



**The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
N4C Convention**

**September 25 – 28, 2008**

**Bloomington, MN**

# N4C 2008 convention

The North Central Camera Club Council (N4C) annual convention will be held September 25-28, 2008, at the Minneapolis St. Paul Airport Hilton in Bloomington, MN. The hotel is located near the airport, close to the Mall of America, convenient to light rail service to downtown Minneapolis, and directly across the street from the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge. This year's host, the Minnesota Valley Photography Club, is busy planning an exciting weekend for you.

**Thursday, September 25:** Plan to arrive early for a welcoming gathering at the Flat Earth Brewing Company. Following this social event, those who want are invited to grab their cameras and tripods for some night time photography. Weather permitting, we will visit the 1883 Stone Arch Bridge, Hennepin Avenue suspension bridge, views of the Minneapolis skyline from the Mississippi River, Rice Park and High Bridge views of St. Paul. Be warned though ... don't stay out too late because Friday comes around real soon.

**Friday, September 26:** Be sure to download your flash cards because you will need them all empty to start the day. We will be taking a tour to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The Arboretum Photo Society is hosting this all day photo tour. They will be sharing their favorite locations and photo stops at the Arboretum. John Gregor of Coldsnap Photography will share his talents with us at a lecture in the Arboretum's lecture hall. After a day at the Arboretum, meet and greet your fellow attendees at the Friday evening banquet where you will have the opportunity to view the best of N4C. The keynote address will be delivered by John Gregor. John was commissioned by the Arboretum to photograph the Arboretum for a new book being released this summer commemorating 100 years of the Arboretum. For those who have any energy remaining, we will again head out for more night time photography.

**Saturday, September 27:** The MVPC is busy putting together a multi-track program for your education and enjoyment. Saturday morning we have a variety of programs planned for all interests. Join hotel chef and nature photographer Eric Baker for lunch – his photographs are displayed throughout the hotel. Saturday afternoon we will all gather together for a three hour workshop session conducted by noted National Geographic photographer Nevada Wier. Between workshop sessions take time to see the silent auction, prints, slide and digital rooms. And don't forget to visit the vendor tables. In need of a break? Or some help and advice? Stop in at our hospitality room for a snack and cool beverage. Saturday evening will be the highlight of the weekend with the N4C banquet, keynote speaker Nevada Wier and evening culminating with the year-end awards.

**Sunday, September 28:** Are you sticking around after the membership meeting? You have photographed the Minneapolis and St. Paul area at night. Would you like to join us for some daytime photography? Or how about a shopping trip to National Camera's Golden Valley store? Or maybe you would like to visit the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge, it's just across the street from the hotel. Just let us know and we will see what we can arrange for you.

**Open to the public.** This convention is open to the general public. No membership in N4C is required, just an interest in photography.

### **Mark your calendars and plan to attend.**

Go often to the MVPC website for the most current information! Registration forms will be posted on that site as details of the convention are finalized.

[http://minnesotavalleyphotoclub.org/mvpc/?page\\_id=238](http://minnesotavalleyphotoclub.org/mvpc/?page_id=238)

If you have any questions or suggestions to make this convention experience the best ever, please contact Bev Kiecker at [bevkiecker@charter.net](mailto:bevkiecker@charter.net)

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### **Minnesota Landscape Arboretum**

The Minnesota Landscape 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. Tour the Arboretum on 12.5 miles of garden paths and hiking trails. Walk the close gardens, or take the tram on the Three-Mile Drive to see more gardens and collections.

The Arboretum, as part of the University of Minnesota, provides a community and a national resource for horticultural and environmental information, research and public education; to develop and evaluate plants and horticultural practices for cold climates; and to inspire and delight all visitors with quality plants in well designed and maintained displays, collections, model landscapes, and conservation areas.

In 2008 the Arboretum is celebrating its mission to the people of Minnesota with the publication of "Northern Treasure, The Story of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Horticultural Research Center" to commemorate the Arboretum's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. John Gregor of Coldsnap Photography was commissioned by the Arboretum to provide photographs to illustrate this commemorative book.

Our hosts for the N4C convention tour of the Arboretum, the Arboretum Photographers Society, will be sharing their favorite Arboretum locations with us.

For more info, see <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/>

## Arboretum Photographers Society

The Arboretum Photographers Society is a group of photographers whose roots are in a four-day workshop (Fall 2006) with John Gregor and who wanted more: more sharing, more learning... more Arboretum. With the Society's love of the Arboretum, it was a natural step to give back to the Arboretum using our skills as photographers. Nancy Westby and Michael DeSmit met with the staff at the Arboretum and in April 2007 the University of Minnesota Arboretum Photographers Society was born.

It is the mission of the Society to assist the Arboretum by fulfilling photography requests. One of the Society's first projects was to photograph all the memorial benches for the archives. This involved capturing three views: the bench setting, the memorial tag, and the view seen from the bench.

The reputation of the Society as volunteers is growing, and the Arboretum staff is continually supplying the Society with requests. The photos can be seen on the Arboretum kiosks, website, newsletter and brochures.

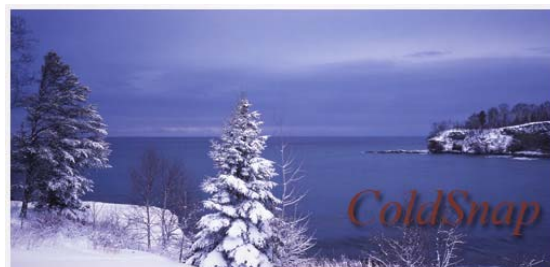
The Arboretum Photographers Society meets monthly to discuss various aspects of their craft. Photo shoots are also scheduled. The Society has grown to 37 active members over the course of this past year. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Nancy Westby at 952-937-9086 or [nwestby@mac.com](mailto:nwestby@mac.com) or Michael DeSmit at 952-412-8813 or [crowmedicine@mchsi.com](mailto:crowmedicine@mchsi.com).

### John Gregor

John Gregor owns and operates ColdSnap Photography a unique photographic studio that teaches photographic workshops and specializes in Garden, Natural History, and Architecture Photography. John's work has been published in numerous national and regional publications including, Minnesota Monthly, Midwest Home and Garden, The Minnesota Conservation Volunteer, Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine, Better Homes and Gardens, Canoe and Kayak, Outdoor Photographer, and many others. He has photographed several books including "Northland Wildflowers" and "Growing Home, Stories of Ethnic Gardening." John recently completed photographing "Northern Treasure, The Story of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Horticultural Research Center" a 100 year commemorative book for the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

In August 2002 John moved to Two Harbors on the Minnesota North Shore of Lake Superior where he lives with his daughters Erin and Megan. For the last five years he has enjoyed exploring and photographing the rugged natural areas along the lake shore.

For more info, see <http://www.coldsnap.com/>



## Nevada Wier

**Nevada Wier** is an award-winning photographer specializing in the remote corners of the globe and the cultures that inhabit them. Nevada's journeys have taken her throughout Southeast Asia, India, China, Nepal, Africa, New Zealand, Central Asia, Mongolia, South America and other obscure regions of the world.

Nevada has been published in numerous national and international publications, including: **NG Adventure, Geo, Islands, National Geographic, Outdoor Photographer, Outside,** and **Smithsonian**. She is a Fellow of **The Explorer's Club**, a member of the **Society of Woman Geographers** and was featured in a **Northwest Airlines** international television and print ad campaign. She was recently featured in the May 2008 issue of "Rangefinder" magazine.

Nevada's books are **The Land of Nine Dragons - Vietnam Today** (Abbeville Press, 1992), photography from contemporary Vietnam, winner of the Lowell Thomas Best Travel Book of 1992 award, and **Adventure Travel Photography** (Amphoto, 1993). She was a participating photographer in **A Day in the Life of Thailand** (Collins, 1995), **Planet Vegas** (Collins, 1995), and **Mother Earth** (Sierra Club Editions 2002). She is currently working on a new book **A Nomadic Vision** (publication TBA).

Nevada was featured in a **National Geographic Explorer** television episode on her travels down the Blue Nile River in Ethiopia on assignment with National Geographic magazine and was one of the photographers in **THROUGH THE LENS** for the **National Geographic Channels**. She was a frequent photographer on **Canon Photo Safaris (OLN & ESPN)**. She is also a regular guest on **The Travel Channel**. Nevada is a lecturer for seminars and professional panels, and a featured speaker for banquets and conferences. She was recently on a nation-wide tour with **LIVE ...from National Geographic**.

Nevada has guided the gamut of outdoor programs in the mountains, deserts and rivers of the world. This includes 20 years as a Course Director/Instructor for **Outward Bound**, a boatman for **AZRA** on the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River and a professional ski patroller in New Hampshire. She has traveled and trekked extensively on expeditions and private explorations in search of unusual places and photographs.



On the Blue Nile River, Ethiopia  
© Michael Davie

For more info, see <http://www.nevadawier.com>

## Eric Baker

Executive Chef Eric Baker's many awards affirm the fact that the Minneapolis St. Paul Airport Hilton has gained considerable reputation for a very pleasurable and enjoyable dining experience.

Eric's father inspired his interest in photography at an early age which provided a great way to spend more time with nature. Eric has photographed many different areas of the country; however, Minnesota has captured his heart. The wildlife and natural beauty in this area continues to inspire him. It is his hope that through nature photography, wildlife and habitats will be preserved.

You will enjoy Eric's photography throughout the hotel. Many of his photographs were taken of species found in the neighboring MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge across the street from the hotel.

For more info, see

<http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/hotels/hotelpromo.jhtml?ctyhocn=MSPAHHF&promo=chef&cid=OH,H,H,mspah,ChefF>



## Mariann Cyr

Mariann has been a member of several Twin Cities camera clubs (3M Camera Club, Minnesota Nature Photography Club, Minneapolis Photographic Society) for a number of years. She has served as president for the 3M Club Camera Club and the Minnesota Nature Photography Club.

She has been active in the TCACCC (Twin Cities Area Council of Camera Clubs) by serving as club representative and secretary in the past and Council's web master going forward.



For many years Mariann has organized the Minnesota Botany International, a PSA (Photographic Society of America) competition, with entrants from around the world. This is the only PSA competition limited to botanical subject matter. Past catalogs and the 2008 entry form can be found on the Minnesota Nature website (<http://www.minnesotanature.org>).

Mariann routinely judges area club competitions and gives programs. She also has served as a judge for a number of PSA international competitions and is listed in the PSA "Who's Who" list for nature images.

Mariann has had a number of images published including in several Minnesota Weatherguide calendars and the Minnesota Monthly Magazine.

## Jeff Morgan

Jeff is a native of Wales who has lived in the United States for over 15 years. Jeff's interest in photography dates back over 30 years when he learned the basics of photography through books, photographic societies and by practicing with his first SLR, a Canon FTb-n. Landscapes, cityscapes, nature and scenics were among his favorite subjects, especially in dynamic light. Over the course of the next few years he became very active in the Royal Photographic Society, passed his GCE A level in photography and went on to teach community education classes to British photographers in black and white photography and processing. He enjoyed many years processing his black and white, infra-red, color films and prints in his own darkroom before the digital darkroom replaced all the chemicals.

Jeff has been studying and practicing digital photography since well before he was able to purchase Adobe Photoshop version 2 for PCs. At first using a flatbed scanner and the original IBM PC before buying a digital camera in the early 1990's, he is now on the umpteenth generation of digital technology and is working hard to keep up to date with the latest equipment, software and technical understanding. Over the years Jeff has been actively teaching photography, presenting digital seminars, and judging for photographic societies and international salons.



Photographer – Specialist in all things digital

Jeff not only enjoys practicing his craft, but also finds it important to share and encourage others in the pursuit of the photographic arts. He seems to have an ability to explain complex technical concepts clearly and his students grasp them easily. Now he is often found teaching weekend retreats and workshops or speaking at national or international conventions.

Jeff is an accomplished professional who combines technical understanding, problem-solving abilities, training effectiveness and relationship-building to help clients understand, apply and use digital photographic techniques and tools to create high-impact images that communicate effectively.

For more info, see <http://elmstudio.com/>

## **Michael Prokosch**

Mike is a research specialist in the surface analysis laboratory of the Corporate Research Analytical Laboratory of 3M. During his 31 years with 3M, Mike has been involved in molecular spectroscopy, electrochemistry, chromatography and polymer characterization with major applications in the pharmaceuticals and pressure sensitive tape divisions of 3M.

For the past decade, Mike has been active in the photography community in the Twin Cities. He has provided advertising images for use by the New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run, the Star of the North Games and the Mora Vasaloppet. In addition, he has been active in the Photographic Society of America both as an

award winning photographer and as a chairman of several international competitions. Since 2002 Mike has done digital photography in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions and many places between.

Mike has judged a variety of competitions: county fairs, Minnesota State High School Principals Photography Contest, PSA Internationals, PSA Print of the Month, 3M Club calendar photography contest, as well as Interclub and club competitions in Minnesota, California and Illinois. Mike has mentored high school students in nature photography and has given numerous seminars on photographic technique and slide show production.

## **Gary Eckhardt**

Gary is a long time photographer and has always specialized in Black & White photography. He says he is color blind, but his judging skills are legendary.

He retired from Control Data back in the 70's, when they went under new management. He then went to work for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Air Quality Division. He is a great environmental worker and enthusiast. He retired from the MPCA recently. He teaches Photoshop at a number of venues around the Twin Cities area.

He has been or is now a member of several camera clubs: St. Paul Camera Club, Crosstown Camera Club, Minneapolis Photographic Society, Twin City Digital and the Digital Photographic Society.

He has judged and instructed at most of the Camera Clubs in the area. He has also done a lot of work for PSA.

Gary does a lot of mission work for his church in Haiti.

## **Silent Auction at the N4C Convention!**

- When:** Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- Where:** The Executive Boardroom (Room 11 on your convention map)
- Time:** 11:30am — 5:00pm
- Why:** The purpose of the Silent Auction is to help raise funds for the upcoming 2009 N4C Convention (Themed Photography & Health)\* in Duluth, MN. Note: Thirty percent of proceeds will go to Minnesota Valley Camera Club for hosting the Silent Auction.

### **Cash or Check Only**

\*The Silent Auction will be staffed by University of Minnesota Duluth Health Education majors who have been instrumental in planning, coordinating, and getting donations through a class project designed to facilitate experience in the fundraising process. Additionally, members of the Duluth Superior Camera Club will also assist with the Silent Auction.

### **Description of items**

Gift certificates to Duluth/North Shore restaurants, hotels, & gift shops, photography related items (e.g. memory cards, maybe a camera?), art, photos, wine, books, and much more!

# ACCOMODATIONS

The **Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Mall of America** hotel is located in the Twin Cities suburb of Bloomington, Minnesota. With a full array of amenities, this Bloomington hotel is ideal for the N4C Annual Convention. It is located only three miles from the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport and easily accessible to all Twin Cities area attractions.

A special rate of \$99 per night for N4C members has been negotiated with Hilton Mpls-St.Paul Airport at 3800 American Boulevard East, Bloomington, Minnesota Tel: 1-952-854-2100 Fax: 1-952-854-8002)

Make your reservation by contacting the Hotel at 1-952-854-2100 and mention you will be attending the 2008 N4C Annual convention, **use the Convention Code: NFC.**

Or book online using the same Convention Code.

website: [www.mspairport.hilton.com](http://www.mspairport.hilton.com)

## Directions & Transportation

In the Bloomington area, take Interstate 494 to 34th Avenue; exit onto 34th Ave and go South one block to American Boulevard East. Turn left (East) onto American Boulevard East. The hotel is located approximately three blocks down on the left side - across from the entrance to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. [View all directions, map, and airport information](#)

## Camping Information

**Lebanon Hills Campground** - Please visit

<http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/LeisureRecreation/CountyParks/Locations/LebanonHills/Campground.htm> for information and campground reservation applications. They offer tent and RV camping but check for possible RV size restrictions. Phone numbers: (Campsite 651-688-1376), (Parks Dept. 952-891-7000), (Wanda who handles reservations is at 952-891-7978). This site is about 8 miles south southeast of the convention hotel.

**Town and Country Campground** - 12630 Boone Ave. S., Savage, MN 55378 952-445-1756

Their website is [townandcountrycampground.com](http://townandcountrycampground.com) and they offer tent and RV camping. BIG RIGS WELCOME! This location is about 15 miles southwest of the convention hotel.

