

# 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.

## July 5<sup>th</sup> – Seven Ponds Photo Scavenger Hunt

On July 5<sup>th</sup> we will forgo our normal first Friday meeting format, replacing it with a fun activity that all members are invited to join. That activity being a photo scavenger hunt on the trails, waterways and gardens of the Seven Ponds Nature Center.

The rules are simple:

- All photos must be taken at the nature center.
- All photos must be taken on July 5<sup>th</sup>, between 6AM and 9PM. (Official start time 7PM-9PM)
- Groups of three or so photographers is recommended, but not required.
- From a provided list of subjects capture as many of the subjects as you can. Individuals in a group can take photos of the same or similar subjects, but they need to vary the technique or perspective for unique views of the subject.
- Have Fun, this is a friendly competition.

After the scavenger hunt upload your favorite images to [SPPC Scavenger Hunt](#), by noon on Wednesday July 31<sup>st</sup> (to see loaded images click done in right-hand corner). Time permitting, the images will be shared at our meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Also, bring your checklist so we can see how all the teams made out.

The checklist, maps and additional details can be found at the following link.

<https://spnc.photoclubservices.com/Downloads/7f4d1a9f-cecb-4561-b6f1-eac2b28cc7bb?o=y>

## August 2<sup>nd</sup> - Nature Photography Compositions & Creative Techniques



Please join us on August 2, 2019, when club member David Stimac will discuss the ways you can take your images to the next level. He will cover the basic rules of composition and when to break them, how to use leading lines, repeating shapes and avoiding distracting elements. David will also cover several techniques that will help you bring more creativity to your image making. Topics will include motion blurs, camera and lens movement, multiple exposures and panoramas.



Dave has had an interest in natural history since early on, and he has drawn, painted, carved and photographed animals and plants for over forty years. Dave is an avid birder, hunter and naturalist and spends as

much

time as he can outdoors. Waterfowl, in particular, has inspired him for most of his life. He is fascinated by their beauty, behavior and migrations.



Visit [www.davidstimac.com](http://www.davidstimac.com) for more about Dave.

## Mike Moats Macro Workshop Review

Contributor Kristin Grudzien

### Why shoot Macro or Close-Up Photography?

There are many benefits of shooting Macro and Close-Up Photography. For example, if you are shooting Nature, the subject matter changes every month. Photographers can shoot at any time of the day as they can control the light. The images can be taken either outdoors or in a studio which allows for more creativity and flexibility. The photographer also has more control of the backgrounds, using either black or white boards or making your own (hint: print on matte paper). If you use a black background, he recommended using felt, fleece or velvet to decrease glare. With white, foam core works well.

Mike spoke about making a check list to make sure you have everything you need while you are out on your location.

#### Checklist items:

1. Camera – Your choice, it doesn't have to be expensive to be successful.
2. Lenses – if a macro lens is in your budget, get one; otherwise you can practice close up photography with a zoom lens. He said the Tamron 90mm was a popular lens.
3. Tripod – a must for macro and close up photography. He uses the Vanguard Alta Pro2+ with a ball head attachment.
4. 12" Diffuser (for subjects parallel to the ground, even on cloudy days)
5. 12" Reflector (to direct light under leaves or flowers)
6. A "plamp" for the diffuser and/or reflector
7. Accessories:
  - a. Small pair of scissors
  - b. Tweezers
  - c. Brushes (paint brushes or make-up brush; to clean flowers or leaves)
  - d. Knee pads
  - e. Spray bottle (in case you have to "manufacturer" dew)
  - f. Multi-tool (in case you have to tighten or loosen something)
  - g. Gloves that let you have your index finger and thumb accessible
  - h. LED flashlight (in case you have to add light to your subject)
  - i. Paper towel

- j. Shutter release
- k. A copy of the checklist to check off as you pack (easier to get it all packed)

Mike also offered some suggestions for taking flower and critter portraits:

1. Look for a subject that is isolated and away from clutter; two subject composition works best
2. Find a good angle with a background as far away as possible
3. Another suggestion was to make a wind-box for wild flower imaging.  
Here is the link to the YouTube video on how to make a wind box.
  - a. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUhbhXbslW4>
4. Look for interesting patterns and fill the frame
5. He uses the stairs in his home to set up macro shots. He has a lot of natural light from above the staircase so he uses the stairs and his tripod and the plamp to set up images in his home.

For more detailed information, please check out Mike's blog and webpage: <http://www.tinylandscapes.com>, and check out his videos on YouTube (just search Mike Moats, there are about 66 videos).



"When people ask me what equipment I use – I tell them my eyes."

-Anonymous-

## Historic Penn's Cave & Wildlife Park

Contributor Tina M Daniels

Dave's and my trip on June 7<sup>th</sup>, to the Historic Penn's Cave and Wildlife Park began with a wonderful drive through rural Amish country in the scenic Centre Hall PA.



Each farm we drove past was beautifully tilled and situated up against the base of the surrounding lush green mountainside.

Penn's Cave is located on 1600 acres which have both forests and agricultural fields located on the property. As we drove onto the property, a wild Mustang herd and Burro duo in an adjacent pasture greeted us. Once inside, we purchased our tickets for both the cave tour and the wildlife tour. The tickets packages could be combined or purchased separately.

Outside of the cave is the historical account of the cave and its rich history with the native Indian tribes. The cave system is located 150 feet below the farm and consists of limestone, calcium



and other naturally occurring geological minerals. The cave was a cool 52 degrees and the tour guide, explained all of the naturally occurring stalactites and stalagmites



growing on the ceilings and floor of the cave. The cave itself has between 2 and 4 feet of water that comes from a lake just off the back of the structure.

The tour in the cave and the surrounding lake took about an hour, depending on how many other 5 tour boats were in use. The tour guide made sure we were able to take ample photos and tried to position the boat in various locations to offer the best views for photos.

The wildlife park was chock full of various animals including: White Tail Deer, America Bison, Elk, Texas Longhorn Cattle, Timber Wolves, Mountain Lions, Bob Cats, Black Bears



and wild American Mustang Horses. The wild life tour took about 90 minutes and also included a walking tour of the Black Bear, Cougar and Bob Cat enclosures. Again,



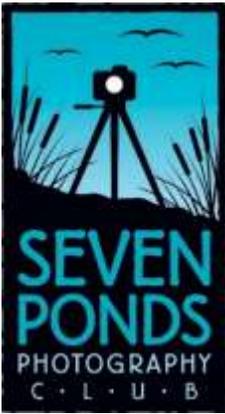
the tour guide was very informative and paused at each site to allow us to take photos of the animals and ask any questions. One of the highlights of the wildlife tour occurred when they stopped to show us their White Tail Deer re-introduction program they were participating in with their local DNR. In this enclosure there were 8 Does that had given birth in the last 6 hours to 8 fawns. The wildlife team members were locating the fawns to measure them and tag them. One of the conservationists brought one of the newly born fawns onto the tour bus and gave us a quick education on their program. How cool is that? Another fun feature included the tour bus driving on the actual stagecoach trail that was used for travelers going out West or coming back from out West. Also located on the property is the historical Penn's Cave Motel that was used by travelers until the early 1920's. Today, the property is used as an Administration Office and storage site for various items. Here visitors can sit on the large wrap around porch and rest while taking in the beautiful scenic views.

Just outside the Penn's Cave Motel, is a functional mining sluice for people to purchase a bag with dirt containing semi-precious gems and minerals to mine and to keep! How fun is that?? Everyone has a miner in his or her blood!!

Overall, we thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the Historic Penn's Cave and Wildlife Park. I would recommend this site as a family friendly and informational trip.

### 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@spc.org) .



May/June 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 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)

**July 5** - Photography Scavenger Hunt at Seven Ponds

**Aug 2** - Nature Photography Composition and Creative Techniques (David Stimac)

## 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.

**July** - We will be having an Outdoor Photo Shoot at Seven Ponds (scavenger photo hunt Images)

**August** - Leave it Alone (Shoot subject as found)

**Sept** - Trains and Train Stations

**Oct** - Trees and Bushes

## Club Outings

**July 5<sup>th</sup>** - Seven Ponds Photo Club Scavenger Hunt

See article above. [Outing Details](#)

**Aug 10<sup>th</sup>** - Belle Island

Belle Isle Park and Aquarium has many things to photograph. This outing will include photographing exotic plants. [Outing Details](#)

**Aug 17<sup>th</sup>** - Dow Gardens

The Dow Gardens and Whiting Forest provide many opportunities to photograph a vast variety of plant life as well as architecture. [Outing Details](#)

**Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>** - Metamora Country Days and Hot Air Balloon Festival (weather permitting)

The evening sky on Friday and Saturday will be filled with colorful hot air balloons that will launch between 5-8 p.m. from the balloon launch field a few hundred yards south of the Metamora Lions Hall. [Outing Details](#)

## Sept 21<sup>st</sup> – Model Shoot

Details Coming Soon! Keep checking the [SPPC web sites "Photo Trips Meet Ups" tab](#) for information on this outing.

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

## Special Event - Party at the Ponds

**Sat Aug 10, Noon - 6 PM**

We need volunteers to host the SPPC Image wall, image voting, and sales. Seven Ponds is looking for our photo club to sell nature images, on the back wall, taken at Seven Ponds Nature Center in 2019. Max size 16x20", 20% of sale is donated to SPNC. There is a limit of 20 images, sign up for a spot by sending an Email to [7pondsphotoExpo@gmail.com](mailto:7pondsphotoExpo@gmail.com)

## Meetings

The Seven Ponds Photography Club typically 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.

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

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.

**Note: No Mentoring Sessions in June, July or August.**

Helpful links:

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

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