



Connecting People with Nature
through Science and the Arts

THE NATURE OF NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Scott Avetta
Ken Biddle
Gary Budke
Lori Purk
Rick Walters

FIVE NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS
PRESENT THEIR UNIQUE VISIONS
OF THE BEAUTY OF NATURE.

MAY 20TH – JUNE 30TH

MON – FRI: CALL FOR EXHIBIT HOURS

OPENING: FRIDAY, MAY 20TH, 2011

7 - 9 PM Light snacks and beverages will be served.

The Green Center
8025 Blackberry Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63130



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Artist Statements

Scott Avetta

Albert Einstein wrote “There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.” Childhood vacations to many of our wonderful western national parks provided miracle after miracle after miracle. These everlasting memories have guided my love and respect of nature. Slow down and appreciate the beauty in nature that surrounds us. Even better, share the experience with others.

Scott has been teaching photography classes for over ten years with the Missouri Botanical Garden. He has been involved with photographic instruction and workshops with Kodak, many other venues, and with private clients. Scott is president of the Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers (MoNEP). His books include Missouri Impressions, The Ozarks, St. Louis Impressions, Illinois Impressions and Missouri Simply Beautiful. His photographs have appeared in numerous books and magazines covering the Midwest. The National Audubon Society and numerous businesses have used his photographs for advertising, calendars, websites, and in decor.

Additional images and contact information can be viewed on www.scottavetta.com.

Ken Biddle

Ken is a nature photographer whose life long interest in natural history and love of the outdoors led ultimately to his hobby of photography. His images span a variety of subjects from landscapes to birds and animals, from trees to flowers, from a study of nature’s wondrous pallet to its infinite display of patterns.

Ken’s images have been published in calendars and brochures, and have been exhibited in many shows in the St. Louis area. He is a member of the North American Nature Photographers Association and is a board member of the Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers.

Ken hopes that you enjoy his nature photography and hopes that it encourages you to get outdoors and see all of the beauty that nature presents.

Gary Budke

Gary has enjoyed photography for as long as he can remember. Although he describes himself as largely self taught, he has attended workshops by professional photographers Art Wolfe and Sam Abell.

Gary has been a member of the St Louis Camera Club for several years and credits this group for helping him to significantly improve his photography. Gary has won numerous awards with the St. Louis Camera Club, including Nature Slide of the Year. He has been published in the Bob Costas book, St. Louis for the Record, as well as Outdoor Photographer magazine. He is also the past president of the Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers.

Gary sincerely hopes that you enjoy his photographs, and that they help you to further your appreciation of the beauty of our natural world.



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Lori Purk

Lori enjoys exploring and photographing all of the delightful surprises that present themselves to her each time she goes out into the field. She has been exploring the great outdoors since her childhood and has always had a camera or two in hand. “I hope to show the viewer something they may not notice otherwise in this fast paced world. I want you to feel like you are on the journey with me, standing beside me, seeing the same things that impress me.”

Lori has been selling her work at fine art and craft shows around the St. Louis area since 2000. Her award winning work is on permanent display at the National Great Rivers Museum in Alton, Illinois and at the Missouri Governor’s Mansion in Jefferson City. She has participated in several group and solo exhibits at venues including The Foundry, Soulard Art Market, the St. Louis Artists Guild, Shaw Nature Reserve, Runge and Powder Valley Conservation Nature Centers and William Woods University. Lori is a juried artist member of the Best of Missouri Hands artisan association. She has also served as Newsletter Editor, Vice President and as a Board Member for the Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers. In July 2006, Lori opened her own art gallery, Simpatico, in the historic artist community of Clarksville, MO. She shows her work on weekends along with nine other Missouri artists who work in various media.

Richard Walters

Rick enjoys photographing the wonders of nature often overlooked by many such as frost flowers, tiny insects, and individual snowflakes. He is also intrigued by nature’s patterns from the tapestry of sycamore bark to the intricate veins of a dragonfly’s wings.

Rick is a member of The North American Nature Photographers Association and the Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers. Rick’s photos have appeared in shows in Chicago, The Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., and The Cleveland Childrens Museum, and the Insectarium at the St. Louis Zoo. He has been published in Audubon, Discover, and National Geographic magazines. His agent, Visuals Unlimited, publishes Rick’s photographs in textbooks and magazines.

Rick presents his photography with the hope that you are encouraged to slow down on your nature hikes and backyard strolls to see the many small wonders of nature that are all around you.