

FOCUS

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

Message from the President
Sue Gajda

Highlights

April 4

Competition

April 18

Banquet

May 2

Evidence of Hand on Stone
Expressions in Italian Structure
Jeff Curto

May 16

Panoramic Photography
Lou Petkus

After a great run, Dan Hollister is bowing out as Social Chairman, though he will continue his reports on Conservation. Besides making sure we have refreshments for our meetings, the Social Chairman also arranges the holiday party and the annual banquet. This is a Board position, so, in addition to making sure members are well-fed, it is also an opportunity to get involved with the management of the Club. If you are interested, please contact Sue Gajda at segnet@aol.com. Dan has indicated that he'll be glad to help someone "learn the ropes."



Don't forget to reserve your
spot at the Banquet!



Our Big Event of the Year The Annual Honors Banquet Monday, April 18 at 6:00

It is time to register for the big event! We will be honoring members for their photographic achievements, recognizing new officers and chair persons, enjoying a full course dinner (cash bar), socializing with your friends and hearing Kristen Westlake a professional photographer who will be showing some of her wonderful Wisconsin images as well as telling us the stories behind those images. This is a program and a wonderful evening you won't want to miss.

Location: The Holiday Inn, Hotel & Conference Center, Willowbrook, 7800 Kingery Highway, Willowbrook, Il. The Inn is located one-quarter mile north of I55 on route 83. See the following page for detailed instructions.

Please fill out the form below and mail it with your check for \$28 per person to Dan Hollister, 848 S. County Line Road, Hinsdale, Illinois 60521 or give it to me at our next meeting. I would appreciate receiving your check along with the registration form as soon as possible so we can guarantee our reservation, make name tags and other arrangements, thank you.

Annual Honors Banquet 2011

Chicken Salmon Beef Vegetarian

My dinner choice is: _____ _____ _____ _____

My guest's choice is: _____ _____ _____ _____

Please **print** your name: _____

Please **print** your guest's name: _____

(Name as you want it to appear on your table name plate)

Please make your check out to: **Mayslake Nature Study & Photography Club** and send it to:

Dan Hollister, 848 S. County Line Rd, Hinsdale, Il 60521

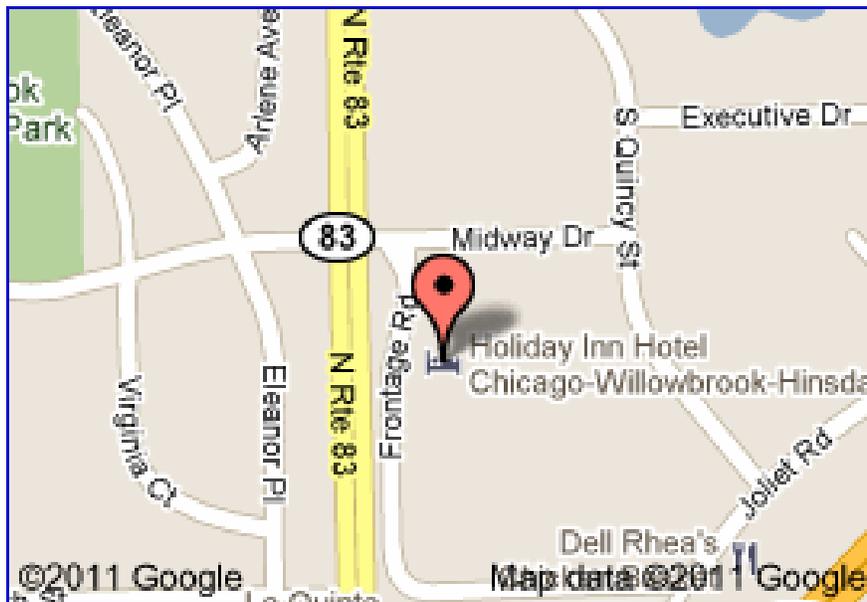
Directions to the Holiday Inn, Willowbrook:

From the North: Take Route 83 South. Go one-quarter mile past 75th Street and turn left at the first light onto Midway Drive. There is a Denny's on the southeast corner of the intersection. After crossing the intersection make an immediate right turn onto Frontage Road. The Holiday Inn is one block on the left. Park and come in the south front entrance.

From the East: Take I55 South (towards St Louis), at Exit 274 go north on to Route 83 (Kingery Hwy) one-quarter mile to the first light and turn right on Midway Drive. Make an immediate right onto Frontage Road. Go one block and the Holiday Inn will be on the left. Park and come in the south front entrance.

From the South: Take Route 83 north. Go one-quarter mile past I55 to the first light and turn right onto Midway Drive. Make an immediate right turn onto Frontage Road. Go one block and the Holiday Inn will be on the left. Park and come in the south front entrance.

From the West: Take 75 Street east to Route 83 (The Kingery Hwy), turn right and go one-quarter mile to the first light and turn left on Midway Drive. After crossing the intersection make an immediate right turn onto Frontage Road. Go one block to the Holiday Inn on the left. Park and come in the south front entrance



Conservation Report

Dan Holister

Vanishing Voices

Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior has released a new survey that addresses the state of the bird population in America. The news is not good. Over all, a third of the nations 800 bird species are endangered, threatened or in a state of serious decline. There is special concern for grassland birds whose habitat has been vanishing steadily for decades. Converting grasslands to cropland may cause birds the most grief. Last year corn production in the U.S. increased 19% with one out of three bushels earmarked for ethanol production. Corn is one of the worst crops for grassland birds. Most species will not nest in corn and corn production requires high inputs of chemical herbicides and fertilizers bad news for natural ecosystems in general. A switch from corn to switch grass for ethanol production would be a huge benefit for grassland birds, but unfortunately government legislation has mandated increases in corn production through 2015.

For well over a century migratory birds have faced stresses from hunting, loss of forest and wetland, pesticides, invasive species, and other impacts of human development, but now they are facing a new threat – climate change that is dramatically altering their habitat and food supply. When it comes to global warming I know there are skeptics, but I think it is interesting that the National Academy of Science which is probably the most prestigious private scientific organization in this country reported last month that global warming is not only real and caused by humans, but it is happening more rapidly than expected. In addition, Pew Research Center polling has shown that 83% of climatologists believe that climate change is taking place and is caused by human activity, namely the burning of fossil fuels. As a result of the earth warming species are shifting their range towards the poles at the rate of four miles every ten years. In the distant past global

warming has occurred over thousands of years, but today climate change is taking place faster than the species can evolve and adapt and animals are getting out of sync with the seasonal appearance of the plants and prey they need to survive.

The good news is that whenever nature is allowed to recover it shows extraordinary resilience. The remarkable recovery of ducks and geese show that strong conservation efforts can achieve amazing results when humans make the effort.

Welcome New Members

David Bieniasz
West Chicago, IL

Steven Mayer
Bolingbrook, IL

Volunteers Needed Again

Our club will be sponsoring a photography class again, in conjunction with the Forest Preserve. Bob Pizzurro and Fred Drury will offer an 'Introduction to Digital Photography Class' this summer. On Monday evening, June 13, we will have our lecture and workshop on basic camera operation. As in the past, we need your help. Fred and I will need club members to assist us for about an hour on that evening. Please let either Fred or myself know if you are available.

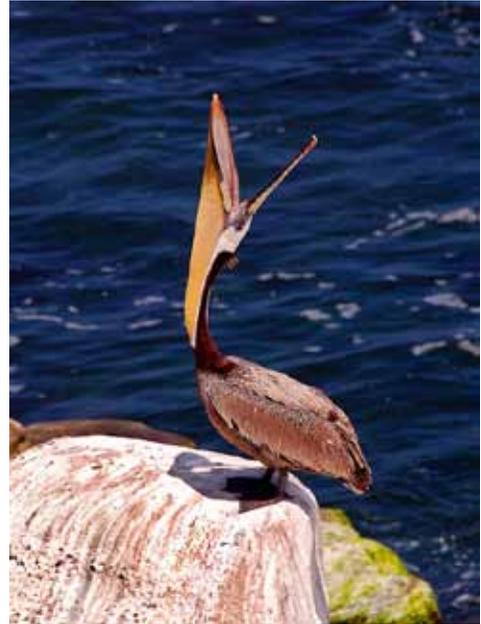
Bob Pizzurro - Rp45@aol.com
Fred Drury - fred@marklandimaging.com

Competition News

Sheila Newenham

The April 4th print and digital competitions will be our fourth and final of the competition year. The deadline for digital entries has passed. You are welcome to bring make-up entries for the print competitions this year. Please fill out the top of the commentary cards for each image you submit. You will only write a commentary about your subject for one print and one digital entry, regardless of make-ups. Please also bring your summary cards with both the top and bottom filled out.

Annual awards will be presented at the April Banquet for those placing in the top of their classes on all entries for the competition year. *Be sure to reserve your spot at the banquet!*



Native California Pelican©
Pei Tang

Joseph Van Os

On September 17 & 18, 2011, Joseph Van Os Photo Safaris presents a Nature & Digital Photography weekend seminar in the Chicago area with renowned photographer and digital photo expert John Shaw. These seminars are in their seventh year and have inspired and educated thousands of photographers at all levels. **Chicago's September offering will be John's last two-day seminar; if you've wanted to learn from one of the country's top photography educators, this will be your last chance at an affordable rate.** The seminar features one full day devoted to nature photography and the second day covering the digital darkroom. More information and registration can be found at <http://www.photosafaris.com/main/john-shaw-photo-seminars-2011/> or by calling (206) 463-5383.



California Rhododendrons©
Fred Drury

Mayslake
North Point Pier Outing
February 26, 2011

Gail Chastain

On a cold, windy and snowy day, five brave soles headed up north to North Point Marina for some photographic opportunities. Although not as good for bird photography as anticipated, the trip was well worth it. After lunch, the group travel a few miles south to three different areas of Illinois Beach for more great pictures. As the snow blew by us, we all took advantage of the day for great ice, snow and winter pictures.



Fran Piepenbrink©



Gail Chastain©



Steve Baginski©



Elaine Allen©



Karin Grunow©

OUTINGS

EARLY SPRING WILDFLOWERS MORTON ARBORETUM SUNDAY APRIL 17TH

Celebrate spring's arrival with a morning's photography fun at the good old Arboretum to photograph Bloodroot and other early spring wildflowers. Since I can keep an eye on what is blooming where, we can make the best use of our time there enjoying multiple subjects. This will be a mid morning start as we need hopefully a sunny morning to open the flowers. Bring your close focusing lenses and be prepared to get muddy. As usual, if you wish to join us send me an e-mail note or call to be included on the list. More info will follow a week before the shoot. Hope to see you there.

Horicon Marsh Friday April 29th - Sunday May 1st

Come join Gail and Steve for a visit to Horicon Marsh, April 29th - May 1st. Come for the day, come for the weekend, or make it an extended weekend. Your choice, because we will be there.

Horicon Marsh is VERY well know for its birding, it also has wonderful landscapes with wetland, marshes, open water and many many areas for great nature photography. The weekend we are going is the weekend before their annual Bird Count, and is listed as one of Horicon's best time for birding.

Here is some information from their Horicon website. At over 32,000 acres in size, Horicon Marsh is the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States. The marsh provides habitat for endangered species and is a critical rest stop for thousands of migrating birds. It is recognized as a Wetland of International Importance, as both Globally and State Important Bird Areas and is also a unit of the Ice Age Scientific Reserve.

MAY CLUB OUTING STARVED ROCK STATE PARK WILDFLOWERS, WATERFALLS AND OTHER ASSORTED GOODIES SUNDAY MAY 15

Starved Rock is now running canyon/waterfall tours on Saturdays, a bus load morning and afternoon, so we will gladly avoid that. This will be a mid-morning start. Time and meeting place will follow to those that contact me to be on the list.

Reply to:

Jon Snyder - jonsnyder@comcast.net
Gail Chastain - gachastain@hotmail.com
Steve Baginski - spbaginski@hotmail.com



Bloodroot©Jon Snyder

Just for Beginners!

Carole Kropscot
APSA Overland Park, KS
ckropscot@yahoo.com

Color of Light

The human eye realizes that a white object is white even when seen in the reddish orange light of sunset. Yet this white object has reddish orange color cast in a photographic print. This example illustrates that light is applying a color cast.

For photographers, light is basically either warm or cool or somewhere in between. Warm colors are in the red, orange, and yellow categories. Cool colors tend toward blue. (Color casts are due to the temperature of the light. Low temperatures produce a reddish cast while high temperatures produce a bluish cast.)

A photographer should know that the angle of the sun's rays to the earth is a factor in the color cast. When the angle is small and the sun is near the horizon, the light is more red, orange, and yellow. The scene's look goes from ordinary daylight to a warm, often more dramatic light.

When the sun is high overhead, the light is in between warm and cool. People often consider the look of this light as normal, natural, and neutral. It is the standard to which the warm and cool are compared.

Weather is a factor in the color of light. Sunlight gives off a blue color cast when its rays go through a cloud. Photos taken on an overcast day have more blue and gray tones than on a sunny day.

The same blue gray color cast happens when photographing a subject in the shade, even on a sunny day. The color cast is cool rather than warm.

The artificial light from light bulbs also have color casts. The common incandescent light bulb has a reddish orange color. Fluorescent light

is often greenish. These color casts become apparent when a photo is taken without any compensation to make the image look normal and neutral.

If color cast is not desired, the use of flash can neutralize it. For example, taking a portrait of someone in the shade with a flash changes the dull blue gray look to a more natural sunlit look.

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