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A flash of harmless lightning,
A mist of rainbow dyes,
The burnished sunbeams brightening
From flower to flower he flies.

John Banister Tabb
American Poet/Priest
1845-1909

PEOPLE & PLACES

Holiday Show Submissions

The 2012 MoNEP Holiday Show and party will be held on Tuesday, December 11th. One of the highlights of the evening is a digital presentation of members' photographs. **Jerry Miller** and **Pat Burgess** create the show, but we 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 **Vicki or Shawn Northrop** at the **August 21st** or **September 18th** meetings. You may also submit your images via File Transfer Protocol (FTP) through the MoNEP website by the **deadline of September 18th**. For instructions on how to use FTP to upload images 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 photographs.

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.

Members News

Scott Avetta will be teaching five photography courses at the **Missouri Botanical Garden** this fall and a sixth at **Shaw Nature Reserve**. His topics include **Understanding Your Camera**, two sessions of **Basic Photography**, **Basic Photography: The Next Step, Landscape Photography** and **Seeing Nature Through the Lens**. Most classes are multi-day programs, featuring discussion in the classroom, shooting in the field and constructive feedback sessions. To learn more, visit **www.mobot.org/adulteducation**.

Gary Eaves' photography is on display at the **Daniel Boone Branch** of the St. Louis County Library System for the month of **August** as an exhibiting artist with the **Greater St. Louis Art Association** (GSLAA).

Sammylane Wirth won the Merit Award in the photography section of the **First Annual Southwestern Illinois College Senior Art Exhibit**, with her black and white image of a lotus pod.

Julian Pfannmuller

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of one of our earliest members, **Julian Pfannmuller**. Julian passed away at the age of 87 on July 19th. He was active in MoNEP until fairly recently, volunteering to staff the MoNEP booth during the Backyard Bird Festival among other events.

Julian was an aeronautical engineer his entire career and retired from McDonnell Douglas where he worked for 26 years. He was married to his wife, Mae, for 64 years and has two daughters, Susan and Lee. Susan has a career in photography, and Lee works in natural resources. It seems fitting that he would combine the two to become a nature photographer. He spent many days at Missouri's state parks and conservation areas and particularly liked to photograph birds.

MoNEP Vice President Don Morice said, "Julian was a longtime member, and a gentleman, always willing to volunteer when help was needed. He will be missed."

Memorial contributions may be made in Julian's honor to the Missouri Heritage Conservation Foundation and should be directed to the August Busch Conservation Area Nature Center.

July Speaker Recap

Noppadol Paothong's story is a remarkable one. He came to the United States from the bustling city of Bangkok, Thailand, to go to college and study journalism. Despite growing up in the city, he had developed a fascination with nature on frequent visits to his grandmother's home in the countryside. While working on his college newspaper as a photographer, he rediscovered his love of nature, and his interest in becoming a wildlife photographer grew. He eventually landed a job with the Missouri Department of Conservation fulfilling his dream, doing work he loves.

In the wee hours of a frigid March morning in 2001, Nop was camped out in his blind on a prairie where he first witnessed the mating dance of a prairie chicken. This almost mystical experience began an 11-year journey, which took Nop across the grasslands and sagebrush areas of the U.S. from Idaho to Massachusetts. The end result is a fabulous book, ***Save The Last Dance***, which chronicles both the natural history of the six remaining species of our native grassland grouse, and Nop's amazing adventures along the way.

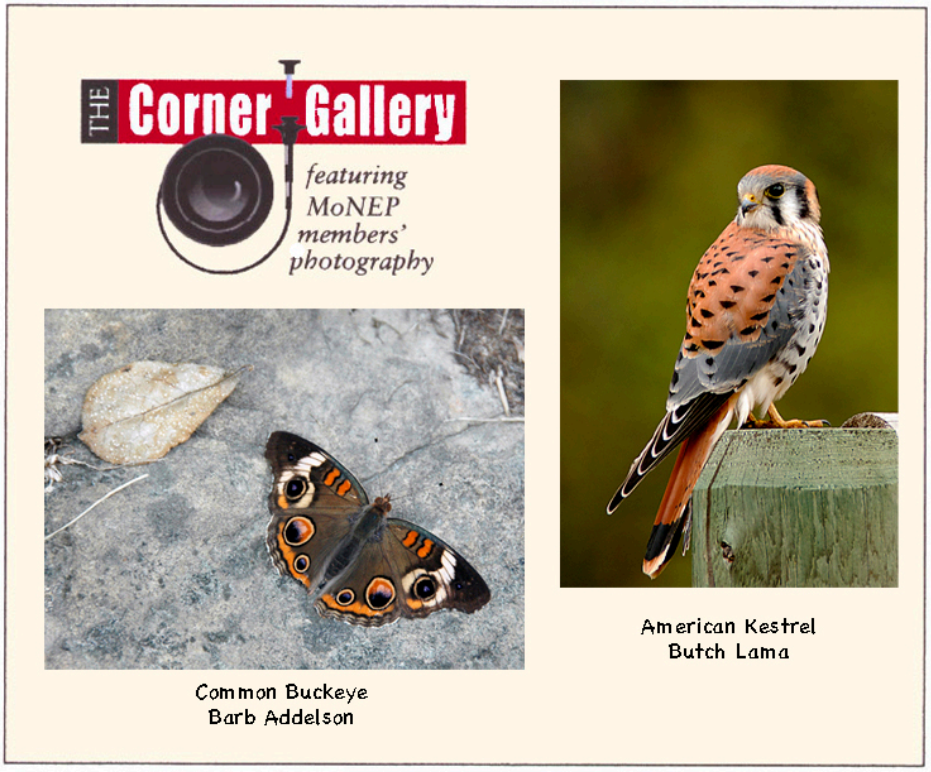
Nop told of the challenges of being a wildlife photographer, including trying to locate a blind in the dark, waiting in

July recap continued

the freezing cold for the birds to appear on their leks or display grounds and tromping through thigh deep snow to get to these dancing grounds. The males of each grassland grouse species compete through elaborate displays or dances for the right to mate with the females who gather to watch.

These fascinating birds are declining in number, and the Attwater's prairie chicken, a subspecies of the greater prairie chicken, has a population of only 60 birds. The causes of their decline include habitat fragmentation, oil and gas drilling, noisy, tall wind turbines in an otherwise low habitat, road collisions and the increasing range of the fire ant. There are groups trying to preserve the grouse's grassland habitat, but at times it seems like an overwhelming challenge, given the rapid decline of these birds over the past century.

Nop had a clear vision of what he hoped to achieve with this book. His aim was to bring attention to the grouse's precarious existence and to encourage readers to ask themselves how they could help save these remarkable birds. With his stunning images, background information and the great stories of his adventure, he has clearly succeeded. Thanks, Nop!



MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

***Please note that starting this month the meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. due to changes at Powder Valley.**

Tuesday, August 21st from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

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

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

August Speaker – Doug Ladd

Doug Ladd, Director of Conservation Science for the Missouri Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, will be our featured speaker at the **August 21st** meeting. Please remember that this meeting will begin at **6:00 p.m.** at **Powder Valley**. Doug will talk about tall grass prairies, including an overview of their natural history, life cycles, mysteries and new and unexplored photographic opportunities. This will be a great follow-up to last month's presentation on grassland grouse. Doug also has a reputation as a great presenter.

Doug has been involved with fire management and fire ecology, conservation planning, natural area assessment and ecological management, restoration and research for more than thirty years. His particular emphasis has been on vegetation, ecological restoration and fire ecology. He has also worked on lichens in the Midwest for over two decades and is currently collaborating with Richard Harris of the New York Botanical Garden on a study of Ozark lichens, which has resulted in the discovery of several species and genera new to science. He has undergraduate degrees in botany and chemistry and a master's degree in botany from Southern Illinois University. In addition to numerous articles and reports, he is the author of two plant field guides, ***North Woods Wildflowers*** and ***Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers***, and coauthor of ***Discover Natural Missouri*** and ***Distribution of Illinois Vascular Plants***. He is a research associate at the Missouri Botanical Garden as well as the Morton Arboretum in Chicago.

September Meeting – Dan Zarlenga

Join us at the **September 18th** meeting for a talk by **Dan Zarlenga** on **Nightscape Photography – The World Under Twilight, Moonlight and Starlight**. Dan has been in love with the night sky and the stars all of his life. After becoming interested in photography, it seemed only natural to bring the two together. Dan enjoys photographing twilight scenes, starscapes, star trails and moonlit landscapes. He will display his photographs and share some things he has learned about the unique challenges and rewards of photography after sunset. Techniques discussed will include star trails—long exposures vs. stacked sequences, ideas for foreground illumination and light painting and incorporating astronomy into nightscape photography.

MoNEP Seminar with Rob Sheppard

MoNEP's members and guests enjoyed an inspiring and informative seminar with **Rob Sheppard** on Saturday, August 4th. One hundred and forty participants showed up for a steamy hot start to the day both inside and out but walked away saying that it was one of the best seminars they had ever attended.

Rob shared many helpful ideas and techniques that went beyond the basics of photography. He started by encouraging us to reflect upon several questions: What do you want from your photography? What stories do you tell yourself about photography, nature and you? Who is in charge, you or the technology you're using? The editor-at-large of Outdoor Photographer magazine then encouraged us to find a purpose and a vision for our photography. He emphasized trying to make each photograph speak to its audience by composing images that focus the viewer's attention on the subject we seek to help them understand. He said, "Nature photographers are the eyes of the public. If people don't see it, they aren't aware of it." Our images can help make people aware of many things in nature that they wouldn't otherwise encounter. Our images can send a message about preserving the environment or saving a species from extinction, which is what our recent speaker, Noppadol Paothong, is striving to do with his book on species like the prairie chicken and other grassland grouse.

The stories we tell ourselves can limit our photography. As an example, Rob talked about not being too keen on spiders and therefore overlooking them as a subject. Once you stop telling yourself that spiders are creepy you discover an amazingly diverse realm of nature that lends itself to great storytelling. Rob summed it up by saying, "Storytelling photography is what inspires people. The photo story should be told by your image, not your words."

Rob also shared a number of techniques. He showed us using his stunning images that sometimes breaking the conventional rules is necessary for creating the image that tells a story best. To help us do just that, Rob taught us about using a flash creatively. He discussed using fill flash to provide detail in the shadows of the subject and also using flash to draw attention to a subject. He reviewed the basics of High Dynamic Range (HDR) photography. He also emphasized how important it is to stay outdoors and shoot long after the sun goes down. Many great images are found in the forty-five minutes between sunset and dark. He reviewed the newest photographic technologies and highlighted their pros and cons and then gave us a very close look at macro photography.

At the end of the day, and to much applause, Rob left us with these pieces of wisdom: "Learn what you can as you can. When you know better, you do better." "Practice, practice, practice and take lots of photos." Thanks, Rob, for a great seminar and a very fun day! Thanks also to the many wonderful volunteers who made the seminar go so smoothly. It was a wonderful event, and we appreciate everyone's help.

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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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