

June 2022

Volume 5 Issue 3

# 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.

**7-1-2022** ["Exploring the World of Macro Photography"](#)

**8-05-2022** ["Becoming a National Geographic Explorer"](#) \*Location Imlay City Fair Grounds

### Outings:

No official outings for July/August announced so far. Enjoy your summer! 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*

Next **GDCCC** Print competition – 9/29/2022 @ Motor City

Next **GDCCC** Digital Competition – 9/16/2022 @ West Oakland

## Member Spotlight – Dale Vronch



I had the privilege this month in interviewing Dale Vronch from our group. I remember going to the Troy Photo Club a couple years ago and hearing Dale talk about Creative approaches to photography, like taking a photo "in the round". A very interesting technique where you take pictures all around a subject then stack them together giving an impression style photo. It's always good to try new things and look for ways to spark your creativity.

Dale started his photography journey in the early 1990's when he went to Germany to visit his son in the military. He borrowed a camera and some lenses and was hooked. He ended up buying his own equipment when he returned (Canon but I'll overlook that). He then saw a photographer on the Charles Kuralt show that highlighted all kinds of nature photography – birds, insects, macro, etc. That focused him on where he drew his passion from. Dale then took a workshop from nature photographer, John Gerlach. Workshops are a great way to get insight into techniques, areas that you might not know existed to photograph, information on

how to photograph subjects that are important to you and get feedback from a professional. Dale said the best workshops are ones that focus on growing your creativity (preserving your inquisitive child nature) in addition to providing tips on increasing your processing skills (making use of your adult capabilities). The worst workshops are formula based or rather “this is how you shoot X”, leaving little for the student to discover for themselves and leading to photos that look alike.

Given Dale’s connection to nature, it isn’t a surprise that he was a member of Seven Ponds Nature Center before he joined the Photography Club. Dale says he likes to roam secluded areas where he can connect his inside self with his outside self. When asked who was a photographer that had inspired him, he said Canadian photographer, Freeman Patterson ([website](#)). Freeman has done a lot to facilitate the idea of contemplative photography.

The term *Contemplative Photography* was coined by students of the Tibetan Meditation master Chögyam



Trungpa. It is also known as *Miksang*, or “Good Eye”.

Contemplative Photography is an **approach to photography that focuses on learning (or perhaps we could say re-learning) how to see.** See Kimberly Poppe’s blog for a more in-depth description.

Dale told me, he started reading the book and it said to put your camera around your neck and jump up and down or swing it around. He quickly threw it on a shelf for years after reading that. It was extremely different than the “shoot at this exposure” or “follow these rules” kind of books. Sounded a little crazy. He picked it back up eventually and started to really read and practice contemplative photography.

Dale’s words of advice to new photographers in our group - “be patient, photograph what interests you and **see** how to reveal that”

Dale will be holding a new workshop on Self Expression in photography starting in July and going for at least 5 weeks. See class overview below:

## *Self-Expression Workshop*

Lone Willow Studio is offering a self-expression photography workshop. In this workshop participants will 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

We will be reading and discussing the book *Contemplative Photography* by Howard Zehr

**Location:** Lone Willow Studio/Gallery  
895 Winn Lake Rd.  
Lapeer 48446  
Cell-(810) 705-0852

**Requirements** - Be familiar with the workings of your camera or phone.

**Limited to 10 participants**

**Dates:** 7/21, 8/11, 8/25, 9/8, 9/22 October dates TBA

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Fee** - No charge *\*Requesting a donation to a local charity of your choice*

**To register** - Call Dale Vronch (810) 705-0852 and/or email [dvronch@gmail.com](mailto:dvronch@gmail.com)



“Technique is important only insofar as you must master it in order to communicate what you see... In any case, people think far too much about techniques and not enough about seeing.”

- Henri Cartier-Bresson

## SPPC Boudoir Photography – 5/6/2022

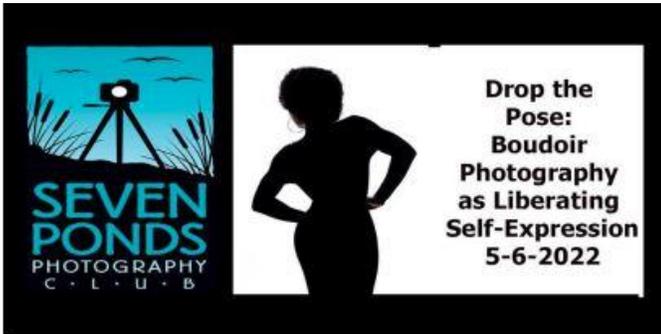


Photo by Germaine Finley

RJ Jones and his wife and fellow photographer Cheryl Carvery-Jones came to our club on May 6th to demonstrate Boudoir photography. RJ Jones is a Certified Professional Photographer specializing in portrait, boudoir, and event photography from the

Metro Detroit area. In addition to teaching a weekly photography class in Southfield, and providing premium one-on-one photography mentoring, RJ is also a founder and admin of the 5,000-member "Michigan Photographers" group on Facebook.



Photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

The class became a very interactive experience on lighting where RJ quizzed us and demonstrated the effects of lighting. Basically, a Lighting 101 class and very helpful for those of us not used to portrait lighting.



Photo from Facebook

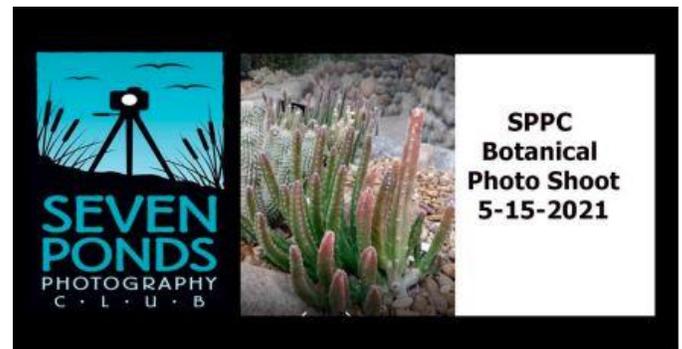
Model Peggy Lamarr was the model for the workshop and she was very friendly and accommodating to all the repeat posing and lighting demonstrations. Many thanks from our club to RJ,

Cheryl and Peggy. I think we all had a lot of fun and the workshop was very informative.



Winner of Mike Moats May 6th Membership Raffle was Roman Tornopilsky. Congratulations, Roman!

## SPPC Matthaei Botanical Gardens – 5/15/2022



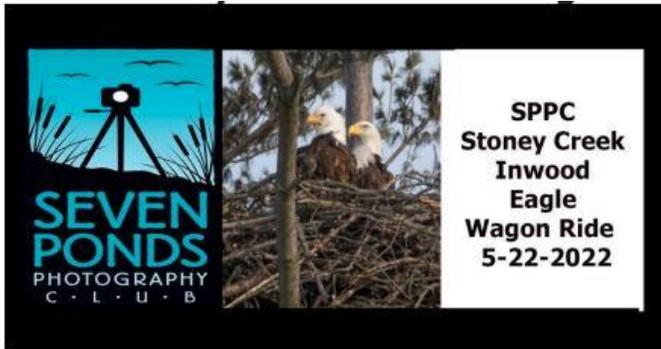
Photos by Tina Daniels

Thanks to Tina Daniels for leading a photo outing to University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Several members enjoyed a day creating images of the beautiful plants hosted there.

There are also trails and a small butterfly garden outside of the building that can also be enjoyed.



## SPPC – Stoney Creek Inwood Eagle Wagon Ride – 5/22/2022



We had 16 members and 2 guests attend the event. Stoney Creek provided a nice introduction at the Nature Center prior to the ride with a slide show on the native eagle history.



Photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

Post shoot, most members were able to share a nice lunch at Times Square restaurant in Romeo. Thanks, Dave, for sharing this photo on our Shared images Facebook page.



Photo by Dave Parcels

## SPPC How I Became a Wedding Photographer – 6/6/2022



Photo by Nicholas Kaltsounis

Nicholas Kaltsounis was our guest speaker for our first Friday meeting in June. He came and spoke about his start as a wedding photographer and how anyone can get started in this business if they are interested in people/event photography.

Highlights include:

- Have a plan. People hire you for your previous work and your plan.
- Develop your plan and develop you. Take a course or work with a professional in the field. Purchase items like core decks, business forms and wedding day plans.
- Be prepared! Visit the venue before the wedding day, agree on price after you get all the requirements from the bride & groom, clear expectations for photo delivery
- Editing & Delivery – Tell a Story. Try to show at least two key features.



Photo by Nicholas Kaltsounis

Nick provided many details about the business aspects of becoming and being a wedding photographer that comes from years of experience, and he delivered the information in a fun and humorous manner. Thank you, Nick, for coming and speaking to our group.

## Mike Mercier Memorial Bench Dedication

At the start of the June meeting, the group shared some stories of Mike Mercier and went outside to admire the bench that was dedicated in his memory.



Photo by Jim Lewis



## 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](mailto:germaine.sppc@yahoo.com)

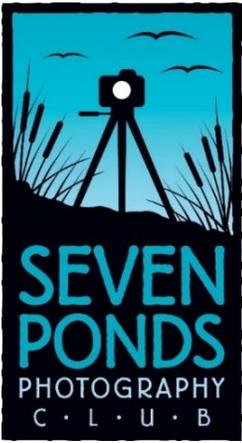
## Reminder about the library -



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.

*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 - 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

**06/25/2022 - [Beard Competition/ Fireworks Mi Fairgrounds "Sasquatch Uncut"](#)**

**06-23-2022 [57th Annual Bay-Rama Fireworks Show](#) - New Baltimore, Michigan**

**07-04-2022 [Red, White and BOOM!](#) - Ray Center, Michigan**

**07-09-2022 [Selfridge 2022 Open House & Air Show](#)**

**07-09-2022 [Romeo VintageFest](#) - Romeo, Michigan**

**07- 15-17-2022 [Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center](#) - Alpena, Michigan**

**07-26 - 30-2022 [EASTERN MICHIGAN STATE FAIR](#) Imlay City, Michigan**

**07-30-2022 [SWMCCC - Summer Shoot Out](#) - Grand Rapids, Michigan**

**08-05-2022 [Blue Water Butterflies](#) - Port Huron, Michigan**

**08-18-21-2022 [55th Annual Buckley Old Engine Show](#) Buckley, Michigan**

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

### Upcoming Virtual Workshops

**\*\*Pre Register for classes**

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

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

**06/28/2022 7pm EST - [Creative Bird Photography by Ray Hennessy](#)**

**06/28/2022 Let's Go to the Botanical Garden: [A Guide to Better Plant Photography with Armando Flores](#)**

**08/16/2022 7:00pm EST - [Training Your Eye with Art Becker](#)**

### Focus Topics (Review @ 1st Friday Meetings)

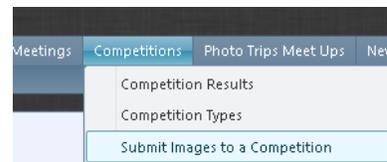
**May = Black & White**

**June = Flowers July = Movement**

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 [7pondsphoto@gmail.com](mailto:7pondsphoto@gmail.com), by **NOON** on the on the **Wednesday** before the day of the meeting.

Starting in 2022, we have the ability to enter Focus Topics via <https://spnc.photoclubservices.com/>

Go to:



and select the current month Focus Topic. Ie:

Competition Date	Photo	Competition Title	Competition Type	Close Date/Time
<a href="#">Select</a>	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

## Club Outings

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

None officially planned yet for July. 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>

## Self-guided Trips

**5/28 - 9/5/2022** - [Dinosauria at the Detroit Zoo](#)  
**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 the Fort Gratiot Light Station.*

## 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.

1<sup>st</sup> Friday meetings focus on educational presentations and monthly focus topic photographs.

3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Mentoring sessions have been canceled for 2022.**

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

[SPPC Member's Shared Images](#)

[GDCCC Home Page](#)



Seeing Fresh: The Practice of Contemplative Photography  
- Henri-Cartier Bresson