

# 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](http://www.naturecameraclub.com)



## Highlights



*July 2*  
No Meeting

*July 15*  
Scott Kobal  
Summer Wildflowers

*August 5*  
Walt Anderson  
Supplemental light sources for photography, Visual Echoes Inc.

*August 19*  
Denis Kania  
Fall Bird Migration

*September 2*  
No Meeting  
Labor Day

*September 16*  
Competition

*October 7*  
Jack MacRae  
Mammals of the Region

## Summer Wildflowers in Du Page County Forest Preserves

Scott Kobal will discuss the various wildflowers of prairies, woodlands and wetlands that are bloom during the summer months in Du Page County Forest Preserves. The talk will focus on the habitat, identification and natural history of the various species of plants in bloom at this time of the year.

Scott Kobal has worked at the Forest Preserve District since 1988 and as the Plant Ecologist since 1990. His responsibilities at the Forest Preserve District include mapping and inventorying District lands, long-term monitoring of ecosystems and plant populations as well natural areas management. He is also avid in collecting plant specimens for the Morton Arboretum Herbarium to expand our knowledge of the flora of the area and how it is changing.

WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS

Alvin Riesbeck  
Lloyd Osborn

## **“Masters of Nature Photography” Class by Hank Erdmann**

August 6 & 20, 2013, 7 – 10 PM

Location: Mayslake

The History of Art is a long established fine arts degree program and an incredibly interesting subject of study. That study can evolve into a career itself and covers many, many mediums and genres of art. The history of photography is surely included in that study, but the History of Nature Photography as a sub group is much less well known, much less studied, but deserves much more inspection and credit for the incredible art that it is. Possibly it is because of the way most pictures of the natural world are made...stop, look, point, shoot, DONE! Nature photography is perceived as a document of a place, a moment in time, a “Kilgore was here” moment. It is much more than that as the painter does not create great art in a fraction of a second and neither does the true nature photographer.

This class will look of the roots of art, how they were applied to photography at its invention, how the world came to know photography and the impact it made. We’ll take a look at the first great practitioners of nature photography, the masters of Group f64 (Ansel Adams and his generation), the recent masters that made color work king of books and publication, and the most recent group of digital media masters. There will be an assignment between the two classes. Ideally, this class will improve your own photography through the understanding of the techniques and artistry of these masters.

The class fee is \$60 and registration is now open. To register please call the FPD at **630-850-2363, ext. 9566.**

## **What’s New on the Mayslake Website**

Steve Baginski

Didn’t know where to go to take photos? Well the new and improved Mayslake Website can help you. Under the “Resources” tab, mouse down to “**PLACES TO GO**”, and you will see a lot of options for photographic opportunities. The page is organized first by local and non-local places, and then also broken down by Counties. Just click on the place, or Forest Preserve to go to its web site.

The non-local section has places organized by individual States, including links to Lighthouses, Covered Bridges and Zoos.

Have any suggestions of places to be added? Email me and I’ll add it. ....

Steve Baginski . [spbaginski@hotmail.com](mailto:spbaginski@hotmail.com)

[http://www.naturecameraclub.com/Mayslake/Memb\\_Places.html](http://www.naturecameraclub.com/Mayslake/Memb_Places.html)



## Member Images in Open Lens IV Exhibit

Sue Gajda

Several Mayslake members had photographs selected for Open Lens IV, a juried exhibition of photography at Gallery 7 in Joliet. Gallery 7 is a fine art photography gallery located at 116 N. Chicago in historic downtown Joliet. Mayslake member Hank Erdmann is one of the co-op artist photographers who manage Gallery 7.

Over 500 entries for Open Lens were received this year with 53 selected for the exhibit. Selected images vary from the abstracts, portraits, wildlife shots, wilderness scenes and street photography.

Members with photos in the exhibit are:

Bill Dixon "Plantain Lily" (Honorable Mention)  
Sue Gajda "Ice Scrolls"  
Karin Grunow "Gerbera Sunrise"  
Cora Jacobs "Dante's Inferno" "Reflections of a Water Lily" (Honorable Mention)  
Steven Mayer "Time Worn"  
Josh Merrill "Frog-Eyed" (2nd Place)  
Rich Witkiewicz "Curled Leaf on Burnt Log"

Also at Galley 7, running concurrent with Open Lens IV, Steven Mayer has a one man show of his work. Steven won "Best in Show" at last year's Open Lens exhibit.

Open Lens IV is running until July 27. Gallery Hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday thru Friday and the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon.

## EXHIBITS

Janice Henry

There is still time...it's not too late. You can still send me titles and sizes for the images you want to put in either of the following two shows:

- August-October "Birds & Butterflies" at Mayslake
- Show at the Westchester Library for the month of September. This show does not have a theme.

Also, the "hands of man" rule does not apply to exhibits.

I do need to know if you would like to participate. The drop off date for the August show at Mayslake is by July 31st. The pieces can be dropped off at the meeting on July 15th or in the office at Mayslake during regular business hours Monday-Friday until July 31st.

Drop off for the September show at the Westchester Library is still to be determined. I should know something by Mid-August.

When preparing your framed images, remember they need to have wire and appropriate hooks for wire, no saw tooth hangers and that the ends of the wire need to be wrapped in tape (painters tape works well). Also your name and the title of the piece need to be on the back.

Let me know if you want to participate. If you want to be in either show, but don't know titles yet, email me anyway.

My email address: [jnhenr@att.net](mailto:jnhenr@att.net)

Look forward to hearing from you.

## An Evening of Photography at Mayslake

Sue Gajda

On June 17, nineteen Club members took advantage of an opportunity to photograph both the grounds and the building interior of the Mayslake Peabody estate. Thanks to the Forest Preserve staff at the estate, members were able to photograph in most of the two floors of rooms in the Peabody mansion, including the dining room, living room, solarium, and event hall on the first floor and various bedrooms, the sleeping porch, study with Mr. Peabody's secret door and staircase on the second floor. Despite a bit of rain later in the evening, members were able to photograph the gardens, lakes, prairies, as well as the Portiuncula chapel on the grounds surrounding the mansion.

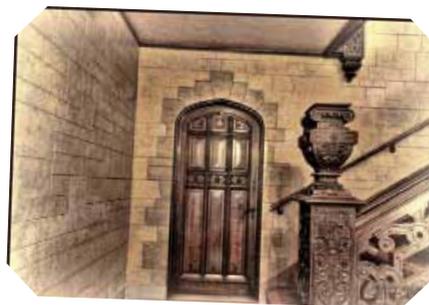
Carl Strang from the Forest Preserve staff was available to provide guidance on photo opportunities and also perspective on the history of the buildings and grounds.

Throughout the evening, snacks and beverages were available in the Event Hall. It was a unique opportunity that was fun, interesting and challenging. As a thank you to the Forest Preserve for hosting the Club throughout the year, a number of the images from the evening are being provided, with member's permission, to the Mayslake staff. The staff has indicated that any of the photos used by the Forest Preserve will include identification of the Mayslake Club and the individual member.

A few of the images from the evening are included in this newsletter and all the images shared by members will be available for view on the Club website. If you didn't get a chance to join us at the evening event, take advantage of the opportunity to go the website (link in Bill Pehrson's article) and learn about the the history of the building and grounds where we hold our meetings.



Frank Cardinalli



Marcia Nye



Diane Hamernik

From Bill Pehrson ...

... A perspective between past history and today found in the lyrics of a John Prine song - a surprising connection to Mayslake.

## Paradise ©John Prine

When I was a child my family would travel  
Down to Western Kentucky where my parents were born  
And there's a backwards old town that's often remembered  
So many times that my memories are worn.

Chorus:

And daddy won't you take me back to Muhlenberg County  
Down by the Green River where Paradise lay  
Well, I'm sorry my son, but you're too late in asking  
Mister Peabody's coal train has hauled it away  
Well, sometimes we'd travel right down the Green River  
To the abandoned old prison down by Airdrie Hill  
Where the air smelled like snakes and we'd shoot with our pistols  
But empty pop bottles was all we would kill.

Repeat Chorus:

Then the coal company came with the world's largest shovel  
And they tortured the timber and stripped all the land  
Well, they dug for their coal till the land was forsaken  
Then they wrote it all down as the progress of man.

Repeat Chorus:

When I die let my ashes float down the Green River  
Let my soul roll on up to the Rochester dam  
I'll be halfway to Heaven with Paradise waitin'  
Just five miles away from wherever I am.

Repeat Chorus:



Bill Pehrson



Gail Chastain



Bill Dixon

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEy6EuZp9IY>

Go to this YouTube link to hear John Prine singing this song while some great pictures of the history of that region are shown.

Turn up the sound, view full screen, and enjoy.

Interesting connection: the mansion at Mayslake was the country estate of Francis S. Peabody.

<http://www.mayslakepeabody.com>

Take a look at the History link.

It's kind of ironic that his place is now part of the Forest Preserve District, and is regularly used and frequented by people who are actively concerned with preservation of the land and conservation of its resources.



Joann Barnes



Steve Ornberg



Noriko Buckles

## Forest and Planes

Sunday June 9, 2013

Gail Chastain

Outings hosted by Duane Heaton are always fun, but this one was twice the fun.

The day started with a trip to Swallow Cliff Woods, an 800 acre preserve located in Palos Hills. Major restoration projects have been done here, and it shows. Although most of the spring flowers were gone, Mayslakers always can find good subjects. Duane set the Photo Challenge at Swallow Cliff of "*Nature Textures*", and there was lots of texture to find!

After a hike through the woods, our next stop was the *Palos Remote Controlled Flying Club Annual Air Show*. Duane received permission for us to go behind the spectator lines, to not only the pit area for up close pictures, but also the pilot stations which are approximately 30 feet from the runway for in flight images.

Be sure to visit the Mayslake Website under Trip Images to see all the images from both parts of this outing.



Noriko Buckles



Chuck Klingsporn



Duane Heaton



Suzanne Zumstein



Lloyd Osborn



Steven Mayer

**McKee Marsh in Warrenville, IL  
June 15, 2013**

It was a last minute outing to celebrate *National Nature Photography Day*, and McKee Marsh was a great location to do this. With woods, prairie, river and a large marsh in the center, there was something for everyone to photograph. Unfortunately, there was also rain and mosquitoes. The rain cut the outing short and the mosquitoes threatened to carry us away. But in spite of this, Mayslakers persevered, and found much to interest them.

Be sure to visit the Mayslake Website to see the images from the morning outing.



Sue Gajda

## St James Farm, Warrentville

Monday June 24, 2013

Gail Chastain

In spite of the Weatherman's warnings, 11 brave Mayslakers , met at St James Farm for a morning shoot. We were happy that not only did the rain hold off, but we also treated with the wonderful defused light of a moody day. St James is over 600 acres of woods, and prairie, with lots to see, but with the skies still looking very threatening, we stayed close to the Horse Barns. The outing ended just a little early, just to be sure we did not get wet, heading nearby for breakfast and good company.

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



Tom Soltis



Karl Knapp



Marcia Nye