



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

November 2009 Newsletter

November Meeting

The main item on the agenda for this month's meeting was our annual elections for club officers for the next year. The following were duly elected:

President: Jillian Choate
Vice President: Nancy Smolak
Secretary of Technology: Jonathan Springer

Secretary of Records: Linda Bundren (meeting minutes)

Secretary of Contests: Lynn Love
Board: due to a tie vote, 6 were elected:

Jim Osborn, Ray Brown, Dave Hammond, Jane Morgan, Linda Martin, Mike Hicks

We had 40 people turn out this month, including two new members: Toni Tabor and Anna Smith-Davis, both of Carbondale. If you didn't get a chance to meet them, look for them at the Christmas party coming up.

Our featured member this month was (as it happens) president-elect Jillian Choate. Jillian shoots only film, so she took the opportunity to not only showcase some of her work but also give a little visual history.

We had two contests this month, however both are being judged outside, so results will be announced later, at the Christmas party.

The first was the Scavenger Hunt. We had eight entries, from Linda Martin, Jim Osborn, Jo Dodd, Joanna Gray, Lori Mascall, Virginia Stith, Jonathan Springer, and Mary Jane Estrada. Each of these compiled a portfolio of pictures covering the following ten subjects (some of which were rather challenging!): old tractors, animals, butterflies, birds, nautical, old barns, snakes, light, church, and wine press.

Our second contest was a calendar contest, which had entries two categories: "nature" and "other." In the nature category, we had entries from David Brewer, Joanna Gray, Virginia Stith, Joe Hall, Jan Sundberg, and Dana Tetzlaff. In the other category, there were entries from Dave Hammond, Jim Osborn, and Jonathan Springer.

Next month, we have our annual Christmas Party, so please remember that

there will be no regular meeting at the Library in December. We will resume our regular meetings in January, meeting on Tuesday the 5th.

Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

Well, this is the last installment of Photo Op for 2009 and I wanted this article to flow with meaningful introspection of thoughts about the past year...and the coming year—all in one good paragraph. I've been off work all week with pneumonia so I've had some time to cogitate. I realized that much of my love of photography stems from my passion for the creative arts. I love music, poetry and art and, while I take a lot of photos as remembrances of the "Now" (family photos, etc.), I take even more photos for their artistic value. Nature, wildlife, lines, shapes, colors and light are extraordinary tools to work with and we are blessed to live in an area that has much to offer the "artist." I am currently reading a book called Visual Poetry. While it is a book about photography, much of the book is theoretical and has to do with the art of "seeing." In it I have found a lot of concepts and tips to think about as it relates to my own attitudes toward photographic art. But this book has also helped me understand the difference between photographers who lean toward the artsy side of the craft versus those who are more focused on capturing and cataloging images of our lives as records for ourselves and others. I'm sure that the membership of SIPS is probably split between these two approaches with the majority leaning toward the recorder's approach. Either way, I think we all have a common goal of taking technically-better photographs. So...while I have a moment of your attention, I want to pose a challenge to you. For 2010, think about where you are with your skills and make some New Year's resolutions that will guide you in pushing the limits of your technical and artistic talents with a camera. Then...and most importantly...keep those resolutions!! Happy holidays to everyone!



Calendar of Events

December

Meeting: Dec. 1 (members only)

Note: no meeting at library

Program: Richard and Susan Day

Contest: none

Outing: Christmas Lights,

Dec. 5, DuQuoin fairgrounds

Planning Meeting: none

January

Meeting: Jan. 5

Program: Wildlife Photography, Dave Brewer

15 Minutes of Fame: Mary Jo Estrada

Contest: Holidays (2 month)

Outing: Eagles at Alton, IL, Jan. 30

Planning Meeting: Jan. 19

February

Meeting: Feb. 2

Program: Underwater photography

15 Minutes of Fame: Linda Bundren

Contest: "Red" (12 month)

Outing: Union County Conservation

Area / Horseshoe Lake, date TBD

Planning Meeting: Feb. 16

Inside...

Meeting report and announcements, Photo Op, Member News, and a generous Things I Notice!

Member News and Announcements

One more reminder, our annual Christmas dinner meeting is coming up on Tuesday Dec. 1. The dinner, which is only open to members and their guests, is taking place at SIU in the Old Main ballroom, from 6:30-9:00. Richard and Susan Day will be presenting. Everyone should have their reservation in by now, but if you haven't already paid, please pay Dana at the dinner; the fee is \$15 per person.

In recent news, member Dave Hammond won Best of Show at the recent Cederhurst Photo competition. Selected photos from the contest are on display at Cederhurst through the end of the year, so stop by and take a look.

Member Jim Osborn won second place at the Tree-Mend-Us photo contest in Carbondale. Reports are that among his winnings was an actual tree to plant!

We didn't have an outing in November to report; instead it was scheduled in early December for the better Christmas lights viewing opportunity. We will meet on Saturday, Dec. 5 at the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds to see the drive-through displays they have set up there. Some members will be meeting early at Alongi's restaurant at 5pm for dinner.

From the Secretary

by Jonathan Springer

Although not quite the end of the calendar year, this marks the end of my first year working on the newsletter. It has given me new insight into the amount of work that all of the other club officers put in. I worked most closely with Lu, and if her name hasn't appeared that often in these pages, it should have, because she has taken the most detailed and comprehensive notes I could ask for in writing up the newsletter. So, I especially want to take this chance to say "thanks, Lu!"

The other officers, from Mike on down though the whole board, also put in a lot of time that is often not obvious to the casual observer. Planning outings, contests, recruiting speakers for programs, and highlighting upcoming external contests and events we should be aware of, are all tasks that get done through the board. A lot of this gets

hammered out at our monthly planning meetings. If you're curious, remember that the monthly planning meetings are open to any member, not just board members, so please feel free to visit - and contribute!

Over this last year, some things on the Technology plate on have worked out well, and some others need work. First, I know that the timing of this newsletter hasn't been great every month, sometimes coming too close to the meeting. I hope to get better at scheduling it, so there is plenty of time to distribute and read in advance of the meeting.

Another work in progress is the member directory. I'm pretty happy with the new format, and I have actually been updating it monthly the last couple months. (The directory is available to members only, and so not on our public web site; please ask me if you don't have the instructions on how to access it.)

Finally, there is the web site. Most have probably noticed that there was a promising reorganization, together with the addition of a login box. Credit for this goes to Susan, who did most of the work during some meetings we held during the summer. The blame for not getting everyone the accounts on the site yet goes to me. Partly, I need to adjust some of the plugins for features that the new accounts will use, such as a picture gallery and a forum. And partly, I just have to individually set up accounts and distribute passwords for them (no small task with the dozens of members we now have!).

One last thing, about the newsletter. We have a few very reliable columnists, for which I am very grateful, but I think it would also be great if we could get content more broadly from the membership. So, I put it to you readers: why not try your hand at a column in the new year? If you have a photography subject you've been itching to write about, this is the perfect place to do it.

As always, I welcome your feedback - let me know your ideas. I can't promise to do it, but I do know I won't do something that doesn't occur to me.

Things I Notice

by Ray Brown

This month I thought I would do something a little different. I thought you folks might enjoy some facts and figures and odd things I have found in one of my world almanacs. I like to read almanacs and dictionaries.



UNITED STATES HISTORY Chronology of Events

1492 - Christopher Columbus and crew sighted land October 12 in the present-day Bahamas.

1497 - John Cabot explored northeast coast to Delaware.

1513 - Juan Ponce de Leon explored Florida coast.

1524 - Giovanni de Verrazano led French expedition along coast from Carolina north to Nova Scotia; entered New York harbor.

1539 - Hernando de Soto landed in Florida May 28; crossed Mississippi River, 1541.

1540 - Francisco Vasquez de Coronado explored Southwest north of Rio Grande. Hernando de Alarcon reached Colorado River; Don Garcia Lopez de Cardenas reached Grand Canyon. Others explored California coast.

1565 - St. Augustine, Fl. founded Sept. 8 by Pedro Menendez. Razed by Francis Drake 1586.

1579 - Francis Drake entered San Francisco Bay and claimed region for Britain.

1607 - Capt. John Smith and 105 cavaliers in 3 ships landed on Virginia coast, started first permanent English settlement in New World at Jamestown in May.

1609 - Henry Hudson, English explorer of Northwest Passage, employed by Dutch, sailed into New York harbor in Sept., and up Hudson to Albany. Samuel de Champlain explored Lake Champlain, just to the north. Spaniards settled Santa Fe, NM.

1619 - House of Burgesses, first representative assembly in New World, elected July 30 at Jamestown, VA. First black laborers - indentured servants - in English N. American colonies, landed by Dutch at Jamestown in Aug. Chattel slavery legally recognized, 1650.

cont'd on page 3 - Things I Notice

Things I Notice

cont'd from p. 2

1620 - Plymouth Pilgrims, Puritan separatists, left Plymouth, England, Sept. 16 on Mayflower. They reached Cape Cod Nov. 19, explored coast; 103 passengers landed Dec. 26 at Plymouth. Mayflower Compact was agreement to form a government and abide by its laws. Half of colony died during harsh winter.

1624 - Dutch colonies started in Albany and in New York area, where New Netherland was established in May.

1626 - Peter Minuit bought Manhattan for Dutch from Man-a-hat-a-Indians during summer for goods valued at \$24; named island New Amsterdam.

1630 - Settlement of Boston established by Massachusetts colonists led by John Winthrop.

1634 - Maryland, founded as a Catholic colony, under a charter granted to Lord Baltimore. Religious toleration granted 1649.

1636 - Roger Williams founded Providence, RI, June, as a democratically ruled colony with separation of church and state. Charter granted, 1644. Harvard College founded Oct. 28, now oldest in U.S.; grammar school, compulsory education established at Boston.

1640 - First book was printed in America, the so-called Bay Psalm Book.

1647 - Liberal constitution drafted in Rhode Island.

1660 - British Parliament passed First Navigation Act Dec. 1, regulating colonial commerce to suit English needs.

1664 - British troops Sept. 8 seized New Netherland from Dutch. Charles II granted New Netherland and city of New Amsterdam to brother, Duke of York; both renamed New York. Dutch recaptured colony 1673, but ceded it to Britain Nov. 10, 1674.

1673 - Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet reached the upper Mississippi and traveled down it.

1676 - Nathaniel Bacon led planters against autocratic British Gov. Sir William Berkeley, burned Jamestown, VA. Sept. 19. Rebellion collapsed when Bacon died; 23 followers executed. Bloody Indian war in New England ended Aug. 12. King Philip, Wampanoag chief, and Narragansett Indians killed.

1682 - Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, claimed lower Mississippi River

country for France, called it Louisiana Apr. 9. Had French outposts built in Illinois and Texas, 1684. Killed during mutiny Mar. 19, 1687. William Penn arrived in Pennsylvania.

1683 - William Penn signed treaty with Delaware Indians and made payment for Pennsylvania lands.

1692 - Witchcraft delusion at Salem, MA; 20 alleged witches executed by special court.

1696 - Capt. William Kidd settled in America, was hired by British to fight pirates and take booty, but himself became one. Arrested and sent to England; hanged 1701.

1699 - French settlements made in Mississippi, Louisiana.

1704 - Indians attacked Deerfield, MA, Feb. 28-29; killed 40, carried off 100. Boston News Letter, first regular newspaper, started by John Campbell, postmaster. (An earlier paper, Publick Occurrences, was suppressed after one issue 1690.)

1709 - British-Colonial troops captured French fort, Port Royal, Nova Scotia, in Queen Anne's War 1701-13. France yielded Nova Scotia by treaty 1713.

1712 - Slaves revolted in New York Apr. 6. Six committed suicide; 21 were executed. Second rising, 1741. 13 slaves hanged, 13 burned, 71 deported.

1716 - First theater in colonies opened in Williamsburg, VA.

1726 - Poor people rioted in Philadelphia. Great Awakening religious revival began.

1732 - Benjamin Franklin published the first Poor Richard's Almanack; published annually to 1757. Last of the 13 colonies, Georgia, chartered.

1735 - Editor John Peter Zenger acquitted in New York of libeling British governor by criticizing his conduct in office.

1740-41 - Capt. Vitus Bering reached Alaska.

1744 - King George's War pitted British and colonials vs. French. Colonials captured Louisburg, Cape Briton Is. June 17, 1745. Returned to France 1748 by Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

1752 - Benjamin Franklin, flying kite in thunderstorm, proved lightning is electricity. June 15, invented lightning rod.

1754 - French and Indian War began when French occupied Ft. Duquesne

(Pittsburgh), British moved Acadian French from Nova Scotia to Louisiana Oct. 8, 1755. British captured Quebec Sept. 18, 1759, in battles in which French Gen. Joseph de Montcalm and British Gen. James Wolfe were killed. Peace pact signed Feb. 10, 1763. French lost Canada and Midwest.

1764 - Sugar Act placed duties on lumber, foodstuffs, molasses, and rum in colonies to pay French and Indian War debts.

BIOGRAPHIES of the PRESIDENTS

George Washington (1789 - 97)

George Washington, first president, Federalist, was born on Feb. 22, 1732, in Wakefield on Pope's Creek, Westmoreland Co., VA, the son of Augustine and Mary Ball Washington. He spent his early childhood on a farm near Fredericksburg. His father died when George was 11. He studied mathematics and surveying, and at 16, he went to live with his elder half brother, Lawrence, who built and named Mount Vernon. George surveyed the lands of Thomas Fairfax in the Shenandoah Valley, keeping a diary. He accompanied Lawrence to Barbados, West Indies, where he contracted smallpox and was deeply scarred. Lawrence died in 1752, and George inherited his property. He valued land, and when he died, he owned 70,000 acres in Virginia and 40,000 acres in what is now West Virginia.

Washington's military service began in 1753, when Lt. Gov. Robert Dinwiddie of Virginia sent him on missions deep into Ohio country. He clashed with the French and had to surrender Fort Necessity on July 3, 1754. He was an aide to the British general Edward Braddock and was at his side when the army was ambushed and defeated (July 9, 1755) on a march to Fort Duquesne. He helped take Fort Duquesne from the French in 1758.

After Washington's marriage to Martha Dandridge Custis, a widow, in 1759, he managed his family estate at Mount Vernon. Although not at first for independence, he opposed the repressive measures of the British crown and took charge of the Virginia troops before war broke out. He was made commander of the newly created Continental Army by

cont'd on page 4 - Things I Notice

Things I Notice

cont'd from p. 3

the Continental Congress on June 15, 1775.

The American victory was due largely to Washington's leadership. He was resourceful, a stern disciplinarian, and the one strong, dependable force for unity. Washington favored a federal government. He became chairman of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and helped get the Constitution ratified. Unanimously elected president by the Electoral College, he was inaugurated Apr. 30, 1789, on the balcony of New York's Federal hall.

He was reelected in 1792. Washington made an effort to avoid partisan politics as president. Refusing to consider a 3rd term, Washington retired to Mount Vernon in March 1797. He suffered acute laryngitis after a ride in snow and rain around his estate, was bled profusely, and died Dec. 14, 1799.

John Adams (1797 - 1801)

John Adams, 2nd president, Federalist, was born on Oct. 30, 1735, in Braintree (now Quincy), MA, the son of John and Susanna Boylston Adams. He was a great-grandson of Henry Adams, who came from England in 1636. He graduated from Harvard in 1755 and then taught school and studied law. He married Abigail Smith in 1764. In 1765 he argued against taxation without representation before the royal governor. In 1770 he successfully defended in court the British soldiers who fired on civilians in the Boston Massacre. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. In 1778, Congress sent Adams and John Jay to join Benjamin Franklin as diplomatic representatives in Europe. Because he ran second to Washington in Electoral College balloting in February 1789, Adams became the nation's first vice-president; he was reelected in 1792.

In 1796 Adams was chosen president by the electors. His administration was marked by rivalry with Alexander Hamilton and a crisis in U.S. - French relations. He was extraordinarily unpopular for securing passage of the Alien and Sedition Acts in 1798. His foreign policy contributed significantly to the election of Thomas Jefferson in 1800.

Adams lived for a quarter century after he left office, during which time he wrote extensively. He died July 4, 1826, on the same day as Thomas Jefferson (the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence).

Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809)

Thomas Jefferson, 3rd president, Democratic-Republican, was born on Apr. 13, 1743, in Shadwell in Goochland (now Albemarle) Co., VA., the son of Peter and Jane Randolph Jefferson. Peter died when Thomas was 14, leaving him 2,750 acres and his slaves. Jefferson attended (1760-62) the College of William and Mary, read Greek and Latin classics, and played the violin. In 1769 he was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses. In 1770 he began building his home, Monticello, and in 1772 he married Martha Wayles Skelton, a wealthy widow. Jefferson helped establish the Virginia Committee of Correspondence. As a member of the Second Continental Congress, he drafted the Declaration of Independence in late June 1776. He also was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates (1776-79) and was elected governor of Virginia in 1779, succeeding Patrick Henry. He was reelected in 1780 but resigned in June 1781 after British troops invaded Virginia. During his term he wrote the statute on religious freedom. After his wife's death in 1782, Jefferson again became a delegate to the Congress, and in 1784, he drafted the report that was the basis for the Ordinances of 1784, 1785 and 1787. He was minister to France from 1785 to 1789, when George Washington appointed him Secretary of State.

Jefferson's strong faith in the consent of the governed conflicted with the emphasis on executive control, favored by Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, and Jefferson resigned on Dec. 31, 1793. In the 1796 election Jefferson was the Democratic-Republican candidate for president; John Adams won the election, and Jefferson became Vice-President. In 1800, Jefferson and Aaron Burr received equal Electoral College votes. The House of Representatives elected Jefferson president. Major events of his first term were the Louisiana Purchase (1803) and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. An important development during his second term was passage of the Embargo Act, barring U.S. ships from

setting sail to foreign ports. Jefferson established the University of Virginia and designed its buildings. He died July 4, 1826, on the same day as John Adams (the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence).

Following analysis of DNA taken from descendants of Jefferson and Sally Hemings, one of his slaves, it has been widely acknowledged that Jefferson fathered at least one, perhaps all, of her six known children.

James Madison (1809 - 1817)

James Madison, 4th president, Democratic-Republican, was born on Mar. 16, 1751, in Port Conway, King George Co., VA, the son of James and Eleanor Rose Conway Madison. Madison graduated from Princeton in 1771. He served in the Virginia Constitutional Convention (1776), and, in 1780, became a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. He was chief recorder at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and supported ratification in the Federalist Papers, written with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay. In 1789, Madison was elected to the House of Representatives, where he helped frame the Bill of Rights and fought against passage of the Alien and Sedition Acts. In the 1790's, he helped found the Democratic-Republican Party, which ultimately became the Democratic Party. He became Jefferson's Secretary of State in 1801.

Madison was elected president in 1808. His first term was marked by tensions with Great Britain, and his conduct of foreign policy was criticized by the Federalists and by his own party. Nevertheless, he was reelected in 1812, the year war was declared on Great Britain. The war that many considered a second American revolution ended with a treaty that settled none of the issues. Madison's most important action after the war was demilitarizing the U.S. - Canadian border.

In 1817, Madison retired to his estate, Montpelier, where he served as an elder statesman. He edited his famous papers on the Constitutional Convention and helped found the University of Virginia, of this he became rector in 1826. He died June 28, 1836.

I plan to do some of this every month. If you like it let me know: 1-618-596-2604.