

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

October 7

Jack MacRae
Mammals of the Region

October 21

Scott Hytone
General Manager
of Calumet Oak Brook
on printing options through Calumet

Non-Competitive Critique

November 4

Chuck Klingsporn
Yellowstone in the
Winter

November 18

Framing
Fred Drury

December 2

Competition

December 16

Christmas Party

Trends in Nature: Changes in DuPage County Wildlife Over a Lifetime

Jack MacRae

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A lecture and PowerPoint presentation that will focus on the wildlife of the Chicago Region including the fascinating changes in predators and prey of the past 50 years. Topics to be covered will be the reasons for the population increase of red tailed hawks, peregrine falcons, cooper's hawks, white tailed deer, and coyotes; the decrease in grey fox, grassland birds, Blanding's turtles, and kestrels; and the verified evidence of wolves, black bears, and mountain lions returning to Illinois over the past 12 years.

Jack has a 33 year career interpreting the natural and cultural history of the Chicago Region. Since 1996 he has been a Naturalist with Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and is currently on staff of Willowbrook Wildlife Center. He has a BA – Biological Sciences from Southern Illinois University and a MA – Management –from Columbia College.

EXHIBITS

Janice Henry

The current exhibit in our space ends on October 31st. What I would like to do for the next exhibit is "Night Photography". If you have night images, I have seen the images on the website trip blogs from Fermi and Horicon Marsh last year and was very impressed by what I saw. Remember "hands of man" does not apply. If you would like to participate send me the title(s) and size(s) of the images by say October 15th. If you would like to participate but don't have a mat and frame, I have two 16 X 20 mats and frames that can be borrowed. All you would need to do is print or have printed an 11 x 14 image. Please mention that you want to borrow the frame and mat when you send the information on your image.

The Westchester Library Show will be taken down on Monday, September 30th. Images will be available for pick up at Mayslake by the first meeting in October on the 7th. We received some nice comments on the show. Also, a judge selected the following as winners of the awards.

1st Place: Gary Saunders "What Big Teeth You Have"

2nd Place: Fred Drury "McDowell Grove"

3rd Place: Marcia Nye "The Perfect Patch"

The judge's notes are as follows:

"Congratulations to all of the Mayslake Nature Study & Photography Club!!!

You have saluted the GLORIES of nature...bees (September is National Honey Bee Month)... butterflies intersecting with flowerheads (sucking nectar)...waterlilies and phalinopsis orchids in their exotic splendor...tall growth "elder trees" ...mountain meadows with meandering paths... frosty woodland "fairylands"... a squirrel's eye view of a tulip (should I nip it off or not?)...

You have celebrated the 4 seasons and grandeur of our natural world!!!

Bravo...well done."

"1st Place: Gary Saunders "What Big Teeth You Have" (wolves)

I am a member of Sierra Club and recent emails have focused on the plight of our wolf population in the USA...like the bison in our western states, these "icons of the wild" are feeling the encroachment of man and over development of natural habitats/many wolves are being shot and poisoned.

This trio of wolves is "discussing" a matter of great concern. The alpha is stating his case. It is a winter landscape so their textural silhouettes are a dominant triangular composition...primal energy displayed.

Perhaps you photographed them at Yosemite? Your love of the majestic mountains was shared by John Muir. I lived in Salzburg, Austria during the summer of 1974 (while working on 9 MFA credits in painting and art history at Salzburg College) and can appreciate the changing light patterns on the alpine range.

Well done!"

"2nd Place: Fred Drury "McDowell Grove"

This park is a DuPage County treasure! The Naperville Heritage Society is offering renovation tours of this site along the DuPage River. My grandpa, Arthur Miller, was a well known stonemason and did the CCC work on the shelters at McDowell Grove (Conservation Corps).

Your strong value contrasts and arching tree canopy provide a "window" to the lily pads on the water"...the light coming through the leaves provides a "lacelike texture".

Well done!"

3rd Place: Marcia Nye
“The Perfect Patch”

Our yard is registered with the National Wildlife Federation/Illinois Audubon Society (Bird & Butterfly Refuge Program)/the Conservation Foundation/and Wild Ones (native plant propagators).

This little cowbird (?) is thankful for her “sunflower buffet”/ your circular composition moves from focal point bird-to seedhead-to seedhead.

Very nice work!”

The judge for the show was Carolyn Finzer.



The Perfect Perch
Marcia Nye

Printing and CACCA
The October Perspective

Chuck Klingsporn

We have now had our first competition of the year and it is time, at least for me, to think about the CACCA competition year that starts on October 11. We have lots of strong images from September 16; I look forward to reporting on our member success at upcoming meetings and in the next issue of Focus.

There is one logistical issue that popped up at our first competition that the Competition committee and I could use some help on. Members now have the option to buy clear protective bags for their prints and many, but not all, are using these bags. ***For those of you who enter print competition and use the protective bags, Please write/print your name somewhere on the outside of the bag with a felt tip marker so we can pair up the bags with entrants.*** It will help those who run the local print competition and it will make it much more likely that you will get your bags returned to you. Thanks for your help!

Peck Farm

September 1, 2013

Gail Chastain

It was a late Sunday afternoon when Maylakers met at Peck Farm for a Photo Outing. With 364 acres of blooming Prairie, a large lake, old barns and even an indoor Butterfly Exhibit, there was lots for everyone to photograph. It was a steamy afternoon, but Mayslakers pushed through the sweat as they walked the many trails. The Photo Challenge was “back lighting” and with the late afternoon sun, subjects were not hard to find.

After dinner at a Chicagoland favorite, Portillo’s, we traveled back to Peck Farm to wait for the sunset. Our wait was rewarded BIG TIME! As the sun was going down, a summer storm was coming in. The front seemed to be in three different areas, almost surrounding us, and providing us with massive, majestic clouds lit up by the setting sun. It was hard to leave, but we knew we must, as we saw and heard the storm’s fireworks heading our way!!

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



Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me!!

Steve Baginski



Grass Seeds

Sheila Newenham



Bev Olson



White Peacock

Suzanne Zumstein

Lincoln Marsh

September 23, 2013

Gail Chastain

It was a group of 13 Mayslakers that met on a Monday morning at Lincoln Marsh in Wheaton for a late summer Photo Outing. The Marsh is 146 acres of diversity, with several different habitats. Woods, Marsh, Birds, Cattails and late summer vegetation, with a warm sunny day, were there to welcome us. Afterwards we all headed out to breakfast for good food and even better socialization.

The Photo Challenge for this outing was to “name your own.” For those that wanted, the challenge was to challenge yourself, and go past your usual way of photographing. Try something different. That could be with the camera, lens, style, or even with post-processing.

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



Marcia Nye



Diane Hamernik



Steve Baginski



Suaznne Zumstein