

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.

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.*

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

2-26-2022 [Mike Moats Marco Hands on Photo Shoot Workshop](#)

3-04-2022 [Travels to Kenya: Covid Edition](#) By: [Paul Wakabayashi](#)

3-06-2022 Group Shoot to [Howell Steve Gettle Bird of Prey Shoot](#) Cost (\$90) + Sign up required

Member Spotlight - Mike Moats



You might not know we have an international award-winning, professional macro photographer in our club. So let me take this issue to highlight this professional and club member that continually gives back to our great club – Mike Moats.

Mike Moats first got involved with Seven Ponds Photography Club as an invited guest by Stu Davis. Mike really liked the Nature Center and started attending the club meetings.



Photo by Mike Moats

He has given back to the club with membership prizes to his macro photography group, training workshops for or club on macro photography and on-going support and advice.

When Mike started in 2000/2001 timeframe, he was on a mountaineering outing to Mt. Shasta & Mt. Rainier. He wanted to find a new hobby and bought a book by John Shaw. Per John Shaw, "the more you simplify your vision, the stronger your images will be" (Seems like a mantra for macro photography). That book must have provided some great inspiration because in 2004, Mike was published in *Outdoor Photographer*. He then started his Art show business but moved out of that into teaching and seminars as more and more artwork were being sold in big box stores, flooding the market with easy access and cheap wall art. It was a paradigm shift in the market that not all artists embraced in time. Mike also wrote a book, *Tiny Landscapes*, which was released in 2008 and is still available on Amazon. Mike has now been published in many journals & magazines including - *Outdoor Photographer*, *Nature's Best Photography*, *Shutterbug*, *PC Photo*, *Nature Photographer*, *Photo Life*, *Whisper in the Woods*, and *Michigan Fish and Game Finder*. In addition to creating his own images, Mike makes speaking appearances at photo conferences nationwide, leads intensive Macro Boot Camps, and has an online Macro Photo Club (<https://www.tinylandscapes.com/macro-photo-club>) to assist photographers with their macro goals.



Photo by Mike Moats

Mike says he has fun traveling but also likes photographing alone. As for his favorite place, he replied there are so many nice areas but Stoney Creek provides some great locations that are a little more secluded. Botanical gardens also have great

opportunities, your backyard, swamps, dead trees and flowers are all great for macro.



© Mike Moats

He shared the following Five Benefits of Macro Photography:

- Shooting close to home. You do not have to travel far as macro subjects are everywhere. You can find it at the local parks, in your own yard, and even shoot inside your home.
- You can shoot with just one lens. You do not need a whole arsenal of lenses for macro photography. If you are starting out as a macro photographer and limited on funds, a mid range focal length lens like the Tamron 90mm will work great for all purposes. If you plan to shoot live subjects such as butterflies, dragonflies, and other small critters that will flee as you approach to close, go with the longer focal length macro lens in the 180mm range. For macro photography plan on shooting most of your shots with your camera mounted on a good sturdy tripod and ballhead.

- Shoot any time of day. Landscape and wildlife photographers have limited control over lighting and tend to shoot early morning and late evening which offers the best light. Because of the small subjects that macro photographers work with, we can control our light by using diffusers and reflectors, so we can shoot any time of the day. Mike carries a 12" diffuser which he uses to control harsh overhead light or sunlight from hitting his subjects.
- More Creativity. One of the challenges as a macro photographer is working with depth of field. Because we are shooting awfully close to our subjects, the depth of field is very shallow causing lots of out of focus areas in our photos. The closer we get to the subject, the less that will be in focus. We can use this shallow depth of field to our advantage in creating artistic compositions. If you like soft focus dream like images, shoot in the lower f/stop range, and use this shallow depth of field to produce some beautiful artwork. If you have a subject that may have some interesting lines or textures that you may want to show off, you can set your f/stop in the highest numbers and bring everything into focus.
- Your own personal art. Your own personal art is one of my favorite benefits. Every image that you view on Mike's website is an original. They are subjects that were present for only a moment in time, until the environment erased them forever. None of the images can be reproduced again because the subjects do not exist anymore.

When asked who Mike's most inspirational photographers are, he said really a variety of photographers but some influential photographers for him were – John Shaw, Art Wolfe and Galen Rowell.



Photo by Mike Moats

His words of advice to the club members were:

#1 Shoot, shoot, shoot!

#2 Get on Facebook and study what you see out there and share your work!

Lastly, if you want to "make it" in a photography business, he says the key is how much time you are willing to spend on the internet promoting yourself. Mike is on the internet blogging, being active on all social media and photo forums 365 days a year. He is a hard-working professional that we are very lucky to have in our photography club.

Reminder about the library



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.

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.

2021 SPPC GDCCC Competitions Congratulations SPPC Members!

SPPC Submitted to 5 Competitions in 2021 and won 58 awards!

02.15.21 DPD - Toledo

03.15.21 DPD – Seven Ponds (*we judged*)

04.19.21 DPD – Windsor

09.13.21 DPD – West Oakland

10.04.21 DPD – Livonia

11.01.21 DPD – The Photo Guild

11-29-21 DPD – EOY GDCCC



9 First Places



10 Second Places



22 Third Places



17 Honorable Mentions

Congratulations to all the winners! All photos are highlighted in a slideshow that LeeAnn McLaneGoetz put together for the 2022 Kickoff meeting.

See [2022 Kickoff link on Seven Ponds Website](#)

We had 8 GDCCC Move Ups for 2021!

Bolio	William	AD	NA	Beginner (BE) - 5 points
Finley	Germaine	AD	CR	Advanced (AV) – 5 points
Finley	Germaine	AD	CG	Salon (SA) -7 points
Finley	Germaine	AD	MG	
Grudzien	Kristin	AD	CR	Star (ST) – 7 points
Grudzien	Kristin	AD	CG	
Kersey	Mark	AD	MG	Galaxy (GA) – 14 points
Lewis	Jim	SA	NA	

GDCCC End Of Year 2021 Awards

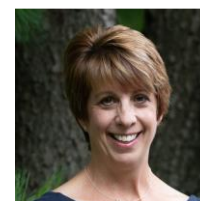
Due to COVID, the End of Year Awards Celebration was again done virtually. The presentation was created by Bill Buchanan and can be seen from a link on the GDCCC homepage to YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XccGuv0d5Ps> Awards are Image of the Year, Best in Show, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention. We also had 2 new award winners – Larry Ludwicki and Harry Davis. Congratulations!

Seven Ponds received 20 Awards!



Color General:

Karen Banish – HM Beginner



Honorable Mention, Score: 24
EOY DPD CG - Beginner
Falls in Color
Karen Banish
Seven Ponds Photography Club
Image Id: 13050168

Elizabeth Gondert – HM Beginner



Honorable Mention, Score: 25
EOY DPD CG - Beginner
three tulips
Elizabeth Gondert
Seven Ponds Photography Club
Image Id: 13853945





© Elizabeth Gondert



Honorable Mention, Score: 25
 EOY DPD CR - Beginner
 Daisies
 Elizabeth Gondert
 Seven Ponds Photography Club
 Image Id: 13340733



Honorable Mention, Score: 23
 EOY DPD CR - Beginner
Buried In A Book
 Germaine Finley
 Seven Ponds Photography Club
 Image Id: 13144812



© Germaine Finley

Creative

Germaine Finley – HM Beginner



© Germaine Finley

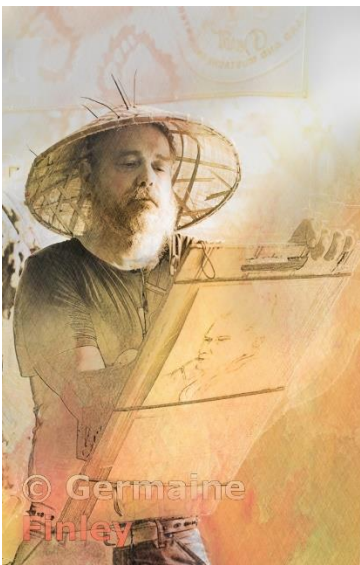


Honorable Mention, Score: 24
 EOY DPD CR - Beginner
Ice Climbers
 Germaine Finley
 Seven Ponds Photography Club
 Image Id: 13519107

Harry Davis – HM Beginner



Honorable Mention, Score: 22
 EOY DPD CR - Beginner
I see you now
 Harry Davis
 Seven Ponds Photography Club
 Image Id: 16127196



© Germaine Finley



Honorable Mention, Score: 23
 EOY DPD CR - Beginner
Sketching Sasquatch Uncut
 Germaine Finley
 Seven Ponds Photography Club
 Image Id: 15868036



© Harry Davis

LeeAnn McLaneGoetz – HM Salon



Honorable Mention, Score: 23
EOY DPD CR - Salon
Bubbles Penguins
LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Seven Ponds Photography Club
Image Id: 15867021



LeeAnn McLaneGoetz – HM Advanced



First Place, Score: 26
EOY DPD MG - Advanced
Coast Guard
LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Seven Ponds Photography Club
Image Id: 13324918



Monochrome

William Bolio – HM Beginner



Honorable Mention, Score: 23
EOY DPD MG - Beginner
Down a winding staircase
William Bolio
Seven Ponds Photography Club
Image Id: 15871142

Jim Lewis – HM Advanced



Honorable Mention, Score: 24
EOY DPD MG - Advanced
Up in the sky
Jim Lewis
Seven Ponds Photography Club
Image Id: 16262409



Nature

William Bolio – HM Beginner



Honorable Mention, Score: 25
EOY DPD NA - Beginner
Battle practice
William Bolio
Seven Ponds Photography Club
Image Id: 15871177



Debra Bierley – HM Beginner



Honorable Mention, Score: 24
EOY DPD NA - Beginner
Lesser Yellowlegs eating
Debra Bierley
Seven Ponds Photography Club
Image Id: 13817604



Roman Tornopilsky – HM Beginner



Honorable Mention, Score: 25
EOY DPD NA - Beginner
Morning Glory Invader
Roman Tornopilsky
Seven Ponds Photography Club
Image Id: 15844099



Honorable Mention, Score: 23
EOY DPD NA - Beginner
Mom & Dad Tree Swallows
Debra Bierley
Seven Ponds Photography Club
Image Id: 13816993



Jim Lewis – HM Advanced



Honorable Mention, Score: 25
 EOY DPD NA - Advanced
Stretch
 Jim Lewis
 Seven Ponds Photography Club
 Image Id: 13677195





Honorable Mention, Score: 24
 EOY DPD NA - Advanced
Red Egret-Pure Elegance
 Mark Kersey
 Seven Ponds Photography Club
 Image Id: 13339761

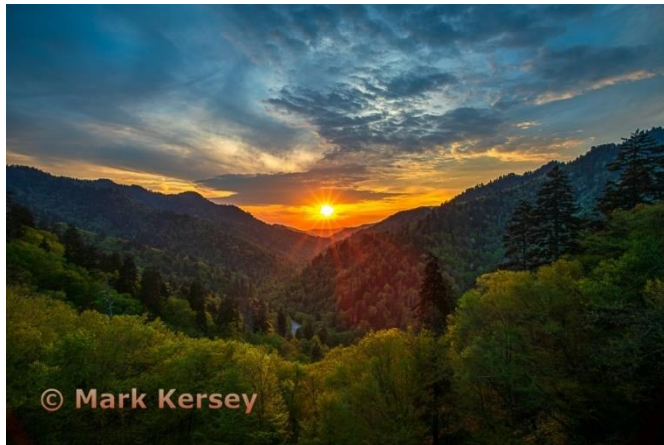


LeeAnn McLaneGoetz – HM Salon

Mark Kersey – HM Advanced



Honorable Mention, Score: 24
 EOY DPD NA - Advanced
Natural Beauty
 Mark Kersey
 Seven Ponds Photography Club
 Image Id: 15228614




Honorable Mention, Score: 23
 EOY DPD NA - Salon
Blue Heron
 LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
 Seven Ponds Photography Club
 Image Id: 15220893



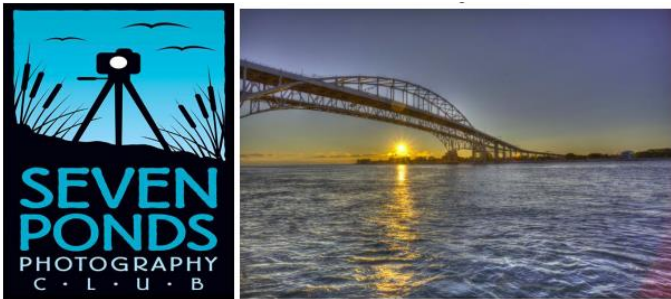


Honorable Mention, Score: 23
EOY DPD NA - Salon
11 American White Pelican
LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Seven Ponds Photography Club
Image Id: 12680028



What a great club showing this year!

SPPC High Dynamic Range (HDR) Lecture – 1/7/2022



Speaker: Stu Davis, images by Stu

Stu is well known in the club for his HDR images. In this lecture, he went over reasons why to use HDR. What HDR does, and the advantages of using HDR. He also explained how to set HDR up on your camera and how to process HDR images.

The software Stu uses is Photomatix, which has been the leader for many years, and he provided a 30% discount code for our SPPC club members (which was good until the end of February).



If you have HDR questions, you can email questions to: emailstu430@gmail.com. As our resident HDR expert, hopefully he can help with your HDR questions.

SPPC Print Workshop – 1/15/2022



On Saturday, January 15th, Jim Lewis went over how to properly mount a 16 x 20 image for GDCCC print competitions. This year GDCCC has returned to print competitions and many of us have never been through this process. It was great listening to Jim explain how to prepare our prints, also discussing

different papers and tools that are helpful for print making.

In the workshop, we brought at least one print (up to 16 x 20 inches in size) and were provided a 16" x 20" self-adhesive mounting board, gloves and a utility knife. With Jim and Bobbie assisting us, everyone that wanted to try mounting was able to complete that during the workshop. We are now ready for this year's print competitions!



SPPC 2022 Kickoff Meeting – 1/21/2022



We had a great turnout for the 2022 Holiday Kickoff meeting at Seven Ponds Nature Center. LeeAnn created a nice slideshow highlighting last year's accomplishments ([2022 Kickoff link on Seven Ponds Website](#)). There was pizza, salad, sweets and beverages, raffles, prizes and lots of great conversations. It was nice to be back together again.



Winners of the Raffle prizes were:



Camera Bag – Kristin Grudzein
\$25 ProCam gift card – Bobbie Lewis
Mike Moats lifetime macro club membership – Elizabeth Gondert
Oil & Water workshop kit – Karen Banish, Bill Bolio, Germaine Finley, Elizabeth Gondert

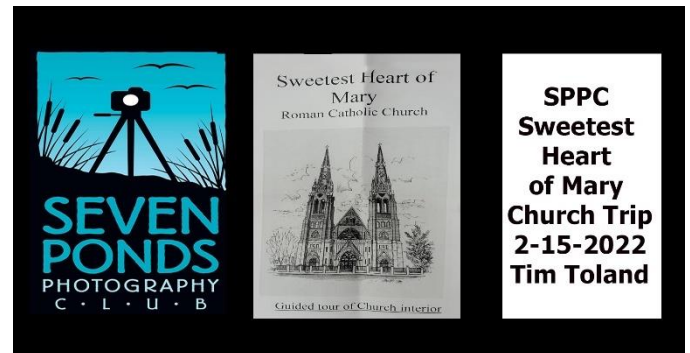
Also, announced at the Kickoff was the winner of the Facebook Holiday Photo Scavenger Hunt.

Congratulations to Kristin Grudzein. The prize was a \$25 Starbucks Holiday Gift card, 2 Photo Memory Card Zip Pouches, 2 Lens Clothes and Christmas Candy.

SPPC DPD & Print Rules Zoom – 2/11/2022

Kristin and Germaine did a Zoom meeting presentation to review the updated GDCCC rules for Digital and Print Competition. The presentation will be recorded and posted on the Seven Ponds Website (we apologize for forgetting to record during the broadcast – having too much fun). However, until then see the [GDCCC DPD Rules Updated 10.04.21](#) published on the GDCCC website.

SPPC Church Outing – 2/15/2022



Thanks to Tim Toland for leading a great photo trip to Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit.

Attendees included:



Photo by Tim Toland

Stu Davis
Stu's wife Deanna
Tim Toland
Tim's wife Chris
Ron Wells Shutter Bugs
John Brown Shutter Bugs
Jeff Bondono Eastside CC
Glen Suszko Eastside CC
John Martin
Bill Grimshaw
Mike Pipia

Sweetest Heart Church is a beautiful Gothic-style Church which opened in 1893. Sweetest Heart was

built for \$125,000 and has a pipe organ built in 1894 that is the oldest surviving electro-pneumatic pipe organ in the state of Michigan, built in 1893.

Another Great Prize Announcement -



Dennis Trainor is the **Winner** from the 2/18/2022 Meeting for a Mike Moats Macro

Club Lifetime Membership! Congratulations Dennis!!

Mike Mercier memorial



For those that have not heard the sad news, we lost a beloved member of our club on Jan 11th, 2022. Mike was an encouraging and kind

member of our club and he always had a positive comment. He was a wonderful mentor for members and was willing to share his tips and tricks.

Mike not only was on the Photo Club Board, but a longtime member of the Seven Ponds Board of Directors, an Assistant Naturalist, and also helped start the Bee Keepers Club. He spend many hours volunteering at Seven Ponds including photographing many of the events which showed the highlights of Seven Ponds.

To help keep Mike's memory alive we would like to donate a bench (and possibly a tree) in his memory so many more visitors can sit, take pictures and show the beauty of Seven Ponds.

See [Mike Mercier Memorial](#) to donate for his memorial and share pictures of Mike for his memorial [<here>](#).



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**

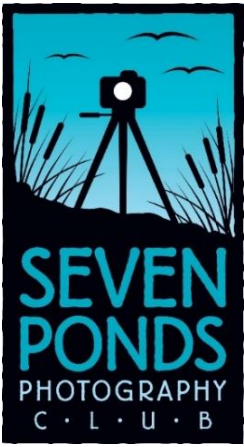
✓ **Volunteers to bring individually wrapped snacks**

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 online. 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](#)



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

2-26-2022 [Mike Moats Marco Hands on Photo Shoot](#) Workshop 11am-1pm @ SPNC

3-04-2022 [Travels to Kenya: Covid Edition By: Paul Wakabayashi](#)

3-06-2022 Group Shoot to [Howell Steve Gettle Bird of Prey Shoot](#) Cost (\$90) + Sign up required

Upcoming Virtual Workshops

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

[Hunts On-Line Classes](#)

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

03/01/2022 - [Bird Photo Editing: The Way Your Monitor Was Meant to be Seen](#) by Tyler Ficker and John Walrath

03/03/2022- [Making a Connection with Your Photos](#) by Ian Plant

03/16/2022- [More Than the Eye can See: An Introduction to Astrophotography](#) by Liron Gertsman

03/29/2022- [The Properly Equipped Macro Photographer](#) with Mike Moats

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

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

Focus Topics (Review @ 1st Friday Meetings)

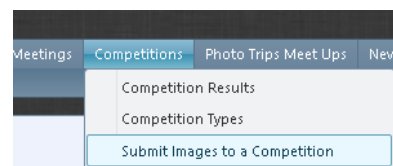
Feb = Leading Lines

March = Owls April = Contrast

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. Ie:

Competition Date	Host	Competition Title	Competition Type	Cloud Data/Time
Selected	Friday, January 7, 2022	"Focus Topic" Opens 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

02/26/2022 - 10 am – 5 pm - [Romeo Winterfest](#)

03/01 – 04/30/2022 - [Butterflies Are Blooming, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park](#)

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](#)

When in a rut ... look to the Masters. Below are some photographers from an [article](#) by Dora Jokkel:



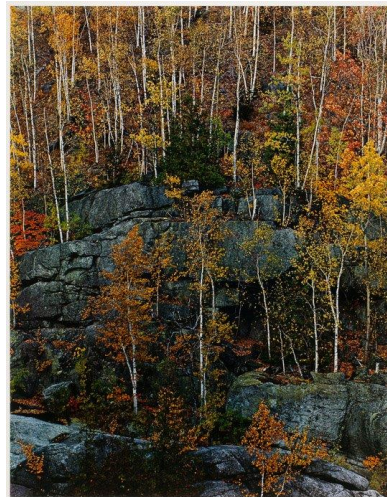
Annie Leibovitz



Imogen Cunningham



Henri-Cartier-Bresson



Eliot Porter



Paul Strand