

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

July 4

4th of July
No Meeting

July 18

Non-Competitive
Critique

August 1

Tutorial
Preparation for
In-House Picnic

August 15

In-House Picnic
and
Members Pictures

Non-Competitive Critique Night

Sheila Newenham

On July 18th we will have a non-competitive critique night. This is an opportunity for members to submit images for review by a panel of judges. The images will not be scored and the makers will not be identified by name. The judges will offer feedback about composition, technical and artistic merit and the images' impact. They will also offer suggestions on how the image may be improved. The more casual format tends to allow for more learning in a less intimidating environment. If you want to enhance the presentation of your images, this night is for you. Any member, novice or experienced, is invited to submit up to 2 images (combined print and/or digital) for critique. Hand of man rules do not apply, but please limit images to nature subjects. Submit digital images by Sunday July 10th as outlined on our website "Instructions for Preparing Digital Files" on the Club Information page. Please be sure to size your digital images so they are no taller than 768 pixels and no wider than 1024 pixels. Bring your prints with you to the meeting on the 18th. No paper-work needed!

The competition dates for the 2011-2012 season are September 19, November 21, January 16 and March 19. It's never too soon to start preparing images!

**Celebrate Summer
with a
Photo Picnic
on August 15**

Sue Gajda

What's a photo picnic, you ask? Well, it's a chance for members to enjoy some summer snacks and summer photos. We'll be indoors at Mayslake so we don't have to worry about getting rained out.

But, in order for picnic to happen, we need two things - photos and food.

The Photos

Here's your assignment.....go out and enjoy the summer with your camera in hand - or on the tripod! The theme is SPECIAL EFFECTS. You define what "special effects" means. It could be black and white, panorama, photo impressionism, multiple exposures, or just the special effects in nature itself. You decide. Let your creativity flow. Submit your favorites taken from July 1 to early August so we can include them in the evening's presentation. We'll provide details on sizing, file names and submission in the August FOCUS. You can also do prints. Your subject should be NATURE but the hand of man rule does not apply. We need lots of images for a good show so don't just limit yourself to one or two. Also, if you're not able to come on the meeting date, please consider sending in some images anyway.

This is not a competition and there are no prizes, except maybe some door prizes. It's just a chance for members to enjoy an evening with fellow photographers seeing what everyone did "on their summer vacations." It's open to all members and is a special opportunity for those of you who don't participate in competitions to share your photos with other members of the Club.

The Food

The Club will provide some soft drinks and lemonade. We're asking members to just bring a snack (nothing fancy) to share.

So get busy and start shooting to get ready for August 15. You'll also have a chance to pick up a few last minute pointers at the August 1 meeting, where we planning some mini-workshops.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bill Dixon

Debra Anthony - Hinsdale
Steve Bartos - Villa Park
Beverly Bartos - Villa Park
Christiane Blume - Wheaton
Sharon Burke - Elmhurst
Marge Corrado - Oak Brook
Dale Fisher - Cicero
Ron Grzeda - Lemont
Gary Hohbien - Streamwood
Kathy Kelley - Lisle
Sandy Karasek - Villa Park
Christine Lipuna - Downers Grove
Rande Pauly - LaGrange
Mary Lynn Sullivan - Downers Grove
William Thomas - Hinsdale
Fran Venegas - Winfield
Mary Lou Zbreski - Naperville



Member Images in Open Lens II Exhibit

Sue Gajda

Several Mayslake members had photographs selected for Open Lens II, a juried exhibition of photography at Gallery 7 in Joliet.

Members with photos in the exhibit include: Chris Aquino, Bill Dixon, Fred Drury, Sue Gajda, Harry Hitzeman, Josh Merrill, Rich Witkiewicz, Marie Ward and Ellie Young.

Marie's image "Fresh Perspective" won an honorable mention. Rich's image "Ice Leaf" and Ellie's image "Watercolor of Fall" won Purchase Awards.

Gallery 7 is a fine art photography gallery located at 116 N. Chicago in historic downtown Joliet. There are nine participating co-op photographers at Gallery 7, including Mayslake member Hank Erdmann.

The exhibition is running until July 15.



©Fresh Perspective
Marie Ward



©Watercolor of Fall
Ellie Young



©Ice Leaf
Richard Witkiewica

MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE OUTING

Gail Chastain

The day started out very stormy which caused a few to back out. But in spite of the weather, 11 Photographers headed down to Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Wilmington, IL for a photo car caravan into the interior of the grasslands.

Midewin, the former Joliet Arsenal, is over 7,000 acres, which would be very daunting to hike, so the car caravan allowed us to see more. Jerry, our volunteer guide, led us through areas that most people do not see, and even some areas that the public is not allowed, while stopping at many sites for photographic opportunities. Although the day continued to “drip” on us for most of the day, the sites were well worth enjoying and taking pictures. Our Guide did more than just lead us, Jerry also entertained us with history, stories, and lots of information regarding the grasslands. We saw so much, it turned the 2 hour tour into a 4 hour tour. It was more than anticipated, and allowed us to make the day all we could.

Although it was not the weather we had hoped for, the trip was well worth braving the conditions and there were many calls for “let’s do it again.”

Be sure to visit the Mayslake Website to see all the pictures under the “Trip Blog”.



©Grape Leaves
Atala Toy



©Cone Flowers
Marcia Nye