



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

August 2012 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

August

Meeting: Aug. 7

Program: Photography/Journalists,

Paul Newton

15 Minutes of Fame: Lanterns

Contest: Portraits (60 day)

Outing: Centralia Balloon Fest,

Aug. 18

Planning Meeting: Aug. 21

September

Meeting: Sep. 4

Program: Wedding Photography

Stephanie Milligan

15 Minutes of Fame: Linda Bundren,

Jo Dodd

Contest: Sunrise/Sunset (12 month)

Outing: Mermet Lake

Planning Meeting: Sep. 18

October

Meeting: Oct. 2

Program: TBD

15 Minutes of Fame: George Stone

Contest: Mystery Tour (60 day)

Outing: New Harmony, IN

Planning Meeting: Oct. 16

Inside...

News and an article from Linda Bundren!

July Meeting

Our program for July was Jack Holderfield, who spoke about studio lighting. Jack has done photographic lighting work for and taught classes at SIU.

Jack noted that studio lights come in many forms. (Some of you may recall the ones Dave Horning brought in when he did his program on portraits a few months ago.) Electronic lights work best these days, but Jack has a lot of experience with many older analog varieties as well. The quality of the light is the most important. Softer lights allow for less shadow and smoother lines on the subject. The goal of lighting is ultimately to make the subject look better.

A typical lighting setup uses a main light to set exposure, with the camera behind the light. Add a fill light to the right of the camera, to help separate the subject from the background (being careful to not create an in-frame shadow). A background light can also be added; these are set up on a black paper background.

To meter, start by turning on the main light, and meter the subject. Turn on the fill light and set for one stop less than the main light. Then use a light meter pointed at the camera to check balance. Black backgrounds can be changed by adding gel filters to the background light to effectively change the background color. It's common to use a softbox with a light; using an umbrella with the light instead will give a softer light.

There are just a few basic types of primary lighting. The first is three-quarter lighting (also known as Rembrandt lighting, which lights half the face). For this effect, the main light only is used, and must be moved as the subject changes position. Jack uses string on each light to track distance, so he can easily find the right spot

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Linda's Corner

by Linda Bundren

I have been blessed this first year of retirement to travel within the United States and the Caribbean. It has been enjoyable and educational as well. But of all the places that I have visited it is the national park system that I have enjoyed the most.

In April I visited Beto's Santa Clara Ranch. It was an exciting experience to be so close to the wildlife we were imaging. I increased the number of first time sightings

on my lifetime birding list. I especially enjoyed the green jay, Bewick's wren, pyrrhuloxia, Harris hawk and roadrunners. The highlight of the trip to Beto's had to be the rattlesnake we encountered the first day and the Texas tortoise we brought to the lawn of the bunkhouse to image in the flowers.

While in southwest Texas we also visited South Padre Island where we shot shore

birds and alligators. The pink spoonbills were very interesting to observe, as well as the tricolored herons, little blue herons, laughing gulls and clapper rail. I cannot name all the beautiful shorebirds I enjoyed but the most interesting part was watching the birds interact with each other and with the alligators. It was entertaining.

Later in April I returned to Texas to visit my nieces in Houston. My sisters and I were on a mission to take a dollhouse to 2 great nieces (granddaughters of one sister). Their grandfather and great grandfather had made it for their mother when she was their age. It was delightful to see the joy in their eyes when we open the hatch to my Explorer. This, however, was only the reason for the trip. We three sisters made a vacation out of it as well. We visited our aunt Hallie in Little Rock, Arkansas. She is a volunteer at the Clinton Presidential Library. We spent most of one day touring his library and the city of Little Rock by

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July Meeting

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and doesn't have to keep changing settings every time he moves it. A second type is 45 degree angle light. Front-on light to the face makes the skin look smooth. A third type is split lighting, which isn't used on portraits much, but is used on TV to create drama.

To get started Jack recommends starting with one mono-light, umbrella and stand. If you are wondering what lights were used in a photo you see, it is often possible to look closely at the eyes of the subject, to see the positioning of the lighting and the highlights used.

Our 15 Minutes of Fame this month was given by Karen Carlton. Karen is a former art teacher at Vienna HS, but she lived and taught in China from 1997 to 2001. She brought framed pictures of lily pads in Hong Kong, Shilin limestone formations (Stone Forest), and photos from her solo exhibit "Windows of Asia." Karen also told us about her students in China and the ways of life she observed.

Our photo contest this month was "Sports" and "Children's Sports." The winners were:

1st place: Virginia Stith, "Surfing in Myrtle Beach"

2nd place: Myers Walker, "Ringer"

3rd place: Mike Sanders, "Wave Boarding"

Congratulations to these winners! Other entries were from Linda Bundren, Jim Osborn, Jo Dodd, and Christina Fisher.

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trolley. It was quite an experience eating in Café 42 with our aunt.

While in Houston we visited the Titanic display at the Houston Museum and went to the butterfly house. It was very interesting to see the number of items that was preserved underwater for 100 years; among them were 19 vials of French perfume a company representative was bringing to America. At the butterfly house 9-10 rice butterflies landed on me at one time. They were not landing on anyone else. It was amazing how much attention I received because of these little guys.

We three sisters also made a day trip to Galveston Island. One of the highlights of this trip was reuniting my older sister with a classmate from her childhood. She was also a close neighbor to us all. Kay moved from Johnson County after high school and had only recently moved to Spring, Texas to be with family. We spent a day at Old Town Spring with her.

As we return to southern Illinois we stopped at Clinton's birthplace home in Hope and his boyhood home in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

In May I was invited to accompany a friend on a Caribbean cruise. This was an experience I will never forget. We both enjoyed the cruise on the Oasis of the Seas, which is a floating city in itself. We visited Labadee, Haiti, Falmouth, Jamaica, and Cozumel, Mexico. The excursions had lots of sun and sand to

enjoy and diamonds to purchase if you so desired.

Prior to flying to Florida, Jean and I visited Nashville and spent a day reliving the history of the battle of Franklin. Three homes remain intact today to reveal the scars of the Civil War; musket ball and cannon ball holes pepper the exteriors, as well as blood stains on the floors. The houses were used as hospitals after the 5 hour battle. All 10,000 men who died there were Americans. There is a Confederate cemetery located there as well.

My last adventure was to visit Tom Ulrich and Linda Martin in Columbia Falls, Montana with Johnnie and Jo Dodd. Tom's cabin sits on the edge of Glacier National Park, where we hiked almost every day. We visited St Mary and Virginia Falls, Running Eagle Falls, also known as Trick Falls, as well as Red Rock Falls. This time of year as the mountaintop snow is melting there are swift running streams and waterfalls almost anywhere you look.

Going to the Sun Road and Logan Pass are very scenic and awe inspiring. Although very strenuous and scary at times for me (asthmatic and afraid of heights) the trek to the Hidden Lake and the Continental Divide was the one of my favorite days. We encountered head-butting big horn sheep rams and Rocky Mountain goats with kids tagging along. The resounding "Crack" as young rams butted heads will remain with me for a long time. It was impressive. We also experienced an "Apron Party" at Polebridge, MT. All they wore were their aprons. It definitely was a party for the young-at-heart. We imaged a black bear and spruce grouse near Polebridge. We went to this area to image a fox kit but he was too shy to get a shot of him.

The most exciting time was spent on the moose stake-out. We spent five hours awaiting the arrival of a bull moose at Fisher Cap Lake. At 6 p.m. Tom said "we might as well go, they were probably at a different lake by now." There had been three bulls frequenting this lake almost every day between 1 and 5 p.m. I had just gotten my equipment taken down when a moose stepped out of the forest. We imaged him for an hour before heading to the cabin. He put on quite a

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Photo: Linda Bundren

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show. The next morning, we had the opportunity also to image a moose cow across the wetlands in front of Tom's cabin.

As we returned to the airport the last day we drove through the National Bison Range near Missoula. The buffalo that were close enough to shoot were old but we saw big horned sheep and prong horned antelope.

In conclusion, as a result of this marvelous summer I would like to encourage everyone to visit our national parks. I am so thankful for the opportunity to see so much of God's beautiful creation this summer. I am also thankful for the men who had the foresight to set these beautiful lands aside for all to enjoy. From the Presidential and Civil War historic sites to the wildlife havens, swift running rivers, magnificent gorges to the wide-open vistas, majestic mountains and arches, America is a beautiful place. There are nearly 400 U.S. National Park sites. Visit a few of them and you will be hooked like I am on the astonishing sights. In the words of John Muir, American naturalist and advocate for Yosemite and the Sequoia National Park, "The mountains are calling and I must go."



Photo: Linda Bundren

Outings Update

The SIPS picnic in June was attended by Mike Hicks, Joanna Gray, Linda Bundren (with sister Donna and brother-in-law Bill), Bill Thomas, Jim and Esther Bornert, Dave and Lu Horning, Christine Keeney, Christina Fisher and husband, Dave Hammond, Don and Mary McDonald, and Dana Tetzlaff.

For our July outing, there were unfortunately not enough signups to head up to the Days' in Alma. Instead we headed over to Murphysboro, to take in the John A. Logan Museum there. Bill Thomas, Bill Randall, Don McDonald,

and Jonathan Springer participated. After the museum, Don, who lives in Murphysboro, offered to show us his three miniature horses, one of whom is just a few months old.

Next month, our outing is to the Centralia Balloon Festival, on Aug. 18. Linda Bundren is leading this outing. We will meet at 6pm at the tethered balloon (used for visitor rides), which is expected to be near the south gate.

In September, we plan to go to Mermet lake. The date is not yet decided, as we still need a leader for it.



John A. Logan Museum, Murphysboro (photo: Jonathan Springer)

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.