

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

May 2

Evidence of Hand on Stone
Expressions in Italian Structure
Jeff Curto

May 16

"The Nature of
Mayslake Forest Preserve"
Part II
Carl Strang

June 6

Panoramic Photography
"Breaking the Rules"
Lou Petkus

June 20

Overview of PSA
Dick Frieders
"Birds, Bugs and Biodiversity"
Chuck Peterson

Annual Banquet

Sue Gajda

About forty members and guests attended this year's banquet at the Willowbrook Holiday Inn.

Thank you to Dan Hollister for organizing the event.

Tom Richardson opened the evening by asking all the attendees to do brief introductions, a great way to get to know the members and guests. Sue Gajda's President's Report centered on "thank you's" to the Board members, chairpersons and assistants who have supported the Club throughout the year.

A special part of the evening was Tom Richardson's presentation of an honorary membership to Fred Drury. Here's an excerpt of Tom's comments about Fred's contributions to photography and to the Club.

Outside of our Club:

He is an accomplished underwater photographer, with 30 photos in the permanent collection of the Shedd Aquarium. Some of you have seen his extraordinary underwater shots.

Fred is a skilled teacher, instructing on a variety of photo topics for the Morton Arboretum, Lake Effect Photographic Adventures and College of DuPage, among others. I have taken classes from Fred in all those organizations, and he is an excellent instructor.

He writes a regular column on Photoshop for the

Photographic Society of America, and does presentations at their Annual Conference.

For our Club,:

He was Club President for four years, the longest in Club's 46 year history. Through his efforts we were one of the first CACCA Clubs to start digital competition.

He started our digital competitions as Competition Chair five years ago and served in that role for four years.

He designed and taught the first classes for our Club at Mayslake. These classes are now a significant revenue source for the Club.

He contributed many articles to the Focus newsletter.

He helped design and produce the Club brochures. He researched and assisted in the purchase of the Club computer, projector, and competition software.

He has led or assisted a number of Club outings.

He has presented numerous Club programs.

He is also generous with his time in helping individual members and has offered his photos in many of the Club exhibitions

And of course, he is an excellent photographer and printer, with high scores and many awards in Club and CACCA competitions. He received two scores of 27 in one Club competition.

Thank you to Fred, a deserving recipient of the Honorary Life Membership.

Sheila Newenham presented the annual competition awards. Congratulations to all.

The evening closed with the featured presentation by Kristen Westlake. Kristen is an accomplished photographer whose presentation clearly showed her love of both nature and photography. Titled "A Wisconsin Walkabout," she showed us the wealth of photo opportunities across the border. She wove her personal stories about the subjects of her images or her experiences capturing the images throughout the presentation. Everyone enjoyed the "rocking bird" video and was captivated by her story of being lost overnight in Oak Creek Canyon in Arizona.

For those of you unable to be at the banquet, here is Kristen's website. <http://kristenwestlake.net/>

Thank you to Lou Petkus for identifying this interesting speaker.



Kristen Westlak
Guest Speaker



Fred Drury, Sue Gajda, Tom Richardson



Fred Drury
Honorary Member Recipient

Jeff Curto Photographer

Since 1989, I have been photographing the architectural landscape of Italy, exploring the visual splendor of its religious, public and vernacular structures. These objects are the evidence of patient application of hands on stone, allowing extraordinary things to be created from ordinary materials. Over time, layers of the past and present combine to create something that will remain to be seen in the future. My photographs are my response to this subtle layering of the ancient and the contemporary in Italian architecture. For me, the buildings, their materials and the light that plays on them not only describe the passage of time but also the sense of proportion, beauty and attention to minute details of life and living for which Italy is justly famous. Though the hands of the men and women who crafted these structures are always visible, I eliminate the physical presence of people in the photographs to place the emphasis on the objects themselves. In this, I am following the documentary tradition in photography, though my objective is to give the images a sense of timelessness, much like the structures themselves possess. I work with a large format camera for its ability to express nuances of tone and detail as well as for the deliberate actions which the camera requires and which I enjoy. While the camera and the film inside of it are “old” technology, my prints are inkjet. The film is scanned and the images are printed with pigment inks on rag paper, so the 16 by 20 inch prints, like their subjects, exhibit a respectful mixture of the past and the present, with an eye to the future.

A Tip from Lou Petkus

Viewing RAW thumbnails in Windows Explorer

Wish you could see thumbnails of your RAW images when using Windows Explorer? Here's how. Download and install the “Fast Picture Viewer Codec” from <http://www.fastpictureviewer.com/codecs/>. It is \$14.95 and I have found it to be worth the cost.

Here is an excerpt from their website: “The FastPictureViewer Codec Pack enables robust support for 48 image formats in Windows Explorer, Windows Photo Gallery, Windows Photo Viewer, Windows Live™ Photo Gallery and, on Windows 7, also within Windows Media Center and Windows Media Player 12, with full 64-bit compatibility.”

They also offer a complete image viewer similar to Breeze Browser but I found it to be less than useful. My favorite program for quick viewing, tagging and deleting RAW images is “Faststone Image Viewer” It's fast, it's FREE and has tons of other useful features that I use all the time. www.faststone.org/



COMPETITION

Sheila Newenham

We've wrapped up our 2010-2011 competition year. In our four print and digital competitions we had 62 print entries and 344 digital entries from 40 different photographers. I am always impressed by the talent and artistic vision from our group. Thanks to everyone for their participation. Thank you to all of our judges, Marie Ward, Steve Baginski, Karin Grunow, Rose Janulis and Suzanne Zumstein for helping with each competition.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place photographers in each class received a certificate suitable for framing and an Amazon.com gift certificate. Congratulations to the following:

Prints Class A

1st place Fred Drury
2nd place Tom Richardson
3rd place John Janunas

Prints Class B

1st Place Sue Gajda
2nd Place Bill Dixon
3rd Place Noriko Buckles

Prints Class C

1st Place Marcia Nye
2nd Place Charles Klingsporn
3rd Place David Schooley

Digital Class A

1st Place Fred Drury
2nd Place Tom Richardson
3rd Place Karin Grunow

Digital Class B

1st Place John Fan
2nd Place Bill Pehrson
3rd Place Gary Saunders

Digital Class C

1st Place Pei Tang
2nd Place Harry Hitzeman
3rd Place Dennis Walz

Our fourth and final competition took place on April 4th. There were 96 digital entries and 30 print entries. Many thanks to our judges, Lou Petkus, Hank Erdman and Bob Marin, who gave great critiques and cheerily judged late into the evening. Congratulations to the following who earned honors:

Digital Class A Awards

John Janunas "Common Loons"
Tom Richardson "White Pocket Sunset Reflection"
Fred Drury "White Pocket Sunset"
Rich Witkiewicz "Sandhill Crane Pair"
Karin Grunow "Phalaenopsis Orchid"
Rich Witkiew "White Oak Leaf in Ice"
Digital Class A Honorable Mentions
Karin Grunow "Julia Dryas Lunch Time"
Fred Drury "Lower Antelope Canyon"
Fred Drury "Calling Oriole"
John Janunas "Red-Winged Blackbird"

Digital Class B Awards

Sue Gajda "Spring Mayapple"
Sue Gajda "Cubs Paws"
Gary Saunders "In The Northwoods"
Digital Class B Honorable Mention
Chris Aquino "New England Aster"

Digital Class C Awards

Steve Baginski "Lazy River"
Marie Ward "Determination"
Dennis Walz "Death Valley Dune"
Dennis Waz "Meeep-Meeep"
Gail Chastain "Yellow-Rumped Warbler"
Harry Hitzeman "Barker Pond Morning"
Steve Ornberg "Dawn Reflections at Barker Lake"
Pei Tang "The Butterfly World"

Digital Class C Honorable Mentions

Pei Tang "Great Egret in Flight"
Marcia Nye "Showing Off"
Steve Ornberg "Keys View - Joshua Trees"
Steve Ornberg "Cholla Cactus"

Harry Hitzeman "Cholla Sunburst"
Harry Hitzeman "Barker Pond Sunrise"
Charles Klingsporn "Mistaya Canyon"
Marie Ward "Snow on Red Berries"
Rose Janulis "Napping"

Prints Class A Awards

Tom Richardson "Mountain, Clouds and Aspen"
Fred Drury "Spring in the Garden"

Prints Class A Honorable Mentions

Fred Drury "Burrowing Owls"
Tom Richardson "Sunset and Stone"

Prints Class B Award

Sue Gajda "Kingston Plains in Black and White"

Prints Class B Honorable Mentions

Noriko Buckles "Carpet of Daffodils"
Sue Gajda "Lake Color"

Prints Class C Awards

Charles Klingsporn "Bristlecone Pine"
Marcia Nye "Roseate Spoonbill"

Prints Class C Honorable Mention

Marcia Nye "Stay on Your Own Side"



©Karin Grunow

**APRIL ARBORETUM OUTING ON
A WINDY SPRING DAY**

Jon Snyder

Twelve members joined together on a breezy Sunday morning for spring wildflower photography. Sadly, the Bloodroot was just about gone but other interesting Spring growth was to be found. The morning was cool with some sunny breaks and too much wind. The Bluebell bloom was extensive but not quite opened and Dutchman's Breeches were in abundance. Several of us joined in the visitor's center for lunch before departing and all had a fine time. Thanks to Karin Grunow for the images included – not sure Karin what the beautiful patterned leaf is but makes a sweet image. More flower fun will be had at Starved Rock in May. Thanks to all who attended.



©Jon Snyder



©Karin Grunow

CACCA

Lou Petkus

CALL FOR PRINTS - The last CACCA competition is on Saturday May 14th and I need 4 prints on 11x14 matte board, one each from 4 makers. If you have a print that scored well and has not been in a CACCA competition please bring it to the May 2nd meeting so it can be entered in the next CACCA competition.

You are invited to attend the annual CACCA awards banquet on Saturday August, 13 2011 at the Holiday Inn – Countryside. Cash Bar starts at 11:00 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12 noon. Tickets are \$20.00 each and will be available at our meetings.

Please congratulate the following members who have won CACCA honors:

AWARD

Tom Richardson – Upper Columbia River
Tom Richardson – Mountain Clouds and Aspen
Marcia Nye – Baltimore Oriole Female
Bill Pehrson – In Perfect Form

HONORABLE MENTION

Rich Witkiewicz - Ice Bills Above Sawmill Creek
Chuck Klingsporn – Bristlecone Pine

DOOR PRIZES

Red River Paper has donated 24 gift certificates to be given away at our meetings. Thank you Red River Paper! Twelve of these are for \$25 and can be used to purchase any items on their website, www.redriverpaper.com. The other 12 are for FREE SHIPPING, also good for any items purchased on their website. You need to be present to win. Good luck!

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Bill Dixon

Yes, it's spring and time to renew your club membership.

Membership year is May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012. Renew today so you don't miss any issues of our newsletter or news of our upcoming events.

Please fill out the renewal form that is included in this month's Focus or attached to this email and give it to me at the next meeting or you can mail it to me at Bill Dixon, 422 Keepataw Drive, Lemont, IL 60439.

Please note, if you *do not plan on renewing*, please send me an email at bmaxdixon@sbcglobal.net and I will remove your name from the roster.
Thanks, Bill

Introduction to Lightroom

(Photography 1820-003)

Lightroom is a superior tool for digital asset management and works well with Photoshop. So whether you want a systematic way to augment camera supplied metadata and keyword images, or you want an image optimization approach that is easily adapted to batch processing, Lightroom offers advantages. You'll learn how to use Lightroom to put your optimization workflow on steroids, and how to use Lightroom as a digital-asset-savvy front end for Photoshop.

This class will run Tuesday and Wednesday evenings (6-9PM) for 5 weeks beginning May 24 in the Photography Department (Room 286 of the McAninch Arts Center) of the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION REMINDER!

Bill Dixon

2011-2012 Membership Renewal Club year runs from May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012

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

Hand to or mail to:

Bill Dixon
422 Keepataw Drive
Lemont, IL 60439

PLEASE NOTE! ONLY enter name if personal info has not changed from last year

Family Name: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

First Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone **Home**: _____

Phone **Cell**: _____

Phone **Work**: _____

E-mail: _____

***PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY
AND ONLY THE INFORMATION THAT YOU WANT SHARED***

Club Officers

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Immediate Past President: Tom Richardson
rtomrichardson@comcast.net
Vice-President, Nature: Pat McPherran
pmcpherr@mac.com
Vice-President, Photography: Lou Petkus
loupet@gmail.com
Treasurer: Gary Saunders
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Secretary: Fran Piepenbrink
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2010-2011 Chairpersons

CACCA Delegate: Chuck Klingsporn
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Competition: Sheila Newenham
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