



# Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

## September 2011 Newsletter

### Calendar of Events

#### September

Meeting: Sept. 6

Program: Creative Uses of  
Photography (Karen Carlton)  
15 Minutes of Fame: Jim Osborn  
Contest: Planes, Trains and  
Automobiles (1 year)

Outing: Festivals

Planning Meeting: Sept. 20

#### October

Meeting: Oct. 4

Program: Vacation pictures (all)  
15 Minutes of Fame: Dana Tetzlaff  
Contest: Patriotism (60 day)  
Outing: Ft. Massac Encampment,  
Oct. 15-16  
Planning Meeting: Oct. 18

#### November

Meeting: Nov. 1

Program: Photographing Babies (Jim  
Osborn)  
15 Minutes of Fame: Linda Bundren  
Contest: Through the Seasons  
Calendar (1 year)  
Outing: Parke Cty., Oct. 29-30  
Planning Meeting: Nov. 15

### Inside...

News and the latest from Jim  
Osborn!

### August meeting

We had a good turnout for our August meeting. We had three visitors: Diane Anderson (invited by Donald McDonald), Claudia Rollo, and Danny Wolbren.

Our program for the evening was drawn from our members, who brought in pictures for the theme "My 5 Best Shots." As might be expected, we had a lot of terrific pictures. A commonly-heard refrain was "I don't know how to choose my five best," so people chose five that were noteworthy or that they especially liked. We had 15 participants: Bill Thomas, Nancy Smolak, Dave Hammond, Dana Tetzlaff, Jonathan Springer, Lynn Love, Jim Osborn, Jan Sundberg, Bill Lipscomb, Carol Sluzevich, Jon Mueller, and Donald McDonald.

In place of a 15 Minutes of Fame, we had extended Show and Tell. Jim Osborn shared images from his recent trip to Georgia. Mike Hicks has a new 7D, which he brought to show, together with a Tamron 18-270mm lens. Max Pardee shared information about a Macro/Super Macro/Fish Eye lens that is attached via the filter threading. Finally, Nancy relayed greetings from Tom Ulrich and Linda Martin from Montana. Linda recently left the familiar territory of Southern Illinois, but many SIPS members hope she and Tom come back to visit often.

The SIPS board has been revising the SIPS bylaws, updating it to reflect our current operations and to clarify a few grey areas. A draft will be made available soon, and the membership will vote on these changes later in the year. All members are welcome to participate in this or other board activities by attending a board meeting. These meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm, over dinner at Grumpy's barbecue on Rt. 13. (It's near the SW corner of the intersection of Rt. 13 and Rt. 148; the address is 7335 Cox Dr., Carterville.)

Speaking of voting, SIPS officers are being nominated for next year soon. If you would like to volunteer, either as a board

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### Photo OP

*By Jim Osborn*

Last month I listed my top 10 places to photograph nature in southern Illinois. I'm sure some of you wondered why I omitted some fairly prominent locations from my list. Any list of "favorites" is personal opinion—in this case, mine. Anyway, for those of you that want more locations to check out, here are a few that didn't make my favorites list:

1. Garden of the Gods—Yes, I did not include perhaps the most iconic photo location in southern Illinois. Sorry—but to me, it's kind of "been there....done it." Once you've taken a decent picture of the rock formations there isn't a whole lot to keep going back for. And, call me a purist, but I prefer my landscapes devoid of people. That can be tough to do at this highly visited tourist site.

2. Lusk Creek Canyon—Another of southern Illinois' revered locations. I do love Lusk Creek Canyon. It truly is a beautiful place. But....the trek to get there can be challenging for those of us who are not as spry as we once were and, because of the high canyon walls, lighting is often an issue.

3. Giant City State Park—I WANT to love Giant City...I really do; but I am continually disappointed with the range of images that are available to me in this large state park. I want to photograph the beautiful streams, but most of the time there is very little water flowing. I want to photograph the wildlife, but it seems less diverse than other places. I want to photograph the wildflowers and redbuds, but they are more spectacular in other locations.

4. Fern Clyffe State Park—Right behind Giant City State has to be Fern Clyffe State Park. I like Fern Clyffe—I just don't love Fern Clyffe. There is a very nice waterfall (when the water is flowing) and there are flowering trees in the spring, and I have photographed owls at Fern Clyffe, but the



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## Meetings

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member or an officer, let Nancy or Linda know.

Our contest this month was the scavenger hunt. Entries were dropped off at the member meeting and will be reviewed by an outside judge, with the results coming next month. Next month's contest is "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles," and pictures from the last 12 months are eligible.

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## Photo Op

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photo ops don't just jump at you like they do in other locations.

5. Dogtown Hills—You probably don't even know about this location. Dave Horning knows, and I know and perhaps someday we'll tell you where it is. The primary attraction at Dogtown Hills is the white/albino deer that comprise a small percentage of the deer population in the area. Unfortunately, there are only a few times of the year that photographing the lovely critters is worth the trek. Deer like the corn but much of the year the corn is either non-existent or so tall you can't view the deer.

6. Union County Conservations Area—I have to drive about an hour from my house to get to this area, but in January and part of February it is a fabulous place to go to see huge flocks of Canada Geese, Snow Geese, Speckled Bellies and a wide variety of ducks as well as scavenging bald eagles. However, the rest of the year, this rather small conservation area doesn't have a whole lot to offer.

7. Alto Pass—The town park just east of Alto Pass on the road to Cobden offers great views of fall colors and I love to stop there to take in the view, just not to photograph the view. It is often too hazy to do much. The peach trees just north of town are wonderful for the few days a year that they are in peak bloom, but it doesn't last too long. Try Bald Knob Cross, too.

8. Jackson Falls—This somewhat remote falls in the Shawnee National Forest is easy to drive to, but there aren't any outstanding vantage points to photograph the flowing water, and the

trees in the hollow don't provide much color in the fall.

9. Pyramid State Park—They say that a wide variety of bird species visit Pyramid State Park south of Pinkneyville. PSP is another of those state parks that I want to love, but I just can't seem to take any really good pictures there. I hear they are going to starting mining coal there shortly.

10. One Horse Gap Lake—You may have to look this place up on a map. It is north of Golconda and there are signs you can follow (kind of). The first time I visited this place I loved it. It is secluded, serene and there were geese on the lake. While it is a fun place to visit once or twice, what you see is what you get and that's it. I've never hiked the trail around the lake, so it might have more to offer than I think it does.

Have I still missed one of your favorite spots? Let me know!! We'll share it with the club.

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## Rend Lake Car Show

Our September Outing will be the Rend Lake Car Show, held in the town square in Benton on Saturday, Sept. 10. The square will be closed to traffic beginning at 4pm. Over 200 show cars and trucks are expected. Details on a specific meetup time and place for members will be emailed as it emerges.

## Free Museum Day

Sept. 24 is Free Museum Day, sponsored by the Smithsonian. Download a ticket from [www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday) and use it for free admission at one of 1500 participating museums in the U.S. There are more than a half a dozen museums in St. Louis for which this offer is good, including the Contemporary Art Museum, the Missouri History Museum, and the St. Louis Art Museum. In Southern Illinois, Cahokia Mounds and the SIUC University Museum are good bets.