

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 2

Language of Photography
John Fan

March 16

Competition

April 6

Natural Illinois
Bill Glass

Board Elections Slate

Here are the current positions that have been filled for the upcoming Mayslake Elections, which will take place at our April meeting:

Conservation: Paul Eberhart

Membership: Sandy Karasek

Publications: Sheila Newenham

Webmaster: Steve Ornberg

The positions of Outings Chair and Treasurer are still vacant. Chuck Klingsporn has offered to be Treasurer if someone is interested in taking over his position as CACCA representative.

Descriptions of the above positions are available on the website. Please consider helping out, so that the club activities that you enjoy can continue. See Tom Richardson or Barbara Dunn at the March meeting, or email info@mlnpc.com.

Save the Date
2nd Annual Members' Night
Monday, May 4, 2015
at Mayslake Peabody Estate
7:00 pm

COMPETITION

March 16

Welcome

Margaret & George Kotecki

Constitution and Bylaws' Changes

The Constitution and Bylaws for our club have been updated and revised to reflect our current structure and practices. This large task was completed by Sue Gajda, Gail Chastain, and Diane Hamernik in 2014 over many meetings and much work. The changes were reviewed and approved by the Executive Board in January. Before their work, the club Constitution and Bylaws had not been reviewed since 2005.

This document is an addendum to this month's Focus. Please read it over; we will have a vote on the new document at the April 6 meeting, providing that we have a quorum.

If you see Sue, Gail, or Diane at a meeting or outing, please thank them for all of the time and effort that they have put into this project.

COMPETITION

The next competition night is March 16. The deadline for submitting digital images is Sunday March 8. 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.

By submitting either prints or digital images in competition, you can receive individual honors, can have images submitted to CACCA inter-club competition and can have images eligible for Image of the Year.

If you are interested but have questions, please feel free to contact me (Sue Gajda) 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.

Natural Illinois

Bill Glass

Prior to settlement by Europeans, Illinois was a wild place, with vast prairies, wetlands and forests. Today, only bits and pieces of natural Illinois remain. These gems of nature are scattered throughout the state. The location of Illinois in the middle of the continent and having a long north – south shape makes for some very diverse plant and animal communities. The state is in a position where the north meets the south and the east meets the west. We'll journey through the state looking at some of these unique habitats from the bogs, lakeshore and unglaciated areas of the north through the center of the state where the vast prairie used to be common to the south where sandstone and limestone bluffs make for an interesting topography and the cypress swamps that look more like Louisiana. There are still some areas of Illinois that are reminiscent of what Illinois was like several hundred years ago.

Bill is an Ecologist for the U.S. Forest Service, working at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Wilmington. Bill has a Masters degree in Biology and did his thesis work on prairies. Bill has been involved in nature photography clubs for most of his life and is a long time member of Mayslake. He is passionate about nature photography, mostly photographing prairies and natural areas in Illinois. He has also photographed many areas around the country and the world including the Inside Passage of Alaska; polar bears in the Arctic Svalbard; whales in Baja, Mexico; the Galapagos Islands with all of its wonders; and the Amazon.

The Latest from CACCA

Chuck Kliingsporn

Once again in the February InterClub competition, our members scored very well. We had three HM designations and one AW. In digital competition, Harry Hitzeman received an HM for his image titled, 'Vermillion Lakes I'.

In the print competition we had 3 winners. Marcia Nye received a score of 25 and an HM for her print titled, 'Looking for Something.' Chuck Kliingsporn also scored 25 and received an HM for his print titled, 'A Change in Diet'. Noriko Buckles scored 26 and received an AW for her print titled, 'Taihin Red Angels.' Congratulations to all these winners; outstanding images all. CACCA has had a series of very well attended presentations before the start of each monthly meeting this year. The series continues on March 14 at 11:30 AM at the regular CACCA meeting place in Arlington Heights. We have been well represented in the audiences to date and I expect that some of you will want to hear Chris Smith again. This time he will present a program called, 'Photographing Chicago: The Best Locations and How to Photograph Them. An intriguing title; come if you can. See the CACCA web site for directions, www.caccaweb.com. Another reason to check in at CACCA on the 14th is the region-wide PostCard competition which will be scored before the program starts. All of our images from the Mayslake competition on March 2 will be entered and I suspect we will again have a good number of great images.

*I'm nobody! Who are you?
Are you nobody, too?
Then there's a pair of us---don't tell!
They'd banish us, you know.*

*How dreary to be somebody!
How public, like a frog
To tell your name the livelong day
To an admiring bog!*

Emily Dickinson

EXHIBITS

Janice Henry

For 2015 I have decided to make a few changes to the timing of the exhibits. Instead of changing the exhibit every three months, which is 4 times a year, the schedule will be as follows:

- Current exhibit "Snow & Ice" which started in February will run until the end of April (3 months). Pick up will be at the May 4th meeting.
- The next exhibit "Insects & Flowers" which will start May 1st will run until the end of August (4 months). The drop off will be by Tuesday, April 28th. Pick up for this exhibit will be at the first meeting in September.
- The next change in exhibit "State & National Parks" will start September 1st and run until January 31, 2016. The drop off will be by Friday, August 28th. Pick up will be at the 2nd meeting in January.

Hopefully the change in schedule and having the themes for the whole year now instead of so close to the drop off will allow you to plan better so you can participate in the exhibits. I look forward to hearing from you.

We have received many compliments about our exhibits; some have come from the people that view them at the theater productions. The best I have heard recently was from a teacher that teaches a writing class for young men at a local school. He said he brings his students to Mayslake to view our exhibits and uses the images as a springboard to encourage his students in their writing assignments.

Reminder - The Year in Review

It's time for you to select your favorite images for the "Year in Review" slide show that will be held at our Members' Night on May 4. For this purpose, the year will be May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015. 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 Fred Drury at fred@mark-landimaging.com. Please make the Email Subject title: "Year in Review". The last date to submit images for the slideshow is April 22. 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 May 4!

2nd Annual Members' Night-2014

Reserve your place now for our club's 2nd Annual Members' Night, to be held on Monday, May 4th, 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 or bring it to a meeting by April 17th 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!

**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 Club
JoAnn Barnes
120 E George St
Bensenville, IL 60106**

Waterfall Glen Outing

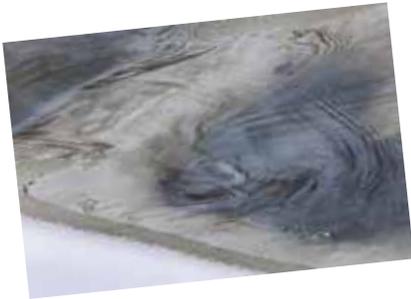
Hosted by Fran Piepenbrink



Rocks, Trees and Ice
Sheila Newenham



Sandy Karasek



Bill Dixon



The River Flows
Gail Chastain

On Sunday, February 8th sixteen Mayslaker's explored the photo opportunities in a small area of the 2,492-acre Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve in Darien. Mild mid-winter temperatures and overcast skies welcomed our group. The waterfall in Sawmill Creek was the starting point of this outing. Converting an image to black & white was our challenge.

Even though the waterfall was still covered with snow from the Superbowl Sunday snow storm the previous weekend, many wonderful images were captured. A trail along the stream was a popular place to find a subject. There were reflections, snow muffins in the stream, abstracts, bits of fall color, ice formations, smooth cold water, rushing water, rocks under the water, and lots of snow. It was great to see how everyone "saw" our outing location. After our morning shoot ended almost all of the group went to lunch at Buona Beef in Darien.

Thanks to all who joined me in exploring Waterfall Glen in the Winter. Fran

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



Oak Leaves in Snow
Janice Henry



Rapids
Steve Ornberg



Big Heart and Little Heart
Elaine Allen



Steve Baginski

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Mayslake Nature Study and Photography Club (MNS&PC). In partnership with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, the headquarters of this organization shall be the Peabody Estate of the Mayslake Forest Preserve in Oak Brook, Illinois.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to provide opportunities for its members to advance their knowledge of nature and photography.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Membership is available to any person that meets the requirements as defined in the by-laws.

ARTICLE IV

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board shall be composed of the Officers and Chairpersons of the Club. A representative of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County may also be a member of the Executive Board.

Section 1. The officers shall be President, Vice President of Programs, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. The officers shall, in order of their rank, conduct meetings in the absence of the President.

Section 3. All Officers and Chairpersons shall be elected annually as specified in the by-laws.

Section 4. The duties and responsibilities of the Officers and Chairpersons are as outlined in the by-laws and individual job descriptions.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

Section 1. The club year shall begin on May 1st. Regular meetings shall be held as scheduled by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI
OPERATIONAL LIMITATIONS

The Mayslake Nature Study and Photography Club shall be organized for pleasure, recreation, and other non-profitable purposes under Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, substantially all of the activities of which are for such purposes.

ARTICLE VII
INUREMENT OF INCOME

No part of the net earnings of the Club shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons except as permitted under Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Club shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth.

No substantial part of the activities of the Club shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Club shall not participate, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the Club shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a Club exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

The Club may, however, present programs on topics which may be controversial or politically sensitive so long as any such programs broadly relate to the purpose of the club as stated in Article II.

ARTICLE VIII
DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Club, payment shall be made of all liabilities. Any remaining assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes with the meaning of Section 501 (c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the Club is then located exclusively for such purposes or to such organizations, as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENT PROVISIONS

Any of the provisions of this constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at a regular meeting, provided that it constitutes a quorum, and also provided that the proposed amendments have been previously approved by the Executive Board and made available to the voting membership at least ten (10) days prior to the vote.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership is obtained by enrollment and payment of dues.

Section 2. Honorary Life Members (HLM): Such members are honored with Life Memberships because of their outstanding contributions to the Club and to its perpetuation.

Section 3. Each member is entitled to receive Club communications, to participate in club activities, and to vote on matters brought to the general membership. Members agree to follow the Constitution, By-Laws, procedures and protocols of the Club or face disciplinary to be determined by the Board.

ARTICLE II MEETINGS

Section 1. The Regular meeting dates shall be determined by the Board and based on the availability of facilities. The Club shall meet no less than once a month.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE III OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

Section 1. The officers shall be President, Vice President of Programs, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. Each of the following Standing Club Activities, unless otherwise indicated, shall have a Chairperson.

- a. Chicago Area Camera Club Association (CACCA)
- b. Competitions
- c. Conservation
- d. Equipment
- e. Forest Preserve Liaison
- f. Membership
- g. Outings
- h. Education
- i. Photo Exhibits
- j. Publications
- k. Social Events
- l. Webmaster

Section 3. Committees for special activities may be called by the President as deemed necessary.

Section 4. The Officers and Chairpersons shall serve a one-year term and may be re-elected.

Section 5. The Officers shall, in order of their rank, conduct meetings in the absence of the President.

ARTICLE IV QUORUM/VOTING

The presence of thirty percent (30%) of the current regular and life membership members present at a regularly scheduled meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Unless otherwise specified, a simple majority of the voting members present at a regular meeting, provided it constitutes a quorum, is required for all business transactions requiring approval by the membership.

ARTICLE V ELECTIONS

Section 1. By February 1st, the President shall appoint a nominating committee of three (3) regular members, one of whom shall be a member of the Board. The nominating committee shall prepare a single slate of Officers and Chairpersons after obtaining agreement from the nominees to serve if elected.

Section 2. The nominating committee shall present its slate at least 45 days before the new Club year begins on May 1. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Section 3. Officers and Chairpersons shall be elected and take office at the beginning of the Club year May 1.

Section 4. Assuming persons present constitute a voting quorum, a majority of those members present and voting shall be sufficient for the election of Officers and Chairpersons.

ARTICLE VI EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The Executive Board shall be composed of the Officers and the Chairpersons. The President may request the attendance of other members at Executive Board Meetings as required.

Section 2. Regular meetings of the Executive Board shall be held as determined by the Executive Board no less frequently than once a quarter. Special meetings may be called by the President. Notice of special meetings must specify the purpose of the meeting and business shall be confined to this purpose.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall be responsible for the direction of the Club activities.

Section 4. The Executive Board shall appoint successors to fill unexpired terms of Officers and Chairpersons.

Section 5. 50% of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. All members of the Executive Board shall have voting privileges.

ARTICLE VII

DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

Section 1. The President shall preside over all meetings, shall perform such duties as usually pertain to the office, shall be ex-officio member of all committees and shall be an authorized signer of Club checks.

Section 2. The Vice President of Programs shall be responsible for arranging programs that may enhance the members' knowledge of nature and improving nature photography techniques.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all Executive Board and conduct correspondence of the Club as needed.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all the Club funds. The Treasurer shall keep an account of all receipts and expenditures, make a monthly report to the Executive Board, and shall prepare an annual report for the Executive Board. This report shall be published in the June issue of the club's monthly newsletter - FOCUS.

The Treasurer shall also be responsible for compliance and for filing any State and Federal report requirements as a result of the club's status as an IRC 501. C. 7 organization.

The Treasurer shall be an authorized signer of Club checks.

Section 5. Each of the Chairpersons' duties and responsibilities are as outlined in their specific job descriptions.

ARTICLE VIII

DUES

Membership dues are divided into the following categories and are collected annually.

Section 1. Regular individual memberships are for one year.

Section 2. Household memberships are available. The first household member will pay the full member rate and other household members pay at the 50% rate.

Section 3. Membership shall be terminated if current year dues are not received before July 1st.

Section 4. Dues shall be periodically reviewed and adjusted. Changes shall be approved by the Executive Board.

Section 5. New members joining after seven (7) months of the club year are eligible pro-rated membership for that year.

ARTICLE IX BUDGET

An annual budget outlining the Club's revenues and expenses shall be prepared by the Treasurer and approved by the Executive Board.

Section 1. The Officers and Chairpersons shall submit an estimate of their annual revenues and expenses the Treasurer by February 1st of each Club year.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall prepare and submit for review an annual budget prior to the first quarter Executive Board meeting.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall approve the Club's annual budget at the first quarter Executive Board meeting.

Section 4. The annual budget approved by the Executive Board shall be a balanced budget.

Section 5. A copy of the annual budget shall be distributed to the membership as part of the May Club newsletter distribution.

ARTICLE X REIMBURSEMENT FOR INDIVIDUAL EXPENSES AND CHECK SIGNING PROCEDURES

Section 1. All requests for payment of expenses shall be submitted to the Treasurer and shall consist of a description of the expense and the original receipts with the requester's name clearly written on each receipt.

Section 2. Reimbursements for budgeted expenses shall be made by the Treasurer and do not require Executive Board approval.

Section 3. Reimbursement for non-budgeted expenses may be made by the Treasurer after Executive Board approval.

Section 4. Authorized signers of Club checks are the Club officers.

ARTICLE XI ANNUAL AUDIT

An audit of the Treasurer's books shall be secured annually with a committee appointed by the President. The committee will consist of at least one member who is not on the board.

ARTICLE XII
PARTNERSHIP ALLIANCE

In as much as the Mayslake Peabody Estate of the DuPage County Forest Preserve lends its name to the Club through a joint partnership, provides meeting facilities, personnel and equipment, and promotes the Club in many ways, the Club's membership is expected to promote and support the (Peabody Estate of Mayslake of the) DuPage County Forest Preserve District in ways that enhance both organizations.

ARTICLE XIII
REVISIONS

Any of the foregoing bylaws may be revised or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present at a regular meeting provided it constitutes a quorum, and also provided the proposed revisions and/or amendments have been approved by the Executive Board and made available to the voting membership at least ten (10) days prior to the vote.

Constitution and Bylaws effective -----, 2015