

## Letter from the Chairman

May is here. If you're thinking about attending MAPSym, but you haven't registered yet, go directly to your computer and do it. This year's Mid-America Photography Symposium (MAPSym) will take place on May 14-15. Time to register is running out. It is a can't miss event!



PSNWA launched this symposium in 2003 as a yearly event in historic Eureka Springs. MAPSym now takes place every two years and is organized by photographic organizations from Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. With the growth in attendance, MAPSym has truly become a regional conference that draws big sponsors and noted photographers to speak.

Saturday morning features three half-day workshops. Landscape photographer, Ed Cooley, leads a workshop at Black Bass Lake. Carly Adams will showcase the NIK Software's Complete Collection, and Bill Fortney, internationally famous photographer and spokesman for Nikon, will share his secrets for great nature photography. Enjoy lunch and then it's back to back sessions with Canon - Explorer of Light photographer, Jennifer Wu. Then it's on to dinner and keynote speaker Bill Fortney. After dinner, enjoy the late night model shoot, MAPSym's oldest and most popular tradition. Sunday morning starts with breakfast before the day's four sessions or shoots of your choice. End the day with the always unique Haute Couture model shoot in historic downtown Eureka Springs.

What an incredible opportunity to immerse yourself in photography for an entire weekend for less money than you'd spend for a single class at a national conference. You'll learn from top instructors and masters from around the nation. MAPSym offers a one-of-a-kind value for everyone from novice to pro. I promise you'll leave with an expanded level of knowledge about photography, no matter what your experience level. In addition, you're bound to take home some great memories, great photos and a new friendship or two.

Those who attended in 2009 were thrilled with the great bargains at the vendor fair! Bedford Camera & Video sold items at near cost, which put the price well below what you could find at large online retailers. So if you've got purchases in mind, you might wish to wait and buy at MAPSym.

Visit the symposium website at [www.mapsym.org](http://www.mapsym.org) to learn more and to register. Don't take too long, though! Some classes are nearly full, so register as soon as you can to ensure you get the classes you want! By the way, PSNWA members receive a \$25 discount off of the cost of Symposium. You will find the discount code on the benefits page of the PSNWA web site. See you all in Eureka Springs!

Jack Allred

## PSNWA Quarterly Print Competitions

PSNWA has four member only print competitions for 2011 to provide an exciting and challenging opportunity for all PSNWA members.

The Spring competition theme is "Orange". The deadline for turning submissions is May 5th. Please note that the main focus of your entries must be the named theme, Orange.

The Summer's theme is "Signs", open from May 6th through August 4th. And the Fall theme is "Sunsets", which will be open from August 5th through November 3rd.

Photos will be judged on Impact, Subject Matter / Creativity, Composition, Technical Quality, and Print Presentation. Black and White and Color photographs, from Film or Digital will be accepted. **Up to 3 prints can be submitted in an 8 x 10 or 8 x 12 format with optional borders no more than maximum of quarter inch**, at Bedford Camera & Video or in person at PSNWA meetings. Include Name, e-mail, phone, and competition theme on the back

of each print. Photos with incomplete information will be disqualified.

Please, ensure you have a duplicate print or negative, as photographs will not be returned.

Competition is open only to PSNWA members. Submissions are ranked by a panel of judges chaired by Alexis Schell, PSNWA Competition Chairman. There is a gallery limit of two winning images per member will be displayed. The top two scored images will be used to determine the images displayed if a member has multiple images ranked in the gallery range. All panel decisions are final.

Additional details online at [www.psnwa.org](http://www.psnwa.org).

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