

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

May 6

You Be The Judge!

Bob Benson

This program that took almost a year to create, shows what happens when you give 25 CACCA judges 200 images to score. The results were interesting, and Bob will give us some insight on the results. Our members will get a chance to score a small sample of images to see how they compared to the judges.

May 20

Noise Reduction

Sharpening

David Schooley

June 3

Dragonflies and Damselflies

as seen through a

Macro Lens

Marla Garrison

June 17

Bring Your Camera



Membership Renewal Time

Bill Dixon

Yes, it's spring and time to renew your club membership. Membership year is May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2014.

Renew today so you don't miss any issues of our newsletter or news of our upcoming events. Please fill out the renewal form (Page 4) that is included in this month's Focus or attached to this email and give it to me at the next meeting or you can mail it to me at Bill Dixon, 422 Keepataw Drive, Lemont, IL 60439. 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.

Sharpening and Noise Reduction

David Scooley

Sharpening and noise reduction are two of the least understood aspects of working with digital images. This presentation will discuss the various sharpening methods available in Lightroom, Photoshop, and Aperture, and how different types of images lend themselves to different sharpening settings. Getting sharp images often requires shooting at high ISOs to allow for proper shutter speeds, so we will also talk about how the proper use of noise reduction and sharpening can allow you to confidently photograph at higher ISOs than you do now.

“Masters of Nature Photography”

Class by Hank Erdmann

August 6 & 20, 2013

7 – 10 PM

Location: Mayslake

The History of Art is a long established fine arts degree program and an incredibly interesting subject of study. That study can evolve into a career itself and covers many, many mediums and genres of art. The history of photography is surely included in that study, but the History of Nature Photography as a sub group is much less well known, much less studied, but deserves much more inspection and credit for the incredible art that it is. Possibly it is because of the way most pictures of the natural world are made...stop, look, point, shoot, DONE! Nature photography is perceived as a document of a place, a moment in time, a “Kilgore was here” moment. It is much more than that as the painter does not create great art in a fraction of a second and neither does the true nature photographer.

This class will look of the roots of art, how they were applied to photography at its invention, how the world came to know photography and the impact it made. We’ll take a look at the first great practitioners of nature photography, the masters of Group f64 (Ansel Adams and his generation), the recent masters that made color work king of books and publication, and the most recent group of digital media masters. There will be an assignment between the two classes. Ideally, this class will improve your own photography through the understanding of the techniques and artistry of these masters.

To register please call the FPD at 630-850-2363. The class fee is \$60.

Club Officers

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The CACCA Report

Chuck Klingsporn

As you read this May issue of FOCUS, preparations are underway for the last monthly competitions in the CACCA year, on May 11. It has been a good year for Mayslakers at CACCA with increased participation and some outstanding results. Next month, I'll have a 'Year-End' report so you can see for yourself. Now, on to the more immediate.

At the April Interclub Competition we had a total of 5 Winners, 3 in prints and 2 in the digital competition. Sandy Karasek received an HM for her print titled, 'Hoo Says I'm Angry' as did Noriko Buckles for her print titled, 'Peeking'. Tom Richardson's print titled, 'Logs and Aspen' received a score of 24 and an award although the way the score was marked on the print, it isn't clear whether it was an HM or an AW. To be cleared up at the May judging.

In the Digital Competition, we had two winners. Fran Piepenbrink received an HM for her image titled, 'Sprinning' while Tom Richardson received an AW for his image, 'Dusk Singer'. Congratulations are in order.

Judging of the Annual Post Card Competition also took place at the April CACCA Meeting. As was the case last year, our members did exceptionally well. Mayslake had 9 of the 86 entries and 5 of our 9 were winners! In fact, as a club, we were tied with one other club, Chicago Nature, for the most winning entries. That is pretty impressive!! Receiving Honorable Mention designation were Barbara Dunn for 'Alaska' and Fran Piepinbrink for, 'Visiting Rural Illinois'. Receiving Award designation were Sue Gajda for 'Sydney by Night' and Steve Ornberg twice. Steve's winning entries were titled, 'Ski Heavenly @ Lake Tahoe' and 'Paris -Eiffel Tower, C'est Si Bon'. Very nice postcards all; unfortunately, we will not get to see them again until they are displayed at the annual CACCA banquet in August.

EXHIBITS

Janice Henry

By the time you go to the first meeting in May we will have a new exhibit in our space. The theme this time is "Flowers, Plants & Vegetation". This show will be on display until July 31st.

So, when you get a chance, check out the images by your fellow Mayslakers.

Information on the next exhibit in our space will be in the June Focus.

Metal Print Night

David Schooley

Are you curious about metal prints, either because you have seen the ads in photography magazines or have heard people talking about them? Have you done metal prints that you would like other people to see? The Monday, May 6 meeting will be Metal Print Night at Mayslake. Come early to see members' metal prints before the regularly scheduled meeting. If you have metal prints, bring them along so that you can show them off!

Membership Information Reminder!

Bill Dixon

Club year runs from May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014

Choose your membership from the following

Individual Membership \$30.00

Family Membership

\$30.00 for the first member at address and

\$15.00 for each additional member at the same address

Corresponding Member \$15.00

Former regular members who wish to remain in contact with the Club.

(Their privileges are described in the Directory under Membership.)

Please make checks payable to:

The Mayslake Nature Study and Photography Club

Give to Bill at the meeting or Mail to Bill at:

Bill Dixon

422 Keepataw Drive

Lemont, IL 60439

NOTE! Enter name only if personal info has not changed from last year

Family Name: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

First Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: Home Work/Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Please omit the items you do NOT want published in the annual club directory.

CONSERVATION

Chuck Peterson

CONSERVATION PHOTOGRAPHY

from a

A THESIS PRESENTED

TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

by

CARLTON WARD JR.

Just as Civil Rights photographer Charles Moore, documented violent protests between whites and blacks in his native Alabama in the early 1960's, photography has also shaped societal views and policies on issues related to the natural environment. The relationship between conservation and photography actually started decades before the birth of social documentary. This advance probably has more to do with technology than anything else, as the cameras of the 1860's and 1870's used larger glass plates as negatives and required long exposure times. Watkins' cameras used eighteen by twenty-two inch glass plates and exposure times as long as ten minutes, not well suited to human subjects outside of a studio setting. On June, 29, 1864, the US Congress enacted a bill signed by Abraham Lincoln, establishing Yosemite as the nation's first legislated nature preserve, to be managed through the State of California. The support of the Congress was secured, in part, through landscape photographs of Yosemite by pioneering photographer Carleton Watkins, presented to Congress by Senator John Conness (Cahn 1981). Then, five years after Yosemite received federally mandated state protection, photography was again used to build support for protecting Yellowstone, in the Wyoming Territory, helping create the world's first national park. Photographer William Henry Jackson joined the first geological surveys of Yellowstone in 1870 and 1871. The second survey was led by Dr. Ferdinand Vandiveer Hayden, the director of the U.S Geological and Geographical survey of the Territories. Hayden, spearheading the movement for Yellowstone preservation, distributed Jackson's photographs to Congress and exhibited them in the Capitol rotunda (Cahn

1981). When the Yellowstone bill was introduced to both houses of Congress in December 1871, seeking protection for more than two million acres of wilderness from logging and other exploitations, there was little opposition. On March 1, 1872, president Ulysses Grant signed the Yellowstone Act into law and the world's first national park was born (Schonauer 2007).

Watkins and Jackson were conservation photographers in the truest sense. Working closely with explorers, scientists and politicians, their efforts steered public opinion and resulted in lasting protection of natural heritage. We can see that photography has empowered conservation since the beginning of the environmental movement in America. Yet it has taken more than one hundred thirty years for conservation photography to start gaining recognition as a field.

In the twentieth century, conservation photography continued to grow in parallel with the establishment of national parks, embraced by a young Ansel Adams, who was the only member of the Photo League who focused his camera primarily on wilderness and later became the most famous photographer to have worked for conservation. Widely known by the general public for his vivid black and white photographs of western landscapes, Adams is less known for his proactive role in conservation. He worked passionately to promote protection for the places he photographed. In 1936, armed with a portfolio of prints, Adams went to Washington, D.C. on behalf of the Sierra Club to spend three weeks lobbying Congress to establish Kings Canyon National Park. With pressure from logging companies, the bill did not pass, but Adams kept trying. His Kings Canyon photographs were presented to President Franklin D. Roosevelt by Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes. Congress passed the bill later that year to create King Canyon National Park and Adams' book was cited as for its importance to the campaign (Cahn 1981).

Since Adams, nature photography proliferated as an art form and industry (although often divorced from conservation purposes). Many of nature photography's masters can certainly be credited with raising environmental awareness through their imagery, but have not done so with the same degree

of follow-through as Adams, who was a prototype for conservation photography. Other photographers have shared these characteristics with Adams: 1) conservation remained their primary objective and 2) measurable results were achieved (i.e. land protection or new legislation), although their names and accomplishment have been much less well known.

While Adams was just learning to photograph and hike through the wilderness as a California teen in 1915, a Japanese immigrant, George Masa, was arriving in the mountains of North Carolina. His photography built lasting influence in his new home, including inspiring the creation of Smokey Mountains National Park and mapping the entire North Carolina portion of the Appalachian Trail (Bonesteel 2003).

Masa's studio was based in Ashville, but he spent extended periods photographing in the wilderness of the Smokies. He often worked with author, national park proponent, and close friend, Horace Kephart. Their magazine articles, celebrated the wilderness, and in 1925 they together published a large-format pamphlet titled, "A National Park in the Great Smoky Mountains." The park vision was realized official under President Franklin Roosevelt in 1940 and today the mountains remember their champions: there is a 6,217-foot peak named Mount Kephart and a 5,685-foot peak on the southwestern side named Masa Knob (Ellison 2004).

In 1947, a photographer named Philip Hyde entered Adams' photography program at the California School of Fine Arts and soon became the most influential conservation-oriented photographer of his generation. Like Adams, Hyde worked closely with the Sierra Club and it was through this partnership that most of his communications campaigns were waged. "Battle books," as Hyde called them, were their primary weapon for winning public support. Hyde's photography helped create Dinosaur National park and make the Grand Canyon a symbol of American wilderness, launching the Sierra Club into a national organization (Trimble 2006). Today the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA) offers an annual environmental photography grant honoring his legacy. "The Philip Hyde grant is named

for the pioneering 20th century photographer Philip Hyde, who dedicated his career to using photography for the advancement of conservation" (nanpa.org).

The group of contemporary photographers working for conservation is extensive. Many dedicate years to a single issue, for example: Gary Braasch and global warming, Charlie Ott and Denali, Florian Schultz and the Yellowstone to Yukon corridor, Chris Ranier and the ethnosphere, and Cristina Mittermeier and the indigenous people of Brazil. These and other dedicated photographers continue to create critical awareness for wildlife and cultures at risk of extinction.

See more of Carlton's work at:
<http://www.carltonward.com/>

Black Partridge Trip Report

April 27, 2013

After a week's delay due to floods, cold and a late spring, 22 Mayslakers and guests, met at Black Partridge in Lemont for spring flowers and more. With 80 acres of wetland, fen and forest, hills canyons and also Springbook Creek, there was lots for everyone to photograph. A nice morning ending with lunch and good company. Be sure to visit the Mayslake Website when you get "The Website has been updated" email, to see the images from the trip.



JoAnne Barnes



Greg Blue



Bill Dixon



Northern Water Snake
David Schooley

Trip Report Messenger Woods April 29, 2013

It was another flood and weather delay for this 4th Monday outing to one of Will County's oldest forest preserves, Messenger Woods. Messenger Woods is also known throughout the region for its abundance of spring wildflowers that carpet the forest floor. Spring flowers at Messenger were late this year, as they have been all over, but still there was plenty to photograph.

Be sure to visit the website to see the images when you get the "Website has been update" email.



Spring Beauty
Sue Gajda



Steve Mayer

