



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

October 2010 Newsletter

September Meeting

At our regular member meeting this month, we had the usual good-sized group, plus one visitor who introduced himself: Shawn Gibson of West Frankfort. He enjoys photographing "anything that doesn't have people in it."

Our program for September, presented by Jillian Choate, was on the history of photography. The program was in two parts, a video presentation and the display of a collection.

The video extract covered the early development of photography, focusing on the mid-1800s. This era is considered the dawn of modern photography, although certain key photographic principles such as camera obscura were known as far back as the fifth century BC. The earliest publically-announced photographic process, the daguerrotype, was pioneered principally by the French inventor Joseph Niepce through experimentation in the early 1800s. Niepce shared his development with fellow inventor and artist Louis Daguerre, who improved and popularized the process, while attaching his own name to it. Following this, English inventor Fox Talbot invented the calotype, the first negative process, in which multiple prints could be made from the same negative image. From there, a profusion of inventors developed competing processes, leading eventually to George Eastman's introduction of the first simplified camera system designed for use by non-experts, the Kodak Number 1, in 1888.

As a complement to the video, Jillian also brought her extensive collection of antique cameras to show. These cameras ranged in dates from 1909 to 1960. Jillian wrote up a set of notes on her presentation, which she made available to members at the meeting.

Our Fifteen Minutes of Fame member this month was Dave Horning. Dave has been doing model photography for a while now, and recently attended a professionally-organized workshop. He brought a number of great pictures from this event and his other model shoots.

We had a number of announcements this month. Free Again Animal Rescue is raffling off some donated SIPS member prints to raise funds for a medium animal cage. Jim Osborn has tickets; "choice" tickets, for \$5, allow selection of a print; regular tickets, 2 for \$5, are assigned after choice tickets are resolved.

Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge held its annual contest (see the flyers distributed at the previous meeting and the email announcement). The awards are to be announced at a reception at the CONWR visitor's center on Oct. 10 at 12:30pm.

cont'd on page 2 - Sept. Meeting

Calendar of Events

October

Meeting: Oct. 5
Program: Shawnee Multimedia Project
15 Minutes of Fame: none
Contest: Music (1 year)
Outing: Land Between the Lakes, Oct. 23
Planning Meeting: Oct. 19

November

Meeting: Nov. 2
Program: TBD
15 Minutes of Fame: Christine Keeney
Contest: Technical Excellence and Mystery Tour (both 1 year)
Outing: Magnolia Manor, Cairo (tentative)
Planning Meeting: Nov. 16

December

Meeting: Dec. 7
Program: Al Perry
15 Minutes of Fame: none
Contest: none
Outing: none
Planning Meeting: none

Inside...

A full issue, with news, Photo Op, Around Town, Things I Notice, plus two more special features!

Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

It's officially fall!! What a great time of year to get out and take pictures! If you have read my columns over the past couple years you know that I am a big advocate of experimenting with imaging outside your comfort zone. I know that when a potential new member comes to a club meeting for the first time, we ask them what they like to take pictures of. Occasionally we hear, "everything;" but more often we hear "grandchildren," "nature," "pets," etc. I firmly believe that experimentation with imaging outside your comfort zone makes you a better photographer for the things you do like to shoot. Because the days are getting shorter now you don't have to get up at 5am or stay out until 9pm to get the "good light," and the fall offers a wide variety of photographic opportunities: migrating birds, the harvest, fall festivals, fall colors, sporting events, etc. Of particular note is the annual snake migration currently going on at the LaRue Pine Hills Ecological Area. The road that runs between the swamp and the bluffs is closed except to hikers and friends who have visited have already seen a variety of snakes. If snakes aren't to your liking, try migrating birds. Shortly, white pelicans



cont'd on page 2 - Photo Op

September Meeting

cont'd from p. 1

Dave Brewer announced a birding map being developed by the US Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Dave also shared images from a recent trip to a ranch in Texas. See his related article on old missions later in this newsletter.

Dave Hammond has a photograph in the National Geographic 2011 Butterfly Calendar. It's March—congratulations, Dave! Dave also related a cautionary tale of copyright violation. The National Audubon Society put out a calendar with photos abstracted from online sources, but they only paid two out of the twelve photo owners. Legal action is reportedly pending. Finally, Dave mentioned that this year's NANPA meeting will be held at Santa Clara Ranch in Texas.

Our contest this month was "Still Life." We had 12 entries from 9 contestants. The winners were:

1st place: Myers Walker, "Lindberg"

2nd place: Lynn Love, "Doorway"

3rd place: Joe Hall, "Still Life"

Congratulations to these members! Next month's contest is "Music."

We also have two other ongoing contests, the Technical Excellence contest and the Mystery Tour. The Mystery Tour, announced at this meeting and by email, is the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail. As usual, all photos for the Mystery Tour must be taken within 100 yards of the road or anywhere in the city limits of cities on the trail, but any winery on the trail is fair game. The portfolio on 10 photos (5x7 maximum) should have a theme, which can be given on a title page or the cover. Both contests are due in November, with winners being announced at the December Christmas party. Full details are in the News section on our web site.

Speaking of our Christmas party, it's not too early to start getting your reservation to Dana. The fee for this year's party is \$20.

Finally, one administrative note is that our longtime planning meeting location, Debbie J's in Herrin, has closed. We met at an interim location last month, and will be selecting a new permanent location soon. Members will be informed by email of the selection.

Photo Op

cont'd from p. 1

should be making their way to Crab Orchard Lake and to the Alton, Illinois area. Harvesting activity can be particularly interesting and can provide great images of both equipment and the changing landscape. Don't forget the fall foliage. Although the lack of rain this summer may diminish the colors locally, take a weekend trip to Missouri or to Land Between the Lakes. Personally, I think there is a lot of beauty in some of the plants that are changing—milkweed seeds are erupting and new fall flowers are blooming. I think every small town in southern Illinois must have its own fall festival, many of which have music, competitions, and color. Check out magazines like *Midwest Living* or *Outdoor Illinois* or watch for announcements about events in the newspapers, but get out and take pictures! For my part, I made a trip to Amish country in southern Indiana recently to get images of horse drawn farm equipment engaged in harvesting and Amish buggies being pulled around by horses. Before the end of the fall color I plan to do aerial photography with a friend who has a plane. Try something new or go somewhere you haven't been before and take LOTS of pictures!

Around Town

with Ray Brown

Ray: When did you first become interested in Photography?

Jan: I got interested in 2003.

Ray: What precipitated this interest?

Jan: Well, I was on a trip in Mexico and there were two or three people there with these little small point & shoot digital cameras and they were always excited about the little pictures they were taking (oh, look - oh, look). I would roll my eyes and think I would never get a good picture. I've never been able to take a good picture. Later one of the ladies said here is a web site you can go to it and if you like any of the pictures I took you can get prints made. Well, I looked on her web site and was in awe. I was so embarrassed. I paid the same amount of money as she did to go on this trip and I

didn't see half of what she saw. I was just floored at how much I had missed. Then I thought if I got myself a little small camera and carry it with me everywhere I go, keep it in my hand as I walk from place to place, maybe I will see what is right in front of my nose and that is what I started doing.

Ray: I think that when a person gets interested in photography that is when you learn to see. Before photography, I think a lot of us always looked but we didn't see. I know in my own life when I was a naturalist at the Morton Arboretum I really enjoyed taking people on tours to learn how to identify trees and other things about nature. It was so enjoyable to watch them go from looking at a tree to seeing all the little characteristics of that tree to make it possible to identify it. When that happened they would just light up. Much fun on my part.

Jan: I'm still working on it. I tend to be a not very observant person. I can tell I'm doing better. I know I see more now than I used to.

Ray: I don't know about you, but for me, when I'm driving I'm almost always looking at the environment that surrounds me. I drive down a lot of country roads and just look for interesting nature presentations. You just never know what mother nature has to show you.

Jan: It takes time to develop that, but I can see it coming along.

Ray: Before you got your point & shoot, did your shoot film?

Jan: In our house my husband was the one who had a good ability to use the camera. He had a good camera and used it in his work. He took all the pictures that had to be good. We had a little instamatic camera and if you handed it to me no one would have heads or feet. The pictures would come back not good at all. It was pretty much a waste of money for me to take pictures.

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

Jan: An amateur for sure.

Ray: What do you like to shoot mostly?

Jan: Well, it has to be nature, either flora or fauna. I'm fascinated trying to catch birds. I love the challenge of it. I know

cont'd on page 7 - Around Town



Mission Nuestra Senora de la Purisima Concepcion (photo: David Brewer)

Imaging the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park

Story and images by David W. Brewer, Ph.D.

In early August 2010, five members of the Little Egypt Arts Association traveled to South Texas to image birds and wildlife in the Lower Rio Grande Valley on a private ranch. The Santa Clara Ranch is located about sixteen miles Northwest of McCook, in the heart of the South Texas “brush country.” As the Lower Rio Grande Valley is rated among the top birding and bird imaging spots in the United States, we were all pretty excited about making this trip.

Three members of our party, Linda Martin, Jan Sundberg, and Jo Dodd, decided to fly to Texas, meeting another of our party enroute, Kent Taylor from Plano, Texas. Kris Killman and I decided to drive instead. Kris is President of the Little Egypt Arts Association. He is an artist specializing in murals, although he also works in watercolors, acrylics, and oil. He is becoming “hooked” on wildlife photography and wanted to go on this trip to avail himself of the imaging opportunities it presented, as well as avail himself of the expert assistance offered by the other photographers who would be

present. In talking with Kris beforehand, I learned that he also wished to do some architectural imaging on this trip, adding to his inventory of architectural images he uses as models for his paintings. I knew just the ticket: the old Spanish Colonial Missions around San Antonio. While in the military, I had been stationed in San Antonio some thirty-nine years ago, and had some knowledge of these missions and how to navigate what was once known as the San Antonio Mission Trail. Now known as the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park and administered under the auspices of The National Park Service, the park consists of the Alamo and four other old missions, all dating from 1718-1735. When I informed Kris that we could alter our itinerary to allow for a day and a half of imaging these missions, he was all for it. We departed Marion on the evening of August 4 and drove through the night, arriving in San Antonio around 9:00 AM, August 5, to start our imaging.

PRELUDE The missions in and around San Antonio are testament to the Spanish Colonial period, when Texas was part of the Spanish colonial empire in the western hemisphere. Spain used the Catholic Church to expand and control much of its colonial empire in the New World. The missions were staffed by

Franciscan Monks, who were dedicated to both the Catholic Church and the Crown of Spain. The monks were expected to convert the local Indians to become Christians, as well as productive citizens of the Spanish Empire, loyal to the Spanish Crown. The Indian tribes were known collectively as Coahuiltecan; a subsistence-based society of local bands who were primarily hunters/gatherers. The missions undertook the task of converting them to Catholicism and teaching them tradesman skills: blacksmithing, stonework, artisans, weavers, etc. I will take you through a description of our imaging, in the sequence we followed.

THE ALAMO The Alamo is considered sacred ground by most Texans, and is the site where Colonel William Barrett Travis and his band of approximately 200 volunteers were massacred by the Mexican Army under the command of General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna on March 6, 1836, during the Texas Revolutionary War of Independence from Mexico. After the defeat of Santa Anna and the Mexican Army at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, the Alamo assumed the status of a shrine to the memory of the defenders who died there fighting for Texas’ independence.

The mission was originally founded along San Pedro Creek in 1718 as Mission San Antonio de Valero. The mission was moved to its present site in 1724 by the Franciscans. In 1801, the mission complex was occupied by Mexican soldiers from the town of El Alamo in Coahuila, giving rise to the mission being called The Alamo. During the 1750’s the Franciscans began building the present church, but the site was abandoned in 1790’s and construction was not completed. . The Alamo remained partly reconstructed and partly in ruin for many years thereafter. Between 1836 and 1848 the function of the Alamo compound assumed many different looks and functions. The U.S. Army assumed control in the 1840’s, and extensively renovated the compound for its new function as a military post. In 1877 the U.S. Army abandoned the Alamo in favor of a newly constructed military base near San Antonio: Fort Sam Houston. In that same year, merchants

cont'd on page 4 - Imaging Missions

Imaging Missions

cont'd from p. 3

purchased the Convento and Courtyard from the Franciscans and the Alamo began a new life as a mercantile center. The church itself was leased from the Franciscans for use as a warehouse. In 1883, the State of Texas acquired the Alamo Church from the Catholic Church.

In 1905 the State of Texas purchased the surrounding property and named the Daughters of the Republic of Texas as administrators of the Alamo site. Under their guidance, renovations to the site were

made over the years, resulting in an Alamo that does not much resemble the structure that existed on that fateful day in 1836, save for the now-famous church facade. The City of San Antonio assisted in maintaining the site, including the building of museums on the site and the acquisition of many artifacts dating to the struggle for the Alamo. The Alamo Centograph, a memorial to the defenders of the Alamo, was erected near the Alamo in 1940. Today, Alamo Plaza, containing the Alamo and surrounding structures, is a large park in downtown San Antonio, host to legions of visitors from all over the globe. Truly, many people “Remember the Alamo.” The Alamo is still administered by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

MISSION SAN JOSE Y SAN MIGUEL DE AGUAYO Although the Alamo is part of the historic San Antonio Mission Trail, it is not officially part of the National Historic Park, as it is not administered by the National Park Service, as noted above. For many visitors, the Mission Trail begins at Mission Jose. Here The National Park Service maintains a Visitors’ Center for the park, as well as a gift shop. Like all the missions in the park (except for the Alamo) Mission Jose is still an active



Mission San Jose y San Miguel de Aguayo (photo: David Brewer)

parish. Founded February 23, 1720 by Fray Antonio de Jesus, this mission is perhaps the best preserved of all the missions. Known as “The Queen of the Missions,” Mission Jose had an extensive system of outbuildings for support of the mission’s activities, including workshops, granaries, quarters for the Indians and soldiers, the Convento for the Franciscans, and the church with its

attendant chapels, offices, and library. A prime example of Spanish Colonial Architecture, the mission has a vaulted domed ceiling in addition to the Moorish influence of Spanish architecture. Although electricity has

been added in the twentieth century, the interior of the mission appears much as it would have appeared in the mid-1700’s. Aged tapestries and colonial architecture bear testimony to the age of the structure. Classic limestone construction, coupled with a stucco finish, provides a timeless quality to the mission. One cannot help but enter with a hushed sense of entering a time warp back to the mid-1700’s.

MISSION NUESTRA SENORA DE LA PURISIMA CONCEPCION Mission

Concepcion was originally founded in East Texas, among the Tejas Indians (from whom the name “Texas” is derived). The mission was moved to the San Antonio site on March 5, 1731, and construction began on the present mission. Mission Concepcion is the oldest un-restored Catholic Church in the

United States. It is noted for the remnants of the original frescoes on its interior walls, principally in the chapel and library. Much of the outlying structures have deteriorated or been removed, but the sanctuary is pristine.

Again, electricity has been installed, but the interior of the mission has remained virtually unchanged for 200 years. The National Park Service maintains a small Visitors’ Center and gift shop on this site.

MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO Mission Capistrano in one of the more remote missions in the park, being located approximately eight miles from downtown San Antonio. Like the other missions, it is located in the historic water plain of the San Antonio River, which provided water for the mission. Originally called Mission San Jose de los Nazonis and located in East Texas, it, too, was moved to the present San Antonio location in 1731, and consisted of a granary and friary. Extensive agriculture practices made the mission self-sufficient. In 1756, a small church was built on mission grounds. In the 1760’s, construction was begun on a larger church, but construction was never completed. The only evidence of either of these two structures is the stone foundations and notations in mission records. During the early twentieth century, the mission granary was converted into the present church.

MISSION SAN FRANCISCO DE LA ESPADA Mission Espada was also originally located in East Texas serving the Tejas Indians. Mission San Francisco de los Tejas, as it was originally called, was founded in 1690. It also was moved to the present location near San Antonio in 1731, and the name changed to Mission San Francisco de los Espada. In



Mission San Juan Capistrano (photo: David Brewer)

1758, Father Francois Bouchu arrived and spent the next forty years restoring Mission Espada to its former glory, adding a wooden floor in the sanctuary, a choir loft, and pews. The sanctuary is

cont'd on page 5 - Imaging Missions

Imaging Missions

cont'd from p. 4

small but a prime example of the mid-1700's Spanish Colonial period. The Convento is still present and staffed by Franciscans, who work for the National Park Service in addition to serving the parish. Much of the outlying structures are gone, but the remaining stone foundations attest to the size of the original mission.

POSTSCRIPT "The Mission Trail" connects the four outlying mission with the Alamo, following Mission Road much of the way. A driving map is available at the Mission Jose Visitors' Center. Although it is possible to get to the Mission Trail directly from the Alamo, traffic congestion, road construction, and a rather poorly-marked system of trail signs make this task difficult for one not accustomed to San Antonio. We exited the area around Alamo Plaza and headed South on Interstate 37 South. We exited the interstate on Southeast Military Drive, heading West. We turned right (North) on Mission Road for a short Drive to Mission Jose. The other missions are located off Mission Road, so this simplified the task of finding the remaining missions.

The San Antonio Missions National Historic Park is open 9:00 AM – 5:30 PM daily. Remember that the missions are active churches, so there will be church services and activities on Sundays. We imaged the grounds outside the normal operating hours to utilize the sweet early morning and evening light, but did not trespass on the property outside normal operating hours. We imaged interiors during normal operating hours only. When imaging the mission interiors, remember not to use flash, as flash emits UV light which is harmful to the tapestries, frescoes, and other artwork. No image-taking is permitted inside the Alamo. For additional information on The San Antonio Missions Historic Park, go to www.nps.gov/saan.



Glacier highway (photo: Bill Thomas)

Travels in Glacier

by Bill Thomas

In August my brother and I visited Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park which straddles the US/Canada border between Montana and Alberta. We chose to fly to Spokane, Washington, rent a car and make the five hour drive through Idaho and Montana. We're glad we did; the scenery along the way was fantastic. Our stay at the park consisted of four nights in Apgar Village on Lake McDonald near the west entrance of Glacier Park, broken up by two nights in Mountain View, Canada, near the entrance to Waterton Lakes National Park. From our home base in Apgar we explored the western part of Glacier Park. We caught the eastern part on our trips to and from the Canadian part of the park.

The photo opportunities in the parks were unlimited - diverse plant and animal life and amazing geological formations and landscapes. With the guidance and generous hospitality of Tom Ulrich, world famous wildlife photographer and all around nice guy, who lives near the west entrance to Glacier Park, we were able to explore and photograph some of the best areas of the park, learned that all wild berries, poisonous or otherwise, are edible, tapped a balsam fir and made a raid on the best bakery in the area! Tom mapped out or accompanied us on several great routes. He even took us for an easy canoe trip one evening on lower McDonald Creek. The water of the lakes and streams in the park are crystal clear and Tom managed to maneuver our canoe above a beaver swimming underwater and shadow him for a hundred yards or so. Very cool! Too dark for photos

though, unfortunately. One of the hikes he wanted to take us on had to be cancelled due to bear activity closing the trail. But that's why he wanted to take us there!

Glacier Park is traversed by the Going to the Sun road. If narrow, winding roads bordering on deep chasms make you queasy close your eyes...unless you're

driving. If you do close your eyes you'll miss the stunning views and scenery all along its 50 mile length. The road crosses the continental divide at Logan Pass. Logan Pass provides spectacular views, a nice visitor center, a moderate (uphill/altitude), hike to Hidden Lake. It is one of the better spots in the park to observe and photograph wildlife. We saw mountain goats, bighorn sheep, deer and Columbian ground squirrels. Thanks to Tom, I got some great shots of a hoary marmot which seemed to literally strike poses for me just mere inches away! It is also a great location for wildflowers. Though Tom said this was a bad year for them due to the weather we thought they still looked pretty nice. Our first visit to the pass was close to sunset which only magnified the amazing colors in the surrounding geology. Over the course of our visit we were treated to a couple of different seasons on the pass. On our return from Canada we encountered a light snow which turned the pass a lovely white. Amazing how the entire feel of a place changes with just a dusting of snow.

One of the highlights of the western part of the park was the Avalanche Creek/Trail of the Cedars hike near Lake McDonald. The trail winds through a quiet, old growth cedar and hemlock forest and crosses the diminutive but stunning Avalanche Gorge and affords numerous photo opportunities. We hiked this trail on two separate occasions because we liked it so much. Very serene with giant old cedars, ancient cottonwoods whose bark had crags deep enough to insert my entire hand into, lush, fern-covered forest floor and an

cont'd on page 6 - Glacier Travels

Glacier Travels

cont'd from p. 5

easy to walk trail. Unfortunately, I couldn't get a photo of one of the best parts of this hike and the others we took â€œ the fragrance of balsam and pine that fills the air. So aromatic that I collected some balsam sap in an old film canister as a souvenir!

Another west-side highlight was the



route Tom provided us taking the Inside North Fork Road from Apgar Village to Bowman Lake, a rough and winding 30 mile washboard gravel road (as Tom said, 'you've got a rental, right?'). This road passes through a large area of forest that burned about five years ago. The combination of lush new growth and standing remnants of the burn provided a kind of other-worldly, desolate but beautiful atmosphere. We were practically the only ones on the road and I have never heard such complete silence as I did when we stopped for our photo opps. Silence is truly golden. The destination, Bowman Lake, was well worth the rough ride. And oh yea, the Polebridge bakery is here too, another highlight!

Our two days in Waterton Lakes Park in Canada were enjoyable too, although we really missed our guide. We hiked a couple of the prescribed hikes and saw more great mountain and lake vistas and some bear, deer and elk. There was even a grizzly that was making a pest of itself on the local golf course! The park's Prince of Wales hotel is also worth a visit and a meal. The hotel lobby has an amazing view of Waterton Lake and their Scottish theme (Wales?) makes you feel like you're in Scotland overlooking a loch. The undulating, big sky terrain

surrounding the park was memorable too. Also like a foreign country! Remember to bring your passport.

On our return from Canada we saw more of the eastern and southern parts of Glacier Park. There are yet more spectacular views, particularly at Many Glacier and Rising Sun (at sunrise or not) and Two Medicine where we took the short hike to Running Eagle falls. The original lodges at East Glacier and Many

Glacier are also impressive and worth a visit. There is plenty to see and do on either side of the park and the nice thing we found was if the weather isn't good on

one side of the park there's a good chance it is on the other side and you can be there in an hour.

Our return route to Spokane took us through the National Bison Range in Montana. Here there is a two hour leisurely, winding drive circling the 'mountain' that makes up the park. We saw a good variety of wildlife including bison, pronghorn, deer and elk. Well worth the \$5 to get in.

Glacier Park is spectacular and unique and, at least when we were there, much less crowded and in a more pristine state than some of the other national parks. I can see why Tom chose to locate there - a virtually endless, ever-changing source of photo opportunities. I'd like to return sometime to see the park

Photo Trip?

If you have recently or are soon taking a photography-related trip, we'd love to hear from you. Send in your account for inclusion in the newsletter, and inspire others to broaden their photographic horizons. You can contact the secretary at info@sipscameraclub.com.

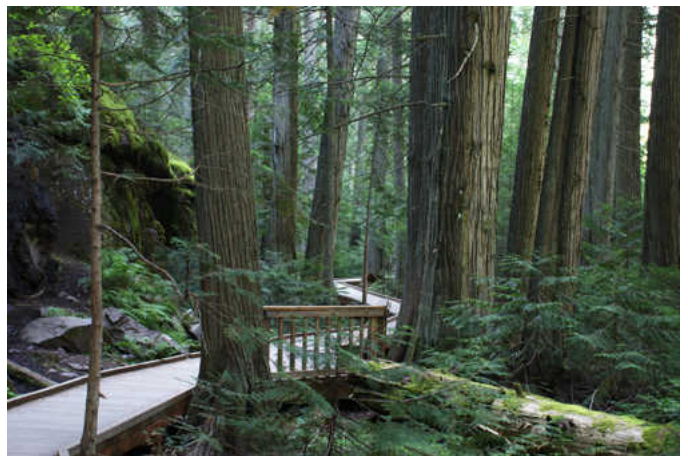
in winter. I'm told the winters are 'mild.' Really.

If you'd like to see my pics and whet your appetite for your own trip to Glacier go to:

www.flickr.com/photos/ef60four/sets/72157624742183675/detail/



Above left: canoeing on Lake MacDonald. Above: a hoary marmot. Below: Glacier boardwalk. (Photos: Bill Thomas)



Around Town

cont'd from p. 2

the bird is there because I can hear it. Then the next challenge is, can I find it. Then the next challenge is can I find it with my eyes and then find it with the camera and get a picture of it. It is so exciting to bring it home and look at the feathers and other details of the bird. (Now we're getting back to seeing.)

Ray: Have you ever taken any classes in photography?

Jan: Yes, I have taken a couple of classes.

Ray: What kind?

Jan: I took a B&W film class at SIU. I bought a Nikon F.E. for this class. I followed that with a class on color film. Along about this same time 2006, I got involved with the Cache Corps of Discovery down at the wetlands center. At that time I had just bought a Nikon D-70. I hadn't figured out how to use it yet. I thought this is a good time to learn how to use the camera. I was starting to get serious about trying to learn how to make the camera work for me. In turn all of this made me think about taking the two film classes.

Ray: What kind of a digital camera are you using right now?

Jan: Right now I'm shooting with a Nikon D-300.

Ray: What cameras did you have prior to that?

Jan: My first camera was an Olympus C-50, then an Olympus 8700 or something like that. I still use that camera. It's a great pack-it camera. Then I had a Nikon Cool Pix. I took that with me to Arizona for a work shop. I can't remember the name of the fellow that was the instructor.

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

Jan: Because I wasn't a regular student I didn't work in the lab. I went with another student several times and watched her work in the lab. I had to shoot the film, take it to a scanner, put it into a digital format, then work with my digital darkroom. That is how I got my prints. That worked well for the instructor because they didn't have enough lab space. I was very much exposed to it and worked a lot with those grainy images and that was very

interesting. I learned a lot about contrast. The tonal value was so important for me to grasp.

Ray: Do you have a favorite web site?

Jan: I spend so much time in my digital darkroom I don't have much time on web sites. I do have a flickr site that I look at now and then.

Ray: Do you subscribe to any photo magazines?

Jan: Yes. I get Outdoor Photographer, Shutterbug and Nature Photographer.

Ray: Who are a couple of photographers that you really enjoy and admire.

Jan: I was reared in California back in the 60's when he was so poplar. It would have to be Ansel Adams.

Ray: If you get a chance to read his set of three books called "The Camera, The Negative, & The Print"; you will be very pleased at what you will learn even if you do shoot digital. He had an old station wagon with a home made flat roof on it that he used as a platform for some of his shoots. He was in a lot of rough country and his car had a weakness of breaking axles, so he carried one or two extras with him all the time.

Ray: Tell me if you would please about any other hobbies that you have.

Jan: I love kayaking. I take my camera gear with me. I put it on my lap and I'm ready to go. It is easy to turn one over, but I only go when the water will be calm. It is so nice in the fall when the lake gives up its heat and you get that wonderful little fog that comes off the water when the water cools down. Oh boy, it fun to be out at that time. Early in the morning. It's hard to get up that early in the morning, but I've never been disappointed. I'm always glad I took the trouble to do it.

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

Jan: Oh, Southern Illinois. It's amazing what I have learned through this Cache Corps Discovery group. That nature is a wonderful thing.

Ray: I would suggest that it would be time well spent to have a conversation with Jan about what she is learning about nature since she has been involved with the Discovery group. She has lots of

information.

Ray: Ok Jan, its your turn to tell me anything you want, included in this interview. It can be about photography or anything you want to talk about.

Jan: I love digital photography and all that can be done with the computer, (photoshop) but I'm not happy until I have a good print in my hand.

Ray: Thank you Jan. You are a very good spokeswoman for photography and your love for nature. Jan, keep on keeping on. Thanks again!

Things I Notice

by Ray Brown

Let's talk about amazing luck. A fellow who lost everything in the Hurricane Katrina moved to Oklahoma. The first man to win the first prize at the first drawing was the very same fellow. He won \$25,000 dollars.

One evening in 2001, ninety-seven year old Gladys Adamson of Cambridge, England, was struck with a coughing fit so severe that it lasted for several hours. The next morning when she made her way to the bathroom she could see herself in the mirror after being blind for seven years. None of the doctors knew why she could see again.

Thirty-five percent of personal ads are placed by people who are already married.

How many seeds are there on the average strawberry? 200.

Did you know that trout are used in some countries to test the water as they can detect one billionth if a gram of pesticide in just on liter of water?

The world's top three producers of bananas are India, Brazil and China.

Poll results are 40% of nurses said they would not want to be treated in the hospitals in which they work.

North America's first light house was lit in Boston in 1716.

A creepy fact: A spiders leg has seven sections.

It's against the law to run out of gas in Youngtown, Ohio.

The earliest known will was written in 2550 BC.



Things I Notice

cont'd from p. 7

Napoleon's favorite horse was Masengo;
Washington's was named Lexington.

The huge Mall of America in
Bloomington, MN is the size of 78
football fields.

The first rock 'n roll gold record; "Rock
Around The Clock," by Bill Haley and
the Comets, was in 1954.

The first electric ovens were used in a
Swiss hotel in 1889.

Temperature of milk inside the cow is 101
degrees F.

The term "Dixieland" is rumored to come
from a New Orleans bank currency called
a dix—French for "ten."

Heinz sells more than 50% of all the
ketchup in the world.

All Japanese words end in either a vowel
or an "n."

Back to being lucky, what a catch. At a
San Francisco Giants game in May 2006,
Andrew Marbitzer left his bleacher seat to
get peanuts from a concession stand
behind the centerfield wall. While
waiting in line, he heard the crowd inside
the stadium let out a tremendous roar.
What was going on? Barry Bonds had
just slammed his 715th home run, passing
Babe Ruth on the all time list, with the
second most home runs hit. The record
breaking ball sailed over the wall and
landed...right in Marbitzer's hands. He
sold the ball for \$220,000.00. (That's
what I call a lot of luck)

Did you know (this is for some of the
young people in the club), sliced bread
was banned during WWII. (The slicers
were melted down for the war effort.) I
know this to be a fact, because I lived
about three blocks from Opells Bakery on
13th St. in Vincennes, IN and I remember
when it happened. It was the talk of the
neighborhood.

After I found out about this fact—the
odds of falling out of bed and being killed
are 4,115 to one—I'm now sleeping on a
bamboo mat!!!

Oct 4th, 2004 was the first day since 1999
on which no one was shot in Chicago.

Chickens can see daylight 45 minutes
before it is visible to humans.

The U.S. death toll from the 1918 flu

epidemic was so high that it created a
coffin shortage.

Rosemary: one legend says that as the
Virgin Mary fled King Herod's soldiers
(given orders to kill all first born babies)
a thick bush miraculously parted to allow
her to hide behind it. She remained there
for several hours. She draped her blue
cloak over the bush's white flowers, and
in the morning the flowers had turned
blue. The bush became known as "the
rose of Mary." Medieval monasteries,
known for herb and plant cultivation,
grew the sacred herb for medicinal
purposes, to spice food and to be used as
incense at weddings.



Bowman Lake vista (photo: Bill Thomas)