



The Pictorialist



November 2019

Newsletter of the Photo Pictorialists of Milwaukee
Established 1904

Affiliated with the Photographic Society of America
Wisconsin Area Camera Clubs Organization
And the Wisconsin Print Circuit

President, Pauline Beck; Vice President, Kathy Braun, HonPSA, PPSA;
Secretary/Treasurer, Dixie Lowin; Newsletter Editor, Linda Lee

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month, from September through May, at 7p.m.

In Luther Manor, 4545 N. 92nd St., Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

Note that we will meet in the meeting room at the SOUTH end of the building for the November meeting

New Members

New members and visitors are always welcome.

2019-2020 Dues

Dues are \$20 single and \$30 family for each meeting year of September through May. Bring dues to a meeting or send them to Dixie Lowin, 2028 W. Ranch Road, Mequon, WI 53092.

Luther Manor Exhibit

The club maintains a rotating display of prints at Luther Manor and members are encouraged to bring 8 X 10 prints to any and all meetings for display. Give prints to Pauline Beck, who maintains the display.

-- The DNR booth at the State Fair was promoting a photo contest run by the DNR Office of Great Waters.

Submit photos of Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, or the Mississippi River through Feb. 1.
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/GreatLakes/Contest.html>

Eye of the Beholder

Small Treasures; Simple Pleasures

By Pauline Beck, President

A tramp through the woods on a crisp autumn morning
– what better way to spend an October day?

My friend, Holly, and I drove the winding rural roads through the North Kettle Moraine State Forest. Our destination was the Parnell Tower hiking trail. We were

anticipating a quiet, peaceful hike, with maybe a few interruptions from a blue jay's call or chattering squirrel.

We pulled into the parking lot, and to our dismay, saw half a dozen yellow school buses. Kids were everywhere, excited to be anywhere but in a school building. "Oh no!" Holly exclaimed, "Field Trip Friday!"

We almost aborted our plans, but then decided to hike in the opposite direction of the tower, which was the students' destination.

Soon we were surrounded by nature. I was going to say "the quiet of nature" but there were many sounds as we hiked. The quaking aspen trees, with their shimmering gold leaves; other tree branches swaying and clanking against each other in the high canopy; and the occasional thump as our shoes caught the stones and tree roots in the path.

Although the length of the trail was about the same as Phil and I walk in an hour at home, it took us three times that long. For one thing, this is the "Kettle Moraine," so there were some steep inclines and descents. But the main reason was our inspection of so many delightful small details. We'd point them out to each other, and I'd photograph many of them.

There was the teeny tiny frog that surprised us, making a huge leap from out of the leaf cover. We remarked that if we humans could jump that far, we'd be able to cover half a block with a single leap.

There were mosses galore – covering rocks, stumps, dead trees, and little banks on the sides of the trail. Last month's heavy rain turned out a bumper crop of the lush green covering. We noticed at least three different kinds of mosses: some ferny, some with miniscule branching stems, others with a tight even surface.

We reminisced about woodsy adventures from our childhood. We had both collected hickory nuts with our parents, and remembered how hard it was to shell them. But, how delicious they were! And now, how expensive they are at the farmers' markets, if you can even find them!

I told Holly that my parents and I also foraged for wild ginseng in fall. It was my job to look for the distinctive red berries, and Dad or Mom would carefully dig out the root. The roots would be dried in our attic until they were down to a third of their original weight. They'd be sold to a company who marketed them to China. I think we got about \$250 per pound then; I see now that wild ginseng fetches \$550 or more per pound.

We didn't spot any of the rare ginseng berries on our hike, but did see some unusual white berries. One of them had tiny imperfections that made it look like an elfish face.

We noticed that the black raspberries along the trail had new shoots that were a frosted purplish color in the sunshine. I said to Holly, "I wonder if the other hikers are appreciating the little sights like these." She replied, "I can guarantee you they're not!"

The best photograph I took was of a shelf mushroom colony – layer upon layer of rippling edges, with striped waves of muted color. And I did get my "tree" shot for the March Challenge: a peeling birch trunk at an unusual angle.

You'd think that the main attraction that autumn day would've been of a larger scale – stands of trees turning color. Actually, we didn't see too much of that. Perhaps we were a little early in the season. I did photograph many bright-colored single leaves that stood out from the neutral forest surface. Some were so oddly colored, with blotches of red, yellow, and green, that Holly called them "tie-dyed."

That evening, I gathered about a dozen of my best images and arranged them in a PowerPoint document. I then produced a six-page .pdf that I could easily email to Holly, and to other friends and family. For me, that's a simple way of sharing photos, without falling into Facebook's annoying time-consumption.

I hope all of you had the chance to get out this autumn and enjoy nature, from the big 'scapes to the small wondrous details.

Treat Providers

November – Karren Jeske
January – William Stonecipher
February – volunteer needed
March - *volunteer needed*
April - *volunteer needed*

Monthly Topics

September 5: Bring up to 6 formatted images on a thumb drive or up to 6 prints, reflecting either "The Things I Did Last Summer" or "My Fun Photos."

October 3: Themed Photo Shows

Bring *up to 55* photos on a flash drive that are about one subject, or have a unifying theme. The most interesting presentations will have some variety.

November 7: Guest Speaker Geri Laehn will

present: *Night Sky*. She'll talk about her journey into the night sky, which started about 10 years ago and continues today. We'll see her photos of the Milky Way, Aurora, fireworks, and other night images.

Note the changed location for this meeting – the meeting room at the *south* end of Luther Manor.

December 5: Holiday Party. Our annual holiday party. Bring your own liquid refreshment and a dish to pass. Our entertainment will be a slideshow of members' images. 6-7pm gathering; 7pm potluck dinner.

By November 23 email up to 12 images to Pauline for the Dec. 5 holiday slide show. pbeck@sbcglobal.net.

They can be photos of trips, outings, winter, holiday, etc. Pauline can receive at least 15MB in one email, or you may send in several batches. She will confirm receipt. They do not need to be resized to 1920 horizontal or 1200 vertical, but don't send huge files.

January 2: Judge the Wisconsin Print Circuit, with discussion to follow. The Print Circuit is a round-robin type activity in which prints from participating clubs are sent to other clubs for viewing and judging. This is one of WACCO's more popular activities. And it is a great way for a photographer to get feedback on images. Typically, there are 250-275 individual judgments in a print circuit, which give a photographer a good sense of how other photographers view a particular image.

February 6: A LinkedIn Learning educational video provided by Phil Block. LinkedIn Learning is the former

Lynda.com site, and we've enjoyed several of these in past years – very dynamic, engaging, thought-provoking, quality courses.

By February 20: email your Photo Challenge photos to Pauline at pcheck@sbcglobal.net. She will confirm receipt. They do not need to be resized to 1920 horizontal or 1200 vertical, but don't send huge files. (See below)

March 5: Club Challenge. Each club member is invited to submit up to 2 images from each category of this year's photo challenge. A single image from less than all six categories is also welcome.

The club challenge categories are:

- *Stone (rock, rocks or stone formations, etc.)
- *After Dark (nighttime lights, stars, urban, fair, etc.)
- *Motion (anything that denotes motion)
- *Waterfalls (in rivers, creek cascades, sculpture with falling water)
- *Tree -
- *Sunset/Sunrise

Instructions and entry form/scorecards for the year-end challenge will be distributed.

Also, bring several 8 x 10 prints of any subject for the Welcome Center display.

Save the Date: The WACCO Spring Photography Seminar by John Gerlach will be March 7, 2020.

April 2: Annual Business Meeting

Your prints and digitals for May's competition are due by the night of the April meeting, along with completed entry forms/scorecards for each submission category. You're encouraged to email your digital images to Pauline beforehand. All photos emailed to Pauline will be acknowledged with a return email. ***If you are bringing your images on a flash drive, please try to bring them early, before the meeting starts. Pauline will be at Luther Manor by 6:30 p.m.***

Also at the April meeting: gather input for next season's meeting topics and view photos from members who weren't able to participate in the Oct. 3 Themed Photo Shows.

May 7: Year-end Club Competition. **The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Everyone brings a snack for themselves.**

May 21: Year-end Awards Night, with potluck dinner. **Bring your own liquid refreshment and a dish to pass.**

Souper Supper: In winter, we'll combine an outing with another *Souper Supper*, hosted by Pete & Kathi Koenig. They live near The Domes, and graciously invited us again.