



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com
June 2009 Newsletter

June Meeting

Our meeting this month was led by vice president Jillian Choate, who did a great job filling in while Mike was away.

Our program was a presentation on the subject of composition, given by Nancy Smolak, former club secretary and past editor of this publication. Nancy focused the discussion around the idea that one should try to create the desired outcome, the "Intentional Image," as opposed to merely discovering a good frame from among many after it is taken.

Nancy illustrated that the basic building block of a good photo is to have a clear message with one strong focal point and a simple background. She went on to show the many points of composition that can be used to get the best result. These include:

- Orientation: vertical for power and strength, horizontal for serenity and peace.
- The rule of thirds: divide the frame in three even parts both horizontally and vertically. Subject divisions should fall along these lines, and subjects should ideally go at the intersections.
- The Golden Mean: take the diagonal from corner to corner, and add a line at a right angle to that diagonal to a third corner. Place divisions and subjects thusly.
- Balance: odd numbers are more interesting. Symmetry can be static, but also may be stable. Balance heavy and light items on each side.
- Horizon: make sure it's straight! Generally also, it should not divide the picture in half (see the rule of thirds).
- Depth: Layers, foreground elements, converging lines, and strong light or shadow can bring out dimensions.
- Lines: blurring an image can suggest where lines should run. An S curve (or other line) can lead the eye to the center of interest. Diagonal lines create excitement, tension, and instability. Converging lines suggest depth or distance.
- Motion: Freeze, blur, or pan to capture the action. Leave space for the subject to move into.
- Amputation: don't cut off a subject at a

joint, or have a line intersect a joint.

- Texture: side lighting helps bring out the subject.
- Perspective: try wide angle, telephoto, or new angles on the subject, such as from above or below.
- Negative space: useful to leave empty room in a picture to be used in overlaying text, for use in publication.
- Enhancement and manipulation: there is more opportunity now with "digital darkrooms".

In closing, Nancy suggested to not be afraid to break the rules, but to know why we are doing so.

Our featured member this month was Dana Tetzlaff. Dana gets the good sport award, since she was originally scheduled for last month but we ran out of time. Dana had a great set of photos on many different subjects, including family, nature, weddings, and her striking picture of a half-sunken boat. All this to a Stan Getz soundtrack, it was a treat.

We had 46 people at our meeting this month. We welcomed several new faces, including Allen and Dorothy Coumbe, Steve Duncan, Gina Soprano from Marion, and Denise from Pinkneyville.

Our contest subject this month was macro photography. We had a strong field of 26 entries. The winners were:

1st place: Bill Thomas, "Peony"
2nd place: Dave Hammond, "1000 Trees"

3rd place: Jim Osborn, "Water Lotus"
Next month's contest is our yearly mystery tour. The route was announced at the May meeting, and is posted on our web site.

Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

It's summer, it's hot...and who wants to go out to take pictures? ME!! When I first moved to southern Illinois I remember the first day the temperature climbed above 100 degrees. I said to a co-worker, what do people down here do when it gets this hot?



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Calendar of Events

July

Meeting: Jul. 7
Program: Critiquing, Jim Osborn
Featured Member: George Stone
Contest: Mystery Tour (60 day)
Outing: St. Louis Fireworks on the River, Jul. 11
Planning Meeting: Jul. 21

August

Meeting: Aug. 4
Program: TBA
Featured Member: Bill Lipscomb
Contest: Vacation (12 month)
Outing: Richard and Susan Day's, Aug. 1
Planning Meeting: Aug. 18

September

Meeting: Sept. 1
Program: Member vacation photos
Featured Member: Mary Jo Estrada
Contest: The "Eyes" Have It
Outing: TBA
Planning Meeting: Sept. 15

Inside...

Meeting and outing reports, Photo Op, Around Town, and the return of Things I've Noticed!



in late April. It's worth keeping an eye on the MOBOT event calendar for things like this.

The city of Carbondale is considering a tree memorial, and would like to have a photo contest or exhibit during this time. This would be a good opportunity to use any pictures you might have of some of the grand old trees of Carbondale that were lost in the storm. We will pass along more information about this as it becomes available.

Dave Hammond mentioned that B&L Camera in Carbondale has a good used 40D and a large format Kodak camera both for sale at their store.

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge's annual photo contest is accepting photos through the month of September.

A reminder for new members: SIPS dues are only half price for the second half of the year, so now is a great time to join!

Above left: A full table of food at the SIPS picnic, June 13.

Below: Deep in conversation after a full meal.

Annual Picnic

Our outing for June was the annual club picnic, which was held at the Giant City State Park again this year. We had good weather, and better food. Nancy brought steaks for everyone, and Dave and Lu took charge of the grill. Add in a picnic table fairly groaning under the weight of side dishes, and we had a recipe for a great picnic.

Lots of folks turned out, including Jillian Choate, Dave and Lu Horning, Jonathan Springer, Mike Hicks, Jane Morgan, Donald McDonald, Linda Bundren, Linda Martin, Ray and Pat Brown, Joan Levy, Jim and Donna Young, Jim and Esther Bornert, Joanna Gray, Nancy and Paul Smolak, Lori Mascal, Carole Baker, and Bill and Candy Thomas, plus many family members.

Our next outing is tentatively scheduled for Saturday July 11, when we will head to St. Louis to watch a fireworks display on the river. People may want to go up early and visit the Missouri Botanical Garden again, the St. Louis Zoo, or any of the many other interesting sites in the area.

Member News and Upcoming Events

Our Marion Library exhibit is continuing through the summer, and as planned we will be rotating pictures. We've decided to update the set before our next general meeting on July 7. Meet at 5:30 on the

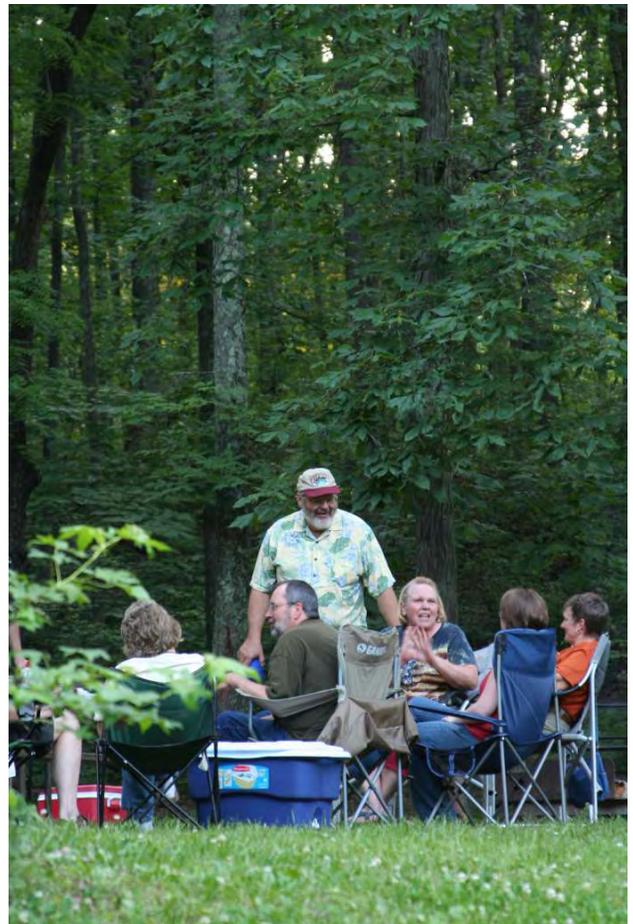
third floor of the library, and we will swap out pictures. Remember, pictures must be hung with wire or something similar that will work with the exhibit space's hooks.

The outing to Richard and Susan Day's is coming up on August 1. There are only 15 slots available, and many are already taken. The cost is \$50 for a full day with the Days at the extensive and carefully tended natural areas on their property. Talk to Dana Tetzlaff to make arrangements; and please note that a reservation cannot be guaranteed until payment is received.

Linda Martin has brochures for Tom Ulrich's upcoming trips to the Galapagos Islands and other photographic hot spots. If you missed getting one, see her at the next meeting. Tom is well known to SIPS and this sounds like a great experience.

At our meeting, Jim Osborn reminded us that the Outdoor Illinois contest is accepting entries until August 7.

Jim also had some great pictures from the Chinese Culture Days event at the Missouri Botanical Garden



Around Town

with Ray Brown

This month, Ray interviews Teresa McIntosh.



Ray: Hello, Teresa, Ray Brown here. Do you have time to do an interview for the newsletter?

Teresa: Yes, I do. That would be fine with me.

Ray: Thank you very much for your time. I'm ready to start, so here we go. When did you first become interested in photography?

Teresa: I would say in my late twenties.

Ray: What happened to cause you to be interested in photography?

Teresa: I started taking vacation and decided I wanted to take pictures just for my own enjoyment and memories. My mother and I went to Callaway Gardens in Georgia. I found it very, very interesting and I enjoyed taking pictures of flowers along with other things.

Ray: I've never been there. I would like to see what they have. I recently went to the Botanical Gardens in St. Louis and enjoyed it very much. Will be going soon, I hope.

Teresa: I want to see the Botanical Gardens again and take my little girl with me. I'm not sure how long she would be interested. After an hour I will have to find something else to do.

Ray: How old is she?

Teresa: She is eight years old.

Ray: She must be in the third grade.

Teresa: She will be when she goes back later this year. We have our daughter and lots of pets.

Ray: Oh, we have a lot of pets, also. Now we have three dogs and one cat left out of three. Two got old and died. All of our animals were dumped on us. They are all curb-litters, but they are all smart. I have had pets all my life. When I was a kid, I had two pet foxes, a raccoon, several squirrels, and a pigeon! What kind of critters do you have?

Teresa: We have one dog, one cat and a gecko.

Ray: Do you consider yourself to be an amateur or a professional photographer, or somewhere in between?

Teresa: I would say I'm an amateur. I

don't sell any of my stuff. I do it for fun and my own enjoyment.

Ray: What kind of pictures do you like to take?

Teresa: Oh, I like to take just about anything outdoors. I do like to shoot landscapes.

Ray: Do you do any macro shooting?

Teresa: Well, I call it close-up. But I don't do macro as I don't have a macro lens. I like to get as close as I can. I like to take pictures (close-up) of flowers. I think I might put a macro lens on my Christmas list this year!

Ray: What kind of camera do you have at this time?

Teresa: I have a Canon XSi.

Ray: In the past, did you ever take film?

Teresa: Yes, that was my first camera.

Ray: And, pray tell, what was that?

Teresa: It was a Canon Rebel. I loved those cameras.

Ray: When you were shooting film, what did you shoot - black & white or color?

Teresa: I shot color.

Ray: Have you ever shot in black & white?

Teresa: No, but since you told me to try it, I bought some B&W film. I have it in the camera. I just have to get out and use it - try it out! When I took a class at JALC, the instructor said that when you get the film processed, they do it by the gray scale. I bought a computer and a printer. I could put the negatives on my printer and do them myself. So, when I found out that, when I printed my own film it came out just the way it should. I had some bad luck with a roll of film. I think they rolled it up when it was wet and one of the pictures came out orange, and I know that tree was yellow!

Ray: I'll give you a tip about what I do. I always look at my negatives and the prints. If they don't suit me, I ask them to do them over. I never pay them until I'm happy.

When did you shoot film? What was your favorite color film? What was the film you like the most?

Teresa: I used Fuji 400. That did about everything I wanted it to do.

Ray: What camera do you have now?

Teresa: I have a Canon XSi Rebel. The

Photo Op

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The response was, "we just suck it up and do what we always do." In some ways heat is a state of mind. Remember that when you're drenched in sweat. None-the-less, here are some tips for successful summer shooting. First, animals are most active in the cooler temps, so plan you safari for the morning or late afternoon. With daylight at its peak, it's possible to get decent shots after 8pm at night or before 6am in the morning. Second, shoot more from the friendly confines of your car. If need be, run the air conditioning while you are shooting out the window (just remember to turn the car off as you shoot to avoid camera shake). Third, plan your trip somewhere it is likely to be a little cooler. For example take a trip on the water taxi that runs along the Ohio River between Golconda and Cave-In-Rock State Park. Fourth, don't leave your equipment locked up in a hot car all day—the heat can affect both film and digital equipment. If necessary, carry less equipment. Fifth, wear light clothing, wear a hat and drink LOTS of water. Sixth, with lots of sun and harsh shadows during the mid-day, use fill flash on flowers, birds, etc. Seventh, bug spray—need I say more? To keep ticks and chiggers off of clothing, I recommend a spray that contains permanone. It can be found in the sporting goods sections of most Wal-Mart stores. One good spray will last for a couple of weeks. Finally, reflecting back on my third suggestion. **GO SOMEWHERE REALLY COOL, LIKE THE ROCKIES!**

lens is 18-55mm. I also have a 70-300 zoom that I can switch to my film camera. That was a feature that I really like.

Ray: Well, that's a real money saver!

Teresa: Yes, it is. I do have a doubler.

Ray: Do you work with any digital dark room such as Photo Shop?

Teresa: I have Adobe 7. (I think that's what it is!) I don't really do much with my pictures. I might crop out something now and then, otherwise I don't mess with them - except for electric lines. I try to take them out. It's kind of a pet peeve I

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Around Town

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have.

Ray: Have you ever done any work in a traditional dark room?

Teresa: Never done any of that! I have only had one class and that was just a basic class. Other than that, I'm kinda self-taught.

Ray: Do you have a favorite web site?

Teresa: I hardly ever have time to get on the internet.

Ray: What Photography magazine do you subscribe to?

Teresa: Outdoor Photography and Popular Photography. I have about a years worth that I haven't read yet - haven't had time to do that. When I come home from work, my brain is pretty much mush! I like to read a good novel. I have one that I read at work, at lunch time and break time. And then one I read at home, just for enjoyment.

Ray: What kind of work do you do?

Teresa: I'm a case worker for the State of Illinois in the Public Aid office.

Ray: How long have you been doing that type of work? I think that would be an interesting and very trying job.

Teresa: I have been in this office for thirteen years - ten years as a clerk and three years as a case worker.

Ray: Do you like the case worker position better than the clerk position?

Teresa: Yes. The clerk responsibilities were very stressful. You were the first one the people talked to, or the first one they seen, and you always had phone calls. A very trying job.

Ray: I really do have a good idea of what you are talking about. When I worked for the Sun-Times newspaper, a lot of the people I had to deal with were almost on the same level as the street people - very difficult.

Can you tell me two or three photographers that you admire or just like their work?

Teresa: I just kind of go with the flow. I had never even heard of Ansel Adams 'til I joined the camera club.

Ray: When I taught for C.O.D., the classes were three hours (from 7-10) and the first class I always showed a film on

Ansel Adams that ran about 45 minutes. Then about the third week, I would show another one about Ansel Adams and about him being a concert pianist. It was about 45 minutes, also.

Teresa: I really do like the pictures of the different mountain scenes that Adams took.

Ray: Tell me about any other hobbies that you enjoy.

Teresa: I like to read, ride my motorcycle, tend to my flowers. Also, I play golf and I played basketball and softball in high school and college. We put in a vegetable garden this year. I tell my husband that it's his. My dad used to put in about an acre of garden every year and I hated it!

Ray: Oh, that's a lot of work (weeding)! I've been down that road - not a lot of fun. I think I told you about I started working at 8 years old, all day in the hot sun for 50 cents a day.

Teresa: Yes, you did a lot of work and I'm not interested at all!

Ray: Do you have any place that you have taken photographs that you would like to go back to?

Teresa: Yes, I would like to go back to the Callaway Gardens again, and to the Bridge Festival in Indiana. I really had fun doing some shots for a fellow at work. He asked me to take some pictures of his son at a track meet for his senior portfolio to send to colleges. I really enjoyed doing that. It was a lot of fun. I liked the shots of the high jump the most. I did that with film.

Ray: Well here we are the last question I will ask. It's your turn to tell me anything you would like to have included in this interview. It can be about anything.

Teresa: Oh, that's hard to do! I can't say I have any more to say.

Ray: Teresa, thank you so much for your time. I have enjoyed our conversation very much. Be careful on that motorcycle!

Things I've Noticed

by Ray Brown

Three more commandments from "The Ten Commandments of How to Get Along with People":



No. 4: Be interested in others - their pursuits, their work, their homes and families. Make merry with those who rejoice, and weep those who mourn. Let everyone you meet, however humble, feel that you regard him or her as a person of importance.

No. 5: Be cheerful. Don't burden or depress those around you by dwelling on your minor aches and pains and small disappointments. Remember, everyone is carrying some kind of burden, often heavier than your own.

No. 6: Keep an open mind. Discuss but don't argue. It is a mark of a superior mind to be able to disagree without being disagreeable.

More Commandments next month.

Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.

When you lose, don't lose the lesson.

When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.

Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.

Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.

Be gentle with the earth.

Today it isn't facing the music that hurts, it's listening to it.

Life is somewhat like a camel, you can make it do anything, except back up.

The future holds something in store for the individual who keeps faith in it.

Football finally makes sense: A fellow took his blonde girlfriend to her first football game. They had great seats right behind the team's bench. After the game, he asked her how she liked the experience. "Oh, I really liked it," she replied, "especially the tight pants and all the big muscles. But I just couldn't understand why they were killing each other over 25 cents." Dumbfounded, her date asked, "What do you mean?" "Well, they flipped a coin, one team got it and then for the rest of the game, all they kept screaming was, 'Get the quarterback! Get the quarterback!' I'm like... Helloooooooooo! It's only twenty-five cents!"

That's it folks. More T.I.N. next month.