



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.

Share 5 Favorite Images on November 2nd

In addition to our guest speaker for our November 2nd meeting, we are asking everyone to share their Five Favorite Images (or less) from club outings and events. If you are new to the group, pick up to five images that could have been taken at one of our events. We will review the images at 7:30 pm that evening. It should be a fun night, with each person having an opportunity to share their stories. Any image size is okay. Email your images to [Stu Davis \(7pondsphoto@gmail.com\)](mailto:7pondsphoto@gmail.com) by noon Nov 2, 2018.

| Date | Event |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1/5/2018 | Holiday Kickoff Party |
| 3/10/2018 | Macro Workshop at Seven Ponds |
| 3/24/2018 | Dow Gardens Butterfly house |
| 4/15/2018 | Wildflowers |
| 5/10/2018 | Vlasic Community Fest - Imlay City |
| 5/12/2018 | Bump and Run - Imlay City |
| 5/19/2018 | Weekend Camp at Tawas State Park |
| 6/1/2018 | Silver Lake Sand Dunes weekend trip |
| 6/15/2018 | Busker fest - Imlay City |
| 7/6/2018 | Open Shoot at SPNC |
| 7/7/2018 | Bay City Fireworks |
| 7/24/2018 | 2018 Eastern Michigan State Fair |
| 8/11/2018 | Party at the Ponds |
| 8/12/2018 | Prairies and Ponds Macro/close-up |
| 9/9/2018 | Badlands Shoot |
| 9/22/2018 | How to shoot models |
| 10/6/2018 | Greenfield Village Shoot |
| 10/19/2018 | Sleeping Bear Dunes |
| 10/29/2018 | Tillson Street Halloween – Romeo |

Good Times in a Bad Land

Contributor Tobi Britsch

“What I saw gave me an indescribable sense of mysterious other where — a distant architecture, ethereal, touched, only touched with a sense of Egyptian, Mayan drift and silhouette. As we rode ... we rose and fell between its delicate parallels of rose and cream and sublime shapes, chalk white, fretted against a blue sky with high floating clouds; the sky itself seemed only there to cleanse and light the vast harmonious building scheme.” Frank Lloyd Wright

This past September Gary and I joined several other members from Seven Ponds Photography Club for a weeklong photography trip to Badlands National Park. The Badlands encompass 240,000 acres of stunning geologic wasteland in the southwestern corner of South Dakota and is a scenic and wildlife photography paradise. Ward McGinnis took lead and did a fantastic job organizing this trip. Accommodations were made at the Badlands Interior Motel & Campground, a short 5-minute drive from the Interior Entrance of the park. The day we arrived, Ward took us all on a quick tour of the North Unit of the park via the Badlands Loop Road. Nothing could have prepared us for that first look of the park. Every turn along the road the topography changed. We drove by hoodoos, pointy spires, towering pinnacles, square-edged buttes banded with red, tan, and yellow clay and sandstone, fortresses and castles, brightly colored yellow mounds and countless other strange rock

formations that defied description. It felt as though we had landed on Mars.



The Badlands is also home to the largest undisturbed mixed-grass prairie in the United States and further down the Loop the landscaped shifted. Grassy hills and meadows opened before us and we



saw the first signs of wildlife in the park. Black-Tailed Prairie dogs were at play, meadowlarks were singing, bighorn sheep were climbing

behind us and a couple of pronghorn antelope ran off in front of us. The scene was surreal.

We continued on to Pinnacles Overlook to capture our first sunset of the week and we wondered if the day could get any better.



After the sun set we drove to an area called the Cantata Basin and as dusk turned to night, we found



ourselves peering into some of the darkest skies found in North America. Millions of stars, light years away filled the heavens for us to focus on. A perfect ending to a perfect day.

The next morning, we were up before dawn to capture the light of a new day. Ward had picked out a spot called Windows. Sunrise at Windows is a religious experience. The sky begins to brighten rendering views that are alien, almost primordial.



As the sun rises shades of reds, yellows, pinks and purples paint rugged wind-ravaged stone, bringing out the awe and wonder in a person and left me to witness the glory of a new day through tear filled eyes.

The rest of the day and the rest of the week awarded us one amazing adventure after another. Each unique and all presenting incredible photo opportunities. As we drove through the South Unit of the park a herd of Bison raced up hill and then as if out of nowhere stampeded across the road directly in front of us.



Huge bulls lingered behind keeping a close eye on us to ensure the safe crossing of the herd. Others stopped to graze. We witnessed bison dusting. Red dogs stayed close to their mothers while other bulls led the herd forward. Our own private National Geographic show for our cameras to document.

We drove past field after field of thousands of sunflowers dancing in the wind.



Another day we explored the underworld at Wind Cave National Park, the first cave to be designated a National Park anywhere in the world. It is also one of the longest and most complex caves in the world and home to boxwork, a unique formation rarely found elsewhere. Flash photography was permitted so we did our spelunking with cameras in tow.

Photo Credits: Badlands Landscape - Tobi Britsch, Prairie Dog - Tobi Britsch, Sunset Gary Britsch, Milky Way – Tobi Britsch, Sunrise – Ward McGinnis, Bison – Tobi Britsch, Sunflowers Gary Britsch, Needle Formation – Jerry Badgero, Lake Sylvan – Mark Robinson, Group Photo - Jerry Badgero



We drove the Needles Highway, a geological phenomenon that is so unique you can't believe it's real.

We stopped to inhale the beauty of Sylvan Lake, the Crown Jewel of the Black Hills.



We took a trip to Mount Rushmore, the Devils Tower, laughed, teased and picnicked together, took hundreds of pictures, improved our photography skills, and made memories and friendships that will last a life time.



Left to right: Jerry and Terry Badgero, Sandy and Mark Robinson, Tobi and Gary Britsch, Jean Saltzman and Ward McGinnis

What is a Club?

Contributor Ward McGinnis

What is a club? : An association of persons for some common object usually jointly supported and meeting periodically. Also: a group identified by some common characteristic.

This photography club is just that, a group of individuals brought together with the common interest of learning and advancing their knowledge and skill level of capturing an image. The club is guided by a Board of Directors consisting of a President, two vice Presidents a Secretary a Treasurer and a Competition manager. All of these are elected positions from and by the members. The club also has a "Kickoff" committee that organizes the annual January kickoff (dinner) for our first meeting of the year. This generally consists of 5 or 6 members willing to do a little extra work at arranging for food and etc. Last year's Kickoff committee was Kristin Grudzien, Karen Ormiston, Denise Joans, Dale Vronch and Melody Munro-Wolfe. This meeting is generally our biggest turn out and it's an opportunity to socialize with other members.

Starting two years ago we put together a Trip Committee. The Trip Committee puts together at least one day trip per month and three weekend trips for the year. These trips have become very popular and it's a great place for the beginning photographer to hang out and shoot with the more experienced photographers. Sometimes getting great one on one lessons! If you attend these don't be afraid to ask for assistance or just ask someone how and why they might be shooting in a particular way. These trips have been to spring wildflower locations, the Polar Express in Owosso, Model shoots, glass blowing factories, Downtown Detroit walks, and Dow Gardens butterfly house and a July Fourth fireworks at Bay City. The weekend trips have included spring wildflowers in Mackinaw, warbler migration at Tawas, Sliver Lake sand dunes and fall colors in the Leelanau Peninsula. Individual club

members have posted day shoots as well: Stu invited everyone to join him at the first annual Busker Fest in Imlay City, also the rodeo event at the Eastern Michigan Fair and a trip to Greenfield Village. This year I had planned to revisit the Badlands and I opened that up to club members as well. It was fun having a group on the road for a week! Last year official Trip Committee consisted of Jerry Badgero, Buddy Beyer, Todd Bielby, Chris Fisher and Sally Kwaiser.

Other volunteers include Mark Robinson who edits and publishes the newsletter and Dale Vronch who runs an editing workshop at his home studio the last Friday of each month. And several years we have offered beginning photography classes free to whoever wants to attend. The teachers of those classes are also volunteers. And of course the volunteers that bring cookies to the meetings! I'm sure I'm forgetting others that have volunteered and for that please forgive me.

The club doesn't exist without everyone pitching in and doing something. Each year we have people that step down from a position leaving room for new faces and new ideas. This is what keeps the club going and keeps it interesting. Example: The Trip Committee. It's good to keep a couple of people that have been on the committee to repeat a location shoot but it's also good to get new people with new ideas in this committee. Example: The first year someone mentioned the glass blowing factory. That is something I never would have thought of! I couldn't make that shoot but the photo's posted from that shoot had me wishing I had! New people with new ideas are needed!

So this year when you hear the club ask for member volunteers please jump in and be a part of the team. We need you!

Reminder: There will not be any SPPC meetings in December. Enjoy the holiday season and see you all at January 4th Kickoff meeting.

Seven Ponds Nature Center Presentation

Daryl Bernard, the Executive Director of Seven Ponds Nature Center, will be presenting at our November 2nd meeting at 7:00 pm. Daryl will be introducing himself to the SPPC members, presenting on the nature center, and the nature centers relationship to its various clubs. Daryl's presentation will include a slide show of the Seven Ponds Nature Center playing in the background.

<http://www.sevenponds.org/>

Looking for Volunteers to Help

1. Holiday Kickoff and Potluck Meeting – Friday Jan 4, 2019 Planning, Set up and Decorations
2. 2019 Trip Planning Committee – Sign up to host trips or meetups in the 2019 season
3. Newsletter Content – Email your articles to [Mark Robinson](#) (Looking for members to contribute articles related to photography or club activities.)

To volunteer for the Holiday Kickoff and Potluck, or the 2019 Trip Planning Committee please sign up at the next meeting or email [LeeAnn McLaneGoetz](#).

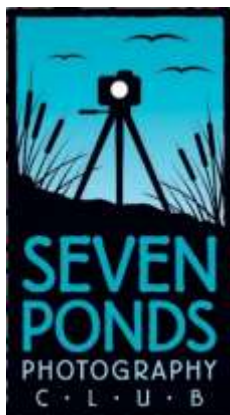
Contributors Requested

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](#).

Where Our Members Live

Where are our members from, as you can see many are dedicated and make a long drive?

| # of Members | City Center | City to SPNC |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 2 | Algonac | 63 miles |
| 1 | Allenton | 17 Miles |
| 5 | Almont | 9 Miles |
| 4 | Armada | 22 Miles |
| 2 | Attica | 11.3 Miles |
| 1 | Brown City | 31 Miles |
| 1 | Clarkston | 31 Miles |
| 1 | Clinton Twp. | 36 miles |
| 3 | Columbiaville | 27 miles |
| 1 | Davison | 26 Miles |
| 7 | Dryden | 5 Miles |
| 1 | Franklin | 46 Miles |
| 2 | Goodrich | 21 Miles |
| 2 | Grand Blanc | 34 Miles |
| 1 | Highland | 47 Miles |
| 5 | Imlay City | 14 Miles |
| 1 | Jeddo | 53 miles |
| 13 | Lapeer | 15 miles |
| 1 | Leonard | 7 miles |
| 1 | Linden | 48 miles |
| 1 | Livonia | 66 miles |
| 1 | Macomb | 33 miles |
| 3 | Metamora | 7 miles |
| 3 | North Branch | 25 miles |
| 1 | Oakland | 18 miles |
| 4 | Ortonville | 22 miles |
| 3 | Oxford | 16 miles |
| 1 | Port Sanilac | 71 miles |
| 1 | Rochester | 21 miles |
| 2 | Rochester Hills | 23 miles |
| 1 | Royal Oak | 42 miles |
| 3 | Shelby Twp. | 28 miles |
| 2 | Sterling Hts. | 35miles |
| 1 | Washington | 26 miles |



November/December 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 & Events (1st Monday Meetings)

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.

Jan 4 - Holiday Kickoff and Potluck Meeting

Assignment Topics (Review @ 1st Monday Meetings)

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

- September** - Reflections (Review November 2nd)
- October** - Color Change (Review November 2nd)
- November** - Animals (Review February 1st, 2019)
- December** - No Assignment / No Meetings

Club Outings

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

October 29: Tillson Street Halloween

Join this Halloween event in Downtown Romeo on October 29, 2018 at 10:00 am. This is a self-guided activity that many members of the SPPC have enjoyed in past years. (<http://www.terrorontillson.com/>)

Lead: [Stu Davis](#)

December 8: Here We Come A Wassailing!!!

The Here We Come A Wassailing!!! All Horse Parade is being held in Metamora. Join other SPPC members as we meet up at 2:00 pm to enjoy and photograph the event. (<http://www.metamorachamber.org/wassailing-celebration.html?fbclid=IwAR2B5ir-gwk1YkPcObrqM0MP9EurSgUbRupKjff0uIsDrMDAI-NYIs8IFc>)

Lead: [Stu Davis](#)

Holiday Kickoff Meeting

Please plan to join the SPPC annual Holiday Kickoff and Potluck Event at our January 4th, 2019 meeting at 6:00 pm. There will be plenty of great food at this pot luck event. Please bring a dish to pass, and beverage of choice. Tea, Coffee and tableware will be provided, as well as two main meat dishes.

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, 2019 at 11:00 am. The Cost is \$25 per person with a cash bar. Contact [LeeAnn McLaneGoetz](#) or [Bobbie Lewis](#) for details.

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](#)