CLOSE UP

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"For the man sound in body and serene of mind there is no such thing as bad weather; every day has its beauty, and storms which whip the blood do but make it pulse more vigorously."

- *George Gissing*
  English Novelist 1857-1903

Mark McAmish

PEOPLE & PLACES

Holiday Show

The 2012 MoNEP Holiday Show and party will be on **Tuesday, December 11th**, starting at **6:00 p.m.** at **The Ethical Society in Clayton**.

This will be our first party at the Ethical Society, and we are looking forward to a great evening. **Margy and Dan Terpstra** are coordinating the logistics for the gathering. We will be providing finger foods, wine, beer and soft drinks this year. If you are willing to bring an appetizer or dessert, please make sure that anything you bring is easily served and can be eaten without cutlery. For planning purposes, we ask that those who are bringing food email Margy at hummerhaven@sbcglobal.net to let her know what you are bringing. The food will be set up downstairs in an area where attendees can gather before and after the presentation.

Jerry Miller and **Pat Burgess** are hard at work preparing another spectacular annual holiday slide show. After everyone gets the chance to get something to eat and drink and socialize a bit, **the show will begin around 7:45 p.m. in the auditorium.** Please remember that food and drinks are not allowed in the auditorium.

During the evening please take a moment to get to know someone you don't know and to thank the volunteers, your officers and board members who work all year long to make this the excellent organization that it is.

We hope you will join us for this special evening to celebrate the holidays and another great year for MoNEP!

Meeting Rooms and Dates

This is an important message from the President, **Scott Avetta –**

The reason for the recent shift in our meeting locations is entirely based on the fact that Powder Valley was forced to make budget cuts due to less revenue. They were told to reduce the hours and nights the meeting rooms were available to all groups. The maximum meeting slots allowed for an organization is 6 per year and the times were changed to 6-8 pm. We do plan on using Powder Valley for the dates which we are allowed and will continue to research options for the other 5 meetings each year. The entire Board loves the facilities at Powder Valley and we would not have changed locations.

We are still looking for solutions to best handle this situation. MoNEP needs a location that is open in the evenings, that is dark enough to project images, is reasonable in cost and can handle 60-100 people. We would also like to keep meetings on Tuesday nights and prefer a somewhat central location. This is not easy to find. We started with the Library because we met there for many years, but it is no longer an ideal fit. We have found other options and are trying to minimize the number of changes.

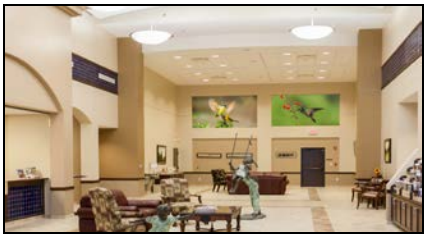
In 2013 we will be required to meet in more than one location. We are open to member suggestions and hope that everyone continues their membership. We will continue to keep you up to date and try to improve the situation. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Members News

MoNEP member, **Becky Joseph** has a photography exhibit entitled "Living Water" at the National Great Rivers Museum in Alton, IL. The exhibit will be on display until the end of the year and a special reception will be held on Nov 18th from 2-4 p.m. For more info visit www.rmsphoto.ifp3.com.

MoNEP member**, Tom Rollins** has arranged a **photography tour to India** with MoNEP members **Butch Lama and Susi Allison** owners of **Wild India LLC**. Dates: March 8 – 26, 2013. The tour will be half wildlife viewing and half culture and is open to MoNEP members, with room for up to 4 more participants. The tour features: a 10-day tiger safari, Taj Mahal, Varanasi and the River Ganges, Old and New Delhi. If you're not familiar with Butch and Susi or their tour business visit: www.butchlama.com. Please call or email Susi Allison at 314-925-8380, wildindia@swbell.net or Tom Rollins at 618-281-5385, rollinsthomas@aol.com to sign up or for more information.

MoNEP founder **Ruth Hoyt** received a commission for a photographic mural from the Executive Director of Economical Development Corporation (EDC) in Weslaco, Texas. The board wanted to use nature photography in their new building that has four large niches along the interior walls. After several meetings and presentations it was decided that they wanted to fill the spaces with Rio Grande Valley bird photos. She contacted various photographers and served as their agent for the project. The four photographs that were selected for the project were: Ruth's buff-bellied hummingbird, a green kingfisher by John Pickles, an altamira oriole (the city's mascot bird) by Alan Murphy and a great kiskadee and oriole, also by Alan Murphy. The photographs will be installed later this month. Below is a Photoshop mock-up of how the space will look once the murals are in place.



MoNEP 2013 Exhibits

MoNEP has been invited to show our work in two back-to-back exhibits next summer and fall.

The first exhibit will be at the **Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City in July and August**. We will be showing members' work related to all things natural found in Missouri.

Then, **Shaw Nature Reserve** has invited us to submit an exhibit for the Bascom House in **September and October**. We will be showing work related to the Missouri Botanical Garden's theme for the entire year, which is ***Food***. This theme can be interpreted many ways. For example images of insects feeding on plants, mammals eating plant or birds eating insects. We suggest you think about it as who eats what, or who eats whom in nature. Since the theme is narrower than we are used to, we wanted you to be aware of what we will be looking for so you can start shooting now. It would be great if some of the work in the first show could be used for the second exhibit, so please keep this in the back of your mind while you are out photographing in the coming months. More information about the two exhibits will be provided in future newsletters.

MDC 2013 Calendar

The Missouri Department of Conservation's ***2013 Natural Events Calendar*** will be on sale soon at the Powder Valley Visitor Center. It should be available after October 18th. You can also purchase it from the MDC website at **www.mdcnatureshop.com** and at Shaw Nature Reserve. The calendar is great for keeping up to date on the timing of seasonal changes, including what is in bloom, bird nesting dates and a wealth of other natural phenomena. There are also great photos, including those of past MoNEP speaker **Danny Brown**. This is a great holiday gift for the naturalist or photographer on your shopping list and it only costs $7.

Richard Spener

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, November 20th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

NOTE: The November meeting will be held at the **St. Louis County Library Headquarters at 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.** The library headquarters are located just south of the intersection of Lindbergh Boulevard and Clayton Road, across from Plaza Frontenac. The meeting rooms are on the north side of the building. There is a separate entrance on the north side so you do not have to walk through the main library.

November Speaker – Alex Wild

Alex Wild, a biologist and superb close-up photographer, will present ***How To Photograph Army Ants and Survive*** at the November meeting. Army ants are small, fast-moving animals that live in dark habitats, making them especially challenging as photographic subjects. To make matters worse, they aren't shy about biting and stinging. This talk will cover the macro-photographic techniques used to shoot these difficult but fascinating insects. These techniques are applicable regardless of the photographic subject.

Alex is a biologist in Illinois where he studies the evolutionary history of various groups of insects. He considers photography to be an aesthetic complement to his scientific work. He blogs about photography at ***Scientific American*** and about entomology at ***Myrmecos.*** Alex is a founding instructor of ***BugShot Insect Photography Workshops*** **at bugshot.net**. To preview his work, visit **www.alexanderwild.com**. See his blogs at **http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/compound-eye/** and **http://myrmecos.net**.

October Speaker Recap

Integrating Weather & Nature Photography Safely- Interesting weather conditions can provide the opportunity to photograph something ordinary in an extraordinary way or maybe shoot something very extraordinary. MoNEP member, **Dennis McCarthy**, shared his expertise of 40+ years of meteorology and his love of photography with members at the October meeting.

There are many different weather events to photograph including cloud formations, sun effects, storms, lightening, snow, ice, fog and mist. In order to take good weather-related photographs be sure to do research of the area you'll be photographing and always have your camera ready to catch these amazing occurrences.

Safety should be a top priority when going out to shoot weather related conditions. Be especially aware of lightening, flash flooding, frostbite or heat exhaustion. Be informed by having current radar data, forecasts and warning information. Heed the advice of emergency

(October Speaker Recap - continued)
officials, and be aware of your surroundings so a sudden storm doesn't trap you. Be prepared by packing emergency gear and always let someone know where you are traveling.

Many people are storm chasers. If this is something you may be interested in, be sure to get the proper training. Become educated by reading books and gathering information from a variety of sources and learn about severe storm behavior. A radio scanner, detailed maps and GPS units are a must. Of course, you can always be a "front porch storm spotter." We thank Dennis for an interesting and entertaining program, filled with many extraordinary photographs.

The following websites and local TV stations provide excellent weather information:
www.weather.gov (National Weather Service)
www.spc.noaa.gov (National Weather Service storm prediction center)
www.ucar.edu (University Corporation for Atmospheric Research)
www.ssec.wisc.edu/data (University of Wisconsin Space Science & Engineering Center)
The Weather channel (www.weather.com)
Weather Underground (www.wunderground.com)

Some other weather resources sent by **Nancy Phillips**:
http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/stormmaps/mo-cwa.htm
Contact information for NOAA regional office
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lsx/
St. Louis page of National Weather Service
http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/SGJune6-11.pdf
Weather spotters' field guide. Lots of photos, covers much of the material in October's talk.
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lsx/?n=schedule
Schedule of St. Louis area free storm spotter classes.

NANPA Summit

The **2013 North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA) Summit** will be held in **Jacksonville, Florida from February 28th through March 3rd**. It promises to be a very interesting summit with a number of new features. There will be 18 different programs over the course of the three days and several general sessions. One highlight will be an evening featuring the images of **Robert Glenn Ketchum** accompanied by a live performance by the **Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra**. The keynote speaker will be **Clyde Butcher** one of premier black and white nature photographers. Clyde specializes in photographing in Florida, especially the Everglades. Other featured speakers include **George Lepp**, **Rob Sheppard**, **Tony Sweet**, **Greg Downing**, **Lewis Kemper**, **Mike Moats** and **Guy Tal** among others. For more information, visit the NANPA website at **www.nanpa.org**.

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Visit our web-site at www.monep.org			

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