



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

August 2011 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

August

Meeting: Aug. 2

Program: My Five Best Shots
(members)

15 Minutes of Fame: George Stone

Contest: Scavenger Hunt (60 day)

Outing: Classic Car Show (TBD)

Planning Meeting: Aug. 16

September

Meeting: Sept. 6

Program: Creative Uses of
Photography (Karen Carlton)

15 Minutes of Fame: Jim Osborn

Contest: Trains, Planes, and
Automobiles (1 year)

Outing: Festivals

Planning Meeting: Sept. 20

October

Meeting: Oct. 4

Program: Vacation Pictures
(members)

15 Minutes of Fame: Dana Tetzlaff

Contest: Patriotism (60 day)

Outing: Fort Massac Encampment

Planning Meeting: Oct. 18

Inside...

News and the latest Photo Op from
Jim Osborn!

July Meeting

A goodly number braved the summer heat to attend our July meeting. We had one visitor, Mike Cheryinko of Carbondale, who shoots film. Susan Stearns, former SIPS Secretary and still the force behind our web site, also made an appearance, visiting from central Illinois.

Our program this month was on travel photography, given by Jonathan Springer. Jonathan covered the basics of selecting equipment and packing it, particularly with an eye to airline travel. Trade off space and weight against the utility of your various pieces of gear, and make sure to provide for backups of your photos while you are still on the trip. With the logistics dealt with, Jonathan offered some tips on taking travel photos. His basic philosophy is that there are two different kinds of pictures, those taken for documentary purposes and those taken for artistic merit. Always consider which kind you are taking, and set up your shot accordingly. Finally, don't forget to enjoy your trip and actually experience the locale.

Our fifteen minutes of fame was given by Lorraine Highlander. She shared her use of photography to document family history and to make beautiful all-occasion cards. She is also active in the Garden Club, and is their official photographer of monthly winners.

Our outing for July is our annual excursion to Richard and Susan Day's. It's on the 30th (still a week away at time of writing). To get us in the spirit, here are some tips on attracting hummingbirds from Susan Day, as related to us during the member meeting by Leon Stith. Use a multi-pronged shepherds hook to hang a bottle. Don't fill the bottle completely full at first. Change the solution every three days, since it goes to vinegar if left longer. Make sure to refill it as needed; once established, hummers are known to buzz people if their feeders empty.

Our August outing will be a car show, but

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Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

With all the rain and flooding this spring it was difficult to get out to some of my favorite photographic spots in southern Illinois. Anticipating a more mellow fall season, I am already starting to prioritize my photographic outings. Although many of you are familiar with my favorite areas, there may be club members who have not visited some of them. So...for the sake of everyone, I am going to share my top 10 locations in southern Illinois to photograph wildlife and nature.

#10. Bell Smith Springs and Burden Falls (west of Eddyville)—I love to photograph Burden Falls when the water is running, but that only occurs at certain times of the year and when the light is good. Nearby Bell Smith Springs is also very picturesque, especially the picnic area, but that area is closed in the winter months.

#9. Camp Ondesonk (near Ozark)—You need permission to explore here. Check in at the camp office. The camp has wonderful rock formations, plants, streams and a lake. On a secluded corner of the property is Cedar Falls, one of the most beautiful falls in southern Illinois when the water is running. You may not get access to the area while camps are going on, but other times of the year can be spectacular.

#8. Barkhausen Visitor's Center for the Cache River Area (on Rt. 37 south and west of Vienna)—Prairie wildflowers, cypress trees, hummingbirds, gold finches, herons and eagles can all be seen within a few yards of the Visitor Center. Hiking trails offer even more access to a beautiful area.

#7. Oakwood Bottoms/Fountain Bluff—(south of the junction of Rt. 149 and Rt. 3, west of Murphysboro)—Wildlife, swamps, unusual plants, ancient Indian pictographs and petroglyphs, Mississippi River vistas, the secluded and historic Boone family cemetery...this area has it all.



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Meetings

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the details are being worked out. At our meeting, Bill Randall did share a flyer for the Frog Follies, in Evansville, IN. This is one of the largest antique car shows in the region. Marion also has a monthly show under consideration.

Our member contest for the month was a dual-topic one: either Take Me Out to the Ballgame or Festivals. Our winners were:

1st place: Jo Dodd, "Home Run"

2nd place: Jo Dodd, "Pitching"

3rd place: Joanna Gray, "Fireworks"

Congratulations to these members. Next month, our contest is the scavenger hunt; see box below for complete details. Also, note that our program next month is a collective member effort entitled "My Five Best Shots." Bring your five best photos to the meeting and we'll go through all of them.

2011 SIPS Scavenger Hunt Contest

Contest entries are due August 2nd, and must include only photos taken after June 7, 2011. Submit one photo from each subject in an album or binder. Photos may be up to 5 x 7 in size. The 10 photos may be labeled with title only. The entry fee is \$5, open to SIPS members only. Entries will be reviewed and winners selected by an outside judge. The subjects are:

1. Hats
2. Graffiti
3. Rural Decay
4. Silverware
5. Tattoo(s)
6. From Above
7. Domestic Animal
8. Purple
9. Music
10. Church

Photo Op

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I list these two areas together because of their proximity, but each offers uniquely different photographic opportunities. The routes up and around Fountain Bluff are a little hard to locate, so if you want to go, ask someone who's been there.

#6. War Bluff Audubon Sanctuary (north of Golconda)—Look up directions for this location and take a high clearance vehicle. The road to this location is not particularly well marked and, at times, needs a high clearance vehicle to access because of road conditions. This remote area has several hiking trails, a wide variety of birds and other wildlife and beautiful wildflowers in the spring. Wear bug spray!

#5. Horseshoe Lake (far southern Illinois near Cairo and Olive Branch)—This area was devastated by the spring flooding and still may not be entirely open. I love the landscape shots available of the cypress trees, the numerous eagles that winter around the lake, and a wide variety of waterfowl that congregate there. Note—there is a large active eagle's nest visible from the road on the west side of the lake.

#4. Heron Pond (south of Vienna and west toward Belknap)—A wonderful trail along the Cache River takes you to an area with walkways extending into the cypress-rich swamp. Keep an eye out for river otters, eagles, owls, snakes, warblers, and a wide variety of unusual plants and wildflowers.

#3. LaRue Pine Hills Ecological Area (From Rt. 3 turn east on a dirt levee road that runs along the south side of the Big Muddy River from the bridge over Rt. 3)—This is the site of the famous (infamous) "Snake Road." The narrow dirt road that traverses this area north to south is closed in the spring and fall for the snake migration between the swamp and the bluffs. Many rare and endangered species of critters can be found in this area. Hiking the road may be a better bet than trying to drive the road, which is often inaccessible because of high water.

#2. Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (you ought to know where this is!)—From the Refuge

Headquarters take the scenic loop drive to spy deer, wild turkeys, bobcats, herons, owls, beavers, geese, ducks, pelicans, etc. Roads into other parts of the refuge can be photographically rewarding as well.

#1. Mermet Lake Conservation Area (about 10 miles south of Vienna)—This is a very special area—beautiful cypress trees, a bounty of lotus plants, deer, eagles, osprey, turkeys, snakes, muskrats, cormorants, geese, etc. As you drive around the lake on the loop road, the changing light and the changing landscape offer changing photographic opportunities.

Next month, I'll talk about your favorite places that didn't make my top 10 list. Keep photographing!!