

Here Comes the CACCA Season Chuck Klingsporn

As we have many new members I thought it might be useful to provide a brief description of what CACCA is and does. (It probably wouldn't hurt us longer term members to be reminded as well.) CACCA is the Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association and it does many things for us as one of it's 30 plus member clubs. Most of them are competition and teaching related. Most immediate is the monthly schedule that they operate for InterClub competition and, (it is a very big and) periodic individual competitions.

First to InterClub competition. The competitions we participate in are, Digital Images and Small Color Prints. The winning entries in our four competitions this year will be entered in the monthly CACCA contests in their year, October through May. For most of our members, the class that you compete in at Mayslake will be the same class in CACCA. So, for example, if you receive an Award or Honorable Mention in our Class B September competition, your image will be entered in Class B at CACCA in either October or November. (Subject to CACCA rules). Our November 17 competition will feed into the CACCA December and January competitions and so forth.

In addition to InterClub competitions, CACCA also operates a number of Individual competitions during the year, These are open to all members of CACCA clubs and can be entered without going through the InterClub process. There are two I want to highlight specifically this month. One of these is due to the direct relationship with one our club themes, nature. In each of three months, October, December and February, CACCA holds Individual Nature Prints Competitions. Each person may enter up to 4 images in the standard 14 x 11 small prints format. Here is the URL for CACCA, <http://www.caccaweb.com>. To enter your individual prints, simply follow CACCA guidelines and get them to me a week before the meeting, always the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Every month of the CACCA year they also have an individual digital competition that is based on images depicting a specific theme. The competition is called 'Special Category DPI'. Strange title but really an easy contest. The theme for the first contest is, 'Symmetry'. You decide how to interpret the title and may enter up to 4 images for each contest. To get all of the entry details go to our Mayslake Yahoo site and look for an entry on Sept. 3 by Terry Ferguson, Chairman of this event. The email title is '2014-2015 Special Category DPI. Try it, your creativity and photography will benefit.



Here is a great opportunity to get more involved with Mayslake!

The position of social chairman is still vacant. This position involves coordinating and setting up the refreshments for the meetings. It also includes planning the Holiday party and the Annual Members' Night, and attending the Executive Board meetings throughout the year. A full description is available on the website.

The duties of the position may be shared with a committee if several members would like to help out, but cannot attend every meeting. The refreshment list for the year is already in place, so that part of it would only involve sending a quick email reminder to the member who is bringing the refreshments.

Having refreshments and drinks for the meetings provides a welcoming and congenial atmosphere, and it would unfortunate to forgo that. It doesn't take much time at the meetings, and would continue a nice club tradition. Please see Barbara Dunn if interested.

EXHIBITS

Janice Henry

The current exhibit in our space “Water” is on display until the end of October. So there is still time to view the work of your fellow Mayslakers.

The theme of the next exhibit, which starts in November and runs until the end of January will be “Colors of Nature”. This can be fall colors like red or yellow or other colors like you see in spring or summer.

Remember, “hands of man” does not apply to exhibits so you can have fences, bridges, etc in your image. I will need the following information from you if you would like to participate.

- Title
- Size
- If you want to sell the image
- Price if you do want to sell

Send an email to me at jnhenr@att.net with that information.

If you would like to participate with an image from the print competition, let me know. I have two frames that can be borrowed. Just let me know. These are first come, first served as there are only two.

The images need to have a wire attached about 1/3 of the way down and the sharp ends of the wire wrapped in tape (blue painters tape works well for this). This protects the walls of the Mayslake building. Also attach a label to the back with the title and your name.

Also please note that saw tooth hangers do not work well with our hanging system. If you can avoid using a frame with saw tooth hangers it would be appreciated.

The drop off date is by October 28th at the Mayslake facility during normal business hours.

I look forward to hearing from you with your “Colors of Nature” images.



Mayslake Logo

Barbar Dunn

The new Mayslake logo appears at the top of this issue of the “Focus.” It was designed with input from Fran Piepenbrink, Steve Baginski, and Barbara Dunn. You may have already noticed it on the revised Competition Rules, and will be seeing more of it in the future!

Photography is_____.

The Art Institute of Chicago is inviting you to fill in the blank. A season of events celebrating photography at the Art Institute of Chicago will begin on September 18 with the opening of Sarah Charlesworth: Stills and continue with other live and online events and exhibitions until May of 2015. The full nine month celebration commemorates the Fortieth Anniversary of the establishment of the Department of Photography at the Art Institute. To learn more visit artic.edu/photography-is.

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve
Sunday August 10, 2014
Hosted by Atala Toy

What a great day for a walk around this preserve, not too hot and not too cold. Mayslakers came ready for a wonderful morning of photography at LeRoy Oakes, hosted by Atala.

LeRoy Oakes in St. Charles, is 439 acres with prairie, a meandering creek, woodlands and historic buildings. Also with more than 130 feet of elevation difference from the crest to the creek, landscape opportunities, as well as macro were in abundance. There was just something for everyone on this day.

Afterward Atala took us to this wonderful quaint restaurant for Brunch. It was good food and great company.

The Photo and Nature Challenge, were one in the same for this Outing. The Challenge was to find the Gray-headed Coneflower and take a great shot! For some it meant they had to make sure they knew what this flower looked like. But luckily for us all, on this day, it was not hard to find!

Thanks Atala for a wonderful visit to LeRoy Oakes.

To see all the images from this outing, be sure to visit the Mayslake Website.



Karin Grunow



Noriko Buckles



Atala Toy



Janice Henry



Diane Hamernik



Steve Bartos

living with cell phones: an essay.

I've been toying with this subject for a long time. It's been troubling to me because I could see the efforts of serious photographers being diluted by the millions of cell phone images made every day. I guess I had a personal fear that my photography would be less appreciated, less valued if anyone with a mobile phone could do it. But that has changed. Here's what is going on.

Mobile phone photography is BIG. Consider these facts from *The TomiAhonel Almanac* (2013 Edition):

Eighty-three percent of all phones in use are camera phones.

That means that 4.4 billion little cameras are carried everyday and are connected to the communications networks.

Ahonen says that "more than 90% of all humans who have ever taken a picture, have only done so on a camera phone."

The camera equipped phones are eating into the world of digital photography. There is a Lightroom app for your iPhone. There are at least seventy-nine groups on Google+ that deal with mobile photography. Flickr says that photos uploaded from iPhone 4x's surpass (in volume) those from the Cannon Power Shot series.

Why is this so? Well, for one thing, the cameras in phones are getting better and better. Lenses are sharper. There is high capacity storage on board. And Nokia makes a 40 megapixel camera phone for goodness sakes. Secondly, a cell phone is convenient — it's there when you need/want to make a photo or when you want to show off pictures of the grandkids.

All that is great but I'm convinced that the One-Big-Reason is this: A camera phone is a phone — and a phone is connected to every other phone in the world. An image you make on your iPhone can be presented to everyone you know in seconds — anywhere in the world — and on almost any social media. In my opinion, that is the primary mover behind the explosive growth in the use of mobile phone cameras.

So...where am I going with this? I have talked myself out of the feeling that mobile phone cameras are a threat to serious photography.

This is not to say that some serious photography is not made with mobile phones. Indeed, a massive amount of good photography is made using mobile phone cameras. In fact, mobile phone photography is getting some pretty high level recognition. For example, Carole Kropscot, who writes the Just for Beginners column in the Photographic Society of America's Journal (Hint: Join PSA to get access to this excellent photography publication.) wrote recently that her column will increasingly address photographic practices with these small cameras. It is a recognition that people will start making images with their cell phones and then progress to devices with more controls and possibilities as they strive for higher quality.

But I digress. My personal coming-to-grips with this issue and the acceptance of mobile phone photography as a good and legitimate genre of photography was done with these things in mind:

We are probably looking at this with the same blinders we had on when digital imaging hit the scene and when point-and-shoot cameras became the rage.

Artistic expression is valuable however it is done. This is true even though a great portion of this type of photography is more for documentary purposes than for artistic endeavors.

It really IS an easy way to communicate an image.

I, however, will continue to make the best images I can with the best equipment I can afford.

And last, I think it is a bit of intellectual snobbery to look down my nose at those who don't really care to make high quality photographs. My granddaughter is having FUN making goofy photos and sharing them with her friends. Doesn't that count?

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