



May 2018 issue

Michigan Membership Newsletter

PSA Michigan website:

<https://psa-photo.org/index.php?michigan>

PSA Michigan Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1984846201781100/>



Hi there!

I'm David Smalldon and I'm your Michigan PSA State Membership Director. If I can be of any service then feel free to contact me! Also please remember to notify me if you change email addresses. I can be reached at:

smd-michigan@psa-photo.org

Or

ds3793579@gmail.com

My FLICKR photo album can be found at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidsmalldon/>

Greetings

Did you hear the news? The Michigan members of PSA now have a Facebook group where you can post pictures and talk about all sorts of photography related things!

Not too long back, some members from the Michigan PSA asked me to form a get-together of people from our great state. Although I haven't had the time to work on something that vast yet (I am just one person after all), a Facebook group is the next best step for people to meet and greet and talk with other PSA members about this and that. WAIT A MINUTE! IT might also be a way for all of you to talk about getting together one fine day in 2018 somewhere in Michigan for all PSA members to enjoy each other's company and take lots of photos!

Now I don't know what this event will be or when it will be but I would say the Facebook group is a good first step in trying to gauge interest and create this event. To do this, you should get up right now and go over to your computer and join our Facebook group! Click that handy link that I have included above which will take you to the Facebook group and you can talk with other Michigan PSA members! I strive to approve membership to the group quite quickly!

I hope that as time goes on and more people join the group, we will also have photo challenges and be able to exchange photo advice with each other! However it won't happen without YOU! You are the ones that will make this all happen! You are the ones who will discuss and post things...not just me! As I said in my very first newsletter, this Facebook group is YOUR group and YOU will be able to decide what happens to it!

Until next month, I hope that I have the privilege of seeing some of you out in our new Facebook group.

MEET THE PHOTOGRAPHER

PSA Member: Kelly Walkotten

Q: What drives you to take the photographs that you do?

A: I love the thought of capturing the one moment in time that will never repeat itself and having it documented to show for an eternity (or at least until I die and my children throw away my hard drives).

Q: If there was one piece of advice you could give other photographers, what would it be?

A: Slow down. Take a good look at what is around you before you just start photographing. I see so many people run up and “grab” a shot and move on.

Q: When I am out taking photographs, the one thing beside my camera that I always like to have with me is? (Lens/accessory/etc)

A: I always have extra memory cards and an extra battery with me. I never know what else might present itself while photographing.

Q: When I am not taking photographs, I also enjoy ? (Other hobbies/interests)

A: I enjoy boating, spending time with my grandchildren, biking, reading, swimming, and traveling.

Q: The most interesting photo I took was when I took a photo of ?

A: I love photographing underwater and travel the world diving. The underwater life is so different and unique. Photographing the 1/8th inch pigmy seahorse to the 47,000 pound whale shark and the sea life in-between still makes my heart pound. I would have to say the beautiful Mandarinfish while mating is one of my most interesting.



Mandarinfish PSA Member: Kelly Walkotten

**Additional social media photo sites for
Kelly Walkotten**

[https://www.facebook.com/
Kelly-Walkotten-](https://www.facebook.com/Kelly-Walkotten-Photography-104847562490/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel)

[Photography-104847562490/?
ref=aymt_homepage_panel](https://www.facebook.com/Kelly-Walkotten-Photography-104847562490/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel)

[https://
www.kellywalkottenphotograph
y.com/](https://www.kellywalkottenphotography.com/)

Kelly Walkotten bio

Kelly combines her passions of photography and writing to bring the wonders of nature to others. Through her travels, she captures images for publication. Then, through research, writing, and presentation, she brings nature to an audience and teaches them about the habitat and behavior of unique creatures from around the world.

She is an avid scuba diver, whose images, articles, and blogs have brought the undersea world to readers of the *PSA Journal* and *Fem Worldview.com*. These publications have featured articles by Kelly that include photos from diving the Caribbean, the Pacific, and Indo-Pacific. Her favorite destination is Indonesia, where she has spent fourteen weeks above and below the sea. She has been published in many other print and web publications.

FOCUS ON: FLOWER photography

Flower photography is one of my true passions. When I want to calm myself down from the stresses of everyday life, nothing beats sitting down with a flower on my kitchen table and saying, "SMILE!" As I sit there, I can oftentimes feel the stress just wash away from me like running water in a stream.

So how do you make good photos of flowers? Part of it is the same as if you were photographing any other subject. You have to study your subject and see what makes them look good. Maybe they want to be photographed with the light from one way or the other or maybe they want a nice pretty solid-color background. Study your subject and see what you think will make this flower stand out!

Also don't be afraid to play with different viewpoints especially with flowers. Everybody is going to be taking pictures of flowers standing up so try to find a way to make your photos unique. Maybe take a picture from the ground looking up at the underside of the flower. Perhaps a picture of just a petal of the flower giving a more abstract viewpoint. Don't be afraid to experiment and think outside the box when trying to capture a true flower's essence!

Something else fun to try with flowers is to either buy or create a "light box" and then place flowers on the "light box" and experiment with the different types of photos that you can get from using it. Some people exclusively work in "light box" flower photography because it is so popular and beautiful to look at.

One thing that I would recommend for photographing flowers though is this...I would recommend photographing flowers on an overcast day because typically you will spend a lot of time trying to get the right mix of luminance/saturation of a flower if you photograph on a bright, sunny day even if you try to diffuse the light. I think clouds are a great way to photograph flowers AND I would even say that it's great to go out when it's RAINING! (Bring an umbrella for your camera!) I have gotten some of my best flower shots when it's raining outside and there are raindrops on the flowers themselves. Some people will advocate bringing along water bottles but I've never really done that myself but c'est la vie.

Finally, remember you don't even have to have a background in your flower image at all. If you use an off-camera flash, you can experiment with the "invisible black background" technique (Google it! I'll wait!) and you could use the Speedlight off your camera to provide a small flash of light to the flower while the camera settings will drop out all other available light. If you want to experiment with this, try setting your off-camera flash to SLAVE and set the aperture to F/22 or smaller then set the shutter speed to 1/200 or something lower than your Speedlight sync speed. Experiment with increasing or decreasing the light coming just from the Speedlight and you'll start seeing the technique that I favor using with flowers! And most of all...HAVE FUN!

Photography This Month

For photography this month, try to capture the following elusive subjects:

- Take photos of things that people normally only see from the front
- Take photos of things that start with the same starting letter as your first name (for example, I would take pictures of objects starting with D because my name is David)

Web Resources to Read this Month

Will there be a NIK Collection Update?

From PetaPixel

<https://petapixel.com/2018/04/30/dxo-confirms-bankruptcy-says-nik-collection-update-still-on-track/>

10 Top Photography Composition Rules

From Photography Mad

<https://www.photographymad.com/pages/view/10-top-photography-composition-rules>

Words and Photos by Dana Vannoy, FPSA, MPSA

Bio: Dana Vannoy is retired and has been Professor of Sociology Emerita from the University of Cincinnati since 2000. Dana lives six months a year in Naples, Florida and six months in northern Michigan near Traverse City. She enjoys pursuing nature and travel photography, and, lately, a favorite endeavor is creating stories with multiple images and creating abstract images.

She has been a member of PSA since 1997, and has FPSA honors and the MPSA distinction. She has chaired the Greenwood Grants and Scholarship Committee, and Service Award Committee. In addition, she has served on the PSA Nominating Committee, and the Permanent Print Collection Committee. Dana was chairperson of the Color Projected Image Division, 2006-2008. She was on the Board of Directors as Divisions Vice President from 2011 to 2015. Dana publishes regularly in the PSA Journal, and was featured in the Distinctive Image column in June 2010. Presently, she is on the Ethics Committee and is Journal Coordinator for the Portfolio project. She received the *Elmore Chatham Memorial Award* in 2008 and the *Charles Keaton Memorial Award* in 2010. Dana provides many digital-image shows for community audiences. Beyond photography and grand-parenting, her activities include golf, and lots of reading.



The Elk River Chain of Lakes is a wonderful example of how water is the basis of all life. It is the shaper of land, the matter of clouds, and the blanket of our planet. Water moves down from the sky, across the land and into the ground, through the streams and lakes to the oceans. Then it evaporates back into the clouds in the sky. Water moves in a never-ending cycle.

Because the watershed provides much of the water flowing into Grand Traverse Bay, the quality of water in this watershed is very important for the Bay,



Lake Michigan, and the Great Lakes in general. Residents of the area

drink water from groundwater wells within the watershed. The health of the land around the Chain of Lakes is essential for the health of the water, and thus of the residents. The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has made protecting 10,000 acres within the watershed one of its highest priorities. Preserving the land and the forests also preserves the biodiversity of the area which is essential to the entire ecosystem. The area is blessed with hundreds of species of fauna and flora.

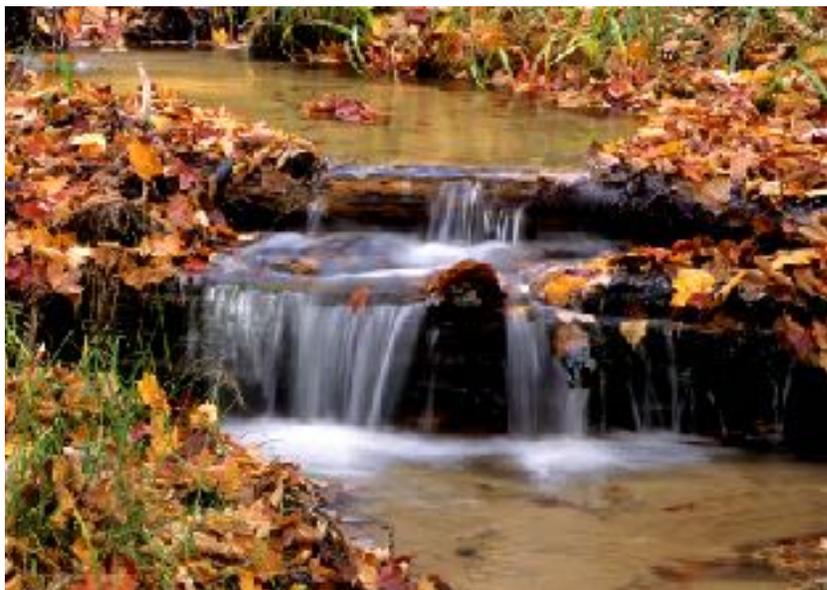


The seasons seem to come and go quickly, and all are beautiful, providing endless photographic opportunities. Winter creeps up, and the water flows continuously beneath the ice on the lakes and rivers. One of the first signs of spring is the Trillium, Michigan's state flower, and other wild flowers in the forests. The fruit trees put on their display of blossoms across the land. Summer is never far behind spring's first appearance. Whole fields bloom with color, and the flowers adorn the wetlands and shorelines. Autumn's arrival is unmistakable. Besides the striking foliage, there are

fields of sunflowers, beautiful fungi in the woods, and more wildlife apparent.

All Michiganders need to invest in the natural resources that bless the state. It is important to protect shorelines and control water runoff everywhere. We humans need to care for septic systems, fertilize with care, keep boats clean of invasive species, and eliminate litter. In addition, it behooves us to support water quality efforts, encourage environmental education, and support resource protection efforts. We must be the stewards of the land and the water that is our gift.

One of the biggest educational efforts in the Elk River Chair of Lakes Watershed is the education center at the



Grass River Natural Area. The natural area is on Grass River between Lake Bellaire and Clam Lake, and the GRNA was established in 1969. It is an inviting and picturesque sanctuary for more than 500 flora species. The

purpose of this 1,500-acre natural area is both conservation and environmental education. Come north to learn more about the resources of this watershed and the importance of all such natural places in the state of Michigan.

Dana Vannoy, FPSA, MPSA

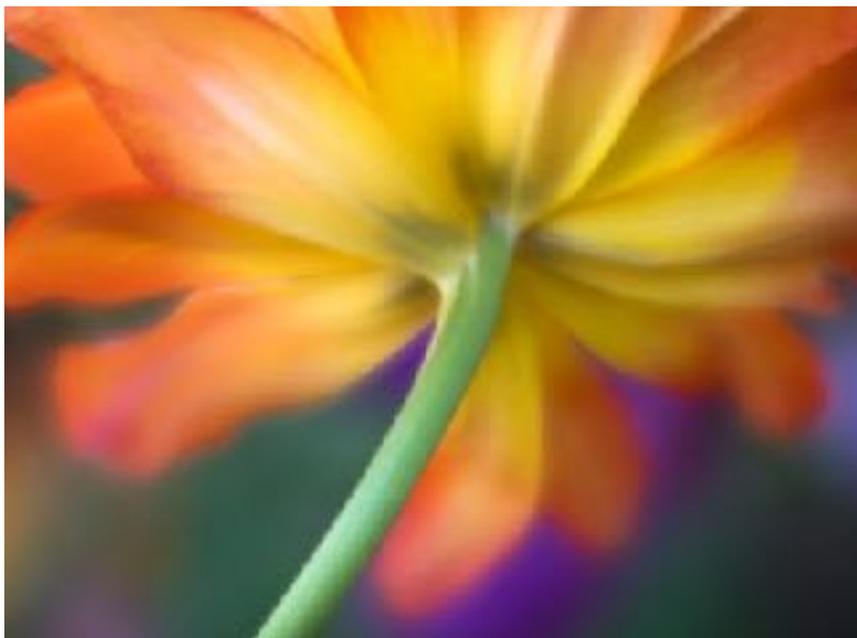
SWMCCC Conference Spotlight

For those of you who don't know it, there will be an amazing conference of photographers and seminars being offered again this year called the SWMCCC Summer Weekend of Photography! 3 days of conferences packed full with information and people who will tell you their secrets about capturing

**[Click here for
SWMCCC
Conference Online
Registration](#)**

amazing photographs. I have asked the organizer of this event to have the presenters give us some tips about their specific type of photography. These tips/tricks will be running for the next few months leading up to the conference scheduled on July 27-29th, 2018. The person who will be talking to us this month will be somebody who will be discussing FLOWER photography (see my article from earlier in the newsletter for some of the tips I suggested when taking flower photos!) ALSO I am sending out the **complete SWMCCC Class**

Descriptions and presenters to all of you as a SEPARATE attachment to the newsletter!



SWMCCC Presenter Anne Belmont

Sponsored by Hunts Photo

**(Words and Photo by Anne
Belmont)**

I am honored to be a speaker for SWMCCC and look forward to sharing my thoughts and ideas about photographing flowers in a creative and fun way. My talk **“Lets Get Creative with Flower Photography”** will explore a variety of topics within the genre of flower

photography. I come to the photography world with a unique background in both the arts and as a former art therapist. During my graduate studies in art therapy, I studied the development in creativity in children in depth. Did you know that studies on creativity indicate that 98% of children have been found to be creative, but by the time we reach adulthood that number drops to 2%? I believe we all have the potential to be creative; we need to reawaken the playfulness of childhood and quiet those judgmental voices within to get back to being creative beings. In my talk I will delve into some ways to rediscover that creative spirit and bring it into your photography.

Another topic I am passionate about teaching others is how I see flowers. Through the years I have developed a unique way of looking at flowers, breaking them down into more abstract components of lines, curves, texture, patterns and color. I often see stories within my subjects that elicit memories or emotions. This helps me to find more interesting, impactful ways of capturing flowers. Practicing this art of seeing demands that one slow down and study your subjects carefully, to become more contemplative in your approach. It will take your work from merely documenting your subject to creating works of art.

We will explore my tried and true tips and tricks for photographing flowers - from experimenting with compositions and aperture, working your subject, controlling those difficult backgrounds, using selective focus and how to use light to create impact.

Lastly, we will delve into the world of Lensbaby lenses. As a partner with Lensbaby, I am passionate about teaching others about Lensbaby and the creativity these lenses can unleash. I will introduce you to the various lenses and give many tips for using them. We will have opportunities during the weekend to practice with loaners that I will have available. So, get ready for a creative and fun weekend of photographing flowers. I look forward to seeing you all in Holland in July!

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

This feature is to spotlight CLUBS that are members of the Photographic Society of America and to provide information for other PSA members to go out and explore some of the other clubs that might be in their area and also provide an additional way for them to learn more about photography.

SPOTLIGHT CLUB this month:

DETROIT STEREOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING:

MAY 9, 2018 FROM 7:00 - 9:30 PM

MEETING LOCATION:

**LIVONIA CIVIC PARK ACTIVITY CENTER, ON
THE EAST SIDE OF FARMINGTON RD. JUST
SOUTH OF FIVE MILE ROAD**

Website:

[HTTP://WWW.DETROIT3D.ORG](http://www.detroit3d.org)



Have you made your reservations yet??

For regular updates on what is planned, check this page
<https://psa-photo.org/index.php?2018-psa-conference>