



April 2018

Volume 1 Issue 1

SPPC Perspective

The Seven Ponds Photography Club, formed in 2009, 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.

Welcome to the new SPPC Newsletter

Welcome to the new monthly newsletter for the Seven Ponds Photography Club. The newsletter articles will focus on discussing recent activities of the club, and detailing events that are scheduled to happen in the next month. We will have our regular column the "Presidents Corner". The last page of the newsletter will highlight "SPPC - Activities and Events" that will be happening in the next few months. Of course the newsletter will always be open to suggestions. Please send your comments and suggestions to [Mark Robinson](#).

David Stimac will be presenting

Please join the April 6th club meeting to hear Dave Stimac, present on the topic of Photographing Wild Flowers.

Dave will be discussing the techniques needed for creating razor sharp, well-lit exposures of wildflowers. He will cover the ways you can get the most out of your equipment and how to get into macro photography without spending a fortune. You will learn how to control depth-of-field, light & avoid distractions in your photography. We will also discuss creative techniques that go beyond simple portraits, such as intentional blur and multiple exposures. He will talk about the chronology of bloom among favorite plants, where to look for them and recommend the best identification guides and other sources.



Dave has had an interest in natural history since early on, and he has drawn, painted, carved and photographed animals and plants for over forty years. Dave is an avid birder, hunter and naturalist and spends as much time as he can outdoors. Waterfowl, in particular, has inspired him for most of his life. He is fascinated by their beauty, behavior and migrations. He hopes that my work conveys the awe and respect he feels for them and all living things.



Dave's formal education took place at the College for Creative Studies, where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in illustration. He has worked as an illustrator, graphic designer and freelance photographer for over thirty years. His work has appeared in Ducks Unlimited, Wildfowl Magazine, Gray's Sporting Journal, Sports Afield, National Geographic Books, Ranger Rick, Your Big Backyard, Birdwatcher's Digest, and Living Bird.



Dave also uses his photography to teach others about our native flora and fauna in various presentations. He enjoys helping new photographers learn more about their equipment, technique and subject matter. His workshops help participants master their cameras so that they can better express their creativity and connection to wild places, animals and plants.



www.davidstimac.com

Contributors Requested

The newsletter is titled SPPC Perspectives as I am hopeful that SPPC members will provide their perspective on the activities and events that they participate in, and perhaps one of their photo's to be included. If you have a favorite place you like to shoot, and share the information with others, please write that up as well. I am not sure we will be able to include everything from everyone but I will do my best to fit it in. Please send your contributions to [Mark Robinson](#).

Gilmore Car Museum

Contributor: Tom Harpootlian

The [Gilmore Car Museum](#) started in the early 1960s when Donald S. Gilmore began collecting vintage automobiles. Some of the first vehicles in his collection included 1927 Ford Model T, a 1913 Rolls Royce, and a 1920 Pierce Arrow. To accommodate his collection he acquired 90 acres of land in southwestern Michigan in a small town known as Hickory Corners.



The Gilmore Car Museum is North America's largest auto museum with nearly 400 vehicles on display and over 189,000 square feet of exhibit space. The Museum's 90-acre Historic Campus features numerous vintage structures including a restored and fully-functioning 1941 Silk City Diner, a recreated 1930s Shell Station, six onsite Partner Museums, and so much more.

Since it is set up sort of like Greenfield Village with about 20 buildings holding different brands of cars or different subjects it is probably best to go on a very nice day so you can walk around comfortably. Also on some warm weekends different automobile clubs will have events at the museum and many cars will be on display on grassy areas.

President's Corner

So here I sit trying to figure out what to write about for my first edition of "Presidents Corner". And my thoughts go to "what is the job of the club president"? What should I be doing to help lead this photography club in the right direction? And to that degree, what is the right direction?

We advertise our club as a "mentoring club" and I think we do a pretty good job of that all around. So for any new members here is the key: Don't be afraid to ask questions. On a club shoot most of us will not automatically approach you and start giving advice and the reason for that is simple, some people take that as an insult to their photography. OK, I am not most people, at most of our outings I do in fact watch others and ask if they need help. But that's me. And lately I've started to see others do the same thing and it's the right thing to do. So for our seasoned members please offer, don't be pushy, and if your advice isn't wanted then walk away. That's only happened once to me in the last year. This club has a tremendous amount of talent! And even so my guess is that even the most talented member of our club is still in the learning process and we are continually reading, going to seminars or classes and Googling subjects. Photography is a lifelong learning process and even great masters like Joe McNally (if you do not know who he is, Google him) will tell you he is still learning. So with that thought, I hope our new members realize they are entering a world of ever changing technology and that means forever learning. So if you have a question, ask. One thing I have noticed about photographers over my 35 years of shooting is that most photographers are willing to share their knowledge and help others learn.

Until next month, happy shooting.

Wild Flower Club Outing

Put what you learn from Dave Stimac into practice on Sunday April 15th. [Jerry Badgero](#) is leading a day outing to photograph wild flowers in the area. The exact location will not be known until we get closer to the date, when Jerry can chose the best location(s), based on what flowers are blooming in the area. You can monitor the details on face book.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1829375667359766/>

Reminder: Competitions are open to members only. Do not include any self-identifying information in the file name or any numbering schemes.

SPPC Macro/Close-up Shoot

Contributor: Mark Robinson

The SPPC macro close-up workshop was a great success, and a lot of fun. The event which was held at Seven Ponds Nature Center in March, was attended by 29 members and friends of the SPPC.

The workshop provided the attendees the opportunity to shoot an assortment of subjects, with various backdrops, and lighting options. The shoot included photographers with a wide range of experience and skills. There were



many opportunities for less experienced photographers to ask and receive assistance from the more experienced. Several people mentioned that they had tried camera features and photography

techniques they had never utilized before.

Following the workshop many members posted some of their results on the club's [Facebook](#) page, and many commented on the wonderful time they had.

In all, it was a wonderful way to spend a Saturday afternoon to work on photography skills and build friendships within the club.



A special thanks to Todd Bielby for organizing the event.

Photo Tiles

Contributor: Kathy Bolio

As photographers we love capturing just the right image, whether for documentation of a trip, a particular location, person or animal, favorite subject, etc. We sometimes share them over the internet, post on Facebook, print them and hang them on our walls, make an album or sell them. Others sit in our cell phones or on our computers occasionally getting located when a friend asks about family, trips or other events.



Finding creative ways to share our photographs is difficult for some of us. That is why I like sharing ideas when I run across them. At a recent trade show, I found a photographer who creates decorative tiles with her photographs. She attaches the pictures by Mod Podge (available in craft stores) to plain white tiles she picks up at Home Depot and epoxies them so they can be used as coasters, decorative tiles for baths and showers or kitchen back splashes, etc. The reason you need to epoxy the finished tile is that mod podge could become sticky if heat is applied. Try thinking of some of your favorite tiles for this project. Could make a nice useful gift as well.

Training Videos on YouTube

Contributor: Kathy Bolio

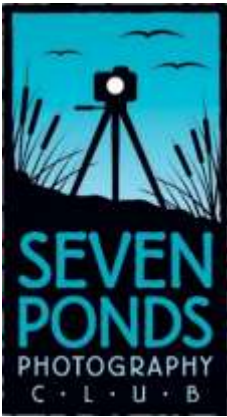
We got an interesting bonus with our Xfinity account, the ability to ask for information on YouTube. So far we have found videos on Bird photography, locations we might want to visit, lightroom, photoshop, stock photography, and much more. All we had to do was say "(subject) on YouTube" and several choices of video come up. If you don't have Xfinity you can also search YouTube on the internet and get all kinds of information.

Not all the videos on YouTube.com are great but you will often have several choices and may even find videos by some of your favorite photographers and trainers like Kelby, Steve Gettle and more. You might even want to post some videos of your own.

By the way stock photographers recommend that while you are making those wonderful photographs that we share at club, you might want to shoot a short video as well. More and more people are looking for video clips as well as photographs. Hope to see your work on YouTube.

What is your favorite?

This monthly column will be used to for members to share their favorite of the topic chosen for the month. This way we can share the wide experience of our club to all the members. For the May issue the topic will be **photo post processing software**. Please write a sentence or two on the software you like to use and why. If you have a link to a web site that has more detailed information send that as well. Please email your favorite photo software comments to [Mark Robinson](#).



April 2018

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.

Guest Speakers (1st Monday Meetings)

April 6 - [David Stimac, Flowers](#)

May 4 - [Phil Stagg, Michigan Waterfalls](#)

June 1 - Photo Shoot and Swap meet (No Speaker)

Assignment Topics (1st Monday Meetings)

Please send your images to [Stu Davis](#), by noon on the day of the meeting.

April 6 - First Sign of Spring

May 4 - Flowers

June 1 - Clouds

Club Outings

Club outing details change due to various reasons. Please check the Facebook event links for current details.

April 15: Wildflowers. Local location to be determined. We will be checking several areas the week before to see where we will shoot for the best flowers that are in prime condition.

Lead: [Jerry Badgero](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1829375667359766/>

May 18, 19 & 20: Weekend camp at Tawas State Park.

The warbler migration should be in full swing by this weekend. Wild flowers should also be in abundance for many providing many photographing opportunities. For non-camping people Tawas has several motels.

Lead: [Todd Bielby](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1508219099290634/>

June 1-3: Silver Lake Sand Dunes. June 1 is a scheduled club meeting. So those going on this trip will miss the meeting. State Park for campers. Several motels in the area. Shooting the sand dunes and the Little Sable Lighthouse plus whatever else we find interesting. Part

of the dunes are very popular with dune buggy and quads and motorcycles and could be fun shooting action shots.

Lead: [Todd Bielby](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/199927343937847/>

July 7: Bay City Fireworks. This will be a day trip that runs late in the evening.

Lead: [Jerry Badgero](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/186853161924625/>

August 12: Prairies and Ponds of Lapeer Macro/Close-up Shoot. This is a city owned park that offers great early morning spider webs, damselflies and dragonflies. Hoping for DEW!!

Lead: Todd Bielby

<https://www.facebook.com/events/159083371465471/>

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 assignment photographs.

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

Mentoring Sessions

Mentoring sessions are typically held the 4th Friday of each month please contact [Dale Vronch](#) if you plan to attend. Bring your laptop and an image to work on.

Helpful links:

[SPPC Facebook Page](#)

[SPPC Home Page](#)

[GDCCC Home Page](#)