

CLOSE-UP

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

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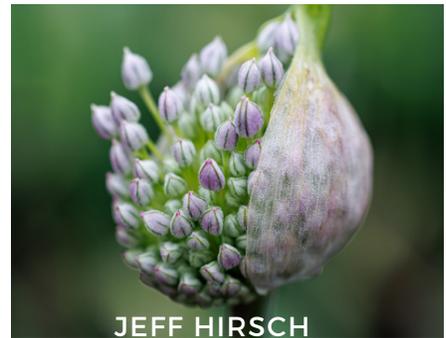
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ANNE KELSEY



JEFF HIRSCH



LORI PURK



RICH SCHONS



KAREN ZELLE



KATE SPRAGUE

2026 MEETINGS

Meetings are generally held via Zoom in the winter and at Powder Valley Nature Center the rest of the year. The remaining dates for 2026 are: 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.

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 fishnclick@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.

MEMBER NEWS

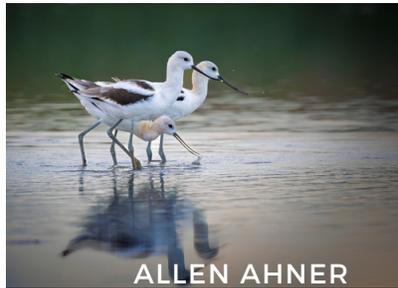
Kate Sprague has an image on display in the "Small Works Exhibition" with the Manchester Arts, part of the Manchester Parks and Recreation Department.

Karen Zelle has several images that were included in the 2026 Missouri Department of Conservation's Natural Events Calendar.

Diana Linsley, along with writer Don Corrigan, will see the release of their book *Scenic Wonders of Missouri* in May. The book features Diana's images of some of the natural gems of Missouri.



MARY ANN FORD



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JIM RHODES

MONEP ANNIVERSARY

MONEP is celebrating its 30th anniversary. We kicked the year off with a hallway exhibit at Powder Valley Nature Center last October, and will complete it with another in October of this year. Various committees are working on plans for special activities and opportunities, including some social events and events. These may include a wine and cheese evening and photo shoot, a fall picnic, more field trips, opportunities to purchase some 30th year tee-shirts, and some giveaways to commemorate our 30th. We hope our members will join us as we host some fun moments and outings throughout 2026! We are also reflecting back on moments in MONEP's history in the newsletter this year, in the MONEP Moment, below.

MONEP Moment

“DID ONONDAGA INDIANS REALLY ROAM THE PLAINS OF MISSOURI?”

WITH A LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE TRAVELING THROUGH THE OZARKS, ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALIST AND NATURE WRITER DON CORRIGAN REVEALED LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT SOME VERY FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS. MONEP MEMBERS WERE FASCINATED TO LEARN THAT A TRIP TO MEXICO ISN'T NECESSARY TO CAPTURE A GLIMPSE OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES ON THEIR JOURNEY NORTH, AS THEY FLY BY EMMENEGGER PARK EACH SPRING. IN HIS WITTY STYLE, DON SHARED TALES OF MANY LOCAL NATURAL HABITATS FROM ROCHEPORT TO CASTLEWOOD. HE CHALLENGED MEMBERS TO STOP AND THINK ABOUT THE STORIES BEHIND THE HISTORY WHEN VISITING STATE PARKS AND CONSERVATION AREAS. BY THE WAY, IF YOU MISSED HIS TALK, YOU CAN FIND THE ANSWER ABOUT THE ONONDAGA INDIANS ON PAGE 141 OF HIS NATURE TRAVEL BOOK *SHOW ME... NATURAL WONDERS.*”



-CLOSE-UP, AUGUST 2008

MARCH MEETING

Telling a Story with Your Camera presented by Jane Palmer

Tuesday, March 17th 7:00 p.m. | Powder Valley Nature Center

Jane Palmer will be using images of her work to illustrate how she goes beyond just sharp and well exposed photographs to actually tell a story about a location. We all have great equipment these days, so to take sharp, bright images is no longer enough to stand out from the crowd. Instead, think about trying to tell the story of a species or location by varying your shots and going beyond the “bird on a branch” 27 times! Get close, pull back, try different settings to really tell the story of what you experienced and bring your viewer along for the adventure!



After a distinguished 38-year career as a nurse anesthetist, Jane transitioned into full-time nature photography upon retirement. Her work reflects a deep appreciation for the beauty and tranquility of the natural world, aiming to inspire others to pause and connect with nature. Through her imagery, Jane encourages people to find comfort and peace in the outdoors. In addition to creating art, she is passionate about teaching photography and helping others discover the creative fulfillment it brings.

Each photograph serves as an invitation to experience the world through a lens of wonder and gratitude. Jane is particularly passionate about ethical photographic practices and respecting nature and wildlife. Jane enjoys teaching at the Shaw Nature Reserve and is looking forward to being an instructor at the Grandfather Mountain Photography Weekend in North Carolina this June.

Follow her work on her website Janepalmerphotography.com



APRIL MEETING

Nature at Night: Exploring Light and Life Under the Stars ***presented by Dan Zarlenga***

Tuesday, April 21st 7:00 p.m. | Powder Valley

Nature at Night: Exploring Light and Life Under the Stars looks at the beauty of night through photography, a dash of science, and a few personal thoughts that celebrate the importance of night in nature. We'll touch on bird migration, nocturnal pollinators, fireflies, and some other fascinating facts about what goes on after the sun goes down.



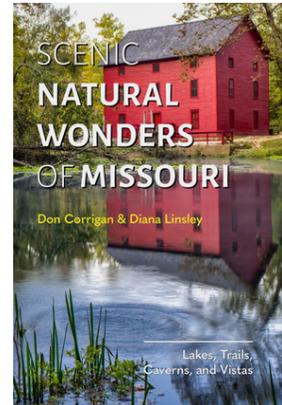
Dan Zarlenga likes to explore several forms of photography but has a special leaning towards landscapes and astro-landscapes (He asks us to please don't call it astrophotography!). He also likes to mix photography with another of his passions . . . hiking and, occasionally, backpacking. By day he serves as Media Specialist for the St. Louis Region for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

His photography has appeared in the Conservation Department's Natural Events Calendar, the *Missouri Conservationist* Magazine, the *Missouri Prairie Journal*, The *Nature Conservancy* Magazine, *Terrain* Magazine, and the book *Magnificent Missouri*, as well as exhibits at Powder Valley Nature Center in Kirkwood and Burr Oak Woods Nature Center in Kansas City.



MEMBER BOOK RELEASE

On May 15th, 2026, Don Corrigan (See MONEP Moment) and MONEP member Diana Linsley, will release their book called *Scenic Wonders of Missouri*, an update of *Show Me... Natural Wonders*. Diana is the photographer for the project, which is “an explorers’ manual, an adventure book and a richly illustrated guide to many wonders of Missouri.” The guide features more than 80 sites throughout the state, with information on how to visit them.



NEW SPONSORS

PLEASE VISIT THEIR SITES BY CLICKING ON THE IMAGES BELOW

This past fall, MPB, an online platform for used photography equipment, approached MONEP about a partnership for 2026. We checked in with several members who have bought and sold gear through MPB, and the feedback was consistently positive. From MONEP member Ted Moreno: “MPB not only made the best or very competitive offers for my used camera gear, but they were extremely honest in their business dealings with me. They increased their offers when, after receiving my gear, they determined that two pieces of my gear were in better condition than I’d estimated.” Other buyers said items were thoroughly evaluated, accurately described, and arrived as expected. Sellers reported prices that were better than anticipated.

Based on that input, we see this as a mutually beneficial partnership and will help spread the word about MPB. In return, MPB sponsored our February speaker, Brenda Tharp. MPB helps you buy, sell or trade used camera gear at the perfect price. By recirculating over half a million items annually, MPB promotes a brighter photographic future for visual storytellers of all experience levels. Don’t wait to change gear with MPB. The planet (and your pocket) will thank you.



Jeff Hirsch Photography is also a sponsor of MONEP. Jeff Hirsch Photography offers classes, workshops, photo tours, and tech support for the photographic community.



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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-2026-03-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, March 14th for the March meeting, or Saturday, April 17th for the April 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>