



# CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 20, Number 1

January – February 2015

*Celebrating 20 years capturing the beauty of the outdoors!*

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### Editor

Barbara Addelson

### Contributors

Scott Avetta

### Presidents New Years' Message

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy New Year! 2015 marks the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> year for MoNEP. We continue to follow the mission statement that was established for our group in 1996. We will mark our 20th year with a few special events, and will keep you posted about these.

Looking back at 2014, the Bill Lea seminar was a highlight and was very well received. Participants really appreciated his images, topics and presentation. These events enable MoNEP to continue to help organizations such as Shaw Nature Reserve with their Youth Photo Contest and the World Bird Sanctuary.

During a year of such strife, we are inundated with the bad news of local, national and world events. It can wear down the hardiest of people. Bad news is spotlighted in the headlines. The positive is sometimes a short blurb at the end of a broadcast or at the back of the paper, if at all. I believe there is more good news than bad, however it is often overlooked or underreported.

I want to share a good news story with you. It took place just hours before the end of 2014, on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. Sarah and I decided to enjoy the last day of the year with a drive through Lone Elk Park. We drove slowly and stopped to identify and admire a few birds. Approaching the lake, we noticed a small group of people near the edge of the water. A little farther back was the World Bird Sanctuary van. We stopped and realized it was a bird release. No reporters, no camera people, just hard working WBS employees and volunteers. A minute later an arm was up and a majestic bald eagle released. She flew to a nearby sycamore tree, unsuccessfully looked for a landing spot and then soared off into the clear blue winter sky. WOW. I did not have a camera and had no need to worry about focus or exposure. It was just a chance to experience the moment, something we often overlook. While I have seen many raptor flights, this was the first release I have witnessed and it is something I will always remember.

Returning home, I did a little follow up and called WBS. A truck driver found the bald eagle along the road near Memphis, Missouri on Halloween. She was malnourished and was unlikely to survive. The driver made the 200-mile trip to the WBS. Over the next two months she was fed, cared for and strengthened thanks to the staff and volunteers at WBS. She was released back into the wild by a 7 year volunteer who has done a great deal of work on their website. It all started with one driver who cared, but took a small group of committed people to succeed.

Not often in the headlines, groups like WBS, SNR, TNC and many more continue to make progress behind the scenes. Off the radar one bird, one plant, one mind at a time. Hard working, budget conscious, caring workers, volunteers and groups making a positive difference. Groups MoNEP supports and respects. Each individual can make a difference! For year's adults and children will look on a branch or to the sky and admire the beauty of the bald eagle. One of us may be lucky enough to photograph her in the future. We do have good stories and good people left, though they are seldom in the news. Happy 2015!

- Scott Avetta



Red Winter Sunset  
Mark Cherry

## Member News

The **2015 Saint Louis Zoo Calendar** featured a couple of **Michael Abbene's** photographs. He was one of six photographers whose work was included in the calendar. Well done!

Congratulations go to MoNEP members **Allen Ahner** and **Jack Clark**. They were two of the seven winners of the **2014 Post Dispatch Travel Photo Contest**. Over 200 submissions were entered. Al's second place winner was **Red Hat in Field of Lavender**. He points out the importance of patience during photography. Jack's honorable mention was **End of a Long Day**. He highlighted the always-critical element of light. A great job by both photographers and we thank you for reminding us of these important elements of our art. To see their images, visit the Post-Dispatch site at [www.stltoday.com/travel/travels-with-amy](http://www.stltoday.com/travel/travels-with-amy) and click on Meet the Winners of Our Annual Travel Photo Contest.

**Jim Campbell** took second place and an honorable mention in the **Missouri Department of Natural Resources' DNR40 Photo Contest**. His two images were both in the Special Places category and each was taken at Sandy Creek Covered Bridge State Historic Site in Goldman, Missouri. **Sandy Creek Bridge in Winter** won second place and **Sandy Creek Cathedral of Trees** received the honorable mention. Both images were published in the **Missouri Resources** Magazine's Winter 2015 edition, which you see at: [dnr.mo.gov/magazine/docs/mr-winter-15.pdf](http://dnr.mo.gov/magazine/docs/mr-winter-15.pdf) Congratulations, Jim!

## Shaw Photography Series

Registration opens on **February 1<sup>st</sup>** for the spring 2015 workshops at SNR. Visit [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org) for details.

- *Light and Discovery*  
Dan Dreyfus on March 28
- *Mastering Cellphone Photography*  
Jeff Hirsch on April 18
- *Photographing May Wildflowers*  
Scott Avetta on May 16
- *The Essence of Street Photography in a Small Town (Overnight)*  
Todd Weinstein on June 13-14
- *Sunrise Photography* on July 15
- *Dissecting Your Images: The Path to More Thoughtful and Meaningful Images* - Stewart Halperin on August 15

## 2015 Membership Renewals

MoNEP Membership runs from January through December each year, so it is time for all members to renew! There are three ways to update your membership. You are now able to renew online using PayPal at [www.monep.org/join.html](http://www.monep.org/join.html). You can also submit your completed membership form with dues paid in cash or by a check made out to **MoNEP**, at the membership desk during the January meeting. If you pay by cash, please be sure to have the exact change. Finally, you can mail your renewal form, along with a check made out to **MoNEP** to our membership chairperson, **Michelle Jones, 45 Bellerive Acres, St. Louis, Missouri 63121**. Please do not mail cash. Dues are \$25 per person or \$35 for a household of up to four people. We are unable to accept payment by credit or debit cards. If you have questions, contact Michelle Jones at **314-383-6256** or by email at [michelle@mmjones.us](mailto:michelle@mmjones.us).

## Rob Sheppard Podcasts

Rob Sheppard has created a series of free podcasts. They are accessible on iTunes, and on Rob's website [www.joyofnatureandphotography.com](http://www.joyofnatureandphotography.com). Also available on his website is a free ebook on Better Nature Photography.

## November Speaker Recap

**Steve Sands** gave a fascinating presentation at the November meeting. Although he calls himself an amateur astronomer, he was clearly very knowledgeable about his subject and taught us a great deal about the sun. Steve provided us with some historical background on discoveries about the sun, including the heated debate about the origin of sunspots by two 16<sup>th</sup> century astronomers, Galileo and Christoph Scheiner. He talked about the makeup, anatomy and classification of our sun and other stars. He cautioned us never to look directly at the sun, as it can ultimately lead to blindness. If you are interested in viewing the sun, Baader makes special Astro Solar Filters, which you can buy for viewing the sun through binoculars or telescopes.

As with other nature subjects, Steve recommends learning as much as you can about the sun and how to properly view it before trying to photograph it. He suggested using manual mode for solar photographs and experimenting to get the right exposure. Finally, he shared a number of resources for those who are interested in delving deeper. Among them is the extensive **St. Louis Astronomical Society** website at [www.slasonline.org](http://www.slasonline.org). Thanks to Steve for a great talk.

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

Ken Biddle

Nancy Phillips

# MEETINGS & programs



## Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> 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 1/17

Members are invited to share up to **five (5) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for January is **Photographer's Choice**. Please follow the instructions on **Uploading Show and Share Images** in the tips section at [monep.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:share@monep.org) by midnight, Saturday, 1/17.

Once you submit your images, you will receive an email from either **Jerry Miller** or **Pat Burgess** confirming that they have received your photographs within several days. If you do not receive a response, 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](mailto:sirlukeman@yahoo.com). Pat can be reached at **314-592-8653** or by email at [wpb691@gmail.com](mailto:wpb691@gmail.com).

## January Meeting – Speaker: Scott Avetta

MoNEP President, **Scott Avetta** will be the speaker at the January meeting. He will present ***Beyond the Subject***. We will be encouraged to consider our goals and reasons for photographing. Are we shooting for documentation, art, competition, just for fun or a combination of these? We often create obstacles for ourselves that limit our ability to make the most out of the scene and frustrate us photographically. However, Scott will show us how obstacles can become opportunities if we allow them to be. He will talk about the importance of all the elements of the scene and some creative options. Scott is the author of several books, including ***Missouri Impressions***, ***St. Louis Impressions*** and ***Illinois Impressions***. His works are on display around the region. He has been instructing photography classes at the Missouri Botanical Garden for over 15 years. Visit [scottavetta.com](http://scottavetta.com) for more information.

## February Meeting – Speaker: Dr. Tim Eichler

Join us in February for a program by Dr. Timothy Eichler of Saint Louis University. Dr. Eichler is a climatologist and he will be presenting on weather and climate.

## Shooting Nature In Winter

Despite the weather, there are plenty of nature photography opportunities close by to keep us sharp and knock out some of those winter blues. Here are some tips for beating the winter doldrums while exercising your photography skills.

Visit:

- The Saint Louis Zoo
- Lone Elk Park and the World Bird Sanctuary
- Forest Park (great horned owls are breeding)
- Riverlands for eagles, swans, pelicans, ducks and more
- The Butterfly House
- The Climatron, Temperate and Linnaean Houses at MBG
- Shaw Nature Reserve prairie in the early morning frost
- Your own backyard

Keep an eye out for:

- A winter sunset- we have had several spectacular ones lately
- Butterflies such as mourning cloaks and commas on warm days in January
- Birds at the feeders

If you are stuck indoors you can:

- Plan your spring plantings with wildlife in mind
- Take this time to review past images, edit and critique.
- Renew your MoNEP membership!

## 2014 Holiday Show

I think it's safe to say that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the 2014 MoNEP Holiday Show at Powder Valley last month. As usual, **Jerry Miller** and **Pat Burgess** wove together a wonderful selection of members' photos to make a stunning nature show set to music. Thanks go to both of them for their continued dedication and the hard work that goes into creating such a stellar program. We especially appreciate all the MoNEP members who shared their images.

As we have done for the past ten years, we would also like to thank Margy and Dan Terpstra for taking on the large task of organizing all the other details for the evening. They coordinated the logistics and volunteers as well as buying, toting, delivering and organizing the food, drinks and set up. They do such a terrific job that they have made themselves irreplaceable. We thank them so very much for all they have done to make MoNEP's annual celebration such a nice affair.

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 make it a great celebration. Everyone did a wonderful job. Congratulations and here's to a fabulous new year!

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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.



**CLOSEUP**

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

***VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT: [www.monep.org](http://www.monep.org)***



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Lori Purk



Richard Spener

### 2015 Membership Renewals

If you haven't already renewed your membership, now is the time to do so. You are now able to renew online using PayPal at [www.monep.org/join.html](http://www.monep.org/join.html). You can also submit your completed membership form with dues paid in cash or by a check at the membership desk during the March meeting. If you pay by cash, please be sure to have the exact change. Checks should be made out to **MoNEP**. You can also mail your renewal form, along with a check, to our membership chairperson, **Michelle Jones**, at **45 Bellerive Acres, St. Louis, Missouri 63121**. Do not mail cash. **Dues are \$25 per person or \$35 for a household of up to four people**. If you have questions, contact Michelle Jones at **314-383-6256** or at [michelle@mmjones.us](mailto:michelle@mmjones.us). **NOTE:** If we do not receive your renewal by the end of April, your name will be removed from the mailing list, so please renew!

### Newsletter Publication Change

The newsletter is going bi-monthly! It will be published every other month, so it is doubly important to refer to it for event dates and deadlines and note them on your calendars. Reminders, as well as updates, will continue to be sent by email, so we ask that you monitor your emails for changes or additions to the schedule. We will try not to inundate you with many more emails, but please do pay attention to them when they come in. You can also refer to our website, [monep.org](http://monep.org), for the latest MoNEP news and information. Thanks for your patience during this transition.

### MoNEP Anniversary Exhibit

MoNEP has been invited to exhibit approximately 24 photographs at **Art Glass Array Gallery** in St. Charles in honor of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Digital submissions saved to a CD will be collected at the March 17<sup>th</sup> and April 21<sup>st</sup> meetings. If you are unable to make one of these meetings contact **Lori Purk** to discuss other arrangements for submitting by calling or emailing her at **314-869-7427**, [purkyl8r@aol.com](mailto:purkyl8r@aol.com). The exhibit will be on display from mid-June to the beginning of September.

We have broadened the subject matter to anything found in the natural world for this exhibit, rather than a strict focus on Missouri. High quality work that is artistic in nature and not simply documentary is most desirable. A committee will select the images and will notify members before the May meeting in order to allow for time for uniform framing of the entire exhibit. Framing costs will be the responsibility of the participant. As in past exhibits, MoNEP will help with image preparation suggestions and a possible framing session to help keep the costs down. 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 Share and Show. See these at the MoNEP website. Include your name, contact information and either a title or what the subject is and where it was taken along with your submission. Please contact Lori with any formatting, subject matter or timing questions.

*Logic will take you from A to B.  
Imagination will take you everywhere.*  
- Albert Einstein

## New Members

We are happy to welcome several new members to MoNEP: **Barbara Boucher, Debbie Darcy, Bill Duncan, Betsy Litton, Pat Pourchot and Mary Sprague**. New members should stop by the Membership Desk at the next meeting they attend to receive their MoNEP nametags.

## MoNEP Nametags

With many new faces at MoNEP, we want to encourage members, both new and continuing, to wear their nametags at meetings. New members can pick up their nametags from Michelle Jones at the Membership Desk at the back of the room at each meeting. Older members who need a new nametag should let Michelle know and she will print a new one for you by the next meeting.

## Member News

The art group, **My St. Louis Art** (MySLART) recognized **Jim Campbell** as their featured photographic artist in February on their blog. Jim exhibits with My St. Louis on occasion. To read the nice profile they wrote, visit their website, [www.mySLART.org](http://www.mySLART.org).

**Dick Roman** received recognition for two of his prints in the **Photographic Society of America's** (PSA) end of year Interclub Print Competition. His image, *Pallid Bat Drinks* placed second in Small Color Prints, and his *Bat Eyes Insect* received an honorable mention in the Creative Prints category. Well done!

## January Meeting Recap

**Scott Avetta** presented *Beyond the Subject* at the January meeting. Scott asked us to consider our goals as photographers. Are we shooting for documentation, art, publication or competition? Each of these requires different approaches. In documentation, it is always best to start by getting a safe shot before trying to get your best shot. Once that is accomplished you can then work the subject to get better images. When shooting for publication, strive for a high quality image and leave space around the subject for text. Competition generally calls for impact, so images tend to be more frame filling. Scott also advises us to fully understand the rules of the competition and the rights the sponsor will have to use our images. What makes a photograph a work of art is subject to interpretation and is much more

personal. These categories are not mutually exclusive. An image can be artful and be just right for publication. Scott also reminded us to have fun with our photography and to experiment so it doesn't become stale for us. Be observant and look around. He loves to shoot subjects that other people pass by. When a scene catches your eye, ask yourself what drew you to it. The answer can inform your approach to the subject. Once you return from a session, Scott suggests waiting a few days before editing your images and then editing in small batches to maintain a fresh eye. Thank you, Scott for refreshing us!

## February Meeting Recap

Dr. Timothy Eichler, a climatologist and professor at St. Louis University's Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, shared some of the many opportunities in St. Louis for photographing weather. We are in a great location for weather photography since we experience all four seasons and they offer much variety. In winter, we can photograph wavy clouds, which are the sign of an oncoming winter storm. Ice makes for beautiful photography as it covers trees, bushes and other structures. Try to capture the soft light of sunset as it hits the ice.

Tell a story with your photos, showing the cold or the breathtaking sunsets that we tend to see this time of year.

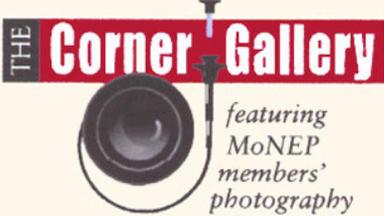
Spring brings new growth of flowers, trees and gardens, along with storms and tornadoes and the rainbows that can come after a storm. Tim warned of the dangers of chasing storms, especially tornadoes. He indicated that even experienced meteorologists could find themselves in trouble.

In summer we will see amazing clouds building up to thunderstorms that include lightning and hail. Summer is also the time for flower and butterfly photography. Tim warned of the dangers of photographing lightning, saying that it is best to get out of the storm when lightning begins to strike.

Fall is the quietest weather season, and is mostly about photographing the changing color of the leaves.

After the meeting Tim forwarded some website addresses that he uses for local weather information. His favorite is: [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov). You can click on any area of the country. For St. Louis only, you can go directly to: [www.crh.noaa.gov/lx/](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lx/)

We thank Tim for taking the time to share his expertise with us, and encouraging us to get out and photograph in almost any kind of weather, as long as it's safe!





Guana Tolomato Matanzas Nature Trail  
Larry Morrison



Patrick Jones

## Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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## Show and Share Nature Images – due 3/14 for March Meeting and 4/ 18 for April

Members are invited to share up to **five (5) nature-related images** at the upcoming meetings. 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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- ❖ Name your images according to the directions at monep.org under tips.
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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, 3/14** or **Saturday, 4/18** for the April meeting)

Once you submit your images, you will receive an email from either **Jerry Miller** or **Pat Burgess** confirming that they have received your photographs within several days. If you do not receive a response, 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 by email at **wpb691@gmail.com**.

## March 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Wild for Monarchs

The presenters at our March meeting will be **Ann Earley** and **Bob Siemer**. They will present their program, **Wild for Monarchs** about the Wild Ones organization's Wild for Monarchs Program. *Wild for Monarchs* encourages the planting of native plants, especially milkweed, to support the monarch population. This program will cover information about the monarchs' life cycle, their migration and population trends, as well as what is being done to help these special butterflies.

Ann Earley and Bob Siemer have been active in local nature organizations, including the Missouri Native Plant Society and St. Louis Wild Ones, for the past fifteen years. They also volunteer in various capacities as Missouri Master Naturalists and at Shaw Nature Reserve, where they conduct Wilderness Wagon tours for general visitors and for groups.

.....  
*Every picture you take in your head is in perfect focus and at perfect exposure.*

- Scott Avetta

## April 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting - Danny Brown

We look forward to welcoming back **Danny Brown**, who will join us at the April meeting to discuss his approach to photographing Missouri wildlife, including camera gear, camera settings, concealment gear and techniques, getting in the "wildlife zone," and his simple workflow in post-processing.

Danny Brown is a lifelong Missourian who grew up in the Missouri Ozarks. After receiving a Master's in Fisheries and Wildlife at University of Missouri, Danny worked as a biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, for over 23 years. Now, as a freelance wildlife photographer, Danny can be found traipsing through the woods, wetlands, rivers and prairies, looking for natural images to capture with his digital camera.

Danny's photos have been featured on the covers of *Missouri Conservationist*, *Birdwatching*, *Kansas Wildlife and Parks Magazine*, *Outdoor Illinois*, *Big River Magazine* and *Our Mississippi Magazine*. His images have also been featured in *Colorado Outdoors*, *Montana Outdoors*, *National Wildlife*, and *St. Louis Magazine*. Danny's photos are also featured in the *Ducks Unlimited Calendar* and MDC's *Natural Events Calendar* each year. Some of Danny's images can be found in books, as well, including three National Geographic guidebooks to birds.

## MoNEP 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

This year, in honor of the start of our 20<sup>th</sup> year, the MoNEP Board is working on plans for a few special events. Details will be sent out as the plans are solidified. The first of these will be another **Shaw Nature Reserve Sunset Shoot**, on **Friday evening, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. 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 March meeting.** Checks should be made out to MoNEP. We will also accept cash but would appreciate it if members would provide it in the exact amount. Keep an eye on the newsletter, your inbox and the MoNEP website, **www.monep.org**, for announcements about other events as they unfold.

## Volunteers Needed for WBS Event

MoNEP has been asked by the **World Bird Sanctuary** to participate in their Camera Day event at the sanctuary on **May 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 2:00**. We will need three people to help staff our booth, answer questions posed by the public and provide tips on photographing the birds on display. Please contact Don Morice at **314-383-8267** or Bill Lubben at **314-965-2639** for more information or see them at the March meeting.

.....  
*There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.*

- Albert Einstein

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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](http://www.monep.org)***



**CLOSEUP**

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



# CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 20, Number 3

May - June 2015

*Celebrating 20 years capturing the beauty of the outdoors!*

## FEATURES:

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### Editor

Barbara Addelson

## PEOPLE & PLACES

### Holiday Show Submissions

In honor of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MoNEP, we will be preparing a special Holiday Show for 2015. We will use some of the best images from the shows from years past. If you would prefer not to have your images used from previous years, please let **Jerry Miller** know by emailing him at [sirlukeman@yahoo.com](mailto:sirlukeman@yahoo.com). In addition, both new and old members may submit up to 10 of their best nature images for consideration for the show. These submissions are due by **June 1<sup>st</sup>**. They may be brought to the **May 19<sup>th</sup>** meeting on a CD or thumb drive or can be submitted to [share@monep.org](mailto:share@monep.org) in the same manner as one submits Show and Share images. Please see further detailed instructions on **page 3** and visit the Tips section at [www.monep.org](http://www.monep.org).

### MoNEP Polo Shirts

To celebrate MoNEP's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will be placing an order for polo shirts bearing the MoNEP logo. We are offering a couple of options from **Lands' End** and will have samples at the May meeting. There are four colors: burgundy, black, maize and purple and two different cotton weaves. Order forms will be available both at the meeting and online at [www.monep.org](http://www.monep.org). If you are interested in purchasing a shirt, payment must be made with the submission of a completed order form. The cost is **\$35 (\$40 for big and tall)** per shirt, which includes the embroidered logo, sales tax, shipping and handling. The order will be placed after the **June 16<sup>th</sup>** meeting for delivery in July. Thanks to **Pat Burgess** for organizing this sale.

### MoNEP Anniversary Exhibit

MoNEP will have an exhibit at **Art Glass Array Gallery** from mid-June to the beginning of September. The exhibit will feature the images of over 20 MoNEP members. Art Glass Array is located at **501 N. Kingshighway in St. Charles, Missouri**. It is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:30-5, Saturdays from 10-3 and Sundays from 11-3. Their phone number is 636-724-0288.

To prepare the exhibit, organizer **Lori Purk** would like to encourage a few volunteers to join her at her art gallery, **Simpatico** in Clarksville, to help frame the photographs on the weekend of **May 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>**. If you can help, please let Lori know so she can work out a plan and coordinate with all the volunteers. If you are interested in helping, you can contact Lori at [purkyl8r@aol.com](mailto:purkyl8r@aol.com) or **314-869-7427**. Clarksville is a great place to photograph, so take your camera!

### Shaw Sunset Shoot – May 22<sup>nd</sup>

There are still a few spots available for our second **Shaw Nature Reserve Sunset Shoot**, on **Friday evening, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. 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 in cash or a check made out to MoNEP to Barb Addelson at the May meeting.



Scott Avetta



Mark McAmish

## New Members

Welcome to our newest MoNEP members: **Bill Brinkhorst, Robert Christy, Richard Eliker, Karen Girardier, Matt Goffinet, Roberta Hudlow and Maria Sandbothe**. New members should stop by the Membership Desk at the next meeting to receive their MoNEP nametags.

## Member News

The **Alaska Wilderness Society** has created two ads using three of **Richard Spener's** images. In addition, Richard and his wife, **Toni Armstrong**, made a presentation to the over 100 major donors to the College of Agriculture at the University of Missouri in April. They were the guest speakers at the 15th Annual Monticello Society Brunch. They presented *50 Years of Wilderness: Through the Lens of Missouri's 8 Wilderness Areas*.

**Margy and Dan Terpstra's** garden will be one of ten native plant gardens on the **St. Louis Native Plant Garden Tour** on **Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>**. The tour is co-sponsored by **St. Louis Audubon's Bring Conservation Home** program and **St. Louis Wild Ones** and ticket sales benefit both. Tickets to see all ten gardens are \$20 and can be purchased on the sponsor's websites, [www.stlouisaudubon.org](http://www.stlouisaudubon.org) or [www.stlwildones.org](http://www.stlwildones.org). This is a great opportunity for getting ideas for making your own backyard a haven for wildlife.

## March Meeting Recap

**Ann Earley** and **Bob Siemer**, members of **Wild Ones, Missouri** presented at the March meeting on the monarch butterfly. They discussed the monarchs' life cycle, migration, population trends and conservation efforts on behalf of the species.

The monarch's life cycle is very fast. An adult lays eggs solely on milkweed plants. The egg hatches in just four days, and feeds only on milkweed, which is toxic to most animals. The larvae tolerate the milkweed and it, in turn, makes them toxic to birds and other predators. Within a matter of weeks the caterpillars pupate and turn into adults, maintaining their toxicity.

Up until the 1970's no one knew what happened to monarchs in the winter. Researchers discovered great masses of monarchs in the oyamel fir forests, just 60 miles northwest of Mexico City.

The oyamel forests occur at elevations above 10,000 feet. Each year the monarchs leave Mexico in the spring and migrate north to the United States. They breed, lay eggs and die. Each successive generation moves further north until the fourth generation stops reproduction and migrates back to the fir forests of Mexico. It is an amazing journey for an insect that has never been there before.

The monarch population is now in trouble for a range of reasons including pesticides, herbicides and deforestation. Wild Ones encourages the planting of native milkweeds, to support the monarch population. Our thanks to Ann and Bob for a very informative presentation.

## April Meeting Recap

In April **Danny Brown** joined us to talk about his very successful approach to photographing Missouri wildlife. He emphasized that in order to get good wildlife images you need a 300mm lens or longer and a high quality tripod with a ball or gimbal head. A 300mm is good for large animals but is a little short for smaller wildlife, so Danny uses a 500mm lens most of the time. Other items he relies upon to get his images are a Gobbler Lounger, which is like a camouflaged beach chair and some cut leaf camo cover. He drapes

his tripod over his lap and covers it and himself with the camo cloth. He is on site before sunrise so he is settled in and inconspicuous when the animals start getting active.

Danny shoots with a Canon in RAW format and uses the drive mode at 6 frames per second. He uses evaluative metering, or matrix metering in a Nikon. He relies on continuous center point autofocus nearly all the time. He always shoots in aperture priority, and uses auto white balance, which he can adjust in post-processing on the computer.

The night before a shoot Danny makes a plan and prepares his equipment. He emphasized arriving long before you expect the critters to arrive. Make sure you are low to the ground, shooting at the level of the animals, whether they are on the ground or in the water.

Great wildlife photography requires great light. He prefers to shoot at the fringes of the day, when the light is soft and beautiful. He keeps his back to the sun, even on the cloudiest of days. Always make sure the animal's eye is in focus and give them room to move in the frame.

Danny provided many more great tips. He was, as always, a delightful, fun presenter. Many thanks to Danny!





Magnolia Warbler - Margy Terpstra



Patrick Jones

## Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 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 side of the lower level.

## Show and Share Nature Images

**Due: 5/16 for May Meeting and 6/13 for June Meeting**  
**May Theme: New Life**

Members are invited to share up to **five (5) nature-related images** at the upcoming meetings. They do not have to be recent images. We offer themes for those who want some direction, but you may always submit your own subjects or themes. The theme for May is **New Life**. Please follow the instructions on **Uploading Show and Share Images** in the tips section at [monep.org](http://monep.org). Please:

- ❖ 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](http://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, 5/16 or Saturday, 6/13** for the June meeting)

Once you submit your images, you will receive an email within several days from either **Jerry Miller** or **Pat Burgess** confirming that they have received your photographs. If you do not receive a response, 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](mailto:sirlukeman@yahoo.com). Pat can be reached at **314-592-8653** or at [wpb691@gmail.com](mailto:wpb691@gmail.com).

## Holiday Show Instructions

Members may submit up to 10 images for the holiday show by June 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, we are seeking images of MoNEP members in the field or at events. These do not count towards your limit of 10 nature images. Members who have submitted in the past should only turn in images that have not been submitted in prior years. See Page 1 for how to submit

### 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 10 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 JaneSmithIMG59. No text should appear on any images.

## Holiday Show Instructions Continued

### 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. Instructions on resizing your images in Photoshop or Lightroom are at [www.monep.org/tips.html](http://www.monep.org/tips.html).

### Tips for submissions

1. Submit 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 10, as you can.
3. Consider Including images from all seasons.
4. Only submit images you have not submitted in the past.
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.

## June 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting: George Yatskievych

Botanist **Dr. George Yatskievych** will present *Ferns of Missouri* at our June meeting. The pteridophytes (ferns and other vascular plants that reproduce by spores rather than flowers and seeds) are an important component of most plant communities in Missouri, even aquatic communities and hot, dry places like glades. Although the majority of the approximately 13,000 fern species and their allies grow in the tropics, Missouri is currently home to about 65 of these plants. Their life cycles differ from those of flowering plants in that there are two completely independent phases in the life history; a moss-like gametophyte generation that produces sex organs and the larger more typical, spore-bearing sporophytes or fern leaves. Unlike flowering plants, identification of ferns relies mainly on leaf features. This lack of showy flowers and the fact that most ferns have underground stems makes them subtle and difficult subjects for interesting photographs. We will explore the major groups of Missouri pteridophytes and discuss their features, life cycles and habitats.

Dr. Yatskievych is a botanist and curator at the Missouri Botanical Garden. His main research has centered on the flora of Missouri, which has resulted in the publication of the authoritative three-volume encyclopedia of the state's plant life, *Steyermark's Flora of Missouri*. In the course of this work, George has traveled widely in the state and had the pleasure of experiencing many of the wonderful places in Missouri to study and photograph unusual plants. George and his wife, Kay, are never happier than when they are able to hike into the wilds to hunt for various plants with their dog, Bear. As a plant systematist, George's specialties revolve mainly around taxonomic studies of certain groups of ferns and parasitic flowering plants, which has provided an excuse for foreign travels to other museums and field sites.

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St. Louis, MO 63121

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# CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 20, Number 4

July-August 2015

*Celebrating 20 years capturing the beauty of the outdoors!*

## FEATURES:

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### Editor

Barbara Addelson

### Contributors

Lori Purk

## PEOPLE & PLACES

### MoNEP Anniversary Exhibit

The MoNEP 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit, consisting of 25 works from our members, is now on display at **Gallery 501 at Art Glass Array** in St. Charles. The exhibit features a variety of subject matter from a cross section of our membership. All of the work, from the newest to founding members alike, expresses the artistic point of view of the person behind the lens. The photographers have shown through these diverse images how much they enjoy capturing the beauty, color and patterns of the special places, plants and creatures that have caught their eye. The board is happy that many members were able to participate and experience showing their work in a gallery setting in celebration of our 20<sup>th</sup> year. We would like to thank all of the members who submitted work, as well as the board and committee members who helped select images, framed and then installed the exhibit.

The exhibit will be on display through the first week of September. *Art Glass Array* is located at **501 N. Kingshighway in St. Charles, Missouri, 63301**. The renovated building has housed three generations of entrepreneur's from Lisa Becker's family. Formerly Ralph's Auto Supply, run by her father and grandfather, the downstairs studio is now an education center for kiln-formed glass. Artists and hobbyists alike can work in a fun environment to learn or strengthen the skills needed for art glass creation. *Gallery 501* is located on the upper level of *Art Glass Array*. The gallery features an eclectic mix of handmade artwork from local and national artists. Our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit looks great alongside the other colorful pieces Lisa has on display. The gallery is open **Tuesdays - Fridays 9:30 am to 5 pm, Saturdays 10 am - 3 pm and Sunday 11 am - 3 pm**. The gallery is closed on Mondays. For more information, visit [www.artglassarray.com](http://www.artglassarray.com) or call **636-724-0288**.



Scott Evers



Rheba Symeonoglou

An Opening Reception for the exhibit will be held on **Saturday, July 25** from **12:30 pm to 2:30 pm** upstairs in Gallery 501. Light snacks, wine and cheese will be available and there will be an opportunity to view the exhibit and discuss the work with the photographers. Bring your family or friends and come by to see this beautiful space that also features many other fascinating types of art. We would like to thank **Lisa Becker**, the owner of *Art Glass Array* for her generosity in hosting the exhibit and the opening reception.



Filigree

Jerry Miller

## New Members

Welcome to our newest MoNEP members: **Robert Charity**, **Dan Dreyfus** and **Leonard Luckett**. New members should stop by the Membership Desk at the next meeting to receive their MoNEP nametags.

## Member News

**Jim Campbell's** work was honored in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' **2014 MissouriDNR40 Photo Contest**. His image, **Sandy Creek Bridge in Winter** won 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and **Sandy Creek Cathedral of Trees** received an honorable mention in the category Special Places. There were two other categories: People and the Environment and Natural Resources. Congratulations, Jim. To see Jim's images and those of other winners, visit: <http://dnr.mo.gov/40/photocontest/>.

## May Meeting Recap

**Richard Spener and Toni Armstrong** were real troopers when they agreed to fill in for our scheduled speaker, who had a family emergency, just days before the May meeting. We thank them for their flexibility and willingness to dive right in and save the day.

They talked about and showed images from their exhibit, **50 Years of Wilderness through the Lens of Missouri's 8 Wilderness Areas**. The exhibit was conceived in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and covers the eight federally owned wilderness areas found in Missouri. Richard and Toni started shooting in October 2012, and systematically visited each area during the following two years. They hiked, kayaked and canoed in all eight of these multiuse areas, seven of which are in the Ozarks National Forest. Each of the areas is unique in terms of its size, the habitats and the flora and fauna found there.

The areas are: Bell Mountain Wildenrenns, Hercules Glade, Irish Wilderness, Devils' Backbone, Paddy Creek, Piney Creek, Rockpile Mountain and Mingo Wilderness.

The Eleven-Point River flows along the edge of the Irish Wilderness and the North Fork River flows through Devil's Backbone for 1.5 miles. Some of the sites have networks of hiking trails, such as Hercules Glade and Devil's Backbone and Paddy Creek. Others, like Mingo, are best accessed by

canoe. All have plentiful wildlife and lots to photograph. For more information on each area, visit [www.wilderness.net](http://www.wilderness.net). Thank you to Richard and Toni for showing us these wonderful gems and for their efforts to protect seven more areas in our state.

## June Meeting Recap

June's meeting featured **Dr. George Yatskievych**, a botanist at the Missouri Botanical Garden. He shared some of his vast knowledge about ferns with us. Although beautiful, ferns can be a challenge to photograph.

Ferns are fascinating plants. They have vascular tissue, which allows them to move water, and sugar from photosynthesis about the plant. However, they are unlike flowering plants in that they do not produce seeds, but rather spores for reproduction. They also experience a distinct alternation of generations. Ferns have two different life stages, each stage forming a separate and very different plant. One plant is what we view as a typical leafy fern. The other is more like a small moss plant, only ¼ to ½ inch in diameter. George took us on a visual tour of some of the beautiful native ferns within a variety of taxonomic groups of Missouri. Many thanks to George for sharing his knowledge of these lovely plants.

## MoNEP Polo Shirts

The 20th anniversary MoNEP polo shirts have been ordered and should be here in time to be distributed at the July 21st meeting. Stop at the table by the membership desk and pick up your shirts before or after the meeting, or during the break.

## MoNEP Anniversary Picnic

Join us as we celebrate MoNEP's 20<sup>th</sup> year with a picnic on **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will gather from **3:00 - 7:00 pm** at **The Adlyne Freund Center at Shaw Nature Reserve**. We will order barbecue for the group, so there will be a small fee to supplement the purchase of the main course. The cost is yet to be determined. Members will be asked to bring along a side dish or dessert to share, as well as their own beverages, blankets or chairs.

In addition to socializing, there will be ample opportunities to photograph around the wetlands, and to capture sunset from the prairie. We are also working with the World Bird Sanctuary to schedule a raptor release.

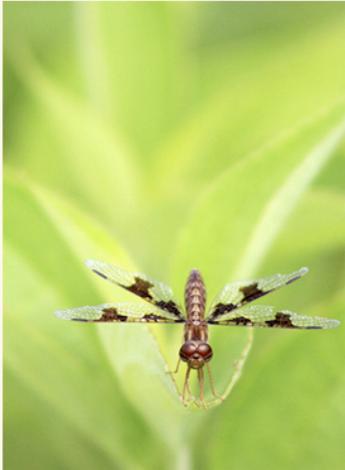
We will keep you posted as the details are finalized, and will request RSVP's and payment for the meal before the event. We will also provide maps and directions to this secluded building at the east end of the Nature Reserve.



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



Norma Mull



Christy Lonero

## Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

**Tuesday, July 21st from 7:00 to 9:00 pm**

**Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> 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

**Due: 7/18 for July Meeting and 8/15 for August**

Members are invited to share up to **five (5) nature-related images** at the upcoming meetings. They do not have to be recent images. Occasionally, we offer themes for those who want some direction, but you may always submit your own subjects or themes. 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 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, 7/18** for July or **Saturday, 8/15** for the August meeting)

Once you submit your images, you will receive an email within several days from either **Jerry Miller** or **Pat Burgess** confirming that they have received your photographs. If you do not receive a response, 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 at **wpb691@gmail.com**.

## July Meeting – Jeff Hirsch

Join us at the **July 21<sup>st</sup>** meeting when **Jeff Hirsch** will present on **High Dynamic Range** also known as **HDR**. A camera can only capture five stops of light in one image. Our eyes see about 11 stops of light. HDR processing of photographs is a way to have the camera capture the range of light that our eyes can see. So much HDR work being produced looks over-processed and unnatural. Jeff will explain how to take and process HDR images so they are essentially what we would see with our eyes.

Jeff Hirsch is a photographer and photo-educator with over 25 years of experience in the field of digital imaging and graphic design. An expert in "geek-to-english" translation and an Adobe Certified Expert in Lightroom and Photoshop, he teaches photography and photo workflow to individuals and groups. He and his wife Donna Parrone lead week-long photo-travel workshops that combine beautiful shooting locations and accommodations

with a full Lightroom Fundamentals course. Upcoming workshops include Colorado in October and The Outer Banks next spring.

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. An associate said that "... he has the eye to sometimes awe, sometimes astonish, often delight and always provoke the imagination." To learn more, visit Jeff's educational website at **www.jeffhirsch.com** and view examples of his photography at **www.flickr.com/photos/heff/sets**.

## August Meeting – Noppadol Paothong

**Noppadol Paothong** will be the speaker at the **August 18<sup>th</sup>** meeting. Nop is a staff photographer for the **Missouri Department of Conservation**, photographing nature for MDC's monthly magazine, **Missouri Conservationist** and various other MDC publications. He has won more than 60 regional and national awards, including the National Wildlife Federation photo contest, an Award of Excellence in Picture of the Year International, first place in the Outdoor Writers Association of America photo contest, Mark of Excellence by the Society of Professional Journalists, and Picture of the Year by Associated Collegiate Press three years in a row.

In addition to his photography for MDC, Nop spent a decade photographing the seven species of American grassland grouse. The result of this study was his stunning book **Save the Last Dance – A Story of North American Grassland Grouse**. It features amazing images and information on the lives and plight of the grouse species that inhabit our plains and prairies.

Nop's program will focus on insider tips and techniques that he typically uses in the field. He will also talk about his favorite images and the progression he used to make them. He will explain why he likes the final results. There will be series and stories along the way. Nop will discuss why it is important to continue to shoot different views of the same subject. If you have not heard him speak before, he is delightful and funny and, although he's a very serious photographer, he never takes himself too seriously! For more information on Noppadol Paothong and to view his work, visit **www.nopnatureimages.com**.



## July Field Trip

This month's field trip will be on **Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>** at the **Missouri Botanical Garden**. The group will meet at the Garden at **6:45 am**. We will send further details prior to the date. If you have questions, please contact **Randy Hunter** at **314-329-6887**.

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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](http://www.monep.org)***



**CLOSEUP**

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



# CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 20, Number 5

September - October 2015

*Celebrating 20 years capturing the beauty of the outdoors!*

## FEATURES:

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### Editor

Barbara Addelson

### Contributors

Scott Avetta

Kathy Cherry

Lori Purk

## PEOPLE & PLACES

### MoNEP Anniversary Picnic

Join us on **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** to celebrate MoNEP's 20<sup>th</sup> year with a potluck picnic. We will gather from **3:00 - 7:00 pm** at **The Adlyne Freund Center** at **Shaw Nature Reserve**. Maps and directions will be provided. Please bring along your family and friends, but remember to **register yourself and your guests at the September meeting**.

There is a fee of **\$5 per person** to help offset some of the costs for the picnic. MoNEP will order barbecue pulled chicken, pork and buns for the group. We ask that members sign up to bring along a side dish or dessert to share, as well as their own beverages, blankets or chairs.

Although we will have paper plates and plastic cutlery on hand, we are going to try to make this event as green as possible. In that spirit, if you can bring your own reusable plates, silverware and napkins that will help to greatly reduce the amount of waste we create.

If you won't be at the September meeting, you can register for the event by sending a check, **made out to MoNEP**, to Barb Addelson at 718 Yolanda Ct., St. Louis, MO 63126. Please indicate the number of people in your party and whether you will bring a side dish or dessert.

Don't forget your cameras. The wetlands and prairie are nearby. We are also working with the World Bird Sanctuary to schedule a raptor release.

If you have questions, call Barb at 314-962-8972. We hope you will join us!

### MoNEP Fall Photo Trip

Member **Scott Evers** will be leading a MoNEP overnight photo trip to the **Cache River State Natural Area** the weekend of **October 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>** in Southern Illinois, about 2.5 hours south of St. Louis.

The Cache River Natural Area is known for its extensive wetlands, specifically its majestic cypress swamps. Some of the giant bald cypress trees are thought to be a thousand years old. This pristine area of nearly 15,000 acres is particularly important to migrating waterfowl and shorebirds and is designated as a Wetland of International Importance.

Scott has reserved a block of rooms at the **Super 8 Motel in Metropolis, Illinois** under his name. Their number is **618-524-8200**. They will be held until the first week of October. You can reserve one or both nights, and the group rate is \$57.79 per night. To book a room, contact the hotel and transfer a room to your name and credit card.

If you have any questions or you make a reservation, please contact Scott at **scottevers7@yahoo.com** or by phone at **618-781-3125**.



Larry Morrison



Scott Evers

## New Members

Welcome to our newest MoNEP members, **Steve and Roseanne Cox** and **Michael Daft**.

## Member News

**Michael Abbene** will be co-leading a class with Ray Meibaum, StZoo Magazine contributing photographer on **Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** at the Saint Louis Zoo. **Digital Zootography** will go from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. Space is limited but if you are interested in attending, call 314-646-4544 and select option 6 for registration information.

**Betsy Litton** has a photograph in the exhibit **Media Matters**, a juried mixed media show at **The Foundry Art Centre** in St. Charles. She is one of 57 artists from 23 states and Canada. Betsy would love to invite all MoNEP members to join her at the opening on **September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6-8 pm**. The Foundry is located at 520 N. Main Center, St. Charles 63301. The exhibit is on display until October 16<sup>th</sup>.

## July Meeting Recap

**Jeff Hirsch** gave an overview of **High Dynamic Range (HDR) Photography**, with an emphasis on capturing and processing natural looking HDR images. As photographers, we face a challenge in that our eyes see a wider range of light than our camera sensors do. HDR is a technique for capturing the range of light we see in an image. In HDR we take and combine multiple camera exposures of the same subject at different light levels and combine them so the final image shows the highlights, mid-tones and shadows in the way that our eyes view the scene. When is a good time to use HDR? Any time or place where there is a wide disparity between the lightest thing you can see and the darkest is right for HDR such as scenes that mix bright sunlight and shade.

HDR has a bad reputation because it is often overdone and images can be made that are very unreal. With practice you can make an HDR image that portrays what your eyes see.

Jeff emphasized learning the basics and then getting creative. You need a camera that can shoot bracketed exposures (auto-bracketing). You also need good HDR software. Jeff likes NIK HDR Efex Pro 2 and Photoshop CS5 or higher. To learn more about what you

need to do to create HDR images, visit the Tips section at [www.monep.org](http://www.monep.org). Thanks to Jeff for his usual great job of translating technical concepts for those of us who don't speak Geek!

## August Meeting Recap

Noppadol Paothong focused on Nature in Perspective at the August meeting. Nop said there is a lot of art in nature: color, line and form. He discussed the qualities of different lighting and their strengths and weaknesses and how light impacts the mood and colors of images. He showed some images where he employed artificial light from flash units and flashlights.

Nop reviewed some of the basic factors of photography, such as depth of field, exposure and focus. He talked about depth of field and encouraged us to take the same image at different depths of field with our different lenses to be able to internalize their impact on a photo. He also discussed the pitfalls of using autofocus with complex scenes such as grasses or falling snow and advocated using manual focus in such busy situations.

Nop talked about composition. He advocated shooting the same subject from different perspectives, shooting at eye level and trying to connect with the subject. He showed some

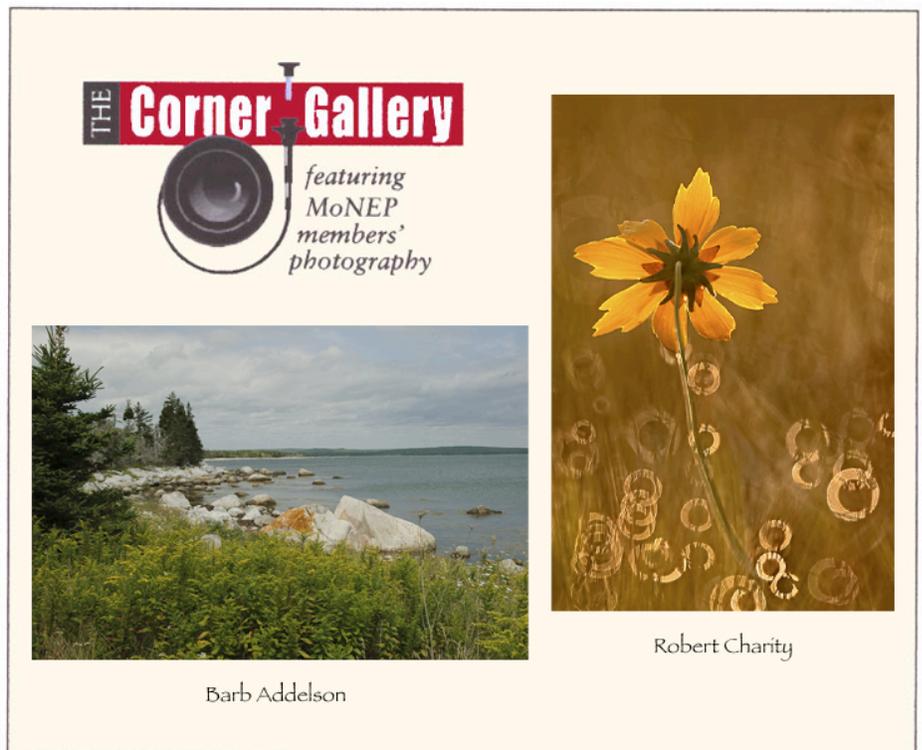
wonderful examples of different ways to approach the same subject, working it until you get that connection.

Finally, Nop shared some of his favorite images and explained how he shot them and why they worked for him. He expressed how important it is to have a passion for your subject and to show your connection to it. As always, Nop was both delightful and inspirational! Many thanks, Nop.

## MoNEP Exhibit

The MoNEP exhibit is being moved to **The Green Center** on September 18<sup>th</sup> and will be on display there through November 12<sup>th</sup>. An opening reception will be held on **Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6 to 7:30 p.m.** The address is: **8025 Blackberry Ave. University City, 63130**. For more information about hours to view the exhibit, you can call the Green Center at 314-725-8314 or visit [thegreencenter.org](http://thegreencenter.org).

We would like to thank Scott Avetta, Lisa Becker of Art Glass Array, Michelle Jones, Christy Lonero, Don Morice, Lori Purk, The Green Center and Rick Walters for their help in putting together the two exhibits and their opening events. Lori Purk would like to thank the board for their support of this exhibit and all of the photographers who participated.



# MEETINGS programs

## Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

**Tuesday, September 15th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm**

**Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> 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

**Due: 9/12 for September Meeting; 10/17 for October**

Members are invited to share up to **five (5) nature-related images** at the upcoming meetings. They do not have to be recent images. Occasionally, we offer themes for those who want some direction, but you may always submit your own subjects or themes. 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 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, 9/12** for September or **Saturday, 10/17** for October)

Once you submit your images, you will receive an email within several days from either **Jerry Miller** or **Pat Burgess** confirming that they have received your photographs. If you do not receive a response, 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 at **wpb691@gmail.com**.

## September Meeting:

### Wayne Drda and Joshua Higgins

Dr. Wayne Drda and Joshua Higgins will present on their PitViper Research Project. Pit vipers are a group of venomous snakes found in the Americas, Europe and Asia. They include several species found in Missouri including the copperhead, cottonmouth and timber rattlesnake. All pit vipers are characterized by having a heat-sensing pit located between the eyes and nostrils, which aids the vipers in locating prey. They are fascinating, and often-beautiful creatures. Dr. Drda and Joshua Higgins have been researching and photographing for over 15 years. They will explain the basics of their research and share images representing behavior not commonly seen in the wild. The majority of their research has occurred in St. Louis County.

Wayne J. Drda has a doctorate in Chemical Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis. He has worked

for several chemical companies and has taught Science and Mathematics for many years. After retiring from teaching in 1998 he established, and is the field manager for, the PitViper Research Project, which has been sponsored by the Tyson Research Center, The St. Louis Zoo and, currently, by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Joshua D. Higgins is a student at the University of Missouri – St. Louis working towards a baccalaureate in Biology. At present he serves on the Board of Directors for both the St. Louis Herpetological Society and the Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis. For the past four years he has worked at Fahr Greenhouses in St. Albans, Missouri. His involvement in the PitViper Research Project began in 2008 and focuses primarily on Osage Copperheads.

## October Meeting: Ted McCrae

In October, Entomologist **Ted MacRae** will present **Flash Lighting Techniques for use with Close-up and Macro photography**. Photographing small subjects such as insects and wildflowers at close distance can be challenging because natural light is often insufficient to properly illuminate the subject. We can address this challenge by using wider apertures, slower shutter speeds or increased ISO settings. However, each of these techniques has drawbacks. Flash can be used to light small subjects in close-up and macro photography and can increase depth of field, avoid motion blur, and minimize noise. However, the technique is not without its own suite of challenges. Ted will discuss how he uses flash to achieve photographs of insects and other natural history subjects in their native habitats that would be difficult or impossible without the use of supplemental lighting. He will also discuss diffusion techniques that can greatly improve the quality of lighting and will briefly touch on more creative uses of flash such as combining flash with ambient background light.

Ted is a Senior Research Entomologist and Science Fellow at Monsanto Company where he has researched and helped develop alternatives to insecticides. Ted's hobby is insect taxonomy, especially beetles. His early research focused on several beetle families within Missouri. Recently he has documented distribution and host plant associations of beetles in both North and South America. Ted has published numerous journal, magazine and newsletter articles. He serves as Editor of two entomology journals and *Nature Notes*, the newsletter of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society. He blogs about life as a field entomologist at *Beetles in the Bush*.

## August Field Trip Recap:

A small group of MoNEP members attended the August field trip at the Green Center. Skies were overcast and temperatures were cooler than normal with a breeze that made shooting a little challenging. The focus was on botanical subjects with fairly wide-open apertures. Afterwards, we discussed the importance of getting out and photographing, even if conditions are not perfect. Visiting a place can give you great information on the area for future trips. Shooting in tough conditions can really expand your photographic skills and keep you fresh.

<b>OFFICERS &amp; BOARD MEMBERS</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER SUPPORT</b>	<b>MISSION STATEMENT</b>
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**Visit our web-site at [www.monep.org](http://www.monep.org)**

MoNEP  
45 Bellerive Acres  
St Louis, MO 63121





# CLOSEUP

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 20, Number 6

November - December 2015

*Celebrating 20 years capturing the beauty of the outdoors!*

## FEATURES:

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### Editor

Barbara Addelson

### Contributors

Kathy Cherry

## PEOPLE & PLACES

### MoNEP Holiday Show

The **2015 MoNEP Holiday Show** and party will be held on **Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**, starting at **6:30 p.m.** at **Powder Valley Nature Center** in Kirkwood. Powder Valley Nature Center is located at **11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, Missouri, 63122.**

This annual event is a nice opportunity to socialize with other MoNEP members. Family and friends are invited to attend.

#### Presentation:

The highlight of the evening is a fabulous digital presentation of members' images commemorating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. **Jerry Miller** and **Pat Burgess** have been hard at work selecting images from past holiday shows and setting them to music. The show will begin at about 7:30.

#### Refreshments:

We 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.

#### 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 in celebrating the season and MoNEP's 20<sup>th</sup>!

### 2016 Membership Renewals

MoNEP membership runs from January through December each year, so it is time for all members to renew! For 2016 membership fees will increase for the first time in the organization's history. **Dues are being raised five dollars to \$30 per person and \$40 for a household of up to four.** There are two ways to renew your membership:

1. You can submit dues with your completed form at the membership desk during the November and January meetings. (We will not be collecting membership forms or payment during the holiday show in December.) 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 change.

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.

We are unable to accept payment by credit or debit cards. If you have questions, contact Michelle Jones at **314-496-7616** or by email at **michelle@mmjones.us**.

NOTE: We are working on reactivating online renewals via PayPal. We will send out an email notice once the PayPal option is up and running.



Dug Threewitt



Ken Biddle



Dug Threewitt

## Member News

**Richard Spener's** photo of an Ozark spring was the winner of the **Missouri Nature Conservancy's Why I Love Missouri Nature** photo contest! The spring is Boze Mill Spring along the Eleven Point River in Missouri's Irish Wilderness Area. Well done, Richard!

## September Meeting Recap

Dr. Wayne Drda and Joshua Higgins presented on their PitViper Research Project, which started in 1999. Eastern Missouri is home to three species of pit vipers, including the copperhead, cottonmouth and timber rattlesnake.

In 2000, they started putting transmitters on snakes found in St. Louis County, and tracked 57 rattlers, 36 copperheads and 3 cottonmouths. They accumulated a great deal of data on the animals, first carefully capturing them and then measuring and weighing them and counting their scales. They use a clear plastic tube to handle the snakes safely. Then they have a vet surgically insert a transmitter into the snakes, which allows them to track the animals' movements.

In the case of the timber rattlesnake, they discovered that the snakes in St. Louis County are mostly found along power line cuts, trails and in fields, rather than in forests, as their name implies. Males move around large areas and can travel up to one mile in a day, mostly in search of females with which to breed. Females, on the other hand, move about much less than do the males. Females give birth to live-born young in the fall. The rattlers produce litters of six to nine snakes. Once the young are born, they are on their own. After giving birth, the females consume one more meal before hibernating. Missouri snakes hibernate with other snakes in underground hibernacula during the winter.

We thank Dr. Drda and Joshua for a fascinating presentation and for their great commitment to studying these native Missouri reptiles.

## October Meeting Recap

Entomologist **Ted MacRae** presented *Flash Lighting Techniques for use with Close-up and Macro photography* at the October meeting.

Ted talked about why he uses flash, the challenges and opportunities that flash presents, how to diffuse the flash, and

ways to avoid cluttered backgrounds in macrophotography.

Although one doesn't always need flash for insects, it can certainly help for taking otherwise difficult images. Flash helps bring out the fine details, such as the facets of eyes and small scales on insects. It freezes motion on subjects that don't often stay still, and it can allow colors to pop.

Ted uses a macro twin light flash, although he did say after the meeting that a single flash with a good diffuser would work as well. His lenses include a 17-85 mm zoom lens, a 65 mm 1x-5x Macro and a 100 mm Macro lens. He also uses 12mm, 20mm and 36mm extension tubes to allow for closer focus. His 100 mm lens is his workhorse lens, with a 1:1 ratio. When he uses the extension tubes with the 100 mm he gets a higher ratio.

Ted documented his efforts to diffuse the reflections of his twin flashes on his subjects. His aim was to spread out and soften the light source, so he has worked hard experimenting to create a double diffusion layer. He currently uses a set up he designed with two sheets of vellum paper, Bic pens and wires, and he has greatly reduced the highlights created by the flashes in his images.

Ted also discussed ways to reduce

cluttered backgrounds, opting for black backgrounds created by the use of flash, or using blue, cloudy or sunset colored skies to create a smoother background. He also holds insects on a leaf or flower to provide a colorful, solid background.

As many of our speakers do, Ted stressed how learning as much as you can about your subject helps you take better photographs. He also emphasized patience saying, "Even an active insect stops at some point." Thank you, Ted for another great presentation and wonderful images.

## MoNEP Exhibit

The MoNEP exhibit, which is currently up at **The Green Center** in University City, will be taken down on **November 12<sup>th</sup>**. Our Community Outreach co-chair, **Lori Purk**, will bring the exhibit photographs to the MoNEP meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>. If you have an image in the exhibit, please be sure to pick it up at the November MoNEP meeting or make arrangements for someone else to collect your image.

The MoNEP Board would like to thank Lori for all her hard work organizing the exhibit including curating it, framing some of the images, moving it to and mounting it in two locations. We really appreciate all she does to make MoNEP shine!



# MEETINGS & programs

## Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

**Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 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

**Due: 11/14 for November 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

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## November Meeting:

The November meeting will feature St. Louis-based photographer **Stewart Halperin**, who will talk about ***The Importance of Context in Photography***. In this time of amazingly sharp long lenses, we have a tendency to shoot tight. We are all attracted to the inside of a rose or the amazing close up of a Leopard's luminous eyes. We often fill the camera frame with our subject. The results may be spectacular, but how can you tell whether an image of a lion was taken at the local zoo or on the Serengeti? Sharing examples from his own portfolio of nature images, Stewart will discuss the importance of giving the viewer a sense of place. He doesn't dismiss the beauty of tight images, but advocates doing both, and will show how to create images in nature that also highlight the stage or environment of your subject.

For over 45 years, Stewart has traveled the world with his cameras, covering over 95 countries and six continents. Although his early beginnings were in the rain forests of East Africa working with Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey,

## November Meeting continued

his work has grown to include almost any subject. "I cannot imagine one week shooting chimps in Tanzania and the next being in New York and saying I don't photograph New York. I see images everywhere around me. I love folks who specialize, but that isn't me." Stewart collaborated with renowned photographer Ernst Haas, a pioneer of color photography. Their collaboration and friendship greatly influenced Stewart's work.

As a professional, Stewart has traveled the globe working on projects for an array of major companies. More recently he has focused his attention on his fine art prints, and travels extensively, leading workshops in places such as New Zealand, Venice, Cambodia and Cuba. He has been instrumental in bringing great photographers to St. Louis as part of the Shaw Photography Series, among them Jim Brandenburg and Sam Abell to give talks and lead workshops locally. Stewart, himself, was featured in the Summer 2012 issue of **Nikon World**, which you can find on his website [www.halperinphoto.com](http://www.halperinphoto.com).



© Stewart Halperin

## Cache River Trip Recap:

Thanks to **Kathy Cherry** for this report: We had such a fun, yet wet time over the weekend trip. There were about 20 people who attended. Some arrived early on Friday and scoped out the place. That evening we met in the hotel lobby and **Scott Evers** gave us information on the area with suggestions of where to shoot. Then the group went to Fat Ed's Restaurant in Metropolis for dinner.

One of the places we photographed was at Mermet Lake. Some folks got some nice sunset shots on Friday night when the sun peeked through the clouds long enough to give some color to the sky. However, sunrise color was nonexistent on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The lake was host to a few fishing great blue herons. There were also a couple of turkeys and various ducks. There were cypress trees and a lot of picturesque lotus in the lake.

We spent the majority of Saturday at the Cache River Natural Area. Members went their own ways and the popular sites seemed to be Heron Pond, the lower Cache River area, and Big Cypress Access, which boasts a bald cypress older than 1,000 years with a base circumference of more than 40 feet. It rained on and off all day on Saturday. Even though it may have dampened our spirits a bit, the rain provided some beautiful saturation of the leaves and tree trunks. After lunch and some naps, we gathered at the local Mexican restaurant for a good dinner and shared stories of the day.

All in all, everyone had a good time and enjoyed exploring and photographing this beautiful area. I think we'd all go back again - in better weather. A huge thanks goes to Scott Evers for organizing the trip. He did a great job!

<b>OFFICERS &amp; BOARD MEMBERS</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER SUPPORT</b>	<b>MISSION STATEMENT</b>
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