



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.

2019 Kickoff and Pot Luck

This year got off to a great start at the annual Kickoff and Potluck meeting, about 70 members and guests joined the festivities. Many of the members brought in their photographs and displayed them, around the room for everyone to enjoy and discuss.

The gathering opened with the pledge of allegiance lead by Mike Mercier. Jim Lewis then thanked the many volunteers that made last year a great success and introduced the current board members. A blessing for the food by Reverend Kelly Todd followed and everyone then enjoyed a wonderful pot luck dinner.

After the dinner Hank Lewis presented ribbons earned in the Greater Detroit Camera Club Council (GDCCC) 2018 competitions, the SPPC won a total of 98 Ribbons. See the related article "GDCCC Award Competitions" in this newsletter for more information.

A 50/50 drawing was held that include a number of prizes in addition to the cash prize. Jessica Dombeck won both a thinkTank Airport Advantage Plus rolling camera case and the cash prize. The Airport Advantage Plus bag was donated to SPPC from PROCAM Photo & Video Gear, who also donated a number of smaller prizes to the drawing.



GDCCC Award Competitions

Contributor Hank Lewis

The Greater Detroit Camera Club Council is host to six competition per year in both digital images and prints. Each of the eleven member clubs may enter into five competitions per year. We can enter up to twelve images into each of the four digital divisions and nine prints into each of the two print divisions. Ribbons are awarded to the top 25% of images entered, plus ties. Winners of ribbons in these competitions are eligible for the GDCCC "End of Year" (EOY) competition.

SPPC had a total of twenty members win one or more ribbons in 2018, and a total of 98 ribbons were won altogether. These winners were entered into the EOY competition. We have won many EOY awards but the winners will not be announced until the GDCCC Awards Banquet in January.

In regard to the competitions, in every category a maker is classified as either BEGINNER, ADVANCED, SALON, STAR, or GALAXY. Starting at Beginner, a person receiving five ribbons will move to Advanced. After that it takes seven winners to move up to the next level.

More details can be found on the [GDCCC website](#)



A special thanks to [PROCAM Photo & Video Gear](#) for their contributions to the kickoff drawing, and on-going support to our club.

February 1st meeting Features Salon Video

A Salon video will be shown that is from the Detroit International Salon held last summer by the GDCCC. The competition was strictly DPD. There are many different categories and they do not align directly with the GDCCC categories. The majority of the entries come from other countries. We will be looking at the winners. This has all been coordinated with a musical background into a well-produced video.

Mike Moats Joins SPPC

Mike Moats joined the SPPC at our 2019 kickoff meeting. Mike is an



international award winning professional macro photographer.

Prior to the meeting Mike visited the nature center and he

created a short video on photographing patterns. This video is available for viewing on YouTube at the following link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ttv8C1Eseos&feature=youtu.be>

Mike will be conducting a workshop at the Seven Ponds Nature Center on April 27. An article on the workshop will be featured in the March/April edition of this newsletter. A flyer of this workshop is available now on the SPPC website by following the link below.

[Mike Moats Workshop and Mid-West Camera Sensor Cleaning 4-27-2019](#)

Additional information on Mike you can be found at his web site, <http://www.tinylandscapes.com>.

“Which of my photographs is my favorite? The one I’m going to take tomorrow.” – Imogen Cunningham

Sleeping Bear Dunes Outing

Contributor Tobi Britsch

October 20th and 21st several members from Seven Ponds Photography Club spent the weekend photographing some of Michigan’s historic farmsteads in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Some of us camped in the Sleeping Bear Dunes-Platt River Campground while others found hotel accommodations in Empire. Buddy Beyers took lead of the event and did a spectacular job finding the best farms for us to photograph and the best routes for us to get to them.



This area was first settled in the mid-1800’s and remnants of history and of the now mostly abandoned 16 farms are scattered throughout the park. We took pictures of houses, barns, corn cribs, chicken coops, wood sheds, outhouses, even dog houses, all with the colorful autumn leaves as a backdrop. The family farm has always been a part of our American Heritage and as we walked around I could not help but think about the people who had lived here. For over 100 years these houses and fields had passed down from generation to generation. I could only imagine the stories each photograph could tell. The weather was not picture perfect, but I think I can speak for the entire group, the experience was worth it.



Cropping

Contributor Ward McGinnis

When should I crop? During club competition night the number one thing I hear from the judges is the photo needs cropped a bit. Why crop? Mostly to get rid of distractions along the borders or to correct the composition. But there are limits! For most camera's the megapix are high enough you can safely cut 25-30% of the original pic and still have a reasonably sharp and noise free image. Cropping 50% of the image away will most likely not be a good idea.

Most of our digital SLR's shoot in a 2x3 format. Now if you use Photoshop (I do) and you go to use the crop tool you will see several built in choices in a dropdown menu at the top. The first choice is "unconstrained" or "original ratio". Original ratio means when you crop you still have that 2x3 format. Unconstrained means you can change any side to where you want it. Let's think about that. If we crop at 2x3 then we can still buy a frame at the local store that will fit our image format. A 2x3 format allows a print of 4x6, 8x12 or 12x18, all of which are readily available frame sizes. If I use "unconstrained" and I do not fit a common frame size I will need to have a custom frame made and that generally equals big money.

Let's look at the other options under that dropdown menu: 1x1, 4x5, 8.5x11, 4x3, 5x7, 2x3 and 16x9. Obviously the 1x1 will give you a square image of any size. The 4x5 becomes the very common 8x10 or 16x20. Where did these sizes come from? Easy answer, the film days. The 2.25 format was a very popular portrait camera which had a square film negative. The 4x5 camera was also very popular with portrait photographer. Hence the photo frame industry made frames to readily fit these sizes. Of course we are not held to use any of these sizes and you are free to crop to any format or even unconstrained as you please.

So why crop? One reason is to fit a certain frame size you might want to use. Often time's clients want an 8x10 or an 11x16 or some other size image to fit

their wall. So be aware when shooting that if you plan to sell or frame for your own wall you might want to leave a little room for cropping. When I shoot birds I use center focus so most of my bird photos have the subject dead center. Not pleasing! So I will crop during processing to give me a more pleasant composition, usually apply the rule of thirds. When shooting landscapes I do not have control of all things. Sometimes I cannot move closer to the scene so a little cropping could be necessary to eliminate distractions from the edges.

In photo 1 of the bee I think the bee is too centered so I cropped it a bit to get the bee at the thirds position and as a bonus it eliminating some of the blank space and filled the frame a bit in photo 2.



“You don't take a photograph,
you make it.” – Ansel Adams

In photo 3, I wanted to include all of the steam engines that were still in the field. But as you can see with the 2x3 format that included a lot of sky! While I really love moody skies in my landscape shots, here the sky starts to draw the eye away from my subjects. So I cropped, unconstrained, to minimize the sky and put the steam engines back in control of the scene in photo 4.



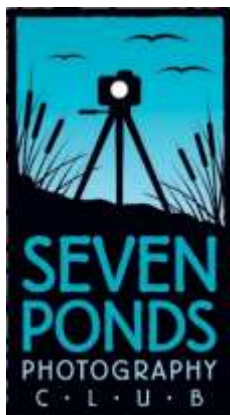
In photo 5, the two buildings to the left distract from my subject, which is the larger barn. So I cropped it and remained with the 2x3 ratio for photo 6. Of course I am sure you also noticed photo 5 was totally unedited while photo 6 has added contrast.



Photo 7 has a little bright white cloud in the upper left corner that keeps pulling the eye. So I cropped it out, but this time I also changed the ratio to a 4x5 which really changes this scene in photo 8.



I hope this gives you a few ideas of when and how to crop. Experiment with your own photos and get use to using the crop tool to bring attention to your subject.



January/February 2019

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 & Events (1st Monday Meetings)

- Feb 1** - Hank Lewis, GDCCC Salon Video
- Mar 1** - Board Members, How to for Image Competitions

Assignment Topics (Review @ 1st Monday Meetings)

Assignment Reviews are typically reviewed on the first Monday of the month following the assignment month, unless otherwise noted. Please send your images to 7pondsphoto@gmail.com, by noon on the day of the meeting.

- November** (2018)- Animals (Review February 1)
- January** - Something Cold (Review February 1)
- February** - Barns
- March** - Americana

Special Events

2019 GDCCC Annual Awards

The 2019 GDCCC Awards Banquet is being held at the Venetian Club, in Madison Heights. The event is for club members and their guest only, it recognizes GDCCC award winning images. This is a fun social event which brings members from all the GDCCC clubs together. This event will take place Saturday, January 26 at 11:00 am.

Mike Moats Workshop and Mid-West Camera Sensor Cleaning

On April 27, 2019 SPPC will host a Mike Moats Workshop. The workshop will be held at the Seven Ponds Nature Center. The six hour workshop will include a provided lunch. Mike will discuss equipment, depth of field, finding subject matter, post processing and more. The cost of this event is \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members.

During the workshop Mid-West Camera will have staff on site to clean your camera sensor for \$30.

Details can be found at "[Mike Moats Workshop and Mid-West Camera Sensor Cleaning 4-27-2019](#)".

Club Outings

Club outing details change due to various reasons. Please check the [SPPC web sites "Photo Trips Meet Ups" tab](#) for current details.

We are still looking for volunteers to plan our outings for 2019. Please contact [LeeAnn McLaneGoetz](#) if you are interested in planning an event.

Newsletter Content

We are looking for members to contribute articles related to photography or club activities. Email your articles to [Mark Robinson](#).

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