

Founded 1956



Nature Photo Times

Member: Photographic Society of America & Twin Cities Area Council of Camera Clubs

Vol. 48, No. 5 - January, 2004

Congratulations Award Winners!

2003 Slides of the Year

Judge: Layne Kennedy

Congratulations to the winners and to all of the MNPC members who participated in the Slide of the Year Competition. This year's participants provided an outstanding collection of wonderful images. The judge, Layne Kennedy, gave a great presentation and offered many insightful comments. Thanks Layne, for the time and effort you gave to our club. Thanks too, to Mariann Cyr for her work in organizing and presenting this annual program.

GENERAL Slide of the Year

Joe Kandiko - Icicles-03



© Joe Kandiko

BOTANY Slide of the Year

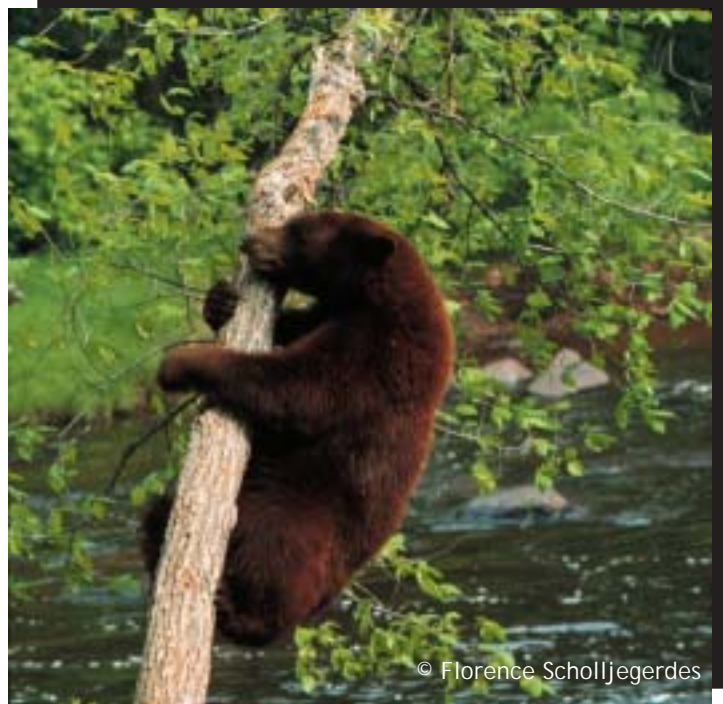
Dottie Lillestrand - Red Begonia Leaf #1-03



© Dottie Lillestrand

ZOOLOGY Slide of the Year

Florence Scholljegerdes - Half-Way Up



© Florence Scholljegerdes



© Michael Hagerty



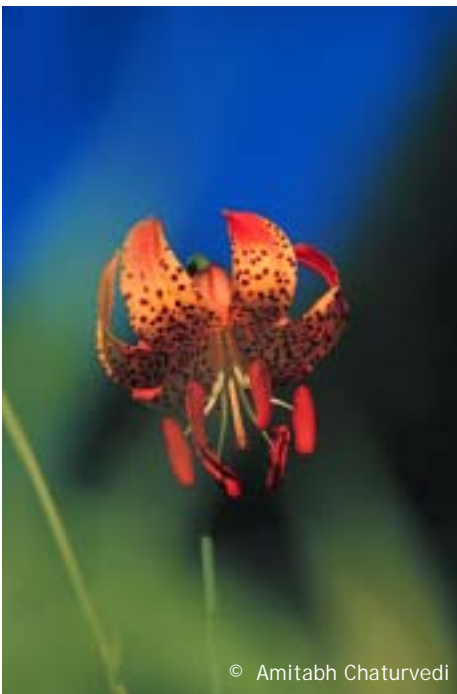
© Marilyn Gladitsch

Slide of the Year Runners-Up

Left: General Runner-Up - Wolf River Morning by Michael Hagerty

Above: Botany Runner-Up - Hepatica Trio by Marilyn Gladitsch

Not Shown: Zoology Runner-Up - The Approach by Kathy Hobbs



© Amitabh Chaturvedi



© Jim Aronson



© Mary Kay Bertas

Honorable Mentions

Above L to R: Turks Cap Lily-Amitabh Chaturvedi, Damsel Fly with Dew-Jim Aronson, Yosemite-Mary Kay Bertas

Not Shown: Hungry Hummer-Kathy Hobbs



Honorable Mentions

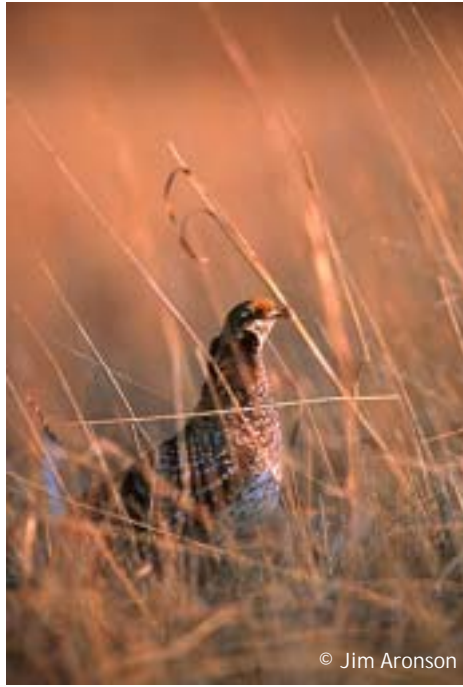
Row 1: Tumpeter Swan Wing Flap-Vijay Karai, Sandstone Wave-Jean McDonough

Row 2: Foxtail Barley Grass-Tom Samuelson, Young Moose in Mud-Bill Handsaker

Row 3: Morning Dew Close Up-Jim Aronson, Albino Lady's Slipper-Tom Farrell, Frosty Pine Needles-Dave Ellenbecker



© Joe Kandiko



© Jim Aronson



© John D. Jenkins



© Mary Kay Bertas



© George Ryan



© Dave Ellenbecker



© John D. La Mere

Honorable Mentions

Row 1: Orchids-Joe Kandiko, Early Morning Sharptail-Jim Aronson, Water Fall-John D. Jenkins

Row 2: Zion-Mary Kay Bertas, Iced Teeth-George Ryan

Row 3: Maple in Transition-Dave Ellenbecker, Lines and Curves-John D. La Mere



© John D. Jenkins



© Dottie Lillestrand



© Duane Wraalstad



© Vijay Karai



© John Zeiss



© Duane Wraalstad



© Tom Samuelson

Honorable Mentions

Row 1: Arches Court House Rock-John D. Jenkins, Bursting Milkweed Pod-Dottie Lillestrand,

Row 2: Sumac #8-Duane Wraalstad, Wolf on the Run-Vijay Karai

Row 3: For Mom & Georgia-John Zeiss, Fern Bud-Duane Wraalstad, Until Spring-Tom Samuelson



© Cathy Jones



© Ron Cleveland



© John D. Jenkins



© John D. Jenkins



© Joe Kandiko



© Marilyn Gladitsch



© Dottie Lillestrand

Honorable Mentions

Row 1: Ibis With Fish-Cathy Jones, Bloodroot River Bend-Ron Cleveland, Desert Light-John D. Jenkins

Row 2: Death Valley Sunrise-John D. Jenkins, Garden-Joe Kandiko

Row 3: Clintonia in Bloom-Marilyn Gladitsch, Red Leaf #1-2002-Dottie Lillestrand

2003

SLIDE OF THE YEAR

Award Recipients

BOTANY

Slide of the Year

Dottie Lillestrand - Red Begonia Leaf #1-03

Runner-Up

Marilyn Gladitsch - Hepatica Trio

Honorable Mentions

Jim Aronson - Morning Dew Close Up

Mary Kay Bertas - Yosemite

Amitabh Chaturvedi - Turks Cap Lily

Ron Cleveland - Bloodroot - River Bend

Dave Ellenbecker - Frosty Pine Needles

Dave Ellenbecker - Maple in Transition

Tom Farrell - Albino Lady's Slipper

Marilyn Gladitsch - Clintonia in Bloom

Joe Kandiko - Orchids

Dottie Lillestrand - Bursting Milkweed Pod

Dottie Lillestrand - Red Leaf #1-2002

Tom Samuelson - Until Spring

Duane Wraalstad - Fern Bud

Duane Wraalstad - Sumac #8

John Zeiss - For Mom & Georgia

GENERAL

Slide of the Year

Joe Kandiko - Icicles

Runner-Up

Michael Hagerty - Wolf River Morning

Honorable Mentions

Mary Kay Bertas - Zion

John D. Jenkins - Arches Court House Rock

John D. Jenkins - Death Valley Sunrise

John D. Jenkins - Desert Light

John D. Jenkins - Water Fall

Joe Kandiko - Garden

Jean McDonough - Sandstone Wave

Tom Samuelson - Foxtail Barley Grass

ZOOLOGY

Slide of the Year

Florence Scholljegerdes - Half-Way Up

Runner-Up

Kathy Hobbs - The Approach

Honorable Mentions

Jim Aronson - Damsel Fly with Dew

Jim Aronson - Early Morning Sharp Tail

Bill Handsaker - Young Moose in Mud

Kathy Hobbs - Hungry Hummer

Cathy Jones - Ibis with Fish

Vijay Karai - Trumpeter Swan Wing Flap

Vijay Karai - Wolf on the Run

John D. LaMere - Lines and Curves

George Ryan - Iced Teeth

Let's Get Digital!

- Jeff Morgan

MNPC recognizes that in order to attract and keep new members with an interest in digital photography we need to start accepting images for monthly salons in a digital format. We are proposing that for this salon year we have a trial run by accepting digital images. The goal is to have as little change or disruption as possible to accommodate this new format.

Each member will still only be allowed to enter two images per salon and digital images will be projected and judged in the same way as film images are. Of course no digital manipulation of any kind will be permitted.

If you would like to enter digital images into salons, please follow the updated "Club General Information" on our web site or the summary extracts included below.

A digital task force/group is being set up to monitor these changes, make sure that things run smoothly, and ensure that future requirements are being considered. If you would be willing to help on this digital task force, please contact Jeff Morgan who is heading this effort.

Please support us in this effort as we "fine tune" the procedure and resolve any teething troubles.

Club Competition

Competitions (Salons) are held most months and give members helpful evaluation and commentary on their nature images. Members may submit two images in each competition. These images can be slides (35mm color transparencies) or digital images.

Competition judges comment on each image and score them on a scale of from 2 to 10 total points. Those images scoring 8, 9, or 10 points receive certificates and are accepted into the annual salon held in December. Images not accepted may be resubmitted once, but accepted images (or similar images) may not be submitted again for club competition.

At the annual salon, images from the year are exhibited and Honorable

Mention certificates, Image of the Year and Runner-up trophies are awarded in three areas:

- Botany (wildflowers, ferns, fungi, mosses, trees, etc.)
- Zoology (mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, etc.)
- General (scenics, abstracts, geology, etc.)

Competition Submission

Members may submit a maximum of two images in each competition. This can be any combination of slides or digital images.

Slides should be brought to the meeting and submitted between 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm before the meeting begins.

Digital images can be either:

1. Emailed to mnpc@comcast.net anytime between the 1st of the month and the Sunday preceding the meeting.
2. Brought to the meeting on CD and submitted between 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm before the meeting begins.

Digital Image Format and Guidelines

Digital images need to be in the following format to be accepted.*

1. JPEG file format (.jpg)
2. Image size not to exceed 1024 pixels along the longest dimension
3. We recommend sRGB color space since that is how it will be displayed, but if you are not familiar with the concept of color space, don't worry about it.

You are permitted to correct the brightness, contrast, color and crop of the image. All images shall be truthful representations of the scene viewed by the photographer. No digital manipulations of any kind are allowed. All digital images must still adhere to the current consolidated Exhibition Standards for nature photography of the Photographic Society of America.

*If you do not understand these requirements or require help to comply with them, please email your name and phone number to mnpc@comcast.net and someone will contact you.



It seemed like I had been looking through the view finder for over two hours, but yet this majestic Bighorn refused to do anything but lay there and chew his cud. He was definitely the biggest ram on the mountain. I wanted a photo of him and had already taken many portraits so it was now time for some type of behavior shot. Unfortunately, all birds/animals are on their own time clock and not ours, so if a photographer wants that behavior photo he must be patient and be camera ready.

I had already done my home work; the bighorn rut begins in the middle of November and stretches to the first week of December. My timing was good for I was in southwestern Montana around the 20th of November. The big rams were now with the ewes and lambs and rutting behavior had already begun, but by the time I found this guy he was just laying around letting the smaller rams waste their energy for he knew mating would be a futile attempt for a few more days. This was the ram that I wanted to photograph doing something other than just laying around. I kept my camera focused on him for a long time. Occasionally he

would lay his head on the ground to take the weight of the heavy horns away from his massive body. Then in a little while he would lift his head and quickly I would look through the viewfinder hoping something would happen, but it never did. He would just start his cud chewing again. This went on for over 2 hours but I still maintained my vigil and patience for eventually he had to do something. I started talking to him thinking maybe this would work but it was to no

avail. He was taking his afternoon nap and nothing was going to change that. Then suddenly, without notice, he stirred a little and stood up and immediately began giving me several exposures of a Bighorn "lip curl". These were without a doubt the best images I have ever taken of this behavior. Bighorns, like all ungulates, have a scent gland in their upper lip and will exhibit



this behavior to sample air currents to see if a female is ready.

Like everyone else, I always enjoy viewing and taking portraits of beautiful and magnificent birds and animals. A properly composed and exposed por-



trait with great feather/fur detail can sometimes take your breath away. But those types of images are generally the easiest to create. In order to make wildlife images really stand out, one of two elements are needed - great light and "just doing something." In order to catch the great light the photographer just has to be there when the light is right. This could be morning or evening light, but sometimes other atmospheric conditions can make good light too. But the photographer needs to be there. Waiting for wildlife to exhibit their behavior can be very frustrating! When animals are feeding they never seem to lift their heads. Egrets and herons seem to stand still for the longest time without moving a muscle. But the photographer that maintains his vigil will get that striking image. Sooner or later that majestic bull elk will lift his head and give a bugle that will echo through the whole valley. The egret will eventually thrust his bill into the water to capture the unsuspecting prey. The photographer that is patient will get that unique image.

A photographer doesn't have to travel to southwestern Montana to capture unique wildlife images. Most of

Field Notes - cont'd

us that shoot wildlife have numerous Red Wing Blackbird photos. They are a very common subject - easy to photograph and approach. I have numerous photos of them in the spring doing their territorial calls, but one image always comes to mind and that is one that Dale Bohlke took a couple of years ago with a red wing giving a territorial call. So what makes this a unique photo? Dale arrived early in the coolness of the morning, positioned himself with some great backlighting, and as the bird gave his territorial call a wisp of vapor came out.

I don't know if Dale talked to the bird and told him to "just do something," but my guess is that he arrived with the great light and was prepared to capture a very unique image of a very common subject.

Good Shooting

Bighorn Tech Data

Camera: Nikon D100
Lens: Nikon 80-200 S w 1.4X
Aperture priority
EV: +1/3
Flash Card: Lexar
White Balance: Auto

Authors Note: As you look at the tech data, you can see that I am now shooting digital. With many of our members now switching to digital, I think that we need to look at a way to allow digital capture in our monthly competition starting next fall. My next couple of articles will be on this switch from film to digital.

The last two newsletters contained some information of how to look for lines and circles in your images. As you look at the two bighorn photos, what lines and circles do you see?

Exposure Tip

- Dale Bohlke

Do you get burnt out highlights when shooting white birds on a neutral tone background? One way to correct this problem is to dial in a minus one third or one half on your exposure compensation dial. Why a minus adjustment when everything you read says increase exposure to get a good white? Slide film has an exposure range of 5 stops. Your camera's meter will expose for the neutral tones and the bright white will be at least 2 ½ stops over neutral. By underexposing you pull the white back within the film's range at the expense of darkening the neutral colors. Birds in shadows or without highlights should be exposed as you would normally expose for whites by adding a stop or so if the bird fills most of the frame. You cannot go wrong by using manual exposure for these situations. Your camera may automatically give good reading for whites so shoot some film or check the histogram on your digital display and record the compensation needed. Remember you want bright white with detail, not light gray.

Minnesota Nature Photography Field Trips

At A Glance Calendar

All trips will be held regardless of weather. Any changes will be printed in the newsletter.

For further information, contact Dale Bohlke at (952) 445-6125 or dbohlke@mn.rr.com.

February **February 14th, 8:00 am**
Location: Red Wing, MN
Bald Eagles

March **March 20th, 8:00 am**
Location: Minnesota Valley Refuge
Visitor Center
Subject: Feeder Birds

April **April 18th, 6:00 pm**
Location: River Terrace
Subject: Pasque Flowers
April 24th & 25th, 6:00 pm
(Tentative)
Location: Blue Stem Prairie
Subject: Prairie chickens and pasque
flowers

May **May 22nd, 8:00 am**
Location: Schaefer Prairie
Subject: Lady Slippers

Trip Details

Red Wing Field Trip - February 14th, 8:00 am

Meet at Colville Park to photograph bald eagles as they fish in the open water below the power plant and fly over the parking lot. Dress warmly and bring your longest lens. A 400 mm lens will get a full frame flight shot if you are patient and the conditions are right. Birds tend to be most active early and late in the day but will be on the move throughout the day. Cold weather is better for this type of photography so dress appropriately.

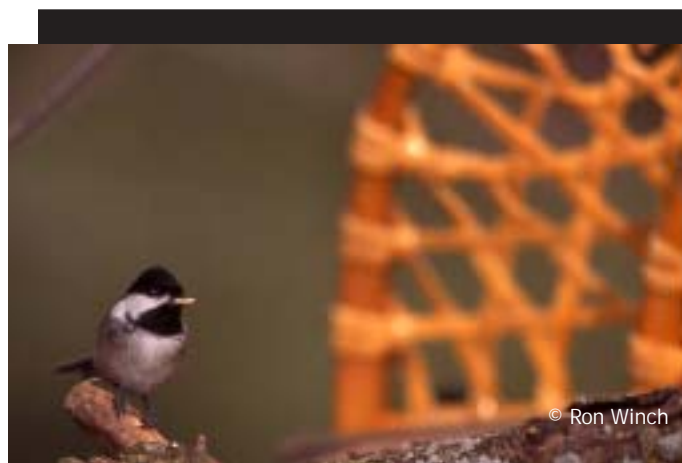
MINNESOTA BOTANY

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHY

There's still time to enter your slides for the Minnesota Botany International Exhibition. The exhibition is limited to botany slides only - including flowering plants, non-flowering plants (fungi, lichens, mosses, ferns, gymnosperms, etc), habitats and fossil life. Closing date for entries is January 31, 2004

Little Creatures

by Ron Winch



It's a beautiful January morning. The sun, up only an hour or so, beams down through an azure blue sky, sending long dancing shadows across the landscape.

Through the night a light snow, hurried in by Force 6 (25-31 mph) winds of an Alberta Clipper, dusted the sheltered areas with a half-inch of light snow. Wind chill dropped to minus 45 degrees. A pretty tough night for critter - especially birds.

White-footed mice, living in old stumps, dens and even abandoned bird nests, venture out on top of six inches of old snow in search of food - leaving their tracks and tail drags written in the fresh snow. Voles, heavier bodied and with more fur are hardly affected for they live in the subnival zone where the temperature is likely within a degree or two of freezing. Gray squirrels are snuggled into their tree den or curled up in a deep sleep in their warm windproof basketball sized leaf nest high in the old cottonwood, being rocked by the wind. Red squirrels, lacking brown fat to burn for extra heat, are huddled together in a log, or even an underground den. They, however, will need to venture out soon to feed, for they are less furred than their cousins and have virtually no fat reserves. The 'possum, denned up under the garden shed, is protecting his hairless ears and tail. A hollow 70-foot cottonwood hosts a coon or two. Only the cottontail seems oblivious to this sudden arctic blast, as his tracks appear everywhere, especially under the bird feeders.

What about these cold temperatures and extreme wind chills? We hear the TV weather people warning us about frostbite when the thermometer drops to zero, and they really get excited when zero is accompanied by a thirty mile wind. Perhaps they are right - considering today's general population. However, I grew up long before the advent of the TV weatherperson and it was no big deal to spend hours outdoors - even at 43 degrees below zero. Even now it is not uncommon to spend five or six hours out in the coldest of weather - be it photography or taking a five mile stroll through the woods.

Even the birds are quiet this morning. Not one has visited the feeders yet. Hopefully they (especially the chickadees) spent the night in the dense evergreens, or even better, in an old woodpecker nest cavity. These tiny bundles of energy, weighing only 10-12 grams (less than one half ounce) have sacrificed fat storage for mobility and would probably perish if unable to restoke their heating plant throughout the day, thus maintaining a normal daytime temperature of 108 degrees Fahrenheit. Over 50 percent of the fat they store through the day is burned through the cold night. They simply do not have enough caloric reserves in fat to make it through a cold night if they try to regulate the same body temperature at night as through the day. To counter this, they lower their body temperature by 18-20 degrees below their normal daytime temperature, resulting in an energy savings of 20%. Combine this with their plumage, which is more dense than that of similar sized birds, and we find that heat loss is mainly from the area around the eyes and bill. When turning in

Little Creatures (cont'd)

for the night, they fluff up and tuck their heads under their wings, thus reducing that heat loss.

All this may not be enough to survive an extremely cold night. But through controlled shivering outbreaks, their body temperature gradually drops until a particular depth of hypothermia is reached. Shivering is then resumed with regular bursts, maintaining a closely regulated hypothermia. In chickadees this response is not dictated by declining fat reserves, but is induced by decreasing temperatures and is used as a primary means of energy conservation.

Finally in the warmth of the noonday sun our resident flock of six chickadees shows up at the feeders, looking as chipper as ever, and feasts on fattening black sunflower seeds.

As humans, we aren't all that concerned about severe winter conditions. We don't seek shelter from the cold, but rather venture out into it, buffered by layers of fleece or goose down. When we get cold, we retreat to our warm snug burrow. Wildlife, on the other hand, has a bit more to contend with. Consider a chilly January night. The weather report indicates zero degrees Fahrenheit in the suburbs. That temperature is at 4-6 feet about the ground. At the snow surface it is likely 7-10 degrees cooler. At ground level, under 10-12 inches of snow, the temperature is only a degree or two from the freezing mark. Little wonder rabbits have such warm fur and voles live in tunnels with grass nests beneath the snow. All this matters little to birds, except for the Ruffed Grouse who dives into snow and tunnels down 10-12 inches, taking advantage of the snow's insulation.

Of even greater concern is the wind, for it steals heat quickly. A 20 mph wind at ground level can easily double to 40 mph at 30-35 feet. At zero degrees Fahrenheit the wind chill at ground level is minus 22 degrees Fahrenheit, at 35 feet, minus 44 degrees Fahrenheit. Pretty tough on our small feathered friends.

I hope this gives you a greater appreciation for all those living outside your snug burrow.

Coldsnap Photography Presents...

Winter Photography on the North Shore

There are those people who believe that to truly understand Lake Superior's awe inspiring beauty you must experience it in the winter. This is when its volcanic rocky shoreline is ringed by shards of sheet-ice, stacked haphazardly along the edge of the lake, revealing the forces that created it; fire and ice. Yet winter can be the most challenging of all seasons to photograph. From exposure to visual design, the conditions in winter challenge even the most accomplished photographers.

Join us for four days of instruction and fun as we explore the winter wonderland in the north.

Dates: February 19-22, 2004. 16 student limit.
\$695.00, includes meals and lodging.

News from the

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Programs

January



Beginning Bird Walk

Black Dog Park

Sunday, January 25

2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Join us for a walk at Black Dog Lake. Discover which species of birds spend the winter in Minnesota and where to look for these species on the refuge. Learn about the latest field guides and other birding equipment and then enjoy a walk along the Marsh trail. Bring along your binoculars and dress appropriately for a winter hike. Craig Mandel, Refuge Interpreter

Gallery

January

"Exhibit of Botanical and Nature Art" by the Gathering of Artists and Illustrators of Nature, (GAIN) opens on January 7 and runs through February 15, 2004. It will feature drawings, paintings, prints, and paper artworks of native plants and other botanical subjects.

February

"Reflections" by Laura Baker opens on February 17 and continues through March 28. The exhibit features wilderness landscapes influenced by naturalists such as Sigurd Olsen, Aldo Leopold, and Annie Dillard. The artist wishes to connect the viewer with a sense of time and place in the natural world.

Photo Blinds

The Refuge has three nature photography blinds that may be reserved for use by the general public. The blinds are located in the Wilkie Unit near the highway 169 bridge in Shakopee, the Chaska Unit in Chaska near highway 212, and the Upgrala Unit in Eden Prairie near highway 212. The blinds in Wilkie Unit and Chaska Unit are available from April through December 1. The blind in the Upgrala Unit is intended for use by the physically challenged and is only available from April 1 through September 1 of each year. As wildlife observation and photography are high priority public uses within the National Wildlife Refuge System, the refuge encourages use of these blinds.

Reservations for use of the blinds can be made by calling the Refuge at 952-854-5900. Users will need to obtain the code to the combination lock from the refuge. Chairs are not available in the blind, so users might wish to bring portable seating

For more information or to reserve your blind online, go to: http://midwest.fws.gov/MinnesotaValley/photo_blinds.html

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Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month September through May. Set-up and social time with light refreshments begins at 6:30 pm. The nature slide salon starts at 7:00 pm and a program follows the salon.

Visitor Center
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge,
3815 East 80th Street, Bloomington, MN

FIRST CLASS MAIL



January Program

Dale Bohlke presents
members' slides from
recent MNPC field trips



In This Issue...

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Field Trips In Review A Slide Presentation

by Dale Bohlke



MNPC photographers aim their lenses at Trumpeter Swans at Mississippi Drive Park - Monticello, MN during a club field trip held on Sunday, January 11th, 2004

There is a vast potential for nature photography in the Metro area which is overlooked by many nature photographers. Since the club's field trips were initiated, eleven sites have been visited. Subjects have ranged from spider webs, prairie flowers, fall color, to trumpeter swans and bald eagles. A few members have offered their slides taken at these locations for your enjoyment and these will be shown after the Salon at the January meeting.

Club Tidbits...

Oops!

The 2003-2004 Membership Roster has a few errors. Phone numbers for Jean McIntosh, Thelma Beers and Doris Larson should have an area code of 952. Please make a note of these changes in your roster.

Welcome

You can also add two new members to the roster:

Torsten Muller
3701 Pillsbury Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55409
612-822-0569
tmueller@cems.umn.edu
and

Venky Narayanaswamy
9180 Goldenrod Lane N.
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763-391-7777
venkyravi@yahoo.com

If you have tidbits of interest to the club, please submit them to Cathy Jones at cathyj@toomuchheat.com