

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

February 4

Mike Trahan
Nature Photography

February 18

Winter Birds of
Northern Illinois
Bob and Kathy Andrini

March 4

Ken Thompson
Night Photography

March 18

John "Ole" Oldenburg
Forest Preserve

"Restoring Waterways and Wetlands."

April 1

Competition

April 13

Banquet

April 15

No Meeting

The CACCA Report More Than Club Competitions

Chuck Klingsporn

Any of our members that are not brand new to the club know that we regularly send our winning images on to the monthly CACCA Interclub competitions where we have scored well. This month, in addition to reporting on recent competition success, I want to either introduce you to or remind you about other aspects of what CACCA does; first, however, kudos to three club members and their winning CACCA images. In December, **John Janunas** received an Award for his image titled, 'Warbler'. In the January competition, both **Beth Olin** and **Tom Richardson** won Awards for their images, Beth's titled, 'Regal Gaze' and Tom's titled, 'Look at Me'. All three of those awards were in the digital competition. Congratulations !!!

Both President Sue Gajda and I have recently mentioned the Postcard competition in April and the various Salon opportunities in the March competition. The Postcard competition will be held on April 13th and CACCA has some detailed rules and suggestions for participation.

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Happy
Valentines Day

(Unfortunately, that information isn't on the CACCA web site and is too detailed to include here. If you are thinking of entering, send me an email and I'll forward it to you.) There is a lot of information about the March 16 Salon competition on the CACCA site.

In addition, there is a monthly **Individual** Digital competition. That is theme based and is open to anyone in the club. The images are submitted directly to CACCA on their web site without going through our club in any way. The themes for the remaining months this year are, February, 'Motion', March, 'Get Up Close', April, 'Street Shots' with May offering two choices, a 30 second video story or a story told with a cell phone camera shot.

If any of these themes intrigue you, think about competing. It is quite easy to get started; you'll need a CACCA website login and the submission process is simple. Your images must of course comply with their guidelines which are very similar to our club rules although 'Hand of Man rules' do **not** apply. The CACCA web site is found at www.caccaweb.com.

Good Luck and enjoy!

EXHIBITS

Janice Henry

As many of you might have seen at the meeting on January 21st, our group show is up and looks great. This show will be on display until March 4th so there is still plenty of time to check it out.

As I mentioned last month we will be participating in the Wonders of Winter event at Mayslake on Saturday, February 2nd. The winter themed exhibit which I have been gathering images for will be part of the event. The exhibit will be on display in our space from the beginning of February until the end of April.

So...plenty of wonderful images from your fellow Mayslakers to view...enjoy.

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February Programs

Nature Photography Mike Trahan

You've seen gorgeous nature photos by others. Do you wonder if you can do them too or do you want to improve your shots further? We'll walk through the various genres of nature photography and give you practical suggestions on technique, settings, composition, equipment, and when to go out. Our session will be oriented to beginning/intermediate through the advanced photographer.

Mike Trahan has been a birder (bird watcher) and nature lover for over thirty years. He was photographer of the year for a nature-only CACCA club, the Shutterbugs of Volo Bog, for the last two years and is a board member at another CACCA club, the Lake County Camera Club. He has won honors at the club, CACCA, and PSA Nature levels. Mike really enjoys photography, nature, and sharing what he has learned with you!



Bond Falls, Michigan
Mike Trahan

Winter Birds of Northern Illinois Bob and Kathy Andrini

RAndrini@aol.com
<http://www.birdsrkool.com/>

What wonders await those who take the time to go out during our winters in search of bird life. Join the Andrinis as they give a pictorial presentation about many of the birds that are found in Northern Illinois during this time of year. View both permanent residents as well as winter visitors found in fields, streams and backyards. You will also learn about adaptations birds have developed to withstand the inclement conditions of northern Illinois winters.

Kathy and Bob Andrini have been educators their entire working lives (Kathy as a preschool teacher for 20 years and Bob, with a masters degree, as a high school biology teacher for 33 years). Although retired, they are still actively engaged in different forms of teaching (nature programs for the St. Charles Park District, organizing and leading field trips for Kane County Audubon Society, and teaching birding classes at the College of DuPage). They possess a keen interest in nature and the environment, and like to share this awareness of the outdoors through their presentations.



Bob and Kathy Andrini

COMPETITION

Sheila Newenham

On Monday, January 21st we had our third competition of the year. There were 74 digital and 19 print images submitted. Thank you to Hank Erdman, Tom Richardson and Emily Giesy for judging and critiquing. Special thanks to everyone who helps to make competition night run smoothly. Congratulations to the following:

Digital Class A Awards

Pei Tang for Rocky Mountain Sunset
Sue Gajda for Ice Scrolls
Rich Witkiewicz for Prairie Trillium yellow phase
Sue Gajda for Lily on Fire
Pei Tang for Desert Serenity

Digital Class A Honorable Mentions

Karin Grunow for Fall on the Shore
Rich Witkiewicz for Goose Feather on Ice
Pei Tang for Eating my Fish
Sue Gajda for Autumn Evening

Digital Class B Awards

Fran Piepenbrink for Young Buck
Marcia Nye for Orange Surprise
David Schooley for Setting Moon
Fran Piepenbrink for 24kt Gold Leaf

Digital Class B Honorable Mentions

Bill Dixon for Aster Lateriflorus
David Schooley for Fall Reflections
Bill Dixon for Afterglow
Harry Hitzeman for Hobgoblin's Playground

Digital Class C Awards

Greg Hull for White Breasted Nuthatch
Steven Mayer for Tree Canopy at Starved Rock
Chuck Peterson for Coming in for a Landing

Digital Class C Honorable Mentions

Chuck Peterson for Look Ma No Hands
Steve Bartos for Hopper
Suzanne Zumstein for Court House Butte
Greg Hull for Just Try to Take It

Prints Class A

Award: David Schooley for Sandhill Silhouette
Honorable Mention: David Schooley for Some Days You Just Have to Sing

Prints Class B Awards

Greg Hull for Double Magnolia
Sandy Karasek for Having a Snack

Prints Class B Honorable Mention

Sandy Karasek for Ready to Pounce

2013 Annual Honors Banquet

Barbara Dunn

Mark your calendar now for our club's 2013 Annual Honors Banquet, to be held on Saturday, April 13, 2013. The banquet will be held at the Willowbrook/Hinsdale Holiday Inn, 7800 Kingery Highway, in Willowbrook. The dinner menu will consist of a choice of roast prime rib of beef, baked fillet of salmon, vegetarian pasta primavera, or boneless breast of chicken Marsela with mushrooms.

Our speaker for the evening will be John Van Den Brandt, an accomplished photographer who has more than three decades of professional photography experience and has focused solely on wildlife photography since 1995. His photos, which span many remote regions in the world, are amazing. A sample may be viewed at <http://wildwindimages.com>.

The Annual Banquet is a great way to honor club members' achievements, enjoy a social evening together, and see and hear about John's image making experiences. This year, the banquet will be held on a Saturday in order to create more of a relaxed, social evening that we can enjoy with fellow members and our guests. Set aside the date!

Ryerson Woods
December 31, 2012
Gail Chastain



Bev Bartos

It was a group of 16 Mayslakers that traveled up to Ryerson Woods, to see 2012 out doing what we love. With over 561 acres, and over 6 miles of hiking trails, there was lots to photograph. The group then headed off to breakfast for good food and good conversation. To see images from the morning outing be sure to visit the Mayslake website under Trip Images.



A Walk In The Woods
Sue Gajda



Leaf Pair
Sheila Newenham



Reflections
Diane Hamernik



Ice Forms
Atala Toy



John Van De Brandt has had a love affair with photography nearly all his life. He's experienced in the art of wedding, portrait, product and model photography. It wasn't until the last ten years however, that he merged his enthusiasm for photography with his fascination with the natural world.

A long-time "birder", John has seen over 500 species of birds in the lower 48 states. The urge to capture some of those sights formed the basis of his true passion – wildlife photography. Before long, he dropped all other forms of photography to focus solely on wildlife.

In 2007, John founded his wildlife photography company, Wild Wind Images LLC. In addition to selling framed fine art prints, stock photography and speaking, Van Den Brandt's nationally distributed calendars have sold over 70,000 copies.

John credits his knowledge of animal behavior and habitat, along with exceptional patience and a creative eye to produce images that uniquely capture his subjects in their essence. When not exploring the remote reaches of the globe, Van Den Brandt makes his home in northeastern Wisconsin with his wife Jean, his "photo assistant, travel companion and source of all inspiration."

All of the creatures found in John's images are certified to be wild and free. He doesn't use game farm animal models or digital manipulation beyond normal darkroom techniques.

John hopes his work inspires viewers to find and explore their own wild places and to experience first hand the beauty and drama of the natural world.

SAVE THE DATE
> SATURDAY <
APRIL 13TH
----2013----