



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

May 2010 Newsletter

April Meeting

Our April meeting program was given by member Linda Martin, about her two-week trip to the Pantanal wetland in Brazil. The Pantanal is the largest floodplain in the world, covering 68,000 square miles, and hosting an astonishing diversity of birds, fish, plants, insects, and other phyla.

Linda flew into Cuiaba, capital of the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso, and traveled down the Transpantaneira highway deep into the wetland. From the pictures Linda showed, the closest analogue in this country would seem to be the Florida Everglades, although the Pantanal is 17 times larger. Linda visited the first half of October, which we learned is just before the start of the rainy season. Traveling down the highway, there were many opportunities to see wildlife at water alongside the road, and on the water in boat excursions.

Linda made a serious dent in the reported 650 species of birds present in the Pantanal, including icons such as the toucan as well as more obscure but none the less fascinating examples such as the Rufescent Tiger-Heron. She also caught images of the Pantanal's toothier denizens, including the pirhana and the caimen. For a sample of Linda's images, visit her site at flickr.com/ismartin53. We're looking forward to hearing about Linda's next trip.

Our featured member this month was Bill Lipscomb, who shared images from his recent trip to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. He had a number of striking images of the local architecture, wildlife, and a surprisingly impressive buffet food sculpture.

Also at the meeting were a few quick show and tells. Linda Bundren brought a selection of images from the outing to Cedar Falls and Burden Falls, as well as some from the Crab Orchard reserve. We also learned that Dave Hammond had an image published in NANPA Expressions, NANPA's showcase publication. This is a fairly exclusive achievement; congratulations to Dave.

We welcomed a number of visitors to our meeting this month. Joining us were Dick

Jones of Centralia, Bill Snyder of Salem, Nancy Graham of Simpson, and Charles Holland also of Centralia.

The photo contest this month was "Black and White". We had 23 entries, and the winners were:

1st place: Mike Hicks, "Prickly"

2nd place: Mike Hicks, "Monastery Stairs"

3rd place: Dave Horning, "Belly"

Congratulations to these photographers! Our contest for May is "Symmetry and Patterns," and don't forget to work on the Technical Excellence contest, which is due in November. Our web site (sipscameraclub.com) has details.

The outing this month was to photograph the azaleas and dogwoods in Charleston, MO. After adjusting the date to better catch the blooming, the outing ran afoul of the threatening weather that is always a risk this time of year. A number of members still managed to brave the elements, though, or attended on another weekend. If you did go, please let a secretary know for proper credit, and we will bring the details to you in a subsequent newsletter.

Speaking of outings, the annual trip to Richard and Susan Day's is taking place on July 31 this year. There are only about 15 slots, so Richard and Susan can provide personalized interaction. The fee is \$50, and your spot is reserved by your payment (see Dana for this).

April Showers

This issue is substantially slimmer than normal. No, it's not a new diet. Due to various people's schedules, we simply didn't have as much contributed content this month as normal. Sometimes things come up for one or another of us, but, in keeping with the season's weather, we had a "perfect storm" of exigencies this month. But like the weather, we hope that this too shall pass, and we'll get back to our fuller format next month. Thanks for your understanding, and if this inspires new contributions, that is always welcome as well.

Calendar of Events

May

Meeting: May 4

Program: Mushroom Photography,
Joe McFarland

15 Minutes of Fame: Bill Thomas

Contest: Symmetry and Patterns
(2 month)

Outing: Chinese Cultural Days,
MO Botanical Garden, May 15

Planning Meeting: May 18

June

Meeting: Jun. 1

Program: TBD

15 Minutes of Fame: Linda Bundren

Contest: Bounty of Nature (12 month)

Outing: SIPS picnic, Ferne Clyffe,
Jun. 12

Planning Meeting: Jun. 15

July

Meeting: Jul. 6

Program: TBD

15 Minutes of Fame: TBD

Contest: Insect World (2 month)

Outing: Richard and Susan Day's,
Alma, IL, Jul. 31

Planning Meeting: Jul. 20

Inside...

A light spring issue: meeting notes and member news.

Have something for the newsletter? Contact SIPS at info@sipscameraclub.com.