



CLOSE-UP

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MoNEP News

Meeting Location and Time to Change as of August 15th

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

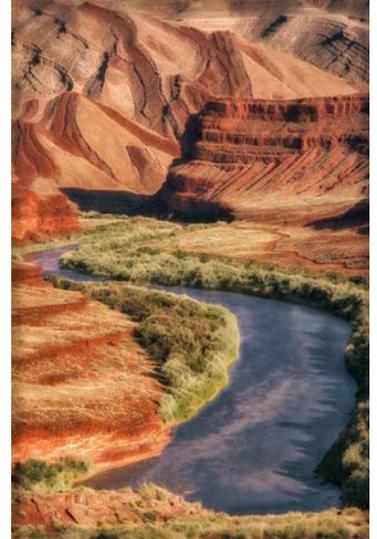


Image by Ted Moreno

Solar Eclipse Field Trip - August 21st

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

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

Members and Membership

New Members

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

Member News

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

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

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

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

MoNEP Meetings

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Dates: Tuesday, July 18th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at The Ethical Society

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

The July meeting will be held at The Ethical Society at 9001 Clayton Avenue, St. Louis, 63117. Parking and the evening entry to The Ethical Society are at the rear of the building. Follow the driveway down the hill to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right side of the lower level. The August meeting will be held at Powder Valley Nature Center.

Show and Share Nature Images

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

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

To submit for Show and Share:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 1,800 pixels high and horizontal images are 1,800 pixels wide.
- Name your images according to the directions at monep.org under tips.
- Save your images as .jpg files.
- Compress your five resized images into a zip file.
- Attach the zip file to an email addressed to share@monep.org by midnight, Saturday, July 15th for the July meeting or Saturday, August 12th for the August meeting.

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

July 18th Meeting – Ray Kersting from Schiller’s

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

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



Image by Jerry Miller



Image by Jane Griesenauer

August 15th Meeting – Jeff Hirsch

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

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

Meeting and Field Trip Recaps

April Meeting – Panoramic Photography

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

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

For equipment, Richard suggests the following:

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

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

May Meeting – Member Presentations

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

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

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



Image by Mark McAmish

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

Mark suggested the following when working with flash:

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

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

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

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

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

June Meeting - Larry Morrison

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

Light Painting and Milky Way Field Trip Recap

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



Image by Tim Bade

The mission of the Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers is to provide a forum for individuals interested in the field of nature photography and the environment, provide education, gather and disseminate information, and promote nature photography as an art form and medium of communication.

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

Visit our website at www.monep.org