

# N4C 2019 Convention Sept 19-21

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The Des Moines Camera Club continues preparations for the 2019 N4C Convention: “Finding Your Light in Des Moines”! This article will focus on the diverse offerings of photo shoots and field trips.

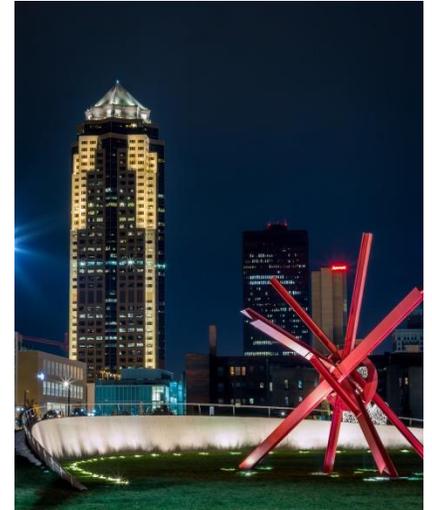
This wide range of photo shoots and field trips puts our experts at your sides in these locations throughout the Metro area and beyond. Each session will launch from the Registration / Information desk area. Carpooling is encouraged.

Thursday, September 19, 2019

## Field Trip: Papajohn Sculpture Garden

Led by: Jerry Ranch    Gathering Time: 5:30 pm

Description: Once in a private residential sculpture garden in Des Moines these art sculptures were donated by the owners and are now accessible in the Western Gateway area of Downtown Des Moines for the public to enjoy. Join us Thursday evening for a casual walk, and photography session, of the 4.4 acre Papajohn Sculpture Garden. This outdoor art museum is managed by the Des Moines Art Center and includes twenty-nine unique sculptures that may be framed in the context of the city. The sculptures are well lit, and there will be opportunity to frame them against city lights as well.



The Papajohn Sculpture Garden is a short 20 minute drive on Interstate 235 from our hotel. Carpooling is recommended, and directions will be provided for those traveling independently. By departing the hotel about 5:30 pm the group can arrive at the garden before golden hour. At Convention time golden hour will be 6:41-7:17 pm, with blue hour following at 7:34 - 7:55 pm. We plan to depart the garden at 9:00 pm but it is open until midnight. It is not a fenced location. Suggested gear for this field trip includes a lens suitable for landscapes / cityscapes, and possibly a tripod. Your primary contact for this field trip is Jerry Ranch.



Thursday, September 19, 2019

Field Trip: Downtown Des Moines Riverwalk    Led by: Ryan Mott

Gathering Time: 6:00 pm

Description: As recently as ten years ago, this area of the city was largely abandoned but thanks to visionaries it has blossomed into an exciting cultural center bustling with festivals, murals, bright lights, night-life, unique sculptures, and unforgettable river views. This field trip will start at the Des Moines Botanical Garden, free parking, and work towards the Woman of Achievement Bridge where the cityscapes are breathtaking.

The Des Moines Botanical Garden is just off of Interstate 235 and about 20 minutes from our hotel; carpooling is recommended, directions will be provided. Suggested gear for this field trip includes a lens suitable for landscapes / cityscapes and a tripod so you can capture the beautiful movement of the water over the dam. Your primary contact for this field trip is Ryan Mott.

Friday, September 20, 2019

**Field Trip: Sunrise at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge**

Led by: Kristie Burns

Gathering Time: 5:30 am

Description: The only National Wildlife Refuge in Iowa that contains wild bison and elk is located only 45 minutes from Des Moines. At sunrise the bison and elk are just waking up from their evening nap and can be found grazing near the road. In September the refuge is flooded with yellow compass flowers and is also home to a large population of young pheasants that roam around in family groups with their mother until the end of September. Last year, September 12 - 25, large groups of migrating monarchs took over large parts of the prairie. Other wildlife includes owls, hawks, and various other birds.

Located near Prairie City just off of highway 163 the refuge is about 45 minutes from the hotel. You will be provided directions as well as tips on where to go once you are at the refuge and tips for how to spot each different animal. Carpooling is recommended. Because the refuge does not allow us to get out of our cars when we are within the bison/elk area, make sure everyone that is riding with you has a window seat. We will leave the hotel one hour before sunrise.

Suggested gear includes a telephoto lens for wildlife photos and a macro lens if you plan on hiking the prairie path to take butterfly, flower, or insect photos. Since you will be taking wildlife photos from the car a bean-bag tripod is beneficial. Your primary contact for this field trip is Kristie Burns.



Friday, September 20, 2019

**Field Trip: Street Photography, Field Study**

Led by: Alan Jacobs

Gathering Time: 8:00 am

Description: The streets of Des Moines offer abundant photographic opportunities, day and night. After meeting along the benches on the SW corner of 13th Street and Grand Avenue in Downtown Des Moines, Alan Jacobs will lead the group through the winding sidewalks in the Papajohn Sculpture Park and into the city environment to explore and play. Look for opportunities to take expressive shots among shiny and reflective corporate buildings, among older buildings with timeless character, and through glimpses into rugged urban alleys. Alan will provide explanation on various techniques and styles of street photography and ample opportunities for questions. Come learn from a local favorite!

This location is a short 20 minute drive on Interstate 235 from our hotel. Carpooling is recommended and directions will be provided for those traveling independently. Suggested gear for this field trip includes a lens suitable for landscapes / cityscapes, a tripod may not be needed. Your primary contact for this field trip is Alan Jacobs.





**Friday, September 20, 2019**

**Field Trip:** Des Moines Art Center

**Led by:** Penny Adam

**Gathering Time:** 9:30 am

Description: Treat your creative soul to a refreshing docent-led tour of current and / or permanent exhibitions at the Des Moines Art Center. As inspiring and noteworthy as the art collections and programs are take time to appreciate the architecture by some of the greatest names in 20th century architecture: Eliel Saarinen, I. M. Pei, and Richard Meier. The Art Center's gardens are listed on the independent field trip list if you'd like to linger after the tour.

A short drive down the freeway. Carpooling is recommended, parking is free. Admission to the Art Center is always free, however, donations are welcomed. This field trip is led by Penny Adam.

**Friday, September 20, 2019**

**Field Trip:** ISU Demonstration Garden

**Led by:** Don Komarechka

**Gathering Time:** 1:30 pm

Description: Join Don Komarechka at the ISU Extension Polk County Master Gardeners Demonstration Gardens in nearby Urbandale for a hands-on photo session. Expect to find demonstration gardens full of creative ideas, herb gardens, vegetable gardens, a lovely rose garden, native grasses, small fruits, and two organic orchards – there are endless photogenic subjects!

The Gardens are a short drive from the Sheraton, carpooling is recommended. Suggested gear includes mid-range and macro lenses as well as a tripod, if desired.

**Saturday, September 21, 2019**

**Field Trip:** Bridges of Madison County

**Led by:** Paul Grillo

**Gathering Time:** 6:00 am

Description: Well known for his gravel travel, Paul Grillo will lead you on the backroads of Madison County looking for covered bridges, and perhaps Francesca's house. Plans are coming together to stop by two to three of the six bridges, and the Winterset City Park for the Clark Tower and a bridge located there.

Carpooling is recommended, as it may take about 45 – 60 minutes to reach the bridges. Suggested gear includes wide and mid-range lenses and a tripod, if desired. Your primary contact for this field trip is Paul Grillo.

**Saturday, September 21, 2019**

**Field Trip:** Des Moines Farmer's Market

**Led by:** Jerry Ranch

**Gathering Time:** 7:00 am

Description: Held every Saturday morning, May to October from 7:00 am to Noon, the Downtown Des Moines Farmers Market is a cornucopia of visual delights. Located in the Historic Court Avenue District it is ten blocks of about 300 vendors and entertainment. Flowers, fruits, vegetables, meat products, pastries, beverages, breads, and more are available for purchase. Musicians and dance troupes of many stripes provide entertainment, several vendors provide meals. The preferred time to arrive is about 7:30 am.

The Farmers Market is about 30 minutes from the host hotel, east on Interstate 235. Carpooling is recommended, and driving directions will be provided, including the best parking locations (fee based in parking ramps). Suggested gear includes a macro lens and wide angle, BW or color, and comfortable walking shoes. Tripod? --

probably not -- it gets crowded, but they are not prohibited. Your primary contact for this field trip is Jerry Ranch (who will first make a beeline for the breakfast pizza!).

There are various independent photo opportunities as well. We've talked about more of our favorite locations and list a few here – check them out!

### City Life, Downtown

1. **Des Moines Social Club Area** (Downtown Des Moines) is filled with beautiful murals and interesting street life scenes.
2. **West End Salvage** (Downtown Des Moines) is four floors of architectural salvage amazement! The staff does a great job of staging vignettes and it's an interesting place to explore.

### Wildlife

1. If you like taking photos of birds or want to practice shooting quickly moving wildlife, **Walnut Woods State Park** has one of the most well supplied feeders in the Des Moines area. The feeders are always filled with various woodpeckers, cardinals, blue jays, goldfinches and much more.
2. **Jester Park** is about 30 minutes from the hotel and has a small herd of bison and elk as well as walking paths where you can spot deer, owls, and other birds. It also has a small pond filled with painted turtles and a prairie area that is rich with insect and butterfly populations.
3. **Saylorville Dam** is about 30 minutes from our hotel and is a popular spot for eagles, white pelicans, gulls, geese, herons, and other larger birds.
4. **Blank Park Zoo** provides many opportunities, and angles, to take photos of animals without bars in the way. Expect to see giraffes, rhinos, flamingos, wallabies, emus, swans, llamas, prairie dogs, seals, okapi, ostrich, Bactrain camels, tortoises, penguins, and red panda.

### Gardens

1. In addition to its art collection, the Des Moines Art Center boasts a beautiful rose garden, a pond with frogs, and sculpture by Andy Goldsworthy. Entry to the garden area is free.
2. Better Homes and Gardens Test Gardens are close to the Papajohn Sculpture Park and are open to the public on Fridays at noon to 2:00 pm. Be aware that tripods and professional photography gear are **not** allowed, and plan appropriately.
3. The Des Moines Botanical Garden is filled with a selection of gorgeous flowers both inside and out. In September the gardens are also filled with many beautiful moths, butterflies and other insects.

To learn more about the 2019 N4C Convention check our website: <https://www.dmcameraclub.com/n4c-convention-2019> and look for our Facebook page [fb.me/FindingYourLightinDesMoines](https://www.facebook.com/FindingYourLightinDesMoines) for all the latest information and announcements. Registration is at <https://www.jotform.com/build/90824442441150>.

**N4C Fall Convention is open to non members – If you have some photo friends who would be interested, pass on the information!!!**