



Mid Michigan Photography Club Newsletter

June/July 2009

Volume 4, Number 4

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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

Please join me in congratulating...

our club Founder and Chairman Ron St. Germain. As some of you may know, Ron is an international award winning photographer and outdoor writer. He has been the recipient of many prestigious awards over the years, and 2009 is no exception. Recently Ron was awarded four more awards at the Outdoor Writers Association of America's (OWAA) 82nd annual conference, which was held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, and sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. The awards include:

OWAA Excellence in Craft Awards

- ❖ 1st place: Black & White Photo Division—Fauna Category
"Family Moment"
- ❖ 2nd place: Humor Contest—Magazine Category
"Seasoned Veteran Fisherman Can't Teach His Wife a Thing"

Michigan Outdoor Writers Association (MOWA) Craft Awards

- ❖ Cliff Ketcham Award—Best Outdoor Newspaper Feature (consumptive activity)
"Seasoned Veteran Fisherman Can't Teach His Wife a Thing."
- ❖ James H. Hall Award—Best Outdoor Newspaper Feature (non-consumptive activity)
"There Are Only Two Weeks in a Year You can give a fishing friend bad news."

You can read Ron's outdoor column, "Dear Fish Diary," in the Woods-N-Water News, a monthly Michigan publication and you can view his photographic gallery on his website www.daphotodude.com.

I know that as a club, we are all proud to have a founder who is not only so driven and committed to his own writing and photographic pursuits, but also to helping our members learn and grow in their own photographic endeavors, no matter how large or small.

So the next time you see Ron, be sure to congratulate him on his much-deserved successes. But don't forget to also thank him for the great work he's done, not only in starting our club, but also in helping it grow.

Penny Verran

Webmasters: Mike Collins and Rick Klingensmith

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

Field Trip Chair: Chelane Priller

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 19 new members join our group. We'd like to welcome the following newest members:

Dewey Marlatt
Anne Rosewarne

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.

Coming Up in July

Gene Tatroe will be inspiring us with his presentation entitled "Get Out of That Rut!!!"

" Ruts. Down periods. Being stuck. Dry spell. That time where nothing feels right. You start and stop and just can't find that happy, magical place where it all seems to come together." -Ali Edwards, photographer, scrap booker, columnist

Being in a rut. That dreaded creative block that can freeze all of our photographic activity. I'm sure we've all been there at some point in time, and probably will be again. So what do we do when we're stuck in a rut? How do we climb out and find the inspiration to get out there clicking the shutter again? Well we will be discussing this, and going over some ideas and exercises that can get the creative juices flowing again. Bring your cameras so we can try out some of the concepts presented!

May & June Meeting Recaps

In May we held a show-and-tell style meeting where club members had an opportunity to talk about any new camera or computer equipment out on the market that they have experienced lately. Ron St. Germain led a discussion amongst members about their experiences, and both Alan Jones and Gene Tatroe brought in various pieces of equipment. They demonstrated how the equipment was used and answered questions asked by club members.

Mike Collins has been quietly stalking wildflowers for the past 10 years, always in search of new varieties to put out on his website. In June Mike shared some of his "stalking" tips with MMPC club members in his entertaining presentation entitled "Wildflower Photography." The presentation was chalk-full of tips on how to take great wildflower photos and provided suggestions about where to get some great shots. You should have received a copy of the presentation via e-mail, but it can also be found on the MMPC website.

Future Meeting News

MMPC officers have been hard at work planning future meetings and events for the remainder of the year. Below is a tentative schedule that will take us through the month of December. Please remember that the schedule is based on the availability of speakers and is subject to change.

July: Gene Tatroe—"Get Out of That Rut!!!"

August: Possible presentation by the Senior Photographer for Meijer Photo imaging services or presentation on shooting reflective surfaces

September: Ron St. Germain—Preparing your work for display and/or sale

October: Member's Night—A celebration of MMPC members' best work
MMPC Best of '09 Gallery Show—location TBD

November: Wayne Pope—LCC instructor

December: Annual MMPC holiday party/potluck

Photo Quest subjects will be distributed to members desiring to participate

Other Meeting Updates

You'll also notice some other changes beginning to take place in upcoming meetings. These are all things that the MMPC officers have suggested in order to make our members feel more welcome and to make the meetings run a bit more smoothly. We hope you enjoy these additions to our meetings and will provide us with feedback on how you think they are working.

Greeter/s: Ron St. Germain and Rich Blankenship will be stationed at the barn entrance in order to greet both existing and new members. Club officers will wear nametags and new members will be given name tags and asked if they would like to sit as a group with one or more of the officers. They will still be asked to introduce themselves to the group so that we may get to know them a bit better.

Photo Quest Presentations: At one point, a sort-of game entitled Photo Quest was begun within the club in order to help facilitate learning opportunities for club members, while allowing them to become better acquainted with one another. People were placed on teams and asked to give presentations revolving questions based on different photographic principles. We would like to resurrect this concept, however not as a team game, but as an opportunity for any club members interested in becoming involved in furthering the learning of their fellow club members. More information will be provided at the July meeting.

Refreshment Break: A short refreshment break will be implemented in order to give members a chance to mingle and get to know other members. The club will provide refreshments, and the meeting will be re-started promptly, so that we can keep to our busy schedule.

Big Cookie Competition: The Big Cookie Competitions will continue with a Judge's Award and a People's Choice Award. However, there will be three judges chosen from a consistent group of more experienced photographers. Ron St. Germain will act as the lead judge and provide constructive feedback to the entrants regarding their photographs.

Newsletters: Newsletters will still be sent out monthly, prior to club meetings, but they will now also contain information regarding awards and accomplishments of our club members, as well as learning opportunities related to photography (seminars, conferences, etc.). If you would like to recognize a club member for their accomplishments, or become aware of any learning opportunities, please be sure to let Penny Verran know.

Wildflower Weekend Update

Well, MMPC's largest fundraiser of the year is now behind us for 2009, but the work continues. MMPC Event Committee members met with Woldumar Nature Center staff and board members on June 23rd in order to de-brief about this year's event, and believe it or not, start planning for next year's Wildflower Weekend.

Thanks to all of the hard work of so many club members, this year's event was a great success and appears to have earned the club almost double its revenue from last year's event. Not only were we able to raise money for the club, but many members also expressed what a great learning opportunity Wildflower Weekend was for them and how much fun they had participating.

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.

Here's what Chelane had to say about our first field trip of 2009:

On Wednesday, June 10th, 6 folks participated in the mini photo field trip in Grand Ledge. We went out on the Ledges trail, stopping to shoot a train going over the railroad bridge over the Grand River. We climbed up to Fitzgerald Park, stopping to shoot at the short falls, then at points along the forest nature trails. We walked back on the Ledges trail where there was some great light glowing off the ledges.

Ladies Night Out

Enchanting Farms Garden Center is the nursery that supplied us with the perennial plants for the plant sale during Wildflower Weekend. And every year they host a "Ladies Night Out," full of fun activities.

This year Penny Verran attended on behalf of MMPC, as well as Woldumar Nature Center (WNC). We had a table set up with the club and WNC displays, as well as informational materials. The event took place on Saturday, June 20th.

There were a host of other activities including a variety of vendors, food and refreshments, door prizes and "lady bug" savings on Enchanting Farms merchandise.

Please continue to help us support this wonderful local business by visiting them this summer. They can be reached at 517-669-5630 or you can also visit their website at www.enchantingfarms.com.

Learning Opportunity

There is still time to register for the Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs (SWMCCC) 35th annual Summer Weekend of Photography and Digital Imaging being held on the campus of Hope College in Holland, MI. The event takes place July 30th through August 2nd and features a variety of workshops and lectures geared toward beginner, intermediate, advanced amateur and semi-pro photographers. Cost for the full conference is \$140 and you can find more information at www.swmcc.org.

Tip of the Month

Now that Summer has officially arrived, and all of you have been out shooting like crazy, it's time to figure out how to make the most of those awesome shots you took! Click on the link below to get your copy of **An Idiot's Guide To Photoshop**, the starter's manual for every Photoshop initiate to carry! This guide starts right at the very bottom, assuming no knowledge at all, and walks you through all basic aspects of the application. The guide even comes with *three full pages of shortcuts*, cheat sheets covering all the application's possibilities!

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/an-idiots-guide-to-photoshop/>

Website of the Month

While these two websites are geared toward professional outdoor communicators (writers, photographers, etc.), we felt that they would still be of value to include for MMPC club members who have had or may aspire to have their work published in the future.

Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) is a nonprofit, international organization that represents a diverse group of professional communicators dedicated to sharing the outdoor experience. They inform the public about outdoor activities, issues and the responsible use of our natural resources. The mission of OWAA is to improve the professional skills of our members, set the highest ethical and communications standards, encourage public enjoyment and conservation of natural resources, and be mentors for the next generation of professional outdoor communicators.

<http://www.owaa.org/index.php>

Michigan Outdoor Writers Association (MOWA) is a non-profit organization comprised of over 300 professional outdoor communicators, including newspaper and magazine outdoor writers, columnists, editors, photographers, cartoonists, radio and television broadcast journalists, video producers, book authors, lecturers and public relations specialists. MOWA's members communicate on various outdoor subjects including: hunting, fishing, skiing, hiking, snowmobiling, backpacking, the environment, education, trapping, travel, humor, natural resources, conservation, travel, ecology, bird watching, boating, canoeing and many other outdoor related subjects. <http://www.michiganoutdoorwriters.com/index.html>

Book of the Month

"Dear Fish Diary" True, Funny, Fish Stories and only One Lie - By Ron St. Germain. Ron's multi award winning monthly column "Dear Fish Diary" finally makes it to book form. Don't be misled by the title, you don't have to be a fisherman to enjoy this book. Ron simply uses fishing as an introduction into many real life situations and puts the plain truth on the table. Learn the most researched information on why there are not cougars established in Michigan, strange laws, and why you should play with your food. From unusual people to environmental issues learn why Ron is quickly becoming one of Michigan's most popular column writers. \$15.00

