

SPPC Perspective

The Seven Ponds Photography Club, formed in 2009, it was created to promote the advancement of photography as an art. The purpose of the club is to bring together persons of like mind 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.

SPPC Members,

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

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

9/02/2022 - Focus Topic Image Review (Review all images May thru Aug 26, 2022)

Outings:

8/26 & 8/27/2022 – [SPPC Metamora Hot Air Balloon Photoshoot](#)

10/29/2022 - [Witches Night Out - Caseville, Michigan](#) - **MAKE RESERVATIONS Early IF STAYING OVERNIGHT** Lead Tina Daniels

Workshops:

11/6/2022 [SPPC Outdoor Portraiture w/ Fill Flash and Reflectors](#) By: **Bryce Denison - Director - Midwest Photography Workshops**
***Sign up required: Email 7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com**

Member Spotlight – LeeAnn McLaneGoetz



As most of us at Seven Ponds know, LeeAnn is indispensable to the club. She is one of our Vice Presidents and is usually the first one at every meeting setting up and one of the last ones there cleaning up. She reminds us to get our pictures in on time (I really need those reminders), regularly posts

photo opportunities, handles dues, updates the website, and numerous other photo club administrative tasks. She usually stays in the background so getting a chance to interview our VP was great and I had a wonderful afternoon getting to know her better. I'll share a bit here 😊

LeeAnn first got involved in photography at the age of 9. Her mother was critically ill with cancer and was too weak to attend her class field trip to Greenfield Village. She asked LeeAnn to use her camera to take pictures so that LeeAnn could share what she discovered. The camera was an old Kodak Brownie and LeeAnn sadly discovered when she returned that her indoor pictures did not turn out. She figured out the cause and was hooked on the challenges and rewards of photography. Since then, the experience of being able to capture and share her experiences became a natural part of her life.

LeeAnn was influenced by both her Mother Wilma McLane and Grandmother Mae McLane both avid photographers who also enjoyed family photography.

Being hooked on photography at a young age, it was no wonder that she requested her first camera of her own at age 12. It was the very popular 110 camera of the day. She progressed to a Minolta 7000 as her first 35 mm and then through many Nikon models to her current Nikon D7100 and D500 cameras. She uses her crop sensor camera mostly for macro and slower subjects, saving her camera clicks on her D500 for faster subjects that require that feature – planes, birds, and her favorite... big cats like cheetahs. She and her husband Rich would spend a lot of time around Lake Tahoe which enabled her to visit and shoot the cheetahs at the [Animal Ark Wildlife Sanctuary in Reno, Nevada](#). It takes a lot of practice to hone the skills required to get good, quality wildlife photos of fast subjects like cheetahs which have a top speed of 70 mph (110 kph). Animal Ark held a cheetah run once a year where she was able to go and watch the resident cheetahs race at their top speeds and see how they changed as they grew older.



Photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

LeeAnn has been involved in photography even through her many years of working for GM as a mechanical engineer. She worked for Oldsmobile while working on her engineering degree and hired into GM Cadillac division when she graduated from MSU. She enjoyed a wide variety of roles at GM as an individual engineer (Engine cooling & Underhood/body Thermal, Doors) Test Engineer, to leadership roles such as Durability Validation Engineer, Program Validation Engineer, Total Vehicle Validation Engineer, and HVAC /Powertrain Cooling Technical Integration Engineer. She has shared many skills she used at work with the club.

How did she find Seven Ponds Photography club? Well, from a member at the time – Carol Lyons. LeeAnn was taking photos in the gardens at Seven Ponds when she was approached to join the Seven Ponds Photography

Club. LeeAnn decided to join in November 2011 which was early in the club history. She also started her website [McLaneGoetzStudioLLC.com](#) (FineArtAmerica and Pixels.com) in 2011. Over the years, she has sold

many prints worldwide from these sources. Most notable being her image [Fleur De Lac Mansion The Godfather II](#), which was used on Real Housewives of Beverly Hills (episode 11).

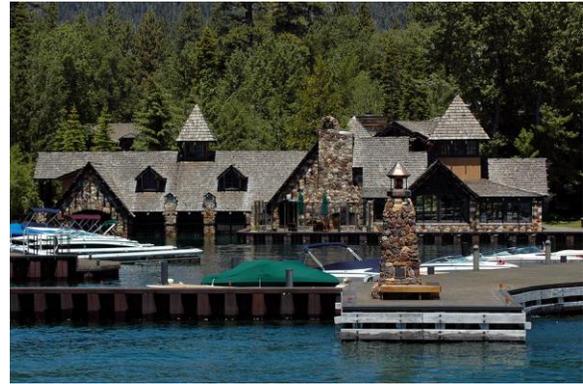


Photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

She started her first photo competition in January 2012 and joined the board in 2013. She has worked 2 Photo Expos at Seven Ponds (2015 & 2017) and helped produce 2 Club Calendars. LeeAnn admitted that when she first started, she was concerned when her scores were below what she thought they should be but over time learned that A) Some judges are learning how to score correctly and to be understanding B) The score is only a single point of input on your picture and should be used just for improvement and not a final judgement if your picture is good or not.

LeeAnn was selected by PureMichigan in 2016 to be part of their Fall Campaign for her image, [Down hill into fall](#). That image was put on Billboards, busses, and airport banners.



Photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

Below is some advice from LeeAnn to members just beginning to compete or thinking of doing so.

- 1) Consider the source that is scoring. Sometimes they are just learning themselves
- 2) “You can’t win if you don’t play”
- 3) Try all the competition categories and you will find it stretches your skills and creativity
- 4) As you advance, pay attention to the small things like sensor spots and bright distractions as these things are really looked at when you move up to compete at the GDCCC or PSA levels.
- 5) Make sure your picture has a story/strong subject



Photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

When asked what photographers she drew inspiration from, she answered – Mike Moats and Andrew Boey. I knew [Mike Moats](#) 😊, he is one of our own, a really good macro instructor and photographer and inspires his members and our club members to go out and shoot. I had not heard of Andrew Boey so I looked him up. He has a [YouTube channel](#) with lots of instructional videos. He is funny and honest and explains why mistakes happen and how to correct them. I think I’ll have to check-out a few videos after talking to LeeAnn. When I asked about her favorite photographer, she replied you had to go with the greats and Ansel Adams topped that list.

LeeAnn said since she started she has entered 1149 Images into GDCCC competitions with 70 winning GDCCC awards. She shared the numbers to show SPPC members you can’t get discouraged, it takes a time to understand what works and what doesn’t with a GDCCC competition photo. She recently was informed that the



Coast Guard by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

GDCCC is moving her photo Coast Guard up to compete at PSA 2022.

Congratulations LeeAnn! Our club s cheering you on and wishing you well in that competition.

LOCATION FEATURE – For-Mar Nature Preserve

Article by Kathy Bolio



Photo from [tripadvisor.com](#)

Have you ever had an early morning appointment and you thought there goes my chance to photograph today? Bill and I had to go to Flint one morning and Bill said let’s do some research and see what’s in the area where we might have a chance to practice our photographic skills. We located the For-Mar Nature preserve and arboretum on Genessee Rd in Burton less than 5 miles from our appointment.

This Nature preserve proved to be a great source of photographic subjects from the deer, turkeys, and geese that let us get within 10 feet to photograph. We also found ponds, trails, bridges, a treehouse, and visitor's center. The walking trails were accessible, and the other visitors were helpful sharing their information including pointing out a turtle that was busy depositing eggs.

A back entrance to the park took us to the blue bird nesting boxes where the birds were happy to pose for our pictures being a great finish to our photographing expedition.

The nature center also boasts a pavilion, possible butterfly house, and classroom in case we wanted to have a program there. Good to know what a little bit of research can lead to.

*for more information on For-Mar, see their [website](#).

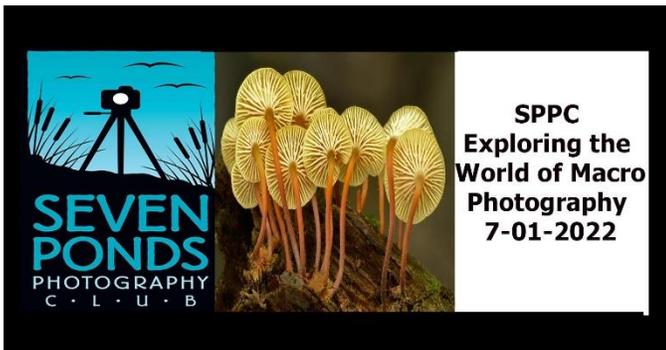


Winner of Mike Moats
July Membership
Raffle was **John
Brown**.

Congratulations, John!

Next drawing is 9/2/2022 - \$5 tickets

SPPC Exploring the World of Macro Photography by Mike Moats – 7/1/2022



Mike Moats is a pro macro photographer from Michigan. His articles and images have been published in, Outdoor Photographer, Natures Best, Nature Photographer, Photolife, PC Photo, Shutterbug, NANPA's Expressions Books, and many more. Mike's images have won local and international awards. Mike travels the country teaching macro workshops, and

offers macro how-to e-books, online how-to videos, and mentoring courses. This July, Mike did a presentation on Macro Photography just for our club. One of the benefits of macro photography is the endless subject matter which can be found in wooded areas, fields, our backyards, and even inside our homes.

22 members enjoyed listening to Mike as he showed the club many great photo opportunities and shared some tips and techniques. See his website [Tiny Landscapes](#) for more of his work and newsletters.

SPPC - Dale Vronch -Self-Expression Workshop Dates: 7/21, 8/11, 8/25, 9/8, 9/22 Lone Willow Studio

Dale Vronch and Lone Willow Studio is offering a self-expression photography workshop.

In this workshop, participants explore the philosophy and techniques related to self-expression and impressionism. Some of the topics and techniques discussed include:

- Using contemplative photography to interpret what you "see" and reveal through impressionism
- The interaction between the photographer and subject
- Subject elements and their connection to the subject
- Self-critique and evaluating the process
- Discussion will also center on basic techniques from receiving to recording your image with emphasis on the process and not the final product
- The class is based on the book *Contemplative Photography* by Howard Zehr and this book will be discussed.

Location: Lone Willow Studio/Gallery
895 Winn Lake Rd.
Lapeer 48446

Dates: 7/21, 8/11, 8/25, 9/8, 9/22 October dates TBA
Time: 6:00 pm

Limited to 10 participants

Sign up: (810) 705-0852 (mobile #)

If you missed the beginning slots for this class, there might be so, me openings for the later sessions. If you just couldn't make any of the course, check out the book, *Contemplative Photography*.

SPPC - Selfridge Air show (@Kennington Church Parking lot) – 7/9/2022

Jim Lewis was lead for a last-minute photo opportunity that 7 other club members were also able to enjoy. The notice went out a little late but if you missed this one, keep tuned in for future group outings. Below are some images captured by members at the outing.



Photo by Stu Davis shot @240mm & cropped



Photo by Dave Parcels



Photo by Roman Tornopilsky

It was beautiful weather for the air shoot, and it supplied some great opportunities to practice airshow photo skills.

SPPC Beekeepers Photo Shoot – 7/23/2022



Photo by Kelly Daniels

A big thank you to Preston Zale from Seven Ponds Beekeepers. Not only did we get some great bee photos we also learned a little bit about bees and hives. Preston used some smoke to calm the bees down and then showed us the worker bees in the hive, the male drones and bee larvae. He also provided some bee suits for several members of the club to use to get close to the bees safely.



Photo by Winnie Chrzanowski

It was really fascinating to see the bees and watch Preston as he worked with them and collected a few for a study on mites (one of the biggest threats to a bee hive).



Photo by Winnie Chrzanowski

Tracheal mite – these are microscopic and live in a bee’s trachea. The mites can block their breathing and lead to death.

Varroa mite - You can see a varroa mite on a bee. It resembles a tick. These mites pierce the bees from the outside and feed. Affected colonies may seem healthy and productive but then die off in fall or winter.

Read more at [Gardening Know How: Bees And Mites – Information About Mites In Beehives](#)



Photo by Germaine Finley

Mites are arachnids related to spiders. They can be pests because they bite people, but they can also be destructive to other species. There are two types of mites in North America that attack and harm individual bees and colonies:

SPPC Summer Flower Outdoor Workshop @ Ankley Farms – 7/24/2022



Sunday July 24th was sunny and hot at Ankley Farms, but everyone had a good time photographing, visiting, and picking flowers and fresh vegetables.



Photo by Tina Daniels

[Ankley Farms](#) is located at:

6767 Clear Lake Rd.
Imlay City, MI 48444

Thank you Tina for leading this outing.

Ankley Farms had setup a few props in the field that were very interesting.



Photo by LeeAnn McLane Goetz



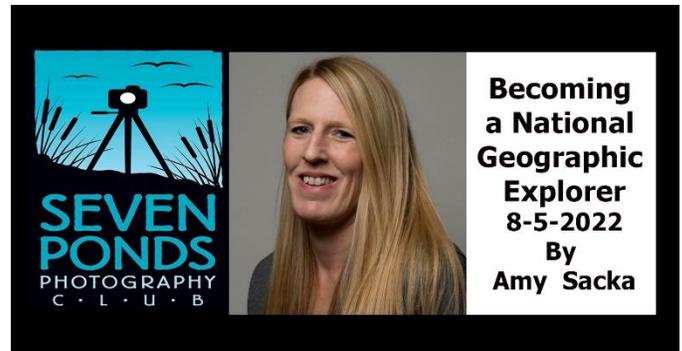
Photo by Germaine Finley

Included here are a few photos of members, flowers, and props.



Photo by Germaine Finley

SPPC Becoming a National Geographic Explorer by Amy Saka – 8/5/2022



Amy came to our August first of the month meeting and spoke to our club in Imlay City, at the Eastern Michigan State Fairgrounds.

SPPC Eastern Michigan State Fair – 7/26-7/30/2022



Photo by Roman Tornopilsky

Every year Seven Ponds Photography club goes to the [EASTERN MICHIGAN STATE FAIR](#) and photographs the bull riders and other events. The rodeo events seem to be very popular and have produced some award-winning shots for our members. Stu Davis and Jim Lewis have guided our group on where to stand and thanks to Stu, we have had the privilege of some great front row positions. If you have not gone out to the Eastern Michigan State Fair, you really should as everyone that goes has a great time. Maybe it's all about the elephant ears.



Photo by Stu Davis

Amy is a Detroit Photographer and Photojournalist and promotes local topics such as how climate change affects ice fishing in the Great Lakes (**Last Ice** project) and her **See You Tomorrow** project which provides a street-level view of a city that is often misunderstood (even by Amy as she admitted). It was an informative and inspiring presentation that covered the process Amy went through on her journey to become a National Geographic Explorer and her various projects.

Amy's work is predominantly black and white, She has an intimate way of portraying her subjects. Her work reminds us that even though we are observers behind our cameras, we need to establish a relationship between ourselves and our subjects that comes across in the image. I felt she was able to achieve this, look at her work and see for yourself.



Photo by Amy Saka

See [Amy Saka's website](#) for more information on Amy and her work.

New Members

Please welcome new members:

Rhonda Berger, Amber Hosner , Harry Mueller, Katherina Tina Mueller, Karen DeCoster, Dianne Kolpacke, Jake Vandam, Diana Harris

Welcome to the club!

SPPC – Metamora Hot Air Balloons – 8/26 & 8/27/2022



It's August so we shouldn't be surprised when it's hot but somehow, we always are in Michigan. Friday and Saturday were no exception. IT was hot but worth the effort to get to Metamora to see the hot air balloons. We had 8 members enjoy the balloon launch on Friday night and only one (me) that went Saturday. We wore our Seven Ponds garb and were allowed on the field to photograph about 17 balloons. I had a chance to talk to a few balloonists and they said a couple of them were going onto Albuquerque, NM to launch with over 700. It

was very exciting to see this amount, I can't imagine 700 at once.



Photo by Roman Tornopilsky

The name of the game is Hare and Hounds. In Hare and Hounds, a single balloon (the hare) launches ahead of the others, lands and lays out a target.



Photo by Roman Tornopilsky

Once the remaining balloons (the hounds) launch, they search for the hare's landing spot and drop a marker on the target. Points are awarded based on closest distance to the target center. It all happens very quickly

after the Hare balloon launches. But, as one balloonist told me, you have to be careful not to launch too early and pass the hare before they drop the target or it's game over for you. If you missed it this year, come out next year with the club. This was my first time at a balloon launch and definitely will not be my last.



Photo by Germaine Finley

Reminder about the library -



Photo by Germaine Finley

Don't forget about our SPPC library!!! It's located in the storage room off the meeting room. If you get a chance, stop by and take-a-look and checkout a book or pick up a magazine. There are more than fifty books in the library covering educational, informational, and art photography topics. Selected books will be set out on a table each club meeting for your perusal. If you have any questions regarding the library, contact Tim Toland. The library is accepting photography book donations see Tim Toland to donate.



See the [link](#) which is also on the website: [List of SPPC Library Books Preliminary updates in progress](#)

Note: The library also has, from time to time, photography magazines and DVD's. These may be taken home and kept without checking them out.



SPPC is looking for members to help -

✓ We need a videographer

Do you have expertise, or do you know someone who would be willing to volunteer to assist on a future SPPC video project?

✓ Competition Judges

SPPC is looking for volunteers to judge our monthly GDCCC competitions – contact Kristin Grudzien / Germaine Finley

✓ Volunteers to setup chairs, coffee, name tags, sign in for in-person meetings, clean up post meeting

✓ Volunteers to bring individually wrapped snacks

New Members Can Sign up & Pay Online

Thanks to Seven Ponds Nature Center we have the ability for new Seven Ponds Photography Members to sign up and pay online.

[Pay Seven Ponds Photo Club Membership](#)

SPPC dues are \$15 for one member and \$20 for a family or two or more members living at the same address.

Newsletter Content

We are always looking for members to contribute articles related to photography or club activities. Please email germaine.sppc@yahoo.com

Focus Topics (Review @ 1st Friday Meetings)

July = Movement

August = Architecture Sept = Circles

Focus Topic Reviews are typically reviewed on the first Friday of the month following the assignment month, unless otherwise noted. Please send your images to zpondsphoto@gmail.com, by **NOON** on the on the **Wednesday** before the day of the meeting or enter Focus Topics via <https://spnc.photoclubservices.com/>

Go to:



and select the current month Focus Topic.

	Competition Date	Prints	Competition Title	Competition Type	Close Date/Time
Select	Friday, January 7, 2022		"Focus Topic" Open to all Types of Images You have entered 0 images into this Competition.	"Focus Topic"	Wednesday, January 5, 2022 11:30 PM EST



We will be reviewing May – September Focus Topics in the September first Friday meeting. Due to our speakers giving us such great presentations, we have not had time left to review the Focus Topic images in the first Friday meetings. There will be no speaker in the September meeting and so it was decided to review the images and have discussions on them during this meeting. Thank you to all that have posted and/or submitted images. Keep shooting!



Club Outings

Informal outings have been happening look for details on the [SPPC Facebook Page](#) or [SPPC Photo Ops FaceBook page](#)

Reach out to the group on the [SPPC Photo Ops FaceBook page](#) if you want to do an informal meetup with group members.

*Watch the website for more possible trips

Lead a photo club trip - Trip request form. <https://form.jotform.com/90283795109161>

GDCCC Update

Don't forget to get your prints in for **September and October!** We need a few more prints for competition. See [GDCCC DPD Digital and Print Rule Review and Competition Guidance](#) for a refresher.

Next **GDCCC Digital Competition – 9/16/2022** @ West Oakland (photos submitted 9/9/2022)

Next **GDCCC Print competition – 9/29/2022** @ Motor City (photos submitted 9/25/2022)

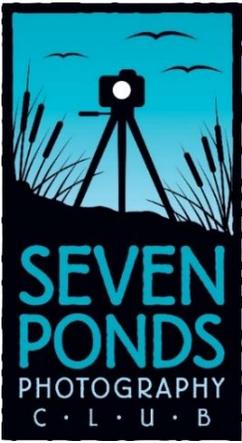
GDCCC Digital Competition – 10/14/2022 @ Livonia (photos submitted 10/7/2022)

GDCCC Print competition – 10/17/2022 @ The Photo Guild (photos submitted 10/13/2022)

GDCCC Digital Competition – 11/4/2022 @ Lapeer Area (photos submitted 10/28/2022)

GDCCC Print competition – 11/1/2022 @ Oakland (photos submitted 10/28/2022)

EOY Print Competition - 11/2/2022 @ Oakland



SPPC - Activities and Events

Meeting Location

Seven Ponds Nature Center

3854 Crawford Road Dryden, MI 48428-9776

The Seven Ponds Photography Club holds its meetings on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. All meetings are open to members and nonmembers.

Upcoming Events

08-26-27-2022 [Metamora Country Days & Hot Air Balloon Festival](#) Metamora, Michigan

10-29-2022 [Witches Night Out - Caseville, Michigan](#) -
MAKE RESERVATIONS Early IF STAYING OVERNIGHT
Lead Tina Daniels

11-6-2022 [SPPC Outdoor Portraiture w/ Fill Flash and Reflectors](#) By: Bryce Denison - Director - Midwest
Photography Workshops
Sign up required: Email 7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com

Upcoming Virtual Workshops

***Pre Register for classes*

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

[Hunts On-Line Classes \(Free & paid classes\)](#)

10/4/2022 7:00pm EST [Painting With Cameras with David DesRocher](#)

*Register in advance for this meeting

12/7/2022 7:00pm EST [Daytime long exposures](#)

*Register in advance for this meeting

Self-guided Trips

5/28 - 9/5/2022 - [Dinosauria at the Detroit Zoo](#)

9/2 - 9/5/2022 [Peach Festival](#) - Romeo Michigan

9/3/2022 [Blake's Sunflower Festival 2022](#) -
Romeo Michigan

9/14/2022 [Senior Day at the Detroit Zoo](#)
[Photoshoot](#)

10/16/2022 [Annual Fall Open House](#) - Packard
proving grounds Shelby Michigan

10/22/2022 [Photography Workshop with Steve Gettle: Birds of Prey](#) Howell Michigan

10/23/2022 [Photography Workshop with Steve Gettle: Birds of Prey](#) Howell Michigan

1/1 - 12/31/2022 - [*Port Huron Museums](#)

**Thanks to a grant from the City of Port Huron and several corporate sponsors, all Port Huron Museum sites will offer free admission for one year. This will include the Carnegie Museum, the HURON Lightship, the Thomas Edison Depot Museum and the grounds of*

Meetings

The Seven Ponds Photography Club typically holds its meetings on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

1st Friday meetings focus on educational presentations and monthly focus topic photographs.

3rd Friday meetings are competition night, photographs submitted by members are scored and reviewed. Selected photos are then sent to the Greater Detroit Camera Club Council (GDCCC) to compete with other clubs.

[SPPC Home Page](#) [SPPC Facebook Page](#)

[SPPC Member's Shared Images](#)

[GDCCC Home Page](#)

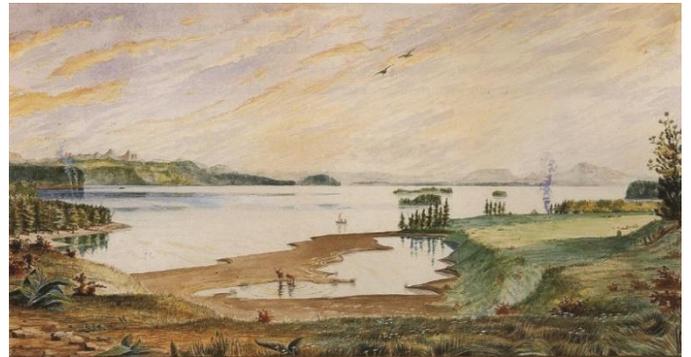
Fun Facts

On March 1, 1872, Yellowstone National Park was established by an act of Congress. The area set aside was roughly 2 million acres straddling Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. This year, Yellowstone is celebrating it's 150th year as National Park. Many thanks to William Jackson's photographs, Thomas Moran's paintings, and Henry Wood Elliot's sketches— their imagery captured the imagination of Congress and helped create the concept of the National Parks.

See the article [Birth of a National Park](#) for more background. Sometimes we think a picture is just a picture, sometimes it can change a nation.



Great Springs of the Firehole River by Thomas Moran



Yellowstone Lake by Henry Elliot



Mammoth Hot Springs - William Jackson