfly milkweed blooms along roads, trumpet creeper attracts hummingbirds, snapping turtles lay eggs, bullfrog breeding peak, cicadas start to sing, summer solstice.

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- Putting New Life into Wildlife Photography
- Nature Photography in the Rain
- Understanding Bears
- Large Bird Photography
- Landscapes without Mountains

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For more information about Bill's work, visit his website at **www.billlea.com**.



Monica McAmish-Bahr

A small speckled visitor
Wearing a crimson cape
Brighter than a cherry
Smaller than a grape
A polka-dotted someone
Walking on my wall
A black-hooded lady
In a scarlet shawl.

~Joan Walsh Anglund
Author and illustrator
1926 - present

New Member

Welcome to **Anne Kelsey**, our newest MoNEP member.

Member News

MoNEP member, **Michael Abbene**, will be co-teaching at the **Saint Louis Zoo** on **Saturday, September 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Michael is a volunteer photographer for the zoo. The class, **Digital Zootography**, is designed to help adults learn how to turn a day trip to the zoo into a wildlife photo safari. The class will cover both portrait and action photography techniques to help participants capture striking images of zoo animals. In addition to classroom discussions of light and composition in the context of photographing animals in their exhibits, there will be two guided photo shoots to apply those techniques. The class fee is \$30 for zoo members and \$35 for the general public. Registration is online at the zoo's website www.stlzoo.org.

Gina Rubright had two flower photographs in a group exhibit by the **Creative App Expedition Group** at **Serendipity Gallery** in the Delmar Loop during the last two weeks of June.

Please join me in congratulating MoNEP members **Sarah Radke** and **Scott Avetta** who got married on May 7th. All our best to the Avettas.

We also want to congratulate **Kathy and Mark Cherry**. They retired at the end of May, and despite spending time at the lake fishing and photographing, they seem to be busier than ever! Best wishes to you both. Enjoy yourselves!

SNR Youth Photo Contest

Once again, MoNEP is proud to co-sponsor **Shaw Nature Reserve's** 2014 Youth Photography Contest. **Take A Shot!** is open to children ages 14 and under. Entries must be taken at Shaw Nature Reserve between **June 1st and October 15th, 2014**. All entries must be received at the SNR Visitor Center by **4 p.m. on October 15th**. The four categories are: **Flora, Wildlife, Miniature World of Nature** and **Trees of SNR**. Children can submit up to four images. They can all be in a single category, one from each category or just a couple of categories. Detailed contest rules and submission forms can be found online at shawnature.org under **Youth Photo Contest**.

Holiday Show Submissions

The 2014 MoNEP Holiday Show and party will be held on **Tuesday, December 9th**. The highlight of the evening is a digital presentation of members' photographs, put to music. **Jerry Miller** and **Pat Burgess** create the show using member's images, so please consider submitting 20 of your best images for consideration. This is particularly important this year, as 2015 will be our 20th anniversary. Instead of having members submit images for the holiday show in 2015, we will create the 2015 show using only images submitted in previous years. Jerry and Pat will create a "Best of MoNEP" show for 2015.

Submission Guidelines:

Each current MoNEP member may submit up to 20 nature or environment themed images for the 2014 show. In addition to your 20 nature shots, we would like to include images of other members in action. Submissions can be turned in to **Michelle Jones** at the **August 19th or September 16th meetings**. You may also submit your images via the MoNEP website by sending them to share@monep.org by **September 30th**. Instructions on resizing and submitting your images can be found in the Tips section of the MoNEP website at www.monep.org.

Holiday show, cont'd.

Format:

All submissions should be digital. If you have any slides you would like included they need to be scanned. Place up to 20 images on a CD-ROM or thumb drive 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. For example, if you were to submit an image of a heron, you might name the file **JaneSmith-GreatBlueHeron** or **JaneSmith IMG_1111**. However, no text should appear on any of the images you submit.

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 images in Photoshop or Lightroom, please see the instructions at www.monep.org/tips.html.

Art Wolfe Online Broadcast

CreativeLive will host a free online workshop on *The Art of Nature Photography* with Art Wolfe on July 18th. Details at: www.creativelive.com.



MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, July 15th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 19th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at **The Ethical Society** at **9001 Clayton Avenue, St. Louis, 63117**. Parking and the evening entry to The Ethical Society are at the rear of the building. Follow the driveway down the hill and along the side of the building to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right hand side of the lower level as you face the building from that lot.

Show and Share Nature Images – due 7/12

Members are invited to share up to **five (5) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for **July is Photographer's Choice**. Please follow the instructions on **Uploading Show and Share Images** in the tips section at **monep.org**. We ask that you:

- ❖ Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- ❖ Name your images according to the directions at monep.org under tips.
- ❖ Save your images as .jpg files.
- ❖ Compress your five resized images into a zip file.
- ❖ Attach the zip file to an email addressed to **share@monep.org by midnight, Saturday, 7/12**.

July Meeting – Scott Evers

MoNEP member, **Scott Evers**, will present the program at the **July 15th** meeting. He will cover the many options that are available for processing digital images. Scott will cover workflow from the export of files from the camera through the editing process to the final step of printing. He will discuss various popular software programs for processing and editing digital images. He will provide onscreen demonstrations and advice on how to edit digital photos to bring out the best quality possible.

Scott has been a life long photography enthusiast and a professional freelance photographer since 2005. While his passion and focus are on nature and landscape images, he has a diverse clientele who hire him for many different types of photography. He has worked with interior designers, architects, builders and government organizations. His nature oriented prints grace the main lobby of Anderson Hospital in Maryville, Illinois, and the Ronald McDonald Houses at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital and St. John's Mercy Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. Scott's work has appeared in magazines, newspapers, various periodicals and on websites. Scott has won awards in photography contests from the National Parks Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and Encyclopedia Britannica.

Scott is a member of Canon Professional Services and the National Association of Photoshop Professionals. His passion for continuing education and training help keep him abreast of the most current trends and changes in the ever-changing world of digital photography.

August Meeting - Bruce Schuette

Bruce Schuette will be presenting on the work of the Missouri Prairie Foundation at the August meeting. Bruce is a retired Park Naturalist with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. He was based at Cuivre River State Park. He has been active on the board of the Missouri Prairie Foundation for many years and is its Vice President of Science and Management.

June Meeting Recap

Ray Kersting of Schiller's was the presenter at the June meeting. He talked about and demonstrated some of the latest equipment and tools. Ray started the program with a brief reminder of the importance of monitor calibration for color management in processing and printing images. He recommended several X-Rite products, including ColorMunki and their i1 Display Pro. He recommended calibrating monitors at least once a week.

The other topics he covered were all related: tripods, macro-photography and off-camera flash. Ray shared a number of different and amazing tripods with us. He talked about the advances in lightweight tripods from the sturdy carbon fiber tripods to the MePhoto fold up travel tripod, which will fit neatly into a bag or your carry on and can support up to 13 pounds. He showed us a number of models with center columns that come out and can be used in the horizontal position for macro work. Others have legs that can be positioned in various ways and levels to get your camera closer to the subject. Ray had a \$79 Kiwi macro-focusing rail with dual focusing motion, which he said was very comparable to the more expensive rails, allowing the photographer to focus more precisely.

He talked about macro lenses, including the Nikon 105mm micro with vibration reduction and the Canon 100mm macro f/2.8 lens with image stabilization. Ray said the Canon is one of the sharpest lenses available. He also touted the Tamron 90mm f/2.8 macro with vibration control. It is very well made and is a great value at \$749.

Ray then moved on to ways to light macro subjects. He showed an inexpensive LED ring you can place over your lens, which works well in a pinch. He discussed the virtues and complexities of Canon and Nikon ring flashes and then introduced us to the easier to use Nissin flash with TTL (Through The Lens) exposure adjustment. One of the fastest developing trends in flash is the use of multiple off-camera flashes, which are synced with one another and triggered by the use of radio transmitters. These work much better than the old infrared triggers. He particularly likes the Phottix Mitros+, which is both a receiver and a transmitter, and the Phottix Odin Flash TTL Flash Trigger and Receivers. Finally, he discussed ways to soften the harshness of flash by using devices such as the Rogue Soft Box Kit to diffuse the light on the subject. Fong is another company that makes an array of devices for modifying flash, including easy to use hoods for placing over the pop up flash unit of your camera.

We thank Ray for a very informative talk and for kindly staying around so members had a chance to look over, and ask about the many products he had brought along.

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Barbara Addelson

Contributors

John Byrne
Kathy Cherry
Scott Evers
Jerry Miller

PEOPLE & PLACES

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Tips for submissions

Please include a variety of your strongest nature photos that have not been submitted in previous years. Keep in mind that we need images from all four seasons and that we must have them by the **September 30th** deadline. Below are a number of tips to bear in mind as you select images to submit:

1. We would like a variety of your strongest and sharpest 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.
4. Only submit images you have not submitted in the past.
5. We cannot use all of the images provided, but we aim 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 photographing nature!



Guatemala - Howler Monkeys
Kelly Hall

New Members

Welcome to these new members who signed up in July: **Kevin Kelly, Ann Kelsey, Martha Schermann and Carol and Dave Sluzevich.**

Member News

U.S. Fish and Wildlife has published five of **Ken Biddle's** images in the newest brochure for Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge.

Scott Avetta is teaching a number of classes this fall at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Shaw Nature Reserve and the Butterfly House. In addition to programs such as *Photographing The Garden*, *Improving your Photographic Vision* and *Simplifying your Camera*, Scott is offering *Behind the Scenes* classes at MBG and the Butterfly House. In these programs, participants are provided access to both sites when they are closed to the public. These include some Monday mornings at the Butterfly House, after hour access to the Orchid Show and special permission to visit and photograph Teahouse Island in the Japanese Garden. For more information and to register, visit www.mobot.org/classes. If a class you are interested in is full, Scott advises putting your name on the waiting list. Invariably, some registrants cancel, allowing some on the waiting list to join the class.

Shaw Photography Series

The Shaw Photography Series continues this fall and winter with a number of workshops based at Shaw Nature Reserve. They include:

9/13: *Searching for Subjects* - with Dr. James Trager

10/18 or 10/19: *Fall Landscapes - Behind the Scenes* - with Scott Avetta

11/8: *The Photographer's Eye: Finding Your Personal Vision* - with Robert George

12/7: *Creating Your Own Light: Flash and Flashlights for Plant Photography* - with Greg Basco

1/10: *Shades of Grey: The Subtle Art of Black and White Photography* - with Jeff Hirsch

2/21: *Making Your Travel Images Not Just Better But Moving Towards Greatness* - with Stewart Halperin.

For detailed descriptions or to register, visit www.mobot.org/classes.

July Speaker Recap

Scott Evers, an avid member of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals, began his program in July with a beautiful slide show highlighting some of his photos from his travels throughout the U.S.

Scott then discussed the ten steps he uses for processing his images.

White balance: Adjusting white balance is probably the single biggest improvement you can make to your image. If WB is not set correctly in the camera, your colorcast can be off. In RAW format, this can be adjusted to better match the real scene or be adjusted creatively to make the image warmer or cooler.

Exposure: Exposure compensation allows you to recover detail in the shadow and highlight areas of an image. Use the histogram as a guide.

Noise reduction: Every photo has noise or grain. The higher the ISO you use, the more noise the image contains, and the more the image will benefit from noise reduction.

Lens correction: Certain lenses are susceptible to distortion, vignetting or chromatic aberration. These are caused by a number of factors: low f-stops or because of certain lenses. These can be corrected but you need to be do this very carefully.

Detail: This refers to the sharpening, clarity and local contrast of an image due to the softening caused by the camera's sensor. Be careful, as it is possible to over sharpen an image. When done well, it can make a big difference in the quality of an image.

Contrast: RAW images look flat, and the contrast needs to be adjusted to help make the image pop. You can set the black and white points for your image, or you can also use the levels and curves tools to adjust contrast.

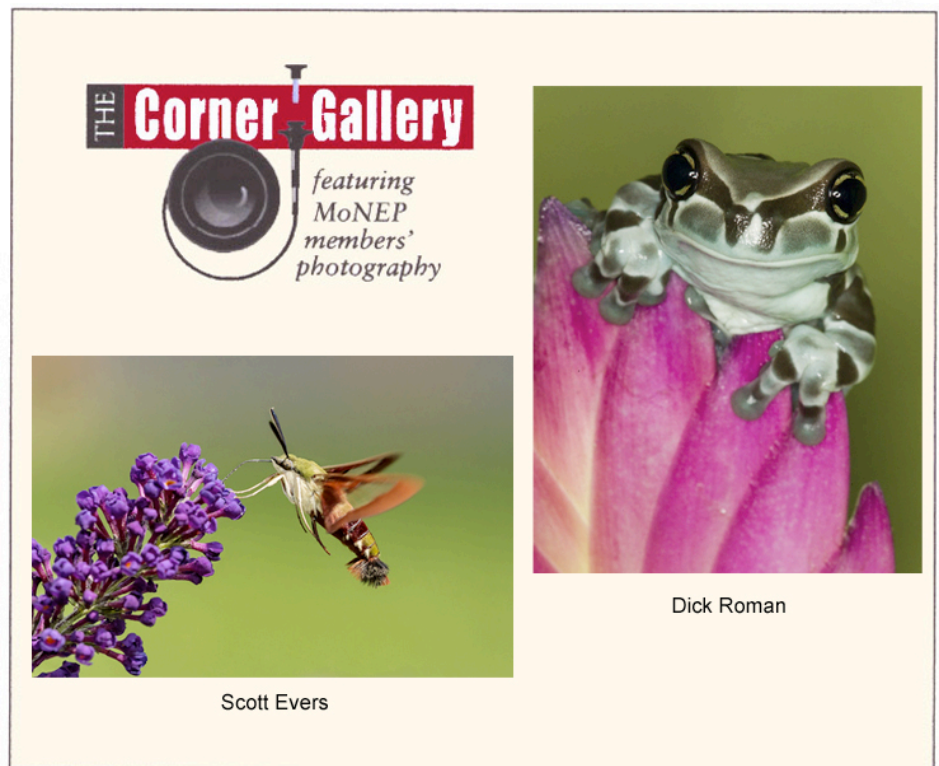
Framing: Cropping photographs can dramatically strengthen the image's composition. Although there are no universal rules, there are some good guidelines for what makes a strong image such as the rule of thirds.

Refinements: In this step you can adjust saturation, vibrance and other color adjustments. You can also clean up the image by removing spots and dust. Important tools to use include: the healing brush, clone tool, layer masks and adjustment.

Resizing: At this point you should enlarge your image for printing or downsize it for web or e-mail use.

Output sharpening: The very last step of the process is to sharpen the image according to its final format.

Our sincere thanks go to Scott for an illuminating presentation.



Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

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Tuesday, September 16th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at **The Ethical Society** at **9001 Clayton Avenue, St. Louis, 63117**. Parking and the evening entry to The Ethical Society are at the rear of the building. Follow the driveway down the hill and along the side of the building to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right hand side of the lower level as you face the building from that lot.

Show and Share Nature Images – due 8/16

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- ❖ Compress your five resized images into a zip file.
- ❖ Attach the zip file to an email addressed to **share@monep.org** by **midnight, Saturday, 8/16**.

August Speaker - Bruce Schuette

Long-time MoNEP member and professional naturalist, **Bruce Schuette** will be presenting ***Prairies of the St. Louis Region*** at the **August 19th** meeting. He will discuss the extensive, but largely forgotten, prairie heritage of St. Louis. Bruce grew up in the prairies of north St. Louis County, although he states that he was 200 years too late to get the full experience. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Beginning as the Park Naturalist at Cuivre River State Park in early 1978, he just retired in June of this year. For 36 years he has been involved with managing and restoring prairie, glade and woodland ecosystems and educating others about our natural resources. Bruce has been on the Board of the Missouri Prairie Foundation since 2001 and is currently its Vice President for Science and Management.

September Speaker - Robert Bullivant

Join us at the **September 16th** meeting for a presentation by **Robert Bullivant**, owner of Bullivant Gallery and Consulting. Robert will discuss the process of professional photo printing. He will cover printer options, color management, digital file preparation and workflow pertaining to producing the highest quality ink jet prints.

Robert is both a professional photographer and a master printer. He has developed a unique workflow that enables him to create prints with the color, detail and permanence sought by museums and art collectors. Robert is one of the vice presidents of the International Photography Hall of Fame. Visit **www.bullivantgallery.com** to learn more.

Bill Lea Seminar Recap

People who attended the MoNEP seminar found Bill Lea to be a delightful presenter and an extremely gifted and humble photographer. The morning started off with Bill talking with both new and existing members and signing his books before the seminar began.

When we all moved into the auditorium, Bill's first session served as an introduction. He presented a slideshow of his images and provided insight into his style and philosophy of photography. He indicated that he is more focused on the art of photography than the technical end of it. He prefers to shoot in overcast and rainy conditions and pays close attention to the weather to determine what and where he shoots. Weather helps convey feeling to the image. He stressed the value of photographing the same areas repeatedly since the light and weather are always different. He often composes around color and makes sure to shoot his subject both horizontally and vertically. He talked about the tools that he considers to be essential in addition to his camera: a polarizing filter, shutter release cord and a tripod. He uses 17-35, 28-70 and 70-300mm lenses. The 70-300 allows him to shoot landscapes and then the scenes within the scene.

His second topic was light, which he feels is his driving force. Light dictates what and where he shoots. Bill feels that learning to capture quality light is the secret to becoming a good nature photographer. He likes the low angled light of the early morning or late afternoon coming in at a right angle to the subject, so that the shadows created give more depth to the subject. Sunny conditions support shooting large scenes, while overcast skies support more intimate scenes. Whereas front-lit pictures can be cold, backlit scenes provide more warmth.

In the next session, Bill discussed the basics of good wildlife photography: composition, backgrounds, perspective and image format. He encouraged us to get to know our subjects, so that we can anticipate their actions and behaviors. He tries to shoot wildlife from a low angle, avoid busy backgrounds and provide enough room within the frame for the subject to have space.

The afternoon session started with a talk about the best way to shoot photos in the rain and the equipment that is required. Bill loves the quality of the light that occurs when it rains and finds that rain softens, gives depth to the scene and creates a mood. However, there are challenges to shooting in the rain, such as protecting your equipment. Bill had a very innovative solution that included a large umbrella and a bracket for holding it on a tripod. He went on to describe methods for shooting different subjects such as waterfalls, swamps and streams in the rain.

The day ended with Bill discussing his recent book about photography in Everglades National Park and how to shoot good landscapes without the benefit of hills in the background. He finished up by sharing many great images of one of his favorite subjects, black bears, as he talked about their interesting traits and behaviors.

At the end of the day, Bill encouraged us to use our skills in photography, as he does, to help save those species and habitats that are endangered or threatened. Thank you, Bill, for such a great seminar and lots to ponder!

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Scott Avetta

"As I looked about me I felt that the grass was the country, as the water is the sea. The red of the grass made all the great prairie the color of winestains, or of certain seaweeds when they are first washed up. And there was so much motion in it; the whole country seemed, somehow, to be running."

~ Willa Cather, *My Ántonia*
American Writer
1843-1947

PEOPLE & PLACES

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The 2014 MoNEP Holiday Show and party will be held on **Tuesday, December 9th** at **Powder Valley Nature Center**. **Jerry Miller** and **Pat Burgess** create a show of nature photography, using members' images, so please consider submitting 20 of your best images for consideration.

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NOTE: It is important to turn your images in by September 30th. Jerry and Pat need adequate time to review and catalogue the images and create the program. This involves the intricate task of setting our images to music, timing it, and reviewing it repeatedly to make sure it goes smoothly. They spend a great deal of time working to give us a great show. Each of them works more than full time at their job in addition to their other responsibilities in life. In the past, they have had to return members' images for corrections, particularly related to image size and that too slows down the process. Late submissions really provide a big challenge and, although Jerry and Pat have tried to accommodate them in the past, we all need to be considerate of the amount of time and effort they put into this project. **So please adhere to the deadline!**

Holiday Show Image Format:

All submissions should be digital. If you have any slides you would like included they need to be scanned. Place up to 20 images on a CD-ROM or thumb drive 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. For example, if you were to submit an image of a heron, you might name the file JaneSmith-GBHeron or JaneSmithIMG_1111. However, no text should appear on any images.

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5. Don't forget to submit photos of yourself or other MoNEP members in the act of photographing nature!

Finally, please note that we cannot use all of the images provided, but we aim to include everyone who submits images.

Member News

Glenn Curcio has the cover shot in this fall issue of *Show-me Missouri* magazine. He also has some inside shots as part of an article on Tower Grove Park.

Mac MacKay has eight images on display during the month of September at Kool Beanz Cafe, 1326 Niedringhaus Avenue, Granite City, Illinois 62040.

August Speaker Recap

Bruce Schuette, a professional naturalist and a long-time MoNEP member, presented a program on the **Prairies of the St. Louis Region** at the **August** meeting. He discussed the strong prairie heritage of St. Louis, which could be considered the nation's first prairie city. He explained that the site of the Missouri Botanical Garden was a tall grass prairie ecosystem at the time of European settlement in the region. There were 24,000+ acres of prairie in just the city of St. Louis and it stretched to the northwest as far as the eye could see. It reached into Ferguson, Florissant, St. Peters and north in the Mississippi River Bottoms.

Missouri was historically dominated by five distinct ecosystems including tall grass prairies, barrens or scrublands (including glades and savanna), open woodlands, woodlands and dense forest. In St. Louis, prairie and savanna, or open woodland, were predominant. There was little dense forest in this area. Prairies are grasslands with few if any trees, although not all grassy areas are prairies. The prairies here consisted of a variety of very tall native grasses and forbs (non-grass, non-woody flowering plants).

8,000 years ago the climate in this area was warm and dry. This enabled the advance of prairies into what is now St. Louis city and county. Fires set by natural forces such as lightening, and especially by Native Americans kept the prairies open, preventing the growth of trees. Bison and elk also lived in the grassland ecosystems and grazed on it, further keeping the trees at bay.

Tall grass prairies are a rich and productive ecosystem. They are home to a large number of different plant species and countless animals, especially insects. Large tracts of prairie would have a couple hundred or more different plant species.

Prairie plants are well adapted for Missouri's hot and dry summers. One adaptation that enables prairie plants to survive our arid conditions is their very deep root systems, which are longer than the plant is tall. Because their roots can reach 12-15 foot deep prairie plants can survive severe droughts. Most prairie plants are long-lived perennials that thrive with fire, because their growing tips are actually located just beneath the surface of the soil. Additionally, as these roots die and decompose, the soil becomes enriched by their nutrients. The rich, deep soil drew farmers to the area and led to the conversion of the prairie to the grain-growing region it became after the invention of a plow that could break through the dense soil.

There were many different species of plants and animals that occurred here 200 years ago but which can no longer be found this far east in the state. Only a few acres of original native prairie remain today. Some examples can be found at Cuivre River State Park, and maybe at some of the privately held duck clubs in northern St. Charles county.

Prairies are not only biologically rich, but they are exceedingly endangered. There is very little virgin prairie left in Missouri. You can only find prairie

remnants at places that were hard to plow. Tucker Prairie, about 100 miles west of St. Louis, is our closest sizeable native prairie.

The Missouri Prairie Foundation (MPF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) have been instrumental in protecting and maintaining the few prairie remnants in the state. The MPF works to protect and restore the region's prairies and glades and owns over twelve prairies. They maintain the prairies by facilitating prescribed burns and the removal of invasive plants. They also reconstruct prairies. One of the benefits of doing so is that the plants hold the soil and can take in and store tremendous amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. Increased carbon in the atmosphere is one of the primary contributors to global warming.

The work of MPF, TNC, DNR and MDC is critical to preserving these endangered places. Thank you, Bruce, for all your years of hard work protecting and restoring prairies and other communities. We also appreciate your role in educating people, including your fellow MoNEP members, about this beautiful jewel of an ecosystem.



Cucumber Beetle - Fran Mannis



Dan Terpstra

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, September 16th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 21st from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at **The Ethical Society** at **9001 Clayton Avenue, St. Louis, 63117**. Parking and the evening entry to The Ethical Society are at the rear of the building. Follow the driveway down the hill and along the side of the building to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right hand side of the lower level as you face the building from that lot.

Show and Share Nature Images – due 9/13

Members are invited to share up to **five (5) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for **September is Photographer's Choice**. Please follow the instructions on **Uploading Show and Share Images** in the tips section at **monep.org**. We ask that you:

- ❖ Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- ❖ Name your images according to the directions at monep.org under tips.
- ❖ Save your images as .jpg files.
- ❖ Compress your five resized images into a zip file.
- ❖ Attach the zip file to an email addressed to **share@monep.org** by **midnight, Saturday, 9/13**.

September Speaker - Robert Bullivant

Join us at the **September 16th** meeting for a presentation by **Robert Bullivant**, owner of Bullivant Gallery and Consulting. Robert will discuss the process of professional photo printing. He will cover printer options, color management, digital file preparation and workflow pertaining to producing the highest quality ink jet prints. Robert is both a professional photographer and a master printer. He has developed a unique workflow that enables him to create prints with the color, detail and permanence sought by museums and art collectors. Robert is one of the vice presidents of the International Photography Hall of Fame. Visit **www.bullivantgallery.com** to learn more.

September Field Trip – TBD

There will be a September field trip, however the date, time and location are still to be determined. The Field Trip Committee is watching the changing weather to determine when we will have optimal conditions for an early fall field trip. We will send out a separate email notice once we finalize the arrangements. If you have any questions, you may contact **Randy Hunter** at **314-329-6887**.

September Natural Events

There are lots of things to watch for during the transition from summer to fall: monarch butterflies and many bird species begin to migrate, white-tailed deer breed through the fall, mice and squirrels gather food for winter, acorns begin to fall and persimmons begin to ripen. Many plants will start to show fall color, and on September 23rd the autumn equinox occurs, with equal hours of day and night.

Shaw Photography Series

The Shaw Photography Series continues this fall and winter with a number of workshops based at Shaw Nature Reserve. Daylong classes include lunch. Pre-registration is required. Visit **www.mobot.org/classes** for fees and to register. The details of the fall class descriptions are included below.

Fall Landscapes - Behind the Scenes

Join **Scott Avetta** on **October 18th or 19th** with back road access to the fall beauty of Shaw Nature Reserve. The small group will visit the areas with greatest potential for strong fall landscapes. At each location, Scott will provide tips on capturing the scene, lighting and landscape. Participants will then photograph with one-on-one assistance from Scott. Participants should have a basic working knowledge of their camera. The use of a tripod, cable release or remote and a polarizer is helpful.

The Photographer's Eye:

Finding Your Personal Vision

Locally based professional photographer, **Robert George**, will lead this program on **November 8th**. Participants must have working knowledge of photography basics and be comfortable with their cameras. Do you make photographs that are good as postcards but find yourself wanting something more? Do you wonder what your purpose is as a photographer or how to get the vision you have in your imagination onto the wall? How do you develop a personal style and make your work unique? This full-day workshop explores photography as an expressive art form and covers how to translate the vision in your imagination onto the canvas of the photograph. We will study great photographs in the morning, taking a close look at distinguished contemporary photographers. We will discuss what makes photographic style and challenge you to take the next step with your camera. We'll explore the forms: cityscape, landscape, abstraction, still life, people, interior and vernacular. After lunch, we will photograph and discuss each participant's vision and work. When you go home, you'll have a better sense of who you are as a photographer and what your photographs are about.

Creating Your Own Light:

Flash and Flashlights for Plant Photography

This daylong class with award-winning nature photographer, **Greg Basco**, will be held **December 7th**. Greg has been a popular presenter for MoNEP on two occasions and is known for his teaching ability. This program is designed for intermediate to advanced photographers. Greg will share his techniques for creating your own light using flash and flashlights. The morning will start with a presentation of Greg's work followed by photographing different set-ups requiring a variety of lighting techniques. In the afternoon, we will spend time putting what was learned in the morning into practice. Participants should have a good understanding of basic exposure and natural light and concepts such as aperture, ISO and shutter speed. Equipment needed includes a DSLR or advanced point-and-shoot camera, a hot shoe mounted flash that can be used off camera and a wide angle to telephoto lens or lenses.

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<p>Visit our web-site at www.monep.org</p>			

MoNEP
45 Bellerive Acres
St. Louis, MO 63121





CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 19, Number 10

October 2014

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Editor

Barbara Addelson

Contributors

Ken Biddle

Linda Moder

PEOPLE & PLACES

Shaw Photography Series

The Shaw Photography Series continues this fall with a number of workshops based at Shaw Nature Reserve. Visit www.mobot.org/classes for fees and to register. Lunch is included in each of these daylong classes. Pre-registration is required.

The Photographer's Eye: Finding Your Personal Vision

Professional photographer, **Robert George**, will lead this program on **November 8th**. Participants must have working knowledge of photography basics and be comfortable with their cameras. Do you make photographs that are good as postcards but find yourself wanting something more? Do you wonder what your purpose is as a photographer or how to get the vision you have in your imagination onto the wall? How do you develop a personal style and make your work unique? This full-day workshop explores photography as an expressive art form and covers how to translate the vision in your imagination onto the canvas of the photograph. In the morning, we will study great photographs, taking a close look at distinguished contemporary photographers. We will discuss what makes photographic style and challenge you to take the next step with your camera. We'll explore the forms: cityscape, landscape, abstraction, still life, people, interior and vernacular. After lunch, we will photograph and discuss each participant's vision and work. You leave with a better sense of who you are as a photographer and what your photographs are about. Visit www.robertgeorgephotographs.com to learn more about Robert George.

Shaw Photography Series, cont'd.

Creating Your Own Light: Flash and Flashlights for Plant Photography

This daylong class with award-winning nature photographer, **Greg Basco**, will be held **December 7th**. Greg has been a popular presenter for MoNEP on two occasions and is a great teacher. This program is designed for experienced photographers of at least intermediate skill who have a working knowledge of their flash unit. Greg, who is originally from St. Louis, lives in Costa Rica and has to rely upon flash for much of his nature photography. He will share his techniques for creating your own light using flash and flashlights.

The morning will start with a presentation of Greg's work describing the lighting techniques and set-ups he used for each image. Then we will put his methods to use by photographing different set-ups requiring a variety of lighting techniques. In the afternoon, we will continue putting what was learned in the morning into practice. Participants should have a good understanding of basic exposure and natural light and concepts such as aperture, ISO and shutter speed. You will need a DSLR or advanced point-and-shoot camera, a hot shoe mounted flash that can be used off camera and a wide angle to telephoto lens or lenses.

Please note that although we will be using plants as our focus for this program, the methods are applicable to other nature subjects. Shaw Nature Reserve is beautiful this time of year, and weather permitting, we may have the opportunity to shoot outdoors.

To see examples of Greg's work, visit www.deepgreenphotography.com



Rich Merz

New Members

We are pleased to introduce two new members, **Karla Elliott** and **Betsy Litton**, who joined MoNEP in January. Please take a moment to say hello and to welcome them to the group.

Member News

Jim Campbell's image, **Sandy Creek Bridge in Winter** has been selected as one of the finalists in the Special Places category of the **MissouriDNR40 Photo Contest**. The winners will be announced in November and featured in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Winter issue of **Missouri Resources Magazine**. The department plans to display the top finalists at the Governor's Conference on Natural Resources in November.

Richard Spener's image of a bison at Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota was selected as a semifinalist in NANPA's Showcase 2015 Competition.



Richard Spener

NANPA Summit

The **2015 NANPA Summit** will be in San Diego, California on **February 19th through the 22nd, 2015**. Keynote speakers include Dewitt Jones, Frans Lanting, Flip Nicklin, Nevada Wier and Steve Winter. Breakout topics will cover multimedia, drone photography, Lightroom, copyright protection, macro, night photography and more. The Early Bird Registration Discount deadline ends on October 31st. For program information or to register go to: www.naturephotographysummit.com.

MoNEP Holiday Show

Save the Date! The 2014 MoNEP Holiday Show and party will be held on **Tuesday, December 9th**, at **Powder Valley Nature Center** in Kirkwood. This annual event is a nice opportunity to socialize with other MoNEP members and enjoy a fabulous digital presentation of members' images set to music by **Jerry Miller** and **Pat Burgess**. Family and friends are invited to enjoy the evening with you.

September Speaker Recap

Robert Bullivant, owner of Bullivant Gallery and Consulting, is a photographer and a master printer. Robert discussed the process of professional photo printing. He works with artists, photographers and interior designers to create beautiful prints. He collaborates with photographers on their color management and the printing process and offers customers an array of the highest quality papers. Robert discussed color theory, first reviewing the evolution of color photography in the latter part of the 20th century. He reminded us that color photographs have only been around for the past 100 years. He discussed the difference between the RGB color spectrum, an additive process, versus CMYK color, a subtractive process. Today with digitally coated paper, ink jet printers shoot ink down onto the paper and mix colors much like a painter would. Today's basic inkjet printers use CMYK and mix these to create the four-color spectrum. Higher end printers include more color options to get more range. At his studio, Robert uses large Canon printers with twelve color durable pigment inks. One of the issues that we as photographers face is that we are working with numerous devices that

create color in different ways. How can we get what we shoot to look right on both the monitor and on paper?

The challenge is to make them all see color in the same way. Our cameras have a color profile. We need to create color profiles for our monitors and one for each type of paper we use to create a print, so they are all "seeing" color the same way. There are many useful tools to help us do that. Robert advocates using a good colorimeter to calibrate your monitor and doing so regularly in a fairly dark room with neutral walls.

Robert talked about paper selection and his partnership with Hahnemühle Fine Art Papers. Papers come in many bases including cotton rag, alpha cellulose and synthetic bases. Each paper designed for inkjet processing has a special coating that provides for maximum color range and sharpness. Robert also suggests previewing your print under a color accurate light source. He has a viewing booth with a 5,000 degree Kelvin light, which is the color of daylight. At home, you can place prints on a gray table under a 5,000 K bulb to check accuracy. Thank you, Robert for sharing your extensive knowledge and for providing many samples of prints and papers for us to view. Visit www.bullivantgallery.com.



Evening Light On the Lane - Cades Cove
Jim Campbell



Jerry Miller

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, October 21st from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 18th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at **The Ethical Society** at **9001 Clayton Avenue, St. Louis, 63117**. Parking and the evening entry to The Ethical Society are at the rear of the building. Follow the driveway down the hill and along the side of the building to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right hand side of the lower level as you face the building from that lot.

Show and Share Nature Images – due 10/18

Members are invited to share up to **five (5) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for October is **Photographer's Choice**. Please follow the instructions on **Uploading Show and Share Images** in the tips section at monep.org. We ask that you:

- ❖ Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- ❖ Name your images according to the directions at monep.org under tips.
- ❖ Save your images as .jpg files.
- ❖ Compress your five resized images into a zip file.
- ❖ Attach the zip file to an email addressed to share@monep.org by midnight, Saturday, 10/18.

October Speaker – Jody Williams

Local photographer, **Jody Williams**, will present **The Bartrams in My Backyard** at the **October 21st** meeting. Carl Linnaeus, credited with introducing the binomial classification system, described John Bartram as "the greatest natural botanist in the world". Botanist to King George III, John Bartram and his son William, were considered America's first naturalists and commercial nurserymen. They explored the American Colonies from New England to Florida and west to Lake Ontario and the Mississippi River. They discovered and collected seeds and plants, which they cultivated on their farm outside Philadelphia in the 1700's. They supplied plants to Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello and established a substantial trade with the aristocrats of England and Europe.

Local photographer and botanical artist, Jody Williams has identified and photographed over 150 of the historical plants associated with the Bartrams that grow in the St. Louis region and in the St. Francois mountains south of St. Louis. She will share some of these images during the program along with the often-overlooked story of these historical figures.

Jody is Vice President of the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA), which curated *Following in the Bartrams Footsteps - Contemporary Botanical Artists Explore the Bartrams' Legacy*, a nationally travelling exhibition of original artwork of plants associated with the Bartrams. Williams received a grant from ASBA to explore and identify the Bartram plants that grow in the St. Louis

October Speaker, continued

Louis region, create watercolor paintings of a selection of the plants and increase public awareness of the Bartrams' story through lectures to the public. Williams is also founder of **Botanical by Nature™**, a local business offering botanically inspired photography, fine & graphic art, fine craft, classes and events from her studio in the Foundry Art Centre in St. Charles, Missouri.



October Field Trip

Glassberg Family Conservation Area

The October field trip is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, October 18th**, at the **Myron and Sonya Glassberg Family Conservation Area**. The Field Trip Committee is watching the changing weather to determine when we will have optimal conditions for fall color. We will send out a separate email notice once we finalize the arrangements. If you have any questions, you may contact **Randy Hunter** at **314-329-6887**.

National Wildlife Refuge Open House

Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge, near Brussels, Illinois, is holding an open house on **October 18th from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Activities will include nature crafts, auto tours, a wildlife photography exhibit and an archery station where children and their families can learn proper techniques for shooting a bow and arrow. Also, at 12:00 p.m., there will be a presentation of live birds by Tree House Wildlife Center at the refuge visitor center. The open house is free and open to the public. For more information and details regarding entry into their photo exhibit, call **618-883-2524** or email tworivers@fws.gov.

Mid-October/Early November Natural Events (from the MDC Natural Events Calendar)

- New England asters bloom, providing nectar for late-migrating monarch butterflies
- Overwintering white-throated sparrows and juncos arrive
- Peak fall color begins
- Look for spiders ballooning on clear windy days
- First frost generally occurs mid to late October
- Green-winged teal migration is at its peak
- Striped skunks are fattening up for winter
- Beavers are active during the day, gathering winter food
- Ladybug beetles congregate on the sunny side of homes
- Bullfrogs begin hibernation
- Scaup and ring-necked duck populations peak
- Crickets stop calling
- Look for frost flowers at the first hard frost
- Put up bird feeders!

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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. Specific dates and meeting locations are posted in the newsletter and on the MoNEP web site.

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CLOSEUP

MoNEP
Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers
45 Bellerive Acres
St. Louis, MO 63121

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT
www.monep.org



CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 19, Number 11

November-December 2014

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Barbara Addelson

Contributors

Kathy Cherry

PEOPLE & PLACES

MoNEP Holiday Show

The 2014 MoNEP Holiday Show and party will be held on **Tuesday, December 9th**, starting at **6:30 p.m.** at **Powder Valley Nature Center** in Kirkwood. We are glad to be back at Powder Valley and look forward to a great evening. Powder Valley Nature Center is located at **11715 Cragwold Road in Kirkwood, Missouri, 63122.**

This annual event is a nice opportunity to socialize with other MoNEP members and enjoy a fabulous digital presentation of members' images set to music by **Jerry Miller** and **Pat Burgess**. Family and friends are invited to enjoy the evening with you.

Margy and Dan Terpstra are once again kind enough to coordinate the logistics for the gathering. We are starting a bit later than in previous years and will be offering lighter fare – cheese, veggie and fruit trays, soft drinks, coffee and tea. Everyone is invited to bring a snack or dessert to share. Please make sure that anything you bring is easily served and can be eaten without cutlery.

Margy and Dan would like to thank those who have already volunteered to set-up and breakdown the event. Set-up will begin at **6:00 p.m.** If you have any questions, please contact Dan or Margy Terpstra by phone at **314-606-6957** or **hummerhaven@sbcglobal.net**.

During the evening, please take a moment to introduce yourselves to someone you don't already know and to thank our wonderful volunteers who make this event the wonderful celebration of the year that it is.

We hope you will join us in celebrating the season on December 9th.

Show and Share Update

Over the past few months, we have been experiencing some glitches in our image submission process for Show and Share and the Holiday Show. Jerry and Pat have been working on this issue and believe that they have solved the problem. They apologize for any frustration or confusion this may have caused and hope that any past problems will not keep you from submitting images in the future. From this point on, you will receive an email from either Jerry or Pat confirming that they have received your images. This response may not be immediate, as they do not check the MoNEP email mailbox every day. However, if you do not receive a response within several days, please check with one of them to see if your images actually did make it through. Jerry can be contacted by phone at **314-517-6395** or by email at **sirlukeman@yahoo.com**. Pat can be reached at **314-592-8653** or you can write him at **wpb691@gmail.com**.

NANPA Summit

The **2015 North American Nature Photography Association Summit** will be held in San Diego, California on **February 19th through the 22nd, 2015.** The **Early Bird Registration deadline has been extended through November 17th.** Keynote speakers include Dewitt Jones, Frans Lanting, Flip Nicklin, Nevada Wier and Steve Winter. Breakout topics will cover multimedia, drone photography, Lightroom, copyright protection, macro, night photography and more. For program information or to register go to: **www.naturephotographysummit.com**.



Mike Davidson

*How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colors gleaming in the sun.*

Excerpt from *Leaves*
Elsie N. Brady
Scottish Poet

Member News

Debra Pratt is the featured artist for an Open Gallery evening at **Guided Crafts** on **November 14th from 6-9 p.m.** The gallery is located at **313 Gravois Road in Fenton, Missouri, 63026.** Debra is a painter, with a preference for working in watercolors, and has more recently taken up photography. For more information, call the gallery at 636-326-1287 or email them at info@guidedcrafts.com.

Scott Evers licensed 12 nature and landscape images to the Koman Group of St. Louis. His images will be used for a new student living complex being built in Edwardsville. They are using the images on the website and for graphic panels in the sales office. Scott also just completed a transaction with O'Toole Design of St. Louis for two projects. He licensed 31 images to them for artwork in a new senior living center that is opening in Edwardsville in December. He also licensed 19 images to them for a Peoples Bank in Clayton, Missouri.

October Field Trip

There were about ten people who met on a cool, crisp morning just before sunrise to travel to the Glassberg Conservation Area for the October Field Trip. We hiked a short way to the lake. There was no breeze to the early morning air, so the lake was as smooth as a mirror reflecting the striking oranges, yellow and reds of the trees. We were all soon involved in photographing the beauty around us. The colors became more alive as the sun rose above the woods. It was a beautiful, peaceful way to spend the morning.

October Meeting Recap

During the October meeting, artist **Jody Williams** shared the story of art, science and exploration in colonial America and contemporary Missouri. Her talk focused on John Bartram of Philadelphia, who lived from 1699 to 1777. In 1728, he purchased 102 acres of land just six miles from the center of Philadelphia and went on to amass the most varied collection of North American plants in the world at that time. His farm became the hub of international plant knowledge. He was a self-taught botanist, who traveled mostly alone and then later with his son, William, throughout New England,

south to Florida and west to Lake Ontario and the Mississippi. He collected seeds and plant specimens and was credited with discovering and propagating 200 species of North American plants. He was America's first great native botanist, and he established a transatlantic plant business that spanned four generations. His plants ended up in the royal collections at Kew and the botanical gardens at Oxford and Edinburgh. Washington and Jefferson purchased plants for their estates.

In 1762, Bartram received a large order from a London nurseryman who wanted southern U.S. plants. Bartram set off for the South to collect plants with his son, William. Bartram sent the collection to London, where it was met by Carl Linnaeus' star pupil, Daniel Solander. Solander discovered that half of the plants in it were unknown to science. In 1764, Bartram sent seed to King George, who made him the King's Botanist in 1765.

Bartram's son, William followed in his father's footsteps. He was an artist and collector and, in 1773, obtained a patronage to continue drawing and collecting plants and seeds. He made a four-year expedition and wrote a book: *Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee Country,*

etc., which was published in 1791. His book was well received in England and influenced the writing of Romantic authors of the time. His work also transformed the English garden from a very formal French and Italian style of turf and topiary to the lovely informal landscape gardens we now associate with England. By the mid-18th century, American plants were flooding into England for horticultural use. The Bartram's nursery business continued to flourish and you can find many American plants in British landscapes.

Jody and other members of the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA) curated *Following in the Bartrams Footsteps - Contemporary Botanical Artists Explore the Bartrams' Legacy*, an exhibition of original artwork of plants associated with the Bartrams. Jody received a grant to bring the Bartram's story here and for the past year has identified and photographed over 162 of the historical plants associated with the Bartrams that grow in the St. Louis region and the St. Francois mountains south of us. She used both Edgar Dennison's *Missouri Wildflowers* and Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri* to identify the plants. She shared some of her beautiful images of many of the plants she has found, and, we thank her for a very interesting talk.



MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, November 18th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at **The Ethical Society** at **9001 Clayton Avenue, St. Louis, 63117**. Parking and the evening entry to The Ethical Society are at the rear of the building. Follow the driveway down the hill and along the side of the building to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right hand side of the lower level as you face the building from that lot.

Show and Share Nature Images – due 11/15

Members are invited to share up to **five (5) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for November is **Photographer's Choice**. Please follow the instructions on **Uploading Show and Share Images** in the tips section at **monep.org**. We ask that you:

- ❖ Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- ❖ Name your images according to the directions at monep.org under tips.
- ❖ Save your images as .jpg files.
- ❖ Compress your five resized images into a zip file.
- ❖ Attach the zip file to an email addressed to **share@monep.org** by **midnight, Saturday, 11/15**.

November Meeting – Steve Sands

Join us at the November meeting to learn about our sun from **Steve Sands**, an amateur astronomer for over 35 years. Steve will talk about our sun, a common yellow dwarf star, which supplies all of the light and warmth required for sustaining life here on earth. Yet, few people understand its importance, stark beauty and nature. During this presentation he will explain how and why the sun behaves the way it does, various solar phenomena such as transits and eclipses, solar activity that can be observed and how to **safely** view and photograph this very active and ever changing star. Some of the equipment he uses for his solar studies will be available for explanation and review. There will be ample time for questions during and after the presentation.

Steve is the astronomer for the Lewis & Clark Confluence Tower in Hartford, Illinois, the Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville and the Heartland Prairie and the Sierra Club in Alton. Steve has been an adjunct faculty member at St. Louis University and Washington University teaching astronomy, telescopes and optics to non-science majors. He has written articles for *Astronomy Technology Today*, *Sky & Telescope* and *Amateur Astronomy* magazines. He is a member and past president of the St. Louis Astronomical Society (SLAS) and has held literally hundreds of public telescope viewing sessions, promoting observational astronomy. Steve designs and builds telescopes and telescope systems, as well as restoring historical instruments. Steve doesn't classify himself as a specialist and enjoys all areas of observing, including solar, lunar, planetary and deep sky observing.



Shaw Photography Series

The Shaw Photography Series continues in December with **Creating Your Own Light: Flash and Flashlights for Plant Photography** at Shaw Nature Reserve.

This daylong class with award-winning nature photographer, **Greg Basco**, will be held **December 7th**. This program is designed for experienced photographers of at least intermediate skill who have a working knowledge of their flash unit. Greg, who is originally from St. Louis, lives in Costa Rica and has to rely upon flash for much of his nature photography. He will share his techniques for creating your own light using flash and flashlights. Greg has presented at MoNEP twice and is a very popular speaker.

The morning will start with a presentation of Greg's work describing the lighting techniques and set-ups he used for each image. Then we will put his methods to use by photographing different set-ups requiring a variety of lighting techniques. In the afternoon, we will continue putting what was learned in the morning into practice. Participants should have a good understanding of basic exposure and natural light and concepts such as aperture, ISO and shutter speed. You will need a DSLR or advanced point-and-shoot camera, a hot shoe mounted flash that can be used off camera and a wide angle to telephoto lens or lenses.

Please note that although we will be using plants as our focus for this program, the methods are applicable to other nature subjects. Shaw Nature Reserve is beautiful this time of year and, weather permitting, we may have the opportunity to shoot outdoors.

Go to **www.mobot.org/classes** for fees and to register. Lunch is included in each of these daylong classes. Pre-registration is required. To see examples of Greg's own work with flash in the field, visit his website **www.deepgreenphotography.com**.

November and December Natural Events

- Mammals seek winter shelters
- Red admiral butterflies search for overwintering sites
- Milkweed pods open
- Great horned and barred owls begin courting
- River otters breed starting in early December
- Bald eagles begin to arrive in numbers
- Snow goose population at its peak
- Gray squirrels breed through February and gather in nests to keep warm
- Red foxes begin mating in December
- Keep an eye out for woodpeckers and nuthatches at suet feeders

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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. Specific dates and meeting locations are posted in the newsletter and on the MoNEP web site.

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

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