



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

May 2011 Newsletter

April Meeting

Our April meeting was well attended, with 40 people turning out. We had a couple visitors: Terry Hillman, of Goreville, a guest of Lynn Love; and Chris Killman, President of the Little Egypt Arts Association, a guest of Dave Brewer.

Our program this month was given by Linda Bundren, discussing "Basic Do's and Don'ts of Posing." She went over a number of posing ideas and examples, showing good ideas as well as pitfalls to avoid. Above all, she emphasised that we have fun as we are learning our craft of photography. A special thanks is due to Dave Horning for sharing his glamor photos to illustrate some finer points.

Our 15 Minutes of Fame Segment was devoted to Dave Brewer, who gave a terrific slice of his bird imaging, focusing on the major wading birds: herons, egrets, ibis, bitterns, spoonbills and limpkins. He has been able to image every North American species in this category, except one, the white-faced ibis, and one subspecies, Wardman's great blue heron. As context, he recounted his experiences with Frank Wilson, creator of the online forum Nikon Cafe, and their annual trip to Florida for bird imaging expeditions. Frank passed away last year but has clearly left a legacy of good memories.

Nancy gave us the details for the covered bridge excursion to Parke County, Ind., which is being scheduled for Oct. 28-29. This will be an overnight trip due to the distance. Billie Creek Inn has reserved 6 rooms for us (rates are \$100/night for a two double-bed room). The inn is near Billie Creek Village, which has 3 of the 30 bridges in Parke County. Talk to Nancy or Linda if you are interested in going on this trip; a sign-up sheet will go out at the next meeting.

A bumper crop of SIPS members' pictures showed up in Outdoor Illinois's March issue, owing to our great response to the call that went out a couple months ago. Four members were published: Cindy

Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

I don't know about all of you, but I'm already well into planning my summer vacation(s). I have to admit that, as an avid photographer, I try to plan trips to places that will provide both great memories and awesome images. When it comes to vacations, over the years I have come to appreciate that "planning is half the fun." To make the most of the photographic opportunities, planning is necessary. I remember taking a fall trip a few years ago to Arkansas to photograph three waterfalls that flow side by side. When I got there I found out that the river that feeds them doesn't run at all when the water is low, such as in the fall. The moral is that it pays to do a little homework and planning. Presently, I am planning a 4 day trip in early May to Portland, Oregon and the Columbia River Gorge. Important questions are:

1. What will the weather be like (temperature, precipitation, etc.)?
2. When will regional wildflowers be in bloom and where are the best places to photograph them?
3. Will I be running into conflicts with festivals or other events where hotel rooms book up fast and the crowds are overwhelming, or where travel on a two-lane roadway will be tortuous. On the opposite side of the coin, I may discover that there a festival or event that would be fun to photograph?
4. Are there other things to see, do and photograph within a reasonable driving distance?
5. Where are the very best locations for photography? What are the best times of day to go and what is the best equipment to take?

Now, you just have to get the information. For my own upcoming trip I started by looking on Amazon.com for books, searching with key words "Oregon Photography." From the selection available I ordered one book which has already



Calendar of Events

May

Meeting: May 3

Program: Rocky Mountain School of Photography video (Nancy Smolak)

15 Minutes of Fame: TBD

Contest: People At Work (1 year)

Outing: Rattlesnake Road / Hutchins Creek area

Planning Meeting: May 17

June

Meeting: Jun. 7

Program: Raw Editing (Dave Hammond)

15 Minutes of Fame: George Stone

Contest: Yellow (60 day)

Outing: Picnic, Ft. Massac State Park, Jun. 25

Planning Meeting: Jun. 21

July

Meeting: Jul. 5

Program: TBD

15 Minutes of Fame: Lorraine Highlander

Contest: Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Outing: Daybreak Imaging, Alma, IL, Jul. 30

Planning Meeting: Jul. 19

Inside...

Accumulated news and Photo Op!

cont'd on page 3 - Meetings

cont'd on page 3 - Photo Op



Jim Bornert, Linda Bundren, Dave Hammond, and Bill Thomas at Heron Pond (photo: Dave Hammond)

Outing Reports

Owing to the timing of recent outings, one late in March and one early in April, we have two to report on.

Late in March we traveled down to Heron Pond, in the Cache River State Natural Area. Heron Pond is a shallow wetland populated by cypress and tupelo trees. A boardwalk extends out into the swamp, making a great platform for imaging the landscape. The water is still, with patches of green duckweed giving texture to the surface. Nearby is the largest Cherrybark Oak tree in Illinois. At 100 feet tall and over 22 feet in circumference, it's as imposing as the numbers suggest.

The day dawned chilly and overcast, but members who made the trek included Dave Hammond, Linda Bundren, Jim Bornert, Bill Thomas, and Jonathan Springer. The clouds made for appropriate swamp lighting, and we got in a good amount of photography before the rain ended our excursion.

In early April, Ray Brown led us to the Boone Cemetery, in the Fountain Bluff area. The day dawned chilly, but we had 8 or 9 members make the trek. The cemetery is easily missed; there is a modest marker by the side of route 3. After climbing halfway up the steep hill, we came to a collection of markers, some

within an area edged with stone, and others scattered nearby, wherever the ground was a little less steep. The bushes and trees are working to reclaim the site, and they may be succeeding.

Supposedly, the first European child born in Jackson County is buried here, Benningsen Boon (the family dropped the final 'e'), 1807-1879. [Information from Genealogy Trails for Jackson Cty, Jeana Gallagher.] The most recently deceased here are from the 1940s, though one or two gravestones appear far newer. Ray speculates that they may have been war casualties recently removed to this location from burial sites overseas.

After descending the hill, we set off in search of some nearby petroglyphs, inscribed in the rock face of the bluff near Gorham. We found them after curving along some local farm roads. The carvings are still very evident, though more recent graffiti makes it a bit uncertain just what is prehistoric. I later read that this site on Fountain Bluff is known as Trestle Hollow. The carvings are typical Mississippian, which means anywhere from about 500 to 2000 years in age.

For our next outing, Dana Tetzlaff will lead us to Rattlesnake Road, in the Hutchins Creek area. Details will be sent to members as they are finalized.



Boone outing participants among the markers (photo: Linda Bundren)



Ray Brown points to an interesting example of local flora while Linda Bundren lines up a shot (photo: Jonathan Springer)

Meetings

cont'd from p. 1

Taylor, Teresa McIntosh, Dave Brewer, and Linda Bundren.

Myers Walker had two images win monthly contests and get published in separate issues of Shutterbug magazine. His first was a female cardinal, and his second red rock formations in the west.

For Show and Tell, Dave Brewer brought in the book "Captured," by Moose Peterson. Jim Bornert shared some images from the Heron Pond outing, including one using a fisheye lens to striking effect. Dave Horning showed three images he has recently taken: one from a play and two of beautiful models he has had the privilege of working with.

Our contest this month was "Anything Goes," and we had quite a variety of entries. For this contest, digital manipulation was explicitly allowed, and members took good advantage of this exception to our usual ground rules. Our winners were:

1st place: Karen Carlton, "Magnolia Pirouette"

2nd place: Jim Bornert, "Heron Pond"

3rd place: Virginia Stith, "Snow Trees"

Congratulations to these winners! Our contest for next month is "People at Work," which has a yearlong timeframe.

Upcoming Events

Here are a couple of area contests to look for. First, the Paducah Photography Contest requires its entries be in by the end of April. Entries must be submitted by May 1, via their website (paducahphoto.com); the cost is \$10 each for a maximum of five entries. First prize is \$1000, with \$2000 in total prizes being awarded.

The Herris Festa Italiana Art Exhibition photo contest has a deadline of May 6. Entry fees are \$15 for the first and \$5 for each subsequent entry, up to 5 total.

Nancy is asking for volunteers to look for fall festivals that might form the basis for an outing. This is a chance to get involved and share your experience, and leading an outing awards a member-of-the-year point.

Photo Op

cont'd from p. 1

helped me with planning. Second, I searched the web using Google and key words. I found a blog that gave great suggestions for photographing the Gorge during the time I will be there.

Specifically, I learned that wildflowers are more likely to be in bloom on the north side of the Gorge, that sunlight hits the waterfalls on the south side of the Gorge later in the morning, and that the weather could be cool and rainy. I also discovered that there are whale watching (and photographing) opportunities off the coast in early May. Since fog along the coast is always a concern for the photographer, I was gratified to learn that May is a good time to visit to miss the fog-shrouded shorelines. Additionally, I discovered that Tulip and Iris fields may be in bloom in the Willamette Valley (south of Portland) while I am there. Finally, I emailed one city's Chamber of Commerce for specific information I wanted. When you are researching your own trip, keep "surfing" and you will probably find many websites that can provide detailed information to photographers for many different and varied locations—some guides even give the mile markers on highways where the best images can be taken. When all else fails, try to find someone who has been where you are going and ask them for advice. Remember, to get the best photos you can possibly get, you need to work a little.....but it should all be worth it!!



Heron Pond (photo: Jonathan Springer)