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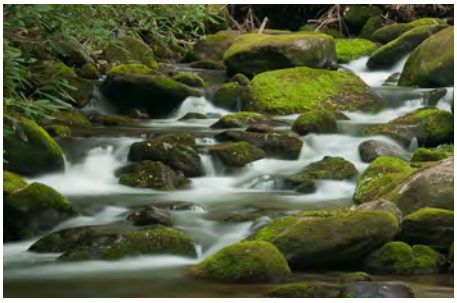


Lori Meier

"The world is exploding in emerald, sage, and lusty chartreuse - neon green with so much yellow in it. It is an explosive green that, if one could watch it moment by moment throughout the day, would grow in every dimension."

- Amy Seidl
Ecologist, Author, Educator

PEOPLE & PLACES

Rob Sheppard Seminar

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 photographer and videographer who says his favorite location is the one he is in at any time. He is the author/photographer of over 40 books, as well as a well-known speaker and workshop leader, and a Fellow with the North American Nature Photography Association. He was the long-time editor of the prestigious ***Outdoor Photographer*** magazine and helped start ***PCPhoto*** (*Digital Photo*). Presently, he is editor-at-large for *Outdoor Photographer*. He trained both as a photographer and a naturalist specializing in ecology and botany.

Sheppard has written hundreds of articles about photography and nature, plus books including the *Magic of Digital Landscape Photography, The Magic of Digital Nature Photography, Digital Photographer's Complete Guide to HD Video* and the *National Geographic Field Guide to Digital Photography*

Rob will cover the following topics during his August presentation:

- 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

Registration is $50 for members and $60 for non-members. Lunch is included in the registration fee. For a preview of our speaker visit Rob's website and blog at **www.robsheppardphoto.com** or **www.natureandphotography.com**.

Celebrating Missouri Returns

Celebrating Missouri, the MoNEP photo exhibit that started out in the hallways of Powder Valley seven months ago, is returning home after being shown across the state at four different venues. As **Lori Purk**, who was instrumental in organizing this very strong traveling exhibit, took the exhibit down at **Runge Conservation Nature Center** in Jefferson City, several Department of Conservation staff members expressed their appreciation for the work and their sadness to see it go. **Trana Madsen**, who is in charge of nature center exhibits, said she had received very positive comments from visitors, volunteers and staff, and that she had personally grown very attached to the work during the two months the exhibit graced the nature center's walls.

The MoNEP Board would like to thank the 32 exhibitors and the countless number of volunteers who helped with the selection, framing, installation, transportation and take down of the exhibit. The Board especially wishes to acknowledge the work of Lori Purk who saw to all the details and did much of the moving of the exhibit herself. It was an excellent exhibit and it showed MoNEP in a very positive light.

The work will be available for pick-up at the May meeting. If you are not able to be at the meeting that night, please make arrangements for someone else to collect your work for you. You may call or email Lori Purk at **314-869-7427** or **purkyl8r@aol.com** with any questions.

In the meantime, get out there and start taking some pictures for the summer exhibit that will be hosted by MDC at Runge in July and August 2013.

Members News

Mark Braun recently won the best in show at the **St. Peters Center for the Arts** with a photo of a lily.

Jim Campbell will have three images on display at the **MySLART** exhibit, ***33May*** from **May 22nd through May 27th**. The gallery is located at **39 S. Old Orchard in Webster Groves** and is open from **noon to 5 p.m.** each day. There will be a public reception featuring the artists, music, food and drink for *33May* on **Friday, May 25th from 5:30 to 10 p.m.**

Joe Coelho's print of an Eastern tiger swallowtail on a purple coneflower won **Best Color Picture** and **2nd Place** in the Animal category at the annual **John Wood Community College Photo Contest**. He also won the **2012 Earth Day Photo Contest** sponsored by Leatherman, LED Lenser and Hi-Tec Boots, with an image of a hovering honeybee.

MoNEP member, **Lori Purk,** has been invited by the Kirksville Arts Association to participate in a twelve-person exhibit that will be shown from **May 11th - June 30th**. The center is located at **117 S. Franklin St. In Kirksville**. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m on Thursdays and Saturdays and 1-7 p.m. on Fridays. For more information call **660-665-0500**, or visit **www.kirksvillearts.com**.

SNR Youth Photo Contest

MoNEP and **Shaw Nature Reserve** (SNR) are co-sponsoring SNR's 2012 youth nature photography contest. ***Take A Shot!*** is open to children ages 14 and under. Entries must be 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.

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 habitat is not protected and they are allowed to disappear forever.

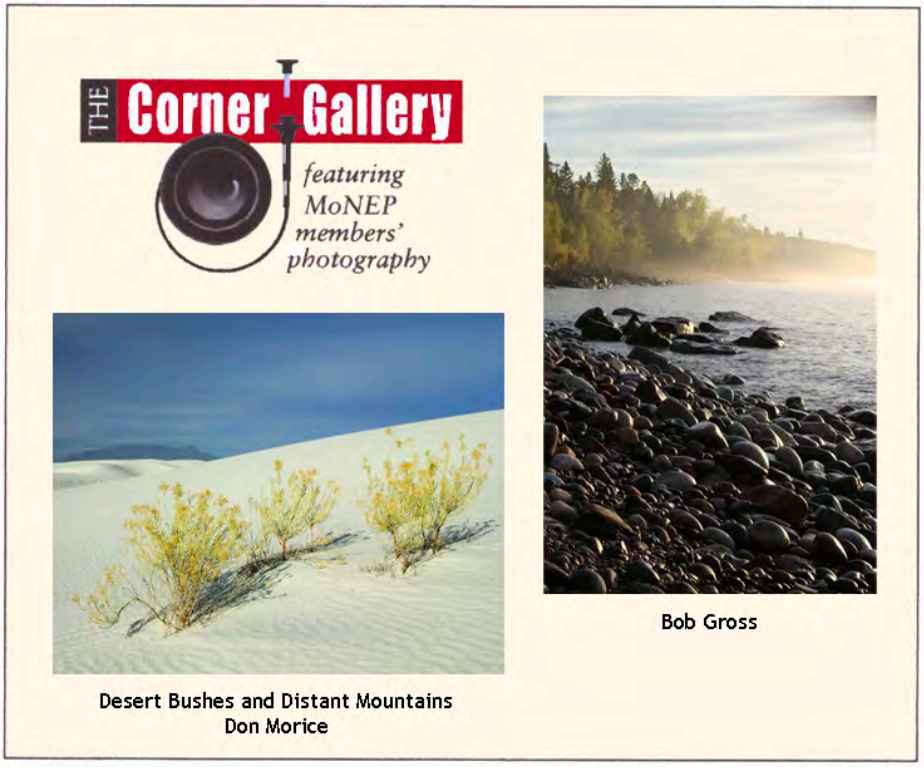
You can preorder a limited edition, signed copy of the book online at **www.savethelastdancebook.com**. Preordered books also receive a 15% discount and some of the proceeds from sales will be donated to one of three grassland conservation groups.

Visit **www.nopnatureimages.com** to preview the book and see Nop's work.

Bring Conservation Home

The **St. Louis Audubon Society** has started the **Bring Conservation Home** Program, which provides on-site assistance to small, private landowners in the greater St. Louis area for the restoration of native plant and animal habitat on their grounds. They will offer advice on landscaping with environmentally healthy and sustainable native plant species. They will teach owners about the removal of invasive plant species such as bush honeysuckle and will stress water conservation on the urban landscape and other stewardship practices that promote healthy habitat for birds, native wildlife and people. Audubon envisions an ever-growing mosaic of native plant and animal landscapes across the St. Louis region, including even the smallest urban yard.

A modest program fee of $25 for Audubon members will be payable in advance of the initial site visit. If you are not an Audubon member, a $50 fee will cover your participation in Bring Conservation Home and one year of support to the St. Louis Audubon Society. The fee includes one initial site assessment and consultation visit plus one follow-up certification visit. To learn more and apply visit **stlouisaudubon.org/BCH/**.



MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates and Share & Show Themes

Tuesday, May 15th – Landscapes
Tuesday, June 19th – Red

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**.

May 15th Meeting Speaker – Danny Brown

At the **May 15th**meeting, we welcome back one of our most popular speakers, **Danny Brown**. Danny is a lifelong Missourian from the Ozark Highlands. He is a freelance wildlife photographer specializing in Missouri natural history and a biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Danny can be found traipsing through woods and prairies or plying Ozark streams and big rivers, looking for natural moments to capture with his digital camera. Danny's exquisite photos have been featured on the covers of ***Birdwatching, Missouri Conservationist, Outdoor Illinois,*** and ***Big River*** magazines, and the ***Missouri Natural Events Calendar.*** Other publications include ***Colorado Outdoors, National Wildlife, and St. Louis Magazine.*** Recently, Danny's image of pileated woodpecker nestlings along the Washington, Missouri riverfront was published in ***National Geographic's Backyard Guide to Birds of North America.*** To preview Danny's work, visit **www.dannybrownphotography.com**.

June 19th Speaker – Margy Terpstra

MoNEP member, birder and horticulturist, **Margy Terpstra**, will be our presenter at the **June 19th** meeting. Margy will be presenting ***Our Garden is for the Birds! How to Invite Them and Delight in Them***. Margy's goal is to raise awareness of the needs of our native birds and share what each of us can do to meet those needs. She will discuss the plants she has found to be most beneficial to multiple species of birds, butterflies, dragonflies and other native pollinators. With images of the tiniest to the mightiest of birds, Margy hopes to show MONEP members the possibility of making a difference in sustaining our native birds for future generations.

April Meeting Recap

Ray Kersting from **Schiller's** was on hand at the April 17th meeting to discuss equipment including options for off camera lighting.

Tripods: Ray started his presentation by discussing features of tripods that will make the photographer's challenges easier to address. Among the features he emphasized were tripods with variable spread legs for setting up on uneven ground and for the ability to lower the tripod nearly to ground level. Another key tripod element is having a tripod with a removable center post, so you can set the tripod as close to the ground as possible. He also demonstrated a sidearm for the tripod, which mounts on the tripod's center post and allows you to shoot straight down to the ground without getting the tripod legs in the picture. Cameras can be mounted on either or both ends of the sidearm.

Ring Flash: Ray shared several different types of ring flashes, which attach to the camera lens and provide good wrap-around light, particularly for close-up scenes. He showed a new LED ring light, which can be used at full illumination, or which can be used so that only half of the ring will illuminate for an exposure.

Off-Camera Lighting: Although on-camera flash is convenient, Ray stressed that it is best to use off-camera flash so you have more control and can put the light where you want it. A challenge to off-camera lighting is how to trigger the flash. There are infrared triggers, which can also control the level of flash output. Newer technology makes use of radio signals, using a radio transmitter attached to the camera. Phottix makes a fairly simple one with Through The Lens (TTL) control. However, the premier radio trigger is the Pocket Wizard, which provides more range and accuracy. Additionally, there are any number of stands and small clamping tripods for holding an off-camera flash. He deemed these the "Swiss army knife of tripods".

Diffusers: Since flash can be harsh and cause too much contrast and shadows, there are more and more devices to help diffuse the flash and soften it. Among these are pop-out soft boxes, which enclose the flash and provide a nice round light source. There are grids that can be attached to flash units by Velcro and will put light just where you want it. There are a huge range of diffuser boxes that fit over the hot shoe flash, and even bendable, strap on light bouncers so you can direct the flash upward and bounce the light off a reflector onto the subject. Sunlight can be harsh on a subject as well, so don't forget the variable sized hand held diffusers, which can soften the contrast in close-up work on a bright day. They act like a large soft box and can be clipped onto trees, tripods and other objects to soften the scene.

After his talk, Ray answered questions and encouraged members to come up front to look over all the equipment he brought along. We are most grateful to him for his time, expertise and all that he shared with us.

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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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