



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.

Phil Stagg presenting on September 7th



Please join the September 7th club meeting to hear Phil Stagg, present on the topic of Michigan Waterfalls. Phil has been documenting Michigan's waterfalls since 2009. He has a passion for photography and waterfalls. Phil was originally

schedule to present to the SPPC on May 5th, but the meeting was canceled due to inclement weather and power outages. Please see the [May Newsletter](#) for additional information.

[Phil Stagg Photography on Facebook](#)

Marilyn Murphy Feather presenting on October 5th

Please join the October 5th club meeting to hear Marilyn Murphy Feather, present on the topic of Artist Residencies. Learn what an Artist-in-Residence is and what they do; what does an artist gain from the experience. Come learn the secrets to becoming an Artist in Residence.



The Editing Mentor sessions held on the fourth Friday of the month will resume on September 28.

Planning For Great Photographs

Contributor/Photographer Dave Stimac



Photographs like these aren't made by accident and involve some preparation long before the shutter is tripped. When pursuing birds, like these loons, learning as much as you can about your subject will improve your odds of actually getting them in the frame. Knowing the birds' habits at a particular location will make it easier for you to be in the right place at the right time.

Loons are very sensitive to human disturbance during incubation and may abandon their eggs if approached too closely. Agitated loons often rear up in a threat display known as the "penguin dance". If you see a bird doing this or experience one calling repeatedly, it's time to back off. Once the young have hatched it's safer to approach these birds as they can simply swim away from perceived threats.

Loons that nest on lakes with some boat traffic are generally easier to get close to, compared to those on more remote lakes. People that are lucky enough to live on a lake with nesting loons, keep close tabs on them and are very protective of "their" birds.

A friend's contact on an Upper Peninsula lake informed us that the resident loons' nest was successful and that they were busy feeding their two chicks in a sheltered bay. We made plans quickly and hoped to get images of the youngsters riding on mom's back. We used a 14 ft. rowboat with a small electric trolling motor. This way we could operate in silence and minimize movement. It's been my experience that water birds don't like the flash of flailing oars or kayak paddles!



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We checked out sunrise and sunset times, cloud cover and wind predictions. We knew that we would



have to use our longest lenses and maybe teleconverters too. We got out onto the lake three hours before sunset in order

to locate the birds and hopefully, get them used to our little boat long before the light quality improved. After much scanning with binoculars I finally located the birds and we started our approach. Of course, they started moving away once we got within 50 yards - way too far for photos.

There's no point in chasing animals. You will just cause alarm and never get close enough. Prior experience has taught me that patience is key



in situations like this. Do not chase or approach directly. Avoid eye contact and be as quiet and still as you can. We

used the light wind to our favor, positioning the boat so that we could drift slowly toward the birds. We also stayed as low as we could, sitting on the floor of the boat. The male loon was very busy catching small fish to feed the chicks. He covered a large area and was so intent on hunting that he paid little attention to us and occasionally came close enough for good framing. The female, with her two chicks, always kept her distance and we finished that first evening with little to show for our efforts.

The next morning, we were on the water well before sunrise but a bit stronger wind was going to make it difficult to keep the birds in the viewfinder in a



bobbing boat. For whatever reason, the birds were now more approachable and the male was very busy preening and bathing. Sometimes he was a little too close! Just as things were working out really well, a big cloud bank rolled in and totally killed the beautiful light. Now the loons seemed oblivious to us but we didn't have enough light to maintain fast enough shutter speeds for sharp images. Gradually, the clouds dissipated and we were treated to close observations of both parents feeding the chicks. Sometimes both adults were underwater, leaving the chicks by themselves. This was definitely a sign that they no longer saw us as a threat. Over the next two days we made hundreds of images and managed a few keepers. It's always a challenge to make sharp and level photos when working out of a small boat!

Whether you're photographing birds, insects, plants or landscapes it pays to know your subject, the angles of light at your location and above all, to be patient.



To find out more about David Stimac and see more of his great photographs visit www.davidstimac.com.

President's Corner (Ward McGinnis)

What's in the Bag?

So this question is one I ask myself when I see other people camera bags. What are they carrying around?

And it's been asked of me as well, "what all do you carry with you"?

Well obviously the camera body I am going to use and at times a second body. But today I actually have a second bag for the second body because one is full frame and the other is a crop sensor body and I have different lenses for each. With that said I have duplicates to some degree in each bag. Things like a wide angle lens, general carry around lens or telephoto lens. I also have an external flash I carry in each bag. So: one camera body and maybe three lenses. That's starting to add some weight! Now add to that a 1.4x for the longest lens I carry. That could be a Nikon or Sigma depending on which bag.

Other gadgets: A torpedo blower! Yes, every bag should have one. I use it to blow off the front element as needed. But also the rear element as needed and if I am getting dust on the sensor it will be used to blow that off as well. Next would be my lens cloth. Wouldn't leave home without one. But I never use one without first blowing off the front element with the torpedo blower. And a decent cable release. It can be a simple cable release like I've owned for over thirty years or one of the new fancy ones that are capable of programming time lapse etc. Either way, a cable release should be in every bag.

Filters: My camera bag has several filters. One polarizing filter and three neutral density filters. The ND filters will be a 2-stop, 4-stop and an 8-stop. Filters can be stacked and should always be clean! Use that torpedo blower to get that dust off! By stacking I can get up to 12 or 14 stops! AT 8 stops it's hard to see through it. AT ten and above all but impossible and your auto-focus most likely will not work. So pre-focus and then turn to manual focus so

it doesn't change! Also, if you add the polarizing filter you are going to lose another stop of light. All of my filters are 77mm because that is the largest filter size my general lenses take. However, my other lenses only take a 72 mm or maybe a 62mm so I also have adaptor rings so the 77mm filters will fit all of my lenses.

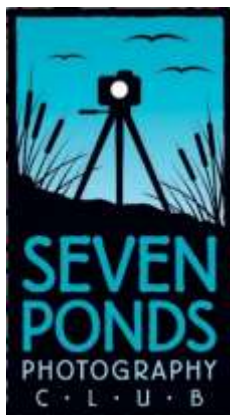
If I am setting the bag up for doing macro: The bag will also include a set of extension tubes just in case 1 to 1 isn't close enough. And my Nikon R1C1 macro flash units will also be included for those macro shots if I need it. Keep in mind if those are going in with the macro lens, a couple other lenses are coming out as they won't be needed. Choose carefully! Only so much will fit.

I also carry Allen wrenches to fit my tripod and also the mounting plates for the camera and lenses. One extra small plate in case it's needed. A few wooden clothes pins and a couple small plastic clamps. They have become useful many times to hold a flower in place or to hold a weed or blade of grass etc. out of the frame. I also carry at least one extra battery and at least one extra memory card. And one small diffuser/reflector.

When you add all of this up in weight the camera bag gets pretty heavy. So my two most often used bags are both backpack style bags. I have a couple other bags I sometimes use if I want to stay light and only carry one lens other than the one on the camera. The key is versatility. These days I am working on carrying less! My back appreciates that.

Contributors Requested

I invite all of the SPPC members to provide you're "Perspective" on the various club activities and events that you participate in, and perhaps share some of your photos, so they can be published in the newsletter. If you have a favorite place you like to shoot, or software package you like to use, and wish to share the information with others, please write that up as well. Please send your contributions to [Mark Robinson](#).



September/October 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)

Sept 7 - Phil Stagg, Michigan Waterfalls

Oct 5 - Marilyn Feather, Artist Residencies

Nov 2 - Daryl Bernard, Seven Ponds Nature Center

In addition to a November 2nd guest speaker, there will also be a Members five best photographs show. The show will feature photos from our club outings. So start reviewing your favorite outing photos to send in.

Assignment Topics (1st Monday Meetings)

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

Sep 7 - Reflections

Oct 5 - Color Change

Nov 2 - Animals

Dec 1 - No Meeting

Club Outings

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

September 9-15: Badlands Shoot.

A week long shoot in the Badlands of South Dakota. We will meet at the Badlands Motel and Campgrounds in Interior, SD Sunday, Sept 9. The Badlands NP has many buffalo, long horned sheep, Deer, Prairie Dogs, a few rattle snakes, and some birds as well. We will also be planning a night shoot for star trails and the Milky Way.

Lead: [Ward McGinnis](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/470212013430586/>

September 22: Model Shoot at Goodells Park. This will be the 2nd Annual model shoot for SPPC. Several models will be brought in to pose for us at Goodells Park.

Lead: [Sally Kwaiser](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/286475622128270/>

October 6: Greenfield Village Shoot. From 10AM to 6PM Greenfield Village provides over 80 acres and 300 years of American History to photograph.

Lead: [Stu Davis](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/892743857586268/>

October 19, 20 & 21: Sleeping Bear Dunes. Farms, Sand Dunes, night photography and lots of scenery to shoot in and around the Leelanau Peninsula. Camping at the National Parks Platte River Campground, several motels are also near Glen Arbor.

Lead: [Buddy Beyer](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/659355990906202/>

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](#)