



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

March 2012 Newsletter

February Meeting

Our February meeting was well attended. Sharon Wallace, of West Frankfort, joined as a new member at the meeting. She likes to shoot outdoors. Welcome!

Our program for the evening was on critiquing, led by Jim Osborn. Jim started with a presentation, where he covered constructive critiquing and a critiquing checklist. Constructive critiquing should include things that are done well as well as things that can improve. Be honest, be specific, and do not assume everyone knows what you know. Be a patient listener, and if you are being critiqued, feel free to respond. The checklist included technical aspects, artistic aspects, and emotional aspects. After the presentation, we broke up into four small critiquing groups, led by Dave Hammond, George Stone, Jim Bornert, and Jim Osborn.

Linda Bundren reports that the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (CONWR) annual photo contest will be due in October (judging results in Nov). Photos can be from anywhere in Illinois—this is a change from previous years.

Jim Osborn reports that the Orchid Show is now on at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. Please note that they do not allow tripods in the display areas.

Clothing with the official club logo is available from Barb's Custom Embroidery in Johnston City, IL. Linda is planning to get them to show the items they have available at a future club meeting.

Tom Ulrich is going to be in town early next month, giving his annual presentation at SIUC on Mar. 7. His talk begins at 7pm in Lawson 161 on the SIUC campus. He will also be the featured speaker at our club meeting on Mar. 6.

In member news, Tom Rabideau is doing a class on Adobe Lightroom at the Little Egypt building. We reported last month that Ray Brown was out with a broken back, but is in a brace and mobile again. He continues to improve and we wish him a

Tech Savvy

By Jim Osborn

In January, club members completed a survey asking what they wanted to learn this year through programs, etc. One common theme was "post processing." Although I do not claim to be an expert in post processing I have found a couple of "plug-ins" to be very helpful in my editing. A plug-in is a software program that complements your primary editing program (such as Adobe Photoshop Elements, or Aperture, or Lightroom). Nik software has several interesting plug-ins that I find invaluable. One of my favorites is Silver Efex Pro 2. This plug-in converts color images to black and white. Right after Christmas I upgraded my editing program to Photoshop Elements 10. While Elements 10 can convert color images to black and white, the choices are very limited with little or no flexibility or control. Silver Efex Pro 2 provides what may be the most options and greatest flexibility available as a plug-in. There are approximately 36 preset black and white styles you can choose from, or you can choose from several black and white film types (if you were a B&W film user and had a specific film preference). Additionally, if you select a preset B&W style, you still have the ability to make adjustments to brightness, contrast, structure and more. Finally, if there are only one or two parts of your image that you want to adjust, Nik's proprietary system allows you to select those sections and selectively adjust them. Nik's Color Efex 4 adjusts coloring selectively and provides up to 55 filters that can be applied to images individually or stacked. If you are going to buy a plug-in the only caution I give you is this—check the system requirements carefully. While most of Nik's plug-in software is compatible with Elements 6 through 10, some works only with Elements 8-10 or with CS4 or CS5. Don't waste your money



Calendar of Events

March

Meeting: Mar. 6

Program: Tom Ulrich

15 Minutes of Fame: none

Contest: Black & White (12 month)

Outing: Ferne Clyffe, Mar. 24

Planning Meeting: Mar. 20

April

Meeting: Apr. 3

Program: Photoshop, Dave Horning

15 Minutes of Fame: Mike Hicks

Contest: Pets (60 day)

Outing: Butterfly House, St. Louis

Planning Meeting: Apr. 17

May

Meeting: May 1

Program: TBD

15 Minutes of Fame: TBD

Contest: Macro (12 month)

Outing: TBD

Planning Meeting: May 15

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News and the latest from Jim Osborn!

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Meeting

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speedy recovery. Jim Osborn has a copy of Photoshop Elements 8 for sale for \$30. Contact him at jim.osborn@sih.net.

A reminder: the annual membership fee is due, for those who haven't taken care of it already, contact Dana Tetzlaff. The directory is going to be revised and the email list updated after the March meeting, so please be prompt to avoid any inconvenience. Also, Johanna Gray is looking for ideas for 2013 contests.

Our photo contest for the month was "A Face Only a Mother Could Love." The winners were:

1st place: Jim Osborn, "Possum"

2nd place: Myers Walker, "Little Nauga"

3rd place: Lori Mascal, "Little Richard a mess"

Congratulations to these winners! Our contest next month is "Black and White." Also please note the June contest has been changed to "Clowning Around / Laugh Out Loud."

Upcoming Outings

This last month Jim Osborn led us to Alton IL. Our next outing, March 24, will be to the west section of Ferne Clyffe State Park. This outing will be led by Bill Thomas. Ferne Clyffe is just south of Goreville, off Hwy 37. Details will be sent via email as plans are filled in.

Our outing for April will be the Butterfly House in St. Louis.

Tech Savvy

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on a plug-in that isn't compatible with your editing program! Trust me, I learned the hard way. By the way, Nik also has online tutorials, newsletters, etc. to support you. Google "Nik software" for the most complete information.

For Sale

Adobe Photoshop Elements 8 for Windows, \$30. Never used—got as a gift after having gotten Elements 10. Contact Jim Osborn (Jim.Osborn@sih.net) for details.

Tom Ulrich Presentation

Tom Ulrich, well-known wildlife photographer and SIUC graduate, is giving a presentation of his work over the last year on March 7 at SIUC. His show will feature hummingbirds of Ecuador and wildlife and scenery from New Zealand and North America, including his home turf of Glacier National Park. Tom always has terrific photos, so come out and see what he's been up to over the last year!

The presentation will be on the SIU-Carbondale campus, in Lawson Hall room 161, at 7 p.m., Mar. 7. The presentation is co-sponsored by the SIU Department of Zoology, the Zoology Club, the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and the Southern Illinois Photographic Society.