



June/July 2018

Volume 1 Issue 3

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.

No Guest Speakers for June or July.

Since many of us will be enjoying summer vacations and outings, we will not have any official guest speakers at our 1st Friday meetings in June and July. The club will continue to hold meetings on those days, and encourages members to come out and shoot photos of the Seven Ponds Nature Area. Seven Ponds offers a lot of opportunities including plant life, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects. There is also an A-frame bridge that is a very popular subject to photograph.

Swap Meet, Photo Share and Seven Ponds Nature Center Photo Shoot June 1st

Swap Meet: starts at 7:00 PM, items for sale can be set up at 6:30 PM.

If you have photography items you would like to trade or sell please bring them with you, priced ready to sell. If you would like to have your items listed and sent out as a heads up to buyers before the meeting, please send an email to 7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com by May 30th.

Please provide detailed description and price. A list will be sent out to the members the week of the swap meet.

Photoshare: Post-swap meet, we will share member images from the May 4th power outage meeting, assignments, and trips. May Assignment "Flowers", Butterfly Workshop Images from 3-24-2018, Wildflower Trip Images from 4-22-2018, and Tawas Trip 5-20-2018. Send your club trip images and assignment Images to share to Stu at 7pondsphoto@gmail.com by noon 6-1-2018

Photo Shoot: Post the photo share we will have a photo shoot at Seven Ponds Nature Center.

Assignment for June is "Clouds"

So bring your camera and cash or checkbook if you are looking to shop.

BIRDING AND MORE AT EAST TAWAS

Contributor: Todd Bielby

The group went to East Tawas for the Warbler Migration this past weekend. Ward McGinnis texted me as soon as I got into the park, he had made it up to the state park the day before and got a good jump on the birds. After we (my girlfriend and I) got the camper set up I grabbed my gear, as I was getting ready for the walk I met Jerry Badgero and his wife Terry. After the introductions all four of us headed down the trail towards the lighthouse. Jerry and I stopped to photograph a couple of different Warblers as we made it to the lighthouse. That's when



we see Ward coming down the trail and tell us stories about all his "Black Winged Red Birds," more commonly known to the rest of us as a Scarlet Tanager, we headed back to the camp ground to grab our wide angle lenses and headed back to the lighthouse and wait for sunset. That's where we

met with Tobi Britsch and her husband. All of us then

walked back to the lighthouse and met with Roman Tornopilsky. The participants were now complete. We were blessed with a beautiful sunset that night and all of us got some great shots.



The next day called for rain so we weren't too optimistic. I woke up early and took a look outside to see if there was going to be a sunrise. No such luck we were completely socked in with clouds, no sunrise this morning. So I went back to bed and got out at 08:00 to meet everybody. We took a short walk before it started to rain so we all headed back and thought we would try again in the afternoon. Afternoon came and it was still raining so we all decided to take a break and maybe meet up in the evening. So Ward took a trip around Michigan and my girlfriend and I took a short trip to East Tawas and Tuttle marsh to see if there were any birds at the marsh. The rain was on and off the whole time so we didn't park to far from the car. I was able to see an Osprey on the nest but he/she was too far away to photograph. I did manage to take a couple shots but no real stunners. We had lunch and some Dairy Queen before we headed back. We met with everybody again about 4pm and took a walk back down the trail. We got about halfway down the trail before the rain started again. So with soaked equipment we headed back towards the campground. Ward, Jerry and I got distracted at the end of the trail and began shooting another bird. Right then the rain stopped but we had had enough of the rain and went back to the campers for dinner and thoughts of a better day on Sunday.

Sunday started off very cloudy again but warmer and not raining so that was the best part. We all met at 08:00 again and started the walk to the point again. The shooting was fast and furious. Lots of birds to photograph around every corner. We shot until lunch

time. The clouds started to break and after lunch we all headed back out for some more photography. The group didn't always stay together because we all like to see and are interested in different things sometimes, but that's what I like about East Tawas point. There are so many things to photograph within a short distance from the main trail. We headed back for a quick dinner before sunset. Tobi even met another birder/photographer she had met before and was invited to eat dinner with her and her husband. Sunset was coming soon so those of us that had one more walk in us headed to the lighthouse for another sunset. Unfortunately most the clouds had dissipated and left a blue sky with a couple streaks of clouds. Not the best sunset for a lighthouse but still a nice orange glow at the horizon. Tobi grabbed an excellent shot of a couple starrng at the sunset. Most of us called it quits and headed back to the campers or hotels. Ward and Roman stayed out to see if they could see the Milky Way.

Unfortunately the Milky Way wasn't due until 01:30 in the morning. By that time I was going to be in a deep sleep and waiting for the morning sun to rise.

The sun did rise but the clouds didn't cooperate again so no sunrise pics for me. Tobi and Jerry had to head back in the morning so it was just Ward and I. I grabbed my gear and shook Ward's camper door. There was no answer so I figured he already headed out without me. About halfway up the trail I got a text asking me where I was. Apparently he had been struggling with the sleep monster when I knocked on the door. Once Ward and I met up again he suggested we do shore birds that morning. What a great suggestion that was. At first it didn't look like we were going to be able to photograph much because the birds were very skittish. But with patients come reward. We found a spot on the beach and just sat and waited for the birds to come to us. They came so close to us our telephoto lenses we were almost to close. The birds got within 15 feet of us, it made for some great shooting opportunities. As I think back about this trip it was a great trip. I've been coming up to East Tawas for the past 3 years and I think this was the best time I've had up here. Not only did I get some of my best bird and sunset shots I was also able to do that with people with the same interest. You know what they say, "birds of a feather, flock together!"

(Scarlet Tanager Photo by Ward McGinnis)

Tawas Point State Park Outing

Contributor: Roman Tornopilsky

The Tawas Point outing offered many opportunities for sunrise/sunset photos, and birds of all types in a very relaxed atmosphere. You could always go back to the camper for meals, snacks or a nap. Had a great time. Thank you Todd Bielby and the SPCC.



Sunset over one of the ponds at Tawas Point State Park.



A Yellow throated warbler among the tree limbs that were constantly a problem with focusing.



Sunrise at the Tawas Point Lighthouse.

President's Corner (Ward McGinnis)

Club Trips

Two years ago I asked the club president, Dale Vronch, why the club doesn't have club trips. After a short, very short, discussion he said; "You know this is a great idea. Why don't you head that up?" I looked at Dale, smiled and said "yea, why don't I?" That fall we put together a team to organize monthly trips for the 2017 calendar year. They were a lot of fun and we had a lot of participation for the various trips. We tried to organize trips that would get different people shooting different things. I know this club is mostly nature, but our trips that year included the City of Detroit walk, a barn/model shoot, a glass blowing factory, waterfalls and fall colors and several outings for wildflowers and a few other trips. The idea was to have something of interest each month and hopefully get people shooting what they like, but also maybe something outside of what they normally shoot. I think it was a great success.

Again this year we have a great calendar of trips scheduled. Sometimes weather doesn't cooperate and the wildflowers haven't popped because of cold and snow. Or any number of other reasons can cause us to cancel. But for the most part the trips do happen and we try to keep everyone informed via Facebook, and LeeAnn does a great job of keeping everyone informed via emails as well. I'm looking forward to attending most of the day trips and weekend trips this year.

The difficult part of organizing the trips is trying to find new places and new subjects that people will come and shoot. We need feedback on this year round! When many people attend a shoot that helps us know what to organize the following year. When few people attend it helps us know what not to schedule for the next year. So if you have a trip or a trip idea you would like to see on the list make sure you let the club officers know.

PLUS.....any club member can organize a trip any time they want!! How cool is that? I know Stu has been working on a Greenfield Village trip for the club and it looks like that will happen in early fall. I urge members to post photo trips on our FB page and invite other members to join you. For example: Not everyone can make the Tawas trip for Warblers. But someone could certainly post a day trip for May 19 or 20 to shoot something besides birds.

So if you are heading out to shoot and want company give it a post or send an email to Leeann and ask her to send it out to all members. It's YOUR club and the Board of Directors are doing their best to keep it fun and exciting. But we need your input!

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, and wish to share the information with others, please write that up as well. Please send your contributions to [Mark Robinson](#)

What is your favorite?

This month's topic for "What is your favorite" is Camera and Lens Accessories. There are many accessories for our cameras that can enhance our ability to capture great shots. There are also many accessories that allow us to manage and maintain our gear. Here is a list of some of the accessories used by SPPC members.

Ward McGinnis stated, "My extension tubes. I've used them on regular lenses to make them macro, on macro lenses to make them super macro and on my 300mm to allow it to focus closer." **Tobi Britsch** concurred.

Karen Edwards contributed, "My canon camera bag. So many spots for stuff."

Mark Robinson commented, "I like to use neutral density filters. Neutral density filters allow you to control the amount of light entering the lens. This can be useful for capturing running water during bright daylight, or limiting the light to a portion of the frame that would otherwise blow out your photo".

Teleconverters/extenders are also very popular. They can be used with zoom and prime lens to increase the effective focal length of your lens. Extenders tend to be between 1.4x and 2.0x. That means a 400mm lens with a 2x converter is effectively an 800mm lens. However, using extenders will cost one or two f-stops of aperture, on some lens and camera combinations this might affect the ability to use autofocus.

Next Months what is your favorite?

This monthly column is for members to share their favorite of the topic chosen for the month. This way we can share the wide experience of our club to all the members. For The August newsletter, the topic will be inspirational Facebook pages and web sites. Are there any of Facebook pages or web sites that you use to get ideas of things to photograph, or just enjoy looking at the work of others. If so, which ones are they and what do they offer. Please email your favorite Facebook pages and websites to [Mark Robinson](#) so they can be shared with all the SPPC member in the next newsletter.

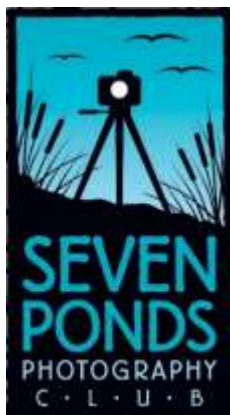
Phil Stagg's presentation on Michigan Waterfalls has been rescheduled for September 7th.



Due to a power outage forcing the May 4th presentation to be cancelled, Phil has graciously agreed to come to the SPPC meeting on September 7th. Please see the [May 2018 newsletter](#) for additional information about Phil's presentation.

The Editing Mentor sessions are cancelled for summer.

The Editing Mentor sessions held on the forth Friday of the month will not be held in June, July or August.



May 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)

June 1 - Swap meet and Photo Shoot (No Speaker)

July 1 - Photo Shoot (No Speaker)

Aug 3 - Jason Stewart, Time lapse Photography

Sept 7 - Phil Stagg, Michigan Waterfalls

Oct 5 - Marilyn Murphy Feather, Landscapes

Assignment Topics (1st Monday Meetings)

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

June 1 - Clouds

July 6 - Patriotic

Aug 3 - Water

Sep 7 - Reflections

Club Outings

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

June 1-3: Silver Lake Sand Dunes. June 1 is a scheduled club meeting. So those going on this trip will miss the meeting. State Park for campers. Several motels in the area. Shooting the sand dunes and the Little Sable Lighthouse plus whatever else we find interesting. Part of the dunes are very popular with dune buggy and quads and motorcycles and could be fun shooting action shots. Lead: [Todd Bielby](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/199927343937847/>

June 15 & 16: Imlay City Busker Fest is being held at the Eastern Michigan State Fair Grounds. It features a large array of performing acts.

Lead Person: [Stu Davis](#)**July 7: Bay City Fireworks.** This will be a day trip that runs late in the evening.

Lead: [Jerry Badgero](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/186853161924625/>

July 24 - July 28: Eastern Michigan State Fair

Eastern Michigan State Fair will be held at their grounds near Imlay City. Details of the fair events can be found on their web site <https://www.easternmichiganstatefair.com/>. Lead Person: [Stu Davis](#)

August 12: Prairies and Ponds of Lapeer Macro/Close-up Shoot. This is a city owned park that offers great early morning spider webs, damselflies and dragonflies. Hoping for DEW!!

Lead: [Todd Bielby](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/159083371465471/>

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. **No Sessions will be held in June, July or August.**

Helpful links:

[SPPC Facebook Page](#)

[SPPC Home Page](#)

[GDCCC Home Page](#)