



# 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.

SPPC Members,

Due to the growing concerns over the COVID-19/Coronavirus, and the decision of Seven Ponds Nature Center to close for everyone's well-being, The Seven Ponds Photo Club Board of Directors has decided it is in the best interest of our club members and any visitors to cancel our upcoming meetings:

March 20, 2020 Competition meeting \*

March 27, 2020 Mentor meeting with Dale Vronch

April 3, 2020 Nick Kaltsounis, Robotic Photography meeting.

We hope to reschedule our March speaker and Competition program at a future date.

We are sorry for any inconvenience and hope that you and your family stay healthy and safe.

Jim Lewis

SPPC President

\* Please submit your March Competition Images by Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 11:30 PM - these will be reviewed at a future date.

## Club Projector

As you know we took a club vote to purchase a new projector. The vote took place on 2-21-2020 to purchase a new projector and it was unanimously approved. The club was testing the Epson projector from the Troy Nature Photo club and we found it to be a significant upgrade to our current projector. I had been watching the Epson website for the best price possible and the day I found it I received an email from Daryl Bernard, Executive Director of Seven Ponds Nature Center, stating: "Wonderful news: This morning we received an anonymous donation to the Seven Ponds Photo Club in the amount of \$800.00, earmarked for a new club projector." With this unanticipated great news, we were able to purchase the projector and a storage case on behalf of the club. I am very excited to calibrate and have our new projector up and running to showcase our club's images with superior detail. (continued next page)



I was sincerely overwhelmed with the generosity of this anonymous donation as I have not experienced this before. I feel this not only says a lot about our club but more importantly all of you, our club members. I honestly feel a club is as good as its members and I believe our club members are outstanding, as this is shown in all the big and little things people do for our club and each other.

I would like to give a sincere “Thank you” to the anonymous donor, and big “Thank you” to all our club members for all they do to make the club a place where we can all learn and have fun together. I can’t say it enough....all our members make this club as great as it is and the more we help each other the better this club will become.

Jim Lewis - SPPC President

### May 1<sup>st</sup> – Self Expression

We are happy to announce that Dale Vronch will be presenting at our May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Those who attend will explore the philosophy and techniques related to self-expression and impressionism. Some of the topics and techniques discussed include:



- Basic techniques from receiving to recording your image with emphasis on the process.
- The relationship between the photographer and the subject.
- Subject elements and their connection to the subject.
- Self-critique

“To me, photography is an art of observation. It’s about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I’ve found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.” — **Elliott Erwitt**

### June 5<sup>th</sup> – What Makes an Image Successful?

We look forward to our June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting when Mike Moats will present “What Makes an Image Successful?”. With 15 years as a full-time pro nature photographer specializing in macro photography, Mike has studied and analyzed what makes his images successful. The concepts and styles that Mike has developed can be applied to any type of photography and will help take your photography to the next level and create your own personal style. <https://tinyurl.com/y2b4bvm8>



### Bald Mountain Outing Contributor – Tina Daniels

A multiple planned weather-delayed trip to Bald Mountain was filled with wonder, laughter and a greater appreciation for the warmer weather coming soon! A few of the members (Cathy B., Ginger F., Kristen G., Karen E. and Tina D.) decided to take advantage of the 50 degree weather and head out to one of the many trails to explore and capture unique photos! Each of the members were able to capture winter’s beauty and illuminate gentle glimpses of spring!



We look forward to returning when the weather is much better and spring has finally sprung! Anyone interested in just joining in on the fun times, please reach out to Kristen G.!! We are up for the next outing!! Who knows where it will be!!



Equipment: Hiking boots, Muck boots, walking stick, warm clothes, and good sense of humor.

## SPPC Receives Multiple GDCCC End of Year Competition Awards

Contributor – LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

At the End of Year GDCCC Awards Banquet on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, awards were handed out for image competitions that occurred during the 2019 season. Awards are Image of the Year, Best in Show, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention.

2019 Seven Ponds Photo Club members were honored to receive 2 trophies with metals.

- Todd Bielby - Best of Show - Digital Monochrome General of the Year Trophy - Titled – Abby
- David Stimac - Best of Show - Digital Nature of the Year Trophy - Titled – Cardinals

2019 Seven Ponds Photo Club members were honored to receive 2 metals

- Mark Kersey - 2nd Place - Color Print - Titled - Mischievous Thoughts-Humm!
- Hank Lewis - 3rd Place - Monochrome Print - Titled Iris in B&W

2019 Seven Ponds Photo Club members were honored to receive 15 Honorable Mention Ribbons

- Bobbie Lewis - Monochrome General Titled - B-25 Geogia's Gal
- Jim Lewis - Monochrome General - Titled - Mr. Pilon
- Mark Robinson - Monochrome General - Titled - Badlands Formations
- LeeAnn McLaneGoetz - Monochrome General - Titled - A western Lowlands Gorilla
- Kelly Todd - Color General - Titled - Roseate spoonbill
- Mark Robinson - Creative - Titled - Snake and Skulls
- LeeAnn McLaneGoetz - Nature - Titled - Blue Heron and Bass
- Jim Lewis - Nature - Titled - Chillin
- Jerry Badgerow - Nature - Titled - Dewy Butterfly
- Mark Robinson - Nature - Titled Cold Finch
- Todd Bielby - Nature - Titled Chameleon
- Jerry Badgerow - Color General- Titled - Water Collision
- Sheri Harvey - Color General - Titled- Water Bug Wedding
- Jim Lewis - Color General - Titled - Keep your eye on the puck
- Mark Kersey - Color General- Golden Light



## Notes -- Assessing the Scope of a Photographic Project – Mark Byrnes

Contributor – Kristin Grudzien

Mark Byrnes came to the club to speak on March 6, 2020. He is a very talented photographer and dynamic speaker. In addition to the subject he came to talk about, he let us know that there is going to be a Beard Competition coming to Imlay City in August 8, 2020. Beard Competitions raise money for charity; check out Murder City FHC on Facebook 😊 Save the DATE and Watch our Facebook Page for more details!

### 1) KNOWING YOUR OBJECTIVE AND HAVING A PLAN

- a) It is good to push yourself. Don't be afraid to try new techniques/subjects/equipment
- b) Realize what you love and do it. Do you like Nature, Portraits, Sports Photography, etc.?
- c) Embrace an "I CAN DO" attitude.
- d) The Steps to Success are not "A" to "B"; they are the many steps from "A" to "Z", smaller accomplishments build to greater successes.

### 2) CHOOSING AND PREPARING YOUR GEAR – Ask Yourself

- a) Where is the shoot? Example: The Detroit Parade Clown Shoot is both indoor and outdoor; need to have set ups for both situations. The group shot is on the steps of the Detroit Institute of Arts (200 clowns).
  - i) What non-photography equipment does the location require? The Group shot for the Clowns requires not only 10-foot ladders but also lighting as it happens very early morning (the parade starts at 9:00 a.m. and the clowns need be in line before then).
  - ii) How are you and the subjects getting to the location? The clowns arrive by bus; the photographers get to the location by car. Make sure you have what ever passes are necessary to get past physical barriers so you aren't late for your client.
- b) What photography equipment does the shoot require?
  - i) Cameras, lenses, back up equipment
    - (1) Make sure all cameras, batteries, memory cards, and accessories are charged & ready
  - ii) Lighting, reflectors, etc. Make sure all lights are charged and stands are ready to go.

- c) Reverse engineer the shoot
  - i) Envision the image you want and have a plan
  - ii) Make sure you have the equipment to create the final image
    - (1) Colors are important, Variety is important
    - (2) Don't work hard to fix something that isn't broken

### 3) BE CREATIVE AND KNOW YOUR SUBJECT

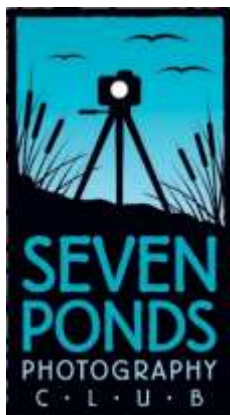
- a) What does the Subject want out of the shoot? The Clowns want a record of their adventure.
- b) What are their expectations? They want to remember the day and the fun they had.
- c) What is their vision? One of the clowns was a very tall gentleman (taller than the backgrounds Mark was using), but Mark knew he was a football player, so he had him take a "football" stance in his clown costume. It worked 😊
- d) Is there an emotional connection? Does the viewer connect with the image?
- e) Is there pride in your effort?
- f) In some situations, you might want to accentuate a certain feature. But in other situations, you may want to hide or minimize that same feature.

### 4) IMPROVING and EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

- a) Grow a group of people you can depend on
  - i) Plan and trust your team to carry out your vision
  - ii) Develop trust with your client and improve their experience every time
  - iii) Make life easier for the customer
- b) Relationships matter
  - i) You can't get people to do anything for you if you don't reciprocate; build relationships
  - ii) If you find someone's weakness, HELP them; DON'T EMBARRASS Them!
    - (1) BE GENTLE!
      - (a) People take things personally
      - (b) DON'T Discourage them
      - (c) HELP them improve WITHOUT Embarrassing them
      - (d) Be NICE to other photographers
  - iii) It is good to be Versatile!

#### Dues Reminder!

If you have not yet paid your 2020 annual dues, please do so soon. Membership Fees are \$15 for a single member, or \$20 for a family.



Spring - 2020

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. All meetings are open to members and nonmembers.

### Guest Speakers & Events (1<sup>st</sup> Monday Meetings)

Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> - Meeting Cancelled

May 1<sup>st</sup> - Self Expression (Dale Vronch)

June 5<sup>th</sup> - What Makes an Image Successful? (Mike Moats)

### 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](mailto:7pondsphoto@gmail.com), by noon on the day of the meeting.

Apr - Water                      June - Bugs  
May - Flowers                  July - Patriotic

Please check status of all self-guide trips, club outings and events for changes before attending.

### Club Outings

Several outings are being planned for the spring including Dow Gardens (Midland), For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum (Burton) and Greenfield Village (Dearborn). Look for details on the [SPPC Facebook Page](#)

### Newsletter Content

We are looking for members to contribute articles related to photography or club activities. Email your articles to [Mark Robinson](mailto:Mark.Robinson@sppc.org).

#### Self-guided Trips

Mid-April  
[Kensington Metro Park - Rookery](#)  
4/11 thru 10/28/2020  
[Dearborn Mi - Greenfield Village](#)  
4/24 thru 4/26/2020  
[Spring Fling at Whitefish Point](#)  
5/01 thru 5/21/2020  
[Shorebird Celebration at Hillman Marsh, Ontario](#)  
5/01 thru 5/31/2020  
[Festival of Birds at Pt. Pelee National Park, Ontario](#)  
5/8 thru 5/17/2020  
[Magee Marsh OH- Biggest Week in American Birding](#)  
5/14 thru 5/16/2020  
[Tawas Point Birding Festival](#)  
5/29 thru 5/31/2020  
[Cerulean Warbler weekend in Hastings, MI](#)  
5/16 thru 5/18/2020  
[Tawas Point Mi - Birding Festival](#)  
5/23/2020  
[Dearborn - Civil War Remembrance](#)  
6/5 thru 6/14/2020  
[Mackinaw Island Mi - Lilac Festival](#)  
6/26 thru 6/28/2020  
[Howell Mi- Balloon Festival](#)

#### 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.

1<sup>st</sup> Friday meetings focus on educational presentations and monthly assignment photographs.

3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**The March 27 Session has been canceled.** Mentoring sessions are typically held the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month please contact [Dale Vronch](#) if you plan to attend. Bring your laptop and an image to work on.

[SPPC Home Page](#) [SPPC Facebook Page](#)  
[SPPC Member's Shared Images](#) [GDCCC Home Page](#)