

FOCUS

Newsletter of the Mayslake Nature Study and Photography Club
Hosted by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Visit our web site at www.naturecameraclub.com

December 7

Darwin's Enchanted Islands Presented by Bill Glass

The Galapagos Islands had been known since 1535, but it was Charles Darwin's visit in the 1840's that brought the uniqueness of the plants and animals of these isolated islands to the public's awareness. These volcanic islands are indeed unique with many strange and interesting plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. Today the Galapagos are a tourist destination where visitors can have close encounters with giant tortoises, marine iguanas, sea lions, hammerhead sharks, penguins and many unusual birds. We'll visit a number of the islands and examine the geology, wildlife and plants. We'll also explore what makes the Galapagos Islands so unique and consider some of the threats to the future of the islands.

Bill Glass is a long time member of the camera club and has formerly served in many positions including president. Bill is an ecologist working with the USDA Forest Service at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie where he is helping in the restoration of 19,000 acres south of Joliet to a native tallgrass prairie ecosystem.

December 21

Cameos and Munchies

January 4

Non-competitive Critique

January 18

Loons Presented by Bob Pizzurro



OCTOBER CACCA COMPETITIONS

In the Special Category competition, in addition to **Mary McCarthy** receiving an Honorable Mention, **Lloyd McCarthy** also received an Honorable Mention for his "Wheel Barn". (I was not aware of this when I wrote last month's news.)

NOVEMBER CACCA COMPETITIONS

Images by **Bill Dixon, John Fan, Janice Henry, and Pat McPherren** represented our club in the Interclub Digital Projected Images competition.

Prints provided by **Demetrius DeMet, John Fan, Bob LaBarre, and Ruth Smith** represented our club in the Interclub Small Color competition. Ruth received an Award for her "Cardinal Flower with Butterfly".

Lloyd McCarthy and **Mary McCarthy** entered the individual special category "Water" slide competition.

DECEMBER CACCA COMPETITIONS

In addition to the regular Interclub Small Color Print and Interclub DPI competitions are the following:

- The second of the three individual Nature Print and Nature Slide competitions
- The individual Special Category slide competition of "Red and/or Green"

JANUARY CACCA COMPETITIONS

In addition to the regular Interclub Small Color Prints and Interclub DPI competitions is the following:

- The individual Special Category slide competition of "People at Work"

Our second competition of the year was held on November 16. We had 76 Digital entries and 18 Print entries; participation substantially increased from the October competition. Because of the large number of digital entries, time did not permit judging the print entries. They will be held over and judged at the January 4 meeting which will also include and Non-competitive critique.

Our judges, Dan Hollister, Bill Brown, and Don Alton did a terrific job and we thank them for their good work. Many thanks as well for all of the members who helped make this competition a success.

Honors in the November competition went to:

Digital – Class A

Award:

Ray Kammer for 'Calliope Hummingbird'
Lou Petkus for 'The Young and the Old'
Fred Drury for 'Denali over Reflection Pond'
Lou Petkus for 'Keeping an Eye on You'
Tom Richardson for 'Rose Lake Sunrise'
Tom Richardson for 'Trillium and Butterfly'

Digital – Class B

Award:

Pat McPherren for 'Volo Bog Moss'
Don Carter for 'Twenty Minutes Old'
Don Carter for 'Wind and Water'
Sheila Newenham for 'Curious yet Wary'
Honorable Mention:
Sheila Newenham for 'A Break from Snorkeling'
Don Carter for 'Orchard Oriole'
Bill Pehrson for 'Matched Pair'
Bill Pehrson for 'Purple Cone Flower'
Pat McPherren for 'Sandhill Cranes over the Moon'

Digital – Class C

Award:

John Fan for 'Rushing Home'
Rebecca Rose for 'Having Lunch'
Rebecca Rose for 'Sunset after a Storm'
Dennis Walz for 'Turret Arch through North Window Arch'

Honorable Mention:

Rebecca Rose for 'Death Valley 2'
Rose Janulis for 'Tree Tulip'

Honors in the October Print competition went to:

Prints – Class B

Award:

Bill Dixon for 'Messenger Woods/Spring Creek'
Larry Buttimer for 'Grabbing Dinner'

Prints – Class C

Award:

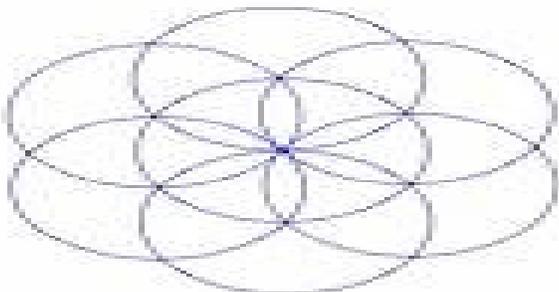
John Fan for 'Spring at Arboretum'
Demetrios DeMet for 'Hummer'

We had an unusually large number of errors in the digital entries which were almost all resolved prior to the competition. Because of this, I'm in the process of revising the 'Instructions for Preparation of Digital Entries' which is posted on the website. An updated version will be posted by the end of December. I'm also going to add a second 'Instruction' which will be specific to Photoshop Elements.

At our January 4 meeting we will be judging the Print entries which were submitted on November 16. We will also permit members to add prints to that competition, so you're not too late to participate. Get your prints ready and bring them to the January 4 meeting.

At the January 4 meeting, we will also be running a Non-competitive critique. These are specially intended for members who are new to competition, and it's a great way to get some practice in the preparation of print and digital entries. And even more important, the judges (who will be Ray Kammer, Ruth Smith, and Hank Erdmann) are exceptionally well qualified to provide feedback to makers regarding their images. Our normal hand-of-man prohibition will not apply to the Non-competitive critique.

Our next scheduled Digital & Print competition is scheduled for February 1, so begin preparation of your entries now.



OUTINGS UPDATE

THERE IS NO OUTING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER

OUTINGS WILL RESUME IN 2010

The first outing in the new year will be a trip west to lock and dam 14 on the Mississippi river for fast action trying to photograph the many Bald Eagles that winter there. This will likely be a noon to dusk event scheduled on a Saturday. Late day is better as front lighting means better bird images. The date remains open now but probably early February. Instruction will be available to help new bird shooters capture nice images of these beautiful birds in flight. It will be very cold so serious winter gear is essential. We may gather there for lunch before heading to the dam. This is a lot of fun so keep in mind. More to follow.

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Bob's Blog List

This month I would like to share with you blogs and web sites of well known Adobe Lightroom and some references to Beta 3 software. Most have a button to take you to their blog. To view the work of others gives us enjoyment and ideas. Copy the URL and paste it in the address box. You may have to press the enter key to send this URL to awake the site.

Set up by Scott Kelby and NAPP
<http://www.photoshopuser.com/lightroom3/>

Adobe "Infocus" Lightroom and CS4
www.photoshopinfocus.com
<http://labs.adobe.com/>

Julianne Kost
<http://tv.adobe.com/show/what-s-new-in-lightroom-3-beta/>
http://blogs.adobe.com/jkost/2009/11/heal_and_clone_between_documen.html

Matt Kloskowski
<http://www.lightroomkillertips.com/>
<http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshoplightroom>

John Nack
http://blogs.adobe.com/jnack/2009/09/lightroom_vs_aperture_09.html

And don't forget our Mayslake web site.
<http://www.naturecameraclub.org/Mayslake/Welcome.html>

You may reach me for suggestions, comments and questions at bobd@oakton.edu.