



# ViewFinder

Member: Photographic Society of America and  
The Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs



August 2023, Roll 88, Exposure 8

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**Summer picnic:** The club's annual picnic is on Monday, Aug. 28, with social hour at 6 p.m. followed by the meal at 6:30 p.m., at Baroda Township Park Pavilion, 600 W. Lemon Creek Road. The menu comprises vegetable tray, fried chicken, sausage, dinner rolls, cole slaw, baked beans, potato salad, green bean casserole, and dessert. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverages. Water will be provided. Call Sandy at 269-313-5670 by Aug. 19 to RSVP. Best of all, the club will pay for the meal and year-end awards will be handed out after the meal.

**TCCC dues due:** It's time to pay the annual club dues – \$30 for single, \$45 for couple. The deadline is Sept. 11, which is the first meeting of the new competition year. Make checks payable to TCCC and mail to Ted Post, 3202 Ravine Drive, St. Joseph 49085, or you can hand-deliver the dues to Ted at the summer picnic (see above), or at the September meeting.

**Special Edition coming:** A special edition of the ViewFinder focusing on Black & White photography will be published this month. Many thanks go to all who have contributed.

**Select Subject change:** The Select Subject has changed for the December 2023 competition. The subject now is Cell Phone Images. The original image must be captured using a cell phone camera. Photo editing is allowed as it is for other photos.

**Recommend phone apps:** The ViewFinder will run a list of camera phone apps in the September issue that would help you create the best images possible with your smartphones. Email suggestions to [tcccviewfinder@gmail.com](mailto:tcccviewfinder@gmail.com).

**Tiscornia Beach outing:** A special photographic educational outing starts at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 15, at Tiscornia Beach. This outing is for members who want to learn how to use different camera settings to capture photos during sunset at 8:46 p.m., and the blue hour (just after sunset). Experienced members will help you achieve your photographic goals. St. Joseph city residents can get free parking passes by registering their license plate numbers with City Hall. Non-residents can get an annual \$40 pass for all city parks at City Hall or pay a daily fee at the kiosk. Daily fees are \$7 for weekdays and \$10 on weekends. (Webmaster Jasmin Bretana has links to City Hall in the "announcements" link at [twincitycameraclub.com](http://twincitycameraclub.com).)

Non-residents may want to consider finding a member who is a resident and share a ride to the beach.

**New email address:** The ViewFinder has a new email address. It is [tccviewfinder@gmail.com](mailto:tccviewfinder@gmail.com). Feel free to send your information for inclusion in the ViewFinder at that email address.

**Photographers flutter about:** Many thanks go to club President Barry Nelson who arranged for the third annual Sarett Nature Center Butterfly House photo shoot held July 19. Some of the images by club members have been posted on our Facebook page. Meanwhile, here are a few photos from the event.



Photo by Sarett staff/post-process by Dennis Hafer



Photos by Ron DeKett



**Congratulations Marguerite:** Club member Marguerite Eichelberger continues to receive recognition for her outstanding bird photography. Most recently, her photo of an American Kestrel was selected as a July Photo of the Month by The Universe of Colour Photography, an international monthly contest for color photography.

**Meijer Gardens trip:** A handful of club members and a guest took a day trip to Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids on Aug. 2, which was organized by Sandy and Dennis Hafer. We look forward to seeing some of the photographs in future competitions and on Facebook.



Photo by Dennis Hafer

Club members from left, Barry Nelson, Jim Lynch, Sandy Hafer, Dennis Hafer, Ron DeKett and Jim Long, and guest Terri DeKett.

**Quote of the Month:** "The best composition is one that feels right. That also includes breaking the rules. If you want to break the rules in composition, do so if it feels right for you. But whatever you do when you break those, break them with conviction. Don't just make a little mistake, leap into it. Own that breakage." – Alex Kilbee, photographer, educator, host of The Photographic Eye on YouTube.

**Photos of the Month:** Congratulations go to Bill Schalk and Marguerite Eichelberger whose photos were selected as Photos of the Month for August. Each of their photos received a score of 14 out of a possible 15 by a panel of three judges in the June competition. Many club members received a score of 14 on their entries in June and easily could have been selected as Photos of the Month. However, Bill received a high score of 14 on five of his entries – three in color and two in black & white – and Marguerite received a high score 14 on three of her entries – one in color and two in black & white. That tipped the scale.

**Catch the Sun** – Bill Schalk



**Sweet goslings** – Marguerite Eichelberger



**The Little Foxes** – Marguerite Eichelberger



**Ruffled Feathers** – Bill Schalk



**Ponder of the Month:** In the pursuit of artistic excellence, is it better to focus on one type of photography, for example, landscape or portraits, or is it better to be a jack of all genres?

**Photography competition:** This partial list is inspired by Ted Post who sent notice of several photography competitions in 2023. Be sure to conduct due diligence if you decide to enter.

- North Berrien Photography Contest, sponsored by North Berrien Historical Museum. Deadline is Aug. 25. Visit [northberrienhistory.org](http://northberrienhistory.org).
- Celebrate Michigan, annual competition sponsored by The Detroit News, open to amateur photographers. Google "Celebrate Michigan Photo Contest".
- Back Cover Photo Contest, sponsored by the Historical Society of Michigan. Deadline is Sept. 15. Visit [hsmichigan.org/back-cover-photo-contest](http://hsmichigan.org/back-cover-photo-contest).
- Pollinator Photo Contest, sponsored by The Environmental Interpretive Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. The deadline is Sept. 30. Google Pollinator Photography Contest.
- Michigan Trails Photo Contest, sponsored by Michigan Trails. Deadline for 2024 is Jan. 31. Visit [mitrails.org/photo-contest.php](http://mitrails.org/photo-contest.php).
- Street Photography, sponsored by the Society of International Travel & Tourism Photographers. The deadline is Aug. 31. Visit [www.sittp.com/street23](http://www.sittp.com/street23).
- Bird Photographer of the Year, sponsored by the Society of International Nature & Wildlife Photographers. The deadline is Oct. 31. Visit [sinwp.com/bird](http://sinwp.com/bird).
- Monochrome Awards, sponsored by International Black & White Photography Contest. Deadline is Nov. 12. Visit [monoawards.com](http://monoawards.com).
- Neutral Density, sponsored by Neutral Density Photography Awards 2023. Deadline is Sept. 17. Visit [ndawards.net](http://ndawards.net).
- Chromatic contest, sponsored by Chromatic Awards. Deadline is Oct. 22. Visit [chromaticawards.com](http://chromaticawards.com).

**Photo opportunities:** In the 2023-24 Select Subject list farther down in this edition of the ViewFinder you will notice that the Select Subject for September is Street Photography. In the spirit of capturing life on the fly, here is a list of photo opportunities that may help you hone your street photography skills and even help you with images you deem worthy of competition.

- Wednesday Night Market, 4-8 p.m., through Aug. 30, at Court Place Plaza, St. Joseph.
- St. Joe Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturdays, until Oct. 14, Lake Bluff Park.
- Lake Bluff Artisan Fair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Aug. 19 and Sept. 2, Lake Bluff Park.
- St. Joseph Municipal Band Concerts, 7 p.m., Sundays, until Sept. 4, John E.N. Howard Bandshell.
- Friday Night Concert Series, 7-8 p.m., through to Sept. 1.
- Chalk the Block, Aug. 4-6, downtown St. Joseph.
- Berrien County Youth Fair, Aug. 14-19, Berrien Springs.

**Select Subjects:** Here are the Select Subjects for the 2023-24 competition season:

- Sept. 11 – Street photography: The image must tell a story that occurs in public places involving people going about their daily lives.

- Oct. 9 – Macro/Closeup: The object that is the focus of attention in the image must be smaller than a mailbox. For example, a closeup of fruit, flower, bug, etc., or a macro view of just a small part of an object.
- Nov. 13 – Decay: The object that is the focus of attention in the image must be something that has been derelict or neglected or decaying in nature. For example, abandoned buildings, rusting vehicles, signs, wood, logs, etc.
- Dec. 11 – Cell phone images: The original image must be captured using a cell phone camera. Photo editing is allowed as it is for other photos.
- Jan. 8 – Creative: The image is manipulated or enhanced with in-camera techniques or with photo enhancement software, filters, plug-ins, or actions showing the maker's creativity. The image should be unique and different, out of the ordinary.
- Feb. 12 – Sports: The object that is the focus of attention in the image must have something to do with sports.
- March 11 – Anything goes: The image can be anything the rules permit. Everything qualifies as Select. Use your imagination and creativity.
- April 8 – Shadows: The dark shape that appears on a surface when an object blocks light.
- May 13 – Architecture: Anything related to architecture, buildings, parts of buildings. You may isolate aspects of the subject to emphasize design portions.

**Feedback wanted:** Club members are invited to make comments, ask questions, give suggestions and voice concerns about club offerings. The board wants to know what the club can do to improve and expand its services and programs to benefit members. The feedback will be used by the board of directors as it plans its programs for the coming year. Contact information for board members is available on the club website.

**Member Spotlight:** Check out the club website to learn more about club members. Webmaster Jasmin Bretana has created a Member Spotlight section under the “announcements” link on the main page.

**Visit the Website:** Remember to regularly visit the club website, [twincitycameraclub.com](http://twincitycameraclub.com).

**Instagram:** Webmaster Jasmin Bretana has created a club Instagram account. Visit [www.instagram.com/twincitycameraclub/](http://www.instagram.com/twincitycameraclub/).

**Facebook:** Don't forget about the club Facebook page. Members are encouraged to post their images, report on photo opportunities and learn about up-to-date club news.

## Keep those shutters clicking...

*Take more pictures*

*But don't  
forget to*

*Enter competitions*



*We exist to encourage and develop an interest in photography.*

