

Focus

Image Makers Camera Club

PSA Camera Clubs and Community Service

This month the *Journal's* occasional article entitled *Focus*, that features a member or member-club, turns to the *Image Makers Camera Club* of Wisconsin.

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Members of the Image Makers Camera Club, since its formation in 1970, have always had an interest in nature photography; and, over the years, the Image Makers have combined this photographic interest with service to many non-profit conservation and natural resource preservation organizations in Wisconsin. Club members have donated their photography to The Nature Conservancy; to the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation; and to local land trusts, including the Waukesha Land Conservancy and the Land Trust of Walworth County.

The Nature Conservancy

The Image Makers Camera Club has had a long history of contributions and volunteer service to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Wisconsin. Perhaps the most ambitious service project of the Image Makers has been the photography for *Wisconsin's Last Great Places*, the annual calendar of the TNC's Wisconsin Chapter. Each year since 1992, the club has visited the preserves of TNC in Wisconsin and donated photographs for the calendar. Over the 17-year period between 1992 and

2009, TNC has published hundreds of images by the Image Makers. In addition, the Image Makers have prepared photo records of preserves owned by The Nature Conservancy; have documented land stewardship activities of TNC, including prescribed burn management, exotic plant removal activities, and tours of TNC preserves. Overall, the Image Makers have donated more than 2,500 images to The Nature Conservancy. These images have been used in newsletters, for fundraising campaigns, in preserve kiosks, for volunteer land management training classes, and on the TNC website. Even the 30" x 40" photos on the walls of the Madison office are photographs by Image Makers. The club has also prepared and shown many presentations for The Nature Conservancy, including a show of the preserves in Wisconsin for the TNC national board of directors.

Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation

The Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation is a non-profit volunteer-based organization which supports land acquisition and builds and maintains the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. In 1998, the Foundation

*The Image Makers
Camera Club
provides images
for The Nature
Conservancy annual
calendars*





Image Makers donated photographs for The Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation fortieth anniversary calendar

used photographs donated by the Image Makers in their fortieth anniversary calendar. In addition, the Image Makers Camera Club has prepared an informational slide program for the Foundation's Walworth-Jefferson County Chapter; has visited trail segments to take public information photos; and has worked with other volunteers, including a small airplane pilot, to take aerial photos of the glacial land forms along the entire 1,000-mile trail.

Local Land Trusts

The Image Makers have contributed their photography to many land trusts in Wisconsin, including Waukesha Land Conservancy, the Land Trust of Walworth County, and Gathering Waters Conservancy. About 15 years ago, when the Waukesha Land Conservancy was established, the Image Makers Camera Club was there to donate the photography for the organization's first membership brochure and informational slide program. About 10 years ago, when the newly-formed Land Trust of Walworth County (LT of WC) needed photos for a membership brochure, the Image Makers Camera Club contributed the photos. All of the images on the LT of WC website were donated by the Image Makers. Recently, when the Gathering Waters Conservancy announced their annual service awards, the award recipients were given nature photographs donated by the Image Makers.

Image Makers Camera Club

The Image Makers also have a long history of service to the Photographic Society of America

(PSA). In 2008 the club celebrated 35 years of continuous membership in PSA; and 14 members of the 15-member club are, or have been, individual members of the Society. The club has sponsored entries in the PSA Youth Showcase. The club now participates in the PSA International Club competitions in five PSA Divisions—the Color Projected Image, Nature, Photo Travel, Electronic Imaging, and Pictorial Print Divisions. The club also participated in the Photojournalism Division interclub competitions from 1992 through 2004. More importantly, the Image Makers Camera Club has hosted the judging for 35 PSA International Club Competitions in these six Divisions, sometimes hosting three or four such competitions in one club year. Each year the club also hosts the Image Makers International Exhibition, one of the four exhibitions in the Wisconsin Circuit; and the Image Makers assemble and present all four of the Circuit's shows of accepted images. Finally, several members provide significant service to the Society as individual members—**Jan Bigalke** is the current Secretary of the PSA Color Projected Image Division, the coordinator for the PSA website contest, and the chairperson of the PSA Conference Equipment Committee; **Gerry Emmerich** is the current PSA Conventions Vice President; and **Nancy Klemp** is the current treasurer for the PSA Wisconsin Chapter.

Are you tired yet? If not, move to Wisconsin and join the Image Makers. The club will put you to work on one of its service projects! ■