

# 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

*June 3*

Marla Garrison  
Dragonflies and Damselflies  
as seen through a  
Macro Lens

*June 17*

Bring Your Camera



*July 2*

No Meeting

*July 15*

Scott Kobal

Plant ecologist with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Also teaches local flora class for the Morton Arboretum's Naturalist's Certificate

*August 5*

Walt Anderson

Supplemental light sources for photography, Visual Echoes Inc.

## HELP! - The Club Needs a Logo Chuck Klingsporn

Our club does not have a logo and apparently has never had one. On our competition award ribbons, we use an image of a butterfly and the club name. For our print competitions, there is no award designation other than the letters HM or AW written on the label by whomever is doing the passing of print that evening. (Several years ago, a label with the club name and a dragonfly picture was used on winning prints) A logo may also be useful for club correspondence, for use on the web-site, possibly for membership cards and/or for recruitment brochures and probably other uses as yet unforeseen. We don't have one.

There are lots of creative people in our membership and we're hoping one or more of you will want to help out by submitting ideas/designs for consideration. If you want to help, submit your design (s)/ ideas to President Sue Gajda via email, [segnet@aol.com](mailto:segnet@aol.com). If you choose to submit a design, please send it in a format that is readily usable in a variety of programs and make sure your submission is scalable.

We need your help! Thanks

## Dragonflies & Damselflies as Seen Through a Macro Lens

Marla Garrison

As Louis Pasteur said "The role of the infinitely small is infinitely great". Come explore the Lilliputian world of insects in this macro-photographic journey that takes you into the private lives of one of the most successful groups of insects to ever inhabit the planet earth - the Odonates (dragonflies and damselflies). Unravel the micro-mysteries



Karin Gurnow

of their life cycle and behaviors. See how a camera lens can bring the world of the infinitely small alive with depth and textures that are seldom fully appreciated by the unaided human eye.

Speaker's Background Information: Marla Garrison is a biology faculty member at McHenry County College where she teaches Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology. She has taught at the community college level for 20 years. She received a B.A. in chemistry at North Central College and an M.S. in molecular microbiology at Illinois State University. Over the past twelve years at MCC she has served as the president of the IACCB (Illinois Association of Community College Biologists), sat on the board of the Butterfly Monitoring Network; worked with the Dragonfly Monitoring Network; conducted research on butterfly genetics at the Chicago Academy of Sciences; carried out natural area restoration work with the support of the McHenry County Conservation Foundation; worked with the McHenry County Conservation District to conduct the first comprehensive dragonfly survey in the county; bred and reared butterflies in captivity for a living exhibit at the college; and, monitored Boone Creek Fen, an Illinois Nature Preserve. She is an active member of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas and The Great Lakes Odonata Meeting. Currently, she

volunteers working on the federal Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Project directed by the Illinois State Museum, and conducts dragonfly surveys within Illinois. For the past decade she has been utilizing macro photography to produce educational materials for her students as well as for identification and taxonomic purposes in the field. Her photography has been on display at the Columbus Zoo, Morton Arboretum, and the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. The culmination of her time spent in the field with her camera led to a sabbatical that allowed her to create and write a photo field guide entitled Damselflies of Chicagoland – the first in a series of local area field guides to support monitoring efforts in Illinois. The guide was published online by the Chicago Field Museum of Natural History and is available at the following website: <http://fm2.fieldmuseum.org/plantguides/damselflies> Volume 2: Dragonflies of Chicagoland is currently underway.



Karin Gurnow

## Special Evening at Mayslake

June 17, 2013

Sue Gajda

Many of you may not be aware of the history of the property where we hold our meetings.

Construction of Mayslake Hall was completed in 1921. The owner, Francis S. Peabody, was a prominent Chicagoan and the founder of the Peabody Coal Company. The 39-room mansion was designed by Benjamin H. Marshall of the architectural firm Marshall & Fox who also designed the Blackstone, Drake and Edgewater Beach Hotels in Chicago. The building is an outstanding example of the Tudor Revival style of architecture popular at the time. This was to be the family's country retreat set on 900-acres in Chicago's western suburbs. The property was named after Peabody's wife and daughter, both named May.

Following Peabody's death in 1922, his heirs sold the property to the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor who used the property as a retreat house. The Portiuncula Chapel, a replica of the Chapel of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy, was built in 1926 as a memorial to Mr. F.S. Peabody. Over the years, much of the land around the house was sold for development and an addition of a large chapel and retreat rooms was built in the 1950's.

After the Franciscans decided to sell the remaining 87-acres by the late 80's, a campaign to save the property from further development resulted in its acquisition by the DuPage County Forest Preserve District in 1992. Since that time it has served as one of the education centers of the FPD-DC. Mayslake Hall is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is undergoing restoration. Today, the mansion hosts numerous cultural and educational programs as well as social events. The gardens around the building have been designed to represent the era, and the preserve surrounding the mansion includes wetlands, lakes, restored prairies and two small oak savannas.

On June 17, instead of our usual meeting, bring your camera equipment for a special evening at

Mayslake. Besides the usual access to the gardens and nature areas of the property, we will also have the opportunity for photography in a number of rooms within the mansion. You can arrive at any time to photograph outside. Access to the building for photography will begin at 6 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. Flash photography and tripods may be used.

Sign-in sheets and Information about the property will be available in our usual meeting area. We'll also have some snacks and beverages as well.

Following the event, we'd like to post some of your images on the Club website. Also, as a thank you to the Mayslake and Forest Preserve staff for hosting our regular meetings, we would like to provide some of our images from the evening event for their use in promoting the property. Any images used by the Forest Preserve District will show credit to the individual maker and to the Mayslake Nature Study and Photography Club. An email will go out after the event with detailed instructions about how to submit your images.

Mark your calendars and join us on June 17. This is the week of the longest day of the year so we're hoping for great light and a beautiful sunset.



The Portiuncula Chapel

**The Monthly CACCA Report**  
**May 2013**  
Chuck Klingsporn

As some of our readers may recall, CACCA only meets for an eight month schedule, October Through May. The competition year ending meeting for this year was on the 11th and our members again did well. In the Class A Print competition, Dave Schooley received a score of 24 and an HM for his image titled, 'Halloween Pen-nant'. In Class A Digital, Karin Grunow received a score of 23 and an AW for her image titled, 'Gerbera Sunset'.

In the July issue of Focus, I'll have a statistical recap of the CACCA Year from the standpoint of our club efforts. For now, here is a list of the 17 Mayslake members that won at least one award at CACCA this year. (Alphabetical order: hope I didn't miss anyone) Steve Bartos, Noriko Buckles, Sue Gajda, Karin Grunow, Harry Hitzeman, John Janunas, Sandy Karasek, Chuck Klingsporn, Marcia Nye, Beth Olin, Chuck Peterson, Lou Petkus, Fran Piepenbrink, Tom Richardson, Dave Schooley, Pei Tang and Rich Witkiewicz. Congratulations to all!

For those of you interested in competition, you should know that the Mayslake Board voted to continue our club's dual CACCA membership for next year thereby allowing more of our members to have entries evaluated at CACCA.

**EXHIBITS**  
Janice Henry

Currently we have "Flowers, Plants and Other Vegetation" which is on the walls of the left hallway in our space. That show will be up until the end of July, so you still have time to check it out. As promised, I have information on the next exhibit in our space.

The theme for the next exhibit which will start in August is "Birds and Butterflies". If you would like to participate at present you can send me titles and sizes for 2 images. I will need the titles by June 30th. Depending on how many we get, the number you actually have may change. If that happens I will inform you before the show begins so you can pick them up.

Also, I am looking into the possibility of having an exhibit at another venue. Karin Grunow has given me a lead to a local library that might be a possibility. I have contacted the library and will have more information by the next Focus.

If we do get an exhibit at the library, the show we would have there will not have a theme, similar to the group show. Although nature related images will still be preferred as we are a nature related club. I will have more details on this by the July Focus, so start thinking about what you would like to put in this exhibit and the next show.

**ATTENTION MEMBERS!**

Bill Dixon

To all of you who have submitted your dues for the 2013- 2014 year, Thank you very much! For those of you who have not, please fill out the renewal that is attached to this E mail or in the Focus newsletter and please bring to the next meeting June 3rd or send it to me at:

Bill Dixon 422 Keepataw Dr., Lemont IL 60439

Your expeditious, prompt reply will be greatly appreciated.



## Ryerson Woods Trip Report

Gail Chastain

May 4, 2013

It was a return visit to Ryerson Woods for a different experience from the last one. The New Year Eve Day trip was so much fun, we went back for more. With over 561 acres, Ryerson Woods in southeast Lake County has lots to offer, but one of the main goals for this outing, was spring flowers. Some areas were still closed after the recent major floods, but most were open and spring had arrived. After we wandered the woods and hunting down flowers, we headed to the Cubby Bear restaurant for lunch and good conversation.

Once again, we had two challenges in this outing. The Nature challenge was to again identify “something”, a challenge that we have been doing with most of the outings. But the Photo challenge had more! This challenge was to “work the subject” To not just take one or two images of a subject, but to find something interesting, and take multiple images, using maybe different angles, different lens, different distances, whatever the maker chooses. The goal was to turn in 3 of those images for the Photo Share.

Be sure to visit the Mayslake Website under “Trip Images” to see all the images from this fun outing.



Spring Beauty Cluster©  
Bill Pehrson



Mayapple©  
Janice Henry



Opening Trillum©  
Joanne Barnes

## Elsen's Hill May 18, 2013

Gail Chastain  
Birds, Flowers and More

It was the time for migratory Warblers. Unfortunately many migrated the day before we arrived!! But there was still lot to photograph at Elsen's Hill, in West Chicago. With over 4 miles of trails through upland oak woods, fens, grassland and pond, Mayslakers found lots of interesting subjects. Especially frogs!!

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



Frog Reflecting©  
Barbara Work



Indigo Bunting©  
Sheila Newenham



Current and the Future©  
Steve Baginski

Membership Information Reminder!

Bill Dixon

**Club year runs from May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014**

Choose your membership from the following

Individual Membership \$30.00

Family Membership

\$30.00 for the first member at address and

\$15.00 for each additional member at the same address

Corresponding Member \$15.00

Former regular members who wish to remain in contact with the Club.

(Their privileges are described in the Directory under Membership.)

Please make checks payable to:

**The Mayslake Nature Study and Photography Club**

Give to Bill at the meeting or Mail to Bill at:

Bill Dixon

422 Keepataw Drive

Lemont, IL 60439

***NOTE! Enter name only if personal info has not changed from last year***

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: Home Work/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please omit the items you do NOT want published in the annual club directory.