

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 1
Christmas Party
Swap Meet

January 5
Stan Bouson

January 19
Competition

February 2
Ken Thompson



If one of your New Year's resolutions is getting more involved with activities at Mayslake, you are in luck!

Starting in January, Gail Chastain will need someone to help with or be willing to take over the club outings. Unless that happens, the number of outings will be greatly reduced in 2015. If you have enjoyed exploring different locations, getting to know members at the lunches or breakfasts that follow, participating in the photo challenges, and having new places and subjects to photograph, and would like these activities to continue, email Gail at gachastain@hotmail.com.

We are also looking for a member who will be willing to take over Bill Dixon's position as Membership Chairman at the start of the next club year in May 2015. Ideally, this person would be able to work with Bill this March, when membership dues are renewed, so that there is a smooth transition into this position. See Bill at a meeting or contact Barbara Dunn at info@mlnpc.com if interested.

Competition

January 19, 2015

March 16, 2015

Welcome

Roz Massel

Competition - Another Opinion!

Common advice within our club to newer photographers about competition is to watch and learn. The idea behind the advice is to allow beginners to see what images are put into competition and what reactions and scores those images receive. Then, over time as the photographer (hopefully) gains more confidence they can start trying out some of their images in competition.

I say, forget all that and jump in! Think about it a moment. This isn't third grade, nobody is going to make fun of you. You already have a good eye for pictures, and you have a strong interest in photography. You wouldn't have sought out and joined a camera club, and certainly wouldn't be reading Yahoo message board posts if there wasn't something to your desire to do more with your interest. We all know it really boils down to good old fashioned experience to grow.

When you compete your images, something almost magical happens. As you sit and watch lots of images appear your mind falls into a bit of a rhythm as picture after picture is displayed. Suddenly among those images YOUR picture appears before you. And for just a fraction of a second - barely half a heartbeat when that image appeared something special occurred. Until you recognized it you were able to view your own image objectively and saw it as everyone else did. Seriously, it is only a nanosecond or two, but it is there. And that can be a priceless experience to help you see your own images and how they stand up to others. Sometimes it's exhilarating, sometimes it's humbling and it always helps you see for yourself what you want from your pictures. Only you know how you want your images to become and this is a way to help you step back and see yourself within the bunch and what sort of quality and impact your images have at that point in time. It is very easy to become isolated within our own work and lose a wider perspective. Seeing an image pop up among many, then recognizing it as your own is a valuable way to use competing as another tool for growth and learning.

Compete your images. Don't look at it as a contest, see it as a way to show yourself what your images look like in a different environment. Where else can you compare your specific tree, metaphorically speaking, among the forest?

Sue Lindell
Des Plaines Camera Club

EXHIBITS **Janice Henry**

By the time you read this, both the "Colors of Nature" and the Members Show will be on display. The Members Show will only be on display for a short time until December 10th. If you want to see it, either the next meeting on December 1st (our holiday party) or the Closing Reception on December 10th will be the perfect time.

The "Colors of Nature" exhibit will be on display until the end of January, so you will have more time to view the work of your fellow Mayslakers.

As I just mentioned, the Members Show will be having a closing reception on Wednesday, December 10th from 6:00-8:00 PM. Invite your family and friends to the reception, it will give them an opportunity to see the work of your fellow Mayslakers. Attached is a flyer with more information about the reception.

At the reception we will also be giving a "Best of Mayslake" award chosen by our hosts at the Mayslake Peabody Estate.

Because this is a closing reception, this will also give you an opportunity to pick up your images. Don't worry if you don't make it to the reception, we will keep your images in our storage area.

I will be at the reception on December 10th, hope to see you there as well.

Competition Report

Sue Gajda

The second competition of the Club year was held on November 17.

A total of 30 print images and 47 digital images were submitted for judging. The judges were John Janunas and Lou Petkus from Mayslake and Ron Kopecky from Downers Grove. Thank you to our judges.

Results are as follows:

Class A Prints

Awards:

Here's Looking at You	Charles Klingsporn
Desert Butterfly	Marcia Nye
Concentration	Tom Richardson

Honorable Mentions:

Lower Falls	Bill Dixon
Young Bobolink	Marcia Nye

The average score of all images submitted: 21.93

Class B Prints

Awards:

How do you like these tail feathers?	Steve Ornberg
Black-crowned Night Heron	Noriko Buckles
Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe	Steve Ornberg

Honorable Mentions:

Honey, I'm Home	Steve Ornberg
A Comfy Place	Ron Szymczak

The average score of all images submitted: 21.53

Class A Digital

Awards:

Beauty Creek Reflecting Pond	Steve Ornberg
Branch Manager	Steve Ornberg
Mountain Wild Flowers	Steve Ornberg
Snow Beak	Tom Richardson
Orange Jewelweed	Rich Witkiewicz

Honorable Mentions:

Broad-billed Hummingbird	Marcia Nye
Spoonbill at Ding Darling	Marcia Nye

The average score of all images submitted: 22.16

Class B Digital

Awards:

Nuphar	Bill Dixon
Little Brown Bat	Fran Piepenbrink

Honorable Mention:

Canyon View	Barbara Dunn
-------------	--------------

The average score off all images submitted: 20.375

Class C Digital

Awards:

Get Off My Flower	Charles Peterson
American Grasshopper	Charles Peterson
Early Morning Flight	Ron Szymczak

Honorable Mentions:

Steamboat Rock by Moonlight	Karl Knapp
Quiet Morning	Charlie Zhang

The average score of all images submitted: 21.785

Congratulations to the members who received awards and honorable mentions. Winning digital images are posted on the Club website. Selected images and prints will be submitted in CACCA inter-club competitions.

Thank you to all members who submitted images.

The next competition night is January 19. The deadline for submitting digital images is Sunday January 11. Please check the website for instructions and forms. Also, remember that submitting make-up images is only allowed for those members who act as judges.

In order to be eligible to receive year-end awards based on average scores for the year, members must submit a minimum of 8 images over the four competitions. Therefore, if you have submitted less than 2 images so far, you would not be eligible for year-end honors. However, please do not let that stop you from participating in the next two competitions. You still can receive individual honors, can have images submitted to CACCA inter-club competition and can have images eligible for Image of the Year.

There's an article in this issue of the Focus that provides some perspective on the value of participating in competition. If you are interested but have questions, please feel free to contact me at segnet1025@yahoo.com or see me at an upcoming meeting. I'll be glad to go through the process with you in more detail.

But, even if you decide you don't want to submit images for competition, consider attending competition night to see the scoring and hear the critiques. Both are great learning opportunities.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me, Sue Gajda, at segnet1025@yahoo.com.

The CACCA Report – December 1 Issue

There are several pieces of news coming out of the November meeting along with another batch of award winning scores from our members. Let's get to the good news of member scores first. In the digital image competition, we had one HM. It went to Rich Witkiewicz for his image titled, 'Insect on White Trillium'. Rich's image received a score of 25 and it is hard for me to understand that an image which received 2 8's and a 9 'only' received an HM but that is what happened. Very tough competition this month, Marcia Nye received a score of 24 and didn't get any type of award.

On the print side, we had one HM and 2 AW awards. The HM went to Steve Ornberg for his print titled, 'Bow Lake Sunrise'. One of the AW's went to Noriko Buckles for her image titled, 'A Young Deer'. The other went to Chuck Kling-sporn for his image titled, 'King of the Jungle'. Congratulations to all who had images submitted to CACCA in November.

Now on to the news. In past years, we have had a number of our members enter the annual Salon at CACCA in Mid-March. This has been an open individual competition in a wide variety of subject and media categories. The CACCA Board has made the decision to cancel the competition for this year as they have been unable to get anyone to be in charge of organizing the event. As quite a few of our members have enjoyed this competition in past years, it is a disappointment. My hope and that of the CACCA Board is that it will return in March 2016.

Another of the 'Special' events that CACCA annually puts on is the Postcard competition in March. The date and rules have now been set. The date is Sat. March 14 and we will again have a local competition at one of our meetings close to the CACCA date. We'll announce that as soon as it has been set. In the meantime, you can look up all of the preparation suggestions and the rules on the CACCA web site, 'caccaweb.com'. This is another individual event; all entries will be submitted to CACCA, not only those that win locally. As a club, we have had lots of success; start thinking of ideas for your entries.

BROOKFIELD ZOO Holiday Magic Saturday Afternoon - December 27th

Are dreams of Sugar Plums dancing in your head?
Are you looking forward to the
hustle and bustle of the season?
Yes? No? Well either way, enjoy the
season and then when Santa has
gone back to the North Pole, join
your fellow Mayslakers for an after
Christmas visit to Brookfield Zoo
Holiday Magic



Christmas will be over, but all the fun will
still be there without the worry if you have
all the shopping done. With over 1 million
twinkling LED lights it's one of the largest
festivals in the Chicagoland area making it
a favorite of Mayslakers. If Holiday lights
are not your thing, the animals are all out
and smiling and ready for their close ups.



It will be an afternoon start to photo-
graph the animals, and then after dinner,
we will be ready for all the lights to come on!!

For more information and/or to say you are
coming email Gail at: gachastain@hotmail.com

Note: Zoo entrance fees applies.

