

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

November 7

TBA

November 21

Competition

Club Website

Sue Gadja

Have you visited the Club website recently? It's changedthanks to Suzanne Zumstein and Steve Baginski. Previously, the sections on Outings and Events were added. In October, the main page was changed to include images from the most recent competition. Also in October, the LInks section now includes links to the website galleries of our members.

If you have a website that features a gallery of your images and you would like to have a link added to the Mayslake Club site, please contact Sue Gajda at segnet@aol.com with the link information. We update the LInks section once a month.



Competition

November 21, 2011

January 16, 2012

March 19, 2012

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Sue Gajda

It's time for the annual Christmas party. The party is scheduled for our second meeting night in December - December 19. As in the past, members should bring a snack to share. Spouses/Guests are also welcome.

The entertainment is you! We're asking members to provide images for a special slideshow, similar to what we did at the August indoor picnic. The theme of the slideshow is Holiday Words. Pick one or more words from the list below and submit images that you think best convey that word.

RED

GREEN

JOLLY

PEACE

COLD

WHITE

BRIGHT

Each member can submit up to 10 images. For example send 10 jolly. Or 7 green and 3 red! Or 4 cold, 3 peace, 2 white and 1 bright ... but hold the partridge in the pear tree!

Nature should be your focus but "hand of man" rules do not apply. Be as creative as you like. Images should be sized at 900 pixels on the longest side with naming as follows: your name followed by the word you selected from the list and the an image name or number. (Ex: smith_red_ribbon or smith_green_1)

Send your submissions to Gail Chastain at gachastain@hotmail.com by December 11. We hope to see you on December 19th. Even if you can't come to the party, please consider submitting images for the slideshow.

COMPETITION

Sheila Newenham

The first 2011-2012 PSA (Photographic Society of America) Electronic Image Division and Nature Division Interclub Competitions are in November. Our club will once again be participating. Six images from the September digital competition were submitted to each competition (a total of 12 images in all from 12 unique makers).

Our second competition of the year is fast approaching on November 21st (its not too early to send your digital images!). If you didn't participate in the September competition, now is the time to jump in. Bring your prints (mounted on 11x 14 black boards). E-mail your digital images (competition@mlnpc.com) sized no taller than 768 pixels and no wider than 1024 pixels by Sunday 11/13. Please include your name in the subject line of the e-mail. Make sure the title of your image is the same on the image file, image identification card and on the summary sheet. Consider adding a white border to your images to improve their display on the screen and light box. Details about how to submit entries and necessary paperwork can be found on our website http://www.mlnpc.com/Mayslake/Club_Information.html Bring print images and all entry forms with you to the meeting and plan to arrive no later than 6:45pm. You will need one summary card for all prints and one summary card for all digital. On your summary cards list the image you would most like to have critiqued first. I realize there are some members who aren't interested in critiques of their images and are happy with the feedback provided in scoring. If this applies to you, please let me know when you drop off your entry forms. You will also need to bring an image identification card for each and every image submitted. For one digital entry and one print entry, please write a short commentary (less than 50 words) on the image identification card teaching us about your subject. I am available to answer any questions and help with your enjoyment of and participation in our club competitions in any way I can.

POSTCARD COMPETITION

Sue Gajda

On March 10, 2011, CACCA is having a postcard competition open to individuals who are members of a CACCA club. It's a fun competition where you get to create a 4 x 6 postcard of your favorite place.

We're encouraging members to join in and create a postcard or two. Bring your postcard entries to the February 20 meeting. The entries brought to the meeting will then be submitted for the CACCA competition in March. We'll have an exhibit of all the entries with voting for favorites and, hopefully, some prizes.

CACCA Post Card Competition Rules

1. Each participating photographer must be a current member in good standing of a CACCA camera club. Up to two post card entries are allowed per member.
2. The front of each post card entry must be in the form of a 4 inch x 6 inch photographic print, either color or monochrome, oriented horizontally or vertically, with or without a border.
3. While alphanumeric text or symbols in any color or font/type/style is permitted, names or monograms indicating the maker's identity must not appear on the front of the entry.
4. The back of each post card entry must display image title, maker name, email address and/or phone number, and camera club name.
5. While digital modifications are freely allowed, the post card image is to be wholly the work of the maker in concept and execution.
7. Entries will be judged on impact, creativity, image quality, and fulfillment of the general characteristics of a good post card.

EXHIBITS

Janice Henry

I promised more information on the ongoing exhibit at Mayslake. At present, the parts to hang the photographs have been ordered and are expected to be in place sometime soon. We will be determining who will be selected to exhibit first and when that will start very soon as well. I will keep you posted in upcoming newsletters as this develops.

This is still very exciting...more to follow.

GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY

November 12, 2011

On November 12, we are going to heading to Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago (off the Eisenhower) for a morning shoot and lunch. You may have heard their sad news that on June 30, 2011, Garfield was "dealt a devastating blow when a hailstorm caused catastrophic damage shattering approximately half of the glass panes in the roofs of the historic Fern Room, Show House, and ten propagation greenhouses". If you have been to Garfield before you can well imagine the loss of plants.

The Conservatory is one of the nation's premier conservatories, with six multi-faceted greenhouses and two grand exhibition halls. Currently over 1/2 the facility is back open again to the public. The recovery is not complete and will take years at great expense for all to be recovered. If you would like to show your support of this wonderful institution, join us on Saturday Nov 12. The Garfield Park Conservatory is free to the public, but as an extra show of support, if you want you can make a donation as you enter.

For more information on Garfield Park visit their website at: <http://www.garfield-conservatory.org>

For more information on the outing, such as directions and meeting time, email gachastain@hotmail.com

CONSERVATION REPORT

BAD SHOT

Dan Hollister

Despite cheap readily available alternatives, most American sportsmen are still using lead ammunition and fishing tackle. Because of this, some of our most majestic birds, from eagles to loons to condors pay a terrible price. The U.S. Geological Survey reports that as many as 400,000 lead shot gun pellets per acre rain down annually on popular hunting fields. The University of Minnesota's raptor Center in St. Paul received 117 lead poisoned bald eagles last year only 71 survived. A Montana study showed that 85% of golden eagles and 97% of bald eagles had elevated blood-lead levels. When lead is ingested the body mistakes the lead for a beneficial metal and incorporates it into vital organs where it does considerable damage.

Nontoxic bullets and shot that perform as well as or even better than lead are readily available, but the gun lobby claims that the price of the alternatives would impose a crushing financial burden on hunters. 25-round boxes of 20-gauge No. 6 shot gun shells can be purchased at \$7.39 for lead and \$7.49 for steel. This certainly doesn't sound like a crushing burden! A number of states have even gone so far as to offer hunters copper bullets at the same price as lead, but so far, no takers. It has even been shown that copper bullets have superior ballistics and expand instead of shattering. When lead bullets strike a large animal they shatter and impregnate a large area of soft tissue with lead fragments. The NRA in order to polish its image encourages hunters to donate venison to needy families. Last year 2.6 million pounds of meat were distributed in all 50 states. The North Dakota Dept. of Health X-rayed packages of ground venison given to food pantries and determined that 58% contained lead fragments. It's hard to understand what the objection is to using nontoxic ammunition? One reader's on line comment may offer some insight, "A lead ban will mean war. All you traitors should be shot with

a lead bullet. When you try to come to get any weapons or ammo you best come with an army --before I go down you and many others will also." When it comes to the gun lobby all appeals to reason and science fall on deaf ears. It must have something to do with America's frontier history and the cowboy mythology. Even publicity about the dangers of lead poisoning is somehow seen as a plot to disarm America. Although the NRA with its enormous political power claims to speak for American hunters it doesn't speak for anything even close to a majority. There are many gun owners and hunters who are responsible and are trying to do the right thing.

The founder of the Audubon Society George Grinnell first sounded the alarm and brought the lead poisoning problem to the attention of the federal government back in 1894. The public has watched for 117 years as waterfowl and other wildlife has died from swallowing lead shot, and still the mantra of the gun lobby is that lead poisoning is a plot to disarm America. Will this mantra remain unchanged for another century?

Note: If you are interested in more information on this subject the May-June issue of Audubon Magazine contains a long article on lead poisoning written by Ted Williams.



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OUTING

Gail Chastain

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie October 24, 2011

It was back to Midwin for an October Car Caravan for Cemeteries, Nature, Old Buildings and the Sunset. Ten Mayslakers were led by our (once again) fearless leader Jerry, a Volunteer from Midwin. With Jerry's leading, we were able to get back into areas that most don't see, as well as areas that are still restricted. Most of the cemeteries are no longer active, but all are historic sites for the original settlers in the area. The old buildings remain from when the land was the Joliet Arsenal, and in that they are no longer in use, nature has begin the process of reclaiming. Add to this tour some great fall scenes and a colorful sunset, and it was a wonderful photographic opportunity for all that came.

Our guide Jerry made sure we knew that every season at Midwin is a great photographic opportunity. We were given the invite to be sure and come back for winter. So look for probably more than one tour next year at this great site.

Be sure to visit the Mayslake Website to see participant's images from the Outing.



Gail Chastain©



Atala Toy©



Karin Grunow©



Bailey Bridge Window©
Marcia Nye



Gail Chastain©



Cemetery Hand Tinted©
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