



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com
March 2008 Newsletter

March in Review

Twenty-six people braved the weather to attend the March meeting. There were several show and tells: Jim Osborn shared winter storm photos, Dave Brewer announced that he finished the workshop at the Cache River Wetlands center and shared photos from his travels to Florida for two weeks, and Dave Horning shared with us. Our featured member was David Morgan who shared photos from his tour in Iraq. Jim Bornert gave our program sharing tips for creating high dynamic range photos using Photomatix [<http://www.hdrsoft.com/>] which he learned while attending the Rocky Mountain School of Photography. It was announced that 7 people attended the February outing

at the Butterfly House in Chesterfield, MO. It was recommended that anyone who wishes to go should go during the summer and try to get there as early in the morning as possible. The photo contest was a 12 month contest for photos of people taking pictures. There were 10 photos entered. Third place went to Mike Hicks for Reflections, second place went to David Horning for a self-portrait (not of himself), and first place went to Dave Hammond with an early morning photograph. Congratulations to all three of you. There were four people who met at IHOP for the March outing to Land Between the Lakes. It was a good trip with a mostly cloudy day with a few sprinkles.

Calendar of Events

April

Regular Meeting: April 1
Planning Meeting: April 15
Contest: Scavenger Hunt (1 mo.)
Featured Member: Jillian Choate
Program: Ceasar Maragni
Outing: Rocky Bluff Trail at Devil's Kitchen Lake April 19. Meet at the Crab Orchard Refuge for caravanning/car pooling. Be ready to leave the refuge by 9:30.

May

Regular Meeting: May 6
Planning Meeting: May 20
Contest: Black and White (12 mo.)
Featured Member: Gabrielle Smith
Program: Rene de Groof - Composition
Outing: TBA

June

Regular Meeting: June 3
Planning Meeting: June 17
Contest: within 100 ft of your backdoor
Featured Member: Nancy Smolak
Program: TBA
Outing: TBA

Upcoming 12 mo. SIPS Contests

May: Black and White (12 mo.)
July: Night Photos (12 mo.)
Sept: Garden (12 mo.)
Nov: Mystery Tour (30 day) and
Make Your Own Calendar (12 mo.)
June, Aug, & Oct: TBA (60 day)
Feb 09: Sunsets (12 mo.)
April 09: Funny/Humorous (12 mo.)

July Outing - the Day's

The July outing will be a day of photography on the property of Richard and Susan Day [www.daybreakimagery.com]. If you do not remember who Richard and Susan are, they gave a presentation at our 2007 Christmas dinner. Richard is a full-time professional nature photographer who's been in the business of marketing photos and teaching photo workshops since 1984. Susan is considered a backyard bird and habitat expert and has published dozens of articles in birding and outdoor publications. They live in the country on 63 acres in south central Illinois. They've landscaped their property to attract wildlife with improvements including a 5-acre native grass and wildflower prairie and an 8-acre shallow water wetland. They've won numerous awards for their conservation efforts and their yard is certified with the National Wildlife Federation and Illinois Audubon Society Backyard Habitat Programs. Each year they host several bird, butterfly, and garden tours on their property to show others how to create habitats for wildlife in their own yards. SIPS has a private day scheduled for July 19. The cost to attend is \$50/person. We have 16 slots available. Reservations are first come first serve with payment required to confirm your spot.

Around Town

with Ray Brown

Interview with Joanna Gray.

R: When did you first become interest In photography?

J: Well ever sense I was a little girl I have had cameras. My dad got me interested he liked to take photos.

R: So you were quite small when your dad got you interested in photography.

J: Yes, I was about five or six years old when I received my first camera. Just in the last five or six years I've been interested in trying to improve my photography skills. Trying to do better than just snap-shots.

R: Do you consider yourself to be an amateur or a professional photographer?

J: Oh, I'm an amateur. Still learning.

R: What do you like to shoot?

J: Oh, I like to shoot wildlife, and my cats. I also like to shoot what I call night-lights, concerts, live music, and bands.

R: I know you are shooting digital mostly. When you did shoot film what kind of camera did you have?

J: Well I do have a "K" 1000 - 35mm. I was using that in the 80's and 90's before I got a digital camera.

R: When you did shoot film what B & W film did you prefer?

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Photo Op

By: Jim Osborn

I want to give you a head's up before we get into the heart of spring wildflower season. Two areas along Rt. 4 in Jackson County are worth exploring. The first is the west side of Fountain Bluffs. Last year a small group of us ventured to the bluffs and got pictures of numerous wildflowers including the rare Celandine Poppy. If you haven't visited the west side of the bluffs, there is a waterfall and hiking trails that also have a lot to offer. For the adventurous, there are also ancient Indian petroglyphs in the area. To get to the west side of the bluffs go to the town of Gorham from Rt. 4. Go all the way through town until you see Fountain Bluff Road on the left. That road will take you along the bluffs and loop back to town. Note that the bluffs block sunlight in the morning, so take a tripod along.

Many of you already know

about the LaRue Pine Hills Ecological Area, but in case you don't, it is a place you definitely should explore. Take Rt. 4 south of Fountain Bluff several miles. Immediately after you cross the Big Muddy River, take the levee road to the east. As you approach the bluffs, you can turn left or right. Go right and you may be able to take a very narrow dirt road through a corridor between the bluffs and swamps. Note that the road closes to all but foot traffic during the spring and fall migrations of snakes. There are numerous endangered species that live in this area and several club members got good shots of snakes in and near the roadway last year. In this area there are also abundant wildflowers including expansive beds of bluebells. One other note—the road may be impassable after periods of rain as the swamp can rise over the road bed.

Have fun!

Calendar Contest

This November, we are having a calendar contest. You create your own 12-month calendar. There are no restrictions as to how you put together or create your calendar except that there is a size limitation of 8½ by 12 inches when closed. You pick the theme for your calendar. There will be two categories available to enter: a) Nature, and b) Everything Else. The entry fee is \$5 per calendar. First place will be awarded for each category; there will be no second or third place awards. Each first place winner will receive 50% of the entry fees collected. The entries will be judged by an outside judge and winners will be announced at the December meeting.

For Sale

Canon Digital Rebel XT with an 18-55mm lens. Works great, but the sensor could be cleaned. The price is \$385. Contact Jim Osborn at jro320@yahoo.com.

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J: OH I can't say because I didn't use any B&W film. I only used color film.

R: What was your favorite color film?

J: Well I just used Kodak A.S.A 400 color film. That seemed to give me the best result.

R: What kind of digital camera do you have now?

J: I have a Cannon Digital Rebel XPi.

R: I assume that you are very pleased with that camera?

J: I love it. I love it.

R: What kind of lens do you use?

J: I have two stabilizing zoom lenses. I have a 28mm – 135mm and a 70mm-300mm.

R: Those are really nice lenses.

J: OH they are really nice for taking wildlife photos. I have been taking photos of birds in the back yard, I can stand at my backdoor and get good shots of the birds at my feeders.

R: Have you ever done any work in the traditional darkroom?

J: No.

R: Have you taken any photo classes?

J: Yes with Jack Holderfield at JAL - advanced photography, also a class with Rene Degroof. [Took] both classes in 2007.

R: Have you ever taught any photography classes?

J: No I haven't. I'm not ready for that.

R: Do you have any favorite websites?

J: Yes I do. National Geographic

Magazine. I love looking at their photographs.

R: Do you subscribe to any photo magazines?

J: No I don't. I do pick up Shutterbug at Barns & Noble.

R: Please tell me a couple of your favorite photographers.

J: OH my goodness. I don't have a favorite. I can't think of anybody offhand. I guess it would be the photographers from National Geographic. I don't know their names but, I admire their work. I do like Ansel Adams' work [www.anseladams.com]. Someone gave me a couple of reproductions of his work. Yes, I do admire his work very much.

R: Tell me do you have any other hobbies?

J: Yes I love to read. Fiction and nonfiction both.

R: Tell me about yourself please.

J: I love to write. I write for a living.

R: How long have you been writing?

J: Professionally since 1980. Since childhood I have been good at writing. I really enjoy trying to write song lyrics for fun.

R: Have you ever sold one?

J: No, not yet. I went to Nashville with a friend to try to make some connections we had a lot of fun but, didn't sell anything. I like to go to live concerts and hear live music.

R: Do you travel?

J: Yes. I love to go out west. I love the Grand Canyon. The north rim of the

canyon is my favorite.

R: Back to your writing please. What was your first job?

J: I was a marketing writer for the Bradford Exchange (Collector Plates).

R: Is that where you got your start?

J: Yes that is where I started. I learned on the job.

R: How long did you write for them?

J: About five years.

R: That was a good break-in period for you right?

J: Yes, I really learned a lot.

R: Where did you go after that?

J: I went to a trade show company called Reed Expeditions [nine years]. They were I the Chicago suburbs (Des Plaines).

R: Where to next?

J: Third place was Rand McNally in Skokie. I was there for a year. Then I decided to free-lance on my own. That was 1996. I've done it ever since. I have made my living writing.

R: Ok Joanna, now it's your turn to tell me anything you want to tell me. Talk to me.

J: I'm very happy to be a member of our club. I look forward to the meetings every month. I have learned so much from everybody and have made some good friends.

R: Joanna, thank you very much for your time. It's been my pleasure.

Who will be next to give me an interview? Time will tell. Watch out.

THINGS I NOTICE

by Ray Brown

This is a poem I came across when I was a naturalist at the Morton Arboretum [www.mortonarb.org] in Lisle, Illinois. I would read this to the people in the tour. Then later I would read it again and ask them to really concentrate. It was an eye opener for most people. Hope you enjoy

Recycled

by: Dr. Verne N. Rockcastle

The glass of water you're about to drink
Deserves a second thought, I think,
For Avogadro, oceans, and those who
you follow
Are all involved in every swallow.

The molecules of water in a single glass
In number, at least five times, outclass
The glasses of water in stream and sea,
Or wherever else water can be.

The water in you is between and betwixt,
And having traversed you is thoroughly
mixed,
So someone quenching a future thirst
Could easily drink what you drank first.

The water you're about to taste
No doubt represents a bit of waste
From Prehistoric beast and bird,
A notion not at all absurd.

The fountain spraying in the park
Could well spout bits from Joan of Ark,
Or Adam, Eve, and all their kin;
You'd be surprised where your drink has
been!

Just think! The water you cannot retain
Will someday hence return as rain,
Or behold as the purest dew,
Though long age, it passed through you!

Please read again. Concentrate please.

Show and Tell

Do you have photos that you want to share with everyone at a meeting? We would love to see what you have to share, however, we ask that you share only two or three photos and keep your presentation under 2-3 minutes so that everyone can have an opportunity share. If you have more to share, please contact Susan Stearns. She would love to schedule you as a featured member or program.

Outing - April 19

Our April outing is a hike to see the wildflowers on Rocky Bluff Trail near Devil's Kitchen Lake. The trail is a moderately difficult, 1.8 mile loop and displays a spectacular hardwood forest natural area on the Refuge. The trail includes waterfalls, sandstone cliffs, Grassy Creek and rolling terrain. The trail is clearly marked at the parking area at the small parking area on Tacoma Lake Road near the Devil's Kitchen Lake Campground.

National Wildlife Refuge offers free guided tours every Saturday in April at 10am and 1pm on Rocky Bluff Trail. They have been notified that we will be there for the 10am tour Saturday, April 19.

Due to limited parking at the trail, the Refuge recommends that we park at the Refuge and carpool to the trail. Please arrive at the refuge at 9:15 so that we can leave for the trail by 9:30. The visitor center is located at 8588 Route 148, Marion, IL 62959. From the intersection of Route 13 and Hwy 148 go south nearly 2 miles. The refuge is the brown building on your left with a nice parking lot.

SIH Calls for Photos

Southern Illinois Healthcare needs photos of southern Illinois to be used in recruiting new employees, including doctors and specialists, to our area: advertising, websites, banners, billboards, etc. SIH would like to have commercial rights to the photo, but the photographer can keep the rights for personal use (contests, gallery shows, etc.) Because of the widespread applications of the photos, SIH can't promise they can give the photographer credit in each instance the photo is used. (It's not really feasible on a billboard, for example.) SIH promises to send a copy of how the photo is used to the photographer.

The photos need to be high-resolution, color photos. It would be nice to have people in some of the photos (a golfer at the golf course, for example) but the models need to be aware of how the photo will be used and agree to be pictured. Photos can be taken anywhere in southern Illinois, but the Jackson/Williamson county area is preferred.

They are looking for the type of photos that you would see in tourism marketing: foods, attractions, shopping, etc. They are open to any suggested photos that make southern Illinois look like an attractive place to live.

Where is room C138?

Do you have problems finding our meeting room, C138 at at John A Logan? Perhaps you're just not sure how to explain it to a friend? Here are some directions provided by Nancy Smolack for you to keep handy.

C138 is located on the East side of the campus. The best way to find this room is to enter the campus by the East Entrance (Carterville side- by the Dollar General and Camper Supply) - follow the winding street into campus. The "E Building" (stop sign) and the "Receiving Dock" are on the left. Parking Lot C is on the right. Go to the far end (north end) of the C Lot and park there.

Across the street from the parking lot is the "C Building" (which actually looks like an extension of the "E building" from the outside). There is an outside entrance to C138.

The room can also be located from inside the C Building. If you go past Parking Lot C there is a second story "walkway" on the left that connects the "C Building" and the "D Building" (where our last room was). Enter the C Building by going under the walkway and entering the ground level doors on the left. About halfway down that hallway and on the left is C 138. (It is much easier to enter from the outside at least for the first time.)

Area Contests

There are quite a few photo contests available this summer.

- SIH Calls for photos - Contact Jim Osborn for more information. jim.osborn@sih.net or jro320@yahoo.com. 618-942-2171 ext 35490
- 3rd Annual Amateur Birding Fest Photography Contest 2008. Entries due April 18, 4pm. <http://www.birdingblitz.org/>
- Herrinfests Italiana Art Exhibit - Entry Forms due May 10. http://www.herrinfesta.com/pages/e_art.php
- 33rd Annual Paducah Summer Festival Photo Competition. Entries due July 7, 2008, 5pm. <http://www.paducahphoto.com>

