

NEWS



BREAK

MACINTOSH USERS GROUP, ONEONTA, NEW YORK

Volume 17, Number 2

March 2002

MARCH 4, 2002 MEETING

Intro to MUG ONE Yahoo Group - Don Cooper

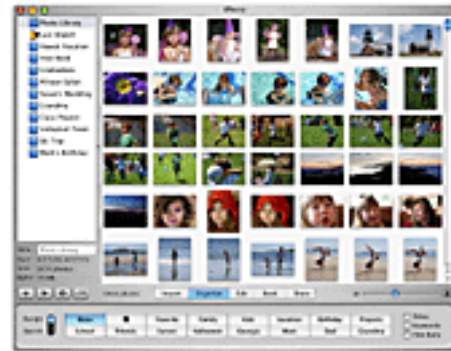
Macworld Expo Slide Show- Elsa Travisano

Quick Tips - John Maas and Brian Foley

Join us on **Monday, March 4th** from 7:30-9 PM. Don Cooper will show us how to get the most out of MUG ONE's new Yahoo! Group site, Elsa Travisano will take us on a visual tour of the MacWorld Expo, John Maas will show some quick tips for beginners and pros alike and Brian Foley will answer Mac questions you're too embarrassed to ask.

MUG ONE meets in **Instructional Resources Center Lecture Hall #1** on the SUNY Oneonta campus - see map on last page.

For more information, contact Terry Helser at 432-8123 or email Elsa Travisano at mugone@stny.rr.com.



Organize, print and share your photos with iPhoto for OS X

MARCH MEETING DEJA VU?

Wondering why the March agenda sounds suspiciously similar to the February agenda? An unexpected snowstorm prevented many members from attending on February 4th, including one of the presenters and the keepers of the keys to the presentation console.

The portions of the program we were unable to present in February will be offered in March, so you snowbound folks didn't miss all the fun. And kudos to the 26 brave souls who slipped and slid their way to the meeting.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPRING FAIR

MUG ONE has accepted an invitation to participate in Spring Fair 02, which will be held in the Alumni Field House on the SUNY Oneonta campus from 12-5 PM on Saturday, March 23rd. Billed as Oneonta's second annual celebration of spring, the environment and the arts, the fair will feature food, entertainment, family activities and exhibits of all sorts by area organizations.

MUG ONE has been asked to provide a fun, family-friendly, hands-on activity for fairgoers. We'll also be spreading the word about the Mac and about MUG ONE.

We need volunteers to put in an hour or two as well as help planning, setting up and breaking down the booth. Low time commitment, high fun potential, and great opportunity to increase our visibility in the community. If you can help, please email us at mugone@stny.rr.com or call Elsa Travisano at 607/433-2569.

If you help out with the Spring Fair, you'll get an Apple User Group tee shirt straight from Cupertino. How's that for a shameless bribe, er, incentive?

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TWO FAVORITE FINDS FROM MACWORLD EXPO SAN FRANCISCO 2002

Some of the most useful, innovative and downright cool Macintosh accessories can be found in the small booths that line the peripheries of each Macworld Expo. Following are two of my favorite finds from Macworld San Francisco 2002.

Laptop Screen Protector, Other World Computing. www.otherworldcomputing.com. \$14.95-\$17.95

The Other World Computing booth was mobbed for the entire course of the Expo. The hottest sellers were iPod cases, which I scouted for my brother Peter. What caught my eye, however, were the Laptop Screen Protectors.

Recent Mac laptops (Wallstreet, circa 1998, and newer) have had problems with their keyboards coming in close contact with the LCD screens, marring the display with finger oils and sometimes leaving marks that can't be removed. I'd already begun to notice marks on the screen of my TiBook.

Other World's Laptop Screen Protectors are made from 100% top grain vegetable tanned cowhide, and are designed to keep the laptop keyboard from touching the LCD display. TiBooks are extremely tightly engineered and I was concerned that the 1-2 mm thickness of the leather might strain the hinges of my computer. Fortunately my worries were unfounded; the leather fits precisely and the latch and hinges are unaffected.

I use the screen protector when I close my computer, but I also keep it in place when I have it open but am not typing. This confers the added bonus of keeping floating dust and cat hairs from getting into the keyboard. I chose the special large size designed to cover the entire keyboard and palm rest area of the *Titanium PowerBook G4*; smaller sizes that cover the keyboard area of Powerbooks and iBooks are also available.

The Laptop Screen Protectors ship with a set of Klear Screen Polish wipes to safely clean your LCD screen and keys.

Ott-Lite VisionSaver Task Lamp, Ott-Lite Technology. www.ottlite.com. 1-800-842-8848. \$60-\$70.

VisionSaver Lamps certainly aren't a Mac specific accessory.

The Ott-Lite representative told me that he goes to trade shows for needleworkers, hobbyists and even fly fishermen. The common denominator is work that requires excellent lighting.

VisionSaver lights are low wattage, glare-free lights designed for seeing details clearly. They come in sizes ranging from the 13 watt portable lamps to 18 watt desk and floor lamps. Ott-Lites are also available with TrueColor bulbs, which are designed to replicate full-spectrum sunlight and are optimized for color matching. As someone who is constantly battling eyestrain, I was ready to give one a try.



I chose the portable 13 watt VisionSaver Task Lamp. In design it reminds me of a slim, semi-cylindrical camp lantern. There's even a fold-down handle on top for convenient carrying. The lamp shade folds flat into its base, and stands 11 inches tall on a 5 inch diameter base that rotates 360°.

There's no on/off switch; to turn it on, one simply pulls the shade up from the base. Folding the shade back into the base turns the lamp off. The angle of the shade can be adjusted from 45° to straight up, and it holds whatever position it's placed in. This, coupled with the rotating base, makes the lighting amazingly versatile. It's also very lightweight, though stable on rubber feet, and is easily moved and stored. I find that it slips neatly between the living room sofa and the end table when I'm not using it for reading.

The quality of the light is very cool compared with incandescent lighting, though it's not as blue as most fluorescents. And details really do show up with startling clarity. The first time I turned it on at my desk, I reached for the dustcloth! I've find that it makes working at the computer easier on my eyes, especially on those

dull days so common at this time of year. It's lighting my workspace as I write this article.

The VisionSaver Task Lamp is a real pleasure for reading and close work, especially for deciphering blurry pages of newsprint. It's lightweight and compact enough to tote along to wherever you need it, so one lamp can really do the work of several. At \$60-\$70 the lamp is a significant purchase, but the investment in my eyesight made it well worth the expenditure.

— ELSA TRAVISANO

SOFTWARE REVIEW: *OFFICE: MAC v. X*

Microsoft Office: Mac v. X

Microsoft Corporation. www.microsoft.com/mac/

\$499, \$299 upgrade from Office 98 or 2001 or any component (Word, Excel, PowerPoint 98, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, or Word + Entourage Special Edition 2001)

The arrival of *Microsoft Office: Mac v. X* has given scores of Mac users the green light to upgrade to Mac OS X. *Microsoft Office* and its components – *Word*, *Excel*, *PowerPoint* and *Entourage* – are key productivity application for millions of Mac users. A good (and prompt!) OS X version of *Office* was crucial for OS X's early success. Fortunately, Microsoft's Macintosh team rose to the challenge to give us a new *Office* that implements the new operating system beautifully and efficiently. Completely rewritten from the ground up, *Office X* is speedy, incorporates a sprinkling of new features and overall is a pleasure to use.

Users of *Office 2001* will recognize the general organization of *Office X*. Launching *Word*, *Excel* or *PowerPoint* brings up the Project Gallery, a feature that can be disabled if you prefer to start an application with a blank document. The Project Gallery includes templates for creating common business and home documents like letterheads and resumes, as well as Wizards for functions like making lists in *Excel*. You can save your own templates in the Project Gallery for easy retrieval.

Components of *Office X* are even more tightly integrated than in *Office 2001*. The Formatting Palette is now consistent across all applications except *Entourage*. It's context-sensitive and incorporates commands for font attributes, borders and document formatting that were previously buried in menus and toolbars. Dialog boxes and panels are now displayed as Sheets, which apply only to a particular document and can be temporarily ignored. This means that you can ignore a Save dialog, for example, rather than having it override all other actions until it is attended to.

Entourage, which is available for OS X only as part of *Office X*, incorporates the greatest number of improvements. *Entourage* combines email and personal information management (PIM) functions and works as the scheduler and notifier for the *Office* suite. Buttons at the top left of the *Entourage* screen now make it easier to navigate between mail, address book, calendar, notes, tasks and custom views, and the title bars are more sensibly laid out. The tasks list can now be displayed in the same view as the calendar, making it possible to track those items on your to-do list that aren't tied to a particular date - like cleaning out the garage. The calendar still requires more steps to enter data than Palm Desktop, but it has a cleaner design, utilizes color coding and handles multi-day events more efficiently. Synching with Palm handhelds, which will depend on updated OS X software from Palm, Inc., is not yet available.

The most notable improvement to *Word* is the ability to select multiple words or blocks of text by command-clicking. These



non-contiguous text selections can then be formatted, spell-checked or searched in one fell swoop. *Word* also adds a Clear Formatting tool, which reverts a selection to default settings and restores hyperlinks, and a Data Merge Manager to streamline creating mailings for multiple recipients.

Improvements to *Excel* and *PowerPoint* are more minor. *Excel* adds an AutoRecover feature and the ability to customize keyboard shortcuts. *PowerPoint* can now collect linked files into a PowerPoint Package so they can be transferred more easily to a CD-ROM or another computer, and offers improved support for saving presentations as *QuickTime*. movies, including preserving transitions, animations and hyperlinks. *QuickTime* movies created by *PowerPoint* can be viewed using the free *QuickTime Player*. Prior to *PowerPoint 2001*, presentations required a specialized viewing application.

Many keyboard shortcuts have been changed to maintain compliance with Apple's Aqua interface. For example, command-Y is the shortcut for viewing only unread messages in *Entourage 2001*. In OS X one uses command-Y to redo the last action, so the shortcut for viewing unread mail has been changed command-shift-O. This is a minor annoyance, especially to users working between OS 9 and OS X versions of *Office*.

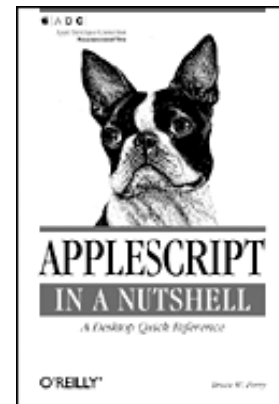
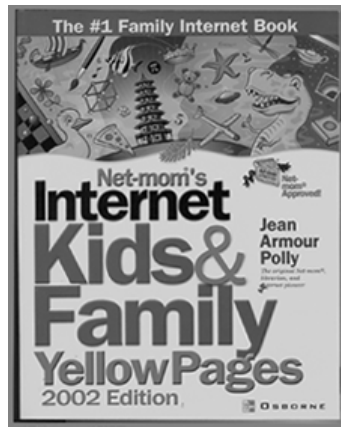
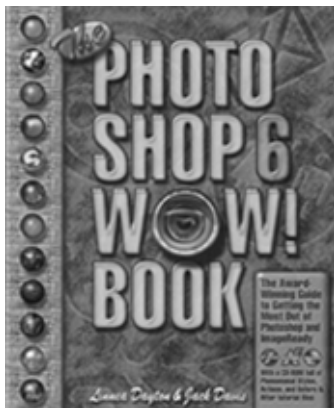
Be aware that this version of *Office* uses a serial number verification system that checks all computers on a local area network and refuses to launch if another application with the same serial number is running. This can trip up unsuspecting users who have *Office* installed on both a desktop and a laptop computer, a practice permitted under the software license.

A 30 day trial version of *Office: Mac v. X* is available as a massive free download (122 MB) or a CD for \$5 shipping on the Microsoft website. The March 2002 MacAddict Magazine's software disc also includes the trial software.

– ELSA TRAVISANO

Microsoft Office: Mac v. X

System Requirements: PowerMac G3 or G4, iMac, PowerBook G3 or G4, or iBook, Mac OS X version 10.1 or later, 128 MB of RAM, 160 MB of available hard-disk space for drag-and-drop install, 75 MB for a minimum custom install, CD-ROM drive, monitor supporting thousands of colors with 640x480 or higher resolution.



PHOTOSHOP 6 WOW! BOOK, INTERNET KIDS & FAMILY YELLOW PAGES, APPLESCRIPT

The Photoshop 6 Wow! Book, by Linnea Dayton and Jack Davis. 471 pp.plus CD-ROM. Peachpit Press, 2002. \$49.99.

Linnea Dayton and Jack Davis must be aces at packing their suitcases. They've managed to cram more step-by-step tutorials, tips and techniques into *The Photoshop 6 Wow! Book* and its accompanying CD-ROM than seem humanly possible.

Part of the bestselling Wow! series from Peachpit Press, which also includes books on *Illustrator*, *Painter*, *CorelDRAW* and Web design, the book starts with an overview of Adobe *Photoshop 6's* new features and devotes a chapter to the fundamentals of *Photoshop*. The rest of the chapters cover specific topics including color, retouching, combining images, using filters, painting, type, shapes, paths and PostScript, type and graphics special effects, motion graphics and the web. Each chapter contains numerous tutorials for tasks such as coloring clip art and applying a logo with the 3D Transform filter (a tutorial which would have saved a lot of effort in creating the current MUG ONE logo!)

Tutorials are densely illustrated with color screen shots and artwork keyed to tutorial steps and, as appropriate, to the content of the CD-ROM. Tips, hints and reminders are interspersed throughout, and each chapter ends with a gallery of informatively annotated images created by *Photoshop* professionals. A true beginner might find the pace of the instruction a little fast, at least until familiar with *Photoshop's* palattes and menus. Some *Photoshop* experience, either with *Photoshop 6* or a previous version, should make the tutorials easier to follow.

The CD-ROM alone is well worth the price of *the Photoshop 6 Wow! Book*. The disc includes more than 200 before and after tutorial files, an instructor's guide, more than 300 preset layer styles (dimensional effects for buttons and high resolution type and graphics) patterns, gradients, brushes, contours and custom shapes, the *Photoshop 6.0.1* updater and 50 automated rollover styles for the web. Many of the CD's "One-Click" styles are illustrated on the final two pages of the book, making it easy to choose between variations on chrome,

marble and other visually arresting 3D effects.

The Photoshop 6 Wow! Book is a treasure trove of ready-to-apply techniques that *Photoshop* users from advanced beginners to professionals will find themselves referring to time after time. Very highly recommended.

—ELSA TRAVISANO

Net-mom's Internet Kids & Family Yellow Pages, 2002 edition, by Jean Armour Polly. 587 pp. Osborne/McGraw Hill, 2002. \$24.99.

Give this book to a curious child – or adult – and watch her take off on a safe, fascinating exploration of the internet. Long-time librarian and family internet specialist Jean Armour Polly has assembled an irresistible collection of web sites on topics ranging from codes and ciphers to Native Americans to treasure hunting. This appealing, well-designed guide, appropriately printed on yellow paper, includes descriptions of more than 3500 educational and entertaining websites especially suitable for children from preschool through high school.

Net-mom's Internet Kids & Family Yellow Pages includes site descriptions alphabetized by subject, a table of contents perfect for browsing, a detailed index and hotlists of top sites. Net-mom's fifteen year old son weighs in with Son-of-Net-mom's favorite sites, including the Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy original adventure game and tasty insect recipes, as well as safety tips about protecting privacy, avoiding chain letters and viruses, and identifying hoaxes. The lively paragraph-long website descriptions are aimed at school-aged readers. Stare mark entries of special merit, and a rubber ducky icon denotes sites for suitable for preschoolers. Website descriptions are interspersed with yellow page-like "display ads" posing questions like "who invented the first pretzel?" The answer, and the address of a pertinent website, are printed upside down.

The hazard of any web directory is the impermanence of websites and web addresses. Polly tracks address changes for

websites mentioned in the book and posts them on her website, www.netmom.com.

Net-mom's Internet Kids & Family Yellow Pages is a great homework helper and boredom buster for internet-connected kids, and it's a terrific resource for teachers and parents. Very highly recommended.

—ELSA TRAVISANO

AppleScript In A Nutshell by Bruce W. Perry. 526 pp. O'Reilly Press, 2001. \$29.95.

AppleScript has been a free part the Macintosh operating system since system 7.5, but most people have used it little if at all. AppleScript is a scripting language that can tell the Finder and other applications to carry out a series of operations with the click of your mouse. Unlike a programming language, it uses English language dialect for most commands. AppleScript works with system 7 or higher.

How does one learn AppleScript? By reading a book like *AppleScript In A Nutshell*. *AppleScript in a Nutshell* is written for the novice to advanced AppleScript user. It can be used for its extensive reference section, which lists all the AppleScript functions, operations, etc. Or, it can be used as a complete tutorial on how to write AppleScripts to automate almost any application that runs on the Macintosh.

AppleScript in a Nutshell is laid out in six parts with each part broken down into two or more chapters. Part one is for those who have used AppleScript little or not at all. Part two is an AppleScript language reference for those who want to jump right in and start writing scripts. Part three is specifically for scripting OS 9 applications (most of this information can also be applied to earlier systems). Part four is about scripting OS 9 Control Panels and Extensions, part five is titled "Scripting the MAC OS X System." Finally, part six holds appendixes, about scripting additions and AppleScript resources.

The book is very well written with copious notations of important features, many illustrations and screen shots and animal themed bullets to indicate "valuable or timesaving information" or warnings of "programming pitfalls or...a procedure that might be dangerous if not carried out in a specific way" (dangerous to the program being run and/or the application being affected).

I found *AppleScript in a Nutshell* to be a great help in understanding and extending my knowledge of AppleScript. The reference section alone would be worth the price of the book but one gets a whole lot more. The book is written with a sense of humor, which is always appreciated when dealing with a dry subject. The only complaint I have is that *AppleScript in a Nutshell* should have a spiral binding because of all the use it will be getting.

This is no walnut shell of good information. It's a coconut!

—JAY MANNING

VENDOR DEALS FOR MUG ONE MEMBERS

MacAddict Magazine offers user group members a one-year subscription, 12 issues plus 12 discs, for \$22.95, a savings of 76% off the cover price. If you use a credit card the price is only \$20.95. To order, call 1-888-771-6222 and give code. *MUG ONE members - email mugone@stny.rr.com for code.*

Formac offers its award-winning flat panel display, Formac gallery, for a discounted price of \$799, \$100 off the suggested retail price of \$899. Offer expires May 30th, 2002. To take advantage of this exclusive offer, call Formac's toll-free number, 1-877-436-7222. *MUG ONE members - email mugone@stny.rr.com for code.*

Casady & Green offers discounts that average 50% off at the new web address for User Group members:

MUG ONE members - email mugone@stny.rr.com for web address.

New products include

*Grammarians X \$19.95

Grammarians X is Casady & Greene's popular universal grammar checker. It works with virtually every program on your computer, whether or not that program has its own grammar checker.

*Time Slice \$19.95

Time Slice is an easy-to-use time-tracking and billing application for Macintosh and Windows users.

*Captain Bumper \$19.95

Captain Bumper is an Action/Arcade game for ages 6-65 that will have you on the edge of your seat. All your tricks, reflexes, and courage will be needed to defeat the awful Zeurbella...

*Glider Pro X \$14.95

Glider Pro is one of the all-time Mac favorites for people looking for great fun and hours of family entertainment, now for OS X.

*Zone Warrior \$14.95

Zone Warrior II is a 3D space flight simulator in which you, the pilot, defend your space station from attack by blasting away incoming asteroids and enemy ships.

Prices are good until May 30, 2002.

Ten Thumbs Typing Tutor 2.2 is a complete typing course suitable for beginners and advanced typists, adults and children, and for home, school or office. Ten Thumbs Typing Tutor 2.2 teaches touch-typing on Dvorak and Qwerty keyboards using a friendly, professional approach.

he special offer on Ten Thumbs Typing Tutor is only available to members of user groups.

Normal price \$25.95 User group member price \$17.95

MUG ONE members - email mugone@stny.rr.com for web address.

Offer ends: May 30th 2002.

NEWSBREAK is the monthly newsletter of MUG ONE – the Macintosh Users Group of Oneonta, New York. Editor: Elsa Trivisano.
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Visit MUG ONE's website at <http://www.mugone.com>

LACIE TO PRESENT APRIL MEETING

Cathy Higgins, territory representative for LaCie Group, will be showcasing the company's latest hardware at MUG ONE's April 1 meeting. Cathy plans to demonstrate and answer questions on an assortment of LaCie hardware.

LaCie makes a variety of Macintosh-compatible hardware including hard drives, RAID drives, CD-RW, DVD and floppy drives, large scale backup drives, the PocketDrive series of compact drives, the Hexa Media Drive USB reader/writer that reads CompactFlash, SmartMedia, MemoryStick, Microdrive, SD Card and MultiMediaCard removable media and electronblue and photonblue monitors.

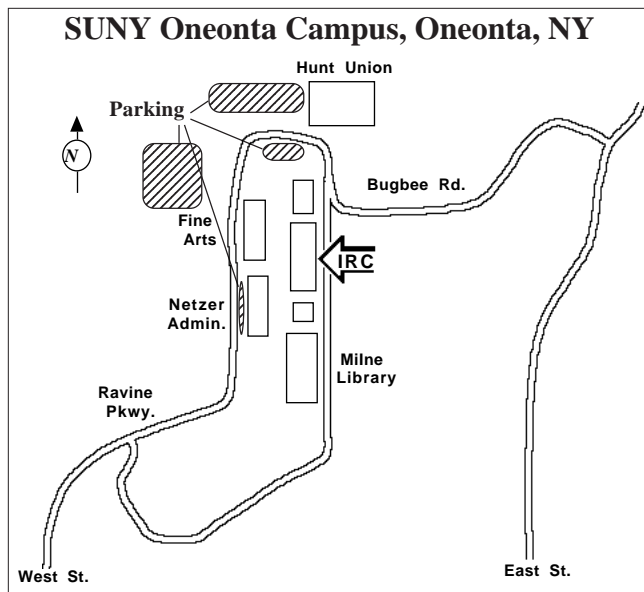
LaCie is a long-time supporter of the user group community, and most recently was a sponsor of the User Group University in San Francisco. Join us for this exciting opportunity to see and try LaCie's products first-hand.

USER GROUP REPORT AUDIO INTERVIEW FEATURES MUG ONE PRESIDENT

The User Group Report is a monthly audio file of interviews and news hosted by Chuck Joiner of The MUG Center. The February 20 edition features Elsa Trivisano.

Appointed to the User Group Advisory Board in January, Elsa talks about her group and what makes them special, her family background in user groups, and a chance encounter with Steve Jobs.

The interview is about 16 minutes long. Go to www.mugcenter.com and scroll down to the User Group Report to give it a listen.



Directions to Instructional Resources Center (IRC)

Parking note: You can park in any Faculty/Staff or Commuter space as well as the Visitor Spaces in front of the Administration Building. Campus security DOES enforce the handicapped and 30 minute parking spaces in the evenings, so don't park on the left side of the drive behind IRC.

MAYA PERSONAL LEARNING EDITION AVAILABLE FOR FREE DOWNLOAD

Alias|wavefront has just released a free learning version of Maya, the cutting-edge computer graphics software. "Maya Personal Learning Edition gives 3D graphics and animation students, current industry professionals, and those interested in breaking into the world of computer graphics (CG) an opportunity to explore the award-winning Maya Complete(tm) software, in a non-commercial capacity. Current support for those using Maya Personal Learning Edition takes the form of a web-based resource center, available at www.aliaswavefront.com/maya/ple/resource."

This is an amazing opportunity for aspiring 3-D animators and game designers to learn Maya, which usually costs @\$7500.

MUG ONE LOSES A FOUNDING MEMBER

We're very sorry to note the passing of Joseph Judd, one of MUG ONE's founding members, on February 19, 2002 at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany. Joe, a retired aerospace technologist for NASA, was present at our very first meeting on January 27, 1986 and had been an active and enthusiastic participant in MUG ONE over the past sixteen years. We'll miss his technical expertise and cheery outlook. Joe's obituary is on The Daily Star's website.