



Published Bi-Monthly by Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers
Volume 22, Number 1
January - February 2017

MoNEP News

President's Message

2016 was a busy year for MoNEP. In addition to all our normal activities, the newsletter got a facelift thanks to Dug Threewitt and Barb Addelson. We held a successful seminar and hands-on workshop with Roman Kurywczak. Ted Moreno took the lead organizing the event and did an excellent job. Scott Evers was kind enough to plan and lead the fall field trip for the second year in a row. We are indebted to the board members and the volunteer committee chairs who give their time to MoNEP as well. However, we could not do it all without the help of many member volunteers. Thanks to everyone who helped in 2016. We hope that more members are able to take on an even more active role in 2017 to make us even better.



Image by Scott Avetta

We had so many positive comments on Roman's workshop and found that both the instructional aspect and participation were key to its success. As we continue to pursue new programs and activities in 2017, we have several ideas on how to incorporate more active learning into other MoNEP events. We are working on a survey that will be sent out in the coming weeks. Please take time to fill these out and help us in determining how best to serve the membership. Finally, if you haven't done so already, it is time to renew annual memberships for 2017. See the details on renewals below. Thank you for your continued support and all the best for the New Year.

- Scott Avetta, MoNEP President

2017 Membership Renewals

MoNEP membership runs from January through December each year, so it is time for all members to renew! Dues are \$30 per person and \$40 for a household of up to four. There are three ways to renew your membership:

1. You can submit dues with your completed form at the membership desk during the January and February meetings. At the meetings, you can pay with cash or by a check made out to MoNEP. If you pay by cash, please be sure to have the exact amount.
2. You can mail your renewal form, along with a check made out to MoNEP, to the MoNEP membership chair, Michelle Jones at 45 Bellerive Acres, St. Louis, Missouri 63121. Please do not mail cash.
3. You can pay by PayPal by visiting our website at <http://monep.org/membership.html>.

If you have questions, contact Michelle Jones at 314-496-7616 or by email at michelle@mmjones.us.

Holiday Show and Party 2016

We want to extend a big thank you to everyone who pitched in to make the 2016 holiday show and party such a great success. We are especially grateful to Jerry Miller and Pat Burgess for all the hard work they put in reviewing images submitted by over 35 members, selecting several hundred for the show, arranging them and setting them to music. It was a great collection of images and was a truly beautiful show!

We wouldn't be able to host such an event without the aid of a great many volunteers, who helped with everything from setup and cleanup to bringing food and assisting Jerry in the auditorium. Thanks to everyone who volunteered or pitched in on the spot and made the event such a wonderful success.

Cover Images (from left to right and top to bottom):

Pam Caraffa, Joe Klipsch, Don Morice, Jim Rhodes, Ken Biddle, Larry Terrell, Butch Lama, Kathy Cherry, Patricia Collins, Don Morice, Chuck Mannis

Members and Membership

Member News

Margy Terpstra submitted an image of a golden-winged warbler to the Missouri River Bird Observatory's *Images of Hope* photography contest in the fall. Judges included such renowned Missouri nature photographers as Noppadol Paothong, David Stonner and Jim Rathert, all Missouri Department of Conservation photographers, past or present. Her stunning image won first place. Here is the link to information about the contest with further links to the top 25 images: <http://mrbo.org/images-of-hope-contest/>. Congratulations to Margy!



Image by Margy Terpstra

MoNEP Meetings

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Dates: Tuesday, January 17th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Tuesday, February 21st from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

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, along the side of the building to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right side of the lower level.

Show and Share Nature Images

Submissions Due: 1/14 for the January Meeting and 2/18 for the February Meeting

Members are invited to share up to five (5) nature-related images at the upcoming meetings. They do not have to be recent images. Please follow the instructions on Uploading Show and Share Images in the tips section at monep.org.

To submit for Show and Share:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 1,800 pixels high and horizontal images are 1,800 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, January 14th for the January meeting or Saturday, February 18th for the February meeting.

Although submissions usually get an email response before the meeting, if you do not get a notice and want to confirm that your submission has been received, please contact Jerry Miller by email at sirlukeman@yahoo.com or by phone at 314-517-6395.

November Meeting Recap

Steve Sands was the speaker at the November meeting. His topic was The Great American Eclipse – 2017! On Monday August 21, 2017, much of the United States will experience a partial or total solar eclipse. Solar eclipses occur when the moon passes directly between the sun and the Earth, blocking out part or, only occasionally, all of the sun. Fortunately for those of us living in the St. Louis area, there are many nearby locations just south of here that are on the narrow path of totality. During totality, streetlights turn on, one can detect a noticeable drop in air temperature, stars appear in the sky and surroundings begin looking eerily strange. Steve shared many tips for safely viewing and photographing the event during a very informative and entertaining program, which can be found on the MoNEP website, www.monep.org. Thank you for a very enlightening program, Steve.

January 17th Meeting

Barbara Addelson will be presenting *Phenology: To Everything There is a Season* at the January meeting. Her program will be about the reasons for the changing seasons and the study of the timing of natural events such as monarch migration and plant flowering. The study of these phenomena is called phenology. She will touch upon the impact of climate change on the timing of those natural events and share several citizen science projects that contribute to our understanding of phenology.

Barb worked as a science educator for over 30 years. She has a B.S. in Botany from the University of New Hampshire, and an M.A. Ed. in Instructional Processes in Science from Washington University. Barb moved to St. Louis in 1987 to join the Education Division of the Missouri Botanical Garden where she worked for over twenty years. She was responsible for the design, coordination and facilitation of teacher professional development programs and school partnerships. She has presented science education programs, with an emphasis on hands-on, inquiry-based learning at numerous schools, districts, and regional and national conferences. Barb has dabbled in photography for many years, taking a number of classes with Scott Avetta, whom she considers a mentor, as well as attending workshops with other accomplished presenters at Shaw Nature Reserve, one of her favorite outdoor destinations. Her family moved from the suburban New York City area to rural Nova Scotia when she was 18 and the landscapes, seascapes, flora and fauna of that region are among her favorite subjects. Although she loves nature and natural history, she loves travel photography, capturing the earth below from an airplane and shooting architectural details, particularly windows and doors! She has served as the MoNEP newsletter editor since May 2008.



Image by Barb Addelson

February 21st Meeting

In February, Dug Threewitt will be presenting *Creativity through Experimentation*. He will focus on experimentation in the field and in postproduction so that the finished images don't look exactly like 1,000 images we've seen before. Dug will cover movement, light painting, multiple exposures and the importance of not throwing anything away.

When Dug started college, he gravitated towards photography classes. He took his first classes at UMSL and then continued at St. Louis Community College: Meramec. There he learned to work in the darkroom, which led to his first professional job, working in a commercial photo lab. He made prints for local photographers such as Dan Dreyfus, Alice O'Brien, and Dave Ulmer. However, he became disillusioned with a photographic career after seeing only commercial work and stopped shooting for nearly 15 years. While in his position at the photo lab, he led the transition from traditional to computer based printing and design. He started working with Photoshop at version 2 and Illustrator at version 5. He even used the now outdated QuarkXPress. Once digital photography arrived, Dug became interested in taking photos again. The wealth of information on the Internet helped him pick up lighting tips from strobist.com, and wildlife tips from Art Wolfe, Dave Gardner, Moose Peterson and many others to whom he had no access prior to the Internet. The low cost of digital photographs also allowed Dug to experiment without throwing money at purchasing, processing, and printing from negative or slide film. Dug loves photographing birds and shooting at night. He also hopes to get back to studio work, shooting models, using off camera lighting with on camera flashes. For the past 14 years, Dug has been doing graphic design for a trade show company and finished his Bachelor's degree in December, focusing on Computer Science and Business Administration.

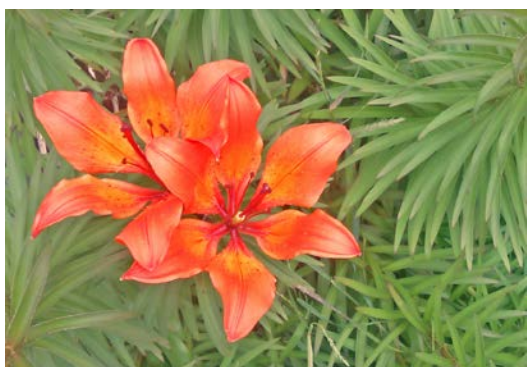
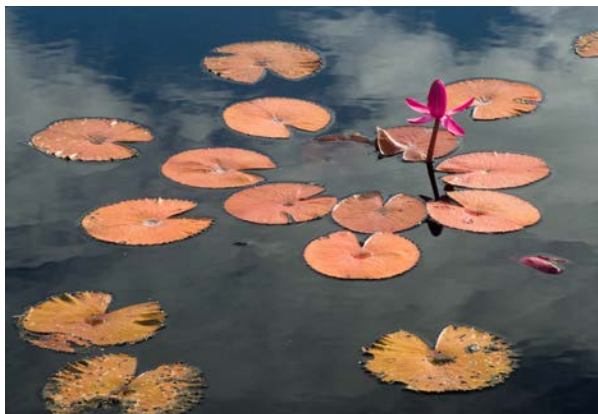


Image by Dug Threewitt

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.

Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, except for December. Meetings start at 7:00 pm. Specific dates and meeting locations are posted in the newsletter and on the website. The bi-monthly newsletter is edited by Barbara Addelson and designed by Dug Threewitt.

Visit our website at www.monep.org



Published Bi-Monthly by Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers
Volume 22, Number 2
March - April 2017

MoNEP News

2017 Membership Renewals

MoNEP membership runs from January through December each year. If you have not already done so, please renew your membership now. We will purge the membership rolls after the April meeting and those who haven't renewed by then will no longer receive the MoNEP newsletter and email announcements. Dues are \$30 per person and \$40 for a household of up to four. There are three ways to renew your membership:

1. You can submit dues with your completed form at the membership desk during the March meeting. At the meeting, you can pay with cash or by a check made out to MoNEP. If you pay by cash, please be sure to have the exact amount.
2. You can mail your renewal form, along with a check made out to MoNEP, to the MoNEP membership chair, Michelle Jones at 45 Bellerive Acres, St. Louis, Missouri 63121. Please do not mail cash.
3. You can pay by PayPal by visiting our website at <http://monep.org/membership.html>.

If you have questions, contact Michelle Jones at 314-496-7616 or by email at michelle@mmjones.us.

Call for May Presenters

As we did last year, we are looking for four members who would be interested in presenting a fifteen-minute program each at the May Meeting. Last year, Patrick Jones spoke about photography on Sanibel Island. Jim Rhodes presented on the work of Eliot Porter. Dick Roman shared information on photographing reptiles and amphibians and Richard Spener presented on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Is there a nature photography topic, technique, or special location you would like to share? If you are interested in presenting to the group, please contact one of our program chairs, Ken Biddle at kdbiddle@swbell.net or Scott Avetta at scottavetta@hotmail.com.



Image by Dick Roman

Member Survey

In an effort to gather feedback from MoNEP members, we have created a survey to find out about your thoughts on the strengths of the organization and how we might continue to improve MoNEP. The survey solicits information on meeting topics, speakers, field trips and Show and Share. We hope you will take a few minutes to think about these topics and to fill out the eleven-question survey so we can continue to provide relevant opportunities for our members. The survey will be available in a paper format by email, in print at the March meeting and also online on Survey Monkey. We will send out an email with an attachment of the survey just prior to the March meeting and will include a link to Survey Monkey for those members who prefer to fill the survey out online. We truly value our members' feedback and hope you will take the ten to fifteen minutes required to provide it to us.

Cover Images (from left to right and top to bottom):

Beverly Miller, Dan Terpstra, Jerry Miller, Norma Mull, Jim Rhodes, Alex Hoffmann, Christy Lonero, Karen Bade, Toni Armstrong, Dave Alexander, Chuck Mannis

Members and Membership

New Members

Welcome to our newest MoNEP members: Kevin Clark, Robert Drzymala, Andy Hoyne, Joe Kopp, John and Martha McAlister, Wes Pittman, Jack Rainey and Robert Rowlands. We are glad to have you join the group and encourage you to reach out to any of the Board or other members for information and ideas. We also ask all our members to help make these newcomers feel welcome.

Member News

Professional photographer, Dan Dreyfus is once again offering his Light + Discovery Photo Workshop on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 19-21, 2017. This photo workshop is a great opportunity to increase your understanding of light and take your creative photography to a higher level. The group will be photographing at the beautiful 200-acre Sycamore Plow Farm farm located just two hours from St. Louis. Quaint Bed & Breakfast lodging and home cooked meals are included. For more information, visit www.dreyfusphoto.com/workshops/.

Two of Betsy Litton's images have been selected for inclusion in the Wetlands 2017 exhibition at the Holt Russell Gallery at Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas. The exhibit is on display from April 6-28, 2017. One image is of wetlands at Caddo Lake in Texas and the other is from Yosemite National Park.



Image by
Robert Charity

Steve Sands is hosting a 60-minute NANPA webinar similar to the solar eclipse presentation he gave to MoNEP a few months back. It is scheduled for Tuesday March 21st at 6:00 p.m. It is titled "*The 2017 North American Total Solar Eclipse: How to safely view & photograph this spectacular event*". The purpose of this webinar is to explain the details for viewing the total solar eclipse that will cross the Continental United States, starting in Oregon and exiting in South Carolina, on Monday, August 21, 2017. During the webinar, Steve will emphasize viewing and photographic safety.

MoNEP Meetings

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Dates: Tuesday, March 21st from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Tuesday, April 18th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

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, along the side of the building to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right side of the lower level.

Show and Share Nature Images

Submissions Due: 3/18 for the March Meeting and 4/15 for the April Meeting

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Although submissions usually get an email response before the meeting, if you do not get a notice and want to confirm that your submission has been received, please contact Jerry Miller by email at sirlukeman@yahoo.com or by phone at 314-517-6395.

March 21st Meeting – Mark Glenshaw on Forest Park’s Great Horned Owls

Mark H.X. Glenshaw is an award-winning naturalist who has closely observed and documented the lives of great horned owls in Forest Park since December 2005. He shares his work on his blog, *Forest Park Owls*, forestparkowls.blogspot.com. The owls and his work with them have received regular coverage from local and regional media outlets spanning the gamut of TV, radio, print and web.

Mark does extensive outreach work with the owls. He leads dozens of owl prowls each year in Forest Park. He also gives scores of talks each year across Missouri and Illinois to different groups ranging from natural history/conservation organizations to schools to public libraries. He was awarded the Citizen Scientist Award by the Academy of Science-St. Louis in 2006. Mark is a certified Missouri Master Naturalist and a volunteer for Forest Park Forever.

A native of Washington, D.C. and a dual citizen of the United States and South Africa, Mark has his bachelor’s degree in history with a minor in communications and journalism from Washington University in St. Louis. When not studying owls, Mark works at Fontbonne University where he is the Daytime Services Manager at the Taylor Library.

Mark’s talk, *Forest Park Owls: Evidence, Equipment and Ethics*, will cover how he found these owls, basic facts about the species, and the different behaviors he has been able to see and document to illustrate these behaviors. He will also address vital equipment and ethical approaches he uses in his work.



Image by Susan Standish

April 18th Meeting – Richard Day on Panoramic Images

Richard Day will show you how to create beautiful panoramic photographs. He will discuss the basic equipment, composition, and software. He will also show you the technique to get the most out of your panoramic.

Richard is a professional nature photographer who has published photos and taught 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 and teaches many workshops.



Image by Richard Day

Richard and his wife, Susan, own Daybreak Imagery and live near Alma, Illinois where they have created a wildlife sanctuary on their 63-acre property. They host numerous field trips and workshops each summer for bird, butterfly, and dragonfly viewing and photography opportunities. They have documented nearly 200 species of birds, 70 of butterflies, and 36 dragonfly species at their sanctuary.

January and February Meeting Recaps

In January, Barb Addelson presented *Phenology: To Everything There is a Season*. In February, Dug Threewitt presented *Creativity through Experimentation*.

To read write-ups of their presentations, visit monep.org/meetings/recaps.html.

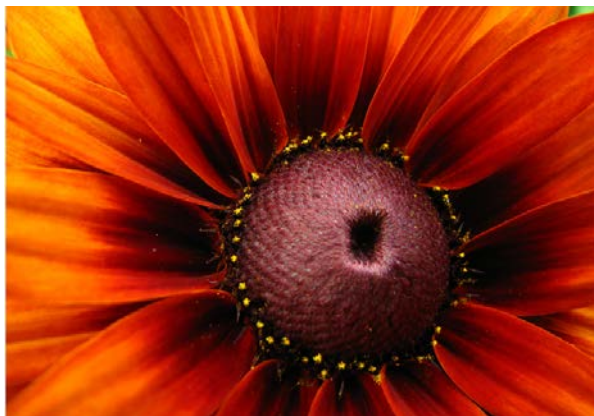


Image by Dug Threewitt

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CLOSE-UP

Published Bi-Monthly by Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers
Volume 22, Number 3
May - June 2017

MoNEP News

MoNEP Exhibit: Call for Submissions

MoNEP has been invited to exhibit 24 - 30 photographs by members at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center later this year. The theme for this exhibit is *A Walk in the Park*. Work that is related to visiting any type of park or natural area, large or small, and nature subject matter found there is acceptable. Members are encouraged to submit digital images saved on a CD or DVD at the May, June, and July meetings. If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, please contact the exhibit coordinator, Lori Purk, at 314-869-7427 or purkyl8r@aol.com to discuss other arrangements.

The exhibit will be on display from the beginning of November through mid-December. The exact dates of the exhibit are to be determined. Please keep in mind, seventy percent of work shown must represent Missouri and this will be a fall/winter exhibit. Information related to where you took the photograph will need to be supplied. High quality work that is artistic in nature and does not include "the hand of man" is most desirable. In order to allow time for uniform framing of the entire exhibit, a committee will select the images for the exhibit and will notify participants in August. Professional quality printing, mounting, matting and framing costs will be the responsibility of the member. As with past exhibits, MoNEP will supply image preparation suggestions and possibly arrange a group framing session. Please look through your files and plan to submit up to 5 of your best images, past or present, using the same file sizing instructions used for the *Holiday Show* and *Show and Share*. The instructions can be found on the MoNEP web site, www.monep.org. Include your name, phone number, and email address, as well as the image title or explanation of the subject matter and where it was taken along with your submission. Please contact Lori with any formatting, subject matter, or exhibit timing questions. You must be a current MoNEP member to participate in this exhibit. We look forward to seeing what you saw on your walk!



Image by E. Mac MacKay

Sunset Shoot at Shaw Nature Reserve

We are once again offering an early evening/sunset shoot at Shaw Nature Reserve on Friday, May 26th, the start of Memorial Day weekend. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Carriage House adjacent to the Whitmire Wildflower Garden. 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, members should see Barb Addelson at one of the back tables at the May 16th meeting or you may contact Barb at baddelson@sbcglobal.net to hold a spot and arrange for payment. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required so we can plan ahead for purchasing refreshments. Payment may be made by checks made out to MoNEP. We will also accept cash at the May meeting, but we would appreciate it if you would provide the exact amount, so we do not need to make change. Further details will be sent to registered participants.

Cover Images (from left to right and top to bottom):

Linda Moder, Dick Roman, Larry Morrison, Bill Duncan, Scott Evers, Sammylane Wirth, Don Morice, Butch Lama, Sage Rohrer, Scott Avetta, Chuck Mannis

Members and Membership

New Members

Welcome to our newest MoNEP members Sunita Garg and Jeffrey Williams.

Member News

Yvonne Ping had three images published in McKendree University literary magazine, *The Montage*.

Toni Armstrong and Richard Spener presented two programs last month on *Paddling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from the Mountains to the Arctic Ocean*. One was on April 19th to the St. Louis Camera Club and one on the 26th at the Webster Groves Presbyterian Church. They have also been invited to present their program on the *Eight Wilderness Areas in Missouri* to a national meeting of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance on October 3rd in Russellville, Arkansas. This is an organization primarily made of National Forest people.



Image by Yvonne Ping

MoNEP Meetings

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Dates: Tuesday, May 16th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Tuesday, June 20th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

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, along the side of the building to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right side of the lower level.

Show and Share Nature Images

Submissions Due: 5/13 for the May Meeting and 6/17 for the June Meeting

Members are invited to share up to five (5) nature-related images at the upcoming meetings. They do not have to be recent images. For those members who would like a little inspiration for *Show and Share*, we are going to offer a suggested topic each month. These are suggestions only, and you may show any nature related images you would like. May: "Wild" Flowers and June: Hidden Photo Hot Spots



Image by Jane Griesenauer

To submit for Show and Share:

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Although submissions usually get an email response before the meeting, if you do not get a notice and want to confirm that your submission has been received, please contact Jerry Miller by email at sirlukeman@yahoo.com or by phone at 314-517-6395.

May 16th Meeting – Member Presentations

The May meeting will consist of three shorter presentations by MoNEP members, and will conclude with refreshments and time to meet with the presenters and to socialize with other members. The presenters are: Mark McAmish, Anne Kelsey, Don Morice and Michelle Jones.

Mark McAmish will discuss *Using Flash in Nature Photography*. He will cover basics of flash including modes and how and when to use flash to enhance nature images.

Anne Kelsey will present *Telling the Story of Family Land*. The decision to sell land that has been in a family for generations raises the question of how best to remember it. Faced with that question, Anne decided to document her family's 118 acres in northeastern Ohio by photographing as much of it as possible through the seasons of the year. Because the property encompasses a ravine, a lake, and woodlands, she has seen an abundance of wildlife such as beaver, muskrat, deer, wild turkeys and the great blue heron for which it is named, as well as an occasional treat like an osprey. Anne will share some of those photos and describe the process of creating a collection that can be made into a book that can be turned to when the land is no longer available to the people who love it.

Don Morice and Michelle Jones will share tips for *Planning and Prep for Photography Trips to Remote Locations*. Based upon their photo trips to Guyana and a remote location within the country that had none of the modern conveniences, they will discuss what information you need to assemble before such a trip, some helpful packing and travel suggestions, and ways to avoid the accidental loss of images. Also on the agenda are common sense ways to prevent health issues while in the field. They will also briefly discuss dangerous animal encounters in the wild.

June 20th Meeting – Larry Morrison

In June, MoNEP member Larry Morrison will present *Some Rare (or at least unusual) Wildflowers of Illinois*. Larry is a self-described neo-Luddite who still uses 35 mm slides, so he invites you to come take a walk down memory lane during his actual slide presentation. Larry is an historian by education and occupation (now retired), but is an avid wildflower enthusiast by avocation. He has spent nearly 40 years “chasing” and photographing wildflowers throughout the United States and Canada. Past president of the Missouri Native Plant Society, he is a member of the Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri Native Plant Societies, and takes frequent wildflower walks with those groups. One of the first Illinois residents to join MoNEP, he participates in as many MoNEP activities as time allows.

Solar Filter Workshop Recap

On April 22nd, members of MoNEP met for a free hands-on workshop to assemble solar filters for their own camera lenses. With these, those who attended will be able to photograph the total solar eclipse on August 21st. Steve Sands presented step-by-step instructions and everyone went home with a custom filter, instructions for use and trouble-shooting tips. The filters are removable and allow the user to take photos before and after totality during the eclipse. Our thanks to Steve and Ted Moreno for providing the necessary materials and organizing the activity.

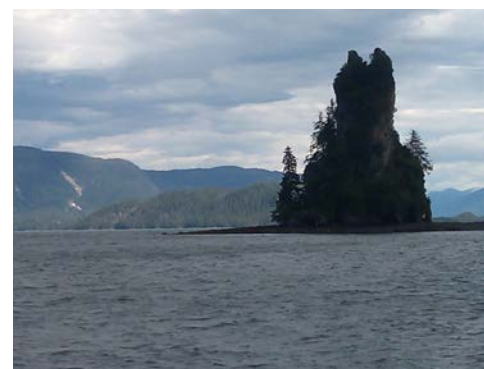


Image by Michelle Jones

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Volume 22, Number 4
July - August 2017

MoNEP News

Meeting Location and Time to Change as of August 15th

The July 18th MoNEP meeting will be held at the Ethical Society from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Please note that, beginning with our August 15th meeting, we will switch back to holding meetings at Powder Valley Conservation Area Nature Center in Kirkwood after several years' absence. Powder Valley's address is 11715 Cragwold Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122. We will also change the meeting time, starting in August, to 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. as the center closes at 8:30. We will send out reminders before the August meeting, along with a map to help you join us at the right place as we make the transition. The nature center is a lovely facility with very comfortable seating in their theater where we will meet and a relatively new and improved sound system.

Solar Eclipse Field Trip – August 21st

Join fellow MoNEP member Tim Bade at his family's farmland near DeSoto, Missouri on Monday, August 21st to view and photograph the total solar eclipse. The eclipse will begin at close to 11:50 a.m. local time with totality at about 1:18 p.m. Totality will last for 2 minutes and 44 seconds. The final phase of the eclipse will end at 2:44 p.m.

The group will meet at 10:00 a.m. at Price Chopper in House Springs and will depart at 10:25 for the farm, which is 20 minutes away. After arriving at the farm, there will be an hour for setting up and doing test shots before the eclipse begins. Members who wish to attend must sign up at the July or August meeting. We will provide further details in a confirmation email to those who register. Thanks to Tim Bade for providing MoNEP members with this wonderful opportunity.



Image by Ted Moreno

Members and Membership

New Members

We are delighted to welcome these new members to MoNEP: Donald Adams, Ron Carr, Dan Griesenauer, Geoffrey PeConga, Thomas Tucker, and Theresa and Bob Weibrecht.

Member News

Rick Walters has an exhibit of his close-up work on display at Powder Valley Nature Center through the month of July. Visit the center on Tuesdays through Saturdays to see his wonderful images.

Six of Lori Purk's images were published in a book about Clarksville, Missouri in honor of its bicentennial this year. Author John Andrews put together a 144-page historical coffee table book titled *Clarksville - Two Hundred Years on the Mississippi* in honor of the town's celebration. Lori's modern images were used to complement the historical photographs. Among the images, two photographs are two-page spreads and another is a full-page image.

Cover Images (from left to right and top to bottom):

Beverley Miller, Mark Cherry, Al Ahner, Sarah Avetta, Chuck Mannis, Margy Terpstra, Barb Addelson, Ken Biddle, Dave Alexander, Karen Bade, Chuck Mannis

MoNEP Meetings

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

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Tuesday, August 15th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Powder Valley Nature Center

The July meeting 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 to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right side of the lower level. The August meeting will be held at Powder Valley Nature Center.

Show and Share Nature Images

Submissions Due: 7/15 for the July Meeting and 8/12 for the August Meeting

Members are invited to share up to five (5) nature-related images at the upcoming meetings. They do not have to be recent images. For those members who would like a little inspiration for Show and Share, we offer a suggested topic each month. These are suggestions only, and you may show any nature related images you would like. July: *Night Photography* and August: *What's In Your Backyard?*

To submit for Show and Share:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 1,800 pixels high and horizontal images are 1,800 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, July 15th for the July meeting or Saturday, August 12th for the August meeting.

Although submissions usually get an email response before the meeting, if you do not get a notice and want to confirm that your submission has been received, please contact Jerry Miller by email at sirlukeman@yahoo.com or by phone at 314-517-6395.

July 18th Meeting – Ray Kersting from Schiller's

Ray Kersting from Schiller's Camera will join us for the July meeting. He will talk about some current trends in camera equipment and will share some of the latest in mirrorless cameras, flash, continuous lights, and mobile phone attachments. He will talk about the clip-on lenses that Schiller's stocks, and the best of the tripod attachments for phones as well.

Ray started out as an assistant and commercial shooter for six years in the early '90s. He decided to change directions in his career and joined Schiller's in 1996 where he has been ever since. His role has evolved over the years, but his primary responsibility is dealing with professional photographers, corporate accounts, and educational institutions. Ray specializes in lighting and creating in-house studios for corporations. In addition, he oversees their pro shop and runs the rental department along with tending to the retail floor. Ray enjoys working with photographers of all levels, and helping aspiring pros develop their skills. He also enjoys being Schiller's ambassador to the St. Louis photographic community.



Image by Jerry Miller

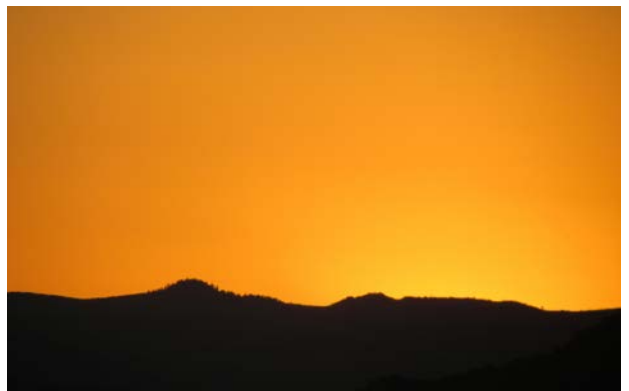


Image by Jane Griesenauer

August 15th Meeting – Jeff Hirsch

Jeff Hirsch will present at the August meeting on *How to Talk About Photos*. A picture really is worth a thousand words! Every photograph that is taken involves a series of technical and aesthetic choices that each photographer must make. One of the best ways to advance our skills as photographers is to learn a visual vocabulary that can be used to discuss, in plain English, the various choices that go into making a photograph. These choices include technical aspects of photography like aperture, shutter speed, ISO, lens choice, use of filters, and more. But they also include aesthetic choices like composition, tone and contrast, color, framing, perspective, point of view, balance, emotion, and mood, among other things. This presentation is designed to teach participants the basics of visual literacy and give them a vocabulary to describe photographs, leading to better-crafted and more articulate images. This is one way we can take our work from good to great.

Jeff Hirsch is a photographer and photo-educator with over 25 years of experience in the field of digital imaging and graphic design. An Adobe Certified Expert in Lightroom and Photoshop, he teaches photography and photo workflow to individuals and groups. Jeff is a frequent presenter at local and regional camera clubs where he speaks on a wide variety of photographic subjects including street and travel photography, B&W conversions, HDR shooting and processing, color management, digital photo workflow, and more. Visit Jeff's website at <http://www.jeffhirsch.com> for more information and his gallery at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/heff/sets>.

Meeting and Field Trip Recaps

April Meeting – Panoramic Photography

Richard Day, of Daybreak Imagery, shared *Going Wide – Fundamentals of Panoramic Photography* with us at the April meeting. To create a panoramic image he stitches together a series of RAW images in Photoshop, a process that can be done in Lightroom as well. The minimum ratio for a panorama is 2:1, twice as wide as the image is high, although 3:1 to 4:1 are preferred. Richard provided tips for capturing images to make a good panorama:

- The camera must be level
- You can choose to do horizontal or vertical images, and make single row or multiple row panoramas. Richard tends to prefer vertical images.
- Shoot manually using a suitable depth of field of between f/8 and f/16.
- Although Richard doesn't turn off white balance (WB), other people recommend doing so.
- Focus manually and don't adjust for each shot.
- Use live view and a loupe for critical focus.
- Overlap each image by 30%-50%, which provides the editing software enough to work with.
- Shoot left to right and mark the beginning and end of the run. Richard photographs an image with one finger to show where the panorama begins and two fingers where it ends.

For equipment, Richard suggests the following:

- A tripod with an L-Bracket and cable release.
- Indexing rotator or panoramic head to stay level and to make sure you have enough overlap of images.
- Nodal slide to make sure the lens' nodal or entrance point is centered over the tripod, thereby eliminating the parallax effect.
- Multi-row setup for adding more height in the scene.
- Do not use a polarizer for a panorama.

He usually takes between nine to fourteen photos and feels that more is better for stitching together a great panorama. To compose panoramas, Richard suggested paying attention to the rule of thirds, although a strong subject can do well when it is more centered. He also advised ensuring that the key elements of the scene aren't too small. To view some of Richard's stunning panoramic images, visit daybreakimagery.photoshelter.com/gallery-list.

May Meeting – Member Presentations

The May meeting featured three shorter presentations, each by a MoNEP member, as well as some time to socialize over refreshments.

Anne Kelsey led off the evening with a lovey photo essay, *Blue Heron Farm: A Time and Place Remembered*. Blue Heron Farm is a 135-acre property that her grandfather bought in Ohio in 1935. Sadly, the family will soon part with this beloved piece of land, so Anne decided to photograph it through the seasons to memorialize it. It is a diverse property, situated on Sharon conglomerate rock, which is found in only three counties in Ohio. The property has vernal pools in the springtime and lots of spring wildflowers. There is a 50-60 foot deep ravine, which is a cool place to be on a hot summer day. There is a stream and a dam and the house is nestled in a wooded cove. In the fall, you can see the contours of the land after the leaves fall and there is often mist over the water at that time of year. In winter, they get a great deal of lake effect snow, making the property stunning in all seasons. Most of all, it has been an important family gathering spot, with multiple generations joining together there. Thanks for sharing your very special place and beautiful images with us, Anne.

Mark McAmish presented *Flash Photography In Nature*. Mark uses flash in low light conditions and to enhance detail, color, and contrast. Flash can add catch light in an animal subject's eyes and can freeze movement. Mark explained the different flash modes and the virtues of using automatic Through the Lens (TTL) metering when your subject is moving and for fill flash outdoors on a bright sunny day. However, manual flash settings are best when the subject is fixed. In that case, you can control the flash by dialing in the settings to increase or lessen the amount of flash needed.



Image by Mark McAmish

The trick of using flash in photography is to balance the exposure for both the ambient light and the flash. You set your exposure for the ambient light and then add the flash and then adjust both. If you shoot in aperture priority mode, the camera chooses the shutter speed. This is a good choice when you are shooting outdoors and the ambient light is changing. However, in low light, it can drop to such a slow shutter speed that it allows some blurring. Shutter priority mode means that you choose the shutter speed and the camera sets the aperture, which can increase or decrease your depth of field beyond your vision. Shooting in manual mode gives you full creative control. The more light you need, the longer the flash stays on. However, in order to freeze motion, you want to use a lower power setting on the flash, so that the flash is on for a shorter burst.

Mark suggested the following when working with flash:

- Use evaluative or matrix metering, shoot in RAW, and use auto white balance for most shots.
- Never use lithium batteries for flash because they can overheat and damage your flash. Mark recommends Eneloop rechargeable batteries, and MAHA as the best battery charger.
- Soften the harsh light of flash by bouncing the light off of another surface, like a reflector, or by using a diffuser.
- Use your flash off of the camera by means of cords or remote control units.
- Download a copy of your flash manual onto your phone for easy reference in the field.
- Start using your manual flash at 1/8 second and adjust from there.

Mark also provided resources for learning more about using flash: strobist.blogspot.com, www.learn.usa.canon.com, pixsylated.com, neilvn.com/tangents/flash-photography-techniques/, Joe McNally, Fred Miranda, and 500PX. Thank you, Mark, for providing so much useful information.

Michelle Jones and Don Morice finished off the evening with a presentation on *Planning and Preparation for Photo Trips to Remote Locations*. They advocated learning about the location before you go and what you can expect in terms of weather, terrain, lodging, food, and drinking water. If you have dietary restrictions, check to see whether your requirements can be accommodated. If you are a picky eater, be sure to bring along snacks that can hold you. Carry along a first aid kit, bug spray, sunscreen and preventive medicine as well as an ample supply of prescription medication.

(continued on next page)

Traveling with camera gear has gotten trickier as airlines have instituted weight restrictions, and flights within your destination country may have smaller planes with more stringent limits. Plan carefully for what equipment you'll need. It is best to carry it with you in a tote or backpack. Fortunately, memory cards have gone down in price significantly, so you can take more of them along, thereby eliminating the need to download images frequently.

Refer to the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov for up-to-date information on what vaccinations are required for the country you will visit. St. Louis County Health has almost all of the vaccines you might need for a trip to the tropics. Create a packing list of all that you need to take. They recommend lightweight clothes in the tropics with some SPF protection. Re-assess your camera bag contents everyday and leave behind what you don't need that day. They also emphasized that you should carry plenty of water, and stay hydrated. Traveling to exotic places is very rewarding and with a bit of work before you go, you will find yourself well prepared for your adventure. Thanks to both Michelle and Don for your helpful travel tips.

June Meeting – Larry Morrison

In June, Larry Morrison took us on a tour of rare and unusual wildflowers of Illinois. He introduced many of us to some unique plants such as American columbo, a woodland plant, which is in the gentian family. It lives for a number of years as a green rosette of leaves on the ground before it puts out a flower stalk. After flowering and setting seed, it dies. He showed us Indian pipe, a waxy, white flowering plant with no chlorophyll. Because it lacks chlorophyll, it cannot photosynthesize and gets its energy from decomposing matter in the soil. Among the wetland plants he showed were the fascinating insectivorous plants, the pitcher plants and sundew. Pitcher plants live in poor soils and get extra nutrients by catching insects in their water and enzyme filled pitchers, which are modified leaves with downward pointing hairs, so insects can't escape. Sundews have sticky glands and also catch and dissolve insects for nutrients they don't get from the soil. Closed gentian, or bottle gentian is unique in that its flowers do not open. It is pollinated by bumblebees, which are among the few insects that can force their way into the closed blossoms. Larry mentioned a couple of places to visit for finding some of the plant species he highlighted. Among them are Heron Pond in Vienna, Illinois and Giant City State Park near Makanda, Illinois, which is a great place for spring wildflowers. Thank you, Larry for an informative talk and for enticing some of us in Missouri to explore more of the great state of Illinois!

Light Painting and Milky Way Field Trip Recap

Thanks to Kathy Cherry for this report on the night photography field trip at Shaw Nature Reserve in late June: What a wonderful night to spend at Shaw Nature Reserve photographing the Milky Way and learning about light painting. Dug Threewitt led us to the “bus stop”, a neat little stone building, where we experimented by lighting different areas of the building, along with the curved road and nearby trees. We then turned our attention to the night sky to photograph the Milky Way. Dug helped us set our cameras properly so we could capture the stars. It is truly amazing how much the camera can capture that your eyes cannot see. It was a fun night with a great group of people.

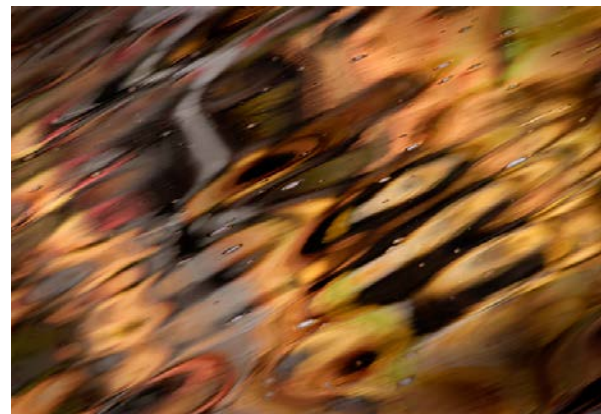
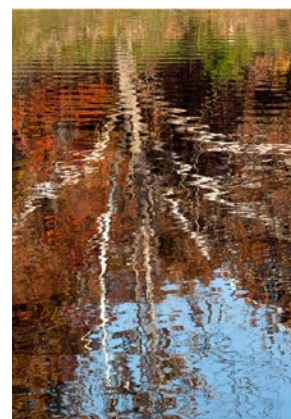
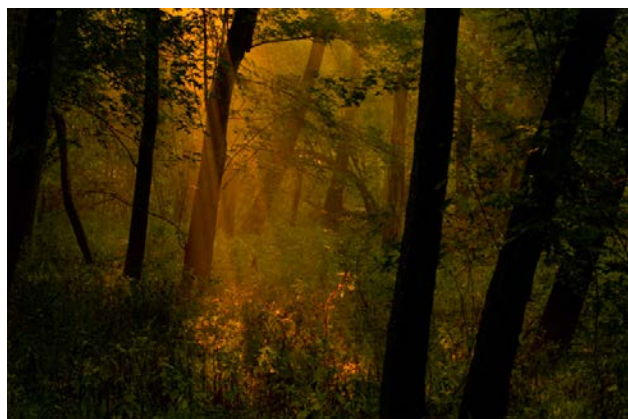
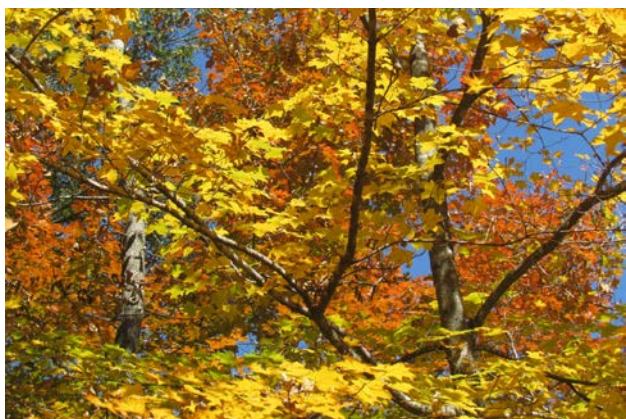


Image by Tim Bade

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.

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Visit our website at www.monep.org



Published Bi-Monthly by Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers
Volume 22, Number 5
September - October 2017

MoNEP News

Meeting Location and Time Have Changed

We have moved! Our monthly meetings are now being held at Powder Valley Conservation Area Nature Center in Kirkwood. Powder Valley's address is 11715 Cragwold Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122. We will have also changed the meeting time to 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. as the center closes at 8:30. We will send out reminders before the September meeting, along with a map to help you join us at the right place at the right time.



Image by Mark Cherry

MoNEP Holiday Show

Every year we hold a Holiday Show and party on the second Tuesday in December in place of our monthly meeting. This year, it will be on December 12th at Powder Valley. The highlight of the evening is a program of members' images put to music by Jerry Miller and Pat Burgess. We encourage current members to submit twenty of their best nature images, some of which will be included in the show. Image submissions for the 2017 MoNEP Holiday Show are due by the September 19th meeting if you are submitting in person, or by September 30th for email submissions. In addition to your twenty nature shots, we would like to have images of other members in action. Submissions can be turned in to Michelle Jones or Barb Addelson at the back table at the September meeting. You may also submit your images by sending them to share@monep.org by the September 30th deadline. For guidelines and formatting instructions, please review our email of September 7th.

Photography Blind at Shaw Nature Reserve

Thanks to a grant from the North American Nature Photography Association Foundation (NANPA), with additional support from MoNEP, a photography blind has been constructed at the wetlands area of Shaw Nature Reserve. NANPA and MoNEP funding provided the construction materials. Nature Reserve staff supplied the labor, tools, and equipment to build the blind. The wooden structure has a metal roof and several openings at varying levels. It looks onto the wetlands from three different directions. Curtains hang in the openings and there are a couple of chairs for seating. The blind is for use by all visitors to Shaw and is accessible. Thanks to everyone who worked on the project and to Ted Moreno for taking the lead on the proposal to NANPA.



Wetland Blind

Cover Images (from left to right and top to bottom):

Karen Bade, Jane Griesenauer, Larry Terrell, Rich Merz, Bill Lubben, Susan Standish, Lori Purk, Toni Armstrong, Linda Moder, Jim Campbell, Chuck Mannis

Members and Membership

MoNEP Exhibit at Powder Valley

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Missouri State Parks, 28 members of MoNEP will be sharing images from their visits to parks of all types, large and small. A *Walk in the Park* exhibit will be on display from the beginning of November through mid-December and represents the scenic beauty and natural encounters our parks provide to millions of visitors each year.

For those members who submitted images, the matted print is due to Lori Purk at the September 19th meeting. If you will not be able to attend that meeting you need to contact Lori at **314-706-3604** or **purkyl8r@aol.com** if you haven't already done so. There will be a framing session at Powder Valley on October 28th. We will provide more details in October and will have a sign up sheet at the October meeting for those willing to help with framing.



Image by Dick Roman

New Members

Welcome to our newest members, Carmen Consueera and Michael Smith.

MoNEP Meetings

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Dates: *Tuesday, September 19th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm* at Powder Valley Nature Center
Tuesday, October 17th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Powder Valley Nature Center

MoNEP meetings are held at Powder Valley Conservation Area Nature Center in Kirkwood. Powder Valley's address is 11715 Cragwold Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122. The meeting time has recently changed and runs from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Show and Share Nature Images

Submissions Due: 9/16 for the September Meeting and 10/14 for the October Meeting

Members are invited to share up to five (5) nature-related images at the upcoming meetings. They do not have to be recent images. For those members who would like a little inspiration for Show and Share, we offer a suggested topic each month. These are suggestions only, and you may show any nature related images you would like. *September: Arachnids* and *October: A Spot of Color*.

To submit for Show and Share:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 1,800 pixels high and horizontal images are 1,800 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, September 16th for the September meeting or Saturday, October 14th for the October meeting.

Although submissions usually get an email response before the meeting, if you do not get a notice and want to confirm that your submission has been received, please contact Jerry Miller by email at sirlukeman@yahoo.com or by phone at 314-517-6395.

September 19th Meeting – David Bruns

Spiders make intriguing and challenging subjects for photography. This month, David Bruns will present *Stalking the Wild Spiders*, sharing stories and showing images from his journey photo-documenting the arachnid diversity of Missouri over the past several years. His work in this area has revealed a rich array of spider species living largely unnoticed within our neighborhoods, favorite parks, and conservation areas. Characteristics of spiders, spider identification, habits, and habitats will be covered, as well as his methods of capturing the images and recording relevant data. He will also discuss the use of technological tools and applications including contributing images to citizen-science websites.



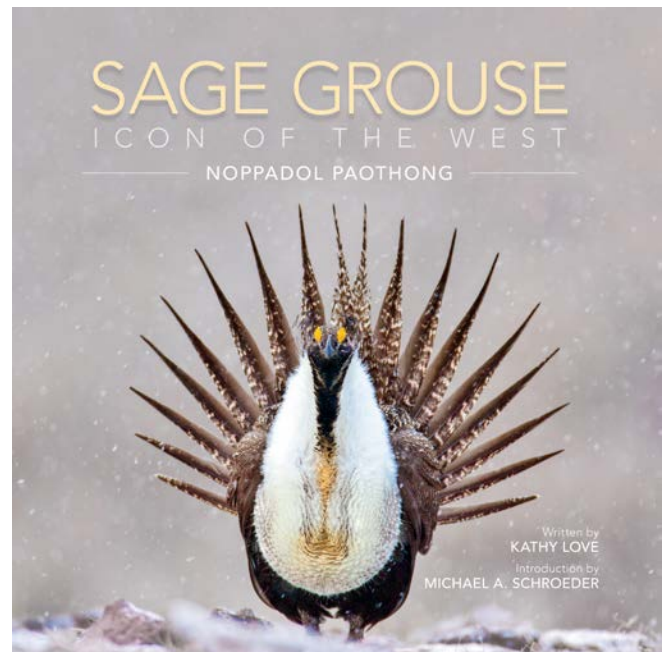
Image by Scott Evers

David has applied his enthusiasm for the outdoors and nature study throughout his professional career with organizations that have included the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Missouri Botanical Garden. David started with the Missouri Department of Conservation, Education Division, as the Naturalist at Rockwoods Reservation before entering into his current position as Conservation Education Consultant. David has degrees in Environmental Studies and Outdoor Education and is a Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association for Interpretation. He lives in St. Louis and works at Powder Valley Nature Center.

October 17th Meeting: Noppadol Paothong

In October, Noppadol Paothong will showcase the sage grouse, a beautiful species of bird that makes its home in the sagebrush sea of the North American West. It is the largest grouse in North America. Nop will share the natural history of the sage grouse along with stories of his own work in the field, documenting these magnificent birds. With up-close and captivating images that have never been documented before, he will introduce us to his upcoming book, *Sage Grouse, Icon of the West* on this unique and remarkable species and the land upon which they depend.

Noppadol Paothong is a nature/conservation photographer and has been focusing on documenting rare and endangered species. For over a decade, he has worked primarily on grassland grouse and their fragile habitat. He is a staff wildlife photographer with the Missouri Department of Conservation and contributes his images and stories to its publications, *Missouri Conservationist*, *Xplor*, and many others. With a monthly circulation of over 500,000, the *Missouri Conservationist* is known as one of the largest and highest quality state conservation magazines.

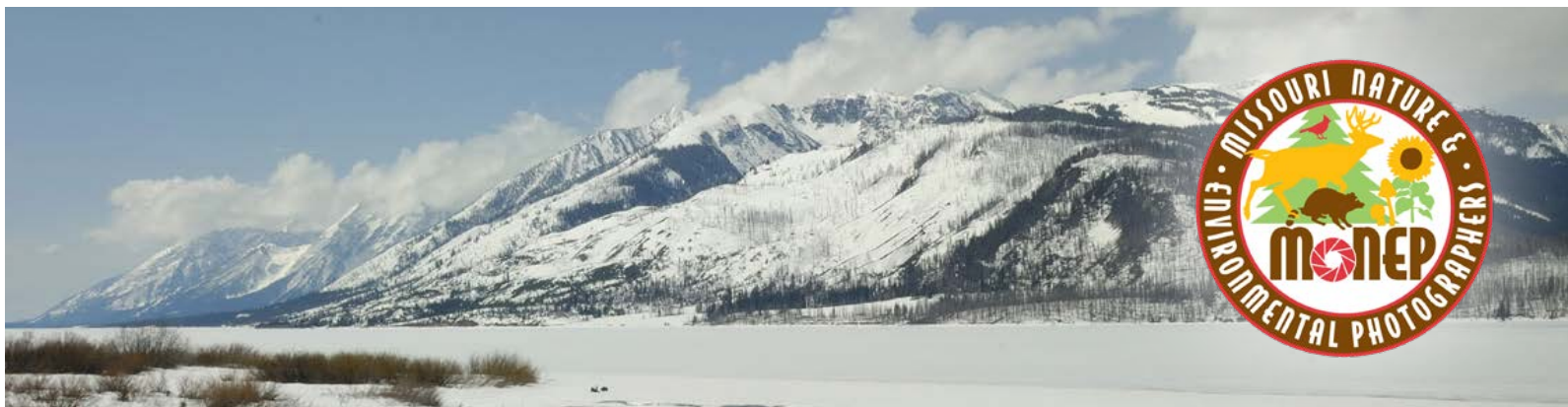


Cover of *Sage Grouse, Icon of the West*

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Visit our website at www.monep.org



Published Bi-Monthly by Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers
Volume 22, Number 6
November - December 2017

MoNEP News

MoNEP Holiday Show – Tuesday, December 12th

The 2017 MoNEP Holiday Show and party will be held on Tuesday, December 12th, starting at 6:15 p.m. at Powder Valley Nature Center in Kirkwood. Powder Valley Nature Center is located at 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, Missouri, 63122. Family and friends are invited to attend.

The Show:

Jerry Miller and Pat Burgess do the hard work of creating the program each year. Their fabulous digital presentation of members' images set to music will begin at 7:15.

Refreshments:

We will be offering light fare – cheese, veggie and fruit trays, soft drinks, coffee and tea. Everyone is invited to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Please make sure that anything you bring is easily served and can be eaten without cutlery.

Volunteers needed:

We will need three volunteers to help set-up the event, six to assist with the breakdown and four to help monitor the food tables. If you are willing to volunteer please sign up at the November meeting or contact Barb Addelson, who is coordinating the setup at baddelson@sbcglobal.net.

We hope you will join us on December 12th in celebrating another great year for MoNEP!

MoNEP Members' Exhibit at Powder Valley

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Missouri State Parks, MoNEP has mounted an exhibit of 29 members' images at Powder Valley Nature Center. The exhibit, *A Walk in the Park*, will be on display from the beginning of November through mid-December and represents the scenic beauty and natural encounters our parks and natural areas provide to millions of visitors each year.

Numerous members joined in on the framing session on October 28th, led by Lori Purk. Thanks to Al Ahner, Tim Bade, Kathy and Mark Cherry, Judy Colombini, Steve Cox, Bob Drzymala, Monica McAmish-Bahr, Jerry Miller, Don Morice, Lori Purk, Richard Spener, and Larry Terrell for volunteering to help frame and hang the exhibit.

After the exhibit comes down in mid-December, nearly half of the images will be moved to Shaw Nature Reserve. The images that will be displayed at Shaw will consist of those that were taken in Missouri. It will reside at the Nature Reserve until mid-spring.



Powder Valley Framing Session



Powder Valley Framing Session

Cover Images (from left to right and top to bottom):

Don Morice, Scott Evers, Bob Bullock, Dug Threewitt, Joe Klipsch, Pam Caraffa, Kathy Cherry, Karen Bade, Jim Rhodes, Toni Armstrong, Chuck Mannis

Members and Membership

2017 Membership Renewals

MoNEP membership runs from January through December each year, so it is time for all members to renew! Dues are \$30 per person and \$40 for a household of up to four.

There are three ways to renew your membership:

1. Membership dues may be submitted in person at the November meeting along with your completed form. We will not be collecting membership forms or payment during the Holiday Show and party in December, but will start accepting forms and payment at meetings again starting in January. At the meetings, you can pay with cash or by a check made out to MoNEP. If you pay by cash, please be sure to have the exact amount.
2. You can mail your renewal form, along with a check made out to MoNEP, to the MoNEP membership chair, Michelle Jones at 45 Bellerive Acres, St. Louis, Missouri 63121. Please do not mail cash.
3. You can pay anytime using PayPal by visiting our website at <http://monep.org/membership.html>.

If you have questions about membership, please contact Michelle Jones at 314-496-7616 or by email at michellecjones92@gmail.com.



Image by Mark Cherry

MoNEP Meetings

Meeting Date, Time and Location

Date: *Tuesday, November 21st from 6:30 to 8:30 pm* at Powder Valley Nature Center

MoNEP meetings are held at Powder Valley Conservation Area Nature Center in Kirkwood. Powder Valley's address is 11715 Cragwold Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122. The meeting time has recently changed and runs from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Show and Share Nature Images

Submissions Due: 11/18th for the November 21st Meeting

Members are invited to share up to five (5) nature-related images at the upcoming meetings. For those members who would like a little inspiration for Show and Share, we offer a suggested topic each month. These are suggestions only, and you may show any nature related images. *November theme: Fall in the Prairie or Photographer's Choice*

To submit for Show and Share:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 1,800 pixels high and horizontal images are 1,800 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 Saturday, November 18th for the November meeting.

Although submissions usually get an email response before the meeting, if you do not get a notice and want to confirm that your submission has been received, please contact Jerry Miller by email at sirlukeman@yahoo.com or by phone at 314-517-6395.

November 21st Meeting – Dan Zarlenga

Dan Zarlenga will join us at the November 21st meeting to present *Backpacking Photography on the Ozark Trail*. Dan began going on annual, weeklong backpacking trips on Missouri's Ozark Trail in 2007. Since then, he's hiked all 13 sections of the 360-mile trail, which traverses some of the state's most beautiful areas. Dan realized there were many great photo opportunities during these hikes. After purchasing a Canon G-series advanced compact camera that was light enough to carry for a week on the trail, Dan began attempting to capture some of what he encountered. His presentation will look at considerations when trekking with a camera into the backcountry, and some of the images he's acquired along the way. He'll also reveal some sights on the Ozark Trail that can be conveniently accessed without the rigors of overnight backpacking.



Image courtesy of Dan Zarlenga

When not hiking, Dan also spends time photographing other landscapes, nightscapes, and macro subjects. Working as a Media Specialist with the Missouri Department of Conservation is almost enough to fund his photography activities. His photography has appeared in *The Conservation Department's Natural Events Calendar*, *The Missouri Conservationist Magazine*, *the Missouri Prairie Journal*, and the book *Magnificent Missouri*, as well as in exhibits at Powder Valley Nature Center in Kirkwood, Burr Oak Woods Nature Center in Kansas City, the 2016 Missouri River Shootout Contest Exhibit in Alton, the 2017 St. Louis Lilliputian Film Festival, and the Dark Room in downtown St. Louis.

September Meeting Recap – David Bruns

In September, David Bruns shared his fascination with, and his love for spiders. He has spent the past several years documenting our local arachnids by stalking them with a cellphone, sweep net, and other tools. His images highlighted the great diversity of spiders living largely unnoticed within our neighborhoods, parks, and conservation areas. David reviewed the characteristics of spiders, spider identification, habits, and habitats, as well as his methods of capturing the images and recording relevant data. He emphasized how the use of current technology has enabled people to contribute to citizen-science projects. Thank you, David for sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm.

October Meeting Recap: Noppadol Paothong

At the October meeting, Noppadol Paothong focused on the endangered sage grouse, which lives in the once vast sagebrush "sea", an imperiled ecosystem in the North American West. Nop provided insight into the natural history of these birds and their habitat with its surprising biodiversity. He shared spectacular images of the birds and the stark beauty of their increasingly fractured habitat. Every spring large groups of males gather in leks, areas where they perform their elaborate mating displays, to attract mates. Nop worked for five years to capture a year in the life of the grouse for his upcoming book, *Sage Grouse, Icon of the West*. Finding the hens and their chicks in summer was especially challenging, as they disperse far and wide and blend in with the habitat. Winter posed its own problems, with deep snows and difficulty getting to the places where the grouse can be found. Many thanks to Nop for an enlightening evening and for sharing his remarkable images.

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