

FOCUS



Newsletter of the Mayslake Nature Study and Photography Club
Hosted by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Visit our website at www.naturecameraclub.com

Highlights

February 3
Round Table

February 17
Observe Your Preserve
Dave Guritz

Impact of Power
Generation on Wildlife
Dave Schooley

March 3
Basics of Composition
Hank Erdman

March 17
Competition

April 7
Astro-Photography
Marty Murphy

April 21
Member's Night

HELP WANTED!

It's that time of year when the Mayslake Club members need to think about who is going to run the Club for the next Club year which starts in May.

The 2013/2014 year has been tricky. We found no takers for our two Vice-President slots handling the meeting programs on nature and photography and no one to take over Competition. As a result, both of these important Club activities have been running by a committee of volunteers. While we have been able to function, having a committee with no official chairperson is difficult and not the best option.

We recently sent you all a survey about the Club's activities. We have had a chance to review the results and will be sharing them with you in the March Focus. One of the take-aways from the survey was that, overall, members are happy with the variety of activities the Club offers. If you, as a member, want those activities to continue and, get even better in the future, please consider taking a role in helping that happen.

Realistically, everyone has different time constraints. Board or Chairperson positions can take more time than serving as a committee member. But the more members we have involved, even in small roles, the easier it is spread out the workload and make things happen.

Just to refresh your memory, here's a list of the Club's activities. Each of these provide opportunities for members to get involved in Club management.

Meeting Programs on Photography and Nature Competitions and Non-Competitive Critiques
Outings
Education Programs
Exhibitions
Conservation
Social Activities
CACCA
Communication - Newsletter and Website

In the next few weeks, the Board will have more definitive information about openings on the Board and on various Club committees.

We all joined the Club because we love photography and we want more opportunities to learn, share, socialize and shoot with people who have the same interest. Please consider taking an active role in making things happen. Don't be on the sidelines ... get involved!

If you are interested in learning more about what you can do help the Club, please contact Sue Gajda at segnet@aol.com.

CACCA Postcard Competition - CACCA Salon Coming Soon !!!

Every year in March, CACCA hosts several Individual competitions in addition to the monthly interclub events. Here is the information you need to participate and the important date(s) for your preparations. First, with regard to the Postcard competition, The CACCA date is March 8. We will have our Mayslake competition at our meeting on March 3 with the same voting by those in attendance process. Please remember that all entries will go to CACCA, not only those that win at Mayslake. We've had very good success in this competition at CACCA in the past couple of years; let's keep it up with lots of entries. Be creative and remember, 'hand of man' rules do not apply.

The CACCA Salon is a much bigger and broader based event and is held on a date separate from the regular monthly meeting date, this year on March 15. This is a great chance to broaden your 'focus' from our regular 'no hand of man' competitions. All competition is individual and for all of the various digital categories, you do your own entry via the CACCA web site: <http://caccaweb.com>. Information is under the Salon tab. Digital competitions are available in Portrait, Nature, Photojournalism, 'regular Digital' (which means anything you wish to shoot and enter) and Creative Digital (where any/all of your Photoshop enhanced composites or dreams can be presented). Quite a list of digital categories. For those of you who still have a large library of slides, here is your chance; competitions in Nature, Photojournalism and Portraits.

Finally, for those of us who like to print, there are competitions in small and large sizes, 11 x 14 and 16 x 20 respectively. Categories are Color, Monochrome and Nature. There is also a separate category for printed panoramas that can be up to 30 inches wide and on any subject. Again, information is on the CACCA web site: <http://caccaweb.com>. The CACCA Salon date is March 15 and all of the competitions are open for viewing by any of our members who would like to see the show. All of the Print and Slide entries must be turned in to me at our club meeting on March 3 so I can take them to the CACCA meeting on the 8th. Lots of information, let me know if I can help, northrockies@aol.com
Chuck Klingsporn



Mark Your Calendar - April 21 An Evening Just for You

This year, we are changing the format of our second meeting in April. Instead of having the “annual banquet” at a local hotel, we will be holding our First (and hopefully) Annual Members’ Night.

This will be an evening focused on you - the Mayslake members.

It will be held right at Mayslake and will feature three programs centered around the photography of our members.

1.) The Year in Review

We are putting together a slideshow of our members’ favorite photos taken during the last club year. For this purpose, the year will be April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. Every member can submit up to 10 images taken during the year. The images should have a nature theme - “hand of man” is ok. You can even sneak in a few family, vacation, or pet photos - we won’t tell! Details on how to submit your images will be in the March FOCUS. So get busy choosing your favorites and remember there is still time to head out with your camera and shoot a few more!

2) Image of the Year

You should have received an email highlighting our Image of the Year event. We’ll be voting for the Image of the Year at the Members’ Night.

3) Competition Awards

As in the past, awards will be presented to members with the highest scoring images in the A, B, C digital categories and the A and B print categories during the year’s competitions.

This is a great opportunity to join your fellow Club members in an evening of sharing, fun and rewards. And, of course, there will be food! We’re working on a catered dinner menu for the evening.

More details will follow in the March FOCUS but right now, be sure to mark the date April 21 on your calendar! Don’t miss out on this new Club event.

EXHIBITS Janice Henry

During the past month we have sold three of the images in the current show plus one that was requested in a larger size.

So... with the next show starting at the end of this month, beginning of February I need to make one additional request about the pieces you submit. Theme for the next show is “Winter Wonderland”.

This coincides with the winter festival; “Wonders of Winter” that Mayslake has the first Saturday in February each year. As in the past, we will be participating again this year. If you would be available to help the day of the event, please send me an email with that information. I will need one or two people to help me the day of the event.

If you would like to participate, I need the following information from you:

- Title of image(s)
- Size of image(s)
- Are they for sale (Yes or No)
- Price of the image(s) (if its for sale)

Our space can hold up to 18 images, so I am not limiting entries. I also have two loaner frames and mats for someone who would like to participate with an image from print competition that is mounted on an 11 x 14 black board.

The framed images need to have wires to hang them by, the title, your name and price (if you are selling) on a label on the back of your piece. The ends of the wires need to be wrapped in tape (blue painters tape works very well) this protects the walls of the Mayslake building.

Remember, hands of man does not apply to exhibits.

Please send me an email at jnhenr@att.net with the information on your image(s). Drop off for this show is either at the January 20th meeting or by Thursday, January 30th at Mayslake during regular business hours 9AM-4PM Monday through Friday.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Competition Results

Compiled by Sheila Newenham

Prints A

Awards

Bill Dixon "Icy steps"

Marcia Nye "Prairie Falcon"

David Schooley "Snow on Mushrooms"

David Schooley "Baboon Family"

Honorable Mention

Sue Gajda "Blue-footed Booby"

Prints B

Awards

Cora Jacobs "Pink Portrait"

Steven Mayer "Twilight at Cades Cove"

Honorable Mention

Gail Chastain "I've got my eye on you"

Steven Mayer "Intimate Cascade"

Digital A

Awards

Rick Witkiewicz "Sharpshooter Leafhopper"

Pei Tang "Guardian of Gobi Desert"

Honorable Mentions

Pei Tang "Golden"

Pei Tang "Mt Rundle"

Rick Witkiewicz "Nature's Brushstrokes"

Digital B

Awards

Gail Chastain "Savanna Sparrow"

Barbara Dunn "Winter Repose"

Greg Hull "Northern Parula Warbler"

Gail Chastain "Eastern Screech Owl"

Honorable Mentions

David Kolbush "Blackbird"

Barbara Dunn "Pink Beauty"

David Kolbush "Daffodil"

Gail Chastain "Come here little fly"

Digital C

Awards

Cora Jacobs "A Delicate Touch"

Steve Baginski "The sun is going to bed and so must I"

Honorable Mention

Diane Hamernik "Path to Eden"

CACCA Competition Results

Lots of good news to report from the January CACCA competitions. In digital, we have two HM awards, **Gail Chastain** for 'Eastern Forktail' and **Pei Tang** for 'Signs of Spring'. In prints, we received two HM's, **Bill Pehrson** for 'Roseate Spoonbill' and **Steve Mayer** for 'Freeman Maple Roots with Fall Leaves'. **Chuck Klingsporn** received an AW for 'Mushrooms on Birch'. Congratulations to all.

Chuck Klingsporn

Photographic Society Of America (PSA) Projected Image Division Competition

Congratulations to Steve Ornberg and his image "Mobius Arch", which won an award from PSA. Great job Steve!

Steve Bartos

Round Table February 3 Program

A "round table" program of three presentations will offer options for participants. Karin Grunow and Fran Piepenbrink will host Macro/Close-Up Photography. Duane Heaton and John Janunas will host Photographing Birds in Flight, and Gail Chastain will host Favorite Plug-ins. Each session will run approximately 40 minutes with ample opportunity for questions. Participants choose two of the three options.

St James Farm



Tree Frame
Gail Chastain



Three Trees
Atala Toy



Ellie Young

St James Farm in Warrentville
January 1, 2014
Gail Chastain

How does Mayslakers spell winter fun? They spell it, S.N.O.W.!! And that is what we had. There was a break in the New Year's Eve snow storm, making the trip to St James not so bad. Then as we arrived, the snow started again, making for a great morning shoot at St James. We had FUN FUN FUN!

Since this is the first year that St James is open year around, it was a new experience for everyone. With forest and ponds, prairies and wildlife, it was fun to see what happens at St James in Winter.

Be sure to visit the Mayslake Website to see all the images from this fun, snowy outing.



Tree and Fence in Snow
Janice Henry

Starved Rock

Winter Outing to Starved Rock
Sunday - January 19 2014
Gail Chastain



Frozen Stream
Elaine Allen

If we had ordered the day, we could not have done better, fresh snow, 30+ degrees, and blue sky welcomed us to the Canyons of Starved Rock. Mayslakers took to the trails of Ottawa and Kaskaskia Canyons, walking through the woods, heading along frozen creeks in search of the frozen waterfalls. And the Canyons did not disappoint!

There were two Photo Challenges on this outing for all who were looking for more fun. Although the first Challenge of "Patterns" seemed at first to be the easiest, Mayslakers were surrounded by opportunities for the 2nd Challenge of "Light in the Canyon"



Vic Butler

After a morning of great fun, we all headed nearby for lunch. Be sure to visit the Mayslake Website to see all the Images from this snowy Outing.



The Fields are White with Snow!
Steve Baginski



Steve Bartos