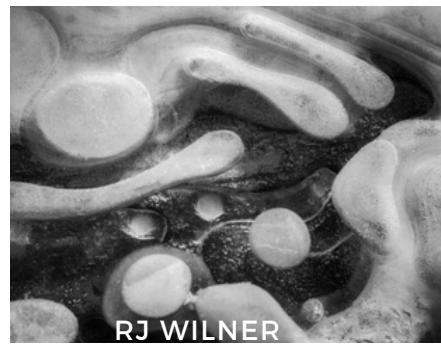


CLOSE-UP

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

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2026 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over 29 years many things change. As photographers, we have moved from film and slides to digital formats. For MONEP the meeting locations and faces have changed, yet many original members are still engaged. One thing that remains the same is our mission: 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.

The question is
not what
you look at,
but what you see.
- Henry David
Thoreau

In 2025, in addition to our regular strong set of presenters, we became partners with the Missouri Department of Conservation at Powder Valley Conservation Area. This has allowed us some special access to the facilities. We kicked off that partnership with a wonderful program by Danny Brown. In October, our Hallway exhibit was very well received and we will have another one in 2026. The year ended with a wonderful Holiday Show and gathering with lots of folks attending. We couldn't do this without a great group on the board and volunteers, who are willing to step up and make things happen.

Looking ahead, 2026 begins our 30th year and will start with two impressive Zoom presentations in January and February by Tony Sweet in January and Brenda Tharp the next month. We plan on returning to Powder Valley with a strong lineup for the rest of the year. Stay tuned as we are working on arrangements for some special events. We hope to be able to host the return of our wine and cheese event. We are in the process of trying to pin down a possible workshop with flash. We will be asking for volunteers to help us make these and additional events a big success. In the meantime, please take a moment to renew your membership for our special 30th year.

Seeing nature makes me happy.
Thank you and a Happy New Year to all.
- Scott Avetta





KAREN LIBBY



ANNE KELSEY

2025 HOLIDAY SHOW

Thanks to all who joined us at the 2025 Holiday Show and Party. We especially want to thank all those who shared their images for the holiday show, and especially, Jerry Miller for creating another great program. Many thanks also to all the volunteers who helped with set-up, greeting guests, staffing the food tables, and with clean-up. We couldn't have done it without you! If you missed the holiday show, we have uploaded it to the MONEP YouTube site, and will make it available to current members only. Keep your eyes out for an email with the link.

2026 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

MONEP membership runs from January through December each year, so it is time for all members to renew! Dues are \$30 per person and \$40 for a household of up to four. Please read the form carefully and be sure to initial only one of the two permission options on the back side of the form.

There are three ways to renew your membership:

- You can print a 2026 membership form from our website, monep.org, and can mail your renewal form, along with a check made out to MONEP, to Kathy Cherry at 6056 Gettysburg Estates Dr., Saint Louis, Missouri 63129. Please do not mail cash.
- You can pay anytime via PayPal by visiting our website at <https://monep.org/membership/>. You must also submit a completed membership form and send it to Kathy, either by email at fishnclck@sbcglobal.net, or to her address above.
- Membership dues may be submitted in person at the March meeting along with your completed form. You can pay with cash or by a check made out to MONEP. If you pay by cash, please be sure to have the exact amount.

ANY QUESTIONS?

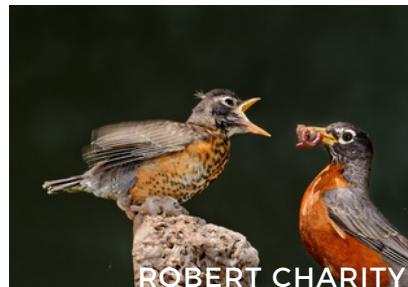
If you have questions about membership, please contact Kathy Cherry at 314-605-4279 or by email at fishnclck@sbcglobal.net.

NEW MEMBERS

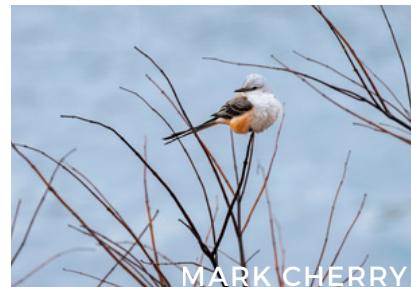
We are happy to introduce our newest member, Winston Montgomery. Welcome to MONEP.



RICHARD SPENER



ROBERT CHARITY



MARK CHERRY

MONEP ANNIVERSARY

The October MONEP exhibit at Powder Valley was just the beginning of celebrating **MONEP's 30th year**. We will have fun moments and events throughout 2026, including special field trips, giveaways, 30th anniversary apparel, and more!

However, as with any celebration, **we need help** from volunteers to make this happen. We have a number of sub-committees, which need people to help plan and facilitate these additional activities. Your ideas, resources, and connections could make a big difference for the entire group. The amount of time commitment is up to you - every little bit helps!

The committees include:

30th Anniversary Tee-shirts and other Apparel

- This committee will help decide what kind of items to offer, choose the vendor, facilitate the orders and delivery, etc.

Attendance Prizes and Giveaways (Swag!)

- This committee will help choose items that will be given to members throughout the year either as prizes or in swag bags.

Field Trip Planning

- This committee will help with choosing and facilitating the field trips throughout the year. We would like to offer some special trips and are looking for ideas.

Social Events

- This committee will assist with organizing the social events during the year. These will include the October 2026 celebration (think food, venue, entertainment, etc.) and possibly a smaller outdoor event in the spring.

If you can volunteer to work on any of these committees, please fill out this quick Google form to let us know how you're willing to help:

[VOLUNTEER FORM](#)

MEETING DATES FOR 2025

Meetings are generally held via Zoom in the winter and at Powder Valley Nature Center the rest of the year. The dates for 2026 are: January 20 (Zoom), February 17 (Zoom), March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 8, the second Tuesday of the month for the Holiday Show

MEETING INFORMATION

MONEP meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, except for the December Holiday Show. MONEP meets at Powder Valley Conservation Area Nature Center in Kirkwood, except when we have a Zoom meeting. Powder Valley's address is 11715 Cragwold Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122. The meetings run from 7:00- 8:30 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 20th Meeting – Tony Sweet
via Zoom, at 7:00 p.m.
Topic: Atmospherics in Photography

NOTE: We will send the Zoom link out in a separate reminder email prior to the meeting.

Professional nature and fine art photographer Tony Sweet will be our presenter during the January 20th Zoom meeting. He will discuss Atmospherics in Photography, which refers to the elements and conditions in the environment that contribute to the mood, tone, and overall feeling of an image. These elements can transform an ordinary scene into something extraordinary, evoking emotions and enhancing the narrative of the photograph. In other words, looking for environmental elements to add emotional and visual depth of the image.



Examples of atmospherics in photography include: Fog/Mist, Snow, Sunrise/Sunset, Clouds, Reflections, Infrared, Long exposures, Silhouettes, Macro, and Over exposures (High Key). Through a series of Tony's atmospheric images, we will see how an effective atmosphere can alter and redesign a scene, often completely altering the feel of the scene.

Tony is an author, workshop leader, Nikon Legend Behind the Lens, lecturer, and Zoom presenter worldwide. Coming from an artistic background as a professional jazz artist and professional close up magician (sleight of hand artist), to professional nature and fine art photographer, Tony has always sought creative, deeply personal endeavors. The transition from jazz artist to nature photographer was a seamless transition as both require an improvisational nature and an ability to adapt to quickly changing conditions

Tony was named a Nikon Legend Behind the Lens and has been published worldwide for over 35 years. He has authored 8 books, contributing to many others, co-produced an educational DVD series, and continues to teach and lecture throughout the US, Canada, Iceland, and Cuba. His article on macro photography was published in the New York Times.



Tony is co-owner, along with Susan Milestone, of their Visual Artistry location workshops series, Creativity Seminars, private virtual training sessions, private location workshops, and ZOOM presentations to photographic societies worldwide.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 17th Meeting – Brenda Tharp
via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.
Topic: The Intimate Landscape

NOTE: We will send the Zoom link out in a separate reminder email prior to the meeting.

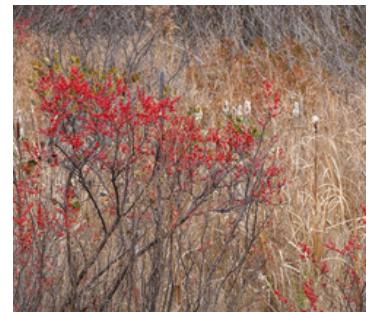
Somewhere between macro and the grand landscape, there lies a world that often goes unnoticed, and it's where we can find and create powerful images of nature that celebrate nature on a deeper level. Renowned photographer Brenda Tharp will discuss and share images that define what an intimate landscape is, and how we can learn to see and photograph them. Intimate landscapes allow us to explore the natural landscape more slowly and at any time of day, not being dependent upon the golden hours of sunrise or sunset. They suggest the deep canyons, rushing oceans, and lush forests that often lie just outside the frame, and rely on the visual design elements such as pattern, texture, and rhythm.



Brenda is a professional photographer and long-time educator with a life-long passion for exploring and photographing. Her photographs have appeared in national magazines and in books for clients such as the Sierra Club, Audubon, National Geographic Books, Michelin Travel Guides, Nature Conservancy, Traveler, and many more. She has received high commendations for her work in Wildlife Photographer of the Year as well as Expressions Magazine Photo Competition (NANPA).

Brenda is the author and photographer of two books, including *Expressive Nature Photography* and she co-authored *Extraordinary Everyday Photography*. She has presented to thousands of people at photo conferences including Out of Chicago, BH OPTIC, Carolinas Nature Association, North America Nature Photographers Association, and The London Royal Photographic Society.

She currently lives on the road full time, with her partner, exploring the natural world and discovering the heart of America in its land and people.





MONEP

Moment

ONE OF THE VERY FIRST MONEP FIELD TRIPS WAS SCHEDULED FOR WHAT IS NOW MINGO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. WE WERE TO CONVENE AT 3:30 A.M.

SEVEN VERY DROOPY EYED OPTIMISTS ARRIVED TO MEET UP WITH MONEP PRESIDENT RUTH HOYT AND CLIMBED INTO HER VAN FOR THE TWO-AND-A-HALF-HOUR DRIVE TO MINGO. RUTH, LARRY TERRELL, PATRICK JONES, SCOTT AVETTA AND THREE OTHERS MET IN A STEADY RAIN. FOR TWO HOURS, THE RAIN PERSISTED. WHAT WERE WE THINKING?

AFTER ABOUT A HALF HOUR, THE RAINS SLOWED AND STOPPED JUST BEFORE SUNRISE. WE SET UP OUR CAMERAS AS NARROW BREAKS IN THE CLOUDS EMERGED ALONG THE EASTERN HORIZON. COLOR SLOWLY INCREASED THROUGH THE GREY SKIES. THE SUNRISE WENT FROM PURPLE TO ORANGES AND REDS. IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT AND MEMORABLE I HAVE SEEN.

THE FILM (YES, FILM) WAS BURNING AND PHOTOGRAPHERS CAREFULLY SHIFTED FOR A MORE BRILLIANT COMPOSITION AS THE COLOR DANCED. NOT MUCH WAS SAID EXCEPT FOR REQUESTS FOR MORE ROLLS OF FILM. WITHIN ABOUT TEN MINUTES, THE COLOR FADED AS QUICKLY AS IT HAD ARRIVED. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, DRIZZLE BEGAN AGAIN AND THE DAY'S SHOOT CAME TO A CLOSE.

THE VAN WAS PACKED AND THE HUNGRY PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE OFF TO GRAB BREAKFAST. WHAT A START. WHAT A MORNING. FIVE PLUS HOURS OF DRIVING FOR MAYBE FIFTEEN MINUTES OF GLORIOUS LIGHT AND NOT A COMPLAINT HEARD FROM ANYONE!

-SCOTT AVETTA





Back Page

SHOW & SHARE

Members are invited to share up to five (5) nature-related images during the January and February meetings.

- Images do not have to be recent.
- Images are due by midnight the Saturday before the meeting.

Please follow the submission and file naming guidelines below to submit images 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 using your last name then first name and the year and month of submission as well as the subject. For example, SmithJane-2026-01-Subject. No spaces please! If you would like your images shown in a particular order, please number them 1-5 after the subject.
- Save your images as .jpg files. Your saved images should be less than 4 MB in size.
- Compress your five resized images into a zip file. (If you don't know how to do this step, just send them as they are)
- Attach the zip file or images to an email addressed to share@monep.org by midnight Saturday, January 17th for the January meeting, or Saturday, February 14th for the February meeting.



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. Specific dates, times and meeting locations are posted in the newsletter and on the MONEP website. The bi-monthly newsletter is edited by Barbara Addelson and designed by Kate Sprague.

Visit us online!

Website: www.monep.org

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/MOnaturephoto>

Facebook Group (Private group for current members only - must request to join):
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/703358603413477>