



# Mid Michigan Photography Club Newsletter

August 2008

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## Contact Us

[www.MidMichiganPhotoClub.com/Contact.aspx](http://www.MidMichiganPhotoClub.com/Contact.aspx)

## Honorary Lifetime Officers

Chairman: Ron St. Germain

Chairperson: June Cooke

## Officers

President: Mike Collins

Vice Presidents: Penny Verran and Gene Tatroe

Secretary: John Richard

Treasurer: Lisa Burgess

Program Directors: Rick Klingensmith and Scott Mulrooney

Advertising Director: June Cooke

## Coming Up in September

**Ron** will be in to get everyone fired up about the upcoming **Best of '08 Gallery Show!** Last year's show was a lot of fun, and this year should be no exception! Find out what all the fuss is about!

We'll have a couple of short **Photography Quest** presentations if anyone is ready to go.

We'll then turn the floor over to this month's speaker, our own **Tom Rasmussen**. Tom has been photographing Florida birds, flowers, and wild life for the past four years. Tom will present information on camera and lens requirements for bird photography. He'll include detailed information on settings for both SLR and up-level point-and-shoot cameras. The talk will include Information for non-flight and in-flight shots as well as several photos of a wide range of birds to show how to get the most from your camera. With the fall migration set to begin, you won't want to miss this talk!

After Tom's presentation, it's time for another "**Big Cookie**" contest! This time, the theme is "**sports**". Bring a print that somehow covers sports in any way you can think of, and maybe you can win a really BIG cookie!

After the regular meeting is over, the **Events Committee** will hold a brief follow-up meeting about the **Best of '08 Gallery Show**.

## August Meeting Recap

The club voted in our new treasurer, **Lisa Burgess**. Thank you, Lisa! We are still looking for someone to take over the assignment shoot chair and it would be nice to have someone help manage our email list.

Our featured speaker for August was MSU photographer **Kurt Stepnitz**. Kurt provided a great slideshow showing off several spots around the Lansing area where you can take great images. He also covered a wealth of tips and techniques he's accumulated over the years.

Following Kurt's presentation, we formed up teams for this year's round of **Photography Quest** presentations. Team members will work on a set of questions and then deliver a short presentation to the club. This will occur over the next several meetings. It's a great way to learn a little about photography, meet with other members, and give a little

Webmasters: Mike Collins and Rick Klingensmith

"Big-Cookie" Contest Chairs: Scott Mulrooney and John Diephouse

back to the club. Members who weren't present will have a chance to form additional teams.

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## Best of '08 Gallery Show Looming!

The gallery show is set to get under way in October. How does it involve you? We would like every member to participate! Take up to two of your favorite shots from the past year and get it matted and framed and ready to hang. It's that simple!

Here are the basic details:

1. You can enter up to **two prints**.
2. The **entry fee** is \$5.00 per print. The money is used to help defray advertising and food costs.
3. We will have applications available at the September meeting and we'll also mail out a PDF copy to all members.
4. The **application deadline** will be **October 1**, which is our normal meeting night. Penny needs a couple of weeks to print up the tags for all the prints.
5. As last year, the show will be held at the **Gone Wired Café**.
6. **You have the option to offer your print for sale or not.** We are trying something different this year. Last year, everyone was required to offer their print for sale. A few people really aren't interested in selling their prints, so we felt the best compromise was to leave it up to the individual members.
7. There won't be a contest this year, so this is "**just for fun**"!
8. We hope to partner with Woldumar to help raise a few funds for a new visitor's center.
9. If you don't have a favorite print from the past year, feel free to dive into your archives, but don't use one you displayed at last year's show.
10. Setup will be October 15 at the Gone Wired Café. We'll start at 6:30 PM and wrap up when we're out of prints to hang up!
11. If you aren't able to attend the setup time, you can make other arrangements by contacting Mike Collins at [collinsm3745@sbcglobal.net](mailto:collinsm3745@sbcglobal.net). You can also leave your prints off at the October 1 meeting if you know you won't be able to attend the setup session on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
12. There will be a reception on Sunday, November 2. It will start at 12:00 PM and finish at 4:00 PM. Last year's reception was a blast, so we hope you will all attend and bring plenty of friends and family members! There will be plenty of food and we'll most likely have a raffle like we did last year.

Additional information and guidelines can be found at <http://www.midmichiganphotoclub.com/BestOfMMPC.aspx>.

## GM LDT Habitat Outing

A few MMPC members headed over to the GM Lansing Delta plant on August 9 with the intention of helping out GM employees learn more about photography. Apparently all the GM employees are too tired from all their overtime, so we never got an opportunity to do any teaching, although **Rick Klingensmith** gave a nice talk on macro photography. After that, we headed out into the habitat to take pictures.

Here's a few shots:



Widow Skimmer dragonfly (female), by **Alan Jones**.



(Left to right) Rick Klingensmith and Alan Jones looking for subject matter. Photo by **Dale Sees**.



"Smilin' Bob", by **Rich Wyllis**.



Coral Fungi, by **Mike Collins**.



Queen Anne's Lace, by **Susanne Mannino**.

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## GM Centennial Celebration

In case you are scratching your head over this one, rest assured, there's a reason for including a GM event in our newsletter! A number of community organizations are attending to celebrate GM's 100<sup>th</sup> year in Lansing, and our club has been invited to participate.

The club will have a space to exhibit recruiting materials and a few pictures by our members. We also will be glad to display business cards and brochures by members who want to give their photography business a little more exposure (pun intended!) No selling will be involved, however. If interested, please bring your materials to the

September meeting or make other arrangements with **Mike Collins**, **Penny Verran**, or **Gene Tatroe**.

Club members may also be involved in helping judge a photo contest that is open only to employees of the GM Lansing Delta plant. The organizers are still working on the details.

The date of the event is **September 28**. It's not clear whether this will be open to the general public or just GM employees. We'll provide more details as the event approaches.

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## Woldumar American Heritage Festival

Woldumar will hold their annual American Heritage Festival on September 27 and 28. This is a family-oriented event that features tours of the Moon cabin, Civil War re-enactments, and wagon rides, among other things. More information is available at [www.woldumar.org](http://www.woldumar.org).

The club covers the event by having members volunteer to take pictures of all the activities. It's a lot of fun and there's no pressure to produce a work of art, so please join in!

We are also hoping to raise some funds for the club by doing a portrait shoot. We need one or two people to take the portraits and one or two people to help do the selling and printing.

If you are interested in helping in either of these activities, please contact Mike Collins at [collinsm3745@sbcglobal.net](mailto:collinsm3745@sbcglobal.net).

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## Tip of the Month

If you frequently use an external flash and want to reduce the recycle time as well as the number of times you have to stop to change batteries, consider purchasing an external power pack. These gems can be a life-saver when shooting a wedding or other event. Both Nikon and Cannon offer external packs for use with their flash units. Nikon has the SD-8A High Performance Battery Pack, while Canon sells the CP-E4 Compact Battery Pack. Quantum also offers very high-end battery packs. The units all have cords which plug into the flash unit, so be sure your flash is compatible with the pack you are considering.

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## Website of the Month

This month's featured website is [www.photoxels.com](http://www.photoxels.com). Here, you'll find lots of equipment reviews, press releases about new products, buyer's guides, links to camera manuals, links to contests, and a good selection of tutorials.

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## Book of the Month

If you love waterfalls, and who doesn't, you probably also love to photograph them. If you happen to be planning a trip to Virginia or



West Virginia, do yourself a favor and pick up a copy of ***Waterfalls of Virginia and West Virginia - A Hiking and Photography Guide***, by Kevin Adams. The author has literally visited just about every waterfall in these two states and he includes great tips on photographing each one, including best spots to shoot from, best time of day, and other goodies. He gives each waterfall a couple of different ratings to help you decide whether it's worth your while to seek it out. He also presents a number of tips just about photographing waterfalls in general. The author has a similar book on waterfalls of North Carolina. Let's hope he keeps on trekking through more states!