

The SPPC

Perspective

March 2025

Photo by Dave Ulman



Highlights in this issue...

- About the Cover Image
- Focus Topics
- Photo Tips & Techniques
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- & Much More...

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SPPC Members,

Currently, we are having meetings in person at Seven Ponds Nature Center on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month.

Keep checking the [7 Ponds Photography Club Website](#) for updates on upcoming meetings.

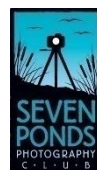
3-15-2024 – Speaker Paul Wakabayashi - Wildlife – “[Wildlife photography in the Americas - Three different approaches](#)”

3-16-2024 - [SPPC Creative Macro Photography with Color and Oils](#) by LeeAnn McLane Goetz *Cost \$15

03-27-2024 - [Glass Blowing Fun Shoot](#) – 1-4pm @ The Glass Academy -Trip leader Jim Lewis

4-19-2024 Speaker John Gill - “[Photographing the US from an RV](#)”

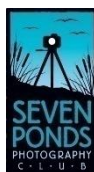
04-27-2024 [SPPC Kensington Park Fun Shoot](#) – Trip leader: Germaine Finley



SPPC is looking for members to help in the following areas:

- ✓ Judge our monthly GDCCC competitions.
- ✓ Newsletter Contributions – submit articles on trips, techniques or product/gear reviews to germaine.sppc@yahoo.com
- ✓ Bring individually wrapped snacks.
- ✓ Setting up or taking down tables and chairs.
- ✓ Lead a photo outing, or fun shoot.

Email 7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com to volunteer



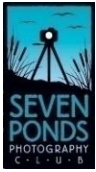
About the cover photo

Congratulations to Dave Ulman on his eagle image that was posted on January 28, 2025. Beautiful shot Dave, thanks for sharing!

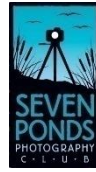
Image details:

Camera: Nikon D7500
Lens: Tamron 150-600mm
Focal Length: 600 mm
Aperture: f/7.1
Shutter: 1/1000 sec
ISO: 100

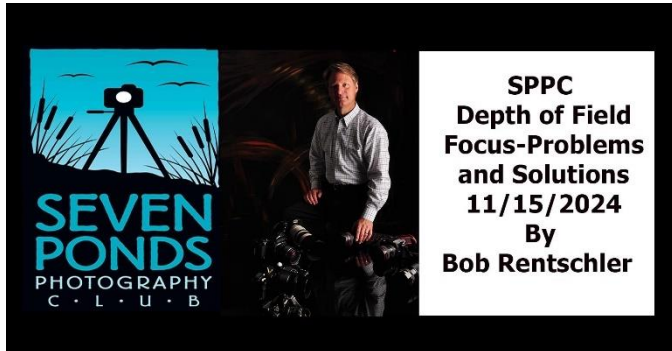
Dave – “Yesterday I received a text message that there were five bald eagles snacking on a deer carcass near a friend's house in Dryden. So I drove over to see if I could capture a couple of photos. Sure enough, as I pulled up, I could see the five eagles on the carcass. However, the arrival of my vehicle sent them all flying away to watch over the deer carcass from the trees. This juvenile bald eagle is flying over the carcass to chase off a hawk that stopped by for a quick bite.”



SPPC Depth of Field / Focus-Problems and Solutions - by Bob Rentschler - 11-15-2024



January 17th, 2025 – SPPC 2025 Holiday Kickoff



Bob Rentschler is a retired Photography Professor who has spoken in the past to our club on various topics. In November 2024, he came and took us on a journey thru photography learning's of depth of field / focus problems and solutions. Bob was a fun speaker and has years of professional photography experience that he likes to share with the club.

The following link does not cover all that Bob went over, nor does it have his sample photos and humor but it does give a good overview of the what DoF is and what controls it (aperture, camera to subject distance, focal length of your lens, and sensor size).

[Understanding Depth of Field - A Beginner's Guide](#) or in video format; [Depth of field - Photography basics](#)

Remember, when you choose your depth of field, think of what you want your audience to focus on and how your chosen DoF can help with that, along with what emotion you might be able to produce with different depth of fields. 📷 Play around!

We had a good turnout this year for the Holiday Kickoff party. We had a delicious gourmet dinner catered by [Kate's Kitchen - Ankley Family Farm](#) including:

- Garden Salad Choice of Dressing
- Oven-Baked Chicken
- Vegetable Lasagna
- Red Skin Potatoes
- Broccoli, Cauliflower Carrot Medley
- Coffee, Tea, Lemonade plus assorted desserts

Many thanks to ProCam and Jim & Bobbie Lewis for the raffle prizes.

Also thanks to Valette Carpenter for beautifully decorated the tables in an old film theme. Thank you for sharing your talent, time and creativity with the club.

The GDCCC Monthly Competition award ribbons were handed out to the club members at the banquet and everyone was able to enjoy the prints from 2024 that were produced by our members and were displayed around the room.

Our club members earned a lot of awards from the monthly GDCCC competitions and as you can see, too many to list here but make sure you check-out the images on the GDCCC website under Competitions. You can select competitions from last year or this year to see how we do every month.

GDCCC DPD 2024 Awards

4 – 1st Place awards 15 – 2nd Place awards
28 – 3rd Place awards 10 – Honorable Mentions

GDCCC Print 2024 Awards

4 – 1st Place awards 4 – 2nd Place awards
8 – 3rd Place awards 4 – Honorable Mention

2024 DPD Move Ups Valid for 2025

- Caleb Beers moved up to Advanced in Color General
- Elizabeth Davis moved up to Advanced in Creative
- Germaine Finley moved up to Salon in Monochrome General
- Caleb Beers moved up to Advanced in Nature
- Kristin Grudzien moved up to Advanced in Nature
- Paul Wakabayashi moved up to Advanced in Nature
- Jim Lewis moved up to Star in Nature

2024 Print Move Ups Valid for 2025

- Germaine Finley moved up to Advanced in Monochrome Print
- Jim Lewis moved up to Salon in Color Print

Congratulations on your advancements and for all those beautiful images that we were able to enjoy in 2024.

Thank you also to Bobbie & Jim Lewis, LeeAnn McLaneGoetz, Valeta Carpenter, Ken & Maragaret Larsen for setting up, decorating, coordinating the dinner, and running the Kick-off. Thank-you.



End Of Year Banquet – 1/25/2025

On January 25th the GDCCC had the 2024 End of Year Banquet at the Club Venetian Banquet Center, to celebrate all the 2024 accomplishments of the GDCCC membership. Award winning prints were on display and after

a nice lunch was served, we all viewed an amazing presentation ([see link here](#)) created by Greg Aldous and Brian Blake that showed all the 2024 GDCCC DPD EOY award winners. All in all there were 1073 prints & images with 351 awards given out.



Kristin Grudzien, Shannon Hintz, and Germaine Finley were there representing our club and in general, enjoyed a very nice afternoon together.

Seven Ponds Photography Club did very well. Below are the awards that were received by our club:

Monochrome Print



HM Beginner – Germaine Finley – *Stuttgart Library – A Book Lover's Dream*

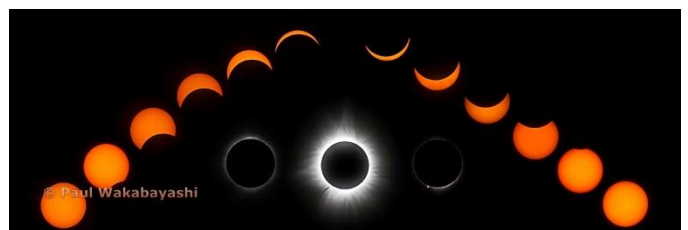


HM Advanced - Bobbie Lewis – *Horsepower*



HM Salon - Bobbie Lewis - *Pets*

Color Creative - Digital



HM Beginner – Paul Wakabayashi – *Solar Eclipse*

Color Print



3rd Place Salon - Bobbie Lewis – *Opening*

Color General – Digital



HM Beginner – John Gill – *Cactus Flower*



HM Beginner – Paul Wakabayashi – *Kenyan Sunset*



HM Beginner – Larry Gohl – *Cayman Turtle*



1st Place Advanced– Germaine Finley – *Butterfly Bulb*



HM Beginner - Paul Wakabayashi – *Red-Eyed Tree Frog*

Nature – Digital



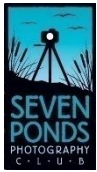
HM Beginner – Cindy Bilinsky – *Pink Dragon Fly*

Monochrome General – Digital



2nd Place –
Salon –
Jim Lewis –
Character

Congratulations to all!



SPNC Winterfest – 1-25-2024

Photos by Tom Harpootlian



On Tuesday Jan 21st, Seven Ponds Nature Center put out a call for help for their annual Winterfest. They needed someone to take some photos of their volunteers. The purpose was to get updated photos depicting volunteers in action at Seven Ponds for publication on the website, social media and flyers.



them some great photos to promote the nature center. Below are a few of his photos:



Some children in the snowman building competition.



Look Mom, I made a heart!

Tom Harpootlian graciously volunteered to go to the Winterfest and braved the low temps to get



Various snowshoes were available to try on the trails



Note: We received a letter thanking the Seven Ponds Photography Club for our generous end-of-year cash donation, a photo-related gift fundraiser basket, and club volunteers at various SPNC events.

We use the nature center and grounds and it is nice that we have had volunteers to support them back.



SPPC– 2-21-2025- Focus Topics for 2025 Overview – by Kristin Grudzien and Shannon Hintz

On our 3rd Friday club meeting of February, Kristin and Shannon introduced all the focus topics for 2025. They had a great presentation that explained each month's topic and gave some sample images for each month.

February 2025

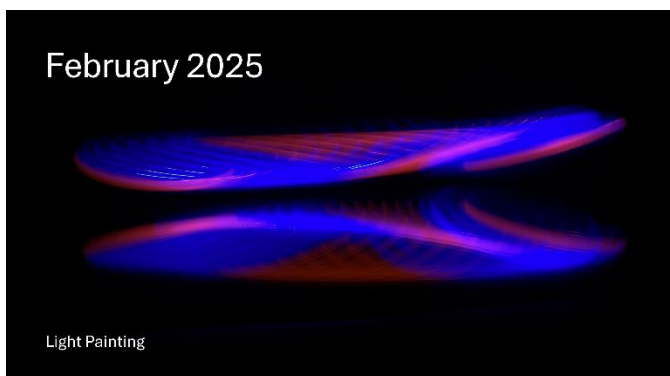


Photo by Kristin Grudzien

If you want to see the whole presentation, click on the [Focus Topic Presentation 2-21-2025](#) link. The presentation is filled with tips and examples for each topic as well as instructions on how to enter focus topic images into the system.

2025 Focus Topics will be reviewed at the 1st Friday Competition Meeting. All focus topic images need to be uploaded to spnc.photoclubservices.com

Images should be entered via our website in Focus Topics. Remember, you can always submit any picture of another topic to share. Each person is limited to 4 images each.

Month	Due	Topic
January	12/31/2024	Holidays
February	2/5/2025	Light Painting
March	3/05/2025	Zen Photography
April	4/3/2025	Mirrors and Other Reflections
May	4/1/2025	Levitation Photography: Defy Gravity
June	6/4/2025	Unexpected Contrast
July	7/16/2025* moved due to 7/4 Holiday	Emotions
August	7/30/2025	Composites and/or Monochrome
September	9/3/2025	Tell a Story
October	10/1/2025	New Twists on Cliches
November	11/05/2025	Catch the Uncatchable

Below are some links collected by Shannon and Kristin to help explain each focus topic:

February – Light Painting

[Light Painting Photography Basics: How to Start Painting Light](#)

Light Painting Dinosaurs
<https://youtu.be/m2vafg1IDZQ>

March – Zen Photography

[Zen Photography | Photzy](#)

<https://aestheticsofphotography.com/zen-photography-finding-creative-peace-in-photography/>

April – Mirrors and Other Reflections

[9 Impressive Mirror Photography Ideas to Try Yourself](#)

[Reflection photography: A beginner's guide - Adobe](#)

7 Easy and Creative Tips for Glass Ball Photography:
<https://youtu.be/pYu7uEfxBWM?si=8pLj3xe-KhivECxv>

May – Levitation (Defy Gravity)

Levitation Photography Tutorial
<https://youtu.be/Nyuyo9AXGI0>

[Guide to Levitation Photography](#)

June – Unexpected Contrast

[12 Examples \(and Explanations\) of Juxtaposition in Photography | 100ASA](#)

[Juxtaposition in Photography: Definition, Tips and Examples | Visual Education](#)

[Juxtaposition in photography | 26 Examples to inspire your photography - 500px](#)

July – Photographing Emotion

[The Science of Facial Expressions And How It Can Improve Your Photography](#)

[5 Simple Ways to Capture Authentic Expressions in Portraits](#)

August – Composites and/or Monochrome

[Composite Photography: 10 Styles And Tips Featuring 3 Notable Photographer](#)

[Composite Photography: What is it and How to Do It Right | Dropicts](#)

[Monochrome Photography: Tips & Tricks to Keep in Mind](#)

[The Anachronistic Joy of Black-and-White Photography | Reviews by Wirecutter](#)

September – Tell a Story

[3 Steps to Becoming a Better Photographic Storyteller | Light Stalking](#)

[15 Amazing Photographs That Successfully Tell a Story | Light Stalking](#)

October – New Twists on Cliches

[The Internet's Best List of Clichés](#)

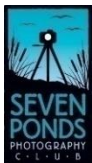
[681 Cliches to Avoid in Your Creative Writing – avoid in writing fun for photography](#)



Photo by Shannon Hintz

[Treat Catching Tutorial | Pet Photography with Dogs](#)

[A Beginner's Guide to Capturing Motion in Your Photography](#)



2024 SPPC Membership Dues - Due 5-1-2024

Pay 2024 dues early (**before 5/1**) to get 1 free Raffle ticket for a Case Logic camera bag. (never used – donated by Patti de Marie). The drawing will be May 2nd, 2025 at the May competition meeting. The tripod pictured will be in a future raffle so stay tuned 😊

Thank-you Marie.

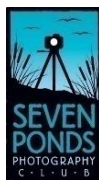


New and Returning membership:

SPPC dues are \$20 for one member and \$30 for a family or two living at the same address.

Pay online: Pay Seven Ponds Photo Club Membership

Or Pay at a meeting: Please put due payment in an envelope with member names and emails on it and any address correction Seven Ponds Photo Club Membership Application



Pay SPPC Membership Online

We have received a few questions on how to pay online. If you are unsure, checkout the following:

On the Seven Ponds website click on the [Pay Online](#) link. Then you will see the following and click on the button

Seven Ponds Photo Club Membership

05/01/2021 12:05 AM - 04/02/2023 11:55 PM ET

[Click here to register online](#)

It will bring you to your existing account with the Seven Ponds Nature Center. If you don't have one, create one or continue as a guest and fill out the required name, address, etc. fields. You will end up with a screen to check your info before pressing the **Complete Registration** button to proceed to the payment screen.

Press **Submit** and you will get a confirmation email

New Offering for Club Members

[Order 16" x 20" Prints for Competition from Jim Lewis](#)

1. Price is \$18.00 each includes sales tax.
2. You must size your image to 16" x 20" before uploading.

Photo by Mike Moats

3. Prints need to be uploaded the Friday before our first meeting of the month.
4. Prints will be available for pick up on the first Friday of the month meeting.
5. Bring protection to transport your prints home.
6. Photos on this site will be deleted on the day of competition.



Photo Tips & Techniques

We have some pretty cool focus topics in the next 3 months to work on - Zen Photography (March), Mirrors and Other Reflections (April) and Levitation Photography or Defying Gravity (May). While this may seem like a lot in itself to focus on, you can try to introduce the idea of a self portrait using any of these techniques to make a more creative self-portrait.

The basics needed for a self-portrait –

- A DSLR or cell phone
- Use a timer or preferable a remote trigger
- A tripod or a stable (and safe) area to prop your camera

The big question sometimes is ... how do I focus on myself when I am not in the frame yet? You can either chose a spot where you will stand (you might mark the spot with a stone or some small object) or you can use a larger prop to focus on and then replace the prop with yourself. To improve your focus, use a small aperture for a greater depth of field and manual focus so your camera won't change your focus once you have it set.



Photo by Benjamin Barnes

Don't like photos of yourself? Be creative and do a silhouette or place yourself in a larger scene. Compose the shot so it says something about yourself. Maybe just have a part of you in the frame – like your hands or feet.

Another possibility (and a focus topic) is to use your reflection. You can use a favorite sentimental mirror – possibly show more in the scene than just you in the reflection, use a window or shiny chrome on a favorite car, a lensball, a windowpane or your cell phone. Put yourself into the scene in a way that speaks a little of yourself – incorporate a favorite park, restaurant, beach or pet.

Below are a couple links to give even more ideas and sample images:

[10 creative self-portrait techniques that will inspire you to create your own](#)

[23 Creative Self Portrait Photography Ideas & Tips](#)



GDCCC Update

Every club in the GDCCC that participates in competitions takes their turn judging both digital images and also prints. The club that hosts the judging volunteers 3 judges that remotely judge the digital images and will judge in-person for prints. Seven Ponds will judge the March Digital competition and May Print competition. This means that we will sit out and judge and not put images in for the month of March or prints for May. Print judging is open to club members to come that night as well as guests and other clubs send representatives to the event. It is a fun night and nice for our club members to meet other clubs in addition to seeing the prints in person. This is the only time that some of these prints will be seen as only the winners get displayed on the web.

The GDCCC went through some major leadership changes this year after several long-time members decided to step down to allow a newer generation to take the reins. Below is the new GDCCC board:

President: Donna Dobbs (MCC)
 1st Vice President: Tom Johnson (GPC)
 2nd Vice President: Bill Buchanan (LPS)
 Treasurer: Jerry Jordan (WOC)
 Director at Large: Lenore Jordan (WOC)
 Director at Large: Maurice Sanders (WOC)
 Print Director: **Need a volunteer**
 Digital Director: Bruce Michelotti (OCC)
 Record Keeper: Lynette Shamus (MCC)
 Web Master: Donna Dobbs (MCC)

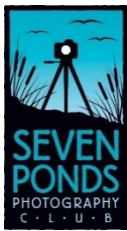
GDCCC Sponsored Training registrations:

[Long Exposures – Light and Magic](#) (3/12/25 @ 7pm)

[An Artistic Photographer Lies in All of Us](#) (3/5/25 @ 7pm)

2024 GDCCC DPD Competition Schedule	
2/17-2/21 (images due 2/14)	Toledo
3/10-3/14 (image due 3/7) judge(online)	Seven Ponds
4/21-4/25 (image due 4/18)	Windsor
9/8-9/12 (image due 9/5)	West Oakland
10/6-10/10 (image due 10/3)	Livonia
10/27-10/31 (image due 10/24)	Lapeer Area
EOY Competition	GDCCC chosen judges

2024 GDCCC Print Competition Schedule	
3/28/24 (images due 3/24)	West Oakland
4/16/24 (images due 4/12)	Windsor
5/22/24 – Thursday (images due 5/18) We judge. Everyone is welcome to watch	Seven Ponds
8/28/24 (images due 8/24)	Motor City
10/7/24 (images due 10/3)	Grosse Pointe
11/11/25 (images due 11/7)	Oakland
EOY Competition	Oakland



SPPC Activities and Events

Upcoming Events

3-7-2025, 4-4-25 & 5-2-25 – 1st Friday Competition & Focus Topic Review Meeting 7-9pm

3-8-2025 – [SPPC Member Collection Table Top Fun Shoot](#) @ Seven Ponds

3-21-2025 – [SPPC Composing Wildlife in Africa Photography by Paul Wakabayashi](#) 7pm @ Seven Ponds

4-18-2025 – [SPPC An Introduction To 3 Dimensional Photography](#)
By: Rick Shomsky and Dennis Hanser 7pm @ Seven Ponds

4-19-2025 [Seven Ponds Volunteer Fair](#) 1:00-4:00 PM (*Looking for 2 volunteers to man the booth*)

5-22-2025 Seven Ponds Hosting the May GDCCC Monthly Print Competition 7pm @ Seven Ponds

Upcoming Virtual Workshops

[B&H Event Space \(Free Webinars\)](#)

[Hunts On-Line Classes](#)

Free Training

GDCCC Sponsored Training registrations:

[Long Exposures – Light and Magic](#) (3/12/25 @ 7pm)

[An Artistic Photographer Lies in All of Us](#) (3/5/25 @ 7pm)

[f64 Free Photoshop Tutorials](#)

[Photoshop Training Channel Tutorials](#)

Self-guided Trips

March 1-April 30

[BUTTERFLIES ARE BLOOMING](#)

March 7-9

[Michigan Horse Expo](#)

March 7 — April 13
April 15 — April 20

[Midland Mi - Dow Gardens Butterfly House](#)

March 13-14

[Blood Moon - Total Lunar Eclipse](#)

March 23 @ 11:30am

[Marche du Nain Rouge](#)

April 22 & 23

[Wolcott Mill Spring Festival](#)

May 2 - 11

[Tulip Time – Holland, Mi](#)

May 23-26

[Balloons over Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth](#)

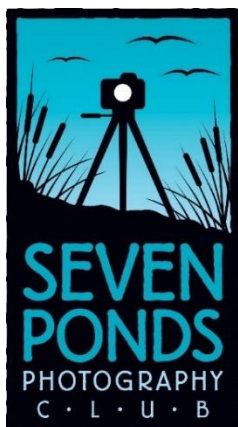
****Note for bird watchers**

[Tawas State Bird Migration cancelled - construction](#)



On June 20th from 7-9pm at the Seven Ponds Nature Center, Eric Seals will talk to our club about taking people on a visual journey.

Eric has been recognized for his photo & video storytelling with a national Edward R. Murrow award, a national Webby Award, multiple Michigan Press Photographer Association Multimedia Photographer of the Year awards, several POYi awards & ten regional Emmys. He enjoys mentoring others around the country who are interested in photography.



About SPPC

The Seven Ponds Photography Club, formed in 2009, the club was created to promote the advancement of photography as an art. The purpose of the club is to bring together like-minded people 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.

We meet the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 7:00 PM at Seven Ponds Nature Center

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

President	Jim Lewis
Vice President 1	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Vice President 2	Bobbie Lewis
Secretary	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Treasurer	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
SPPC Website	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Digital Projection Division Manager(s)	Germaine Finley, Kristin Grudzien
Print Division Manager(s)	Kristin Grudzien
Competition Printing	Jim Lewis
Focus Topic Manager	Kristin Grudzien
Trip Manager(s)	Need more volunteers to help plan an outing
Trip Manager(s)	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Face book Manager	Kristin Grudzien
Fund Raiser Manager	Shannon Hintz
Library Manager	Need a volunteer
SPNC Activities Coordinator	Dale Vronch
Board Member	Stu Davis

Contact Information

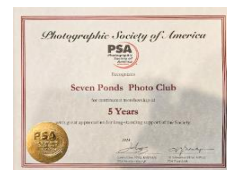
Website <https://spnc.photoclubservices.com/>

Email 7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SevenPondsPhotography>



Address 3854 Crawford Road
Dryden, MI 48428-9776



Seven Ponds Photography Club is a proud member of the [Photographic Society of America](#) & [Greater Detroit Camera Council](#)