



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com
June 2012 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

June

Meeting: Jun. 5
Program: Historic Jackson Cty.,
Mike Chervenko
15 Minutes of Fame: Carol Sluzevich
& Joanna Gray
Contest: Clowning Around (60 day)
Outing: SIPS picnic, Jun. 23, 4:30pm
Ferne Clyffe
Planning Meeting: Jun. 19

July

Meeting: Jul. 3
Program: Studio Lighting,
Jack Holderfield
15 Minutes of Fame: TBD
Contest: Sports (12 month)
Outing: Richard & Susan Day, Jul. 14
Planning Meeting: Jul. 17

August

Meeting: Aug. 7
Program: Photography / Journalists,
Paul Newton
15 Minutes of Fame: TBD
Contest: Mystery Tour (60 day)
Outing: TBD
Planning Meeting: Aug. 21

Inside...

News and the latest from Jim
Osborn!

May Meeting

We had a good turnout for our May meeting. We had a number of familiar but recently-absent folks return, including Ray Brown (after a severe back injury), Christine Keeney, and Ruth Hilton.

Our program this evening, given by our own Dave Horning, was on Photoshop. Dave showed the techniques he uses to process pictures. Since Dave focuses on photography of people, he illustrated his points by cleaning up several portraits, but the principles apply to any kind of photo. He performed skin blemish removal, smoothed and softened areas, and repaired teeth. He used layers, cloning and controlling the transparency (alpha channel). Dave also showed how to change the lighting within a photo for emphasis or to level it.

This presentation was a nice complement to last month's tour of Lightroom. Where Lightroom is good for applying a whole-picture transformations and replicating across a large group, Photoshop is good for adjusting spot details on individual photos.

Dave referred us to a good website for instructional videos on how to use Photoshop: www.lynda.com. They have a deep selection, covering many other software packages as well.

Our 15 Minutes of Fame featured Bill Lipscomb. He took a 10 day tour of Ireland in June 2011, and showed us a selection of his photos from that trip. He featured parks and mountain lakes, flowers, architecture, rock formations, and ruins. He showed us the Waterford Crystal factory, as well as the famous Blarney Castle and stone.

For show and tell, Bill Lipscomb pointed us to an eagle webcam in Iowa, showing eagle hatchlings and eggs. He also mentioned the nexrad web site that tracks bird migrations. Linda Bundren showed us a rattlesnake photo from her trip to Texas.

We heard that our own Dave Hammond came in third in the Herrin Festa Professional Artist Photo/Digital Category. Congratulations!

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Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

When I first moved to southern Illinois 14 years ago I discovered that the summers were almost tropical with high heat and humidity. I asked someone, "What do people do in the summer in this heat?" The response was, "They just suck it up and do whatever they would have done anyway." I took that to heart and have tried my best not to let the heat and humidity keep me down. Summer can be a great time for photography, so don't sacrifice opportunities because of the weather. Here are 10 thoughts to help make your summer photography experience a little better.

1. Animals are less active in the heat (as you are)—The best times to photograph wildlife will be in the morning and evening when temps will be a little cooler and the animals will be more active. Coincidentally, those are the times when the light is best. Take advantage of it.

2. Stay hydrated—when going out on those hot and humid days, make sure you take along plenty of water...in fact, take MORE than you think you will need. Drinks such as Gatorade do provide electrolytes that your body needs.

3. Dress for the heat—consider micro-fiber clothing that wicks moisture and dries relatively quickly. There is nothing more uncomfortable than wearing a cotton shirt that is wringing wet and sticking to your body. Wear a hat with a brim that covers the ears. Take along extra clothes to change into later if needed.

4. Use sunscreen—need I say more? If you don't know by now that you need to wear sunscreen I doubt I am going to convince you. Even on cloudy days those UV rays will get you.

5. Tick-proof your clothing—if you are going to be in the woods or grass where ticks are prevalent, do yourself a favor—wear lightweight pants and shirts with long sleeves and prepare them in



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May Meeting

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Linda recapped some finer points of our monthly photo contest rules. The general principle is that no drastic changes in the photo composition are allowed. Borders and vignetting are OK, but do not take out or add things in the photo. Sharpening and color enhancement are OK.

Linda reminded new members (and some not-so-new ones) that there is room in the club directory for a portrait. This helps people get to know one another in the club. Contact Jonathan to get your picture added.

Our contest this month was on Macro Photography, and we had a lot of great entries. The winners were:

1st place: Dave Horning, "Spider"

2nd place: Dave Hammond, "Web Moth"

3rd place: Myers Walker, "3/4 Inch Flower and a Mightly Small Bee"

We had 21 entries overall, from Jim Osborn, Dave Horning, Christine Keeney, Linda Bundren, Bil Lipscomb, Bill Randall, Jim Bornert, Dave Hammond, Joan Levy, Lori Mascal, Myers Walker, Bill Thomas, and Mike Sanders. Next month, our contest is "Clowning Around / Laugh Out Loud". Photos from the preceding 60 days are eligible.

Scavenger Hunt Contest

Our big end-of-the-year contest this year is a photo scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt items have been selected, and are as follows:

1. Shot in the dark
2. Cereal
3. Reflections
4. Life is a stage
5. Country Roads
6. Vivid colors
7. Bridges
8. Tools
9. Make Believe
10. Peace & Tranquility

The album of photos (5x7 or smaller) is due at the member meeting in November, with winners announced at the Christmas party.

Photo Op

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advance with permanone spray. Permanone is a toxic spray that you apply to your clothing (it is NOT for use on the skin). After it dries, it will provide protection for your clothes for about 2 weeks through washings. I swear by this product—when I have been out in tick-infested areas in clothing treated with permanone, I have NEVER found a tick on me! It is available at most sporting goods stores. I buy mine at Dunn's Sporting Goods in Marion, but I'm sure other places have it as well.

6. Wear sunglasses with "croakies"—I wear sunglasses a lot in the summer, but if I don't have the ability to ditch them in a hurry when I want to take a picture, I tend to set them down and forget about them (thus, losing them). Croakies are those cords that attach to the rims of your glasses so you can hang them around your neck. Your eyes need the protection so DO wear sunglasses.

7. Protect your gear—do not leave your equipment in a hot car. Extreme heat and humidity can damage your gear. If you must leave equipment in your car, keep it in something like a pelican case that provides better insulation from the extreme heat.

8. Protect your gear and your car at trailheads—Trailheads are frequented by vandals looking to break into your car. If you must leave items in your car, consider putting a LARGE note on the windshield saying something like, "Jim—when you & the others arrive wait for me, I will be back shortly." The idea that others may be arriving or that you may be returning soon might deter a thief.

9. When you get tired, rest—It is easy to become exhausted when working in the heat. Plan to take frequent breaks and drink liquids.

10. Minimize the amount of equipment you carry—carrying heavier loads will wear you out quicker. Try to be judicious in selecting the items that are essential for what you want to photograph. The less weight you carry the better you will feel.

There are probably other tips I could give but my message to you is this, "Just suck it up and get out and take pictures."

Photo Enlarger For Sale

Beseler 23C II photo enlarger and accessories for sale. Contact Bill at bill.thomas2005@gmail.com.

Recent and Upcoming Outings

Our April outing to Iris Farm and the Cedarhurst was well attended, with Dave and Lu Horning, Jim and Esther Bornert, Tom and Ruth Ann Rabideau, Leon and Virginia Stith, Carol Sluzevich, Joanna Gray, Bill Thomas, Jim Osborn, and Dave Hammond. In May, Mike Hicks led our outing to the Butterfly House in St. Louis. Joanna Gray and friend Mary also attended.

Our next outing is our annual SIPS picnic, which will be held at Ferne Clyffe State Park on June 23. We'll meet at 4:30 at a shelter TBA. For those who have not attended one of these before, the way this works is the club buys steaks for grilling, and everyone brings potluck side dishes and desserts.

Also coming up in July is our annual trip to Richard and Susan Day's, near Alma, IL. The Day property is extensive and cultivated to attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife. There is a \$50 fee for this outing—a special SIPS-only rate and a great deal considering all-day photo events they host there typically cost much more. Let Lu or Dana know if you'd like to attend and they can handle the arrangements.