



CLOSE-UP

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MoNEP News

MoNEP Seminar – September 17, 2016

MoNEP will host its biennial seminar on Saturday, September 17th. Our presenter will be Roman Kurywczak. Roman has been photographing nature for over 30 years. His original focus was on landscape photography, but he has expanded his areas of expertise to include macro, birds and wildlife, and night sky photography. He is a member of the Sigma Pro Team. To learn more about Roman and see his images visit his website, roaminwithroman.com.

The seminar will be held at The Ethical Society from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The registration fee is \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members. Lunch from Honey-baked Ham is included with registration. Registration forms will be available in the near future and both at upcoming MoNEP meetings and on our website at www.monep.org.



Image by Roman Kurywczak

Shaw Nature Reserve Sunset Shoot - Friday evening, May 27th Pre-Registration Required

We are once again offering an early evening/sunset shoot at Shaw Nature Reserve. This year we will base our event at the Carriage House behind the Bascom House. This will enable us to shoot in the Whitmire Wildflower Garden, which provides a multitude of settings including planted native habitats and water features. Wine and cheese and other refreshments will be provided. Space is limited and there is a fee of \$15 per person to cover the Nature Reserve's expenses. To register, please give your name and payment to Barb Addelson at the May meeting or contact Barb at baddelson@sbcglobal.net to hold a spot and arrange for payment. Checks should be made out to MoNEP. We will also accept cash, but would appreciate it if members would provide cash payment in the exact amount. Further details, including a map, the start time, and what to bring will be sent to registered participants.



Image by Fran Mannis

Shaw Nature Reserve Youth Photo Contest

Shaw Nature Reserve, with help from MoNEP, is once again holding a free photo contest for children ages 14 and under. All photos must be taken at the Reserve between April 1-June 30 and prizes will be awarded to the top three in each category of four categories:

1. Flora – any plant found at the Nature Reserve
2. Wildlife – amphibian, reptile, birds or mammals
3. Miniature World of Nature – insects, spiders, mosses, etc.
4. Vista – a long distance view or landscape image.

Images must be submitted at the Nature Reserve Visitor Center by 4:30 pm on Thursday, June 30th. Judging will be based on subject, composition, creativity and difficulty. Judging will be completed and winners will be notified by August 1st. Contest photographs will be placed on exhibit by August 1st and will be exhibited until September 30th. For contest rules and entry forms visit: www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/visit/family-of-attractions/shaw-nature-reserve.aspx

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

Rich Merz, Christy Lonero, Sarah Radke, Dick Roman, Mark McAmish, Chuck Mannis, Ed MacKay, Patrick Jones, Yvonne Ping, Butch Lama, Leona Gerdes, Richard Spener

Members and Membership

New Members

Welcome to the following new MoNEP members: **Mary Garrecht** and **Patrick Kelly**.

Member News

Scott Evers recently participated in the Studio Altius "Seen 9" photo competition. He won the travel category with his Portland Head lighthouse photo and was then named Photographer of the Year for having the highest combined scoring from all the judges on his images in the show. Studio Altius is located in the Hanley Industrial Complex in Brentwood. Scott also had three images accepted into the Great Mississippi River Shootout. Visit www.facebook.com/MississippiRiverPhotoShootOut/?fref=nf for more information on the Shootout.



Image Scott Evers
Photography on Facebook

Dick Roman's close up of a cactus in black and white has been honored as an All Time Editor's Pick and is on its way to potentially becoming an All Time Winner at BetterPhoto.com. The photo can be seen at www.betterphoto.com/gallery/dynoGallDetail.asp?photoID=14370747&cn=&catID=&rowNumber=1&sortBy=Love&contestCatID=&camID=&mem4gall=0&favMemID=463746&Favpt=myFpics



Image by Dug Threewitt

Richard Spener's image of a bison from Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota is once again making the rounds. It is currently being featured on a U.S. National Park Service website at www.nps.gov/features/wilderness/interactivewebfeature/files/

Dug Threewitt's image of a bald eagle won 2nd in the wildlife category of the Mississippi River Photo Shootout. You can see his image at <http://mississippiriverphotoshootout.com/>.

MoNEP member and this year's MoNEP/UMSL scholarship recipient, **Sage Rohrer**, is undertaking a summer internship at Riverlands Audubon Society doing bird counts on islands in the Mississippi.



Image by Dick Roman

Resources

Mark McAmish shared a wonderful website of National Park Maps: <http://npsmaps.com>.

MoNEP Meetings

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Dates: *Tuesday, May 17th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm*
Tuesday, June 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

No Show and Share for May Meeting
Due 6/18 for 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. 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, June 18th.

Once you submit your images, you will receive an email within several days from either Jerry Miller or Pat Burgess

May 17th Meeting:

Join us on May 17th as we hear from four of our own members. We will also provide refreshments after the presentations and time for members to socialize. We will not have Show & Share at the May meeting.

- **Patrick Jones** will present *Twelve Hours of Sanibel Photography* and will discuss how he photographed nature during his family's late morning sleep-ins, shell collecting expeditions and pointless board games.
- **Jim Rhodes** will present *The Photography of Eliot Porter*, an overview and discussion of one of our most noted landscape and nature photographers. Porter was born in 1901 to a modestly affluent family on the outskirts of Chicago and he went on to study medicine at Harvard. Porter was an avid birder and eventually he decided to become a professional photographer and gave up medicine. Alfred Stieglitz befriended Porter who provided encouragement, as did Ansel Adams. He was one of the first serious nature photographers to work in color and over the years he travelled to many parts of the world and published nearly thirty books of his photographs. Porter also served on the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club between 1965 and 1971. Jim will present an overview of Eliot Porter's career and also show some of his photographs.
- **Dick Roman** will be presenting *Herpetology*. His program will feature images, and information about how he captured them, of frogs, salamanders, alligators, lizards, turtles and snakes. The photos he will share have been made in the wild and in many controlled, flash-lit, classes and seminars.
- **Richard Spener** will present *The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Our last true wilderness from the mountains to the Arctic Ocean*. In addition to his stunning images of this vast wilderness, Richard will share ways we can advocate that the government do everything possible to protect this special place.



Image by Patrick Jones



Image by Dick Roman

June 21st Meeting:

Join us at the June meeting to learn about *Glades of Missouri - Nature's Gems* from presenter **Carol Gravens**. Missouri is home to more glades than any other state. These dry, rocky, thin soil natural areas occur on south-facing hillsides. They support a rich diversity of plant and animal life that occurs nowhere else. Through pictures, this talk explores the nature and history of Missouri glades, focusing on the magnificent plants and unique animals that exist in this environment.

Carol Gravens is a St. Louis Advanced Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, and Plant Doctor. She retired from a professional career as a microbiologist and completed a degree in Horticulture in 2013. She was chosen 2013 Master Gardener of the Year. As a member of the Master Gardener Speakers' Bureau she gives nature talks, as well as talks on orchids. She is an avid gardener, grows orchids as a hobby, and hikes Missouri natural areas one day each week. Her camera is always with her on her hikes and she takes her own photos for her talks. She loves everything about nature and has a special passion for plants.

April Meeting Recap

In April, we had the pleasure of hearing from **Dan Dreyfus**, a local professional photographer and a MoNEP member. Dan gave a presentation *On Light*, starting with a slide show of his images from his commercial and personal portfolios. He showed the impact of light on a scene by comparing two different images of the same subject, a bridge. One was taken in ordinary light, the other was taken in extraordinary, moody light and provided a completely different, and much more dramatic interpretation of the subject.

Dan talked about light as the language of photographers. Expanding our awareness of quality, direction and color of light can increase our capacity to make expressive images. He also reviewed some of the basic principles of light including a quick review of the visible spectrum. He talked about and showed examples of the 6 basic directions of light: Front Light, Back Light, Side or Cross-light, Top Light, Light from Below an object, and Inner Light.

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Each of these directions significantly influences how the subject is perceived. Side or cross-light provides depth to a subject and accentuates texture. Inner light is light that comes from within, such as the colored light of a neon sign. Backlighting can be very dramatic and is essential to photographing a subject such as smoke.

Light also has different qualities or moods. Hard or contrasty light, such as the light we get from a cloudless sky at midday, is high in contrast. There are hard shadows and specular highlights with little detail. Bright haze is great light for photography. The shadows and highlights of the scene are softer than in harsh light, yielding more detail. Early morning and late afternoon are



Image by Dan Dreyfus

good times for this due to atmospheric haze. Soft or flat light has few shadows or highlights. It can offer a moody, contemplative feeling. Fantastic light includes rainbows, shafts of light through mist and other special light phenomena. Each of these qualities of light has a very different impact on the subject.

Dan also discussed the color of different types of light, which are measured in degrees Kelvin. He presented examples of warm and cool colors of light. Incandescent light, which is warm, is 3,200 – 3,400 degrees Kelvin, whereas daylight, which is cool, is 5,000 - 6,000 degrees Kelvin, or K. Since we see colors differently, and color is very subjective, Dan recommended using a MacBeth Color Chart or Color Checker, to help standardize the colors we see and photograph.

Finally, Dan talked about the process of discovery in photography. Discovery starts with the analytical yet goes beyond that and calls for us to try to look beneath the surface to the essence of our subject. He encouraged us to use all our senses, suspend judgment and remove expectations when we go out to shoot, all of which helps open us to discover what is there. He showed us many examples from his own personal work including his Morning Glories series shot in his own backyard. He shared some of the stunning close up images that capture the essence of these lovely flowers, taking us way beyond what many of us normally see when looking at morning glories. This series became Dan's second self-published book.

Thanks, Dan, for an inspiring presentation and for encouraging us to be more aware of the light around us, while opening ourselves up to more possibilities and exploration of our subjects.

Note: There are still a couple of spaces available in Dan's Light and Discovery Overnight Workshop at Shaw Nature Reserve on May 21st and 22nd. Even though the deadline has technically passed, you may still register through May 13th by visiting shawnature.org and choosing classes/photography.

March Meeting Recap

Bill Salsgiver of the St. Louis Audubon Society gave March's presentation. Bill shared his great knowledge of warblers with us, focusing on the spring plumage of the warblers we see in the St. Louis area in April and May. Half of the 36 species of warblers we see in spring are migrants, which pass through the region on their way to more northern nesting grounds. The other half of the warbler species we see in spring remain in Missouri and breed here.

Warblers are small birds that are ever on the move as they flit about chasing insects. They have short thin bills that they use to glean insects from foliage, tree trunks and branches. Warblers can be challenging to identify. They are sexually dimorphic, meaning that the males and females have different plumages. Males are generally brighter than females. Many of the warblers have contrasting patterns with yellow. Some species have the less common greens and blues.

There are many excellent places to see warblers during spring migration. Kennedy Woods, in the southwest corner of Forest Park, is famous for its volume of warblers in April and May. The northwest corner of Tower Grove Park, where there is a water bubbler is another great spot. Birds are drawn to the bubbler to drink and bathe. St. Louis Audubon Society and Webster Groves Nature Study Society (WGNSS) both offer bird walks to the public. You can find schedules of their walks at stlouisaudubon.org or www.wgnss.org.

We thank Bill for a very informative presentation and for sharing his passion for birds with us.

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visit our website at www.monep.org

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