

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

Note: In accordance with current recommendations from the Lapeer County Health Department and the CDC, Seven Ponds Nature Center is asking everyone to wear a face mask inside the nature center building.

Jan 7, 2022, 1st Friday MTG @ Seven Ponds Nature Center 7:00PM

Jan 15, 2021, Print Workshop MTG @ Seven Ponds Nature Center PM 3:00PM

Jan 21, 2022, 3rd Friday MTG 2022 Kick-Off Meeting @ Seven Ponds Nature Center 7:00PM

Please join us for a fun night as we kick off the 2022 season!!!

- *Pizza / Salad / Dessert - Pass the hat to pay for the meal*
- *Followed by a review of the GDCCC SPPC Image winners and awards*
- *Review of the upcoming speakers, workshops and trips*
- *Prize raffle*

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

Member Spotlight - Mike Mercier



Photo by Stu Davis


Many of you might not know that we have a celebrity in our 7 Ponds Photography Club. Mike Mercier has been highlighted by both National Geographic and the *New York Times* and also had a spot on Good Morning America. According to him though ... he has just been “very blessed” and “in the right place at the right time”.

Mike started his photography career in the early 1970’s and worked for a labor newspaper in public relations. Once, while working for the newspaper, they flew him out to a Great Lakes freighter to get photos and a story from the freighter and then picked him up from the freighter and flew him back. What a cool experience! He then got a job in a studio run by a neighbor. From there he worked with Joe Clark (HBSS - Hillbilly Snapshooter) who is famous for his B&W photography work he did for Jack Daniels advertisements. Again, what an opportunity! Listening to Mike is truly amazing to hear all the great photographic and life experiences he has had. Mike’s first camera was a Nikon 35mm A1 (which still works). He has worked in the darkroom, done journalistic photography, advertisement, nature, wildlife, black & white, color, in both film and digital. He had some great mentors in Jay Drugmiller and George Najor photographing in the automobile industry for Lee Iacocca. He worked at *The County Press* for 19 years and has volunteered for 7 Ponds for many years as well.

Even after all these experiences, there was more to come.

Mike's celebrity status started on a vacation with his wife, Donna, to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in the Florida Everglades. Mike just happened to be photographing wildlife when a struggle between an alligator and a Burmese Python broke out. Donna shouted for him to look, and Mike was able to quickly capture a series of images showing the struggle between the snake and the gator. The photo was sent to the *New York Times* by the Rangers at the National Park. The *New York Times* then printed the photo he took and story on the front page! ([NY Times Archive - Feb 2004](#)). National Geographic picked up on the story and even flew him back to the Everglades for a special that included his encounter. He was able to ride around the Everglades with head biologist Skip Snow during the making of the special but had to sit next to a 13 foot python in a pillowcase on one side and a 12 foot python in a wooden box on the other. OK, not the best seat on the boat but a great experience non the less.

When asked what his favorite genre of photography was, Mike said it was probably his time in the automobile industry. We are fortunate to have Mike as part of the club and have benefited from his many hours of volunteering both at the photo club and at the Nature Center.

Right now, Mike is fighting a rare form of cancer called Merkel-cell carcinoma. This is a rare and highly aggressive skin cancer. We are keeping Mike in our prayers and wishing him all success for his treatments. Thank you, Mike, for sharing these stories. You have so much to share. 

Update from the library

By Tim Toland



The SPPC library is open!!! 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. 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. It would be greatly appreciated if you have a photography book you don't need any more to donate it to the library (thank you in advance).

Checking books out and back in


Write the following information on a piece of paper (form to follow) and give it to Tim Toland at a meeting:

Checking books out:	Checking books in:
• Book Number(s)	• Book Number(s)
• Check out date	• Check in Date
• Last Name	• Last Name
• First Name	• First Name
• Phone Number	• Rating

Note The library also has, from time to time, photography magazines and DVD's. These aren't cataloged and may be taken home and kept without checking them out.

Future Enhancements include:

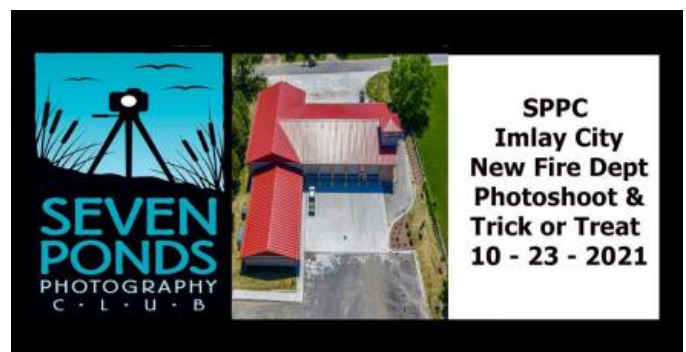
1. Form for checking books out and in.
2. Library book cart for storing books on other than the current bookcase.
3. Book catalog on the SPPC web site for viewing and downloading
4. QR code for directly accessing the book catalog on the SPPC web site.
5. Database to analyze and manage the book library

REMEMBER - THIS IS YOUR LIBRARY PLEASE USE IT 
YOU'LL LIKE IT!

Let me know if you have any suggestions for enhancements for the library.

Thanks,
Tim Toland

SPPC – Imlay City New Fire Dept Photoshoot – 10/23/2021



This was a fun and family event led by Stu Davis to see the new fire house and have some trick or treating fun.

Opportunities to photograph fire house trucks and Halloween themed pictures of kids in costumes.

SPPC – Oxford Witches Night Out – Oct 23rd



This outing was led by Bobbie and Jim Lewis. It was a lady’s night out in a haunted Downtown Oxford! The event started at 5:30 pm and went until 10 pm.

photo by Tina Daniels

There were shopping deals, restaurant food and drink specials, psychic readers, street performers, refreshments, pop up vendors and more. There were also prizes for best Witch Costumes! So many photo opportunities and apparently so many witches wanting their photos taken.

SPPC – Fall Décor Workshop – Oct 24th



Photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

Several members attended the Fall Décor workshop at Ankley Farms that was led by Tina Daniels. Lots of nice harvest compositions were shot by those that were able to make the event.



Close up of a cabbage head

Photo by Mike Moats



Mike Moats and Stu Davis

Photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

SPPC – Tilson Street – Oct 26th

Story by Germaine Finley



Photos by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

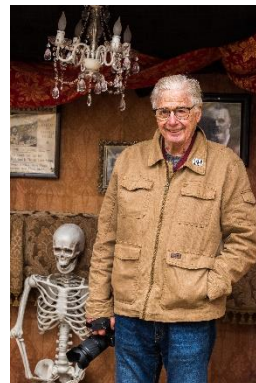
So, I may have been the only person in Michigan not to have heard about Tilson Street but I



first was told about it 2 years ago (pre Covid) at a Seven Ponds Photo Club Meeting. I couldn’t go then due to work but thought ... next time, I’ll go.

So, this year the opportunity was again presented as a club outing led by Stu Davis and I jumped at the chance to see what all the clamor was about.

Let me tell you, Romeo **REALLY** loves Halloween and goes all out in decorations – especially on Tilson Street. I think it must be a requirement to move onto the street to agree to decorate your house. We met Tuesday morning to avoid the crowds (and I found out there are lots of crowds at night but also worth seeing). Stu led us to all the best houses and pointed out great details and suggestions on how to shoot. I think all Romeo knows Stu and he was greeted as we walked down the street. LeeAnn also helped me with setting up for bracketing on my camera so I could try the infamous HDR technique. Fun and informative. That’s one of the nice benefits of going with the group as you always pickup on something new. The morning was followed up with a fun lunch and warm up beverages. All in all – I’ll go back again next year.



photos by Germaine Finley

SPPC – Caseville Witches Walk – Oct 30th



photo by Tina Daniels

This event was led by Tina Daniels. Merchants and Restaurants were open and offering up treats, special deals, and a whole lot of hocus-pocus fun! It was a full day of shopping with a Witch Walk at the end. Merchants were open beginning at 10am and had extended hours for the day. The actual "Walk" began at 6pm in the parking lot just next to the Independent Bank on Main Street. If you missed it this year, be sure to look for this event next year as I am sure it will become an annual event!

SPPC – Holiday Card Workshop – Nov 6th



Photo by Tina Daniels

- Tina Daniels
- Elizabeth Gondert
- Guest Flo
- Bobbie & Jim Lewis

Thanks to Tina Daniels and Elizabeth Gondert for organizing this workshop. They provided and set-up items to help inspire participants. The following members attended the workshop and learned some new techniques for their holiday creations and had lots of fun:

- Kristin Grudzien
- LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
- Wilma Forry
- Cindy Bilinsky
- Sharon Evanko
- Stu Davis
- Bill Bolio & Kathy Bolio



Photo by Bobbie Lewis



Photo by Kristin Grudzein

Special thanks to Ian Kempf for the use of the Michigan State Fairgrounds Room, Bette Chapin Kenward for the Photo gingerbread cookies, and Kristin Boos for showcasing the how-to of printing with JD Labs and photo product demonstrations. See:

Website: <https://www.jdlab.com/>

Photo Gifts: [Greeting Cards](#), [Christmas Tree](#)

[Ornaments](#), [Playing Cards](#), [Puzzles](#), [Key Chains](#), [Wearable](#)

[Photo Gifts](#), [Kitchen Photo Gifts](#), [Auto Gifts](#)

SPPC - Matthaei Botanical Gardens - University of Michigan – Nov 10th



Thanks to Tim Toland for leading a club outing to the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The trip was attended by only a couple SPPC members and some guests, but they were treated to a great day. The

indoor tropical garden was a beautiful place to practice macro photography with vegetation from around the world.

Outdoors, the group enjoyed an awesome fall walk along nearly three miles of trails following a natural stream complete with wildlife. Below is some information if you

would like to check out the Gardens on your own (**Note:**

Buildings are Handicap accessible):

Cost: Free

Parking: Paid Parking in lot

What to Bring:

Your camera and accessories to photograph Botanical Decor Small fold up diffuser, Flash, Monopod. Etc. (Venue does not support tripods)

Dress: Dress per Michigan Weather

Objective: Learn new and creative ways to photograph Botanical Decor and more

No reservations needed, attend any time it is open to the public event



WINNER of the [Mike Moats Tiny landscapes Giveaway](#) from the Nov. 19th meeting was drum roll please

Kristin Grudzein!! Congratulations, Kristin!

But wait ... there will be **another** chance to win!

Next Drawing 2-4-2022 Tickets \$5 each and/or pay 2022 dues early, get 1 free ticket in the [Mike Moats Giveaway](#)

2021 Holiday Scavenger Hunt –

By Germaine Finley

I am sponsoring a 2021 Holiday Photo Scavenger Hunt for the fun of all 7 Ponds members (or at least I hope people find this fun). The prize is a \$15.00 Starbucks gift card, and the contest rules are as follows:



Photo by Tina Daniels

1. Submit one photo for each of the 12 topics listed after the directions here. One photo can't count for more than 1 topic.
2. Post the photos on the [SPPC Member's Shared Images](#) and you **MUST** put in the comments the topic – ie. [#ChristmasInTheCity](#) or [#Lights](#), or I just won't be able to score this (thanks).
3. 1 point for each like and 2 points for each love. Total number of points wins and in the case of a tie – I'll tell the individuals that have tied to choose a random number between 1-50 and my husband will pick the number out of a hat.
4. Contest runs Dec 1st through Dec 30th and I'll tally the votes and announce Dec 31st. Prize will be awarded at the 2022 Kickoff meeting in Jan.

Twelve Pictures of Christmas Scavenger Hunt 😊 below are the 12 topics to depict in a photo. **You do not have to wait until the contest completes to start posting. The earlier you post ... the more votes you might get.** Please vote for the photos that best portray that topic (like or love the picture). I will exclude voting for your own pictures. I might participate for the fun of the scavenger hunt but I can't win. Good luck and Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays to all. I hope you enjoy this.

1. Love
2. Kindness
3. Winter Sunrise
4. Faith
5. Christmas in a city
6. Snow or Frost or Ice
7. Red and Green
8. Warmth
9. Music
10. Tastes of Christmas
11. Star
12. Lights

Have fun with this :) open to DSLR or phone pictures. Just so we can all have some fun and think a little about conveying an idea in photography. Merry Christmas (or Happy Holidays) and Happy New Year!

Did You Know?

We have had some unannounced photographic accomplishments by some of our club members.

Armada Fair



Bill Bolio received Best of Show for his Blue Lady photograph and Kathy Bolio received multiple ribbons at the Armada Fair. Two (2) Best of Show for Reflection and Lighthouse Panorama as well as a Fan Favorite Plaque. Harry Davis got Best of Show for his photo - Rose. Congratulations Bill, Kathy and Harry on their accomplishments!

Detroit Digital International Salon of Photography (DDISP) 2021

This is an annual fundraiser for the GDCCC and an international competition. There were 1598 images submitted from 26 counties with an overall acceptance rate of 33.6%. While our club did not receive any medals, we did have 3 members that got their photos accepted into the competition. Valid acceptances from PSA members in recognized sections are eligible for PSA star ratings.

For an online gallery of all accepted images see – [GDCCC DDISP online gallery](#). This will be taken down sometime in 2022.



For Color General Open Section – there were:

112 Authors with 447 Images. 154 images were accepted with an acceptance rate of 34 %.

Tina Daniels image **Winery Splendor** in the Color General category was accepted.



SPPC is looking for members to help out -

✓ 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

✓ Volunteers to bring individually wrapped snacks

New Members Can Sign up & Pay Online

Thanks to Seven Ponds Nature Center we now have the ability for new Seven Ponds Photography Members to sign up and pay on line. Thank you, Diane Rankin!

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

[Pay Seven Ponds Photo Club Membership](#)

Early Pay Promotion by the night of the Feb 4th meeting!

All members that pay dues early will receive 1 free ticket for the Mike Moats Giveaway Drawing that night.

For Monochrome Open Section, there were:

101 Authors with 395 Images. 138 images were accepted with an acceptance rate of 34%.

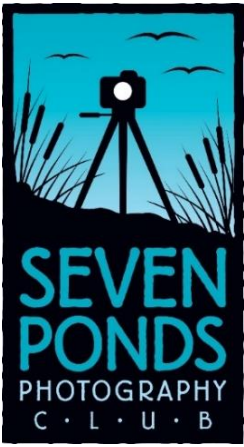


Germaine Finley's photo **The Calm Before the Storm** and



Kristin Grudzien's image **Black Check Iris** was accepted into the competition.

Congratulations!



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

12/05/2021 @ 2pm [Metamora Wassailing Celebration](#)

12/14/2021 @ 1-3pm [Christmas photo shoot at the Octagon House](#) (plus meet up for lunch before @ 11:30 PM- 12:30 PM Brown Iron Brew House)

12/21/2021 – [Winter Solstice Sunrise/Sunset Run](#)

Dawn in Lexington, MI - Meet at Sunrise at the Lexington State Harbor/Patrick Tierney Park. Breakfast will be at a TBD location. Then Claire, MI (Cops and Doughnuts and [Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farm](#)) After that, it is back on the road to Ludington to capture the sunset. See [SPPC Trips/Meetup FB Page](#) for more details.

1/15/2022 @ 3-5pm Print Workshop at Seven Ponds (bring 1-2 photos – 16 x 20 or add a border to your picture to make it 16 x 20 before printing. Supplies will be in a kit that will be part of the workshop cost. Details coming soon on the SPPC website for registration)

2/12 thru 2/14/2021 - [Plymouth Ice Festival](#)

Upcoming Virtual Workshops

[BH Event Space \(Free Webinars\)](#)

12/9/2021 – [HUNTS - Wildlife on all Seven Continents along with Macro Photography in your Own Backyard](#) by Darrell Gulin

12/18/2021 - [2021 PSA Sponsored On-line Workshops by Art Wolfe 10amEST by Art Wolfe](#)

01/13/2022- [Beyond the Sawgrass: The Wonders of the Wetlands](#) by Luca Martinez

2-11-2021 - [GDCCC Competition Boot Camp via Zoom \(NA vs CG Category\)](#) based on feedback from Mike Florian

Leads= Kristin Grudzien & Germaine Finley. Email us and the Zoom link will be provided

02/23/2022 - [GDCCC Sponsored: Macro Photography Tools & Tips – Getting Close to Your subject](#) by HUNTS

Focus Topics (Review @ 1st Friday Meetings)

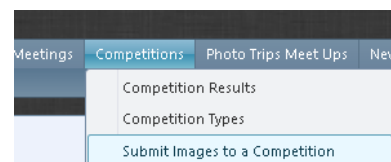
Nov = Winterberries and Landscapes

Dec = Holiday Spirit Jan = Bokeh

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 **Wednesday** before the day of the meeting.

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

Go to:



and select the current month Focus Topic. I.e:

Competition Date	Points	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

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](#)

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

Self-guided Trips

11/20/2021 – 1/9/2022 [Wild Lights at the Detroit Zoo](#)

12/3-5, 12/9-12, 12/16-23, 12/26-28/2021
6:30-10 pm [Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village](#)

01-26/2022 – 01/31/2022 [Zehnder's Snowfest - Frankenmuth](#)

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.



No Meetings In December!

Mentoring sessions have been canceled for 2021.

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

[SPPC Member's Shared Images](#)

[GDCCC Home Page](#)

