

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

July 7

Jack Shouba
The Language of Flowers

August 4

Birds and Climate Change
Doug Stotz

September 15

Competition

October 6

Bob Benson:
Optimizing Images for
Competition and Display

November 3

Chris Smith
Out of Chicago

November 17

Competition

December 1

Christmas Party
Swap Meet

THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS

An Introduction to
Flower Structure and Terminology

Close-up photography not only reveals the beauty of flowers, it allows us to see similarities and differences which allow us to place flowers in different groups such as families, genera and species. Although there are more than 250,000 kinds of flowers in the world, their incredible variety is mostly due to variations in a few common features: sepals, petals, stamens, and pistils. Images of wildflowers as well as garden flowers are used to explore flower structure and terminology, with an eye toward understanding how each part of the flower can contribute to an understanding of evolution and classification.

This presentation will help you select floral subjects, identify unknown flowers, and write commentary for competitions.

Club member Jack Shouba has taught a variety of botany classes at the Morton Arboretum for 20 years.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Bill Dixon

Thanks to all who have paid their membership dues and are continuing to be a part of the club. If you have not paid your dues and plan to continue your membership please do so. A renewal form is attached to this email. Please note, if you do not plan on renewing, please send me an email at bmaxdixon@sbcglobal.net and I will remove your name from the roster.

Your Thoughts on Competition A Request from Sue Gajda

Our first competition of the year will be held on September 15. Entering images in competition is a way to see how your work compares with others. It's also a way to get ideas about how to improve your images or get ideas about subjects or techniques. There are benefits in being a participant and also benefits in attending the competition even if you are not participating.

Last year, about 1/3 of our members entered at least one image in competition. As the new Competition chair, I recently contacted those members to solicit their opinions about the competition process - how is it working, are there improvements we could make, etc..

I would also like to get opinions from the other 2/3s of the membership who have not recently or have never entered images in competition. I know that some of you are not interested in competition. I also know that some of you have thought about entering images but, for a variety of reasons, have not done so.

Is there anything we could do that would encourage you or make it easier for you to enter images in competition?

Even if you are not entering images in competition, is there anything we could do on competition nights that would encourage you to attend or enhance the learning experience?

Please feel free to share your thoughts with me as I plan for the new competition year. You can send me an email at segnet@aol.com or perhaps we can talk a little before one of the upcoming meetings.

Thanks in advance for your help.

EXHIBITS Janice Henry

We have one more month on the current exhibit, "Favorite Images from Mayslake Outings". It ends July 30th. If you haven't checked it out yet, there is still time.

Starting in August and running until the end of October will be the next exhibit in our space. The theme will be "Water". This can be water in any form: waterfalls, rain drops, rivers, ice, etc. Remember "hands of man" does not apply to exhibits so you can include bridges, fences or other man made items in your image.

Send me an email to jnhenr@att.net if you would like to participate. Please include the size(s), title(s) and if you are interested in selling your images and for how much. Also, please note that if you would like to participate with an image from print competition, let me know that as well. I have two frames that can be borrowed. These are first come, first serve.

The images need to have a wire attached about 1/3 of the way down and the sharp ends of the wire wrapped in tape (blue painters tape works well). This protects the walls of the Mayslake building. You also need to attach a label to the back of your images with your name and the title of the image.

Also please note that sawtooth hangers do not work well with our hanging system. If you can avoid using a frame with saw tooth hangers is would be appreciated.

With the change in the schedule of meetings, the drop off date is by July 28th at the Mayslake facility. They can be dropped off during regular business hours M-F 9AM-4PM.

I look forward to hearing from you with your "Water" images.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Saturday, June 28, 2014

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Park has 15,000 acres, which also hugs 15 miles of the southern shore of Lake Michigan, all of which has much to offer the photographer. Mayslakers spent the afternoon and evening enjoying three of the parks at the National Lakeshore.



West Beach
Karen Cardinallo



Milkweed
Sue Gajda

Many drove through the rain, which stopped just in time for us to enjoying the landscapes, plants and wildlife, as well as the steamy temperatures of our first stop, West Beach.

From here we traveled to our second stop, and a totally different environment at Baily's Homestead. Mayslakers enjoyed the trees giving shelter from the sun, as well as the Damselflies, and Butterflies that we found on our walk to and from the Homestead. After our walk through the woods, we also enjoyed a picnic dinner.



Y-Shape
Tom Soltis

Our final stop was at Lake View for the sunset. Shortly after we arrived, so did the storm. Some left as the storm was coming in, while others left as the storm arrived. But a few stayed and waited. Although as the rain finally blew north, the remaining clouds still hid the setting sun, but we were treated to beautiful shades of blues over the lake.



Cabin in the Woods
Sue Gajda

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

Gail Chastain



Suzanne Zumstein



Ring-billed Gull
Frank Cardinallo