CLOSE UP

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Larry Terrell

Thunderstorm
Dennis McCarthy

"The more you know about an ecosystem and the species in it, the better you'll be at whatever you do in the outdoors."

~ Doug Ladd
Director of Conservation Science
The Nature Conservancy
Missouri Chapter

PEOPLE & PLACES

Holiday Show Submissions

The 2012 MoNEP Holiday Show and party will be held on **Tuesday, December 11th at The Ethical Society**. One of the highlights of the evening is a digital presentation of members' photos, created by **Jerry Miller** and **Pat Burgess**. They need your images!

Submission Guidelines:
Each MoNEP member may submit up to 20 nature images for the show. In addition to your 20 nature shots, we would like to include images of other members in action. Submissions should be handed in to **Shawn Northrop** at the **September 18th** meeting. You may also submit your images via File Transfer Protocol (FTP) through the MoNEP website by the **deadline of September 18th**. For instructions on the procedures for uploading your images via FTP visit: **www.monep.org/pages/phototips.html**.

Format:
Digital submissions are required. Any slides need to be scanned. Place up to 20 images **on a CD-ROM in a folder with your name as part of the folder's title. Each individual photo file should also have your name included as part of its title.** However, no text should appear on any of the images.

Image size:
Images should be resized to **768 pixels on the longest side**. Vertical images must be sized with a height of 768 pixels and horizontal images with a width of 768 pixels. The resolution can be between 96 and 300 dpi (dots per inch). The size of each image should be less than 2.5 MB. For further information about resizing your image, please see the instructions at **www.monep.org**.

Holiday Show Submissions continued

Image Release
When you submit your photographs, you are providing MoNEP with permission to use your images in the Holiday Show, in the MoNEP newsletter, on the website and in promotional materials for the club. However, you will retain all rights to your images and will be given credit for each use. Your images will only be used to promote MoNEP and the mission of the organization. They will not be sold or used in any other ways than those stated above.

Tips for submissions
When choosing and preparing your images, please consider the following:

1. We would like a variety of your strongest nature subjects.

2. The more images we get, the greater our flexibility in choosing the right subjects for the show. Please provide us with as many quality pictures, up to the limit of 20, as you can.

3. Remember to include images from all seasons. Despite the time of year, please include fall and winter photos.

4. Only submit images you have not submitted in the past.

5. We cannot use all of the images provided, but we aim to include everyone who submits images.

6. In addition to your 20 images, please submit photos of yourself or other MoNEP members in the act of doing nature photography. We really need your help gathering images of the group.

7. Bear in mind that the absolute final **deadline is September 18th**. Images submitted after that cannot be included.

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest MoNEP members: **John Byrne**, **Lyndy Cogburn**, **Bill and Sarah Duncan**, **Nelle Garrecht**, **Patsy Hodge**, **Joe Klipsch**, **Sripatt Kulkamthorn**, **Jennifer Perkins**, and **Mario Ramirez**.

Members News

The second edition of **Scott Avetta's** book, ***St. Louis Impressions***, has just been published. The book is a portrait of St. Louis and captures some of its most iconic sites, as well as many of the lesser known jewels and neighborhoods. It also features images of St. Louis' natural landscape.

Jim Campbell will have three prints on exhibit at the **33September** show at **Old Orchard Gallery** in Webster Groves. The exhibit runs from the evening of **Friday, September 21st** through **October 3rd**. For details visit **www.myslart.org/events/33september**.

Gary Eaves' photography is on display at the **Daniel Boone Branch** of the St. Louis County Library System through the month of **September** as an exhibiting artist with the **Greater St. Louis Art Association** (GSLAA). Gary is also listed among the exhibitors at the **33September** show above.

Michelle Jones and **Don Morice** will have photo artwork for sale at **Schön**, a gift shop at **The Boulevard-St. Louis** across from the Galleria. Their work should be on sale by the end of the month of September.

Why Bother?

Do you ever look at other people's images and think about putting your camera away for good? I know I do! **Larry Terrell** wrote in to share a recent blog post that addresses why we should carry on. The post is by **Bill Fortney** and is entitled ***Why Bother?!*** "Scott Kelby says it's the best he has ever seen and I agree," wrote Larry. After reading that I had to check it out, and felt it might be motivating for many of us. Bill writes: "The relevant question is, am I enjoying working hard to get better? If your hobby or passion makes you miserable, stop doing it, pick a new hobby!" He then goes on to share five ways to get better at photography and enjoy it more in the process! To read the entire post go to Bill's website at **http://billfortney.com/?p=6176**.

August Speaker Recap

In August we were treated to the incredible knowledge and good humor of **Doug Ladd**, the Director of Conservation Science for the Missouri Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. His presentation, *Splendor in the Grass*, took us on a journey from 65 million years ago to the present. It covered the origins, evolution, destruction and protection of our native grasslands, or prairies.

Sixty-five million years ago, the Rocky Mountains rose up through volcanic activity. They created a barrier to moisture-laden air traveling from west to east across the country. This created a rain shadow east of the Rockies. In eastern Colorado, which receives only 10 to 20" of rain per year, you find the short grass prairies. As you move farther east across the plains, rainfall gradually increases. In this part of Missouri we receive 40" of rain per year. That is enough precipitation to support forested land, and a good portion of Missouri was forested. However, the Native Americans of the region employed fire to shape and maintain the prairies, and held the forests at bay.

The prairies are an incredibly rich and diverse ecosystem, with over 1,000 species of native flowering plants found in Midwestern grasslands. Long-lived, deep-rooted grasses and forbs dominate our prairies, with roots reaching 10-20 feet into the soil. In fact, more of the mass of the prairie plants is underground than above. Twenty to forty percent of the root matter dies every year. As these roots decompose, they form deep, rich black loam soils.

Over one-third of Missouri was prairie at the time of European settlement. As settlers moved west, the practice of burning the prairies ceased, and with the invention of the steel plow, settlers were able to turn the prairies into rich farmland. This fragmented the prairie ecosystems and has endangered the habitat and many of its inhabitants.

Finally, people have begun to protect and restore the prairies. Although there are very few original remnant prairies left, the Nature Conservancy and other organizations are working hard to conserve core remnants. They also strive to eradicate invasive species, restore plowed land to prairie and increase public awareness. Doug summed up the conservation effort: "Success means sustaining viable ecosystems and natural communities while meeting human needs." Our sincere thanks to Doug. In support of their work, MoNEP has made a donation to the Nature Conservancy.

THE Corner Gallery

featuring MoNEP members' photography

Trees in Fog
Kathy Cherry

Scott Evers

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, September 18th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 16th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The September and October meetings will be held at **Powder Valley Conservation Area Nature Center**.

September Meeting – Dan Zarlenga

Dan Zarlenga, a media specialist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, will be our presenter at the September 18th meeting. Dan's presentation will be on **Nightscape Photography – The World Under Twilight, Moonlight and Starlight.** Although many photographers put their cameras away as it begins to get dark, Dan is usually getting his out at that time. Dan has been in love with the night sky and the stars all of his life. He became serious about astronomy as a teenager and got his first real telescope at around age 16.

After becoming interested in photography three and a half years ago, it seemed only natural to bring photography and his passion for astronomy together. Dan enjoys photographing twilight scenes, starscapes, star trails and moonlit landscapes, in addition to lighting his own foregrounds. He will show many of his fabulous images and share some things he has learned about the unique challenges and rewards of photography after sunset. He will compare techniques such as long exposures star trails to stacked sequences. Dan will also cover ideas for foreground illumination and painting with light, as well as incorporating astronomy into nightscape photography.

Council Bluff Star Lake Trail – Dan Zarlenga

Visit **http://500px.com/DanZarlenga** to see more of Dan's photography.

Noppadol Paothong Presentations

For those of you who missed the July meeting and **Noppadol Paothong's** wonderful presentation, there are a couple of upcoming opportunities to hear him speak in St. Louis. Nop will present at the **St. Louis Camera Club** on **Wednesday, September 12th**. He will talk about the creation of his book, ***Save the Last Dance***. According to Nop, "My program at SLCC will be similar but not exactly the same as I presented at MoNEP. And I will have book signing before and after my program." SLCC meets at the **Ethical Society in Clayton at 7:00 p.m.**

Nop will also have a program at **Powder Valley on October 19th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** Reservations are required. Billed as **An Evening with Noppadol Paothong**, Nop will discuss his techniques for capturing the images for which he is known. He will also share stories about some of his experiences in nature. Nop's photos will also be on exhibit in the nature center hallway, and his book will be for sale in their Nature Shop.

Scott Kelby's Worldwide Photo Walk

This year marks the fifth year of the **Scott Kelby Worldwide Photo Walk**. The date for the Photo Walk is **October 13th.** This annual event is a two-hour gathering during which photographers get together to walk around, shoot photos and generally have fun with other photographers. There is also a photo contest walk participants can enter, with images from their specific walk. There are currently five separate walks scheduled for the St. Louis area. For details, visit the website: **http://www.worldwidephotowalk.com**.

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.

This year NANPA is offering a discount for early registration. **If you register before October 31, 2012 you will receive a $150 discount**. For more information, visit the NANPA website at **www.nanpa.org**.

Donation for Student Photography Program

Thanks to **Pat Brock Diener** for donating two film camera bodies and lenses. These will be given to the Meramec Community College student photography 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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