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Lori Purk

Emerald Toucanet
by Greg Basco

[Nature] is the one place where miracles not only happen, but happen all the time.
~Thomas Wolfe
American Novelist
1900-1938

PEOPLE & PLACES

President's Message

Thank you for making 2011 another strong year for MoNEP: a year of wonderful programs, field trips and events. We started out the year with a very successful seminar featuring **Bill Fortney**. Other special events included the distribution of tree seedlings for planting, MoNEP's sponsorship of the **Shaw Nature Reserve's (SNR) Youth Photo Contest** and a **MoNEP photo exhibit at Powder Valley and Busch Wildlife Areas**. We wrapped up the year with an outstanding Holiday Show at Powder Valley Nature Center. All of these things rely upon the help, dedication and time of the board, the volunteer committee chairs and the membership. Many thanks! We look forward to your support in 2012, as we continue to involve MoNEP with events throughout the community.

2012 looks to be busy with our photo exhibit moving to Kansas City in January. Join us at the January 17th meeting as we start off the year with **Greg Basco**. The year also brings: the **Annual Backyard Bird Festival on Saturday, February 4th** at **MBG**, a joint **reception with NANPA on March 3rd** and the **SNR Youth Photo Contest** in late spring. Our biennial seminar is scheduled for **Saturday, August 4th**, with **Rob Sheppard**. Remember, the profits from the seminars are used to help nature-based organizations and fund our UMSL scholarship.

If you haven't already done so, it is time to renew memberships for this year. We welcome the many new members who joined in 2011 and hope our veteran members will help acclimate the newer ones. Happy New Year! -Scott

2011 MoNEP Holiday Show

With good weather, a great location and plenty of fine food and company, The 2011 MoNEP Holiday Show and party was a huge success. Our sincere thanks to all who made it such a great evening. We would especially like to thank **Margy and Dan Terpstra** for all their hard work coordinating food and logistics and **Jerry Miller and Pat Burgess** for putting together another great holiday show. Thanks also to the many volunteers who helped with setup, cleanup or brought food. The party and the show are huge endeavors, and we are so fortunate to have talented people who are willing to give their time and energy to make it a great celebration of the year. We are grateful as well to the staff of Powder Valley, for allowing us to use their facilities and for their support with the arrangements.

Finally, our thanks to the 57 members who submitted images for the holiday show: **Barb Addelson, Scott Avetta, Karen Bade, Kevin Bade, Tim Bade, Ken Biddle, Vearl Brown, Gary Budke, Pat Burgess, Jim Campbell, Sandy Campise, Kathy Cherry, Mark Cherry, Joe Coelho, Jane Deeker, Nancy Donnell, Gary Eaves, Scott Evers, Mark Freeman, Loena Gerdes, Ron Gerdes, Bob Gross, Kelly Hall, Michelle Jones, Paul Kulessa, Butch Lama, Milton Loessberg, Christy Lonero, Bill Lubben, Ed MacKay, Mark McAmish, Monica McAmish-Bahr, Dennis McCarthy, Lori Meier, Rich Merz, Beverley Miller, Jeremy Miller, Jerry Miller, Sandra Miller, Linda Moder, Don Morice, Larry Morrison, Norma Mull, Vicki Northrop, Marcy Pivin, Lori Purk, Sarah Radke, Dick Roman, Joseph Schmidt, Don Sheahan, Richard Spener, Jim Stroup, Dan Terpstra, Margy Terpstra, Larry Terrell, Dug Threewitt** and **Sammylane Wirth.**

New Members

We offer a warm welcome to the following new members of MoNEP: **Leandra Lewis**, **Jim Rhodes** and **Gina and Ted Rubright**.

Member News

Michael Abbene's photograph of a polar bear at the **Saint Louis Zoo** was part of a November 17th front-page article in the ***St. Louis Post-Dispatch*** on the Zoo's efforts to build a new exhibit. In addition, several of Michael's photographs are included in the **2012 Saint Louis Zoo calendar**.

Fran Mannis' image of a lilac breasted roller won the **St. Louis Award for Nature** in the **2011 Mississippi Valley Salon of Photography**. The St. Louis Camera Club sponsors this competition, but club members are not eligible for the top medals in the overall competition. Deserving club members may receive St. Louis Awards instead. The competition had two divisions, Color and Nature, and there were approximately 550 exhibitors, from over 50 countries, who submitted roughly 3,700 images. **Chuck Mannis** had four images accepted in the Nature Division and Fran had two, including the winner.

The mayor of Clarksville, Missouri, presented an eagle photograph, taken by **Lori Purk**, to the Missouri Department of Transportation at a ribbon-cutting ceremony held in October 2011. The gift was selected to represent both the artists and the town of Clarksville and was presented at a ceremony to commemorate the reopening of a stretch of Highway 79 that had been closed for several years. Artists from the three towns of Hannibal, Louisiana and Clarksville were asked to participate in the ribbon cutting in recognition of the region's ***50 Miles of Art*** initiative and the fact that Highway 79 is an important connection between the three communities. Lori's image is currently on display at the Missouri DOT's Northeast District Headquarters office in Hannibal.

Richard Spener has a photographic exhibit at the **Maryland Heights Community Center** from **January 9th through February 17th**. On **January 15th**, visitors will be able to meet and talk with Richard from **2:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

Celebrating Missouri Exhibit

The MoNEP member photo exhibit, ***Celebrating Missouri***, has moved across the state to the ***Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center*** in Kansas City, Missouri. It will be on display there from the beginning of **January to the end of February**. The Community Outreach Committee hopes to continue showing the exhibit at other nature centers around the state and will keep the membership posted. Thanks again to all of those who participated by submitting their work, helped at the framing session and also to those members who helped install and move the exhibit to and from the various venues. We couldn't do this without such dedicated members. For more information about the Gorman Conservation Discovery Center visit: **http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/kansas-city/discovery-center/image-gallery.**

Membership Renewals

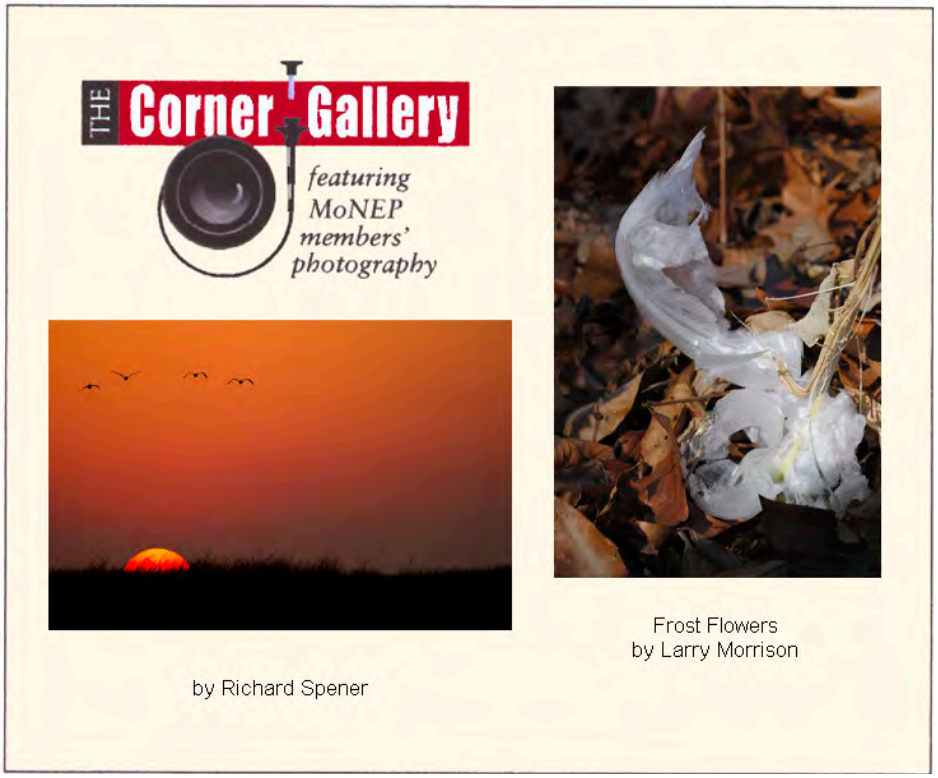
2012 dues are due! If you have not yet renewed, please submit a renewal form, along with your payment, in the form of cash or a check payable to MoNEP to **Vicki or Shawn Northrop** at the January meeting. You can also mail your form and dues to: **Vicki and Shawn Northrop, 1111 Wilmington Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63111**.

Backyard Birding Festival

MoNEP will be a part of the Missouri Botanical Garden's annual **Backyard Birding Festival**, an educational event, on **Saturday, February 4th**. We will have a booth with an exhibit of members' work and will talk with festival attendees about bird photography and our organization. **Don Morice** and **Lori Purk** are looking for members to join them in shifts to staff the MoNEP booth from between **8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.** This is a fun event and there is always time to visit the other vendors during your shift. The Garden will not have classes as they have had in the past, but they are still planning on conducting bird walks. If you are interested in helping out at this event, please talk to Lori Purk at the January meeting, or you may contact Lori by email at **purkyl8r@aol.com** or by phone at **314-869-7427**. No experience is required to volunteer at the booth.

NANPA Events

NANPA has announced its 2012 Road Shows and Regional Events. Regional Events are shooting events that take place in the field with five different field trip leaders at each event. The first of the year is in the Everglades from February 23rd – 26th. For details, visit **www.nanpa.org**.



MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates and Share & Show Themes

Tuesday, January 17th – No Share & Show
Tuesday, February 21st – Far, Far Away

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**.

January 17th Speaker – Greg Basco

Greg Basco, a native St. Louisan, is a resident Costa Rican professional photographer and environmentalist. Greg will join us on **Tuesday, January 17th**, for an extended presentation based on his popular blog feature, ***Behind the Lens,*** in which he explains the technical and artistic decisions that went into making some of his favorite images. Though focused on the rainforest, these techniques are transferable to other habitats and will provide you with new and creative ideas for your own nature photography.

Greg enjoys a working relationship with Canon, BH Photo Video, Think Tank and Induro. He is a **BBC/Veolia Environment Wildlife Photographer of the Year** and **Nature's Best Windland Smith Rice** prizewinner. His photos have been published in ***National Geographic*** and other magazines and have been used in many books, public exhibits, calendars and other projects. Greg's latest work in progress is a coffee table book of artistic photos of Costa Rica's national parks and reserves. To learn more about Greg and his photography, visit his web site**: www.deepgreenphotography.com.** To get a preview of his talk, link to the *Behind the Lens* feature on his blog from his web site. Greg is both very knowledgeable and an engaging presenter with a great sense of humor, so it should be a wonderful evening.

In addition to his doing his own photography, Greg truly enjoys working with other photographers through his photo tours and workshops. To learn more about his photo tours, visit **www.fotoverdetours.com**, Costa Rica's first and only travel agency dedicated to nature photography.

November Speaker Recap

Many thanks to **Butch Lama** and **Susi Allison-Lama** for taking us on a ***Quest for Tigers: Tracking India's Endangered Bengal Tigers*** during the November meeting. With the help of Butch's stunning images, they shared a wealth of information about the biology, behavior and conservation status of India's magnificent tigers. Tigers occur in a range of habitats, are well camouflaged and can be hard to find. Tracking methods require keen observation skills. Butch and his colleagues look for pugmarks or tracks or the presence of scavengers. They also listen for the alarm calls of prey species, which are all potential clues to a tiger's presence. Tigers are also creatures of habit, which aids in finding them.

Tigers do not live in isolation and our speakers introduced us to some of the other wildlife species of the subcontinent. Like Africa, India has its own "Big Five" mammals including the tiger, lion, leopard, Asian elephant and one-horned rhinoceros. Other intriguing species include the spotted deer with its lyre-shaped antlers and the nilgai, Asia's largest antelope. The male nilgai has a bluish tinge to its coat. The blackbuck is one of the fastest of land animals and the male sports fabulous long, twisted horns. India is home to wild dogs, two different species of wild ass, wild water buffalo and the shaggy sloth bear. If you are interested in birds, India has over 1,200 species from the bizarre hornbills to the lovely plum-headed parakeets. For information on traveling to India with Butch and Susi, visit their web site: **www.butchlama.com**.

NANPA Meeting in St. Louis

The **North American Nature Photographers Association** (**NANPA)** will have its annual board meeting in St. Louis in early March. On **Saturday, March 3rd**, MoNEP and the NANPA Board of Directors will hold a joint reception at **Pujols 5 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.** This is a great opportunity for MoNEP members to learn more about NANPA from those who have been key players in its development. Please join us to meet and share the MoNEP vision with some of NANPA's board members. MoNEP was formed based on NANPA's principles and mission statement. They have also been the source of many of our seminar speakers, including this year's speaker, Rob Sheppard. NANPA is a key voice for nature photographers worldwide. This is a great chance to relax and talk about nature and photography with a group of photographers who truly care.

For those interested in attending, there is **$10 fee** to cover a variety of appetizers, and vegetable, fruit and cheese trays. Non-alcoholic drinks are included. Alcohol will be available for purchase. We do need to get a head count in advance for a room reservation and food. Please **RSVP to Michelle Jones** by **February 21st** at the latest. Michelle will be at a table at the January and February meetings to take reservations and collect the fee. You may also contact her at **314-496-7616** or **michelle@mmjones.us**, or you can mail your check, payable to MoNEP, to her at: Michelle Jones, 45 Bellerive Acres, St. Louis, Mo. 63121. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

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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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& Environmental Photographers

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