

SPPC Perspective

The Seven Ponds Photography Club, formed in 2009, the club was created to promote the advancement of photography as an art. The purpose of the club is to bring together people 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 of each month.

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

8-31-2023 – [GDCCC Print competition hosted by Motor City](#)

9-1-2023 – [Black Hills of North & South Dakota](#) by John Brown @ Seven Ponds

9-19-2023 – [GDCCC Sponsored - Photographing Wildlife Design Elements](#) @ 7-9pm

10-6-2023 – [Bi-Annual Focus Topic Review](#)

10-10-2023 – [GDCCC Print Competition hosted by Grosse Pointe](#)

11-3-2023 – Club Board Election Night



11-4-2023 – [SPPC Holiday Table-Top Workshop](#)

Member Spotlight – Kristin Grudzien



Kristin Grudzien is currently one of our clubs' 2 Print and Digital Directors and has been a long-time member (since 2012). She also gathers and presents our Focus Topic images and recently organized our July 1st Friday Game Night with her friend Shannon Hintz. Kristin had known about the 7 Ponds Nature Center from her teenage 4H club years but only found out about the photography club after she moved into the Metamora area and investigated some of the clubs offered at Seven Ponds Nature Center. At the time, Kristin was doing some photographing of Civil War reenactments and looked for a club nearby to join.

She met some very encouraging members like Dale Vronch, Hank Lewis (our previous and VERY long time Print & DPD Director), Jim and Bobbie Lewis, Stu Davis and more. There were also a few others at the time in the group that were not so encouraging and due to repetitive condescending and bullying remarks, almost made her quit photography completely. Fortunately for us, after her camera died and Jim Lewis stepped in and helped her, she stayed with the group and focused her efforts on learning technique and compositions. It sure

has paid off as Kristin (now shooting with her Sony). She has received many awards in our club, at the GDCC level and has had several images accepted into the Digital International Salon of Photography (PSA level).



© Kristin Grudzien

Awakening – EOY First Place CG Beginner

The current leadership of Seven Ponds works hard to promote a positive learning experience for all members. Bring your cell phone, bridge camera, DSLR, mirrorless any level can pickup tips, enjoy group shoots, education and camaraderie. Kristin has won awards with both cell phone and DSLR images and has been seen multiple times reassuring newer members that the best camera is the one in your hand.

Photography is not the only passion for Kristin, however. If you know Kristin, you know she loves animals – especially dogs and horses, and both have been a huge part of her life from 11 to now. She started working at a Boarding Kennel when she was 15 and went to Macomb Community College to become a Veterinary Technician. She worked as a Vet Tech for 18 years and is now a Customer Engagement Representative selling veterinary supplies and equipment to vet hospitals, universities, and other large clients. She knows pretty much everything you need to know about horses and dogs from schooling and years of experience. She belonged to a horseless horse group that met at Lucy’s Liveries and rode the school horses from age 11-18 and she bought her first horse at age 16.

Her first horse was Fancy, a Morgan that she rode for 18 years. She also got Vinny, a Gray, and has had him for 26 years. Vinny makes many appearances in Kistin’s annual Christmas card and in our club presentations.



Christmas card photos by Kristin of Vinny

Vinny is usually asking us Trivia questions along with Kristin’s dogs – Basil and Rosie.



Basil Hiding Photo by Kristin

Kristin adopted Basil (a Blue Heeler) as a rescue when he was 16 weeks old and has trained him to dance, appear in various parades and of course, (most importantly) ask

us Trivia questions. I think he gives us the toughest ones. Rosie (Texas Heeler) is Kristin’s newest rescue and

is also following in Basil’s footsteps of dance and parades, but she also has a talent for running really fast and competes regularly in Fast CAT – a Coursing Ability Test –



© Kristin Grudzien

which is a timed 100-yard dash where dogs run one at a time, chasing a lure. If you have a dog and want to give your dog some great mental and physical activities check out [All Dogs Can](http://AllDogsCan.com).

I do not know where Kristin gets the time or energy but she has been a supporter of the Rosie’s and even became an official member in 2021 (see <https://rosietheriveter.net/the-founding-of-arra/> for



more details on this group). This group in short honors the working women of World War II. There were approximately 5 million women that served in the defense industry and elsewhere in the commercial sector during World War II with the aim of freeing a man to fight. In addition to that around 350,000 American women served in uniform,

both at home and abroad, volunteering for the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps – later renamed the Women's Army Corps -- the Navy Women's Reserve, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, the Coast Guard Women's Reserve, the Women Airforce Service Pilots, the Army Nurses Corps, and the Navy Nurse Corps. On **October 14th, 2017**, Jim Lewis was photographing the **World Record** photograph of the most people dressed as a Rosie in one place and she and Bobbie assisted where needed with the older Rosie's and equipment, dressed up as Rosie's and were part of that record breaking moment. See Jim's SmugMug site to see the photo of the World Record breaking event - <https://jimlewisphoto.smugmug.com/Aircraft/Rosie-the-Riveter-Guinness-World-Record-October-14-2017/UnOfficial-i-5CKVPFD>. Included in the event were 2 of the original Rosie's that were 100 & 101 years old.

When I asked Kristin what her favorite events with the club were, she responded with the Ankley Farms Flower Shoot and the recent Game Night. Both events had lots of camaraderie and challenges to photograph what we see every day in a new way.

I also always like to ask the person I interview who inspires them photographically as I like to research new people. We are very fortunate to have quite a few very talented photographers as part of our club (see* below) that share their expertise with the club and Kristin listed these members and a few others outside our club that have influenced her.

Dale Vronch * – admires his impressionist style.

Jim Lewis* – admires his technical precision, and ability to really capture the moment in high-speed situations.

Mark Byrnes* – admires his use of long lenses on people, how he connects to his subjects and is so non-intrusive.

Mike Moats* – Macro photography (<https://www.tinylandscapes.com/>)

Daniel Chui – Admires his landscape photography (<https://www.chuiphoto.com/>)

Rankin – Admires his portraits (<https://www.rankinphoto.co.uk/>)

When asked what advice she would give to new members, she said, *“Don't give up and don't be afraid to ask questions”*.

Nature Picture of the week...

Image passed on by Kathy Bolio. Yup, amazing.



SPPC Photo Fun Shoot – Game Night! – 7/7/2023



Thank you, Kristin Grudzien and Shannon Hintz, for putting on a fun game night photo shoot for our July First Friday meeting. For most of the evening, we were divided into smaller groups and took photos to work through several

challenges. The final challenge was to take a photograph that the team would work together to compose and that would best fit the lyrics & mood of a



Blue Team Photo

song that each team listened to. All the challenges had a limited timeframe to complete so that was another factor to work with.

At the end, we shared each team's final photo. Other photos from the night were to be emailed to 7pimages@zohomail.com. If you were there and have not sent your images in, you have time. We will go over those and other shared images in our next review in the October Frist Friday meeting. I think we all had a good time talking through each photo challenge and got us to work together and think outside of our usual box. It is easy to approach subjects in a similar manner and sometimes we need a little push to look at it differently. Also, walking through the new playscape area of the



Nature Center was very interesting. If you have not seen all the changes, I strongly recommend you check it out. I could see lots of fun compositions to

and a good variety of subject material to "play" with. Of

course, there is the herb garden and various flowers all close to the Nature Center building.

Ankley Farms Flower Shoot – 7/22/2023



There was another chance for a group shoot in July when 12 members of the club went to Ankley Farms to shoot flowers and enjoy lunch together at the farm. Lunch was a choice of sandwich -Ham/Turkey or Cheese wrap, or you could choose a gluten free lettuce wrap with Turkey, a watermelon cup, chips and a cookie. Ankley Farms is located at 6767 Clear Lake Rd. Imlay City, MI.



Photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

There are both flowers and delicious vegetables to pick as well as photograph. There are a lot of opportunities for photographs in the fields for portrait, landscape, and macro. Don't be surprised if you see Mike Moats, our resident professional macro photographer, roaming around. We try to make the flower shoot an annual thing, so if you missed it this year (like I did), be on the lookout for the announcement for next time.

Below are some photos by club members from the outing:



Photo by Heather Hoey



Photo by Heather Hoey



Photo by Tina Daniels

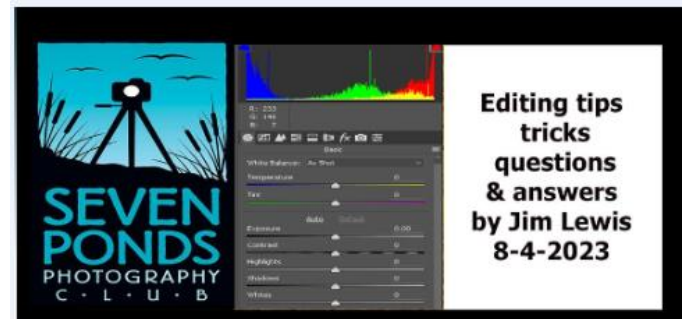


Photo by Mike Moats



Photo by Mike Moats

SPPC Tips by Jim Lewis – 8/4/2023



Jim was the presenter at the First Friday meeting in August. He went over Raw vs JPEG and how to do some basic editing for light using Bridge, Photoshop and RAW. While there is always the argument for just shooting it perfect in camera, there are times that you may want to

adjust the white balance, darken or lighten parts of a scene to emphasize or deemphasize those part(s) or to better create the emotion you felt at the time the image was taken. This is going beyond the technical (which also needs to be good) and into the artistic realm. It was interesting to watch as Jim was able to bring out the detail in a bull riding image and also the process he went through to edit a portrait photo that he turned to black and white. Shooting in RAW gave you the most flexibility to make changes in post processing but for those that shoot in jpeg, some of the edits could be done on an image in that format as well. For those that did not attend the meeting, check out the following links to some helpful articles and videos that are related to what Jim discussed in this session.

[Mastering Dodge and Burn in Photography by Spencer Cox](#) – article outlining what it is, why it is important and sample images to illustrate

[YouTube Video - Introduction How to Dodge & Burn in Photoshop | Day 17](#) – Video that walks you through using Photoshop to dodge and burn an image to bring out some darker details and highlight key areas

[RAW vs JPEG – Which Image Format is Better and Why by Nasim Mansurov](#) – an article that talks about the pros and cons of RAW and JPEG and why you might chose one or the other

New Members

Please welcome new member:

Jim Dietrich

Welcome to the club!

Club Recognition at the Armada Fair – 8/14 – 8/20/2023

Our Seven Ponds Photography Club and several members received some well-deserved awards at the 2023 Armada Fair. Our display was awarded Best Exhibit for a non-Profit. The display was put together by Kathy Bolio with a nice new banner and had a new club brochure and business cards.



Our members also received quite a few awards this year in both the amateur and professional divisions. If I have missed any awards or image title – please excuse the editor. Congratulations to all that participated and a special thank-you to Bill and Kathy Bolio who spend so much time manning the booth and setting it up.

Elizabeth Gondert	Second Place – Wildlife (Red Squirrel)
	Second Place – Panorama
	Second Place – Flowers (Orchid)
Harry Davis	First Place – Vehicles (Just Cruisin')
	First Place – Barns and Old Houses
Kristin Grudzien	Best in Show & First Place – Amateur Enlargement (Beautiful Beast)
	First Place – Cats (Cow Girl)
	First Place - Birds (Archie)
	First Place – Abstract - (Yarn)
	First Place – Reflections (Muddy Spring Reflection)
	Second Place – Reptiles (Reptile Reflection)
	Second Place – Horses (Vinnie & Flash)
	Second Place (Sunrise, Sunset/Clouds) (Attica Sunset)
	Third Place – Lake, River or Water (Lexington Harbor in Winter)

	Third Place - Good for a Giggle - (Well Read Healer)
	Third Place – Cars (Hood Ornament)
Shannon Hintz	First Place – Bridges (Dow Gardens)
	First Place – Flower (Hepatica)
	First Place – Still Life (Here for a good time)
	Second Place – Barns and Old Houses (Old House)
	Amateur Enlargement Dogs – (Reba)
	Third Place - Good for a Giggle (Mini Car)
Bill Bolio	Best in Show & First Place – Professional Enlargement (Look at that)
	Second Place – Black & White Professional (Spiral Staircase)



*Black & White
Spiral Staircase by
Bill Bolio*



*Beautiful
Beast by
Kristin
Grudzien*

Here are a few of the prints that won awards:



*Look At
That by Bill
Bolio*



*Well Read Heeler by
Kristin Grudzien*



Reba by Shannon Hintz



Red Squirrel by Elizabeth Gondert



Mini Car by Shannon Hintz



Just Cruisin' by Harry Davis



Old Barn by Harry Davis

Focus Topics (Review @ 1st Friday Meetings)

July = Textures August = Fill the Frame

September = Natural Light

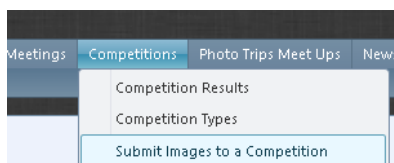
October = Artificial Light

New Option for Focus Topics ->

Email to 7pimages@zohomail.com Note – this is encrypted for your added protection. There is nothing you have to do to be encrypted, just email to this address 😊

Starting in 2023, Focus Topic Reviews will be reviewed **at least** twice a year. Our second review will be at the October 3rd meeting, and we will review images for May through October. Please post your images on our FB group **SPPC Member's Shared Images**. Add *#focus topic name* to the comments. You can also email your images to 7pimages@zohomail.com or add your images via the Seven Ponds website via <https://spnc.photoclubservices.com/>

Go to:



and select the current month Focus Topic.

Competition Date	Posts	Competition Title	Competition Type	Close Date/Time
Select	Friday, January 7, 2022	*Focus Topic* Open to all Types of Images <small>You have entered 0 images into this Competition.</small>	*Focus Topic*	Wednesday, January 5, 2022 11:30 PM EST

Textures – see ([What is Texture in Photography?](#))

Fill the Frame – see ([How to fill the frame for great photography - 8 tips](#))

Natural Light – see ([The beginner's guide to natural light and how to use it to take great photos](#))

Artificial Light – see ([Artificial Light in Photography](#))

Check out the [Focus Topic Facebook Page](#) for more links for tips on Focus Topics

Next Bi-annual Focus Topic Review is October 6th @ 7pm and will include months May-October, Photos from workshops & group shoots, rework of previous images and any image you would like to share. Send to 7pimages@zohomail.com.



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 bring individually wrapped snacks

✓ Setting up or taking down tables and chairs

New Members Can Sign Up & Pay Online

We have received a few questions on how to pay online. If you are unsure, checkout the following:

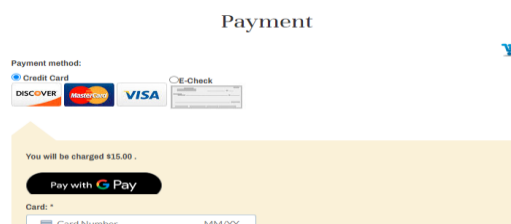
On the Seven Ponds website click on the [Pay Online](#) link. Then you will see the following and click on the button

Seven Ponds Photo Club Membership

05/01/2021 12:05 AM - 04/02/2023 11:55 PM ET

[Click here to register online](#)

It will bring you to your existing account with the Seven Ponds Nature Center. If you don't have one, create one or continue as a guest and fill out the required name, address, etc. fields. You will end up with a screen to check your info before pressing the **Complete Registration** button to proceed to the payment screen.



Press **Submit** and you will get a confirmation email

WE WANT YOU!

Seven Ponds Photography Club

Board Elections



Become a candidate today
Vote November 3rd, 2023

We are looking for new Board members for 2024-2026

All levels of photographers are encouraged to join the board.

The primary goals of board members are to better the club and to be a mentor to the SPPC club members.

You may either self-nominate or nominate a fellow SPPC member in good standing.

Please send your nominations to:

7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com

For additional information contact a current board member, or email us at 7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com

New Offering for Club Members

[Order 16" x 20" Prints for Competition from Jim Lewis](#)

1. Price is \$16.00 each includes sales tax
2. You must size your image to 16" x 20" before uploading.
3. Prints need to be uploaded the Friday before our first meeting of the month.
4. Prints will be available for pick up on the first Friday of the month meeting.
5. Bring protection to transport your prints home.
6. Photos on this site will be deleted on the day of competition.

GDCCC Update

GDCCC has been sponsoring several virtual workshops this year – see our webpage and events section of this newsletter for links to register.

The last 3 Print competitions are:

- 8/31/2023 Motor City
- 10/10/2023 Grosse Pointe
- 11/14/2023 Oakland
- 11/15/2023 EOY Print Judging @ Oakland

The last 3 Digital competitions are:

- 9/15/2023 West Oakland
- 10/13/2023 Livonia
- 11/3/2023 Lapeer Area

**No information yet on the EOY Banquet or Virtual Presentation*

So why join the board? This was a question I asked myself before I nominated myself to join. I have been very glad over the last couple years that I did volunteer to join the board.

- ♥ I have become closer to other members by thinking of ways to grow and inspire the club.
- ♥ I have felt I have a little more control over the types of topics we discuss and the speakers we try to get.
- ♥ It has felt good to give back to a club that is helping me improve my photography.

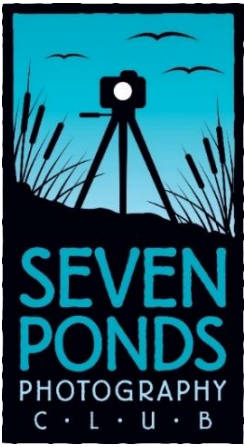


Photo Tips

I read an interesting article on [Black and White Photography Tips and Techniques Explained](#). From the article this simple tip stuck with me as it takes courage to fully commit to taking and thinking of a black and white image. I need to switch my camera to display black and white so I can train my brain.

“When you try to shoot for both black & white and color and then decide in editing which one you will use, your photos will be compromised.

Shooting for black and white requires a different attention and focus than shooting for color. Great black and white photography requires a photographer's eye to be looking for contrast, shadows, and the abstract. “



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

8-25-2023 – [Metamora Balloon Festival](#)

9-1-2023 – [Black Hills of North & South Dakota](#) by John Brown @ Seven Ponds

11-4-2023 – [SPPC Holiday Table-Top Workshop](#)

Upcoming Virtual Workshops

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

[Hunts On-Line Classes](#)

9-19-2023 - [GDCCC Sponsored - Photographing Wildlife Design Elements](#) @7-9 pm

10-30 to 11-3-2023 – [David Cross: The Photoshop Virtual Summit 5](#)

11-14-2023 - [The Lake Superior Circle Tour with John Gregor](#)

12-13-2023 - [The Dollar Store Challenge: Creativity on a Budget](#)

Self-guided Trips

9/2 - 9/8/2023 [Romeo Mi - Peach Festival](#)

9/8 - 9/10/2023 [Frankenmuth Auto Fest](#)

9/14- 9/17/2023 [Frankenmuth Oktoberfest](#)

9/13 - 9/24/2023 [Detroit Mi- North American Auto Show](#)

9/16 - 27/2023 [Hawk Festival](#)

10/7-10/8, 10/14-10/15, 10/20-10/22/2023 [Zoo Boo](#)

10/5-10/8, 10/12-10/15, 10/19-10/22, 10/26-10/29/2023 [Hallowe'en in Greenfield Village](#)

10/28/2023 [Downtown Caseville Witch Walk](#)

11/23/2023 [America's Thanksgiving Parade](#)

11/21, 11/24-11/26, 12/1-12/3, 12/8- [Holiday Stroll at Canterbury Village](#)

12/19, 12/15-12/17, 12/21-

12/23/2023/2023