



# Mid Michigan Photography Club Newsletter

April/May 2009

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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: Penny Verran

Vice Presidents: Gene Tatroe

Secretary: Rich Blankenship

Treasurer: Lisa Burgess

Program Directors: Scott Mulrooney and Rich Wyllis

Advertising Director: June Cooke

## A Sincere Apology & Heartfelt Thanks

First, I wanted to take this opportunity to offer my sincerest apologies to all of the club members. As some of you may know, I had major surgery in early March, followed by some very serious complications that landed me in the hospital for some time. For this reason, my recovery has been much slower than anticipated, and I have not been able to keep up with MMPC business as much as I would have liked. You have all been very understanding and I want you to know how much it is appreciated. It's my goal to continue MMPC's tradition of making it a club people can be proud to say that they're a member of.

Secondly, not only do I want to thank all of the other officers who've stepped up in my absence...Gene, Mike, Ron, Rich B, and Rich W; but I'd also like to thank all of you who were so thoughtful in sending me your well wishes, both when I became the President of MMPC and also during my illness. You are a great group of people and I have made some fantastic friends that I will always cherish. Penny Verran

## Welcome New Members

Well it's so exciting to see how MMPC is growing by leaps and bounds! Since our popular open house in January, we have had 17 new members join our group. We'd like to welcome the following new members:

Mark Lestan	Greg Smith
Janet Waterstradt	Randy Williams
Terry Dunlap	Ken Crawford
Ralph Reznick	Heather Miller
Sue Mills	Catherine Mullhaupt
Kelly Climer	Sue Wittick
Gwen Kamm	Jane May
Rosemary Ridsdale	Chelane Priller

We are so glad you've decided to join us and are certain that you will learn a lot, and have a great deal of fun in the process.

Webmasters: Mike Collins and Rick Klingensmith

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

Field Trip Chair: Chelane Priller

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## Coming Up in May

We will be having a show-and-tell style meeting where you, the club members, will have an opportunity to talk about any new camera or computer equipment out on the market that you have experienced lately. You may choose to give reviews/demonstrations on anything from cameras, flashes, lighting equipment, software, etc.

If you have the equipment and you'd like to bring it, then by all means, please do. Tables will be set up in order to display the equipment and people can feel free to choose any table that interests them. Of course, if you don't have the equipment you would like to discuss on hand, you can still feel free to tell the group about it.

We will also be discussing last-minute preparations for Wildflower Weekend. With May 9<sup>th</sup> quickly approaching, there are still some details that need to be ironed out. We will be talking about it briefly during the regular meeting, and there will also be a separate table available for additional information and where volunteers may sign up.

Anyone who has volunteered for the portrait shoots will be meeting with Rich Wyllis to find out how it will work, as well as where you need to be and when. He will briefly walk the grounds in order to familiarize everyone with the task at hand.

There will be a brief officer's meeting after the regularly scheduled meeting.

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## March & April Meeting Recaps

In March, Alan Jones and Rick Klingensmith gave a combined presentation on macro photography that covered point-and-shoot cameras, as well as SLRs. They discussed equipment and techniques, as well as a bit of theory behind it all. It was a packed house and a very well received presentation. Thanks Alan and Rick for helping us learn a little more about macro photography.

And we are so lucky to have such a talented group of people in our club. In April, Gene Tatroe gave a presentation on portrait photography. It was such a great presentation, that time ran out before people could actually grab their cameras and practice what Gene had taught them. Many members have given Gene's presentation very high praise. Thanks Gene.

Mike Collins was our first "Big Cookie" contest winner (both judges' and people's choice) of 2009. The theme was "Michigan Winter Outdoors" and Mike had a fabulous Grand Haven lighthouse photo (see below). Congratulations Mike!



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## Auction for Dale Sees

The Mid Michigan Photography Club conducted a silent auction on Saturday, March 28 to benefit Dale Sees, one of the club's highly talented members. Dale is seriously ill with cancer and the club arranged to auction several of his best works to help defray his medical expenses.

The auction took place at Woldumar Nature Center and was well attended by many who know and love Dale. Surprisingly, Dale was able to attend himself and made his sincere appreciation known to all.

But of course, this wonderful event couldn't have taken place without the generous support of many MMPC members. First and foremost, we need to thank Mike Collins, who took on the task of organizing the entire event and did a wonderful job. And Marilyn Walsh who passed on the auction idea and served as hostess for the evening.

Others who helped with everything from set-up to providing refreshments to helping the auction run smoothly include: Ron St. Germain, Sharon and Nikki Howell, Alan Jones, Sheri Ten Eyck, and Lisa Burgess.

A second fundraiser may be in the works and donations are still being accepted. They may be dropped off during the regular meetings, or mailed to the club at:

Mid Michigan Photography Club  
PO Box 494  
Haslett, MI 48840-9709

Please send only checks made out to Mid Michigan Photography Club. Please be sure to include your name and return address.

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## MSU Home & Garden Show

Every year during the MSU Home and Garden Show, the Federated Garden Clubs of America host a flower show. This year MMPC was asked to provide an educational display for the show. It was to be judged alongside other educational displays. Thankfully, Mike Collins stepped in and provided them with the MMPC display that he had previously put together on behalf of the club, along with some of his flower photos.

Happily, our club display tied for first. Its exciting to see how involved MMPC is becoming with other organizations and how we are being rewarded for our hard work!



# Congratulations!



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## Field Trips

Since the club's inception, we have been trying to provide members with opportunities to participate in what have been termed "mini field trips." The thought was that people could get together in an interesting venue and have an opportunity, not only to shoot some great scenery, but also to get to know one another and possibly learn from others.

Chelane Priller has graciously offered to take on the task of organizing field trips for the club in the future. If you have any suggestions about venues the club might like to consider for future field trips, please be sure to let her know.

In the meantime, Rich Wyllis organized a field trip to Grand Haven this past weekend. Although the weather was not cooperative (to say the least), here's Rich's thoughts about how the field trip went.

### Grand Haven Field Trip by Rich Wyllis

Believe it or not, the field trip to Grand Haven, Saturday, April 25 was successful. As we all know from our own personal experience in this great state, Mother Nature does not pay attention to even our best-laid plans. The idea behind choosing this date for sunset photography at the lighthouse was to coincide with the moon setting about an hour after the sun. Hopeful of images of a sliver of a crescent moon hanging low in the sky amongst shades of rose and orange, and the lighthouse in the foreground came to mind. But Mother Nature had other plans. Rain. Wind. Cold. Her plans will give us gorgeous flowers in May so that we can work on our macro skills. But, our sunset on Saturday was not to be had.

Yet, I said the field trip was successful. And it was. Rich Wyllis, Gene Tatroe, and Rick Klingensmith braved the weather and made the trip to the coast. An LCC photography class was also present on the other side of the river, and included MMPC member, Joel Starkey. It rained, sometimes sideways. The waves would break over the pier, and a storm was threatening us to retreat. But the worst of it held off long enough for us to take advantage of what our location had to offer. Driftwood washed ashore from the winter provided interesting foreground material. Three to four foot waves and brooding clouds provided drama to an otherwise dreary scene. Twilight came, and so did the lights on the lighthouse and catwalk leading down the South pier. Grey skies turned dark blue and waters turned to mist with the long exposures. At the end of the day, I ended up with seven striking images, and the urge to go back and make more.

Thanks to our MMPC buddies that shared the experience to make this a successful trip!

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## Tip of the Month

Spring has officially arrived, which means you should all be out shooting! Here's something you can try pretty much anytime of the year: shoot a street scene at night! It's pretty easy to do, and just requires some time and some patience, along with your camera and a tripod. Essentially, you'll want to find a spot where you can get long exposures of cars as they zip along the street.

This will often result in very interesting effects, as shown in the photo taken on State Street in Ann Arbor a few years ago.

Usually, a 10 – 30 second exposure will be long enough. There are several techniques you can try. One of the easiest ways to get started, though, is to use aperture priority and select a fairly high depth of field, such as F/11 or F/16. The camera will then select the shutter speed, which should be displayed on your readout. Make sure it's in the range your camera can handle. You can adjust your ISO if need to stick within the appropriate shutter speed. Once the exposure is done, check your histogram to see if you're in the ballpark. If not, dial in exposure compensation as needed.

Be sure to reset your exposure compensation when you're done shooting. You'll want to take lots of shots, though, as those pesky drivers rarely want to cooperate with you on the timing of your shots!



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## Website of the Month

Moose Petersen's Wildlife Research Photography site (<http://www.moosepeterson.com>) is devoted to wildlife photography, as the title suggests, but Moose also offers plenty of tips and advice for general photography and landscape photography, as well. You will also find some unique equipment reviews, primarily of Nikon equipment. The site is also home to BT Journal – The Biological and Technical Journal for Wildlife Photographers. While the title may sound rather daunting, the content is actually written more like a story than a stuffy research journal. You can find a link to a free downloadable free copy if you want to learn more.

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## Book of the Month

Arthur Morris is world-renowned for his skills as a bird photographer. ***The Art of Bird Photography*** and the ***Art of Bird Photography II*** are both classic works on the subject. ***The Art of Bird Photography*** (I) is available in paperback through [www.birdsasart.com](http://www.birdsasart.com). It was written in the film era, although all the other principles discussed in the book still apply.

The second book is available only on CD through the same website. It covers digital techniques as well as a host of other new material. You'll find information on equipment and techniques, good places to find birds, and tips for getting close without scaring off your subject. Even if your interests are more general, you will still find plenty of good material in these editions.