

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

December 5

Red Rock Country
Lou, Tom, Bill and Fred

December 19
Christmas Party

January 2, 2012

Happy New Year
No Meeting

January 16
Competition

February 6

"The best camera is the one
you have with you"
Jerry Hug

February 20
TBD

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Sue Gajda

It's time for the annual Christmas party. The party is scheduled for our second meeting night in December - December 19. As in the past, members should bring a snack to share. Spouses/Guests are also welcome.

The entertainment is you! We're asking members to provide images for a special slideshow, similar to what we did at the August indoor picnic. The theme of the slideshow is Holiday Words. Pick one or more words from the list below and submit images that you think best convey that word.

RED - GREEN - JOLLY - PEACE

COLD - WHITE - BRIGHT

Each member can submit up to 10 images. For example send 10 jolly. Or 7 green and 3 red! Or 4 cold, 3 peace, 2 white and 1 bright ... but hold the partridge in the pear tree!

Nature should be your focus but "hand of man" rules do not apply. Be as creative as you like. Images should be sized at 900 pixels on the longest side with naming as follows: your name followed by the word you selected from the list and the an image name or number. (Ex: smith_red_ribbon or smith_green_1)

Send your submissions to Gail Chastain at gachastain@hotmail.com by December 11. We hope to see you on December 19th. Even if you can't come to the party, please consider submitting images for the slideshow.

PSA Interclub Competition

Sheila Newenham

Thanks to Pei Tang, David Schooley, Gail Chastain, Dennis Walz, Gary Saunders and Marcia Nye for representing our club in the November PSA Nature Division and helping us to earn 2nd place among the 39 clubs in Class B. Congratulations to Pei Tang for her Honorable Mention for Morning at Mesa Arch and to David Schooley for his Honorable Mention for Bug-Eyed Monster. A lot for our club to be proud of! The next competition is in February.

The PSA EID (Electronic Imaging Division) November results are not yet available.

Club Competition

Sheila Newenham

We had our second competition of the year on November 21st. There were 26 print images (12 class A, 14 class B) and 97 digital images (30 class A, 27 class B and 40 class C). It's great to see so many of you competing and sharing your images. Thank you to our judges Don Alton, John Fan and Hank Erdman for valuable feedback and suggestions. I appreciate the help of Marie Ward, Rose Janulis and Harry Hitzeman in contributing to running the show. Congratulations to the following who received honors:

Prints Class A

Awards

Testing the Water by John Janunas

Twins by John Janunas

Honorable Mentions

Serpents Back by Tom Richardson

Avocet by John Janunas

Prints Class B

Awards

Drifting Along by Barbara Dunn

Mount Sneffels by David Schooley

Honorable Mentions

Reflections on a Fall Morning by Chuck Kling-sporn

Blue-footed Booby on Watch by Sue Gajda

Leaf on a Log by David Schooley

Digital Class A

Awards

Snowy Egret in Breeding Plumage by Bill Pehrson

Peak Reflection by Tom Richardson

Skunk Cabbage by Rich Witkiewicz

Honorable Mentions

Serenity at Sunrise by Bill Pehrson

Surfs Up! by Tom Richardson

View from Sable Pass by Fred Drury

Painted Rocks at Sunrise by Fred Drury

White Pocket Lines by Fred Drury

Digital Class B

Awards

Sunset Over Bailey's Harbor by Dennis Walz

Elk Sparing by Steve Ornberg

Lily Pad Boutonniere by Steve Ornberg

Spicebush Swallowtail by Gary Saunders

Half Dome at Dusk by Gary Saunders

Water Lily Patterns by Sue Gajda

Honorable Mentions

Badlands Pronghorn by Marie Ward

Pretty Dandelion by Sue Gajda

Blazing Swallowtail Star by Sheila Newenham

Digital Class C

Awards

Walking Tall by Barbara Dunn

Emerging Water Lily by Beth Olin

Prothonotary Warbler by Greg Hull

Great Southern White by David Schooley

Hey Mom Where's Mine by Demetrios Demet

Superior Moonrise by Joshua Merrill

Sunrise Silhouette by Chuck Klingsporn

Honorable Mentions

It's a Fluke by Beth Olin

Fern Spring Fall by Chuck Klingsporn

Red Tailed Hawk by Greg Hull

Misty Fall Morning at Eagle Lake by Steve Mayer

Autumn at Fall Creek Gorge by Steve Mayer

Welcome New Members

Nancy Fleming

Cindi Krol

Sandra Karasek

Monica Steiner

Jim Cwik

Catherine Pawlik

Trish Paulson

Our next competition is January 16th. Digital images are due by Sunday, January 8th. In preparing your digital images please double check the sizing before sending. They can be no wider than 1024 pixels and no taller than 768 pixels - this includes the border. Also be sure that the image name on your digital file is the same as the image name on your paperwork. Start preparing now, it'll be here before you know it!

The competition@mlnpc.com email is not monitored outside of image submissions. If you have any questions about competition, please contact me directly.



Barbara Dunn©



Diane Hamernik©

POSTCARD COMPETITION

Sue Gajda

On March 10, 2011, CACCA is having a postcard competition open to individuals who are members of a CACCA club. It's a fun competition where you get to create a 4 x 6 postcard of your favorite place.

We're encouraging members to join in and create a postcard or two. Bring your postcard entries to the February 20 meeting. The entries brought to the meeting will then be submitted for the CACCA competition in March. We'll have an exhibit of all the entries with voting for favorites and, hopefully, some prizes.

CACCA Post Card Competition Rules

1. Each participating photographer must be a current member in good standing of a CACCA camera club. Up to two post card entries are allowed per member.
2. The front of each post card entry must be in the form of a 4 inch x 6 inch photographic print, either color or monochrome, oriented horizontally or vertically, with or without a border.
3. While alphanumeric text or symbols in any color or font/type/style is permitted, names or monograms indicating the maker's identity must not appear on the front of the entry.
4. The back of each post card entry must display image title, maker name, email address and/or phone number, and camera club name.
5. While digital modifications are freely allowed, the post card image is to be wholly the work of the maker in concept and execution.
7. Entries will be judged on impact, creativity, image quality, and fulfillment of the general characteristics of a good post card.

GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY

November 12, 2011

A Mayslake outing to Garfield Park to support their restoration efforts and take some great pictures. We spent the morning at the Garfield Park, which is one of the Nation's premier garden conservatories. After a devastating hail storm this past summer, only 1/2 of the indoor facilities are open at this time. But even with only 1/2 open, there was still a lot to photograph. After a great morning shoot we headed off to lunch for good food and good conversation. Be sure to check out the website to see all the attendee's pictures.



Duane Heaton©



Greg Blue©

Here's Why You Might Want to Get Involved at Nachusa Grasslands

By Ron Cress
Nachusa Grasslands Volunteer

What do a banker, teacher, musician, haberdasher, factory employee, reporter, manufacturer, insurance broker, investment manager, carpenter, psychologist, delivery person, state employee all have in common?

They're ALL volunteers at Nachusa Grasslands! They all love contributing to the restoration of this amazing Illinois prairie because it takes a host of different skills to make this effort so successful. Let's look at just some of these skills.

Public Relations: Far-too-many Illinois residents are unaware of this gem called Nachusa Grasslands. So if you've got experience in spreading the word about success stories, **we can use your help.**

Teaching: If you're a science or ecology teacher, Nachusa can serve as a *living laboratory* for a wide variety of studies. If you teach elementary or middle school students, a field trip here can spark a life-long interest in the disciplines vital to preserving nature. **We can use your help.**

Mechanical: We have a variety of trucks, tractors, atvs, small engines, and other miscellaneous equipment that need your skills to maintain and fix. **We can use your help.**

Still or Video Photography: Pictures truly are worth a thousand words and we need to graphically document both what we have now and what the stages of restoration look like. **We can use your help.**

Carpentry: Nachusa has houses and barns and sheds that need care. So, pack your tools – or use ours. **We can use your help.**

Attending to Detail: One reason Nachusa Grasslands has been so successful is the great attention staff and Stewards pay to recording their efforts. Seed planting and harvest, prescribed fires, woodland restoration, etc., have all been

painstakingly recorded over the years. So, if you're the kind of person who enjoys keeping close track of what's going on, **we can use your help.**

Computer and Internet Technology: There's need for maintaining and upgrading our web site. We dream of having the capability of letting visitors hike Nachusa and use their phones to listen to site descriptions and view related pictures. **We can use your ideas and help.**

Writing: We have documents, such as this annual newsletter and a variety of articles and updates, which need to be written and edited. Do you have reporting or writing skills? **We can use your help.**

Tour Leading: Throughout the year, Nachusa plays host to school and college groups, professional organizations, gardening clubs, and many others. If you enjoy leading groups and want to learn about the history of Nachusa and what our prairie restoration is about, **we can use your help.**

Just have a real love of Nature?: Sure, a love of nature is a vital part of each of the above, but if you just enjoy being out in a truly lovely setting and want to help preserve and restore an amazing segment of the Prairie State's prairie, we can use your help in lots of other ways. There's seed to be planted and harvested. There are weeds and undesirable brush to be cleared. There's fencing to mend. **We can use your help.**

And: If you're a biologist, botanist, ecologist, entomologist, lepidopterist, ornithologist, or zoologist, **we can use your help.**

Got the picture? It takes a host of people with a great variety of skills to make Nachusa Grasslands a success. If you'd like to be one of those people, please contact us either by phone (815) 456-2340 or via our Friends of Nachusa Grasslands' web site www.nachusagrasslands.org.

We look forward to seeing you on the prairie.

Mary Meirs' work on plant species, two versions of it are available here:

<http://www.slideshare.net/MaryMeier/nachusa-meier-x-r-20111021>

<http://www.slideshare.net/MaryMeier/nachusa-meier-seeds-r-2011-1021>