

Elks Memorial and Peggy Notebaert Butterfly Exhibit

by Kent Wilson

Our group of seven members met at the Historical Society parking lot at 9:00 a.m. to car-pool down to our first stop, the Elks War Memorial in the Lincoln Park area.

After a pleasant drive, we arrived at the Elks



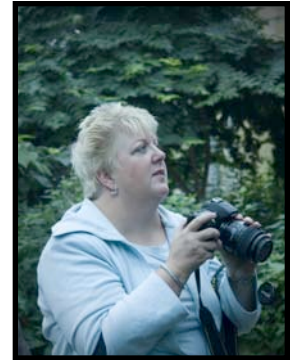
Memorial, where admission and parking are free. We were warmly greeted at the Elks and were given free run of the very beautiful building, principally the Rotunda area and the Hall of Mirrors. The folks at the Elks are rightly proud of their building, and welcome photographers daily from April 15 to No-

vember 15. Tripods are allowed (but no spiked feet, which could scratch the highly polished marble floors – meaning Kent had to put his shoes on to get in). If you decide to visit, just mention Marlene's name and you will get the extra special royal treatment. Lincoln Park Zoo is nearby, as is Peggy Notebaert, making the location convenient for an extended photography venture.

The architecture is stunning and a challenge to photograph well. The Rotunda was so impressive, poor Mike Berner was overwhelmed. For quite some time he was just lying on his back with Nikon shielding his eyes from the beauty! Cathie and other members were able eventually to get him back on his feet.



Photos will testify to the ornate beauty of the building. More importantly, perhaps, was the camaraderie of one member helping another with technical features of cameras and the lighting. We shared many tips, such as how to set a custom white balance using a grey card, how to use automatic depth of field to maximize focus, and the virtues and shortcomings of using different lenses in particular settings. At one point, Tracy's camera caught a bad case of the blinkies and required Pepto-Bismol and exposure compensation to cure them.



After an hour and a half or so, we retired to lunch at the Grove Café, where our group, led by Joanne and Nancy, discussed many of the country's social problems without resulting in a food fight.

Did I mention that it was very chilly and overcast much of the day? Well, it was. But we forgot all about that when we got to Peggy Notebaert and her butterflies. Talk about warm! Talk about humid! Just boost your ISO up to 1600 and shoot away! If you go on a cold day, keep camera and lenses in your pack while outside and be sure they aren't still cold before you take them out to photograph the butterflies. Wouldn't want to give them a chill or have condensation of camera and lens. Butterflies in fog? Hmmm.

I was so busy banging around that I didn't pay much attention to



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what others were doing, but every time I did withdraw from my withdrawal, our folks seemed quite busy clicking away.

I encourage other members to participate in our field trips. They really are a lot of fun, you

will enjoy good company, and get some good photos and tips.

Thanks go to Marlene Jones who suggested the trip, made the arrangements, and made it so enjoyable.

