

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 20, 2019

By: Jean Davids, Secretary

The meeting began shortly after 7:00 pm and was presided over by president Heather Reinhart. We had 16 members in attendance, 1 new member join, and 2 guests, which included our guest speaker Chris Lommel.

First on the list was sharing the Snowflakes Video that Sanford Smith had prepared for our February meeting. Since we cancelled that meeting, it was felt we should share it at this one.

The **assignment** was **Snowflake or Macro photos**. We had 4 members submit photos. Thank you all for contributing to our meeting.

Cindy Mendel introduced Mari Lou McCormic from the Monticello Swan Heritage foundation to discuss briefly the **Swan Project** that Cindy coordinating. Mari Lou introduced Jim “the Swan Man” to us as well. The goal of the swan project is to create some videos that can be used educate the public related to the Monticello Swans and their care and feeding and background information. The group’s goal is this and to create awareness, a succession plan for caring for the swans in the future, a to preserve the story. Cindy Mendel is coordinating the effort. Jim told his wife Sheila a promise before she passed that he “would keep feeding the birds”. She has been gone for 8 years now. The video created through this swan project will be used as links on various community websites in both a short form and a longer form. There were only around 69 trumpeter swans in the country in the 1930s. Now, non-game wildlife says there are 45000-50,000 trumpeter swans in the country and roughly 12,000-18,000 in the state with 2500-3000 that were counted in Monticello this year.

The main **topic** for the meeting was a **Photography Critique** done by Chris Lommel. He stressed that there are few right and wrong things to do. Everyone has different experiences, perspective and information that influence their work.

He said that he was one theme for the night and that was how eyes are drawn to the lightest areas of an image. We should think about “what do we want to see first”. Think about how “lights to darks” evoke emotion. We should look for sharpness versus sharpest. Can over sharpen images.

Note: I’m going to list his comments in general terms so that you can learn from them but not feel embarrassed if it was your images being discussed. These are my notes, as best I can provide to you all.

- Composition is important. Lighting, posing, position in frame.
- Look for hot spots. If out in bright daylight, should try to avoid direct overhead lighting as it creates hot spots. Would want to add light or subtract light to create more lighting.
- Avoid white fences or other white objects that would change the focus of the image to it instead of the darker subject area in a portrait.
- Crop in tighter to avoid distractions.
- If area leading into the photo is too bright or distracting you can “burn” the area (using burn and dodge techniques) in Photoshop to change the focus point. Example light colored rocks next to stream leading through photo.
- If photographing streams, keep in mind how the water flows through the photo so that it doesn’t leave it just dropping out of the image. It should flow.

- Mentioned Exposure Equivalents so that you know the speeds you need to be shooting at for the lens distance you are shooting at. For instance, if using a 200 mm lens, you need to shoot at 1/200th minimum. For a 300 mm lens, 1/300th. *(Note See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ho78Pg1oKvo> for a great explanation of this. This led me to question where ISO came in and I found this video that explains it all well: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eVjUrY9a9c>)*
- Test the sweet spot of your lens to know where you get the sharpest images. . *(Note: I will include links to explain this after these comments.)*
- Keep images simple so they aren't distracted so that you cannot tell what you are suppose to focus in on. A simple change of composition can have a big impact. Step right, step left, go low, go high. All can impact a view of the composition.
- Watch out for harsh lighting. Most pleasant light is early morning (blue hour) and evening hours (golden hours). Be aware of the time of day and shoot when optimal when you can.
- When shooting swans, be aware that a darker background tends to lose the look of the beak.
- Keep in mind to think in portrait vs landscape view for optimal composition.

We all really appreciated Chris Lommel's critique of our images. Five people submitted photos for critique. Thanks to all of you who submitted images for critique.

Next up, Jean Davids discussed the upcoming elections. Volunteers to be Board Member 2, currently held by Sharon Johnson. She is willing to keep doing this but anyone else can step up as well. I asked the group if anyone else was interested and was met by several members just pointing at Sharon. So, Sharon will continue in this position for another 2-year stint. The other position is Secretary and yes, I will keep doing it unless someone else wants to step up. Since it was unanimous from members present, these two positions will remain being done by Sharon and Jean.

Heather Reinhart discussed a meeting she was in with Sue Seeger. Sometime around March (or whenever works best) 2020, the Montiarts Initiative hopes to put on some kind of photo show with seminars. They are trying to determine what format this would take and how much involvement we might be able to do in teaching seminars or participating in other ways. One idea was to teach kids how to do photography and then display their photos afterwards. Another idea was to project them at the movie theater or some other means similar to how the Northern Exposure Photography Club (NEPC) does with their Pictures in Paradise program they do annually. Further discussions will be held with Montiarts.

Sharon Johnson discussed Montiarts' interest in getting photographers to help with a traveling dance group that will be dancing into town, teaching a clinch and then dancing out of town in the evening. It would be the last weekend of July, 27-28th. It was my understanding that the traveling group is wanting full coverage for the day which includes morning dancing into town, the days events, and evening dancing out of town. Not much enthusiasm was garnered for documenting this event, especially with all day activities.

Ideas for future meetings were discussed. "Action photos" is a topic that will be done in July for those that might be interested in assisting with the traveling dance group. Another idea was the topic of neutral density filters. This might be expanded to include other types of filters. Neutral Density filters are useful for slowing down shutter speeds to slow motion such as waterfalls, etc. If you have ideas for future meeting topics, please contact Jean Davids via the email link on the website or the address used to send out meeting reminders to you.

Upcoming Meetings

April 17

- Assignment: Say Farewell to Winter
- Topic: Group Q&A – gather in groups and ask questions about your gear or photo techniques

May 15

- Assignment: Think Spring
- Topic: B&W (speaker needed)

June 19

- Assignment: B&W
- Topic: Cindy Mendel is organizing a photo shoot with the Corvette Club. Tips and pointers for doing this will be mailed out in advance of the meeting so that you know what to bring with for equipment. We will go to a location so be prepared to meet at a second spot to take photos.

July 17

- Assignment: Automotive/vehicle photos
- Topic: Neutral Density Filters and others

August 21

- Assignment:
- Topic:

September 18

- Assignment:
- Topic:

October 16

- Assignment:
- Topic:

November 20

- Assignment:
- Topic:

December 18

- Assignment:
- Topic: