



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.

SPPC Members,

Due to the growing concerns over the COVID-19/Coronavirus, and the decision of Seven Ponds Nature Center to close for group meetings for everyone's well being, the Seven Ponds Photo Club Board of Directors has decided it is in the best interest of our club members and any visitors to cancel our upcoming in-person meetings:

We are sorry for any inconvenience and hope that you and your family stay healthy and safe.

Jim Lewis

SPPC President

Sutherland Nature Sanctuary Valentine's Weekend Group Outing

Contributor – Tina Daniels, photos by Kristin Grudzien



On Feb. 13, 2021 we had our first Seven Ponds Photograph Club Valentine's Day Scavenger hunt at Sutherland Nature Sanctuary. The scavenger hunt was spread out over 1.2 miles that traversed different landscape topography in the area. Each trail-head was marked by large multi-colored hearts, to ensure participants knew which trail to explore. The weather was a balmy 20 degrees and there was soft snow falling that morning.

Participants were given a felt heart to return after their walk and shoot. Upon completing the walk and shoot, the hearts were returned and they were given a goodie bag of chocolates. We are hoping to have more of these outings throughout the year as a way of getting the members outside photographing nature's beauty.



New Newsletter Editor Change



Hi,

My name is Germaine Finley and I am taking over the task of editor for the SPPC newsletter from Mark Robinson. I would like to thank Mark for all the hard work he did on this for the past few years and hope to bring as much to the newsletter as he did. Thanks Mark. I have been with 7 Ponds for the past 3 years and am a photography enthusiast. Like others, I am hoping to improve my photography and raise it up to the next level. The newsletter will contain group news as well as some photography articles that have helped me on my journey. My goal is to bring the newsletter out every other month. Everything is more difficult in these times but all the more reason to stay connected and help each other learn. Please let me know if you have any ideas you would like to see covered or have an article you would like published @ germaine.sppc@yahoo.com

“A great photograph is one that fully expresses what one feels, in the deepest sense, about what is being photographed.” - Ansel Adams

SPPC Receives Multiple GDCCC Monthly Competitions

Contributor – LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

Despite COVID-19 preventing get-togethers and print competitions, GDCCC did continue to have the monthly competitions. Below is a summary of our group’s accomplishments over the year.

2020 Monthly Competition Summary-



6 – 1st Place finishes



19 – 2nd Place finishes



35 – 3rd Place finishes



17 - Honorable Mentions

Congratulations to all the winners!

Check out the SPPC GDCCC Winners on <https://gdccc.photoclubservices.com/> under Competition Results to see all photos from the year.

GDCCC End Of Year 2020 Awards

Contributor – LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

This year the End of Year GDCCC Awards Banquet was a little different. It was held online with a great video presentation created by Bill Buchanan . See the video on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/j-sT7BXGcM8t> for image competitions that occurred during the 2020 season. Awards are Image of the Year, Best in Show, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention.

2020 Seven Ponds Photo Club members were honored in Nature, Monochrome and Color General Categories in the 2020 EOY competition.

NATURE -



Debra Ridsdale
Yellowstone in Winter
1st Place (Beginner)



Roman Tornapilsky
Wood Duck Stretch
HM (Beginner)

Filters for Landscape Photography

GDCCC sponsored event

Presenter – David DesRochers

Notes taken by – Germaine Finley



David DesRochers was the presenter at this GDCCC sponsored event on Feb, 16th, 2021. Noah Buchanan, Gary Farber were the sales reps from Hunt’s Photo. The goal of this online instructional program was to learn field practices to

inspire one to approach landscape photography in a new way. In addition to discussing the use of filters for landscape photography, David covered equipment, planning, and the elements of composition that are key to creating photos worthy of a gallery wall.

David is a very talented nature photographer and a fun speaker. Check out more from Dave at his website - www.desrochersphotography.com.

Below are some notes that were taken on his presentation:

Dave started off by going through different camera types – Full frame vs crop frame, mirror less. He mentioned that there is an increasing movement to the mirror less cameras. See www.dxomark.com for objective, independent, RAW based image quality performance data.

He also illustrated using your histogram and the benefit of “shooting to the right” or commonly referred to as “Exposing to the Right (ETTR). Basically that is slightly overexposing your image to not lose detail in the shadows. Make sure to watch the histogram so you do not overexpose too much and then lose detail in the highlights. By shooting to the right the camera will be able to capture more details and then it is your choice during the post processing to rebalance the image.

MONOCHROME –



Bobbie Lewis
Flying Fortress
HM (Beginner)

COLOR GENERAL –



Kelly Todd
Right Place Right Time
3rd Place (Salon)



Kelly Todd
The Light In The Dark
HM (Salon)

Landscape Lenses:

Ultra wide:

- Zoom – 17-40mm f/4 or EF 16-35 mm f/4
- Fixed – 14 mm f/2.8 or 20 mm f/1.8

Standard Zoom: 24 to 105 mm

- 50mm or higher recommended for Panoramas

Telephoto Zoom – For hiking around Dave said he uses 70-200mm with 1.4 teleconverter

- Ideal for capturing “Intimate Landscapes”
- Ability to compress a scene

Overview of different filters:

UV Filters –

- Reduces the appearances of atmospheric haze caused by Ultra Violet radiation
- Protects the front element of the lens
- Thin design for minimal vignetting
- Look for high quality glass

Circular Polarizing Filters –

- Decreases light reflecting off moisture in the stratosphere, darkening the sky and increasing contrast.
Note – you need to face 90 degrees from the sun for this to work.
- Removes glare on wet surfaces
- Typically lose 1 ½ - 2 stops of light

Graduated Neutral Density (GND) Filters –

Round screw on vs Filter Holder System

- ✓ Round screw on can limit composition options. Horizon line in filter is fixed
- ✓ Filter holding system is recommended

Medium GND Filter – good for uneven horizon

Soft GND Filter - good for uneven horizon

Hard GND Filter - good for flat/even horizon

Reverse GND Filter – good for sunset to darken the middle band

Optical Glass vs Resin Basically Resin breaks less and is cheaper but sacrifices best possible light transmission and image quality.

Neutral Density Filters – use for long exposures
Round screw or Filter holding system can be used but a holding system is recommended. Less Vignette and interchangeability with various lens sizes

Natural Night Filter -

Blocks light wavelengths from common sources of light pollution. Good for astrophotography and night scenes

Dave said he has used various filter holding systems including - Lee and NiSi and was happy with both of those.

Field Practices:

Plan your trips!

- ✓ Use Photography Guide books, Photo Travelers Guide (www.phototripusa.com), National Park Web Sites, Google images, etc.
- ✓ Know when sunrise/sunset occurs – use apps or www.sunrisesunset.com, or www.photoephemeris.com

Predicting dramatic sunrise/sunsets:

1. 40-70% cloud cover
2. Clean air
3. Low humidity will produce more vibrant colors
4. Little cloud cover in the east at sunrise/ west at sunset
5. Cloud base at least 6500 feet about ground level

See <https://digital-photography-school.com/predicting-dramatic-sunsets/> for the full article Dave was referencing.

Check weather and tides especially when photographing near the ocean (stay safe). Several apps can track the tides.

- My Tide Times – Tables & Chart.
- Tide Charts – Free.
- Ebb Tide – Free Tides.
- Tide Chart USA Free.
- TidesNow – tide charts

Composition

Less is more – what can I eliminate from my composition?

- ✓ Get a different angle than the crowd
- ✓ Look for Intimate Landscapes – close in on a part of the scene.
- ✓ Try different light – backlit, side lit

Sharp front to back images:

- ✓ Use Hyperfocal Distance – Estimate the closest point to have in focus, double that and that is your hyper focal distance, place your focal point on a spot at that distance
- ✓ Focus Stacking – Focus on foreground, Midway & distant then blend in photoshop.



"To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place...I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them." Elliott Erwitt

Fighting for sharpness?

Possibly you need to calibrate your lens

While the culprit for a blurry image is usually user error or dirty sensor/lenses, sometimes, it may make sense to calibrate your lenses to your camera. Especially if you find you are consistently missing focus in the same way on every image.

See the following tutorial on how to calibrate a lens to a camera body. Remember this relationship is per lens. Check your camera manual to see if your camera can Auto AF Fine Tune (Nikon) or Autofocus AF Micro adjustment (Canon).

<https://www.slrlounge.com/calibrate-lenses-simple-fix-blurry-images/>

or use a tool like **Lensalign**



Winter - 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. *Note: for 2021 the in person meetings have been canceled.*

Upcoming Events

3/20/2021 - [SPPC Explore Creative Macro Photography with Color and Oils](#)

04/16/2021 - [Robotic Photography by Nick Kaltsounis](#)

5/21/2021 - [The Properly Equipped Macro Photographer By Mike Moats](#)

Upcoming Virtual Workshops

March 1st- "The Power To Create-Giving ourselves the space to create"

Register in advance for this

meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Uvels3JOQU-MWf7MgKIAqw

March 3rd. Creativity In Lighting For Bird Photography with Cameron Darnell by Hunts

Register in advance for this

meeting: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYqcumprj4tG9Gld8U5ilpP97JEgw6mjb-w>

May 24th "I was lost but now I am found- Discovery of our artistic vision"

Register in advance for this

meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9-wFdD7HSk6sQaUqlxjCqA

April 7th - Color Workflow for Print with John Walrath Sponsored by Hunts Photo

Register in advance for this

meeting: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYqcumprj4tG9Gld8U5ilpP97JEgw6mjb-w>

April 12th- "Fear & Photography-Working with emotion in our photography"

Register in advance for this

meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3pQd7deERKWuXogVCHJLTQ

Assignment Topics

(Review @ 1st Friday Zoom Meetings)

Jan – Winter Feb – Hearts Mar - Weather

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 day of the meeting.

Club Outings

Informal outings have been happening like the February Sutherland Outing, look for details on the [SPPC Facebook Page](#)

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

Newsletter Content

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

Dues Reminder!

All members who paid in 2020 will have membership extended to 5-1-2022 (Free Year – As A Thank You)

New Members in 2021: \$15 Individual /\$20 for 2 family members

Self-guided Trips

3/6 thru 4/19/2020

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

3/14/2020

[Port Huron MI - St. Patrick's Parade](#)

3/15/2020

[Grand Rapids MI - Frederik Meijer Gardens](#)

[Butterfly Photography Class](#)

3/18 thru 4/18/2021

[BAVARIAN EASTER CELEBRATION](#)

Mid-April

[Kensington Metro Park - Rookery](#)

4/11 thru 10/28/2020

[Dearborn Mi - Greenfield Village](#)

5/1 thru 5/9/2021

[The Holland Tulip Time Festival](#)

Please click on link for any Covid 19 Restrictions or cancelations

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.

In person and Mentoring sessions have been canceled for 2021.

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

[SPPC Member's Shared Images](#)

[GDCCC Home Page](#)