

# 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](http://www.naturecameraclub.com)

## Highlights

*November 3*

Chris Smith  
Out of Chicago

*November 17*

Competition

*December 1*

Christmas Party  
Swap Meet

*January 5*

Stan Bouson

*January 19*

Competition

*February 2*

Ken Thompson

## Next Competition Night - November 17

The deadline for submitting digital images is Sunday November 9. Please check the website for instructions and forms.

Prints can be brought in the night of the competition or you can drop them off before competition night at the Mayslake office during regular business hours.

Also, remember that submitting make-up images is only allowed for those members who act as judges. If you did not submit images for the September competition, you can still be eligible for year-end honors by submitting a total of 8 images in the next three competitions.

Don't miss out on an opportunity to have an outside evaluation of your images.

Even if you don't wish to submit images for competition, come on the 17th to enjoy some of the fine work of your fellow Club members.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me, Sue Gajda, at [segnet1025@yahoo.com](mailto:segnet1025@yahoo.com).

## Competition

November 17, 2014

January 19, 2015

March 16, 2015

Welcome

Ron Szymczak

## CACCA Update

Chuck Klingsporn

The CACCA Interclub competitions got underway on October 11 and our images were well represented. We had a total of four awards, three in the print competition and one in digital images. First to the digital images. Beth Olin received a score of 24 and an AW for her image titled, 'Tufted Titmouse in Snow'.

In the print competition, Steve Ornberg received a score of 23 and an HM for his image titled, 'Nest Building Time'. There were two scores of 24, both of which resulted in AW designations. One of these was by Noriko Buckles; her image titled, 'Great Egret at Rest'. The other 24/AW was by Marcia Nye for her image titled, 'Hummingbird at Flower'. Congratulations to all; some great images to start the competition year!!

Last month the October issue of FOCUS included a copy of a certificate that we as a club won for finishing in third place last year in the Class B Digital Image Competition. Although our club goal at CACCA is to get as many different members images in to competition as possible, it is still nice to receive a club level award. Bravo to all who contributed to the club success. There is also another outcome resulting from the 3rd place award. Our CACCA Class B designation has been changed to Class A. So, now both of our 'clubs', Mayslake I and Mayslake II will compete in CACCA Class A. Not of great import but a change nonetheless.

Upcoming events include the November interclub competition on the 8th and the next Individual Nature Print competition on December 13. As a reminder, almost any print that has been entered in our club competitions is eligible for the CACCA Individual Nature Prints competition. (almost because the CACCA rules on Nature Prints require NO hand of man as compared to our new modified rule) If you would like to give it a try, just let me know so we come up with a way to get your print images (s) to me.

## "Photographing Chicago: The Best Locations and How to Photograph Them."

by Chris Smith:

I'll show you my favorite places to shoot in the city including architecture, interiors, cityscapes, and night photography spots. Some of these are obvious photography spots, but I'll show you my favorite secret locations as well. Along the way, I'll give you tips for photographing these locations and post-processing your images.

Bio: Chris Smith has run the site OutofChicago.com, The Chicago Photo Experience, since 2011. He has expanded the site to include the Out of Chicago Podcast and started the Out of Chicago Photography Conference in 2014. Chris wrote The Photographer's Guide to Chicago: 100 of the Best Locations and How to Photograph Them. He runs workshops, tours, and free photowalks through Out of Chicago. Chris teaches high school physics and is married with two pretty awesome kids!



# PREVIEW OF DECEMBER SWAP MEET

**Canon EOS 7D** 18.0MP Digital SLR Camera Body only' with battery that I will sell for \$875.00. This camera has seen very little use, I guessing it has under 500 shutter releases.

David Kolbush  
dskolbush@yahoo.com

**Lowepro** Micro Trekker 200 -asking \$35.00  
Lowepro Micro Trekker 100 -asking \$25.00  
Both are in very nice condition.

Fran Piepenbrink  
frannep@netzero.net

**Sigma 18-250mm** F3.5-6.3 Macro OS HSM for Canon EF-S Mount with Hoya circular polarizer  
Nice walkabout travel lens \$200 (negotiable)

**Canon 40D** - Best offer  
Nice to have if you need a back-up body

Sue Gajda  
segnet@aol.net

**Really Right Stuff** BH55 ballhead. This is the top of the line from RRS. It has both a quick release plate and a second screw knob clamp if the purchaser chooses that type of mount. The list price new, as configured is \$455 not counting the extra clamping system. The whole package will sell for \$350 firm.

**Wimberley Sidekick** This piece mounts directly to a sturdy ballhead to allow use of a large telephoto lens without the need for a full gimbal head arrangement. The price new is \$250, will sell for \$100 firm.

Chuck Klingsporn  
northrockies@aol.com

**Canon 7D** plus: original box, neck strap, manual, David Busch 7D book, Kirk L Bracket, 2 batteries (no charger) \$575.  
Very good condition and recently checked and calibrated by Canon Professional Services.

**Canon 17-40mm** f4 L lens, recently checked by Canon Professional Services. \$425.

Tom Richardson  
rtom.richardson@gmail.com

**Tamrac** Expedition 5X backpack camera bag. Used on one trip and retired.  
Excellent condtion. \$175

**Canon Powershot** S2 IS Digital, Merkury lens adaptor 58mm, 1 wide converter lens, (2) unopened pkgs Duracell 2650 mAh batteries and charger, warranty card, user guide, carrying case \$125

Diane Hamernik  
bugeye258@gmail.com

**Nikon** 14-24 wide angle

Ellie Young  
ellie39@att.net

## **Mayslake Christmas Party**

### **December 1st , 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**

Join your fellow club members as we celebrate the holiday season at the annual Holiday Party. The party will be held during our regular meeting time on Monday, December 1st at 7:00 p.m. It will be a great chance to relax and enjoy two exciting events.

Come and spend a holiday evening with your fellow club members. There will be time to talk photography, munch on some holiday treats and enjoy two special programs.

Every year, our club enters the Glennie Memorial Nature Salon of the Merrimack Valley Camera Club (MVCC) in Massachusetts. This is a premier, international all-nature club competition of digital images known for its diversity of subjects which range from animals to botany to landscapes. Last year, images were entered from almost 100 participating clubs from 8 countries and many US States. The MVCC has compiled about a third of the highest scoring images into a slideshow that will be part our program for the evening. Be ready to see some amazing nature images.

In addition to the slideshow, we'll be having our annual Swap and Shop. One thing photographers always have is "gear" - sometimes too much gear. Bring some of your no longer used equipment to sell or swap. What you no longer use may be something another member has been looking for. Whether you are a buyer, seller or swapper, this is great opportunity. See the list in this issue of the Focus for some of the items offered for sale at the Swap.

Finally, throughout the evening, we will enjoy food and beverages. Members are asked to bring a treat to share, either an appetizer or dessert. As always, beverages, napkins, plates and cups will be provided. Guests of members are welcome. Looking forward to seeing you at this celebration!

## Worldwide PhotoWalk

October 11, 2014

It was the 7th annual Scott Kelby Worldwide Photowalk™ and in cities around the WORLD, photographers of all walks of life and skill levels gathered together to socialize, share and be inspire during this one-day, worldwide event.

In our area there were a lot of PhotoWalks, but a few Mayslakers chose to go to nearby Chesterton IN to see the sights, and we were not disappointed. Here we found a wonderful quant town, including a craft fair, market, entertainment and even a Fire Truck Parade.

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



Bev Bartos



OPEN  
Fran Piepenbrink



The Honey Pot  
Fran Piepenbrink



Geneva, IL  
Alvin Riesbeck



Geneva  
Tom Soltis



The Fire House Dog  
Steve Baginski



Steve Bartos

5 ideas worth pursuing (not for weaklings)...  
Not what you expect: I promise.

These are some ideas worth pursuing if you are interested in moving your photography forward. And they are a little bit different — I didn't want to include the normal list of "how to improve your photography" (i.e., use a tripod, read the manual, etc.)

I don't know where I learned these gems. I read a lot, however, and I'm always talking with others about photography. At any rate, they are not original with me and I doubt that anyone else has a copyright on them.

Start with this — it is probably the most difficult: Photograph a concept. Now I don't mean the easy stuff like beauty or anger. I'm talking about more vague concepts such as silence. Or mystery. Or death. And think of this: What you choose to photograph is your version of the concept and will, therefore, be a piece of expressive, personal art.

Learn something new. I've just purchased Silver Efex Pro in an effort to turn out better black and white images. As I sit here typing this blog I have absolutely no idea where to start with the software. But I will. I'll watch tutorials and I'll read a book I just downloaded from Kindle. And I'll get better black and whites.

This is one of my favorites: Find unusual light, make a picture. Others see the light but it doesn't register with them as something interesting or something of beauty. You do. And when they see your photographs they think you are a genius. Try candle light, cell phone light, lap-top light, camp fire light.

Try this: Break all the rules. Ignore the semi-sacred 1/3 points and put your subject square in the middle of a frame. Ignore balance in the composition. Shoot directly into the sun. Forget about leading lines and level horizons. You get the drift. Now here's the hard part: Make those photos the very best you can.

Hit me with your best shot. Tighten your belt and invite someone to critique your photos. The person should be someone whose photography you admire. And if that person happens to be your spouse...well...use good judgment. Having someone else evaluate your photography is VERY difficult for those of us who believe we know more about what makes a good photo than anyone else.

So...that's my list of surefire ways to improve your photography. Well, surefire might be an overstatement — but they are certainly ideas worth pursuing.

*"John Martin writes a regular photography blog at [www.landscapeandstreet.com](http://www.landscapeandstreet.com). You can get notices of new postings (once every two weeks or so) by sending a request to [jmartin@hemc.net](mailto:jmartin@hemc.net)."*