

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

April 7

Astro-Photography
Marty Murphy

April 21

Member's Night

May 5

Conservation and Cultural Connections in the
FPD of DuPage County:
Past Present and Future
Dave Guritz and Chris Gingrich

May 19

Impact of Power Generation on Wildlife
Dave Schooley

Reminder

1st Annual Members' Night (Monday, April 21)
Reservation Forms are due no later than April 10,
2014. The meeting on April 7th is the last oppor-
tunity to reserve your spot at a meeting. Reserva-
tions may be mailed to Barbara Dunn after that
date.

Buffet-style menu will include:

Hand Pulled Pork
Herb Roasted Chicken
Baked Rotini (Vegetarian)
Creamy Cole Slaw
Tossed Salad
Whipped Sweet Potatoes
Gourmet Sandwich Rolls
Soft Drinks/Coffee

All for \$10
\$20 for Guests

Sign up Form on Page 2

Welcome

Lynne Kuderko
Westmont



Mayslake Nature Study & Photography Club
1st Annual Members' Night
Monday, April 21, 2014
Mayslake Peabody Estate
6:30 pm

Featuring
Members' Favorite Photos
Image of the Year Competition
Individual Member Awards for Digital and Print Images
Catering by Uncle Bub's Award Winning Barbeque

Dinner cost: \$10.00 for members; \$20.00 for guests. Please send in your reservations as soon as possible.

Member's name _____

Guest's name _____

Send checks payable to:
Mayslake Nature Study & Photography
Barbara Dunn
1510 Deerpath Lane
LaGrange Park, IL 60526

Buffet-style menu will include:
Hand Pulled Pork
Herb Roasted Chicken
Baked Rotini (Vegetarian)
Creamy Cole Slaw
Tossed Salad
Whipped Sweet Potatoes
Gourmet Sandwich Rolls
Soft Drinks/Coffee

Reservations must be received no later than April 7, 2014
No money will be taken the evening of the event.
Questions? Contact
Barbara Dunn at bdunn23@sbcglobal.net (708) 533 4597

OVERVIEW

Sue Gajda

As we look forward to our first “annual” members night, it also means it’s the close of the 2013/2014 Club year and time to look forward to 2014/2015.

First, over the past few weeks, we have been working on recruiting Club Officers and Board Members for the new year. As of this writing, here are the proposed positions for the upcoming year:

Officers

President	Barbara Dunn
Vice-President/Programs	Tom Richardson
Vice-President/Programs	Vacant
Secretary	Fran Piepenbrink
Treasurer	Vacant

Chairpersons/Board Members

CACCA	Vacant
Competition	Sue Gajda
Conservation	Vacant
Education	Fred Drury
Equipment	David Schooley
Exhibits	Janice Henry
Forest Preserve Liaison	Tom Richardson
Membership	Bill Dixon
Outings	Gail Chastain
Publications	Diane Hamernik
Social	Vacant
Webmaster	Steve Baginski

This is the slate that will be presented for a member vote at the April 21 Members’ Night. As you can see, we still have some positions showing as vacant. In a few cases, the current individual holding the position would like to move on to another role but can’t because no one has stepped up to take the job they currently have. We will continue to try and fill the open positions.

Throughout this year, we have noted that outside speaker fees and honorariums have risen. While we try to get as many no cost or low cost speakers

as possible, we also want to continue to provide quality speakers on both nature study and photography. With fewer members who indicate availability to work on committees, especially, Programs, it is more time-consuming for a few members to plan and arrange these programs.

In order to keep dues at the current level and manage the workload in developing programs throughout the year, the Board is considering adjusting the meeting schedule. We would still retain our general meeting dates of the first and third Monday of the month but only have one meeting in some months - for example, during the summer, as well as in months with holidays or other possible conflicts. Our thought is the first Monday of the month would be the meeting date for programs (excluding holidays) and the third Monday would be for competitions, special events, etc. A proposed schedule for 2014/2015 will be provided to members in May.

Finally, the Club’s Constitution and By-Laws have not been revised in several years. While no major changes are anticipated, both the Constitution and By-Laws do need to be updated to reflect the Club’s current operations. When ready, the revisions will be sent to all members in advance of a vote at a meeting.

So again, please consider volunteering for a role in the Club as a Board member or on a Committee.

Come join us at our first Members’ Night on April 21. Besides enjoying dinner and a social evening with your fellow Club members, we’ll be holding the Board elections and our first Image of the Year vote. Don’t miss out in a great evening.

Competition

Sheila Newenham

Prints A

Award

Western Snow, David Schooley

Yosemite Falls, Bill Pehrson

Honorable Mention

Trifecta, Bill Dixon

Prints B

Award

Juniper Remnants at Joshua Tree, Steven Mayer

Ready to Bloom, Gail Chastain

Honorable Mention

Peek a Boo. I See you, Gail Chastain

Joshua Tree Portrait, Steven Mayer

Digital A

Award

American Kestrel, Rich Witkiewicz

Spread Eagle, Bill Pehrson

Honorable Mention

Convict Lake, Steve Ornberg

Clearing Storm, Steve Ornberg

Digital B

Award

Yellow Bellied Marmot, David Kolbush

Green Glow, Barbara Dunn

A Noble Profile, Fran Piepenbrink

Ring Neck Duck, David Kolbush

Honorable Mention

Ice Fishing. Its for the Birds, Gail Chastain

Tree Sparrow. Our Winter Visitor, Gail Chastain

Digital C

Award

Sand Castles, Bill Ludermann

Dir George T Moore Tropical Water Lily, Cora

Jacobs

Honorable Mention

Perry's Giant Sunburst Sacred Lotus, Cora Jacobs

The **Glennie Nature Salon** Photo Comp was held on March 15, 2014. Ten photos were submitted for the competition for Mayslake. Congrats to Richard Witkiewicz (Sharpshooter-leafhopper) who won a "Merit Award" and congrats to the following people who completed in the upper third, and will have their photo's shown in the Glennie Nature Salon's slideshow: Karin Grunow (Cabbagewhite), Tom Richardson (Bighornbrowse), Steve Ornberg (Mobiusarch), and Pei Tang (Guardianofgobidesert)

Exhibits

What I need from you:

- Title of image(s)
- Size of image(s)
- If you are willing to sell the image(s). This is an option not a requirement.
- If you are willing to sell, the price you are asking for the image.

If you would like to participate send me an email to jnhenr@att.net with the above information.

Drop off can be at the next 3 meetings or by Monday, April 28th to the office at Mayslake during regular business hours Monday-Friday 9AM-4PM.

Remember the theme is "Your Favorite Pix (images) from the Mayslake Outings". Hand of man does not apply to exhibits. Also if you would like to participate with an image from the print competition, let me know as I have frames that can be borrowed.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Janice

Reminder - The Year in Review

You should be busy selecting your favorite images for the “Year in Review” slide show that will be held at our Members’ Night on April 21.

For this purpose, the year will be April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. Every member can submit up to 10 images taken during the year. The images should have a nature theme but “hand of man” is ok. You can even sneak in a few family, vacation, or pet photos - we won’t tell! - As long as the majority are nature images.

Images should be in .jpg format and to make emailing easier, not more than 1000 pixels on the longest side. File names should be formatted as follows – Your Name and Title if any. If no title just add a number.

Send your images to Gail Chastain at gachastain@hotmail.com. Please make the Email Subject title: “Year in Review”.

The last date to submit images for the slideshow is April 1. But no need to wait until then!! Send them anytime.

This is a great opportunity to share your images with fellow Club members in the social setting of first Members’ Night. We hope to see you ... and your images ... on April 21.

Member Gallery Show

Our club’s CACCA rep Chuck Klingsporn has been invited to be the first photographer ever to be the ‘Featured Artist’ at the La Grange Art League and Gallery in La Grange. His show will run throughout the month of April and will consist of about 30 images he has taken on his trips to locations throughout the western United States. He has asked if it would be OK to let our members know of the show and to encourage attendance. If you are interested, here are the particulars.

The title of the show is, ‘The American West: A Photographers Journey’. It opens on Monday, March 31 and closes on Thursday, May 1 with a Wine and Cheese reception on Sunday April 6

from 3 to 5:30. The Art League has a web site, www.lagrangeartleague.org which has driving directions and additional information. If you can get there, stop by and show your support.

CACCA Results Another Great Mayslake Month

March is the biggest month of the year at CACCA. In addition to the regular monthly interclub competitions, they do both the Postcard Competition and the Annual Salon of individual competitions. Lots of great images to see and to learn from. In terms of what our members achieved, let’s start with the Postcard Competition. Locally, we had 19 entries, up from 9 last year and, again, all were entered into the CACCA mix where the number of entries was also up substantially from the year before. I am pleased to report that our entries scored very well with 2 HM and 3 AW designations. Members that received the HM were, “Visit the Zoo” - Gail Chastain and “Stone Heads” - Diane Hamernik. Members that received the AW were, “We’ve Got Them All - Big and Small” - Susan Gajda, “Chihuly Collection” - Steve Ornberg and “Join the Team - Adopt a Husky” - Fran Piepenbrink. All five of these outstanding images are now part of the traveling CACCA display that is used to show off and publicize the annual postcard competition. Bravo to these Mayslakers!!

In the March Interclub competition we also had two winners. In the digital competition, Greg Hull received an AW for his image titled, Northern Parula Warbler while in the print competition, Steve Mayer also received an AW for his print titled, Intimate Cascade. Congratulations to these two Mayslake photographers. Our club competition on Mar. 17 yielded another batch of great images which will now go into the final two months of CACCA competition this year, April and May. Great results to be reported next month.

Chuck Klingsporn

DAN HOLLISTER, IN MEMORY



Dan Hollister passed away on March 7. He was a Club member for over 25 years, serving in the roles of Competition

Judge, Outing Chair, Vice President, President, Social Chair and Conservation Chair. Due to health issues, Dan was not active the last couple of years. Many of you may remember his conservation talks. Dan researched topics thoroughly and then developed them into concise five-minute presentations. Many of these were also published in the Focus. Dan was a major contributor to our Club, a generous man who always had a friendly smile for Club members, and a person who was helpful to me when I first joined the Club. He will be missed.

Tom Richardson

There will be a memorial service for Dan at the Union Church of Hinsdale (137 South Garfield) on April 5 at 11 AM, followed by a reception at the Hinsdale Community House (415 West 8th Street). Given my father's love for photography, we will be displaying some of his photos, including nature subjects, at the reception.

Dan's son Glenn shared with me the part of Dan's autobiography that related to the Club, and the following is an edited copy. It helps newer members understand some of the Club's history.

"In an effort to learn a little more about nature photography I signed up for a photography course at the Morton Arboretum. The classes were taught by John and Kitty Kohout, a husband and wife photographer team. They both spoke with a slight foreign accent, but they were both excellent photographers and really enjoyed teaching the subject. John had written a fifty-page booklet on understanding photography and that served as our text book. The Kohouts were also active members of the Morton Arboretum Nature Study and Photography Club. Each week we would get an assignment to photograph a specific subject such as birds, insects, sunsets, waterfalls, cone flowers or other nature subject. At the end of each class our slides would be projected and critiqued a teaching technique that was very effective. I always looked back on their classes with fond memories because I learned so much about controlling backgrounds, composition, and exposure. Their critique of your work was particularly valuable because they didn't pull any punches, you were told what was good and what could have been done to improve the image. All through the course they encouraged some of us to become members of the Morton Arboretum Nature Study and Photography Club and as result of their encouragement I joined in 1987. Tragically both John and Kitty were killed shortly after the class I attended. They were in Hawaii on a photographic vacation and were apparently rushing up a steep mountain road, probably chasing the golden light just before sunset, when they were involved in a head on fiery crash with a logging truck that was barreling down the mountain road. Both Kitty and John were killed in the crash. The photographic community deeply mourned their loss.

I went on to join the Morton Arboretum Photography Club and won my first blue ribbon award in June of 1987. The ribbon was for my picture of a bright red cardinal sitting on a hawthorn branch with red berries. I really did not get actively involved as a member or take on a leadership role until I retired in 1992. When I retired I had more time to devote to the Club activities and photography. The Club had three competition classes C, B and A. Because I was not new

to photography and because I had taken the Kohout class I was allowed to start in B Class. After competing in B class for several years I won the annual B class competition and moved up to being an A class photographer. In 1997 I served on the Board as Outing Chair. In that job I would scout out nature photographic locations and organize weekend outings to those places. In 2000 I became Vice President and the next year I moved up to President. The old saying that, “the more you put into an organization or activity the more you get out of it”, certainly holds true. After serving as President I took on the job of Social Chairman for four years. The big social event of the year was the Annual Banquet. In as much as the Club had over 100 members the banquet was always a big project.

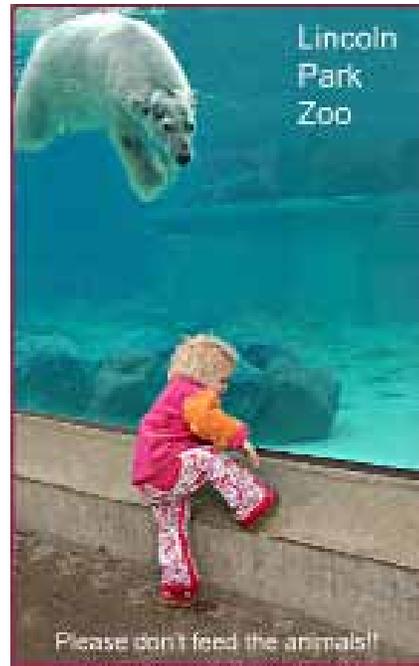
However the assignment that was really the closest to my heart was Conservation Chairman. In that job I would research various conservation subjects such as, wolves in Yellowstone, why are forest fires necessary, vanishing wildlife habitat, endangered bird populations, Yellowstone wolves, wetlands to the rescue, Galapagos problem – people, and many more. One subject I presented that got a national PSA (Photographic Society of America) award for best environmental article, was entitled “Wind vs. Bird” a story about the reintroduction of the California Condor. It seems the Condors range was expanding in to into wind farm areas where there is a risk the birds will be killed by the spinning turbine blades. Once I had done the research and written the article for the monthly news letter I would present the subject at the monthly Camera Club meeting. Over the three-year period that I held the job I presented 37 conservation subjects. Researching and presenting the subjects took a lot of time, but I learned a lot about environmental issues and hopefully I was able to help a lot of people achieve a better understanding of some these conservation issues.

One of the most interesting and challenging assignments I had as a member of the Photo Club was being a competition judge. Five times a year the Club would hold a competition. On competition night there would be print and slide or now digital competition. We would have two outside judges from other clubs and one inside judge, which would often be me. Each image would be scored from 5 to 9 and then one of the judges would critique the image. Sometimes members or the maker would get upset with the score or the critique, but all you could say was, “I’m sorry but that was my opinion”. The reasons were often subjective, but you would do your best to explain your decision. Some photographers would get upset because they worked very hard to get an image, hiked up a mountain, spent a lot of time or took a long trip to get their prize photo. My answer was always the same, “we give high scores for results not for effort.”

POSTCARD COMPETITION
CACCIA WINNERS



Sue Gajda
Award



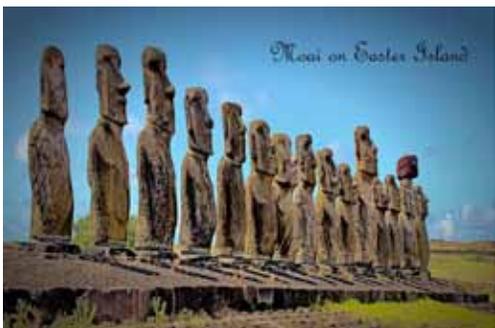
Gail Chastain
Honorable Mention



Steve Ornberg - Award



Fran Piepenbrink
Award



Diane Hamernik - Honorable Mention

GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY



Lloyd Osborn



Curly Que
Steve Osborn



Tom Soltis



Joanne Barnes

March 29, 2014 - Mayslakers met at the Conservatory to get ready for Spring flowers. Or maybe just to hope Spring would come!!

The Photo Challenge for this outing was to keep in mind Hank Erdmann's advice from his recent Monday's Mayslake talk. He encouraged us to "make the image" not just "take a picture".

When we arrived at Garfield, we were sorry to see that more of the Conservatory was closed for repair on the ceiling than anticipated. But not only, did that not discourage Mayslakers, no in fact it encouraged them to spend the time to "make the image".

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



Barbara Dunn