

CLOSE-UP

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

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MAY SPECIAL EVENT



Late Afternoon-Early Evening Photo Shoot at Shaw Nature Reserve



Saturday, May 16th 4:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Carriage House and Whitmire Wildflower Garden

****NOTE: PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED SO WE CAN
PLAN AHEAD FOR PURCHASING REFRESHMENTS.**

We are once again offering a special event for MONEP members at Shaw Nature Reserve during the late afternoon and early evening on Saturday, May 16th. We will be based out of the Carriage House adjacent to the Whitmire Wildflower Garden.

In addition to access to the wildflower garden for photography, we will be offering refreshments in the Carriage House including: crackers, cheeses, salami, dips and more, as well as soft drinks, beer, and wine. There will be seating in the air-conditioned Carriage House, or on the brick patio at the back of the house when you need to take a break.

**SPACE IS LIMITED AND YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER.
THERE IS A FEE OF \$20 PER PERSON TO HELP
COVER THE EXPENSES.**

**TO REGISTER: MEMBERS SHOULD CONTACT
BARB ADDELSON AT BADDELSON@SBCGLOBAL.NET
TO HOLD A SPOT AND ARRANGE FOR PAYMENT.**

Once you have registered, we will provide instructions
for getting through the gate.



MAY MEETING

Image of Conservation presented by Noppadol Paothong

Tuesday, May 19th 7:00 p.m. | Powder Valley Nature Center

We welcome back one of our favorite presenters, Noppadol Paothong to our May meeting. His program, *Image of Conservation* focuses on telling conservation stories through the lens.

Nop is an award-winning nature and conservation photographer with the Missouri Department of Conservation, where he has worked since 2006. An Associate Fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers (iLCP), his work centers on rare and endangered species, with a particular focus on grassland grouse and their threatened habitats.



His photography has appeared on more than 200 covers of the *Missouri Conservationist* and has been featured in *Audubon*, *Smithsonian*, *National Wildlife*, *The Nature Conservancy*, *Ranger Rick*, and *Sierra Club*. Over nearly two decades, his dedication to documenting North American grassland grouse has led to two acclaimed books: *Save the Last Dance* (2012) and *Sage Grouse: Icon of the West* (2017).

Recognized with numerous national and international awards, Noppadol also serves on the board of the Sutton Center and has judged prestigious competitions such as the National Audubon Photography Awards. Through exhibits and presentations across the country, he continues to inspire a deeper connection to wildlife and conservation.

JUNE MEETING

Tuesday, June 16th Meeting - To Be Determined

After some delays, Powder Valley is going to have some critical work done on its Waste Water Treatment system. All of Powder Valley will be shut down from June 15th through July 15th. Since our June meeting is on June 16th, we are looking into other options for that month. We will keep you posted by email as to alternate plans for June.



MARK MCAMISH



CATHY WILHELMI



ART LEWIS

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. 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

SHAW NATURE RESERVE SPECIAL SHOOTS

JUNE 13TH, 2014 WAS THE INAUGURAL SUNSET SHOOT AT SHAW NATURE RESERVE. THE FIRST SHOOT FEATURED A RIDE ON THE NATURE RESERVE’S WILDERNESS WAGON FROM THE VISITOR’S CENTER TO THE TRAIL HOUSE, WHERE PARTICIPANTS HAD EASY ACCESS TO THE GLADE AND PRAIRIE FOR LATE AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING PHOTOGRAPHY. WINE AND CHEESE AND OTHER REFRESHMENTS WERE PROVIDED. IN 2015, WE HOSTED ANOTHER SUNSET SHOOT IN HONOR OF MONEP’S 20TH ANNIVERSARY, AND IN 2016 WE MOVED THE EVENT TO THE CARRIAGE HOUSE AND THE WHITMIRE WILDFLOWER GARDEN, WHERE WE HELD IT EVERY YEAR THROUGH 2019. UNFORTUNATELY, 2020 BROUGHT THE PANDEMIC, AND THE NATURE RESERVE CLOSED FOR SOME TIME.

WE RESURRECTED THE LATE AFTERNOON/EARLY EVENING SHOOT IN 2024 AND WE ARE PLEASED TO OFFER IT AGAIN FOR THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR. MANY THANKS TO THE FORMER SENIOR MANAGER OF EDUCATION AT SHAW NATURE RESERVE, LYDIA TOTH, WHO MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE FOR THE FIRST SEVERAL YEARS AND HAS CO-HOSTED IT SINCE THE BEGINNING WITH BARB ADDELSON.





RJ WILNER



KAREN ZELLE



ROBERT CHARITY

30TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS, AND HOODIES

MONEP 30th Anniversary T-shirts, hoodies and sweatshirts are ready for sale! The tees, sweatshirts, and hoodies feature a logo designed by the MONEP 30th Anniversary committee and celebrate our organization and its three-decade history as a place for people interested in nature photography and the environment. Getting a custom t-shirt for our photo group isn't just about having something new to wear; it's about being part of something bigger, especially in this anniversary year.

The tees, sweatshirts, and hoodies will be printed by a local Webster Groves business, Spicy Ink. Angie Crull, the owner, has set up an internet shop where you can see the four different styles and you can place your order. You have two choices for logo placement. One is on the upper left chest. The other is larger, across the middle of your chest, and is slightly more expensive.

Here is the link to the MONEP Shop on the Spicy Ink website: <https://www.spicy-ink.com/monep30>.

Help us celebrate thirty years of creativity, growth, and a shared passion for nature photography, and help introduce other people to MONEP by wearing your anniversary shirts. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Addelson (baddelson@sbcglobal.net) or Kate Sprague (katesprague04@gmail.com).

SNR PHOTOGRAPHY CELEBRATION

Fans of photography and Shaw Nature Reserve (SNR) should join us in celebrating the history of nature photography programs at Shaw Nature Reserve. This event, to be held at the Missouri Botanical Garden on Saturday, May 30th from 10-12:00, will focus on images of the nature reserve and the wonderful photography workshops and classes that have been held there since the late 1970's. Hear stories of the workshops featuring photographic luminaries such as Ernst Haas, Jay Maisel, Jim Brandenburg, Sam Abel, and Arthur Meyerson. This tradition of photography learning continues with classes led by many accomplished local and regional photographers.

After the presentation, enjoy time for refreshments and socializing with fellow photographers. The cost to attend is \$10 for Garden members, and \$12 for non-members. The link to register is:

<https://secure.missouribotanicalgarden.org/23979/25915>



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: 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:

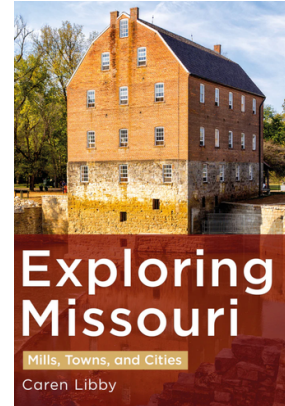
- You can print a 2026 membership form from our website, monep.org, and can mail your renewal form, along with a check made out to MONEP, to Kathy Cherry at 6056 Gettysburg Estates Dr., Saint Louis, Missouri 63129. Please do not mail cash.
- You can pay anytime via PayPal by visiting our website at <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 May 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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to MONEP: Ingrid Borecki, Al Blumenberg, Joanne Carr, Lonnie Gatlin, Roe Monrotus, Donald Purdy, Scott Schwab, and Mike Stewart. To stay connected with us in between newsletters, visit the resources on the Back Page of this newsletter.

MEMBER BOOK RELEASE

Exploring Missouri: Mills, Towns, and Cities by MONEP member Caren Libby is a tribute to the state's heritage. Whether you are from Missouri, love history, or you enjoy learning more about special places, this is a celebration of the connection between the past and the present, the photographer and the subject, and the viewer and the vision. It will be published by Sutton Publishing as part of their Photographer's America series.



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 May meeting.

- 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-2026-05-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, May 16th for the May 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>