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PEOPLE & PLACES

MoNEP 2012 Seminar with Rob Sheppard

MoNEP will be hosting a photography seminar on **Saturday, August 4th**, from **9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Our featured speaker will be **Rob Sheppard**, a naturalist, nature photographer and videographer who says his favorite location is the one he is in at any time. He is an author/photographer, as well as a well-known speaker and workshop leader. He is also a Fellow with the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA). He was the long-time editor of the prestigious ***Outdoor Photographer*** magazine and helped start ***PCPhoto*** (*Digital Photo*). Currently, he is editor-at-large for *Outdoor Photographer*. He trained both as a photographer and a naturalist specializing in ecology and botany.

Rob has written hundreds of articles about photography and nature as well as books such as the *Magic of Digital Nature Photography* and the *National Geographic Field Guide to Digital Photography*. He has also written books about Photoshop and Lightroom including *Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 2 for Digital Photographers Only* and *Top Tips Simplified: Adobe Photoshop Elements 7*.
During our full-day seminar, Rob plans to discuss the following topics.

- Keeping Up with Digital Photography without Going Crazy
- Techniques to Take Your Nature Photography to a New Level
- Quick and Easy Steps to Mastering Flash
- Down and Dirty Close-up Photography

He will illustrate his points with stories about his experiences in the field and with plenty of images from his collection.

Registration is **$50 for members and $60 for non-members**. Lunch is included in the registration fee. You can sign up by filling out the registration form and writing a check payable to **MoNEP**. You can turn your registration in to **Vicki or Shawn Northrop** at the June or July meeting. You can also mail your form and payment to **Vicki Northrop, 1111 Wilmington Ave., St. Louis, MO 63111**. We are unable to accept credit cards for this event.

After July 28, please call **314-270-2711** or email **vicki_northrop@yahoo.com** to make a reservation. We may not have a lunch for those who do not pre-register. Some of the proceeds from this seminar will go to fund charitable programs chosen by the MoNEP Board. For a preview of Rob's work, visit his website at **www.robsheppardphoto.com** or his blog at **www.natureandphotography.com**.

Future MoNEP Meeting Changes

As some of you may already know, the Missouri Department of Conservation is facing budget cuts. These cuts are forcing Powder Valley to reduce the hours when the nature center is open. The Powder Valley staff has worked very hard to accommodate all the organizations that will be affected by this change. MoNEP will continue to hold meetings at Powder Valley into the fall with adjusted hours. Plans are being made for those occasions when we may need to meet elsewhere. As in photography, we must adjust to the changing conditions! We will keep you posted as plans evolve.

Members News

Mark Braun has an exhibit in the lobby of the Metropolitan Square building at **211 North Broadway** downtown. The building is open to the public during normal business hours. The exhibit will be up until the end of June.

Joe Coelho will have a photo of a covey of bobwhite quail in ***Wildlife Management and Conservation: Contemporary Principles and Practices***, which is scheduled to be published in 2013.

Tina Crist exhibited two oil paintings in April at the Artist's Guild on the Katy Trail. In addition, she also donated her time and talent to a service project in January by framing an American flag that was recovered from the 2010 New Years Eve tornado in Sunset Hills. It was presented to the people of Sunset Hills and now hangs in the town's community center.

NANPA News

NANPA, or the **North American Nature Photographers Association**, has several upcoming events including two **Road Shows**, full day indoor seminars with professional speakers. There will be one on **September 9th in Detroit, Michigan**, featuring **Steve Gettle**, who will present ***The Art of Nature Photography*** at the Environmental Discovery Center at Indian Springs Metropark. Steve's all-day seminar will cover all aspects of nature photography from capturing grand sweeping vistas to the tiny world of macro photography. All levels of photographers will learn how to take their photography to the next level. Topics include equipment, exposure, lighting, composition, creating powerful images that communicate, birds and mammals, macro photography and landscapes. Then on **September 22nd Weldon Lee** will lead an intensive ***All About Wildlife*** program at the gateway to the Rocky Mountains National Park in **Estes Park, Colorado**. Weldon's seminar will focus on finding the winning image, using Photoshop to transform your images into masterpieces and how to use your photos to safeguard life on planet earth. Also included will be a group critique session of images brought in by participants. For more information, visit **www.nanpa.org/road_shows**.

Save the Last Dance

Noppadol Paothong's book ***Save the Last Dance, A Story of North American Grassland Grouse*** will be published this August. Noppadol is a Missouri Department of Conservation staff photographer, and he will be the presenter at the **July MoNEP meeting**. His ten-year odyssey to capture the images of all North American grouse, with a particular focus on the grassland grouse species, has resulted in this book. It highlights the beauty and fragility of these amazing birds. The dances of grassland grouse, from the impressive courtship dance of prairie chicken to the bizarre behaviors of sage grouse are some of the most impressive wildlife displays in North America. The book illustrates why it is important to care about these species and what we stand to lose if their habitats are not protected and they are allowed to disappear forever.

You can preorder a limited edition, signed copy of the book online at **www.savethelastdancebook.com**. Preordered books also receive a 15% discount and some of the proceeds from sales will be donated to one of three grassland conservation groups.

Visit **www.nopnatureimages.com** to see more of Nop's work.

SNR Photo Contest Deadline

The deadline for the ***Take A Shot!*** photo contest is approaching quickly. Entries for this **Youth Photo Contest** must be received at the SNR Visitor Center by **4 p.m. on Friday, June 15th**. **Shaw Nature Reserve** (SNR) and MoNEP are co-sponsoring SNR's 2012 youth nature photography contest. It is open to children ages 14 and under. Entries must have been taken at Shaw Nature Reserve between **March 1st and June 15th, 2012**. All entries must be received at the SNR Visitor Center by **4 p.m. on Friday, June 15th**.

Submissions should represent one of the following four categories:

- Flora - any plant found at SNR
- Wildlife - amphibians, reptiles, birds or mammals found at the Reserve
- Miniature World - insects, spiders, mosses or fungi
- People in Nature - people enjoying nature or evidence of people's impact on nature.

Judging will be based upon the subject matter, composition, creativity and technical difficulty of the images. As in the past, MoNEP will provide the judges for the contest. Many of the contest submissions will be on display at the Bascom House at SNR in July.

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates and Share & Show Themes

Tuesday, June 19th – Red
Tuesday, July 17th – No Share & Show

Meetings begin promptly at **7:00 p.m.** at ***Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center***.

Share and Show Nature Images

Members are invited to share their **nature** images at each MoNEP meeting. If you wish to participate, you should prepare up to **four (4) nature-related images**. Be sure to:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- Save your images as .jpg files.
- Place your four resized images on a drive or disc in a folder with your name and the meeting date.
- Give your images to **Jerry Miller** no later than 6:30 p.m. the night of the meeting.

For more information about *Share and Show* formatting please see ***Resize an Image for Submission*** in the photo tips section on the MoNEP web site, **www.monep.org**.

June 19th Speaker – Margy Terpstra

Member **Margy Terpstra** returns to present at the **June 19th** MoNEP meeting. Margy will talk about helping native birds by providing them with the food, water and shelter they need. There are many beautiful songbirds that migrate into the St. Louis area in May. Some stay here to nest and some go on their way to their breeding grounds in the boreal forests of Canada. Margy and Dan's property, 'Shady Oaks', is a virtual oasis for these birds and has been classified as a **Silver Certified Habitat** by St. Louis Audubon's new program, ***Bring Conservation Home***. Through her photography and short videos, Margy will show us how they supply what the birds need and how we can all help them by providing the right food sources and fresh moving water.

MoNEP Members are also invited to visit 'Shady Oaks' when it is on the **Sustainable Backyard Tour** on **Sunday, June 24th,** from **11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Volunteers from the *Bring Conservation Home* program will also be there to answer questions. The tour is free, but registration is required at: **www.sustainablebackyardtour.com**

MoNEP June Field Trip

There will be a field trip to **Shaw Nature Reserve** on **Saturday, June 23rd**. The time and location for meeting are still to be determined, but plan on meeting sometime between 6:30 and 7 a.m. We will send out details as they are finalized.

July Meeting

At the **July 17th** meeting, Missouri Department of Conservation staff photographer, **Noppadol Paothong**, will showcase his book, ***Save the Last Dance – A Story of North American Grassland Grouse***, which he has been working on for over a decade. He will share stories from his 11-year journey of documenting these highly endangered, extraordinary birds, along with his stunning images of the species' mating rituals and habitats. The book will be published in August and is available for pre-order now. If you pre-order the book you will receive a 15% discount off the retail price, a signed edition and a free signed post card. For ordering information, visit **http://www.savethelastdancebook.com/preorder**.

May Meeting Recap

Danny Brown delightfully entertained and informed the group at the May meeting as he walked us through his very impressive images of wildlife. A Missouri Department of Conservation biologist, he is, in his off hours, a freelance photographer, who is proud to have had one of his images chosen to appear on the cover of ***The Conservationist***, the MDC monthly magazine.

Danny is primarily a wildlife photographer. He shoots with a Canon 1D Mark IV and uses a 500mm lens and a 1.4x teleconverter for much of his work. Although 90% of what he shoots is wildlife, Danny also carries 17-40,70-200 and 300mm lenses. For trekking any distance, he has a lightweight, but sturdy Feisol carbon fiber lightweight tripod and a Markins M-10 ballhead. He also uses and clearly adores, a Whimberley gimbal head that allows his camera to hang like a telescope without budging. Danny raved about his R-strap camera strap, which makes carrying his camera and lens more comfortable.

Danny shoots in RAW and relies on continuous, center and manual focus. He favors aperture priority, so he can maintain control of his depth of field. He shoots with his saturation set at +1 and contrast set at -1. He does his digital darkroom work in Canon's own software and keeps his sharpness slider on 5.

There are many non-camera tools that Danny uses in the field to make his work easier. Among them is a camouflage folding chair, which he says has "changed his life". It is very light and allows him to sit comfortably while waiting for long periods of time for his subjects to appear. To better blend in he uses cut leaf camouflage set up with fiberglass garden stakes to cover his lens. He also takes along some pruning sheers to clear any vegetation that blocks the camera's view.

Danny is a Missouri native and concentrates on subjects in his home and neighboring states. He recently returned from a trip to the Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma, where he captured stunning images of the collared lizard in its "mustard cap and turquoise sweater" breeding colors. His secret for snake images is to focus on the snout and increase depth of field to get both the snout and eyes in focus. His images were awe-inspiring, and his stories were a delight. Our thanks to Danny for a great program.

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MISSION STATEMENT

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.

MoNEP meetings are held once a month at the Powder Valley Conservation Area Nature Center on 11715 Cragwold Road, near the intersection of I-44 and I-270 in southwestern St. Louis County. Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, January through November. Meetings take place in the Nature Center auditorium. Specific dates are posted in the newsletter.

MoNEP is an officially registered service mark. Use of the logo without MoNEP board approval is prohibited.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.monep.org

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