

N4C 2008 Convention FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

Welcome to the North Central Camera Club Council 2008 Convention, hosted by the Minnesota Valley Photography Club. In addition to the workshops on Saturday, and some exciting banquet speakers, we have put together field trips for you to experience some of the photographic opportunities presented by the Twin Cities. If there is anything that we can do to make your time more memorable, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope you have an enjoyable time.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the field trips, contact:

For Thursday & Friday Field Trips + Sunday Afternoon Informal Field Trip: Al Kiecker: 612-759-6569

For Sunday Morning Wildlife Refuge Field Trip: Jan Tharp: 612-791-4504

Brewery: Thursday Night

A “welcome to the convention” social will be held at the Flat Earth Brewing Company in St. Paul. Transportation to the brewery and return to the hotel will be by chartered school bus. Because the bus is full, space is very limited. The only place to carry your gear on the bus is on your lap, so please bring only limited photo equipment, especially no tripods. A digital point-and-shoot would be ideal.

While at the brewery, a short presentation will be given on how to get around the Twin Cities freeway system and find the suggested night shooting locations. This will be followed by a presentation on night photography tips and techniques.

We will return to the hotel in sufficient time for you to have dinner and gather up your photo gear before leaving for the night photo shoot.

Bus leaves Hilton hotel: 4:00pm

Bus leaves brewery: 6:30pm

Night Shoots: Thursday and Friday Nights

Night photography shoots will be offered both Thursday and Friday evenings. Transportation for these field trips is on your own. We recommend that you car pool with other conventioners.

Directions and maps to the suggested photo locations are included in your registration packet. Be sure to bring these with you on the night shoot field trip.

What to bring? Tripod, camera gear, flashlight, warm clothing, quarters for parking meters, maps, directions, cell phone (in case you get separated and need directions), GPS (if you have one)

Thursday, 8:30pm

Friday, immediately after the banquet (~9:00pm)

You certainly are free to head out on your own, but members of MVPC will be available to help as “guides”, i.e., leading as a caravan, showing where the locations are. Meet in the Hilton hotel lobby.

Return time is up to you. 😊

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum: Friday

Friday is an all-day field trip to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The Arboretum features more than 1,000 acres of magnificent gardens, model landscapes, and natural areas—from woodlands and wetlands to prairie—with extensive collections of northern-hardy plants. Our visit to the Arboretum is hosted by the Arboretum Photo Society (APS) who will be sharing their favorite photo locations with us.

The ½ hour drive from the hotel to the Arboretum will be by bus. As you board the bus you will pick up a continental breakfast (sorry, no coffee available). Upon our arrival at the Arboretum, we will be greeted by representatives of the APS who will give a short bus tour of the Arboretum. A second tour will be made so you can get off the bus and begin your day of photography, or you can return to the visitor

center and go out on your own. You are on your own to return to the visitor center for lunch and John Gregor's talk.

All conventioners going to the Arboretum will be given a map of the Arboretum highlighting their favorite photo locations of the APS. These locations will be staffed by a representative of the APS to provide guidance and suggestions on photographing at each location.

You are on your own for lunch in the restaurant located in the Oswald Visitor Center.

A lecture on garden photography will be given by John Gregor at 1:30pm in the McMillan Auditorium in the Visitor Center. Your name is already on the attendance list so you should have no trouble getting in the door. His one-hour lecture will be followed by a Q&A time. We will return to the hotel immediately after John's lecture.

Bus leaves Hilton hotel: 8:00am Bus leaves Arboretum: 3:00pm

What to bring? Tripod, photo gear, reflectors, electronic flash.

This is a rain-or-shine event, so dress accordingly.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge: Sunday morning

The MN Wildlife Refuge is just steps away across the street from the Hilton hotel. Please sign up for one of these options in the Hospitality Room to give us an idea of interest:

Option 1: SUNRISE SHOOT 6:30am

Meet at the Refuge Visitor Center parking lot between 6:30am and 6:45am. Suggest that you carpool with other conventioners to the sunrise shoot location (transportation is on your own) to the nearby locations or hiking options also available. Sunrise is at 7:08am. This shoot is weather permitting.

Option 2: PRAIRIE WALK/VISITOR CENTER 9:00am

Meet at the MVNWR Visitor Center at 9:00am. Enjoy an unstructured stroll around the prairie restoration area in front of the Visitor Center and the bird feeder viewing windows inside the Visitor Center. Good option for inclement weather or a less-strenuous morning. Maps are available in Visitor Center.

Option 3: BIRDING HIKE 9:00-11:00am

Meet at the MVNWR Visitor Center for a bird-watching hike guided by experienced birder volunteers at 9:00am – 11am. Note that there are steps and inclined paths. No facilities or water are available on the trail. Maps are available in Visitor Center. This hike is weather permitting.

You can also explore the MVNWR on your own:

MVNWR Trails are open sunrise to sunset everyday.

MVNWR Visitor Center is free and is open 9:00am – 5:00pm Tuesdays-Sundays, Closed Mondays.

Informal Trip to Minneapolis & National Camera Exchange: Sunday

This day trip is informal with no fixed agenda and transportation is on your own. Included will be a stop for lunch.

National Camera Exchange is a full-service camera store. A guided trip to their Golden Valley store (their largest and best stocked) is planned and a visit to some of our favorite locations. The Guthrie Theater, Mill City Ruins, Stone Arch Bridge, Eloise Butler wildflower garden, and the Milwaukee Road Depot are all possibilities. Where we go will be up to you; we are here to show you a good time.

Please sign up in the Hospitality Room.

Departure from the hotel: 11:30am

Return: up to you