

ST VRAIN PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September, 2020





NEXT MEETING:
September's member meeting will be held online. Look for more information in the President's Message .

NO in-person meeting for September at the First United Congregational Church of Christ ♦ 1500 9th Ave, Longmont, CO 80501 (*the corner of 9th and Francis -enter from the Northwest door*) ♦ Fireside Room.

TIME: 6:30 pm

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WELCOME!

members, *new* members, guests



President's Message

We have not met in person for several months and it looks like that will continue. Going out for photos has not been easy, with crowds at RMNP and other mountain places. A bright spot is that we have had some field trips, with masks and social distancing. I have been grateful for the chance to get out and see other photographers. Thanks to all who helped set these up! Our August Star/Milky Way outing had a few dropouts due to wildfire smoke, so there will be another in September on the 17th. October 3 will see a field trip to the Golden Railroad Museum, led by Greg Holden. An email with details will be sent out soon. Let us know of any other ideas you may have for field trips this fall.

We had 104 photos in the Annual Competition. Awards were given out at the virtual meeting on August 29. I was happy to see that members have been out taking photos (or went through old photos to enter.) Hats off to all for your wonderful images and special cheers for Claudia Courtney, for her photo awarded Best of Show, shown here.



Dallas Divide ♦ Claudia Courtney

Our September meeting will be on Zoom. Our program will be Summer Show and Tell Photos. (I was tempted to show a photo of me napping with my new puppy lying on my chest, since that is what I did the most.) I expect to see many photos from our field trips and other outings. We also have Special and Challenge topics of Butterfly and Portrait.

Our member Todd Towell has been responsible for coordinating and entering our club into PSA contests. She is moving in early September, so we are looking for someone to fill in for her. No social contacting necessary, so it is safe and could be your opportunity to volunteer for our club. It is not too early to start thinking about club elections for officers at our December meeting and what position you want to volunteer for.

Cliff DeJong, SVPS President

HELPFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION

Email:

stvrainphoto@gmail.com

Club Website:

www.go-svps.com

Affiliations:



2020 SVPS Board

President:

Cliff DeJong

cliffdejong@gmail.com

Vice-President:

Greg Holden

gholden@imagesunderfoot.com

Secretary:

Darcy Johnson

johnsonda111@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Jack Cornils

jcc55@frii.com

DEADLINE for the October NEWSLETTER – September 20

Email photos and news items to:

Darcy Johnson

johnsonda111@gmail.com

◆ **Cover Photo** ◆

Twice the Spoonbill
Vicki Braunagel

2020 Remaining PROGRAM SCHEDULE and PHOTO TOPICS

(Due to COVID-19, monthly programs are subject to change. This section is updated monthly.)

September 14th at 7pm

Favorite Summer Show & Tell Photos

(submit up to 3 images)

Special - Butterflies

Challenge - Portrait

October

Special - Action

Challenge - Water's edge/Shorelines

November

Special - Clouds

Challenge - Soft Focus

December

Elections and Holiday Party

Special - Frozen

Challenge - Panorama

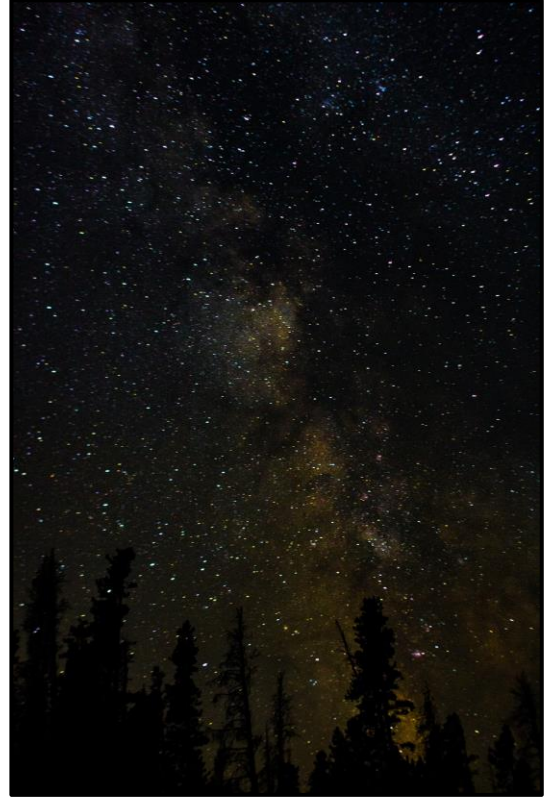


Hosta ◆ Greg Holden

Field Trips - August 2020 Milky Way Photos



Milky Way Over the Trees ♦ Cliff DeJong



Milky Way RMNP ♦ Elaine Hoffman

Upcoming Field Trips

Night Photos - Stars/Milky Way

Rocky Mountain National Park

Thursday, September 17

Contact Cliff DeJong for more information at cliffdejong@gmail.com

Macro/Close-Ups - Trains

Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden

Saturday, October 3

Contact Greg Holden for more information at GHolden@imagesunderfoot.com

SVPS Meetings/Events

The **September member's meeting will be held online.** Look for more information in the President's Message on page 2 and in an email on how to connect to Zoom before the meeting. There will be **NO in person meeting** held at the First United Congregational Church of Christ in September.



The health and safety of SVPS members is of primary importance to the SVPS Board. Should the Board need to cancel meetings and/or events due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, an email to all members will be distributed at least one week in advance. The newsletter, Facebook and Meet-up sites will also be updated as appropriate.

Visual Pursuits

SVPS uses Visual Pursuits to enter photographs for PSA and monthly club shows/competitions. If you need any assistance in setting up your Visual Pursuits account, contact Elaine Hoffman directly at elaine@gokiridesigns.com.



PSA Pictorial Print Division Club Competition

SVPS will need to decide on club participation for the next year. The deadline for club registration is October 15th. **If you are interested in participating and want the club to register for these competitions, please contact Elaine Hoffman at elaine@gokiridesigns.com OR Cliff DeJong at cliffdejong@gmail.com.** See **PPD INTERCLUB** for more information.

Deadlines for the club to mail in prints to PSA are #1 - November 15, 2020, #2 February 15, 2021, and #3 April 15, 2021. Deadlines to Elaine for entry will be established and advertised once club participation in this competition is determined. *More information to come.*

VOLUNTEER NEEDED! PSA Contest Representative

SVPS is registered to participate in the PSA Projected Images Division competitions (PID) for the 2020/2021 season. Todd Towell, the current PID representative for SVPS is moving effective September 8. As a result, the club is looking for a volunteer to step in where Todd is leaving off.

Todd says responsibilities are "really not much". They include:

- Submitting images for competitions
- Submission deadline reminders
- Soliciting images
- Providing updates for newsletter
- Point of contact for PSA PID
- Reporting out results/standings
- Registering for the competition annually

Contact Todd Towell at tcubed@gmail.com or Cliff DeJong at cliffdejong@gmail.com to learn more about PSA Contest Representative duties and/or express your interest.



Bullsnakes Mating ♦ Hazel Gordon

PSA Interclub Projected Images Division (PID) Competitions 2020 / 2021 Season

Photographs will be submitted through Visual Pursuits. Deadlines will be the set prior to the November, February and April meetings. The club will vote on what six entries will represent SVPS in this competition at that month's member's meeting. Watch for *more information to come.*

Permission Release Forms Update Date Extended

PSA policy requires that those that submit photographs to the Projected Image Division Interclub Competition through SVPS provide a signed and dated permission release form annually. Good news - *effective immediately the Permission for PSA to Use Image Release Form has been extended to three years from the date written next to the signature.* SVPS requires this form be completed prior to entering the intraclub competition - now every three years - and can be found on the club's website. Doing so ensures that SVPS is free from liability and allows PSA to publish a photograph on their website, end of year video, in the PSA Journal or on a plaque if an image is selected as Best of Show.

St. Vrain Photographic Society's Annual Competition First Place Awards



Landscape / Cityscape / Scenic
Frosty Morning on Hyatt Lane ♦ Greg Holden



Birds - Wild or Domestic
Tri-Colored Dancing Down ♦ Vicki Braunagel



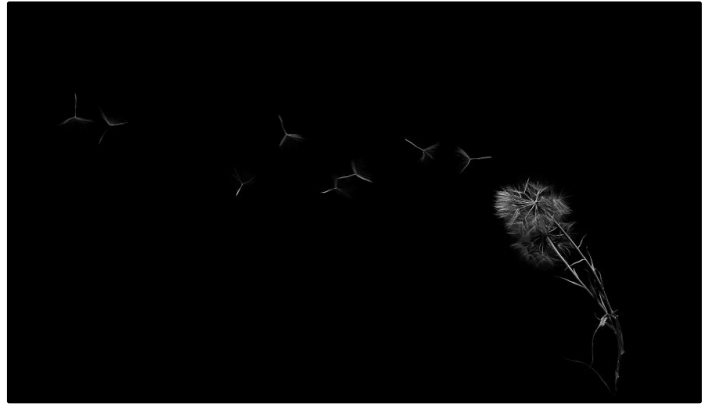
Mammals - Wild or Domestic
Lioness in the Golden Hour ♦ Vicki Braunagel



Reptiles, Amphibians, Insects and Other Wildlife
White Morpho ♦ Cliff DeJong



Nature - Other Than Wildlife
Moon Rise at Mesa Arch ♦ John Freeman



Plants - Wild or Domestic
Blowing in the Wind ♦ Todd Towell



People - Individual or Group
Inflation ♦ John Roper



Action/ Sports - Human or Otherwise
Hold That Paddle ♦ John Roper



Seasons - Nature's Cycles / Holidays
Valley View Sunset ♦ John Freeman



Open (Subjects that don't fit into any other category)
Final Performance ♦ Greg Holden



Your Favorite Place in Colorado
Dallas Divide ♦ Claudia Courtney



Photo Art/Creative
Lonesome Trees ♦ Jack Cornils

TIPS & TRICKS - Photographing Butterflies

By Darcy Johnson

September's Special Category is butterflies. Butterflies are sensitive creatures. You get too close and they'll fly away or continue to move from flower to flower gathering nectar. This makes butterflies difficult to photograph, but with a few tips, gleaned from several Photo Naturalist articles and some personal experience, most concerns can be resolved. *(In no particular order . . .)*

- Use a tripod, but keep the head loose. Since butterflies move quickly, it doesn't make sense to lock in your tripod. Keeping the head loose allows movement of the camera while taking advantage of some of the stability the tripod offers. It also helps to frame the photo ahead of time and keep the background clean.
- Wait for colder weather. Butterflies rely on heat from the sun to use their wings. Photographing in early morning or late afternoon will allow for a much easier approach.
- With butterflies, their body and wings need to be tack sharp so position the camera's sensor parallel to the butterfly's wings.
- Wait until the butterfly is front-lit by the sun. Side lighting usually results in a harsh shadow across the butterfly's wings and backlighting can create flares.
- Use a fast shutter. When photographing butterflies something is always moving - the camera, the butterfly and the flower it is perched on . . . or all three. To help freeze the action set the ISO to 400 as a start.
- Wait for butterflies rather than chase them. When butterflies seem extra sensitive when approached, try to just wait patiently at one flower instead. Butterflies will usually land on flowers right next the camera if the photographer is already sitting there. You may need a bit of patience though.
- Be careful not to cast a shadow on the butterfly. If this happens, butterflies may fly away.
- Consider shooting with a telephoto macro lens. To get great shots, you need to get close to the butterfly and having a 100mm or longer macro will help. If you don't have a macro lens, great shots can still happen with a zoom lens . . . you'll just need to shoot more of the environment.
- Find a location with flowering plants that attract butterflies - a zoo, pavilion, park, garden - anywhere that creates an environment to attract butterflies.

Any other tips? Please share your insights when the discussion turns to the Special Category at the September meeting.



Photo Submission Rules:

No more than a total of **four** digital images may be entered in the following categories:

- Special Topic of the Month (0-1 image)
- Challenge Topic (0-1 image)
- Open category (0-2 images)
- Creative (0-1 image)

New members are encouraged to enter photographs.

Digital image files should be no larger than 2048 pixels in the greater dimension and should be submitted as a .JPG and **submit through your own Visual Pursuits account by Sunday prior to the meeting at 5 pm. NO late entries.**

No digital entries will be accepted at the club meeting.

Please submit photos each month only after receipt of the newsletter in case there are changes to the category definitions or where to send photos.

File Type: Submit .JPG files only

- Photo title (blank spaces are allowed)
- Photographer's name (blank spaces are allowed)
- Category CODE: (SPEC for Special, CHAL for Challenge, OPEN for Open, and CREA for Creative)

General example: [Title]-[Photographer]-[Category].jpg

Specific example: Bridal Veil Falls-Ansel Adams-OPEN.jpg

SVPS Deadlines & Key Events

Sunday, September 13 - Monthly Photos deadline

Monday, September 14 - Online Member's Meeting

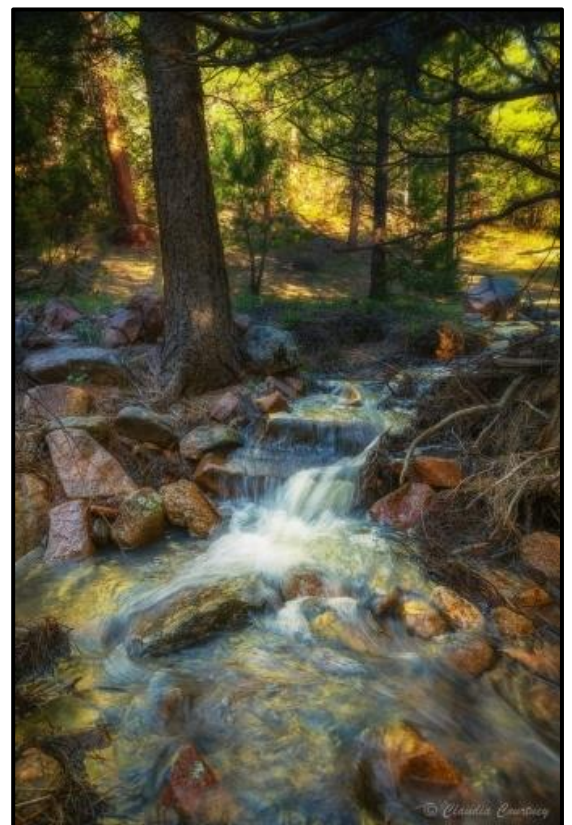
Thursday, September 17 - Star / Milky Way - RMNP Field Trip

Sunday, September 20 - Newsletter submissions deadline

Saturday, October 3 - Macro / Close-Up - Golden Railroad Museum Field Trip

Sunday, October 4 - Monthly Photos Deadline

Monday, October 5 - Online Member's Meeting



A Walk in the Woods
Claudia Courtney