

FOCUS



Newsletter of the Mayslake Nature Study and Photography Club
Hosted by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
www.naturecameraclub.com

October 3rd

Up Coming Programs

September 5 - No Meeting (holiday)

September 19 - Competition

October 3 – Urban Coyote Project

The Urban Coyote Project

Presented by Ashley Wurth

Coyotes continue to increase in population size and thrive in urban environments. As humans and wildlife increasingly come into contact with each other, it is important to monitor and understand both human and wildlife behavior to prevent conflict. Through the Cook County Coyote Project and our various partners, we have been monitoring and researching coyotes for the past 16 years. Throughout this time we have learned about how coyotes behave in developed areas, including how they reproduce, find food, move, and avoid human activity. Recently, we have started tracking coyotes within the city limits of Chicago, along with coyotes in the suburbs. Through research, we can understand how to peacefully and safely coexist with coyotes and other wildlife. This presentation will provide a brief overview of some of the most important findings as well as updates on our most recent work that relates to coyotes and people.

Ashley Wurth is a doctoral fellow in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University



First Competition of the Year

Monday, September 19th

Our next meeting will be a Club competition. Even if you are not submitting images, please attend as this is a great opportunity to view images of your fellow members. Also, the critique portion of the evening includes discussion of photo techniques.

For those of you submitting images, digital entries must be submitted to the competition mailbox **competition@mlnpc.com** - by Sunday September 11th. Please see the article in this newsletter about the sizing of digital images for competition.

Print entries can be submitted on the night of the competition or can be dropped off at the Mayslake business office any time before the competition date. Mounting boards for print images are on sale at the regular club meetings.

The forms for each competition image, digital and prints, are submitted on the night of the competition. If you cannot attend the competition, please send them with a friend on that night.

Forms will not be able to be emailed ahead of time, this is a change in procedure this year.

Please hand in prints and paperwork in by 6:45 pm so that committee members can get everything organized and ready to go at 7 pm.

There are no changes to the any of the competition guidelines and forms for the 2016 - 2017 competition year. These are posted on the Club website. If you have a question about whether an image meets the guidelines, it is best to ask before you submit. You can send a copy of the image to Ron Szymczak (ronald.szymczak@sbcglobal.net) for guidance.

If you have not submitted images in competition before, you should submit your images in Class B. Class standings are the same as last year; if you have a question about your class standing, please email Ron.

This year, on competition night, we will also continue the format of judging images first and then allowing time after the judging for members to request judges' comments on images in the competition. Submitting either prints or digital images in competition is a way to determine how your photography is viewed by others - in this case a panel of 3 members and outside judges. In the critique session, you will learn what the judges saw as strong points in an image and also hear their suggestions on techniques to enhance the image.

Thank you!

A big Thank You to Fred Drury for getting the competition hardware fixed this summer. With the replacement of one of the keypads, we are set for the upcoming competition year.

CACCA Judge Training

CACCA is offering another training session for CACCA members. This will be a repeat of the version recently completed in Palos Heights. This one will be held in Schaumburg. If there remains enough interest, we may offer this again in the far north area.

This “training” is an attempt to get more uniformity and understanding of judging within CACCA clubs. This session is open to all CACCA club members, whether a current judge or not. While we encourage current judges to attend, we are also looking to get more members interested in helping with judging. Judges who are currently on the Judges List who attend will be marked as having received this refresher course on the List.

Attendance is not mandatory, but encouraged. Attendees do not have to respond to attend.

Hosting club is Schaumburg Area Photographic Society

Schaumburg Community Recreation Center (CRC)
505 N Springinsguth,
Schaumburg, IL 60194
(Southeast corner of Bode & Springinsguth)

Non-Competitive Critique

August 15, 2016

Fred Drury, Hank Erdmann, and Alan Cox were the evaluators at the Non-Competitive Critique meeting on August 15th. They gave us great feedback on both the suggestions for improvement and the positive qualities of each image, not just in terms of competition, but in terms of what makes an impactful, well executed composition. Thank you to the judges, and to the Competition Committee of Ron Szymczak, Lee Balgemann, and Mike Lake for arranging the evening.

OCTOBER OUTINGS

October 1st, Fabyan Forest Preserve, Geneva IL

Where: Fabyan Forest Preserve in Geneva, Ill. West side.

First right hand turn off of Rte 31 north of Fabyan Parkway.

Follow road to parking and bathrooms. We will convene there.

When: 8:00 am

Photo ops:

* Colonel Fabyan villa remodeled by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1908.

* Japanese garden fully restored. Photos are not permitted in the garden but better viewed from outside a short fence.

* Many flower gardens and native plants.

* The park is divided by the Fox river so there are lots of water fowl, shore birds and migratory warblers.

* An authentic working dutch windmill from 1877 moved and rebuilt in 1914 on the property. Tours 1-4 pm.

* This time of the year there should be a lot of fall colors and not uncommon to have eagles and osprey in the area.

Lunch: Harner's restaurant and bakery in North Aurora.

Hosted by John Janunas

October 1st, Ottawa IL

If you've wanted to go on one of Scott Kelby's WorldWide PhotoWalks but haven't been able to decide which one to join I can suggest one. I've volunteered (Yikes!) to lead a walk in Ottawa, Illinois on Saturday, October 1st. I'd love to have some familiar faces join the walk. I pass through Ottawa, the town along the Illinois River on the way to Starved Rock, a number of times through the year. I see many intriguing things as I pass through town - statues, murals, architecture - which would make wonderful images. I would like to share an opportunity to capture Ottawa with other photographers and see what they see - which I didn't notice. I just sent my application to lead the walk a day ago so if you go out to the Find a Walk Near You page:

<http://worldwidewalk.com/locations/> it may not be available for a few more days. But keep checking. More details will be on the WorldWide PhotoWalk website once I'm approved. Hope you will join me - we'll go to lunch after the walk :)

Fran Piepenbrink



Bill Dixon



Fran Piepenbrink

***Daybreak Sanctuary
Outing***

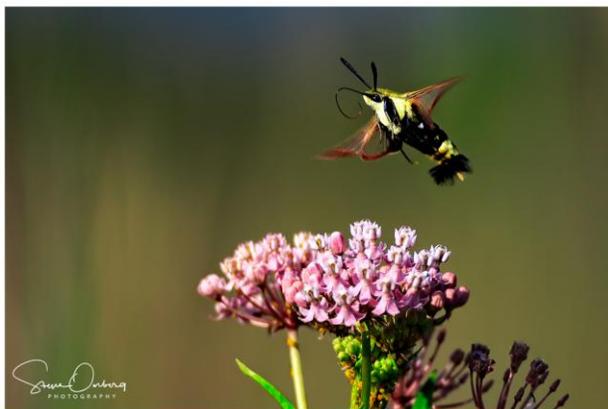
Ten Mayslakers enjoyed the beautiful weather at Daybreak Sanctuary on August 7. Richard and Susan Day hosted us, providing shooting tips, cool drinks, and a shady place to sit for a break from shooting. There were many subjects to shoot, from Monarch caterpillars to dragonflies to hummingbirds to butterflies. A great time was had by all as we took advantage of the weather and camaraderie.



Karin Grunow



Gail Chastain



Steve Ornberg



Barbara Dunn



Steve Baginski



Fred Drury



JoAnn Barnes



Noriko Buckles

WHY COMPETE

Fred Drury

When you joined our Mayslake Nature Study and Camera Club it was probably for one or more of several reasons. Amongst them I expect was a desire to learn more about nature photography, and in the process to improve your photographic skills. For most of us this has been an ongoing process over many years. Very few of us joined in order to compete; however I submit to you that competition is an integral part of the process of improving your photographic skills. Following are 10 reasons why I believe that members should compete:

10 reasons why I believe that members should compete:

1. Competition is the surest way for you evaluate your progress as a photographer. For this reason it's best to start as soon as you join your photo club; the earlier the better.
2. Competition forces you to work on your photo collection. You need to look at the images and organize them in a preferred manner, identifying the best shots of each subject, and ultimately those superior images you'd like to submit into competition.
3. Competition teaches you how to critically evaluate your photographs. Most of us 'like' our own photographs. However, most of us and especially beginners, lack the knowledge and experience to critically evaluate our own photographs; that knowledge and experience comes only with 'time on the job'.
4. Competition teaches you to look for the 'oops', and eliminate it from the view finder before you take the shot.
5. Competition teaches you composition. There have been many, many books written on the subject of composition and it's pretty clear that 'no one size fits all'. 'Good' composition for a landscape is different from 'good' composition for a macro shot.
6. Judge's comments can guide you towards what you can do to improve your photographs. From a judge's perspective every image has some merit and should be so recognized. Almost every image has defects. The judge's job is to see both the merits and the defects. His comments should guide the maker towards the simpler corrections which the maker could use to reduce the defects and thereby improve the photograph.
7. Competition will encourage you to spend more time with your photo subject. My good friend Willard Clay is extraordinarily critical in selecting photo subjects and not infrequently will take no single photograph on an outing. He is constantly evaluating opportunities and if his critical eye does not find one, so be it! He has long since learned that you can't make a good meal with inadequate ingredients. On the other hand, when he finds a composition that meets his high standards he'll work that subject as long as it takes to make sure that he's captured the scene to his satisfaction.
8. Competition does require that you 'learn the rules' at your club. Most clubs place limits on what you can do in post processing to modify an image. At Mayslake we say you 'cannot change the fundamental story of the image' meaning that you cannot create a 'composite' by adding subject matter from another image. However, this leaves great latitude for both appealing and creative image-optimization.
9. Competition also requires that you learn the procedures for submitting images. Understandably the procedure for submitting 'prints' is different from that for submitting 'digital' images. The procedures are well documented and pretty straight forward, but most of us found following those procedures for the first time 'challenging'. The good news is that the procedures don't change and so the second and third times, the process is much simpler.
10. Competition will invariably improve your photography

I'm sure readers, especially those with competition experience, can suggest additional reasons for competing. Please pass along your suggestions to me at: fred@marklandimaging.com.

Sizing Digital Images for Competition

For our competitions, we use special software that displays the images and records scoring. This software has limitations on image size. For this reason, the Club has provided guidelines for sizing which are included as part of the overall Competition Guidelines.

For competition, the software limit on image height is **768 pixels**. The limit on image width is **1024 pixels**. Your image cannot exceed either of these sizes. If it does exceed either the height or width limits, the display on the projection screen will cut off either the top and bottom or the sides of the image. Should this happen, the image will be removed from the competition and not judged. The image can be resized and submitted in a later competition.

To avoid this situation, please be sure to check sizing before your image is submitted. Both Windows and Apple have applications that show image sizing. Most photo editing software has methods to resize images. Our guidelines provide information on how to do sizing in Photoshop and Lightroom as these are the two most common photo editing applications. Both of these applications provide sizing in pixels.

Other applications may provide sizing as “small,” “medium” or “large.” This sizing may not be accurate enough to meet the competition sizing guidelines. If you use this method, check the overall image size in pixels and determine if it will meet the guidelines. You can post a question on the Mayslake Yahoo group to see if any members have experience with the editing software you are using.

One common mistake is using the option to size an image based on the “longest side” or “shortest side.” This sizing option may not work as it only adjusts the size of one parameter to the display guideline limit (height or width). This is especially problematic if your image is close to square or if it is panoramic. For example, you have cropped an image to 2300 pixels high by 2800 pixels wide. If you size the image to 1024 pixels on the longest side, the width will meet the 1024 pixels display guideline for width but the height will become 840 pixels which exceeds the display limit of 768 pixels. When displayed, the top and bottom of the image would be cut off.

Don't be discouraged if this seems complicated at first. Once you have your competition workflow in place, it will be much easier. If you are using Photoshop or Lightroom, the guidelines on the website will help you.

Following is the current listing of Nature Photography classes coming up this fall and winter as a part of Mayslake's Photography program.

Note: For more information about the courses and instructors, go to the DuPage County Forest Preserve website (<http://www.dupageforest.com>), choose the 'About Us' tab and click on 'Someone to Know'.

Abstracts and Photo Impressionism with Hank Erdmann

Learn techniques to create abstract and impressionistic photos at this five-part class, which will cover contrast, pattern and texture; simplification and isolation; select and soft focus; multiple exposures; layering and montage; movement of image and camera; special effects software; and exposure and composition. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Classroom Sessions: Tuesdays, Sept. 13, 20 and 27, 7 – 10 p.m. **Field Trips:** Saturdays, Sept. 17 and 24, 8 – 11 a.m. Locations TBD at Sept. 13 class.

Introduction to Photo Composition 8290 with Willard Clay

Learn the basic tools of photographic composition and how to create the illusion of three-dimensionality, compose a photograph in the field and finish a composition at this five-part class. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566. **Classroom Sessions:** Thursdays, Oct. 13, 20 and 27, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. **Field Trips:** Saturdays, Oct. 15 and 22, Locations and times TBD at Oct. 13 class.

Introduction to Nature Photography 8312 with Hank Erdmann

Gain an understanding of natural light, basic computer skills and camera settings, exposure, depth-of-field and more at this five-part class. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566. **Classroom Sessions:** Tuesdays, Oct. 18, 25 and Nov. 1, 7 – 10 p.m. **Field Trips:** Saturdays, Oct. 22 and 29, 8 – 11 a.m. Locations TBD at Oct. 18 class.

Digital Photography I 8335 with Fred Drury

Learn about the important features of digital cameras and the aesthetics of great images at this five-part class. A primary focus of this course is to help you learn to use your camera's creative modes: Aperture Priority, Shutter Priority and Manual. Weekly shooting assignments will build upon one another and exercise your creative skills. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person plus an additional \$20 supply fee due on the first day of class. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566. Tuesdays, Oct. 25 – Nov. 22, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Building a Photo Book 8313 with Chris Aquino

So you have hundreds of images. Now what? In this four-part class, students will be introduced to different print-on-demand services and techniques for creating a photo book including focusing the topic, selecting pictures, adding text, and the technical aspects needed to complete a project. Ages 18 and up. \$120 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566. Wednesdays, Oct. 26 – Nov. 16, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Intermediate Photo Composition 8294 with Willard Clay

Explore curves, lines, circles and other power shapes; point and counterpoint contrasts; and ways to capture the decisive moment at this five-part class. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566. **Classroom Sessions:** Thursdays, Nov. 3, 10 and 17, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. **Field Trips:** Saturday, Nov. 5 and 12, Locations and times TBD at Nov. 3 class.

Photography Excursion: Fall Colors at Fullersburg Woods 8328

Bring your camera phone, point-and-shoot or SLR and join a photography instructor and Naturalist as you explore fall colors at Fullersburg Woods. Participants will learn about the nature in the preserve and gain useful tips to capture beautiful photographs. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566. Saturday, Nov. 5, 8 – 10 a.m.

Digital Photography Fundamentals II with Fred Drury

This class builds on the foundations of Digital Photo Fundamentals I. Students create images using their cameras' creative modes. Each week will address a new aspect of digital photography and its

relationship to the computer, including why you should shoot RAW, expose to the right (ETTR), Color Management, flash basics, HDR, and an introduction to image editing software. Prerequisite: Digital Photo Fundamentals I or equivalent. \$150 plus \$20 supply due on the first day of class. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566. Tuesdays, Dec. 6, 13, 20 and Jan. 3, 10, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Lightroom I with by Fred Drury

Learn about Adobe's Lightroom software, which allows you to enhance and organize digital photos, and work with the program's Library module and partway through its Develop module at this five-part class on Thursdays. **Lightroom CC** will be used for demonstrations; however anyone using **Lightroom 5, or 6** will gain full value from the class. I strongly recommend you take both Lightroom I and Lightroom II Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person plus an additional \$20 supply fee due on the first day of class. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566. Thursdays, Jan. 26 – Feb. 22, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Photography Excursion: Winter Delights at St. James Farm

Bring your camera phone, point-and-shoot or SLR and join a photography instructor and a St. James Farm volunteer as you explore the beauty of winter at St. James Farm. Participants will learn about the nature in the preserve and gain useful tips to capture beautiful photographs. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566. Sunday, Feb. 5, 9– 11 a.m.

Inspiring Images with Chris Aquino and Willard Clay

Why are we drawn to certain images? How do our experiences and personal perspectives determine the images with we and the ones we pass by? In this five-part class on Mondays, go beyond the technical aspects of photography and explore the complex way people choose what to photograph. The class will include in-depth discussion of historic photographers and their processes for making images. Students will be asked to apply this discussion to their own images and link certain experiences and preferences with their own photography. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566. Mondays, Feb. 6 – Mar. 6, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Winter Photography with Hank Erdmann

Learn winter photography techniques and how to dress yourself and your camera for a weather during this five-part class. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566. **Classroom Sessions:** Tuesdays, Feb. 7, 14 and 21, 7 – 10 p.m. **Field Trips:** Saturdays, Feb. 11 and 18, 8 – 11 a.m. Locations TBD at Feb. 7 class.

Lightroom II with Fred Drury

This class continues from Lightroom I with the balance of the Develop module as well as techniques for integrating Lightroom with Photoshop. The course concludes with an examination of the Print module. Lightroom I or equivalent required. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person plus an additional \$20 supply fee due on the first day of class. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566. Thursdays, Mar. 16 – Apr. 13, Thursdays 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Digital Photography I 8335 with Fred Drury

Learn about the important features of digital cameras and the aesthetics of great images at this five-part class. A primary focus of this course is to help you learn to use your camera's creative modes: Aperture Priority, Shutter Priority and Manual. Weekly shooting assignments will build upon one another and exercise your creative skills. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person plus an additional \$20 supply fee due on the first day of class. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566. Wednesdays, Apr. 5 – May 3, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Digital Photography Fundamentals II with Fred Drury

This class builds on the foundations of Digital Photo Fundamentals I. Students create images using their cameras' creative modes. Each week will address a new aspect of digital photography and its relationship to the computer, including why you should shoot RAW, expose to the right (ETTR), Color Management, flash basics, HDR, and an introduction to image editing software. Prerequisite: Digital Photo Fundamentals I or equivalent. \$150 plus \$20 supply due on the first day of class. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566. Wednesdays, May 10 – June 7, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.