

SPPC Perspective

The Seven Ponds Photography Club, formed in 2009, it 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,

We have started meetings in person at Seven Ponds Nature Center on the 1st and 3rd Friday each month.

Note: In accordance with current recommendations from the Lapeer County Health Department and the CDC, Seven Ponds Nature Center is asking everyone to wear a face mask inside the nature center building.

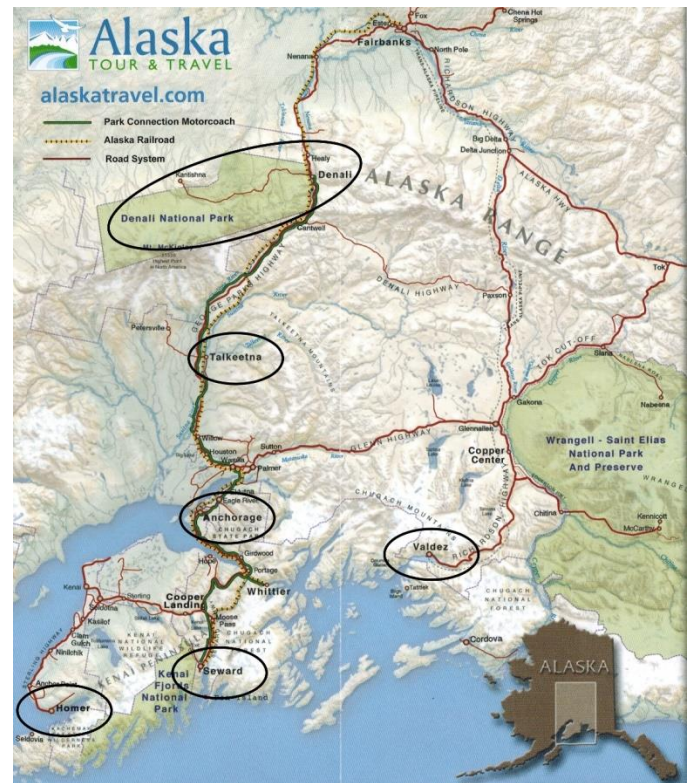
November 5th meeting will be an election meeting and we will also have club wearables being worn to the meeting so all can admire/inspect/be amazed at the quality of the items and order if desired. **Home baked goodies will be provided for the meeting.**

Winner of the Mike Moats Camera Club Drawing will be announced.

Special Alaska Member Trip Report

Story and photos by Tom Harpootlian

In late August and early September my wife, Lin and I flew to Alaska to enjoy God's beauty and photograph it. We flew into Anchorage and rented a Class C RV. We were joined by lifetime friends who rented their own RV and we traveled around together. By mid-September the tourist season is basically over. See the map included to follow our journey.



We first drove to Seward south of Anchorage and took a one day cruise which goes along the coast and up to a glacier. We saw orcas, sea lions and a humpback whale but the whole day was nothing but beautiful scenery

WE WANT YOU!

Seven Ponds Photography Club
Board Elections

VOTE

Become a candidate today
Vote November 5th, 2021

We are looking for new Board members for 2022-2024

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

with snow covered mountains coming right down to the ocean.



Glaciers from Seward Cruise



Sea Lions



Sea Otters

The next day we drove down to Homer at the end of the Kenai Peninsula.



Drive to Homer



Homer Spit

We drove back through Anchorage and up to Talkeetna. That is a quaint little town whose claim to fame is the airport that flies climbers to the Denali base camp. We took a 1.5 hour sightseeing flight over Denali National Park which was a fabulous adventure – even landed on a glacier.



Flight over Denali



Landing on the glacier

We then spent 3 days in Denali National Park. Generally we had wonderful weather and good driving but we had 2 disappointments on our trip. The first was that all the national park visitor centers were closed to tourists because of COVID.



Fall colors in Denali National Park

They had rangers out front with literature and to answer your questions. The second had to do with the one 92 mile road in the park. That is the only road and you cannot drive your own vehicle past mile marker 12. You have to take a bus. Three days before we arrived there was landslide activity at mile marker 42. Because the road is extremely narrow there are few places for buses to turn around so we could only go to mile 30. Therefore we did not see as many animals in the park as we had back in 2004. We did see caribou, Dall sheep and a grizzly bear and on a positive note, we saw Denali Mountain for all four days we were in the area.



Denali

From there we drove and camped near Glennallen. It was a very scary road along the Matanuska River. The road is on the side of a mountain with steep drop-offs and many places there were no guard rails. The next day we drove to Valdez which is the end of the Alaska pipe-line. It is a very deep water port and never freezes over in the winter.



Bald Eagle



Glacier face

We took another one day cruise out of Valdez to another glacier and saw more marine wild life.

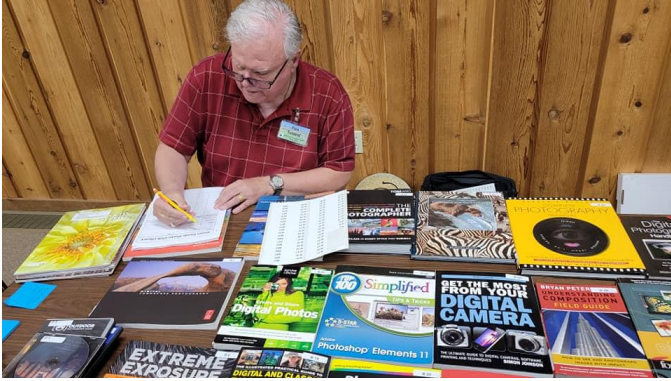
On the drive back to Anchorage we had a glorious view of the Wrangell mountain range. All in all we had an excellent time as you can see from the pictures.



Wrangle Mountain Range

All photos were shot with my very old (2006) Canon XTi (8meg) with a Tamron 18-270mm lens.

NEWS FLASH We have a new library!



Seven Ponds Photo Club now has books available donated by our members for check out. Special thanks to Tim Toland and all the members that donated. Please see Tim to check out a book.

SPPC Astrophotography - 9/3/2021



**with Cindy Bilinsky
at Seven Ponds
Nature Center**

photo by Cindy Bilinsky

Everyone was very excited to listen to Cindy as she talked about astrophotography. She went over some apps for planning your night shoot, settings for shooting the Milky Way,

and post processing. She also explained how to photograph deep sky objects using a star tracker and shared some beautiful images of the Milky Way.



photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

Unfortunately, cloudy weather moved in before we could get outside for the live shoot. Hopefully, we can revisit this when clear skies and stars line up in 2022. Several people (myself included) were inspired by Cindy to go out and shoot their own Milky Way pics.

RULE OF 500

500 Divided By the Focal Length of Your Lens = The Longest Exposure (in Seconds) Before Stars Start to "Trail"

SPPC - Van Houtte Farms Private Photography Event - September 4th



Mike Moats by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

It was a beautiful evening for the photo shoot at Van Houtte's Farms. We had 15 members that attended SPPC Van Houtte Farms Private Photography Event in Armada, Michigan. Along with acres of beautiful flowers, the SPPC members enjoyed the fellowship and beauty of nature.

SPPC - Fall Flower Photoshoot at Ankley Farms, Imlay City - Sept. 5th

photos by Jim Lewis



Several members enjoyed another fall flower shoot at Ankle Farms, Imlay City on September 5th. Looks like fun times as well as some nice shooting was enjoyed by all.



SPPC - Michigan Renaissance Festival - 9/18/2021 *photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz*



The theme of the weekend was SHAMROCKS & SHENANIGAN where you were “transported” to Ireland. If you wanted to find local Irish vendors, be able to kick up your heels with traditional Irish music & dance or enter the Men in Kilts contest, this was the place for you. Of course, there was also all the traditional fun of knights, jousting and turkey legs. A few of our members - Karen Banish, Colleen Stankiewicz, Dianne Kolpacke & LeeAnn McLaneGoetz were able to kick up their heels and shoot a few frames at this Michigan famous festival.

New GDCCC DPD Nature Rules!

The GDCCC approved at the last council meeting revisions to the DPD Competition Rules. See [New](#)

[GDCCC DPD Rules 10-4-2021](#) for the complete rules. The most intensely debated changes were to the Nature rules – specifically, the digital processing rules. Please read the complete rules along with the Nature Appendix. Highlighting the digital processing rules below:

- The definition does not allow replacing the background of the image, adding additional content from another image, or cloning out content from your original image. This restriction of cloning out content includes what may appear inconsequential, such as a blade of grass in front of an animal’s face. Also cloning elements already in the image and making additional copies of those elements is the same as adding elements and is not allowed.
- **Removing minor distracting elements from the background or non-subject area is allowed.**
- Adding pictorial elements to the image or removing pictorial elements from the image is not permitted.
- Adjustments are allowed that enhance the image without changing the content, including: exposure (globally and selectively), color balance, contrast, sharpening (globally and selectively), noise reduction, conversion to greyscale monochrome (with no color added), straightening, resizing, and cropping.
- Deliberately blurring the background is not allowed.
- Adding an obvious vignette not originally produced by the camera is not allowed.
- The overriding requirement for any of the allowed adjustments is that the results must appear natural to the viewer (the maker is not the viewer – the viewer is the judge!)

Also being discussed is the placement of Star Trails – currently, these are allowed in Color General but this is



being debated. As it stands right now, Star Trails are allowed in Color General. Left is an example of star trails.

Photo by photographingspace.com.

Note: After reviewing past GDCCC monthly competitions, we have noticed several pictures from our club have been disqualified for putting Nature pictures into Color General. If the subject is more than 1/3 of the frame and nothing prevents the image from being submitted into Nature – it **must** be submitted in Nature vs Color General or it will be disqualified. These images that were disqualified were very good images and we hope next year to have fewer DQs from our club.

Also, images that meet the definition for Color General, Monochrome General or Nature are not eligible for Color Creative.

Tips for judging & submitting successfully:

The GDCCC has a document explaining how images are judged. Look for this document on the downloads page [Document: Breakdown of the 27 Points](#). Basically, GDCCC says they are looking for subject material, composition and technical quality of a photograph. Keep the following list in mind when editing, choosing images or judging:

Subject Matter - Informative, Emotion-Mood-Feeling Symbolism, Creativity Impact

Technical - Elements to Consider Proper Exposure: Focus, Sharpness, Detail, ISO, Shutter Speed, Aperture, Depth of Field, Brightness & Contrast, Highlights, Shadow, Color - Cast – Saturation, Usage of Light, and check if there distracting elements in the frame

Composition - Rule of Thirds, Framing, and Viewpoint. Balance Where is the Eye Lead?

Wow factor - I wish I had taken that image!

Post Processing - A little tweaking to get to what your eyes saw is ok = A little sharpening, a little contrast adjustment, a little saturation. Too much and the image looks fake.

**Above list was taken from [Criteria For Judging Digital Photos](#) by Jack Eyer but there are other sites to check as well, like the [National photo contest judging guidelines](#)*



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 setup chairs, coffee, name tags, sign in for in-person meetings

✓ Volunteers to bring individually wrapped snacks

✓ Board position – Election this November 5th meeting.

New Members Can Sign up & Pay Online

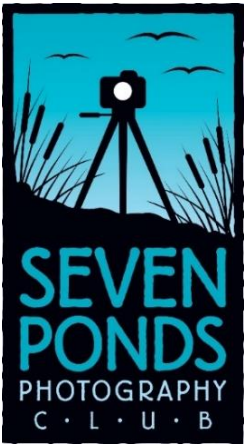
Thanks to Seven Ponds Nature Center we now have the ability for new Seven Ponds Photography Members to sign up and pay on line. Thank you Diane Rankin.

SPPC dues are \$15 for one member and \$20 for a family or two or more members living at the same address.

[Pay Seven Ponds Photo Club Membership](#)

Early Pay Promotion the night of the Nov 5th meeting!

All members that pay dues early will receive 1 free ticket for the Mike Moats Giveaway Drawing that night.



Spring - 2021

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

10/23/2021 [SPPC New Fire House](#) with Stu Davis

10/23/2021 [SPPC Oxford Witches Night Out](#) with Jim & Bobbie Lewis

10/24/2021 [SPPC Fall Decor Workshop](#) with Tina Daniels

10/25/2021 [Tilson Street Photo Shoot with Stu Davis](#)

10-30-2021 [Caseville Witches Night](#) with Tina Daniels

11/06/2021 [SPPC Holiday Card Workshop with Tina Daniels ,Elizabeth Gondert and JD Labs](#)

Upcoming Virtual Workshops

[BH Classes](#)

11/01/2021 – [HUNTS - The Basics of Birding](#) with Tyler Ficker

11/03/2021 – [HUNTS - Photoshop: How to use a Xencelabs Pen Tablet inside of Photoshop, and making it simple](#) by Bill Lindsay

11/10/2021 – [SPPC Botanical Photo Shoot](#) - By Tim Toland

11/16/2021 – [HUNTS - In the Field: Utilizing Professional Techniques & Tools to Create Impactful Imagery](#) by Todd Nettelhorst

11/23/2021 – [HUNTS - Using NiSi Filters for Landscape Photography](#) by Korey Hart

Assignment Topics (Review @ 1st Friday Meetings)

Sept = Sunrise /Sunset Oct = Harvest

Nov = Winterberries and Landscapes

Assignment Reviews are typically reviewed on the first Friday of the month following the assignment month, unless otherwise noted. Please send your images to 7pondsphoto@gmail.com, by **NOON** on the on the **Wednesday** before the day of the meeting. ☺ This gives Kristin enough time to add to her great PowerPoint presentations for the Friday meeting.

Club Outings

Informal outings have been happening look for details on the [SPPC Facebook Page](#) or [SPPC Photo Ops FaceBook page](#)

Lead a photo club trip - Trip request form. <https://form.jotform.com/90283795109161>

Self-guided Trips

11/20/2021 AT 12 PM – 4 PM [Santa's Reindeer Farm](#)

11/20/2021 – 1/9/2022 [Wild Lights at the Detroit Zoo](#)

12/3-5, 12/9-12, 12/16-23, 12/26-28/2021
6:30-10 pm [Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village](#)

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. Selected photos are then sent to the Greater Detroit Camera Club Council (GDCCC) to compete with other clubs. Currently, club meetings on the 3rd Friday are used for optional speakers. Competition images are reviewed after the judged in the 1st Friday meeting. Competition images are reviewed online during the 1st Friday meeting.



No Meetings In December!

Mentoring sessions have been canceled for 2021.

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

[SPPC Member's Shared Images](#)

Newsletter Content

We are always looking for members to contribute articles related to photography or club activities. Please email germaine.sppc@yahoo.com



“Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst.”

-Henri Cartier-Bresson

