



# Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com  
April 2012 Newsletter

## Calendar of Events

### April

Meeting: Apr. 3  
Program: Lightroom, Tom Rabideau  
15 Minutes of Fame: Mike Hicks  
Contest: Pets (60 day)  
Outing: Iris Farm, Wayne City &  
Ansel Adams Display, Mt. Vernon  
Planning Meeting: Apr. 17

### May

Meeting: May 1  
Program: Photoshop, Dave Horning  
15 Minutes of Fame: Bill Lipscomb  
Contest: Macro (12 month)  
Outing: TBD  
Planning Meeting: May 15

### June

Meeting: Jun. 5  
Program: TBD  
15 Minutes of Fame: Carol Sluzevich  
& Joanna Gray  
Contest: Clowning around /  
Laugh out loud (60 day)  
Outing: SIPS picnic, Jun. 23  
Planning Meeting: Jun. 19

## Inside...

News and the latest from Jim  
Osborn and Linda Bundren!

## March Meeting

Our March meeting was well attended, including a number of new people: Christina Vallergra and Junghao Su from Carbondale, Jim and Bonnie Noeringar from Shiloh, and Bob Arrington from Vienna.

It was a pleasure to have longtime club friend Tom Ulrich back in town and presenting to SIPS. Tom, originally from Chicago, was a graduate of SIU-C and a biology teacher in Fairfield, IL, before becoming a professional wildlife photographer. He has been published in such instantly-recognizable magazines as National Geographic, National Wildlife, Audubon, and Ranger Rick. (This last is fondly remembered by your editor when he was growing up, and is currently president Linda Bundren's grandson's favorite.) Tom is also the author of seven books.

Tom's presentation was on wildlife anomalies. He gave us many examples of unusual and rare images he has captured. Many of these were near-extinct birds and animals, or images of never-before documented species. After the slideshow, he shared some stories from his many photographic excursions, by turns fascinating and funny.

Next month, our meeting presentation will be given by Tom Rabideau, who will update us on the new version of Adobe Lightroom. Lightroom 4 was just released on March 5, and has a new lower price, so it may be worth another look if you've not gotten it in the past.

Linda announced that Barbara, of Barb's Custom Embroidery of Johnston City, will come to the next meeting and bring a special order sheet for clothing with the SIPS logo.

Our photo contest for this month was

## Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

If you have never entered a photo in the SIPS monthly photo contest you are probably in the majority of SIPS members. Although there were a significant number of entries in March contest, "Black and White," it is unusual to have entries from more than 8 or 9 people. As a matter of history let me share with you what the SIPS board had had in mind when they decided to start holding monthly contests. First, one of the goals of the club is to promote being an "active" photographer. You will note that Club contests have either a 60 day or 1 year time limit. The board did not want members to enter photos that were taken several years ago—they wanted to encourage people to get out and develop their photography skills. Second, contests range broadly in



subject matter. While many club members will tell you they "only shoot nature" or they "only shoot portraits," many of us firmly believe that you will develop a broader array of skills and become a better photographer in your preferred area if you experiment more. Last month's "Black and White" contest challenged members to 'think' in black and white and to observe different contrasts, textures and moods when

color photos are converted to black and white. Not every color photo makes a good black and white image. The May club contest is "Macro"—taking close-up images of an object. Experimenting with macro will test you in terms of controlling depth of field, sharpness of image, and general interest. Finally, contests offer members the opportunity to show off their work in a forum other than the "15 Minutes of Fame" or "Show and Tell" segments of the agenda.

I'm sure there are many reasons why



Tom Ulrich, signing books at SIU-C after his presentation, Mar. 7 (photo: Linda Bundren)

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## Linda's Corner

by Linda Bundren

It looks like spring has arrived early this year and that's ok with me. It feels good to be out in the sunshine with some decent light. It is always good to see the songbirds returning and the wild turkey getting "twitter-pated" according to Thumper in Bambi. I love to watch the Toms strutting around in their glory. I have also been fortunate enough to image bob cats three times this spring. They too are very beautiful animals. Their coats are as beautiful as any exotic cat anywhere.

This month I'll discuss wildlife photography. For the most part wildlife photography consists of blending the elements of portraiture and landscape imaging. For portraits of animals it is

preferred to have the light overhead to eliminate shadows on the face. Landscapes however are best when the light is at an angle.

I have discovered 5 hints to improve wildlife photography. (1) The magic hours are around sunrise and sunset. The light is softer and slanted. This is what you need to separate scenic images with gentle shadows. This is also when animals are out moving around. (2) Know the animal you are trying to image and their habitat. This can help your images tell a story, such as a beaver building a dam or a cat ready to pounce on its prey. It will also help you to anticipate the animals next move. (3) Planning is important in wildlife photography but always stay alert for the happy accidents. This may turn out to be your best shot. (4) Consider composition. Layer elements to give the image a sense of depth; look for leading lines, curves and diagonals to keep the eye moving into the frame; keep the focus point off the center of the frame. (5) Remember the subject has a face. Your images will look better if the faces are visible. Also when you focus, focus on the eyes. If the eyes are sharp the remainder of the image

will look sharp as well.

What kind of gear will you need for wildlife photography?

1. A wide to normal zoom lens for those landscape shots.

2. Telephoto zoom lens to get those portrait shots. You will need that to get the animal in close. Remember you are shooting wildlife so don't get any closer than what is considered safe.

3. A tripod is always an aid in getting the clear sharp image but it's a must when using a long lens. Tripods also make it easier if you have to wait a long time for the animal to step into the sweet spot of your composition.

4. Flash. You might also consider using fill flash to put those catch lights in the animals eyes. The "Better Beamer" flash extender is great for getting the light out far enough to capture the image with better light.

Now it's time to get out there and start shooting. And don't forget to turn around and see what's behind you. I was imaging a pied-bill grebe in a ditch next to Mermet Lake today. When I turned around a bald eagle was diving toward the lake to catch a fish. I got a few images as he flew off but missed the shot with the outstretched claws as he reached into the water for the fish. I love spring!



Bald eagle at Mermet Lake  
(photo: Linda Bundren)

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## March Meeting

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"Black & White." The winners were:

1st place: Jim Osborn, "Ollie's Trollie"

2nd place: Jim Osborn, "The Projects"

3rd place: Joanna Gray, "Old Barn"

Congratulations to all these! Our contest for April will be "Pets," and has a 60 day window.

## Photo Op

cont'd from p. 1

people don't enter contests—so let me issue a challenge, an "April New Year's Resolution", to enter at least one club photo contest before the end of the year. If you accept my challenge, I will give you a few tips on how to prepare for a contest. (1) The image you enter should be technically sound—sharp, well-composed, appropriate depth of field, brightness, etc.; (2) size matters—the larger the image, the greater impact it has on the viewer (remember the maximum size allowed in the contest, though); (3) the photo should be somewhat unique and interesting. For example, the April photo contest is "Pets." I'm sure there will be several images of dogs and cats that are very well done. But what pictures will be the ones that stand out? Perhaps a bird?...or a goldfish?...or a guinea pig? At one time there was a club member with a pet tarantula—that indeed was unique. What I'm saying is, approach each contest by trying to think "outside the box." What can you do to create an image that is unusual and stands out among all the entries? In last year's photo scavenger hunt, one of the categories was "Silverware." The image I took was of a woman wearing "fork" earrings. A couple of years ago we had a contest on "Eggs." I drew faces on the shells and took pictures of them in a small frying pan full of boiling water. I positioned them like they were in a hot tub. My picture didn't win, but it sure stood out as different among the entries. When I approach a new contest, the first thing I do is brainstorm and write down all the different types of pictures I might take to represent the subject. Then I go out an either find the image I want to take, or create the image I want to take.

Think what you can do to improve your own photography by experimenting with the contests and accept my challenge!!



*Bork's Falls, Ferne Clyffe (photo: Jonathan Springer)*

## Ferne Clyffe Outing

The outing for March was to Bork's Falls, in Ferne Clyffe State Park. This outing was led by Bill Thomas, and took us to the less-traveled western parts of the park. After a rainy morning, the skies cleared just in time to embark on the approximately 1-hour hike to Bork's falls from the Big Buck Creek Trailhead. We traveled in a few different groups, with some taking a rather more circuitous route, but all making it to the falls. Due to the recent rain, the cascades were running strongly, making for photogenic scenery.

Our outing for April will be on the 28th, to Iris Farm, on Highway 15 in Wayne City, and afterwards to the Ansel Adams Display at the Cedarhurst in Mt. Vernon. Ansel's son Michael will be speaking there, beginning at 7 p.m. Lu Horning will lead this outing, with help from Carol Sluzevich.



*Dry (nearly) creekbed that served as part of the trail to Bork's Falls. Most of the other creeks we crossed were not so dry, however, and had to be forded. (photo: Jonathan Springer)*

*Bork's Falls, from the middle of the creek (photo: Jonathan Springer)*

