



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

December 2011 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

December

Meeting: Dec. 6 (RSVP only)
Program: Christmas Party
15 Minutes of Fame: none
Contest: none
Outing: none
Planning Meeting: none

January

Meeting: Jan. 3
Program: TBD
15 Minutes of Fame: TBD
Contest: Holidays (1 year)
Outing: Union County Horseshoe Lake
Planning Meeting: Jan. 17

February

Meeting: Feb. 7
Program: Tom Ulrich
15 Minutes of Fame: none
Contest: A face only a other can LOVE (60 day)
Outing: Eagle Fest, Alton IL
Planning Meeting: Feb. 21

Inside...

News, the latest from Jim Osborn, and a bonus from Bill Thomas!

November meeting

Twenty-seven members turned out for our November meeting. Our program for the evening was "Photographing Babies," presented by our own Jim Osborn. Some of his recommendations were:

- Shoot on burst mode, since kids are quick and their expressions can be fleeting.
 - Use a fast-focusing lens (same reason).
 - Use high ISO and/or a good fast lens (1.4-2.8).
 - A small light reflector can help.
- (Recall also Dave Horning's program on portraits.)

- Avoid flash, especially the pop-up flash, which is midline and will increase redden and shadowing. Flash is also distracting. Bounce it if possible.

- Use a 7MP or larger camera, for enlargements.

Jim illustrated his points with terrific examples from his own grandchildren.

Our Fifteen Minutes of Fame was given by Linda Bundren, who shared her favorite images from 2011. These included a variety of landscape and wildlife images from Utah, the Smoky Mountains, Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (CONWR), Mermet Lake, and of course her own grandson and great-nieces and nephews.

We had a number of Show and Tell items at our meeting. Bill Thomas brought images from his recent trip to southern Utah; see his article later in this newsletter for details. Jim Osborn brought some beautifully lit images of two bobcats at CONWR, and a white deer. See his article at right for more details. Johanna Gray showed some images from her recent trip to the Smokies, including a one of a black bear. Lori Mascal shared her experience covering a wedding as well as a preceding bachelor party. Dave Hammond showed some terrific images of this season's colorful fall foliage, from the Smokies and Ferne Clyffe. He also brought a print he made on a very tough photographic paper called Cibachrome. This paper is noted for

Photo Op

By Jim Osborn

During "Show and Tell" at the November SIPS meeting I showed images that I took of a pair of bobcats at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge the previous day. I also showed a picture of a white doe taken at Dogtown Hills the day before as well. The irony of hitting the "trifecta" of two bobcats and a white deer all in one day suggested to me the subject for this month's Photo Op.....Perseverance.

I have probably taken 50 trips through the Refuge since last spring sighting only deer (usually pretty far away), turkeys, herons and an assortment of other fairly common critters. In 2010, bobcat sightings were frequent and several people in the club captured memorable images. Such was not the case in 2011. I heard that a mother bobcat with a young one had been sighted in the Refuge and I even heard that someone posted a picture on SILO (Southern Illinois Outdoors) of the pair; but, to the best of my knowledge, no one in SIPS had actually seen a bobcat this year. The morning I got my shot, I actually drove right by the bobcats with my camera in the seat next to me. After realizing that I just passed an amazing and possibly unique photo opportunity, I stopped the car, got my camera ready, rolled the passenger side window down and backed up SLOWLY. I kept thinking that there was no way the bobcats would still be sitting there but, lo and behold, there they were!! The sun was just getting high enough in the sky so that the mother was illuminated in a beautiful warm glow. The mother bobcat and her little one stuck around long enough for me to take about 30 images. In the low light of morning and shooting hand-held, I prayed that the images wouldn't be too blurry. Fortunately, my prayers were answered with several images where the detail in the fur and the catchlight in the eyes were spectacular. My only regret was that I had to shoot a higher shutter speed which



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Canyonlands National Park, Utah (photo: Bill Thomas)

Utah and Arizona Grand Circle

By Bill Thomas

My brother and I recently did the Grand Circle tour of southern Utah and northern Arizona's National Parks and Monuments, an incredible concentration of geological wonders in relatively close proximity to each other. We only had one week to spend but covered about 1600 miles and saw everything we wanted to and never felt hurried. I know several of the club's members have visited this area and I highly recommend it to anyone who wants a great sampling of the natural wonders of the western U.S.

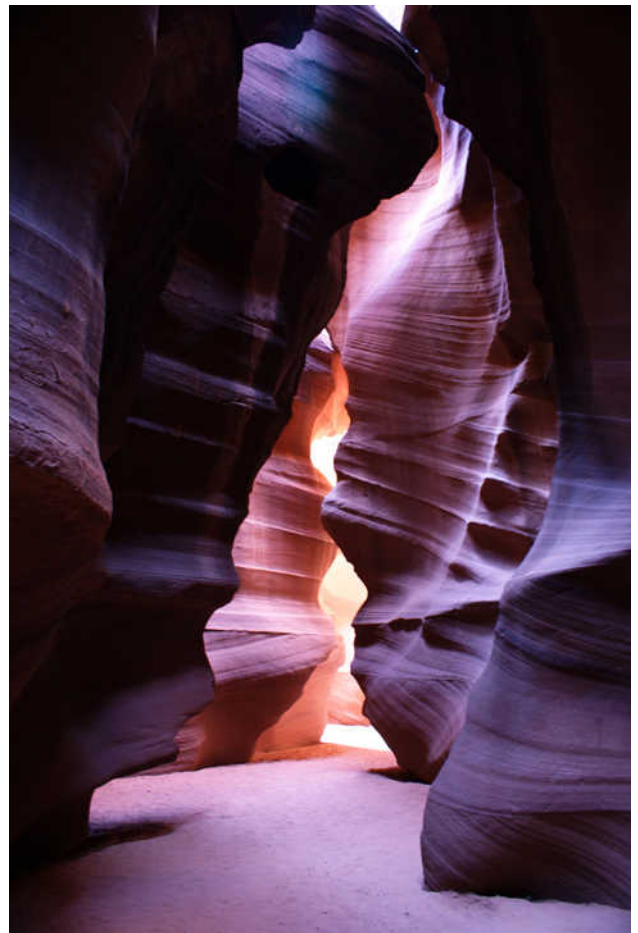
There are a number of ways one can make this tour. We flew in and out of Las Vegas and rented a car. (The trip could also be done flying in and out of Salt Lake City.) In one week we managed to see Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Arches, Canyonlands, Deadhorse state park, Goosenecks state park, Monument Valley, Antelope Canyon and the north rim of the Grand Canyon. We also visited Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, the largest domestic animal sanctuary in the U.S. Plus we got to spend a night sightseeing in Las Vegas!

The parks are all spectacular as is the drive between them. If I had to pick a favorite it would be difficult but it might be Canyonlands National Park because of its spectacular views and outrageous geology. Antelope Canyon is very unique

and beautiful and the Navajo guides are a lot of fun. For me, the most memorable part of any trip is the people I meet along the way. People traveling seem to become 'citizens of the world', freed of their everyday concerns. They seem to be happier and friendlier and open to each other in a way they might not normally be (or maybe it's just me). It makes for some great conversations and often results in some great sightseeing tips. On this trip we met a young couple from Israel traveling the US for six months who amazed us with their height defying poses and who pointed us to the amazing and relatively unknown Goosenecks State Park. We met a Swiss couple who had shipped their RV from Sweden to Nova Scotia and were traveling North America for a year and a half. I told them I had been to gorgeous Switzerland and they acted like it was nothing compared to the sights in Utah, which I found amusing. I had a great conversation with a Grand Canyon ranger who told me about his amazing

hikes along the river at the bottom of the Canyon and along the Pacific Crest Trail as well as a 1300 mile hike he was about to do through New Mexico and Arizona. We had a priceless experience with a Navajo guide at Antelope Canyon and a touching one with a Romanian man and his family who were driving from Chicago to Los Angeles. The father and daughter were making sure the elderly grandmother with Parkinson's disease got to see America along the way while she still could. She was making a heroic assisted walk to an overlook at the Grand Canyon when we met them. Traveling is a great way to get to know people and hear some great stories. If all you do is sight see you may be missing the best part of traveling.

This was a great trip. We were constantly in awe of the incredible diversity and abundance of amazing geological formations. I highly recommend it. Bring a lot of memory cards!



Antelope Canyon, Arizona (photo: Bill Thomas)

Photo Op

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resulted in a shallower depth of field; thus, while the mother was sharp, the youngster in the background was not.

My trip to Dogtown Hills was timed to occur after most of the corn had been harvested from the fields and before time reverted from daylight savings to standard. I first visited that area with Dave Horning in 2007 and captured an image of a white doe with her normal-colored fawn. Subsequent trips to the area were unproductive. On this occasion I spied a large white doe bolting into the woods almost as soon as I arrived. For the next hour and a half I drove the 4-mile circle route around the area.

Although I spied a number of deer and a lone coyote, the white deer did not appear. However, just as the sun was setting, a smaller white doe appeared from the trees. I had preset my equipment for a relatively fast shutter speed and I got about a dozen shots off before the deer wandered behind a ridge.

A week after I took these images, I woke on a Saturday morning to a dense fog outside. I grabbed my camera and headed to the Refuge. For the next two hours I photographed deer, herons and landscape scenes in that mystical morning fog and light.

So....after my summer of frustration in getting only "average" images in southern Illinois, I scored big in the span of about 10 days! You never know if you will see that elusive bobcat on your 3rd trip through the Refuge, or your 23rd trip, or perhaps your 51st trip, but if you don't keep looking for that special photo opportunity you'll never get it. Patience pays off!!—just persevere. If you would like to see the images referenced above go to my website at

www.flickr.com/photos/jrophotos.

Meetings

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its archival quality, and printed using a dye-destruction positive-to-positive process. It's rare now, with remaining stock going for hundreds of dollars a print.

We had several members enter the CONWR photo contest. Jim Osborn won the Refuge Choice award, as well as third place in Wildlife and an honorable mention in Landscape. Linda Bundren won first place in Plants & Trees, and Honorable Mention in Wildlife. Jo Dodd won second place in Landscape. Congratulations to all of these members! Speaking of contests, the Land Between the Lakes Photo Contest is open through Dec. 1; go to lblphotocontest.org for details.

Our club contest this month was our annual Through the Year calendar. An outside judge will select the winners, which will be announced at the Christmas Party.

We held elections at this month's meeting. Our officers and board for 2012 will be:

President: Linda Bundren

Vice President: Bill Thomas

Secretary of Records: Lu Horning

Secretary of Technology: Jonathan

Springer

Treasurer: Dana Tetzlaff

SIPS Board: Jim Osborn, Dave

Hammond, Johanna Gray, Carol

Sluzevich, Mike Hicks.

December Meeting Note

Our December meeting will be not be in the usual location. Instead, members will gather for the annual SIPS Christmas dinner at SIU-C. Attendance at the SIPS dinner is by RSVP only. Please note, this is in place of our usual meeting at the library, which will not take place. Our next regular meeting at the library will be Tuesday, Jan. 3.

Monument Valley, Utah (photo: Bill Thomas)

