



# Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

April/May 2008 Newsletter

## April & May in Review

Boy how time has flown. I can't believe June is almost here. I, your club secretary, have spent April and part of May writing papers, studying for finals, and job hunting thus causing the SIPS newsletter to take a back seat for a month. Let's see how much of April I can remember. Ceasar Maragni gave us a wonderful slide presentation. Ceasar is a photo journalist and shared photos taken during his career. Photos were taken in places such as Kaskaskia Island during the flood of 1993, Odesa in west Texas, Onley, IL where he hunted for information on the white squirrel, and Marion, IL during the 1982 tornado. Jillian Choate was our featured member. She shared some of her work, both family pictures and portraits in natural settings. She was proud to announce that she has been hired part-time at a portrait studio. For show and tells, Dave Horning was proud to announce that he had a photograph published. Jim Bornert shared some prints from the Everglades. Brian Stearns showed scans of his first black and white prints that he took and developed for his first photography class at SIUC. Dave Morgan wrapped up the meeting with a Speedy Gonzales style showing of about 10-15 photos.

The April outing was a toured hike at the Rocky Bluff Wildflower Trail by Devils Kitchen Lake. It was a rainy and wet day but the rain held off and did not interfere with the hike. There were



six members there and one of the tour guides was nice enough to take a picture of all of us with Rene's camera.

There were 47 people attend-

ing the May club meeting. Jeff Fox was awarded a certificate for designing the winning logo for the club. Ray de Groof gave the program on composition. The Scavenger Hunt winners from April were announced and awarded their winnings. First place went to Dana Tetzlaff, second to Ray Brown, and third to Jillian Choate. We had a large number of participants in the Black and White photo contest. Dave Hammond came in first place with Bill Lipscomb taking second and Ray Brown third place. It was announced that **the May outing will be at Herrin Fest Saturday, May 24. Meet by the back entrance at 3:00pm.** Jan Sundberg announced that she has a show at the Forbes Financial Reception June 10 4pm-6pm.

## Around Town

with Ray Brown

Interview with Mike Hicks



R: When did you first become interested in photography?

M: When I was a kid actually. I was in the cub scouts and my parents got me a cub scout camera. I was about nine or ten years old. It was a box camera that held 620 film.

R: Back then did you shoot B&W or color? I'll bet it was B&W film.

M: I'm sure it was mostly B&W.

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

M: Just an amateur.

R: What kind of pictures do you like to shoot?

M: I like to shoot landscapes, macro, flowers, domestic animals - just about anything that is interesting to me.

R: When you did shoot film (before digital) what kind of camera did you have?

M: When I was a freshman in college I got a Kodak instamatic. It used 126 film. Later about three or four years later I bought a Keystone instamatic. It had a built in flash. With the Kodak I had to use flash cubes. I thought that built-in flash was really something. I was teaching school in North Carolina and I

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## Calendar of Events

### June

Regular Meeting: June 3

Planning Meeting: June 17

Contest: w/in 100 ft of your backdoor-60d

Featured Member: Nancy Smolak

Program: Travel Photography -Jim Osborn

Outing: June 21 3pm - Club Picnic at Giant City Park

### July

Regular Meeting: July 1

Planning Meeting: July 15

Contest: Night Photos (12 month)

Featured Member: Jennifer Calvin

Program: TBA

Outing: July 19 - Outing at the Day's

### Aug

Regular Meeting: Aug 5

Planning Meeting: Aug 19

Contest: TBA June 3

Featured Member: Brian Stearns

Program: Kieth Cotton

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: Route 37 from Effingham to Cairo.

Make Your Own Calendar (12 mo.)

June, Aug, & Oct: TBA (60 day)

Feb 09: Sunsets (12 mo.)

April 09: Funny/Humorous (12 mo.)

# Photo Op

By: Jim Osborn

Since we will be well into the spring bird migration in southern Illinois by the time you read this, I thought I would take time to give tips on bird photography for those who aspire to do this.

- When to shoot—Birds are most active in the early morning. If you just can't drag yourself out of bed, try dusk. Not only is the light better at these times of day, but the birds are actively feeding.
- Where to shoot—If you have been feeding the birds via backyard feeders all winter, there is a good chance you can catch some migrating birds at your feeders in the spring. Otherwise, go scouting. Look for natural areas where birds have food and cover—locations where there isn't a lot of noise or activity.
- What to focus on—As with most wildlife, focus on the eye of the animal. As long as the eye is sharp, you can get away with some blurriness in the rest of the composition.
- Blinds—There are relatively inexpensive “pop up” blinds you can get that will enable you to get up close and personal with birds. Patience in the blind is required and camo gloves won't hurt either. Also, use your car as a blind. Get a window clamp/ball head for your camera and turn off the motor (to avoid camera shake from the engine).
- Lens—Go with a telephoto or very long macro. If you don't have a blind, you likely won't get very close to your target so pull out your 300mm or 400mm lens and go for it.

- Birds in Flight—If possible, use a tripod with a ball head that can pan as you move the camera to the flight of the bird. More expensive image stabilizing lenses can also help, and setting your camera for a VERY fast shutter speed should help you freeze those little devils. Consider doing this by setting your ISO at 400-800, and using aperture priority and open your lens up as much as possible.
- Depth of Field—Depth of field may be a matter of personal preference or situation, but all too often I find sticks appearing out of the heads of my birds or little contrast between bird coloring and background. My advise?—shallow depth of field... blur the background (again a wide open aperture should help).

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took pictures of just about everything. I took almost all slides at that time. Kids in the play ground, places that I went. At the time I lived in eastern North Carolina. I was about one and a half hours from the ocean. I would go there and take pictures of all kinds of things. I still have a lot of those slides. I need to scan the better ones. I have scanned a few of them.

R: I bet they scan really well.

M: Yes they do. They came out pretty good.

R: At that time were you using Kodachrome or EctoChrome?

M: I was using Kodachrome 126

R: Did you shoot any B&W at that time in your life?

M: Not much, just a little bit.

R: What kind of B&W film did you use?

M: Tri-X Pan

R: When did you get your first SLR camera?

M: About 1974 I got my first SLR. It was a Praktica LTL made in East Germany. It had a Pentax screw mount lens on it.

R: What was the next camera for you?

M: About three years later I got my Pentax ME special edition. It was one of their first automatic exposure cameras. I bought an 80-200 zoom lens. A couple years later I bought an Pentax ME super body. I liked that because I could switch over to manual exposure. Then I purchased a Tokina 35-105mm zoom. I used that almost all the time as it fit in the

range that most photos are taken.

R: At this time what film were you using?

M: I started using EctoChrome and processing it myself. I really enjoyed that.

R: At that time did you consider buying the EctoChrome in bulk as that would save you quite a lot of money?

M: Yes, I started loading my own cassettes. It was fun. I did that for a long time. Then in the early 80's I got away from photography for a while.

R: When did you come back to it?

M: About '95 I started getting into photography again. I bought my wife a Pentax camera and as it happened my cameras were almost worn out and I started using her camera. At this time I switched over to Kodacolor from slides.

R: When did you get your first digital camera?

M: In 2000, we went on a cruise to Alaska. That's when I bought my first digital camera. I bought a Sony. I think it was a 1.7 megapixel. I really liked it ok. Now we have 12 and 15 megapixel cameras. Then in '04 I went to Uruguay. I really enjoyed that camera. I didn't have the freedom of manual exposure but I liked it anyway.

R: What was the next camera?

M: The camera I have now is a Fuji S9000 digital. It is a nine megapixel camera with a lens that will go out to 300mm. It's not an SLR but it looks like one and behaves very much like an SLR. It has just about all the bells and whistles

you could ask for.

R: You started to tell me about an eclipse story and I didn't follow up. Now please tell me about the eclipse.

M: In 1984 I used my old Praktica with a doubler and lots of filtration to darken it as much as I could. I aimed the camera right at the sun with the camera at 400mm with the doubler and at F22 and a shutter speed of 1000. I stayed up till 2:00am developing the film (B&W) and printing the pictures. I was supposed to be at work by 7:00am. I was at the News Register with my photos and the editor told me that my shoots were better than the pros at the paper. He put it on the front page. The picture is on my website along with what they had to say about it. I was feeling pretty good about myself.

R: Have you taken any photography classes?

M: Yes. I took a class at Rend Lake College. It was mostly about processing B&W film. Not much about composition or anything else for that matter.

R: What photo magazines do you receive?

M: I used to get Modern Photography, Popular Photography, and Petersons Photographic.

R: Do you have a favorite website?

M: Yes, my own, ha ha. [<http://www.pbase.com/mhicks49>]

R: Tell me the names of a couple of photographers that you really like.

M: Gaurav Dhvaj Khadka [<http://>]  
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## THINGS I NOTICE

by Ray Brown

Hello everyone. I thought I would like to try a little different column. I will call it T.I.N. Things I Notice. I hope to write about things that are light and perhaps sometimes humorous. And whatever else strikes my fancy or my imagination. Sometimes I might try to pull your leg. I hope you will like the column. I will still do the monthly interview column.

- The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.
- The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache. A Boeing 747 wingspan is longer than the Wright brothers' first flight.
- My grandfather Brown saw the Wright brothers fly. Not at Kitty Hawk but a few months later. He was mesmerized later by jet planes.
- The plastic things on the end of shoelaces are called aglets. Does anyone know why?
- It is possible to lead a cow upstairs – but not downstairs.
- Butterflies taste with their feet. Now I know why closet alcoholics like to stomp grapes
- People fear spiders more than death.
- Ninety percent of New York City cabbies are recently arrived immigrants.

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## 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.



## July Outing - the Day's

The July 19, 2008 outing will be a day of photography on the property of Richard and Susan Day [www.daybreakimagery.com]. 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 still have 4 of 16 slots available. Contact Susan, SIPS secretary, for more info.

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gauravdhawkhadka.blogspot.com]. He lives in the Himalaya Mountains. He is a super photographer.

R: What other hobbies do you have?

M: I love working with computers. I have built computers for some friends. I do a lot of my own repair work. I also like music. I play the organ at a church every Sunday. I have an organ and a keyboard here at my house. I like to travel, going places, and seeing things.

R: Mike, this is your chance to tell me anything you would like to add to this interview.

M: I really thoroughly enjoy the camera club. I live every month just waiting for the club meeting and the board meeting. I enjoy the company of the people in the club because they are really just great people, great folks. I just enjoy it. It's a challenge for me. I find it inspiring to compete and try to win against Jim and Nancy.

R: Mike, I must say with your photography, your computer knowledge, your music interest, along with your competitive spirit, I will say, keep doing what you're doing and thank you very much for your time.

## Where is room C138?

C138 is located on the East side of the campus. Enter the campus by the East Entrance. Follow the winding street into campus. The "E Building" 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 looks like an extension of the "E building"). 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.

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## Nov. Mystery Tour

Turn in a portfolio of 10 photos with captions. Maximum size is 5x7. The route is along Route 37 from Effingham to Cairo. You may take photos within 1/2 mile from the road or anywhere in cities and parks along the route. \$5/entry.

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## For Sale

70-200 Canon F/2.8 IS lens, Canon Digital Rebel XT, Canon EOS 20D, Canon EOS 30D and a Canon 500EX flash. All equipment is in outstanding condition with original boxes and paperwork. \$620 for the 30D. and \$1300 for the 70-200 lens. Contact Garrett Reardon at 618.201.1326 or greardon@gmail.com for more information.

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## Area Photo 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
- 33rd Annual Paducah Summer Festival Photo Competition. Entries due July 7, 2008, 5pm. <http://www.paducahphoto.com>
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) *OutdoorIllinois* 9th Annual Photo Contest. Entries due August 8, 2005, 5pm. <http://dnr.state.il.us/oi/contest/>