



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

July 2012 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

July

Meeting: Jul. 3

Program: Studio Lighting,

Jack Holderfield

15 Minutes of Fame: Karen Carlton

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: Portraits (60 day)

Outing: Centralia Balloon Fest,

Aug. 17-19

Planning Meeting: Aug. 21

September

Meeting: Sep. 4

Program: Photography / Journalists,

Paul Newton

15 Minutes of Fame: Linda Bundren,

Jo Dodd

Contest: Sunrise / Sunset (12 month)

Outing: Mermet Lake

Planning Meeting: Sep. 18

Inside...

News and the latest from Jim Osborn!

June Meeting

Our member meeting this month had a good turnout, and a couple visitors, Jim and daughter Mary Beth from Marion.

Our program this evening was given by Mike Chervinko, who spoke to us about historic Jackson County photos. He has a special interest in storm photos as well as photographing petroglyphs in Jackson County. After building a relationship with the Jackson County Historical Society, he got access to negatives showing damage from the 1925 tornado that hit Murphysboro. This tornado had winds of 73mph in a mile-wide swath, which would put it at F5 on today's scale. He created enlargements from these original glass negatives. He had lots of examples he had processed, which he passed around for detailed examination. He also had some glass negatives from Makanda and Giant City for inspection.

Mike brought some vintage camera equipment from his own collection, including a wooden camera, a Hasselblad, and a Press camera. He also brought in a Voigtlander 300mm lens, which fits his "giant" 1899 camera at home. That camera features exchangeable aperture parts for different f-stops.

Mike has spent the last 18 months photo-documenting petroglyphs. He had to do a lot of experimentation to get the result he wanted. All are done in black-and-white, to accentuate shadows and get the best image possible. The process he uses is from the 19th century: patina type using platinum and palladium. This is known as the most stable process for developing. He has 30 photos from his petroglyph work showing at SIU's museum from Jun. 26 through Sep. 28.

Our 15 Minutes of Fame members were Carol Sluzevich and Joanna Gray. They showed some photos from a birding trip to three places in Florida: Alligator Farm in St. Augustine, and Viera Wetlands and Merrit Island, further down the coast in Brevard County. Joanna showed before and after

cont'd on page 2 - June Meeting

Tech Savvy

by Jim Osborn

Opinions vary about the use of filters in photography and we have not had a program about filters at a club meeting in...well...ever.

For what it's worth, I'm going to share some of my thoughts about the filters that might be useful to you.

1. The polarizing filter—I use a circular polarizing filter for about 60% of my daylight shots. The polarizing filter is helpful in reducing glare and reflection (particularly when photographing water) and can deepen the colors in the image. The downside of using a polarizing filter is the reduction of light getting through to the sensor. The polarizer will reduce light by approximately 2 stops. Thus, if you are shooting in a situation that requires a fast shutter speed or in low light conditions, it may be difficult to get the speed you want at a reasonable ISO with a polarizer on your camera. When the sun is at the right angle and you rotate the polarizing filter you will see a change in the image. Don't feel compelled to maximize the effect of the polarizing. It is possible to over-polarize an image such that blue skies end up being too dark and too saturated. Rotate the filter until you get the right level of compensation for your image.

2. UV filters—I generally keep a UV filter on my lens for protection of the lens' glass. Some professionals point out that if an object strikes and breaks the filter, the shards of glass could break or scratch your lens, but I believe that the UV filter serves the useful purpose of reducing minor scratches and abrasions that can result from general use. Other than that I'm not convinced that the UV filter adds much to an image. I almost always remove UV filters when I take photographs.

3. Other filters—I carry both a variable neutral density (ND) filter and a graduated neutral density filter in my case. The ND filter is darkened to reduce light getting to



cont'd on page 2 - Photo Op

June Meeting

cont'd from p. 1

pictures of several birds, including snowy egret (and other birds) in breeding plumage. She also had many birds in flight, which exercise gave her a chance to work on clarity and accuracy. Carol focused on subject and framing, with pictures of the wetlands in wide angle, egrets with babies in the nest, and compositions of egrets, heron, and anhinga.

For Show and Tell, Karen Carlton, who has taught photography, related how a student had come to her and told her how he still uses the information he learned in highschool from her.

Our photo contest for this month was "Clowning Around / Laugh Out Loud." The winners were:

1st place: Lynn Love, "Clowning Around"

2nd place: Myers Walker, "Smiley Watertower"

3rd place: Mike Hicks, "Master Chef" Congratulations to all these winners. Entries were a bit scarce this month, so if a crowded field inhibited you from trying previously, it just goes to show your odds may be better than you think. Next month, our contest is "Sports" or "Children's Sports."

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

cont'd from p. 1

the sensor thus slowing down the shutter speed (they are available in different levels of darkness) while the graduated ND filter is half dark and half clear. I use the ND filter to help me create the feathery look of moving water in a stream or waterfall. I use the graduated ND filter when a landscape image presents significant differences in lighting between the sky and the ground. It helps darken the sky while leaving the ground at natural light levels.

4. Use of filters—Generally, I adhere to the philosophy that the more glass you place between the light source and the sensor the greater your risk for reducing sharpness. Also, when shooting wide angle images at maximum aperture with any filter, you risk “vignetting.” If your pictures are dark in the corners, that is vignetting. It results from the filter, which extends beyond the end of the lens, being visible in your wide angle shot. Sometimes you can see the vignetting in the viewfinder, but not always. For my own purposes, and I try to use thin filters when possible.

5. Prices and quality of filters—You can spend \$15 or you can pay \$300 for filters. First, let me give you a tip. If you own several lenses that require different size filters you can spend a fortune buying filters for each of them. Instead, buy ring adapters for the largest size filter you might need (say 77mm). One side of the ring adapter screws onto your lens, while the other side accommodates the a different size filter. For example, I use a ring adapter for a 77mm filter that attaches to my 62mm lens opening. Be aware, however, that ring adapters are also made to adapt a smaller filter to a larger lens aperture. Don't get the wrong adapter! Prices of filters are based on things such as glass vs. plastic; the type of metal that holds the glass (brass is best because it is the least likely to get “stuck” on your lens); the number of coatings applied to the glass to minimize scratches, the thickness of the filter (the thinner the more expensive), and variations/aberrations in the glass. If you use filters primarily to protect your lenses then go with cheaper filters, but if you plan to use filters regularly in your

photography you may want to pay a little more. The top brands, in my opinion, are B + W and Heliopan. Note: higher end B + W filters do not have two-sided screwing capability so you cannot stack filters nor can you put a standard lens cap on the filter. If you spend a lot on a filter, protect it as best you can with a lens cap.

Announcements & Events

This past month, we descended on Ferne Clyffe for the annual SIPS Picnic, where a good time was had by all. Also, recently Mike Hicks led an outing to the Butterfly House in St. Louis, joined by Joanna Gray and friend.

Our next outing is to Richard and Susan Day's landscaped acreage in Alma IL, on Saturday, July 14. We will meet at the restaurant at Centralia and caravan from there to Salem and Alma. There may also be some carpools forming from places like Marion or Benton, so ask around. There is a \$50 fee for this event; contact any club officer if you'd like to go.

We are also considering a July excursion to John A. Logan museum and the Murphysboro area in the near future as well. More details will be provided when this firms up, but let us know if you have thoughts on it.

Upoming outings being arranged include the Centralia Balloon Fest (Aug. 17-19), Mermet Lake (Sept.), and Ft. Massac (Oct.?) Some of these need leaders to volunteer, so contact a club officer if you'd like to coordinate.

Mike Hicks noted that the Japanese Lantern Festival is taking place at the Missouri Botanical Garden through August. There is a \$22 per person entry fee.

Carol Sluzevich mentioned a charity event in which Toyota will donate a car to one of four charities, of which Mentors 4 Kids (of Benton) is one. If you want to help, go to carsforgood.com and vote Day 58 once a day until July 10.