

April 2022

Volume 5 Issue 2

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.

Fri May 6th - "[Drop the Pose: Boudoir Photography as Liberating Self-Expression](#)"
Speaker is RJ Jones

Outings:

Sun May 22nd - [Inwood Eagle Photo Shoot wagon ride \\$10 per person charge - Lead LeeAnn McLaneGoetz](#)

Class:

Don't forget – There is a GDCCC sponsored class (discount code sent in prior email) on April 21, 2022 at 7pm EST- [How I Did It!™ Composition and Creativity in Your Photography with Rad Drew](#)

Please welcome new members: Deanne DePyper, Caleb Beers, Christine Becher, Steve Walters, John Brown and Dave Parcels.

Member Spotlight – Stu Davis



Photo by Germaine Finley (Tillson St)

Everyone that has visited or joined Seven Ponds Photography Club has met Stu. He was the first person to greet me, even before I joined up with my friend Mark Robinson who had invited me to my first evening. I have to say, he has been so very encouraging on my photography journey.

He always has a kind word and funny story to lift your spirits.

I think most people in the club know Stu as the person that welcomes each person into the group, is always supportive and has a great story to tell because he has so many great life experiences. Here is a brief history that shows some of his life experiences - Stu was part of the occupying forces in Libya and then Germany in 1952. He was a volunteer fireman (obtaining the rank of Captain) in Long Island, New York, he is a commissioner for Imlay City, he is a longtime member of Greenfield Village, and he has been married to Deanna for the last 45 years. Between them, they have 4 "kids" that also have very interesting careers and lives. Stu has seen a lot of American life and will celebrate his 90th birthday this April.

Stu comes out for almost all the outings, supports the club, and talks to all the members at shoots (making us all feel welcomed).

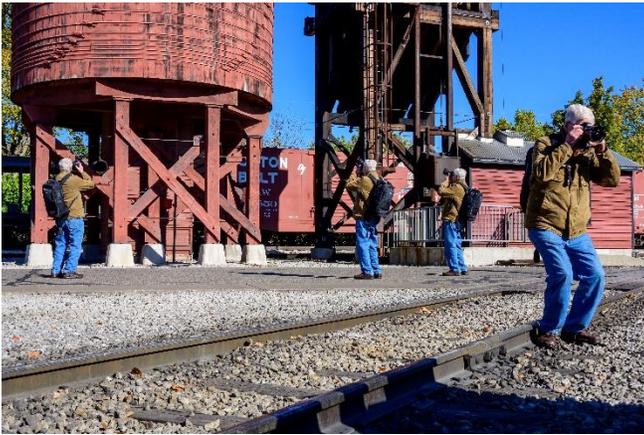


photo by Jim Lewis (Greenfield Village)

What many of us “newer” members might not know, is that Stu is a founding member of the club. According to Stu, the idea was born one icy cold winter day after he, Mike Mercier and Denny Kelly had gone on a long photo hike around Seven Ponds Nature Center and had to come in to warm up. While they were inside at the nature center, they discussed the idea of forming a photography club and well... the rest is history. It was a great idea and many of us are so glad they went forward with the club.

If you ask Stu, how long have you been a photographer, you are likely to hear him say, “I am a Picture Taker not a photographer”. You can safely say, he has been shooting for a while though. His first picture was with his Dad’s Kodak of a dump truck that had gone off the road in 1943. Stu told me he remembers using 10 ASA film and was very excited when 25 ASA film was released, which cut exposure time in half. ASA is now known as ISO and was the unit that film speed was measured in. While he started out with Kodak and owned various brands over the years, he now shoots with Canon.

Stu is known in the group for his handheld HDR technique. He taught an HDR class for the club this year which was very well received. We can usually pick out Stu’s pictures as he has a special look and feel to them. They remind me of Norman Rockwell, and I wasn’t surprised to find out that Stu admired his work. Stu said he likes to have his picture look like they could be in “The Saturday Evening Post” and is interested in shooting – Barns, small town events, things of interest... basically American life.

He prints his own pictures and will share them happily with owners of barns, houses, or old cars he has shot.

When I asked him about his most interesting experience shooting, he recalled a time when he was shooting barns and the owner came out with a gun raised and suggested he leave. Stu took him up on the suggestion.

Another time, he was photographing a barn and a farmer asked if he had seen the old 1932 Grange Building. I had to ask what a “Grange” was and for those that don’t know, it is a country house with farm building attached. It is also a farmers’ association organized in 1867 and was the farmers organization before the FAA was formed. Stu followed the farmer and was able to shoot some pictures he would not have been able to if he hadn’t been talking to a very nice farmer.

One time after shooting an old Packard, he gave a picture to the owner and was shown another “in the back” under an apple tree. This picture is on Stu’s business cards.

Stu shares information on outings, teaches others about shooting in HDR and has served on the board since the club’s inception. Thank you, Stu, for all your contributions to the club and for being so supportive of all its members.

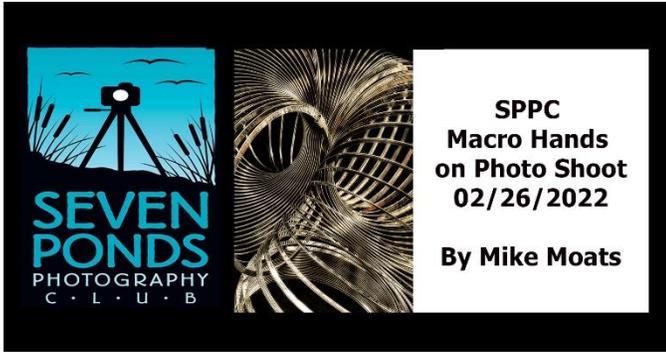


Amish photo by Stu Davis

When I go to farms or little towns, I am always surprised at the discontent I find. And New York, too often, has looked across the sea toward Europe. And all of us who turn our eyes away from what we have are missing life.

Norman Rockwell

SPPC Mike Moats Macro Workshop - 2/26/2022



Mike Moats is our resident pro macro photographer. 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

Photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

images have won local and international awards. A member of Tamron's Image Masters and was a member of the Fuji Pro Talent Team. Mike travels the country teaching macro workshops, and offers macro how-to e-books, online how-to videos, and mentoring courses.



Photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

On February 26th, Mike setup 11 tables with 4 setups per table for the Seven Pond club members to shoot. We had a great turnout for this workshop (10 members, not including Mike, plus a guest). Mike was roaming around offering advice on shooting and sharing his

macro knowledge while the rest of us were trying to be creative with our new skills. We all had a great time



Photo by Tina Daniels

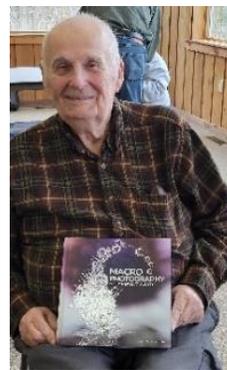
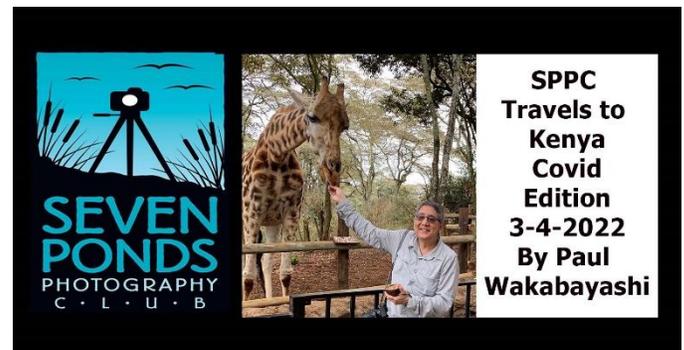


Photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

shooting. If you would love to learn more about macro shooting, join Mikes Moats Macro Photo Club.

We also had a drawing for a macro photography book, **Macro Photography: The Universe at Our Feet** by Don Komarechka, that was won by Bill Bolio. Congratulations Bill!

SPPC Kenya Presentation by Paul Wakabayashi – 3/4/2022



Paul Wakabayashi is a member of the Troy Nature Photo Club and came to our club to give a great presentation on his travels through Kenya for our educational First Friday meeting in March. Paul shared many beautiful images that he made on the trip and talked about his experiences photographing wildlife and traveling during COVID times. We thank Paul for coming and inspiring us to possibly travel a bit farther and stretch our photographic abilities.

SPPC Group Shoot at Howell Nature Center – 3/6/2022

Photos by Tina Daniels



We had a nice group of 5 attending this group shoot. The [Steve Gettle Model Shoot at the Howell Nature Center](#) was a special workshop which offered a chance to photograph some of the Howell Nature Center's resident birds outside of their enclosures with personal direction from [Steve Gettle](#). Steve is a renowned wildlife photographer whose images have been

exhibited in galleries and museums all over the world.



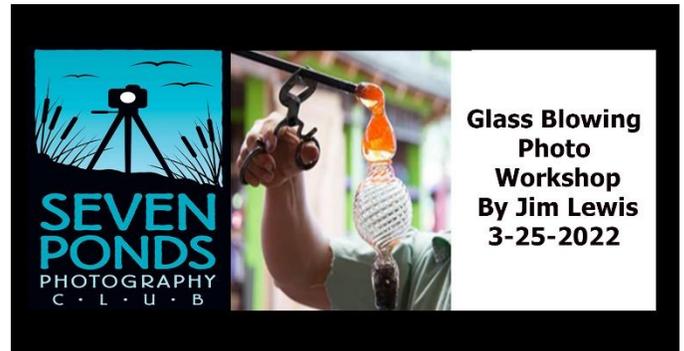
Due to very high winds that day that forced the Nature Center to close, we only were able to enjoy the lecture by Steve, a long Q&A session, and an inside introduction to 3 Howell bird ambassadors (Screech – Screech Owl, Yeti-

Snowy Owl, Keli- Bald Eagle). All attendees were treated to a gourmet sandwich lunch and admission to the Steve Gettle Birds of Prey shot in the fall.

While conditions to shoot the birds inside were difficult, it was too dangerous to both birds and photographers to go outside with branches dropping. Howell Nature Center and Steve made it a fun and interesting day and we will all be back in the fall to shoot outside. Hopefully, we will have a few more members join us as this will be a fun group shoot.



SPPC Glass Blowing Academy – 3/25/2022



On March 25th, Jim Lewis led a group shoot to The Glass Factory.



Photo by Germaine Finley

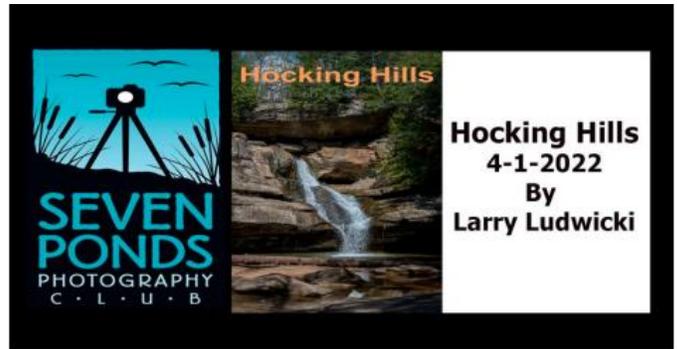


Photo by Germaine Finley

[The Glass Academy](#) is the creative brainchild of founding artists Chris Nordin and Michelle Plucinsky. The Glass Academy is a family-run and operated glass studio located in Dearborn, Michigan since 2004 with a team of dedicated individuals making it happen.

An extensive background in the glass arts with Bachelor of Fine Arts from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, and Alfred University in New York (respectfully), both artists have a wide resume of skills and job-related experience that pushed them to open their own private studio and share their unique talents and gifts with the world. The creative duo has attended workshops from Maine to Seattle to perfect their glass skills in addition to teaching at professional levels, traveling to work abroad in Italy, and running a production studio at the Henry Ford Museum.

SPPC Hocking Hills – 4/1/2022



On April 1st, Larry Ludwicki did a presentation on his trip to Hocking Hills. Larry is one of our club's avid birders and during the fall is engaged with the Holiday Beach Migration Observatory raptor activities. For those that do not know, Hocking Hills is "Located in

- ❖ <https://www.explorehockinghills.com/>
- ❖ <https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/hocking-hills-state-park>
- ❖ <https://www.hockinghills.com/>

southeastern Ohio, Hocking Hills State Park has received national and international acclaim as a top park to visit. Stunning in every season, the park features towering cliffs, waterfalls, and deep, hemlock-shaded gorges for hikers and nature lovers to enjoy. Visitors can look forward to views of wildflowers adorning the forest floor in springtime and vivid foliage in the fall." (Ohio DNR). Larry showed some beautiful images of the park and described many trails and their difficulty level and time of year conditions. This event was well attended and appreciated by all as Hocking Hills has many photographic opportunities. Included below are some links that Larry shared with additional information on the park – lodging, trail maps and activities:

Macro – Nikon Article review

I'm a Nikon shooter and naturally read links from Nikon on photography tips but most articles are not gear dependent and they provide a lot of good free advice for users of any manufacturer. Recently there was an article that came in pretty timely as Spring and Summer are finally approaching and we will be out shooting more bugs and flowers. Here is a link to the full article ([Macro Photography Tips: Photographing Insects and Other Small Creatures](#)) but below is a synopsis and a



Photo by Jim Lewis

We had 10 members and 2 guests attend the group outing. It was a very different and interesting kind of photo shoot. We had a lot of beautiful glass in the studio that we were allowed to shoot and there was the actual glass blowing to photograph as well. There was plenty of room to spread out as we had the whole studio to ourselves and lots of ideas on composition and topics to select from. The glass blowing items being produced that day were *snails* and lots of them. All were made with different colors and combination of snail and shell and the staff were friendly in the demonstration.



Photo by Germaine Finley

We were allowed to be respectfully close, but action is quick and for us beginners, it was a constant mind game to go between shooting still items in lower light and trying to eliminate backgrounds to shooting action. Included here are a few shots of the different pieces but there was so much there.

Jim provided a link where we could upload some of our images of our Glass Academy experience ([Shared Images link](#)).

couple example photos of my own (didn't think Nikon wanted me to cut and paste theirs but check out the article for fuller descriptions and professional example photos).

#1 Get close. This is Macro photography, and the basic understanding is that this is close-up photography. You need to be close and let your subject or even just part of your subject FILL the frame.

Taken with Nikon D810 and Tamron 90mm Macro lens



f/7.1, 1/200s, ISO-200

cropped in

#2 Stability. Use a tripod to steady your camera. Also, use a cable release/remote trigger release/camera self-timer. Some photographers will lock up their mirror as an added measure to reduce motion.

#3 Background. Try to make the insect or tiny critter you are photographing stand out from its background. You can use a shallow depth of field (like f/2.8)/use an opposing color/brightness to make your subject stand out. For example, a light subject against a dark background. You can also try to place a piece of solid paper or household item behind the tiny subject.



Taken with Nikon D810 and Tamron 90 mm Macro lens f/4.5, 1/250s, ISO-200

Note: background should be darker and less busy

#4 Photograph in cooler weather. Go out in the early morning or evening when the insects slow down.

#5 Keep it simple.

Mike Mercier Memorial Update

We are continuing to collect funds for the Mike Mercier Memorial Bench Fund. Our club's goal is to donate a bench in Mike's honor to Seven Ponds Nature Center and we recently found out we are short of our goal.

We would like to thank everyone who has donated thus far. If you would like to donate, to help our club meet our goal we would truly appreciate it.

You can use the link below to donate or donate at our meeting on Friday, May 6, 2022, at Seven Ponds Nature center at 7:00 PM.

The SPNC online donation link below is valid till 4-30-2022

Donate to [Mike Mercier Memorial](#) fund for a bench at Seven Ponds Nature Center

Please turn off any auto log feature and match the page below, if not donations go into the general fund for Seven Ponds.

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.



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.

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

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

Pay Seven Ponds Photo Club Membership



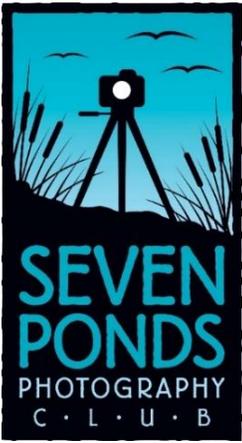
Pay dues early get 1 free Raffle ticket:

Drawing is 5-6-2022 - tickets \$5 each

Did you know ... virtually all of Norman Rockwell's paintings started out as photographs? He hired various photographers to take the desired image using mostly his friends and neighbors and then painted from the photograph. See below one of his prework photos and his final image. Photographs can inspire so many things.



Taken from [The Photographs Norman Rockwell Used to Create His Famous Paintings](#)



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

05/06/2022 - ["Drop the Pose: Boudoir Photography as Liberating Self-Expression"](#) Speaker is RJ Jones

05/22/2022 - [Inwood Eagle Photo Shoot Wagon Ride \\$10 per person charge - Lead LeeAnn McLaneGoetz](#)

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

Upcoming Virtual Workshops

***Pre Register for classes*

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

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

04/21/2022 - GDCCC sponsored class (discount code sent in prior email) [How I Did It!™ Composition and Creativity in Your Photography with Rad Drew @ 7pm](#)

04/27/2022- [Finding your Story](#) by Fritz Bacon

05/03/2022 2pm-3pm [Let's Go to the Park: National Park Edition with Jeff Allen](#)

05/18/2022 - [Let's go Cruisin': A Guide to Taking Better Custom Car Images](#)

05/24/2022 Let's Go into Darkness: [A Guide to Photography When the Light is Limited with Erica Robinson](#)

06/07/2022 The Art of Composition: [Tales From a Crop-Acholic with Jillian Bell](#)

06/15/2022 - [Finding Your Creative Voice with Colleen Miniuk @ 7pm](#)

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

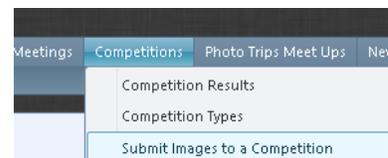
Focus Topics (Review @ 1st Friday Meetings)

April = Contrast May = Black & White June = Flowers

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, 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	Month	Competition Title	Competition Type	Close Date/Time
Selected	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

Newsletter Content

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

Club Outings

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

Sun May 22nd - [Inwood Eagle Photo Shoot wagon ride \\$10 per person charge - Lead LeeAnn McLaneGoetz](#)

**Watch the website for more possible trips*

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

Self-guided Trips

5/1 - 5/30/2022 - [White Chapel Tulips](#)
5/14/2022 - [Eco Day](#) 10am – 4pm
5/14/2022 - [Magee Marsh](#) 7am – 5pm
5/22/2022 - [Migratory Bird Walk at Blue Water Campground](#) @7 am
5/27 - 5/30/2022 - [Bavarian Balloon Festival](#)
5/28 & 5-29-2022 - [Frankenmuth Dog Bowl 2022](#)
5/28 - 9/5/2022 - [Dinosauria at the Detroit Zoo](#)

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.

Mentoring sessions have been canceled for 2022.

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

[SPPC Member's Shared Images](#)

[GDCCC Home Page](#)