

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

March 3

Basics of Composition
Hank Erdman

March 17

Competition

April 7

Astro-Photography
Marty Murphy

April 21

Member's Night

May 5

Conservation and Cultural Connections in the
FPD of DuPage County:
Past Present and Future
Dave Guritz and Chris Gingrich



It's that time of year when the Mayslake Club members need to think about who is going to run the Club for the next Club year which starts in May.

The 2013/2014 year has been tricky. We found no takers for our two Vice-President slots handling the meeting programs on nature and photography and no one to take over Competition. As a result, both of these important Club activities have been running by a committee of volunteers. While we have been able to function, having a committee with no official chairperson is difficult and not the best option.

We recently sent out the results of the survey about the Club's activities. One of the take-aways from the survey was that, overall, members are happy with the variety of activities the Club offers. If you, as a member, want those activities to continue and, get even better in the future, please consider taking a role in helping that happen.

Realistically, everyone has different time constraints. Board or Chairperson positions can take more time than serving as a committee member. But the more members we have involved, even in small roles, the easier it is spread out the workload and make things happen.

Just to refresh your memory, here's a list of the Club's activities. Each of these provide opportunities for members to get involved in Club management.

- Meeting Programs on Photography and Nature
- Competitions and Non-Competitive Critiques
- Outings
- Education Programs
- Exhibitions
- Conservation
- Social Activities
- CACCA
- Communication - Newsletter and Website

In the next few weeks, the Board will have more definitive information about openings on the Board and on various Club committees.

We all joined the Club because we love photography and we want more opportunities to learn, share, socialize and shoot with people who have the same interest. Please consider taking an active role in making things happen. Don't be on the sidelines ... get involved!

If you are interested in learning more about what you can do help the Club, please contact Sue Gajda at segnet@aol.com.

Hurry - Post Card Contest Time

Our members have now had several reminders about the annual Post Card competition, most recently in the email



that Diane sent this past Monday. This last reminder is to give you the details necessary to enter our Mayslake contest. The time is short; our Mayslake competition will be at the next meeting on Monday March 3. Each person who enters may submit 2 cards before the meeting and all those present will then vote on their 3 favorites as we did last year. The winners will be announced during the meeting.

All of the CACCA rules will be followed so check on the information Diane sent out last week or check on the CACCA website www.caccaweb.com. Remember also that all of our entries will be submitted to the CACCA competition on Saturday, March 8 so you have a chance to be recognized at CACCA whether of or not you win at Mayslake. Let's have lots of entrants; the more the merrier!!

Good Luck to all!

Mayslake Image of the Year!!

Mayslake has 4 Competitions in each Club year and hundreds of images are scored each time by 3 Judges, choosing the Award Winning Images.

Well here is your chance to “Be the Judge.” Did you see an image that you really loved? Was it yours? Or someone else’s? Mayslake is having an Image of the Year Vote that will be chosen by the Mayslake Members.

THAT’S YOU!!

How will it work, you ask? Well here are the details.

A new section on the Mayslake Website will be created with all of the Award Winning Images from Competition for this Club year (2013/2014). To make it easy, we’ll send you an email with the link when the Website is up. The images will NOT have Author’s Names, or Class, or Score, or Titles, just a **NUMBER**. All Award Winning Images, from A, B and C Classes will be eligible.

From this, pick your top 10!!

We’ll give you a couple of days to see the images, hopefully more than once, and think about your Top 10. Then you will receive a link to use to place your Vote. It will be from Survey Monkey (as the recent survey was) but know this is a Vote! There will be 10 “fill in the blank” questions for you to put your vote in. Just choose your Top 10 and send the form in!

But wait, that’s not all.

The Top 10 Images chosen will be displayed at the 1st Annual Member’s Night on April 21, 2014, and the Image of the Year will be chosen from those attending. We’ll even announce it at the Party!! You don’t have to attend to win, but you do have to attend for the Final Vote.

PLEASE NOTE!

Print Competition Winners!! You can be a part of this also. Just send a Digital copy of your Award Winning Image (sorry no HMs), to Steve at spbaginski@hotmail.com and it will be included in the Vote.

When, you ask, will this be done???? The Final Competition for the Year is March 17, 2014. After that date, look for the email and the link, to see all the Eligible Images. Soon after that you will get your another link for the First Vote for the . . . Mayslake Image of the Year!!

Join in on the fun!

Gail Chastain

CACCA -- Our February Winners !!

At the February CACCA Meeting, our members continued to generate high scores that resulted in either HM or AW designations. In the Digital Competition, Rich Witkiewicz received an HM for his image titled, ‘Sharpshooter Leafhopper’ While Gail Chastain received an AW for her image titled, ‘Come Here Little Fly’. Diane Hamernik received an HM for her image titled, ‘Path to Eden’.

In the Print competition, Marcia Nye received an AW for her image titled, ‘Prairie Falcon’ while Cora Jacobs received an AW for her print titled, ‘Pink Portrait’. Saving the best news for the end, Steven Mayer received an AW and designation as Print of the Month for his image titled, ‘Twilight at Cades Cove’. Determining that a given print is the ‘POM’ is a huge honor and in this case caused much consternation among the CACCA officials because Steve’s image is printed in black and white and it won the highest honor in the Small Color category. Perfectly within the CACCA rules but without CACCA precedent. So, congratulations to Steve for both the high honor and for rattling a few cages at CACCA.

Chuck Klingsporn

The CACCA Salon

Another topic that has been mentioned in recent communications is the other annual 'Special Event' held by CACCA every year, The CACCA Salon. Remember that the Salon allows for members of local camera clubs to enter images in a variety of categories that are individual, not interclub monthly competitions. For example, one can enter large prints even though our club doesn't compete in the large prints category. There are lots of print, digital and slide categories to choose from and I won't again repeat all of what is available. If this brief story piques your interest, go on to the CACCA web site at www.caccaweb.com for detail. What is important here from a timing perspective is that entries to all categories except digital competitions must be turned in to me at our meeting on March 3 in order to meet the CACCA entry deadline of March 8. The digital entries are done by the maker online but the entry fee must still be turned in to me this Monday, March 3.

Chuck Klingsporn

Reminder - The Year in Review

You should be busy selecting your favorite images for the "Year in Review" slide show that will be held at our Members' Night on April 21.

For this purpose, the year will be April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. Every member can submit up to 10 images taken during the year. The images should have a nature theme but "hand of man" is ok. You can even sneak in a few family, vacation, or pet photos - we won't tell! - As long as the majority are nature images.

Images should be in .jpg format and to make emailing easier, not more than 1000 pixels on the longest side. File names should be formatted as follows - Your Name and Title if any. If no title just add a number.

Send your images to Gail Chastain at gachastain@hotmail.com. Please make the Email Subject title: "Year in Review".

The last date to submit images for the slideshow is April 1. But no need to wait until then!! Send them anytime.

This is a great opportunity to share your images with fellow Club members in the social setting of first Members' Night. We hope to see you ... and your images ... on April 21.

EXHIBITS

Janice Henry

As the time our winter exhibit is on display draws to a close, it's time to start thinking about the next one. The theme for our next exhibit will be "Your Favorite Pix (images) From Mayslake Outings". This exhibit will run from April 1st to the end of June.

So start thinking about it, and let me know via email: the title(s), size(s), price(s), and if you are interested in selling your piece(s). Send that information to me to jnhenr@att.net. Remember, hands of man does not apply to exhibits so you can have images from the model plane event, the steam show or any buildings, fences etc that you may have encountered and liked on any of the outings.

The drop off for this exhibit will be by Friday, March 28th. They can be dropped off at either of the March meetings or during regular business hours at Mayslake Monday-Friday 9 AM-4 PM. If you would like to participate and have a piece from the print competition, let me know and you can use one of the frames we have.

Reminder: If you have images from the past exhibit, "Night Photography" they can be picked up at the next two meetings. Find me at the meeting and I will get them for you.

I look forward to hearing from you...

jnhenr@att.net

1st Annual Members' Night-2014

Reserve your place now for our club's 1st Annual Members' Night, to be held on Monday, April 21, 2014. The event will be held during meeting hours at the Mayslake Peabody Estate. The dinner menu will be catered by Uncle Bub's of Westmont and will feature BBQ Pulled Pork, Herb Roasted Chicken, and Baked Rotini, complete with side dishes and beverages. The cost of the dinner is \$10. for members and \$20. for guests.

The focus of the evening will be a showcase of members' images, and include voting for the "Image of the Year" competition. As in previous years, we will also be honoring members with awards for digital and print images.

Send in the attached reservation sheet to Barbara Dunn or bring it to a meeting by April 7 to reserve your dinner.

The evening is a great way to honor club members' achievements, enjoy each other's' photography, and spend a social evening together. Make your reservation soon!



Mayslake Nature Study & Photography Club
1st Annual Members' Night
Monday, April 21, 2014
Mayslake Peabody Estate
6:30 pm

Featuring
Members' Favorite Photos
Image of the Year Competition
Individual Member Awards for Digital and Print Images
Catering by Uncle Bub's Award Winning Barbeque

Dinner cost: \$10.00 for members; \$20.00 for guests. Please send in your reservations as soon as possible.

Member's name _____

Guest's name _____

Send checks payable to:
Mayslake Nature Study & Photography
Barbara Dunn
1510 Deerpath Lane
LaGrange Park, IL 60526

Buffet-style menu will include:
Hand Pulled Pork
Herb Roasted Chicken
Baked Rotini (Vegetarian)
Creamy Cole Slaw
Tossed Salad
Whipped Sweet Potatoes
Gourmet Sandwich Rolls
Soft Drinks/Coffee

Reservations must be received no later than April 7, 2014
No money will be taken the evening of the event.
Questions? Contact
Barbara Dunn at bdunn23@sbcglobal.net (708) 533 4597

SNOW & ICE SCULPTURES Graue Mill

February 7 and 8, 2014

It's Winter! And time to get out and enjoy the photographic opportunities and joys of this season. So that is what some brave Mayslakers did.

Mayslakers could choose between Friday or Saturday to join in on the Fun, and 4 Members even came both days! The outing on Friday started at **negative 5 Degrees**, but it was a beautiful sunny day and warmed up to 15 degrees, as the day went on. Saturday was a heat wave (HA), starting over zero, and although the day was cloudy with another winter storm in process, the falling snow added to the winter experience for the photographers.

The ice had frozen on some of the river, allowing us closer access to the ice sculptures on the dam that even changed from one day to the next. The flocks of Mallards provided some wildlife photo opportunities and even the Mill itself, had some great winter compositions.

In spite of the cold, or maybe because of the cold, both days provided some wonderful photo opportunities at Graue Mill for Winter Scenes and Ice Sculptures.

Be sure to visit the Website to see all the images from this FUN winter outing.



Steve Baginski



Paul Harring



Tom Soltis



Sue Gajda



Critter



Ice Falls
Suzanne Zumstein



Tom Richardson



Shadows
Diane Hamernik



Ghost Tree
Elaine Allen



Crystal Star
Fran Piepenbrink



Steve Ornberg