

Shies away from scenic shots

It's back to nature for amateur photographer

By LEM MESESE

Outdoors writer
"I shy away from scenic, it's more fun to take closeups," said Charles Sterling, who proved his point three times in a state photo competition.

"You know what I think? A lot of people are turned on by nature. And unless they draw or paint, photography is a good way to capture it," Sterling said.

Some 1,100 photographers submitted more than 6,000 slides to the Michigan Natural Resources magazine for possible use in the January-February readers' photo issue. When the judges were done, they had creamed out 96 stunning slides — including three by Sterling, of Southfield.

"I sent them a cross-section of my work, and they accepted one of everything I sent," he said, still shaking his head in amazement. His calypso orchids from Wilderness State Park is on page 9; a monarch butterfly emerging from its chrysalis, taken in his home on Rock Creek Drive, is on page 37; a hilldeer protecting its eggs is on page 52.

BY DAY, Charles Sterling, PhD, teaches parasitology at Wayne State University's Medical School. He is also doing research on malaria and infectious diseases. He has been at WSU since 1974.

"I started in photography six years ago. I wanted to take pictures through a microscope. Then it became a matter of taking the camera off and taking it everywhere else," he said.

His favorite "everywhere else" spot is the deep woods around Lewiston in Michigan's northeastern lower peninsula — Kirtland's warbler territory. His favorite vacation time is late June when the birds are nesting there.

"Our vacations are separate but together," added wife Sue, the photographer's equivalent of a golf widow. "He goes out early and comes in at dark. No — he doesn't even come in at dark; if there are moths or butterflies attracted to the lights, he's out catching them."

FOR CLOSEUPS, such as butterflies emerging, Sterling uses a macro

lens or a zoom lens on his Nikon.

For his favorite shot, a male pileated woodpecker feeding two hungry mouths, he used a 300 mm lens, working from a blind with an electronic strobe light.

For best color reproduction, he recommends the slower Kodachrome films — speeds 64 or 25. Besides, high speed isn't necessary, he contends. "A butterfly is almost motionless as it emerges from the chrysalis. It takes 1-1 1/2 hours," he said.

He belongs to the Photographic Guild of Detroit. "A club is a big help. You strive to put in (competition) something better than the next person," Sterling added.

Another club member, Ray Coleman of Detroit, also had three slides printed in the MNR magazine, which is published by the state Department of Natural Resources. Altogether, four persons had three slides published; seven had two slides used; and 70 persons had one — including Steve Dunseith of

Rochester, whose blue jay is on page 57.

A NATIVE of a Hudson River town in New York State, Sterling lived in Cleveland two years and spent a year in Fresno, Calif., a short hop to the snows of Yosemite National Park.

The Sterlings have camped in Idaho, Oregon, Colorado and lots of places, but he talks most enthusiastically about Michigan's northern lower peninsula.

"I'm amazed at the wildlife. The local people are not aware of what they have there, though they know they have something."

"I talked to the Lewiston Garden Club. People are amazed when I tell them what they have there. I've seen eagles . . . osprey . . . loons . . . a kingfisher's nest . . ."

And moving in close with a camera is far more fun than shooting a panorama.



Charles Sterling's nature photographs caught the attention of editors of the Michigan Natural Resources magazine. Three of his photos were published in the January-February readers' photo issue.



A male pileated woodpecker feeds his young in this photograph, a Sterling favorite.

Woman named art registrar

Lynne McBride Stone has been named registrar at the Center for Creative Studies, College of Art and Design, an independent art college in Detroit.

Ms. Stone joined the school in 1973 when the institution was still known as the Art School of the Society of Arts and Crafts. She has been assistant to

the registrar until her present appointment.

Ms. Stone earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in 1965 and a masters degree in 1966 from Wayne State University.

She is a Troy resident and was chairwoman of the citizen's advisory committee on counseling to the Troy Board of Education.

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