



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com
April 2011 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

April

Meeting: Apr. 5
Program: Basic Do's and Don'ts of Posing (Linda Bundren)
15 Minutes of Fame: Dave Brewer
Contest: Anything Goes (60 days)
Outing: TBD
Planning Meeting: Apr. 19

May

Meeting: May. 3
Program: Raw Editing (Dave Hammond)
15 Minutes of Fame: Jim Osborn
Contest: TBD
Outing: Fountain Bluff
Planning Meeting: May 17

June

Meeting: Jun. 7
Program: TBD
15 Minutes of Fame: TBD
Contest: TBD
Outing: TBD
Planning Meeting: Jun. 21

Inside...

Accumulated news and another great Photo Op.

February and March

Our February meeting was anchored by Tom Ulrich, speaking about "Stock and Whatnot." Tom showed a wealth of photos from his enormous collection of stock. These included landscapes, flowers, and animals from all over the world. Some of his most striking photos are up-close portraits of animals. In order to get these photos, Tom has to gain a level of acceptance or trust from the animal. This can take hours or days of familiarization before he is allowed into their comfort zone sufficiently. He stressed the need to get a feel for the animal's disposition and to not cross the invisible line separating comfort from skittishness. The reward is some fantastic photos, with the subjects sometimes just inches from his lens. Tom seems to have a rare rapport that allows him to be so successful at this, leading to results like his amazing photos from inside a beaver lodge.

Tom also gave a presentation at SIU Carbondale on his work over the past year. His photographic excursions ranged from Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands to his backyard in Glacier National Park. This presentation, co-sponsored by SIPS, the SIU Dept. of Zoology, the Zoology Club, and the student chapter of the Wildlife Society, was well-attended and very well-received.

For Show and Tell, Johanna shared her eagle images from Keokouk, IA and Alton, IL. Dave Hammond showed some terrific images of Southern IL sunsets.

Our February meeting contest was "Glamor". The winners were:

1st place: Joanna Gray, "Pink Shoe"

2nd place: Jim Osborn, "Lucy"

3rd place: Dave Horning, "Black Tie"

Congratulations to these members.

At our March meeting we had two visitors. Kathy, from Ozark, was a guest of Karen Carlton. The other, Adrian, is interesting in shooting all kinds of subjects.

Dave Horning anchored our March meeting, showing us about home studio

Photo Op

By Jim Osborn

Got the winter blahs??? I guess I do. While I have enjoyed a few opportunities to get out and photograph snowy landscapes and geese, the brown tones of late winter are getting a little boring. Warmer weather the past few days has really given me Spring Fever. As I sit here and write this, I can almost envision little crocuses popping up through new grass. You might have to look around a little for great photo opportunities, but they are there. Over the weekend, I finally took some images of an old weathered barn near my home that had more gaping holes than I could count. The weathered boards and brown vines that clung to the structure told me that the image could look great if converted to black and white. The lines and angles of the beams and boards and "skylights" were also visually interesting. However, when taking any image it is important to try different perspectives—close-up, vertical, horizontal, from below, from above, etc.—you get my drift. The best shots I got were taken very close to the structure with a wide angle lens.

Over the weekend I also noted that Dave Horning posted a picture on Facebook of wild turkeys including a couple jakes in full display. Yes, I guess it is almost that time of year. If you're looking for turkeys, the Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge circle drive is a great place to try, particularly early in the morning.

Not ready to venture outside? Try the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis or the Butterfly House in Chesterfield, Missouri. The annual orchid show is underway at the Botanical Gardens and runs through March 27th. It is a great opportunity to try macro shots with a wide variety of orchids. One note—the Gardens allows photography but NO tripods. It is best either to use an image stabilized lens or flash. If you are using a wide angle lens to shoot macro and you have a flash attached to the top of your camera, just be aware that



cont'd on page 2 - Meetings

cont'd on page 2 - Photo Op

Meetings

cont'd from p. 1

lighting. He brought in some lights, softboxes, and reflectors, and demonstrated their use with the gracious assistance of Dana. We saw the difference in effect of a hard light vs. a soft light, and the use of multiple lights (or a reflector) to light all angles of the subject evenly. Dave used a tethered camera setup, with Lu on the laptop showing us the results in real time.

For our 15 minutes of fame segment, Jan Sundberg showed us her project on the Cache River Wetlands, which she did for her photo journalism class. She also showed images from her trip to Santa Clara Ranch in Texas last year. She had some wonderful shots of a hawk, a rattlesnake, and roadrunners.

On a related note, Lynn Wolff of the Friends of the Cache is looking for donations of art, photos, and/or crafts for their silent auction fundraiser on April 30. All funds raised go towards the Nature Fest event and the mission of Friends of the Cache such as land restoration. If you can help, get in touch with Lynn at lwolff@midwest.net or 618-549-7901.

St. Mary's Good Samaritan is looking for donations of photographs to decorate their new hospital. Selected works will be on permanent display, with attribution. For details, call 818-436-6510.

Our March contest subject was "Other Cultures." Our winners were:

1st place: Jim Osborn, "Amish Family"

2nd place: Lynn Love, "Chinese Children"

3rd place: Jim Osborn, "Chinese Dancers"

Congratulations to these members. Our contest for April is "Anything Goes." Unlike our normal contests, the ground rules for this one are that the pictures may be manipulated in any way, as long as the original raw material was a photo taken in the last 60 days.

For Show and Tell, Edwina Arington brought a catalog for the Florida Birding Fest, for anyone interested in attending this year. Also, Dana Tetzlaff and Bill Thomas brought in three photo books to share.

One final note is that we are looking to sell our old projector, and will probably

hold a silent auction at some point in the future.

Winter may or may not be good for photography (see Jim's nearby column for his take on the subject), but it doesn't seem very good for newsletters, as this one has been delayed almost a month. A combination of the vagaries of my other responsibilities and some plain laziness, but my apologies just the same. Spring is here now, and I think we're all looking forward to a new season of photography.

Photo Op

cont'd from p. 1

the flash might project right over the top of what you are trying to image. In my experience, something along the line of a 100mm macro with flash works the best....but what the heck, just experiment. If you try the Butterfly House, be prepared for heat and HIGH humidity. Dress accordingly. The first thing you will discover is that your lens will probably fog up the instant you enter the room (this happens year 'round). My advice is not to try to wipe off the lens—rather, sit and wait for it to acclimate. It might take 20 minutes, but it is the best way to get clear images. Then, all you have to do is get the little critters to cooperate. Because the butterflies are skittish, it is hard to get real close to them—but fear not, there are hundreds if not thousands of them. A medium telephoto lens with flash works best. Finally, you can help rid yourself of the winter blahs by planning a photo trip or outing. I have always believed that half the fun of taking a vacation is in the anticipation and planning of the event. I've got something in the works myself, but you'll have to wait 'til later to hear about it.

Tech Savvy

by Jim Osborn

A year ago, I got acquainted with a feature on my camera that I never used before—the Live Preview function. With DSLRs, the principal means of framing an image is through the viewfinder rather than an image displayed in the back of the camera. Most DSLRs produced since 2008 have the Live View function. When engaged, the image is projected on the rear screen of the camera. I have found

this feature particularly helpful in framing images because the image captured on the sensor usually does not have exactly the same parameters as the image seen through viewfinder. Also...if you are working very close to the ground or at an odd angle where it is difficult to look through your viewfinder, the Live Preview function is invaluable. With the Canon cameras, Live Preview must be disengaged before you can actually take the picture, but the help you get in framing your image makes it a "must try" feature of your camera. Check your owner's manual for more information.

Help Wanted

We've got several good presentations and outings in the works, but we have a number of open months for both as well, and we need your help. If you have a presentation or a 15 minutes of fame, or an outing you'd like to lead, please let a club officer know and we'll get it on the calendar.

Similarly, the newsletter can always use more articles. If you have a photography-related topic or event you'd like to write about, why not give it a try. You can contact the club secretary at info@sipscameraclub.com.