



# CLOSE-UP

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# MONEP News

## Annual Membership Renewal

MONEP membership runs from January through December each year, so it is time for all members to renew, if you haven't already done so. Dues are \$30 per person and \$40 for a household of up to four. There are two ways to renew:

1. You can mail your 2021 renewal form, along with a check made out to MONEP, to our Treasurer, Linda Moder, at 5341A Sutherland, St. Louis, Missouri 63109. Please do not mail cash.
2. You can pay using PayPal by visiting our website at <https://monep.org/membership/>

Please note that we have a newly revised Membership form that every member must fill out on both sides. If you register by PayPal, please also submit your signed and scanned 2021 membership form to [linda\\_monep@hotmail.com](mailto:linda_monep@hotmail.com) or mail it to her address above. If you have questions about membership, please contact our Membership Chair, Michelle Jones, at 314-496-7616

## Meetings

### March 16th Meeting – Robert Charity

MONEP member, Bob Charity, will present a Zoom program on his exploration of Ozark streams by kayak and foot. Many of these streams are spring fed with crystal-clear water and meander past tall bluffs, which provide lots of possibilities for landscape photography. The program will include many drone and panorama images of his favorite out-of-the-way spots. Bob will discuss his pre-trip planning with tips on predicting when the rivers will be covered in mist, which can add a magical element to the landscape. He will also cover some of the technical aspects of taking panorama and HDR images, the choices made on camera, and later in post-production.



*Image by: Robert Charity*

Bob is an enthusiastic hiker, kayaker, nature lover, and photographer and has been a member of MONEP for six years. He bought his first SLR camera 37 years ago and has been taking photographs of his adventures ever since. He is trained as a physicist, and his professional career has taken him from Australia to California, Germany, and eventually to Missouri allowing lots of opportunities for photography. His images have been published in *Digital Photo*, *Backpacker*, and *Modern Times* magazines and appear on the Franklin County website, [www.franklinmo.org](http://www.franklinmo.org).

### April 20th Meeting – Topic and Speaker To Be Determined

### Recent Meeting Recordings

If you missed any recent meetings, or wish to watch them again, you can view them on the MONEP YouTube Channel. These recordings are for our use only and are not available without a link to each recording. We have made the commitment to our presenters that these would be available to MONEP members only. Please do not share the links with anyone outside of MONEP.

[February - Noah Buchanan on Mirrorless Cameras](#)

[January - Ruth Hoyt on Bird Photography and 25 years of MONEP](#)

[December – Holiday Show, produced by Jerry Miller and Pat Burgess](#)

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

Richard Spener, Barb Addelson, Kathy Cherry, Larry Morrison, Marilyn Etheridge, Sandy Miller, Nancy Phillips, Mary Ann Ford, Robert Charity, Brenda Fesser, Kevin Kelly, Barb Addelson

## Show & Share - Special Program for March

We are going to try something new in March. We know that many of our members have not had much of an opportunity to get out and shoot in the past year. We also know that not everyone is comfortable sharing their images and talking about them during Show and Share. This month we are encouraging members to submit up to five nature images, which Jerry Miller will put into a slide show for us. Like the Holiday Show your images will be shown anonymously and no one will talk about their images. Images that you submit do not have to be recent. This is a great opportunity to review images from your archives, or to submit images you shot yesterday. We will let you know whether we plan to do the same in April or if we will do the traditional Show and Share.



*Image by: John McAlister*

Please do follow our regular submission guidelines and pay particular attention to how you name your files. \*\*We want to have each image named with your last name, then first name, the year and month of your submission and the subject. This convention is extremely helpful as we gather images for Show and Share, Holiday Show, newsletter, website, or our Facebook accounts.

Show and Share will come after the presentation during our Zoom meetings. Submissions are due by midnight on the Saturday prior to each month's meeting. See the dates below

Members are invited to share up to five (5) nature-related images at the upcoming meetings. To submit for Show and Share:

- Resize your images so vertical images are a maximum of 1,800 pixels high and horizontal images are 1,800 pixels wide. (Visit <https://www.adobe.com/photoshop/online/resize-image.html> to resize your image online for free.)
- Name your images using your last name then first name and the year and month of submission as well as the subject. For example, SmithJohn-2021-03-Subject for submission for the March 2021 Show and Share. For the subject, please use a term or title describing each image, e.g. SmithJohn-2021-03-Heron. In addition, do not leave any spaces within the file name. You can use the dash to delineate breaks.
- Save your images as .jpg files. Your saved images should be between 1 MB and 4 MB in size.
- 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, March 13th for the March meeting and Saturday, April 17th for the April meeting.

Let us know if you have any questions!

## Member News

Several of Robert Charity's images are being featured on [Franklin County's website](#).

Scott Avetta is instructing photography classes for the Missouri Botanical Garden, Shaw Nature Reserve, and the Butterfly House this spring and summer. Visit the [website](#) and look for the Learn & Discover catalog for details.

## "God is in the details..." Or It's important to pay attention to the *tiniest* things.

by Margy Terpstra

On Sunday, February 21st, 2021, about 8:35 a.m., I had just come into the breakfast room and saw two birds on the little oak by the bubbler. Oh, nice! I watched them, as a male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker chased an immature male around the tree. This brightly marked, gorgeous bird was the first adult male Yellow-bellied of the winter, or so I first thought. My initial ID would soon be challenged by the smallest of details!

"Hmm, and who do we think you are!?" I said to myself. This bird had a red patch of feathering on the nape, and white feathers on its chin. It clearly had two distinct parallel rows of white feathers down its back. These features did not point to a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Was this a Yellow-bellied x Red-naped Sapsucker (hybrid)?

Oooh...my focus intensified as I tried to get as many images of every side of this bird as I could. The bird was so cooperative, and it enjoyed a wonderful bath in the basin as its only obvious reward.

The bird was seen for about three minutes total; then it left along with the younger bird. Winds had picked up from the southwest and neither bird was seen again. About 11:00 a.m., I began my study of the photos and field guides. I double-checked *The Status and Distribution of Birds in Missouri*, by Mark B. Robbins. There were only two records of this hybrid in the state, and none of the pure Red-naped Sapsucker species. "Rara avis" indeed. I filled out an eBird checklist with the bird as a hybrid, but added that it may be a female Red-naped Sapsucker. I needed help; it would take experts to decide for certain. My part was to provide the photos to document this bird. To see the checklist visit: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S8208611>

These tiny details may be enough to confirm a pure female Red-naped Sapsucker. After my eBird checklist and photos were flagged and reviewed, and emails exchanged, I was asked to document the sighting as exactly that. The MBRC (Missouri Bird Records Committee) will review it and share with experts on this species and sapsucker hybrids in other states. It may be a year or more before this sighting is confirmed and if it is, it would be a new pure species for Missouri. In any event, what a lovely bird it was!

The Polar vortex that brought our winter storm and the storm in Texas must have some bearing on the bird's appearance here, pushed by winds from the Southwest. Look where it's supposed to be spending the winter, in areas of west Texas to California, and south into Mexico! I am so grateful that it somehow found its way to our Shady Oaks Sanctuary. To see all the photos, [check the blog post](#)



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 6:30 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](http://www.monep.org)