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PEOPLE & PLACES

MoNEP 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**, author, well-known speaker and workshop leader. Rob was the longtime editor for ***Oudoor Photographer*** and is the author of hundreds of articles about photography and nature, as well as over 30 books.

Registration is $50 for members and $60 for non-members. Lunch from Honey Baked Ham in Olivette is included in the registration fee.

SNR Youth Photo Contest

MoNEP has once again joined with **Shaw Nature Reserve** (SNR) to sponsor its 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, 2011**. 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.

MoNEP will provide the judges for the contest as well as the prizes. Judging will be based upon the subject matter, composition, creativity and technical difficulty of the images.

MoNEP Exhibit

The MoNEP photo exhibit, ***Celebrating Missouri***, has recently been moved from the MDC's Discovery Center in Kansas City to the Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City, thanks to **Lori Purk** and **Larry Terrell**. It will remain on display at Runge until **April 27th**. It is wonderful that we have been able to show the work at so many great venues around the state and that the exhibit will have been on display for a total of seven months by the time it comes down at the end of April. Lori would especially like to thank Larry for his help at the end of February, taking the exhibit down in Kansas City and then transporting it to Jefferson City the same day. The board would also like to thank the 32 members who participated in this exhibit and congratulate them for their works, which were so well received by our various hosts and the visitors they serve. As a result, we have been asked to put up another exhibit at Runge for the months of July and August 2013 during the Center's 20th anniversary. There will be more information to follow about that in the months to come.

The photographs will be returned to St. Louis and will be ready for pick up at the May meeting. If you are unable to attend the May meeting, please ask one of your fellow exhibitors to pick up your work for you or contact Lori Purk at 314-869-7427 or purkyl8r@aol.com to make other arrangements. Lori will send out a reminder email to everyone at the end of the show. Thanks to everyone who helped make this the strong exhibit it is!

Members News

Mark Braun will be exhibiting some of his work in the **St. Charles Spring Art Walk** on **April 27th, 28th and 29th**. Visit **http://www.saintcharlesriverfrontarts.com/index.php/spring-artwalk-2012** for more information about the event. His work will be in **Remington's Gallery** at **302 N. Main**, and he'll be there all weekend. There will be a wine tasting on Friday night and music throughout the weekend. Mark's work will also be on display at **Schon**, an eclectic boutique at **The Boulevard** in Richmond Heights.

Tina Crist has relocated her art framing and restoration business, **Home Is Where The Art Is**. She has a framing and restoration studio at **9120 Watson Road, Suite 200** in **Crestwood** and Graphic Design at **440 East Jackson Road** in **Webster Groves**. You can contact Tina at **314-968-9558** or at **tinacrist@msn.com**. Note that for the moment Tina is working by appointment, so it is best to call first before just dropping in. Her website is **artandframerestoration.com**.

Gary Eaves recently passed the jury process for **Greater St. Louis Art Association** (GSLAA) and is now an Exhibiting Member.

Bob and Judy Gross are opening a new restaurant in Augusta, Missouri. The restaurant, **Rebecca's Café & Desserts**, will also be a showplace for Bob's flower and butterfly photographs. Rebecca's will be open for lunch from 10-2 and dinner from 5-8:30 on Fridays and Saturdays only. The café's address is **5501 Locust** in Augusta. The phone number for reservations is 636-228-4006. Bob and Judy also run **Critter Cottage Bed & Breakfast** outside of Marthasville. It is an 1860's log cabin set on 10 wooded acres and offers good photography options. Visit **crittercottagebandb.com** for details.

Sandy Moriarty has been busy lately, having been part of juried exhibits at **The Art Fair** at Queeny Park and **The Scarlet Thread** at The Crossing over the past couple of weeks. Her work is currently part of an exhibit called **Passageways** at the **Gateway Gallery** at **21 North Bemiston** in **Clayton**. There will be a reception for this exhibit at the gallery on April 13th from 6-9 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Exhibit: 2012 Nature's Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards

Rich Merz wrote about the fabulous **Nature's Best Photography Exhibit**, which he viewed recently at the **Smithsonian Museum of Natural History**. Rich said "I just wanted to let you know about an exhibit I saw in Washington, DC this week. It consists of 48 images from around the world. The exhibit is sponsored by ***Nature's Best Magazine*** and is one not to miss. If anyone is in DC from now until **January 6, 2013** they should see it. As usual at the Smithsonian, it is free. These images are considered the top 48 from 20,000 entries. All of the images are oversized and the sharpness is just amazing."

Saint Louis Art Museum Photo Exhibition

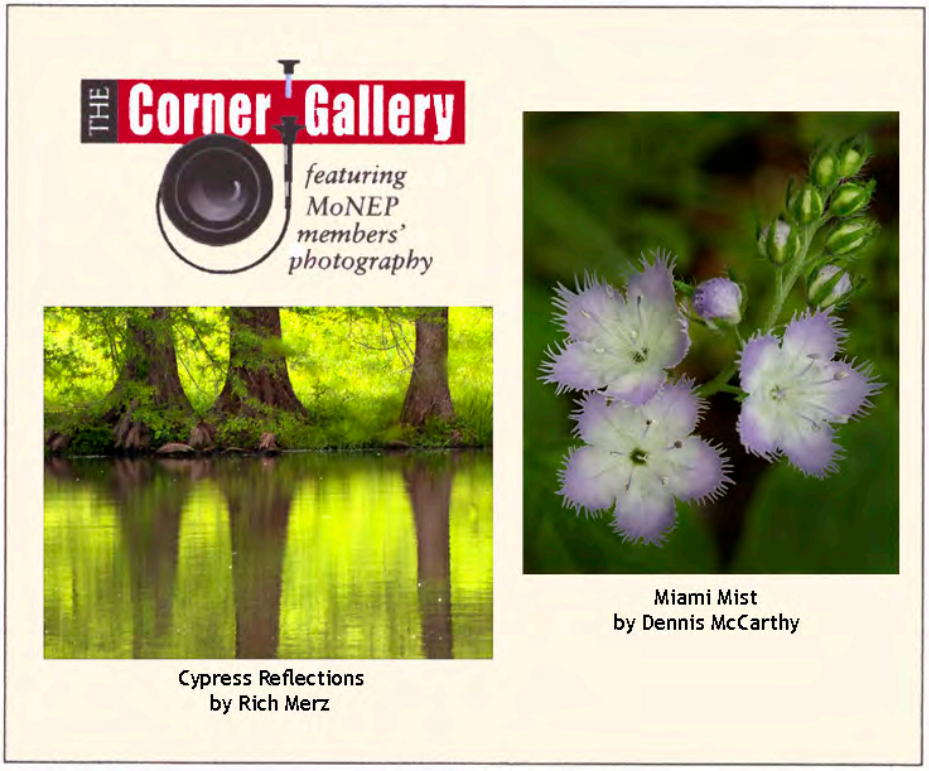
The Saint Louis Art Museum is hosting the exhibit, ***An Orchestrated Vision: The Theater of Contemporary Photography*** through May 13th. This exhibit brings together over 40 works by a group of international artists. The works blur the lines between fact and fiction and are meant to illustrate the potential of photography in modern art practice. For more information visit **www.slam.org**.

SNR Spring Wildflower Sale

Are you trying to establish a native butterfly or bird garden or create wildlife habitat in your backyard? **Shaw Nature Reserve** will host its annual **Spring Wildflower Sale** on **Saturday, May 12th from 9-4**. If you are a Garden member, there is a members' pre-sale on **Friday, May 11th** from **4-7:30**. In addition to plants from the Reserve, there will also be half a dozen premier nurseries from around the state. The sale will feature the largest selection of native trees, shrubs, ferns and annual and perennial wildflowers available in the St. Louis area. For further details visit **www.shawnature.org**.

Wildflower Guide Revision

The second edition of **Don Kurz's** field guide, ***Ozark Wildflowers***, has just been published. The guide is fully revised and updated with vivid photos and detailed descriptions of the diverse flora of the Ozarks region, from southern Missouri to northern Arkansas. Organized by color and plant family for easy plant identification, this handy reference includes clear descriptions, habitat and bloom time information. It features more than 365 photographs, making it an even more useful guide for the experienced botanist and novice alike.



MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates and Share & Show Themes

Tuesday, April 17th – New Beginnings
Tuesday, May 15th – Landscapes

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**.

April Meeting

Ray Kersting from **Schiller's** will be presenting at the **April 17th** meeting. Ray has been in the photography industry for more than 20 years. He started out assisting and shooting as a freelancer. He has shot everything from weddings and portraiture to architecture and catalog work. Ray started at Schiller's in 1996 and has served in a number of roles as his position has evolved. In addition to helping out in Schiller's retail store, he manages their pro shop. Outside of the store, he deals with corporate, commercial and educational accounts. Ray's core specialty is lighting, but he has a general base of knowledge of all things photographic. Ray's talk will be on off camera lighting with portable strobes and will include a discussion of the advantages of current flash modifiers.

March Meeting Recap

Shaw Nature Reserve staff biologist, **James Trager** was the speaker at the March meeting. James has a Ph.D. in entomology and presented ***Photographing The Singing Insects Through Knowing Their Habits***. These nighttime insects include crickets, katydids and grasshoppers. James took us on a journey of the mating habits of these insects, all of which use song to attract the females of the species. The "songs" are really the noise that is produced when the male insect rubs his wings together. All but one type sings in the fall, and there is only one type whose song is so high-pitched that humans can't hear it. One of the best ways to find and photograph this group of insects is by knowing their habits.

James showed slides of the many different forms and colors of these insects. He noted the differences between males and females in size, shape and coloration.

March Meeting Recap, continued

Females can be identified by the presence of an ovipositor, a tube for laying eggs that protrudes from their abdomens. The females lay eggs in woody branches of plants or under tree bark by drilling under the surface and laying an egg. The eggs have a protective coating, which allows them to overwinter and hatch in the spring.

The males work very hard to find a mate. Some species project their songs by positioning themselves against a leaf that will then amplify the sound, or they may produce food for the female through a metanotal gland on their backs. This is particularly helpful, as some females will dine on the ends of the wings of the male during mating.

To find them in the field, listen for their songs, especially in cold weather, which slows the insects down. James noted that these insects are well camouflaged, so their songs are particularly helpful in bringing you close to their location. He said they may hide from you on the far side of the branch as you approach, so circling around the area where you hear the sound can help in locating them.

We thank James for his highly entertaining presentation and his lively humor.

NANPA Gathering

On March 3rd, 25 MoNEP members and 12 NANPA board members met at St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame Bar and Grill in Westport Plaza for a reception hosted by MoNEP. This event gave members of both organizations the opportunity to get to know each other and discuss questions and concerns while enjoying appetizers and drinks. Some old acquaintances were renewed, and new friendships were made. The NANPA members were in St. Louis for a Board of Directors meeting and had expressed a desire to get together with MoNEP members after their board meeting. NANPA is a national organization that promotes the same principles MoNEP does. MoNEP's mission statement was influenced greatly by NANPA, and the success of NANPA on a national basis is very important for the future of nature and environmental issues. The event was a success, and we look forward to working with NANPA in the future.

NANPA Opportunities

NANPA still has a few spots left for the **Smokies Regional Field Event** based in **Townsend, Tennessee** from **April 26th-29th**. The trip leaders are **Bill Campbell, Jamie Davidson, Richard Day, Kevin FitzPatrick and Paul Hassell**. For details visit NANPA's website at **www.nanpa.org/2012smokies**.

The NANPA Foundation is hosting a photo trip to the **Galapagos Islands** on **August 3rd-13th**, and there are a few spaces still available. Travel will be aboard the M/Y Yolita II and is limited to 14 participants. This is a fundraiser for NANPA's educational programs, such as the College and High School Scholarship programs. Visit **www.nanpafoundation.org** for further 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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