

RANGEFINDER

The Missouri Photo Workshop | September 24, 2018 | Volume 70, Issue 2



Sonny Byerley's job is to keep the school kids of Mountain Grove safe. The 44-year old, 20 year veteran cop and father of five is the new resource officer in this small Missouri town. "You want to know what my job is about? It's about 2,000 high-fives and 300-400 hugs a day," Byerly says. Photo by Ioana Moldovan.

Team Chapnick

MaryAnne
Golon &
Randy Olson



John Happel
Marshfield, MA
johnjhappel@icloud.com



Victor Hilitski
Chicago, IL
hilitski@gmail.com



Brooklynn Kascel
Marion, IA
bkascel@gmail.com



Ioana Moldovan
Bucharest, Romania
ioanacmoldovan@gmail.com

Team Gilka

Melissa Farlow
& Bill Marr



Daniel Carde
Salt Lake City, Utah
daniel.s.carde@gmail.com



Thomas Hudson-Gomez
Vashon, WA
tomhudsonphoto@gmail.com



Sarah Ann Jump
Easton, MD
saj@sarahannjump.com



Joyce McMurtrey
Mountain Grove, MO
joycemcmurtrey@gmail.com

Team Cox

Kathy Moran &
Torsten
Kjellstrand



Jennifer Adler
Gainesville, FL
jadlerphoto@gmail.com



Chase Castor
Aurora, MO
castorchase@gmail.com



Vikesh Kapoor
Sunset Pines, PA
vikesh.kapoor@gmail.com



Troy Enekvist
Stockholm, Sweden
troy.enekvist@gmail.com

Team Lee

Alyssa Schukar
& Kim
Komenich



Brian Amdur
Eugene, Oregon
BrianAmdur@gmail.com



Hunter Dyke
Columbia, MO
hunterdyke1@gmail.com



Jennifer Guyton
Palmdale, CA
jen.guyton@gmail.com



Taylor Irby
Hammond, IN
taylor@taylorirby.com

Team Cliff & Vi

Mary Beth
Meehan &
Dennis Dimick



Javier Aznar
Madrid, Spain
javiarnar89@gmail.com



Katherine Emery
San Francisco, CA
kaemery@gmail.com



Barbara Gracner
Bellevue, WA
b.gracner@gmail.com



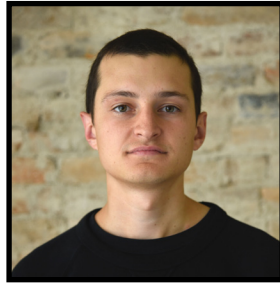
David Rodriguez
Salinas, CA
davidrodvisual@gmail.com



Angus Mordant
Sydney, Australia
angusmordant@gmail.com



Andrew Ryan
Toronto, ON
ap.ryan905@gmail.com



Stephen Speranza
Long Valley, NJ
stephensperanza@gmail.com



Sree Sripathy
San Jose, CA
studiosreepphoto@gmail.com



Idris Talib Solomon
Brooklyn, NY
idris.solomon@gmail.com



Kanishka Sonthalia
Brooklyn, NY
kanishkasonthalia@aol.com



Madison Simmons
Georgetown, TX
madisonsimmonsgtx@gmail.com



Carlton Ward
Tampa, FL
carltonward@gmail.com



Jennifer Mosbrucker
Nevada, MO
jennifer.mosbrucker@gmail.com



Becca Skinner
Bozeman, MT
beccaskinnerphotography@gmail.com



Sijie Yuan
Foshan, China
sy0010@mix.wvu.edu



Alex Snyder
Alexandria, VA
alex@alexsnyder.com



Keith Lane
Washington, DC
keithlanephoto@gmail.com



Stacey Rupolo
Chicago, IL
staceyrupolo@gmail.com



Sahiba Chawdhary
New Delhi, India
sahiba_chawdhary@yahoo.com



John Ewing
New York City, NY
jdcewing@hotmail.com



Nigel Rumsey
Gravesend, UK
nigel.rumsey@gmail.com



Yasmin Tajik
Fountain Hills, AZ
yasmin@yasmintajik.com



Kelsey Walling
Fort Worth, TX
kelsey.walling@galvnews.com

Small Talk Leads Beyond Front Porch

- by Duane Dailey

Without small talk, big talk becomes harder to reach.

I knew that. But, I'd never read it before. People skilled in small talk become better photographers.

A part of photojournalism is an ability to meet subjects as a person, not a camera-laden photographer. Be yourself. Be the kind, gentle, caring person that lurks inside. Let that person show this week in Mountain Grove.

An appeal of small towns is openness and acceptance. I recall a workshopper from New York City being amazed: "People greet me on the street."

Yep. Friendly people live in small towns. That isn't everywhere? In small towns it seems easier.

Here, people know just about everybody. You as a stranger are welcomed.

There may be economics behind that. Early in my travels across the state as an MU extension specialist, I noted the friendliness of Ozarkians. I formed a hypothesis. They grow up hardscrabble. It's difficult making a living on rocky hillsides. People from rich farmlands have more to draw upon. The land gives more.

Ozarkians learned that strangers coming here were tourists bringing cash. It's nice having them here, spending money.

That built tourism here. Not so much where I grew up near the Iowa state line.

The culture up North accepted as true that hillbillies down south were low class. Whoa! I found lots of wise folks here. Also, there are



Jim Curley talks about the history of the Missouri Photo Workshop during a meeting on Sept. 23, 2018 in Mountain Grove, MO. Jenna Kieser photo.

lots of born storytellers. Stories are part of the culture.

That made it easy for a semi-lost journalist to do stories. Later, I read the folklorist tale: "We Always Lie to Strangers."

If you aren't from a small town, you need to know a fact: take care when talking in public about who you just met. If you are in a local café telling fellow workshopper about who you met, be aware people nearby may know who you talk about.

If you say "I met the weirdest guy today." Know that folks in booths on both sides of you are related to that person. There are lots of "almost kin" in low population places. They may be second cousins, twice removed, but they're kin. And don't mess with my family.

There's a reason the book "Hillbilly Elegies" stayed on the best seller list over a year. Many readers are kin to hillbillies. I am.

Words from last night. David

Rees challenged workshoppers to find stories across the diversity of this town, top to bottom, young to old.

If you came with a common false start that poor people make better photo stories, start over. Poor, unemployed people may have time to spend. But, there are good stories of those working hard, too busy to stop for you. Take the challenge. Get beyond the front porch. Get inside. Show what makes this town work.

Start by finding out what makes people proud, what they want to show you. They will take time to share. It just takes more work on your part.

Learn patience. Wait for closed doors to open. Make lots of small talk. Ask questions. Ask: what's good in small town America?

Do hard work before making pictures. Much learning will be up front in this Missouri people workshop. Show the truth.

HOMETOWN PHOTOGRAPHER

McMurtrey shares insight on community

- by Maddie Davis

Joyce McMurtrey, workshop photographer and Mountain Grove resident, did not initially see the Missouri Photo Workshop as an opportunity that was meant for her.

“Originally I saw a piece in the newspaper about the workshop,” McMurtrey said. “I thought to myself, ‘Oh, I can house somebody.’ I was not thinking of it as something for me. I’ve never applied for anything like this, ever. I’ve had a fear of failure.”

It took a lot of convincing from two friends for McMurtrey to even apply. One friend, a painter from Connecticut, sent her a link to the workshop application. McMurtrey said she ignored it. Another friend, a local reporter, also tried to convince her to apply.

“She sent me the link, and she challenged me to do it,” McMurtrey said. “She said, ‘You do this Joyce, or else.’”

McMurtrey has lived in Mountain Grove since August 1976. After graduating from Colorado State University with a degree in horticulture, she said she came back to the area to work in her father’s vineyard because she needed to decide what she wanted to do with her life.

“[Working in the vineyard] became the rest of my life,” McMurtrey said. “I fell in love, so I farmed grapes for the next 42 years.”

McMurtrey’s interest in photography started later in life when her daughter was born in 1986. After her husband gave her a camera, McMurtrey said she took some basic photography lessons



Doc Davis is a descendant of King Davis, an African-American farmer in the Ozarks who, in the early 1900s, owned more than 1,000 acres in Wright County. **Photo by Joyce McMurtrey.**

and started taking pictures of her family. However, about ten years ago, McMurtrey said she wanted to start to photograph things with “more depth.”

“All along, ever since I was young, I realized the Ozarks were a different place,” she said. “As the years go by, we are losing our culture around the United States. I wanted to archive the culture of the Ozarks, but it’s been a tough task. People in the Ozarks are very careful, so it took me a long time to gain trust.”

McMurtrey has worked on various long-term projects. She has documented the lives of women in the Missouri Ozarks, her life working at the vineyard and, more recently, a multi-generational African-American family that has been homesteading in the Hartville area for centuries.

“I recently concluded a project called ‘King of the Ozarks,’” McMurtrey said. “The project was

a chance for me to pay back a debt to the universe, but I didn’t realize that’s what I was doing until about a year into it. When I was in the fourth grade, I had an African-American friend. She and I went to my swim club, and we were asked to leave because of the color of her skin. That was in the early 1960s. I wanted to do something to repay that bad event.”

Bonnie Wright, longtime friend of McMurtrey and manager of Meadowbrook Natural Foods, said McMurtrey has always been involved in the local community in a positive way.

“Joyce tries not to get tied up in divisiveness,” Wright said. “She’s always positive and sees the good in everything. She bridges gaps.”

According to McMurtrey, the three most important values of people who live in Mountain Grove are faith, family and community.

“When the chips are down, the barriers also come down, and everybody helps each other,” she said. “One of the reasons people can stay here is because there are people here who will help you.”

McMurtrey said getting to participate in the workshop is a dream come true. In addition, she said the bonus of the whole experience is that her ties to the town mean she is in a unique position to help everybody.

“My photography has always been more of a mission to listen to people,” McMurtrey said. “I realized many years ago that there’s a lot of people who are never heard. I’ve made that my life’s goal — to hear them.”

FAMILY REUNION

Nikon celebrates 25 years at MP

- by Baylee Konen

In the past 69 years of the Missouri Photo Workshop, Nikon has been here for 25 of them. The Workshop focuses on visually documenting small towns in Missouri and emphasizes the art of visual storytelling.

Nikon, Inc. has provided gear to the Missouri Photo Workshop for 25 years and has provided 628 pounds of gear for the 70th workshop. Kris Bosworth, this year's Nikon representative, has now attended the workshop for 6 years.

"I think the best way that Nikon has contributed to the art of telling a story is that we are fully committed to the working photographer. We are committed to those who tell the stories of our lives," Bosworth said.

Nikon, Inc. not only supports

today's professionals, it also focuses on the next generation of photographers, providing loans to students and gear to universities throughout the country through its School Locker Program, including at the Missouri School of Journalism.

"Nikon has chosen the workshop because of the methodology and history of all the photographers that have come through. It helps us build relationships with the professionals and the students," Bosworth said.

Because of the strong relationships built at the workshop, many



Jenna Kieser photo

of the students and staff return.

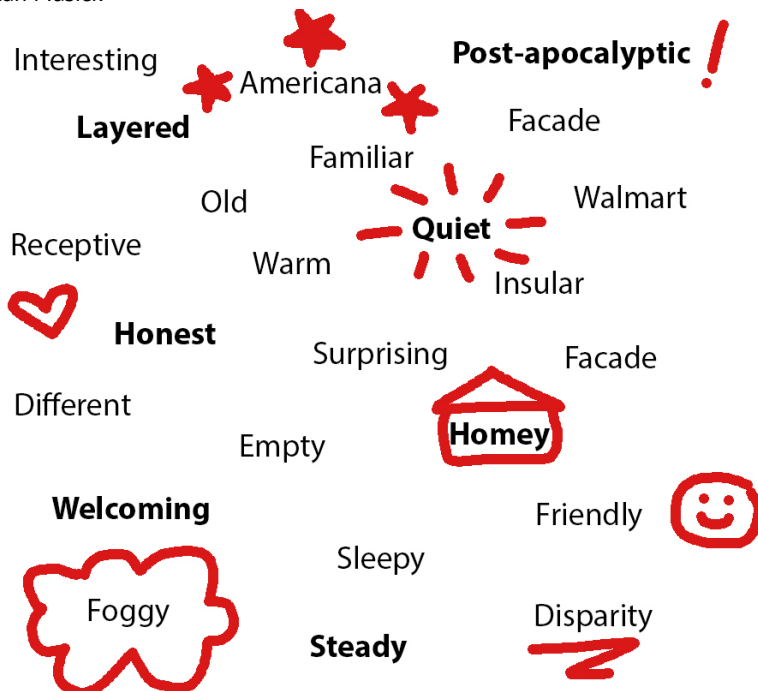
That is what makes the workshop special, Bosworth said.

"It is like a family reunion each year. All the coaches, students, and staff want to come back. Out of the three workshops I go to each year, I can say for Nikon that it is one we hold close to our heart," she said.

IMPRESSIONS

First impressions of Mtn. Grove

- by Hannah Musick



#MPW70

Facebook:
MoPhotoWorkshop
Instagram:
mophotoworkshop

RANGEFINDER CREW

Maddie Davis
Jessica Belle Kramer
Hannah Musick

David Rees
Ray Wong
editors

Duane Dailey
editor emeritus