

The SPPC

Perspective



March 2024

*Photo by
Kristin
Grudzien*

Highlights in this issue...

- About the Cover Image
- Focus Topics
- Photo Tips & Techniques
- South Dakota Trip by Tom Harpootlian
- Current & Upcoming Events
- & Much More...

Table of Contents

Page 1	2024 Focus Topics
Page 2	About the Cover Image
Page 2	Pay SPPC Membership Online
Page 3	SPPC 2024 Holiday Kickoff
Page 4	End Of Year Banquet
Page 7	Mike Moats Mini Macro Boot Camp
Page 8	String Theory Fun Shoot
Page 9	South Dakota Trip
Page 11	Photo Tips
Page 12	GDCCC Update
Page 13	SPPC Activities and Events

SPPC Members,

Currently, we are having meetings in person at Seven Ponds Nature Center on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month.

Keep checking the [7 Ponds Photography Club Website](#) for updates on upcoming meetings.

3-15-2024 – Speaker Paul Wakabayashi - Wildlife – “[Wildlife photography in the Americas - Three different approaches](#)”

3-16-2024 - [SPPC Creative Macro Photography with Color and Oils](#) by LeeAnn McLane Goetz *Cost \$15

03-27-2024 - [Glass Blowing Fun Shoot](#) – 1-4pm @ The Glass Academy - Trip leader Jim Lewis

4-19-2024 Speaker John Gill - "[Photographing the US from an RV](#)"

04-27-2024 [SPPC Kensington Park Fun Shoot](#) – Trip leader: Germaine Finley



SPPC is looking for members to help in the following areas:

- ✓ **Judge our monthly GDCCC competitions.**
- ✓ **Newsletter Contributions** – submit articles on trips, techniques or product/gear reviews to germaine.sppc@yahoo.com
- ✓ **Bring individually wrapped snacks.**
- ✓ **Setting up or taking down tables and chairs.**
- ✓ **Lead a photo outing, or fun shoot.**

Email 7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com to volunteer



Focus Topics – 2024

After receiving feedback from the club requesting more frequent Focus Topic reviews, there has been a change.

For 2024 Focus Topics will be reviewed at the 1st Friday Competition Meeting. All focus topic images need to be uploaded to spnc.photoclubservices.com

Images should be entered via our website in Focus Topics. Use tab at top of page {competitions} (Submit Image to Competition) {Focus Topic}

Be sure to include the Focus Topic in the image title – ie *Edsel Ford House – Old Buildings*

Month	Due	Topic
January	1/3/2024	November 2023 Color Theory and December 2023 Zoom Burst and/or light painting
February	1/31/2024	Abstract
March	2/28/2024	Good for a Giggle
April	4/3/2024	Old Buildings
May	5/1/2024	Sunrise /Sunset
June	6/5/2024	Reflections
July	7/3/2024	Amphibians/Reptiles/Insects
August	7/31/2024	Lake/Water/River
September	9/4/2024	Vehicles
October	10/2/2024	Birds
November	10/30/2024	Dogs/Cats/Horses



2024 SPPC Membership Dues - Due 5-1-2024

Pay 2024 dues early (**before 4/19**) to get 1 free Raffle ticket to the [Mike Moats Giveaway Drawing](#) on 4-19-2024 or Buy tickets @ \$5 each at one of the club meetings prior to the drawing.

New and Returning membership:

SPPC dues are \$20 for one member and \$30 for a family or two living at the same address.

Pay online: Pay Seven Ponds Photo Club Membership

Or Pay at a meeting: Please put due payment in an envelope with member names and emails on it and any address correction Seven Ponds Photo Club Membership Application



About the cover photo

Congratulations to Kristin Grudzien for taking this beautiful shot from the **String Theory Macro Shoot** for the March cover image. Kristin said she cropped the image and did some smart photo fix (Corel Paint Shop Pro) and finally sharpened the image.

Image details = Sony ILCE-6300 1/8 sec. F5.6 36mm ISO 100

There were many variations on the setup and Kris shared her version on our Shared Images page, grabbing the attention of the editor. Nice job!

If you are interested, LeeAnn might have a few leftover kits for sale. \$15 for the kit including the waterproof, multicolored puck light that we found can be used for so much more.

New Members

Please welcome new member:

Jan Armstrong Rose Marie Attilio

Welcome to the club!



Pay SPPC Membership Online

We have received a few questions on how to pay online. If you are unsure, checkout the following:

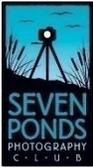
On the Seven Ponds website click on the [Pay Online](#) link. Then you will see the following and click on the button

Seven Ponds Photo Club Membership

05/01/2021 12:05 AM - 04/02/2023 11:55 PM ET
[Click here to register online](#)

It will bring you to your existing account with the Seven Ponds Nature Center. If you don't have one, create one or continue as a guest and fill out the required name, address, etc. fields. You will end up with a screen to check your info before pressing the **Complete Registration** button to proceed to the payment screen.

Press **Submit** and you will get a confirmation email



January 19th, 2024 – SPPC 2024 Holiday Kickoff



We had a great turnout for the Holiday Kickoff party. We had a delicious gourmet dinner catered by [Ankley Farms Catering](#) including:

- Garden Salad Choice of Dressing
- Oven-Baked Chicken
- Vegetable Lasagna
- Red Skin Potatoes
- Broccoli, Cauliflower Carrot Medley
- Coffee, Tea, Lemonade plus assorted desserts



LeeAnn setting up and photographing the raffle prizes.

After dinner, we had announcements for the year and raffle prize drawings ranging from cleaning kits, a camera grip, a small flexible tripod, a light diffuser umbrella, a large camera backpack, smaller equipment bags, atmospheric smoke, a cell phone face tracker, hats and more. Everyone got something in the end.

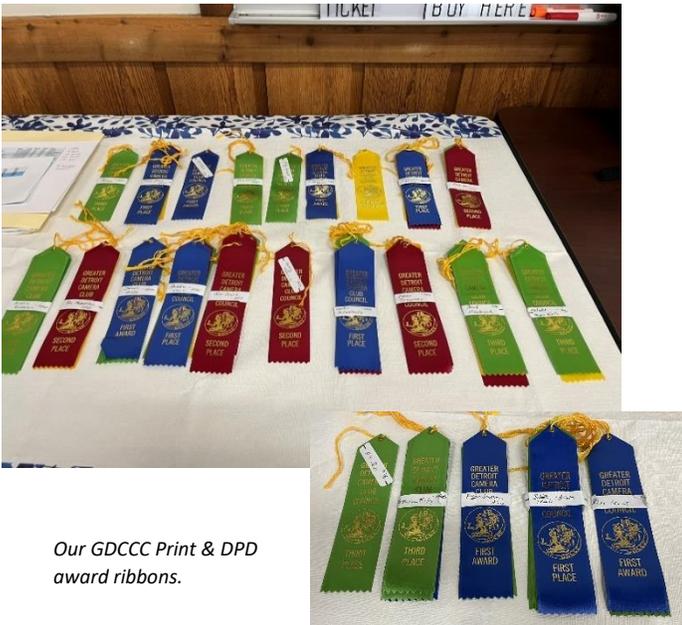


One of Tina's beautiful table decorations

The tables were beautifully decorated with a New Year theme by Tina Daniels and there were prints around the room by club members for all to enjoy looking at and discussing.



The GDCCC Monthly Competition award ribbons were handed out to the club members at the banquet.



Our GDCCC Print & DPD award ribbons.

GDCCC DPD 2023

9 – 1st Place 17 – 2nd Place
26 – 3rd Place 19 – Honorable Mentions

GDCCC Print 2023

4 – 1st Place 2 – 2nd Place
11 – 3rd Place 1 – Honorable Mention

LeeAnn put together a nice slide [presentation](#) that highlighted all the club events, presentations, trips, and workshops we did and all the GDCCC Monthly award winning images. The link is also on our [SPPC website](#).

Congratulations to everyone!!!

2023 DPD Move Ups Valid for 2024

- Jim Lewis moved up to Salon in Color General
- Melody Munro-Wolfe moved up to Advanced in Color General
- Roman Tornopilsky moved up to Advanced in Color General
- Tom Harpootlian moved up to Advanced in Monochrome
- Jim Lewis moved up to Salon in Monochrome

- LeeAnn McLaneGoetz moved up to Star in Nature

2023 Print Move Ups Valid for 2024

- Bobbie Lewis moved up to Advanced in Monochrome Print

Congratulations on your advancements and for all those beautiful images that we were able to enjoy in 2023.

Thank you also to Bobbie & Jim Lewis, LeeAnn McLaneGoetz and Tina Daniels for setting up, decorating, coordinating the dinner, and running the Kick-off.



End Of Year Banquet – 1/30/2024

On January 30th the GDCCC had the 2023 End of Year Banquet at the Club Venetian Banquet Center, to celebrate all the 2023 accomplishments of the GDCCC membership. Award winning prints were on display and after a nice lunch was served, we all viewed a [video presentation](#) by Bill Buchanan that showed all the 2023 GDCCC DPD EOY award winners.



Kristin Grudzein, Shannon Hintz, and Germaine Finley were there representing our club and in general, enjoyed a very nice afternoon together.

Seven Ponds Photography Club did very well. Below are the awards that were received by our club:

Monochrome Print



HM Beginner - Bobbie Lewis - *Opening*

Color Creative - Digital



3rd Place Beginner - Kristin Grudzien - *A Pair of Sunday Gloves*



HM Beginner - Elizabeth Davis - *Orchid Face*



HM Beginner - Bobbie Lewis - *Supermarine Spitfire LF Mk. IXe*



HM Beginner – Tina Daniels - *Sassy Daffodil*

Color General – Digital



HM Beginner - Caleb Beers - *Aerial silk and smoke*



HM Beginner - Shannon Hintz - *Begging Eyes*



HM Advanced - Kelly Daniels - *Abstract1*



HM Advanced – Germaine Finley - *Virgin Creek Falls, AK*

Nature – Digital



HM Beginner - Caleb Beers - *Red Breasted Merganser*



HM Beginner – Larry Gohl - *Nemo*



© Roman Tornopilsky

HM Advanced – Roman Tornopilsky - *Cardinal Treats*

Monochrome General – Digital



© Germaine Finley

HM Advanced - Germaine Finley - *Stuttgart Library B&W*



© Germaine Finley

HM Advanced - Germaine Finley - *Macro Leaf Reflection*



© LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

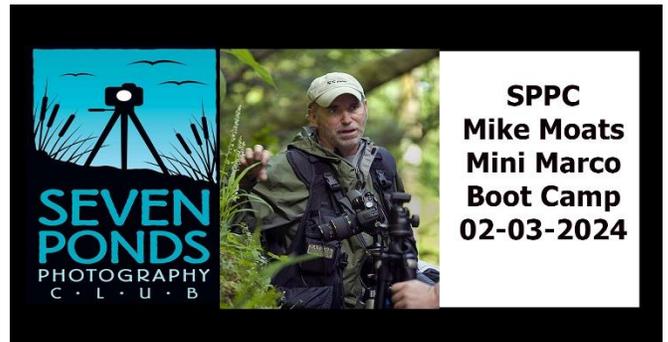


1st Place Salon - LeeAnn McLaneGoetz - *The Sheep Chase*

Congratulations to all!



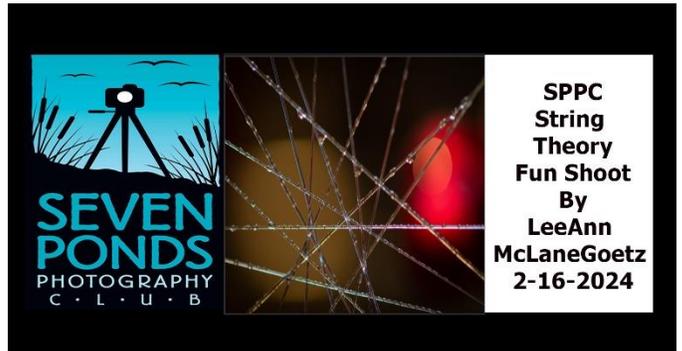
SPPC 3-hour Mini Macro Boot Camp by [Mike Moats](#) – 2-3-2024



Mike Moats, an international award-winning, professional macro photographer, gave a mini macro boot camp on Feb 2nd at Seven Ponds Nature Center for our club. Mike covered equipment used in macro photography, subject matter, composition, and post processing. There was a raffle and Bobbie Lewis won 1 [Mike Moats Macro Club](#) membership.



SPPC String Theory Fun Shoot - 2-16-2024



Mike lecturing to the group



Mike demonstrating a tripod he uses for macro to Bob Ruby with John Brown looking on.



Members walked on the Seven Ponds grounds and applied some of their macro knowledge post lecture.

On our February education night, we held a String Theory Macro Fun Shoot. LeeAnn had put together a nice kit that we received as we signed in. The kit included everything that was needed for the fun shoot, including a cool waterproof multicolored light puck. LeeAnn then gave some basic instructions on depth of field and shutter speed and suggested settings for the macro shoot. We were able to mimic the setup she had, or we could follow the detailed instructions in our kit on how to set up our tables or try one of the suggested variations.



LeeAnn instructing us on how to setup our tabletops.

The kits could be reused at home to try out with different effects. Basically, we were to have our puck light set behind the string “web” with several different reflective surfaces behind that. We could also place a small ornament behind the string so that it could be reflected in the water droplets on the strings. Combinations were limitless and creativity filled the room.

There were a lot of members and a couple guests that night. I am sure many will find more opportunities to use the contents of our macro kit on other tabletop shoots.



Shannon getting lots of droplets on her string – soak it!



A String Theory image taken by Tom Harpootlian



Bill Bolio reading over instructions, getting things right.



Stu studying his setup.



Larry Gohl getting ready.

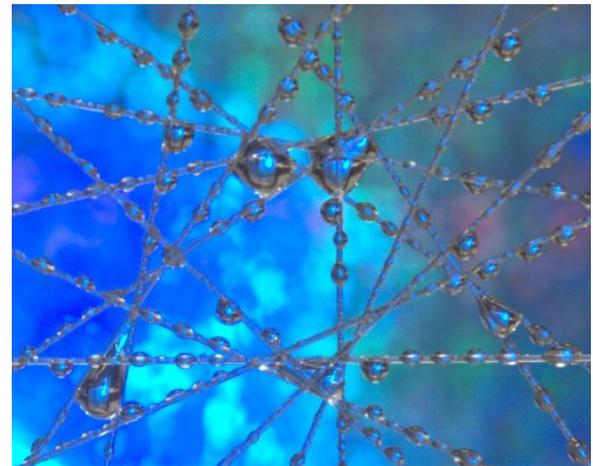


Photo by Kristin Grudzien



South Dakota Trip by Tom Harpootlian



Badlands Photo by Tom Harpootlian

In May 2023 my wife and I took a quick 10-day trip to South Dakota. We visited the Badlands in eastern SD, the Black Hills area in western SD and ventured into Wyoming to see Devil's Tower. We stayed in Wall, SD for 2 nights. Yes, we went to [Wall Drug](#) which has a very interesting back story. They gave away free ice water to weary travelers driving out to see the new Mt Rushmore carving! The rest is history! The Badlands were interesting for their rugged landscape features.



Badlands Photo by Tom Harpootlian

We did see a few mountain goats climbing in the area. Then we drove west to the Black Hills area but the smoke from the Canadian wildfires was fairly heavy and obscured some of our photos. We did see Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park, and a mammoth archaeological dig site.

Custer has a very large buffalo herd that just roams free throughout the 71,000 acres.

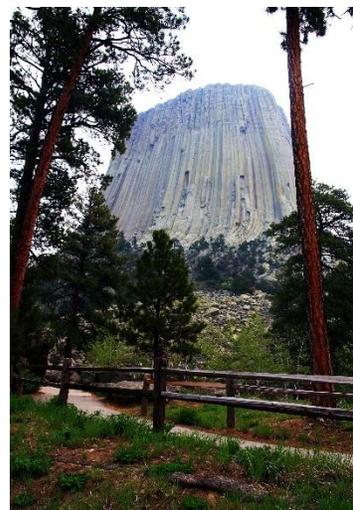


Custer State Park Photo by Tom Harpootlian

The mammoth site was very interesting. Many animals fell into this one watering hole, died, and were covered with dirt. We walked through the dig site and saw many interesting skeletons.



Mammoth archeological site Photo by Tom Harpootlian



Devils Tower Photo by Tom Harpootlian

One day we took a side trip over into Wyoming to visit Devil's Tower National Monument. Another very interesting geologic site. But it was smoky here too, so photos did not come out too crisp.

Because my wife is a quilter on the way home, we stopped in Winterset, Iowa to visit the Iowa Quilt Museum. We discovered that Winterset is in the county seat of Madison County and there were about 7 covered bridges there – hence the movie.



Madison County Covered Bridge Photo by Tom Harpootlian

From there we headed home. The trip was 2,956 miles so I would not suggest doing it as fast as we did. But we included Mother's Day in Chicago with my daughter on the way out and high school graduation for my grandson on the way back.



Photo Tips

Springtime Flower Photography Tips

It's springtime and in Michigan that means (more than likely), cloudy days or even rainy days. That's actually not bad news. Clouds make for a natural diffuser and will give better color for your images.

Raindrops can add interest to flowers as well. Make sure you check the weather though and bring protection for your camera and gear.

Tips –

Get in close. Practice those macro skills and highlight those small details in the flower. Treat the center of the flower like you would eyes on a person. Keep it sharp.

Shoot from different angles. Possibly from the back if there are a lot of details to showcase on the backside of the flower.

Try to isolate your subject against complementary or contrasting colors as your background.

Check out the following video to get more ideas on flower photography and enjoy the flowers.

[Flower Photography Tips for Beginners & Macro Photography Ideas](#)

Of course, Mike Moats has many great macro flower videos available via his macro club [tinylandscapes](#).

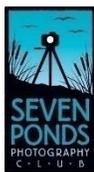


Photo by Mike Moats

New Offering for Club Members

[Order 16" x 20" Prints for Competition from Jim Lewis](#)

1. Price is \$18.00 each includes sales tax.
2. You must size your image to 16" x 20" before uploading.
3. Prints need to be uploaded the Friday before our first meeting of the month.
4. Prints will be available for pick up on the first Friday of the month meeting.
5. Bring protection to transport your prints home.
6. Photos on this site will be deleted on the day of competition.



GDCCC Update

Every club in the GDCCC that participates in competitions takes their turn judging both digital images and also prints. The club that hosts the judging volunteers 3 judges that remotely judge the digital images and will judge in-person for prints. Seven Ponds will judge the March Digital competition and May Print competition. This means that we will sit out and judge and not put images in for the month of March or prints for May.

2024 GDCCC DPD Competition Schedule	
2/19-23/24 (images due 2/16)	Toledo
3/11-15/24 (image due 3/8) judge(online)	Seven Ponds
4/22-26/24 (image due 4/19)	Windsor
9/9-13/24 (image due 9/6)	West Oakland
10/7-11/24 (image due 10/4)	Livonia
10/28-11/1/24(image due 10/25)	Oakland
EOY Competition	Oakland

Print judging is open to club members to come that night as well as guests and other clubs send representatives to the event. It is a fun night and nice for our club members to meet other clubs in addition to seeing the prints in person. This is the only time that some of these prints will be seen as only the winners get displayed on the web. Also, there will be a raffle with 2 great prizes to choose from – a [LowePro Trekker Lite BP 150 AW Backpack](#) or a [Peak Design Slide Lite Camera quick connecting strap system](#).

2024 GDCCC Print Competition Schedule	
3/28/24 (images due 3/24)	West Oakland
4/16/24 (images due 4/12)	Windsor
5/3/24 – Thursday We judge. Everyone welcome to watch	Seven Ponds
8/29/24 (images due 8/25)	Motor City
10/4/24 (images due 10/8)	Grosse Pointe

Special SPPC Fundraiser raffle



SPPC fundraiser
Your choice

We will draw one ticket for your choice of either prize the night of May 23rd, 2024 at the end of the print competition



LowePro Trekker Lite BP 150 AW Backpack

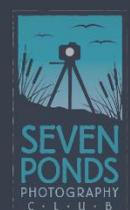


peak design Slide lite

Tickets
1 for 5.00
3 for 10.00
8 for 20.00

*** Need not be present to win ***

Tickets available at our meetings or on the night of May 23rd.



11/12/24 (images due 11/8)	Oakland
EOY Competition	Oakland



SPPC Activities and Events

Upcoming Events

3-1-2024 – 1st Friday Competition & Focus Topic Review Meeting 7-9pm

3-15-2024 – Speaker Paul Wakabayashi – [“Wildlife photography in the Americas - Three different approaches”](#)

3-16-2024 - [SPPC Creative Macro Photography with Color and Oils](#) by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

03-27-2024 - [Glass Blowing Fun Shoot](#) – 1-4pm @ The Glass Academy in Dearborn - Trip leader Jim Lewis

4-19-2024 Speaker John Gill - ["Photographing the US from an RV"](#)

04-27-2024 [SPPC Kensington Park Fun Shoot](#) – Trip leader: Germaine Finley

Upcoming Virtual Workshops

[B&H Event Space \(Free Webinars\)](#)

[Hunts On-Line Classes](#)

Free Training

[f64 Free Photoshop Tutorials](#)

[Photoshop Training Channel Tutorials](#)

Self-guided Trips

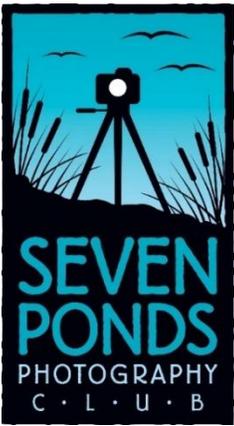
- March 1-3 [Detroit Autorama](#)
- March 1-30 [BUTTERFLIES ARE BLOOMING](#)
- March 8 -April 16 [Midland Mi - Dow Gardens Butterfly House](#)
- March 1-10 [Michigan Horse Expo](#)
- April 5 @8-10pm [FoolMoon, Outdoor Creative Light Festival in Ann Arbor Michigan](#)
- April 8 [Total Solar Eclipse](#)
- May 17 & 18 [Tawas Point Migration Days](#)
- May 24-27 [Balloons over Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth](#)
- June 6 [Michigan Central Station Grand Re-Opening](#)
- June 8 & 9 [2024 Selfridge Open House & Air Show](#)

Go out and have fun!



Air Guitar Roo, Overall winner, and Creatures of the Land winner. Location: Perth, Australia

PHOTO: JASON MOORE, AUSTRALIA - COMEDY WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS 2023



About SPPC

The Seven Ponds Photography Club, formed in 2009, the club was created to promote the advancement of photography as an art. The purpose of the club is to bring together like-minded people who are dedicated to the advancement of their skills by association with other members, through the study of the work of others and through spirited and friendly competition. The club exists to offer opportunities for all to share knowledge within the club and in the community, through exhibitions and programs that excite interest in the knowledge and practice of all branches of photography.

We meet the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 7:00 PM at Seven Ponds Nature Center

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

President	Jim Lewis
Vice President 1	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Vice President 2	Bobbie Lewis
Secretary	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Treasurer	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
SPPC Website	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Digital Projection Division Manager(s)	Germaine Finley, Kristin Grudzien
Print Division Manager(s)	Germaine Finley, Kristin Grudzien
Competition Printing	Jim Lewis
Focus Topic Manager	Kristin Grudzien
Trip Manager(s)	Tina Daniels
Trip Manager(s)	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Face book Manager	Kristin Grudzien
Fund Raiser Manager	Shannon Hintz
Library Manager	To Be Announced
SPNC Activities Coordinator	Dale Vronch
Board Member	Stu Davis

Contact Information

Website <https://spnc.photoclubservices.com/>

Email 7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SevenPondsPhotography>

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Seven Ponds Photography Club is a proud member of the [Photographic Society of America](#) & [Greater Detroit Camera Council](#)