



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

October 2012 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

October

Meeting: Oct. 2

Program: swap meet, vacation photos
member participation

15 Minutes of Fame: Jonathan
Springer

Contest: Self Portrait (30 day)

Outing: New Harmony, IN, Oct. 20

Planning Meeting: Oct. 16

November

Meeting: Nov. 6

Program: Suprise topic, Jim Bornert

15 Minutes of Fame: Joanna Gray

Contest: Mystery Tour (2.5 month),
and Scavenger Hunt (12 month)

Outing: TBD

Planning Meeting: Nov. 20

December

Meeting: Dec. 3

Program: Christmas Party (members),
Brady Kesner speaking

15 Minutes of Fame: none

Contest: none

Outing: none

Planning Meeting: none

Inside...

News and the latest from Jim
Osborn and Linda Bundren!

September meeting

Our program for the October meeting was Wedding Photography. Our presenter, Stephanie Milligan, runs a business, Stephanie Photography (stephaniephoto.com), that specializes in weddings and engagements. Stephanie got started with a degree in graphic design from SIU, and then progressed into photography, where her instructor's advice was to get in a studio and shoot. She worked at Delmar studios for five years, where she shot weddings, engagements, and families in addition to being a school photographer. Subsequently she worked for Lifetouch, which allowed her to shoot on her own as well, since they did not do weddings.

Stephanie likes the wedding day to be natural, so she works to build a relationship with the couple, starting with the initial consultation with the bride. This pays dividends on the wedding day, when the couple will know how Stephanie works and what to expect. She shoots not only the wedding but also the preparation, since there are many special moments there as well.

Stephanie prefers natural light, so she is always looking for the good illumination in an area to use. This means selecting a good location as well as a good time (e.g. the hour and a half before sunset). She typically uses an on-camera flash, but is moving to off-camera flash now. Her primary equipment is a Canon 5D Mark II, with the 24-70mm lens being the most used. She also uses the 50mm prime (1.2 f-stop) and the 70-200mm at times. Getting the shot right in-camera is important, to save time post-processing. She typically does little in the way of touch-ups, preferring to show people as they are.

Stephanie is actually getting married herself this month, after which she will be moving to Paducah. A friend who is also a wedding photographer is shooting her wedding.

Our 15 Minutes of Fame was given by

cont'd on page 2 - September Meeting

Tech Savvy

by Jim Osborn

Camera equipment isn't cheap! If you are active in photography you know that.

However, at the risk of "talking down" to some of you, I want to give you a few tips for protecting your equipment from some of the most common gremlins: water, drops/falls, theft, and sand.

Water—I can still remember George Stone telling the story of dropping his DSLR in a stream in an Arizona slot canyon where he was wading. He killed it. So how can you protect your camera when taking images close to or into water? First, your camera should have a wrist or neck strap and it should be in use....just be sure you don't accidentally dip your camera in the water. If you are hiking through streams, canoeing, or kayaking, you might want to stow your camera in a dry bag. If you are in a boat that has the potential to tip, don't let your dry bag/camera become the proverbial "rock" that sinks to the bottom in an instant. Tether the bag securely to your canoe/kayak with boatline or rope. Rain is another potential culprit. Commercial raincovers are available in a range of prices, but protecting your camera can be as easy as using a plastic garbage bag. If you are in an area with high humidity, experts recommend keeping silica gel packs in the case with your camera. This is also true when conditions are right for high condensation, such as on a ski trip when your equipment may be transferred from a warm environment to a much colder one. Just remember—water kills cameras.

Drops/falls—With many cameras, drops can be fatal. Protect your gear in a well padded or protective case. As noted previously, using a wrist or neck strap can prevent a drop. In my experience, I worry about dropping pieces of equipment that don't have straps such as flash units and lenses. Changing lenses on a DSLR quickly in the field can be tricky and risky. Since



cont'd on page 2 - Photo Op

September Meeting

cont'd from p. 1

Linda Bundren and Jo Dodd, who covered their Montana trip. They had lots of shots of mountains, lakes, and wildlife in Glacier National Park, as well as other nearby areas in Montana. They spent some time in East Glacier on the Blackfeet Nation Reservation, where they saw lots of prairie flowers. Other sites they visited included East Glacier lodge (which is similar to the Giant City Park lodge, but bigger), Lake McDonald, St. Mary River, and the National Bison Range near Missoula, MT. They described spending hours waiting for a moose and being rewarded with a beautiful shot of a moose wading in a lake.

For Show and Tell, Jim Bornert brought a couple Little Egypt Art Assoc. (LEAA) contest entries; one from Heron Pond and one from Mounds National Cemetery. Both placed well, and we heard that Christine placed first in the Art category. Jim also brought some photos he entered in the Cedarhurst Shrode Photography Competition, using a fisheye to good effect in one. Jim Osborn brought some photos to whet members' appetites for the Mermet Lake outing, including blue herons, lotus, and the resident bald eagle.

Our contest this month was Sunrise/Sunset, which drew a lot of interest. The winners were:

1st place: Virginia Stith, "Rend Lake Sunset"

2nd place: Myers Walker, "Atlantic Sunset"

3rd place (4-way tie): Linda Bundren, "Sunset on the Lake", Dave Hammond, "Setting Sun", Joanna Gray, "Savannah Sunset", Jonathan Springer, "Sunrise over Lynnhaven Roads"

Other entries were made by Mike Hicks, Jo Dodd, Leon Stith, Bill Thomas, Jim Osborn, Karen Carlton, Lynn Love, and Katie Carl. Our contest next month is "Self-Portrait". This has only a 30-day window, since it was announced at the last meeting (due to the moving of the Mystery Tour deadline to November).

Photo Op

cont'd from p. 1

none of us has 3 hands, it is best to set things down on a solid flat surface rather than try to juggle lenses, cameras, end caps, filters etc. The fewer times you have to change lenses in the field, the better. Carrying multiple pieces of equipment in your arms rather than in proper storage cases may be convenient at times, but the risk of drops is much greater. Carrying a tripod over your shoulder with your camera still mounted can also be a ticket for disaster, particularly if it is quite heavy.

Theft—Six words—"keep your eyes on your gear!" I lug camera equipment along with me whenever I travel because I'm always worried I might miss that "once in a lifetime" photo. When traveling with your equipment in a car here are some tips: (a) keep it out of view from the windows (such as in the trunk or on the rear floor), (b) do not leave your windows rolled down even an inch, and (c) be cognizant of where you leave your car (trailheads are notorious for auto burglaries). A friend of mine had a laptop stolen from the front seat of his locked car in the span of 10 minutes when he was checking into a hotel. If you are traveling by plane, DO NOT under any circumstance check your equipment through in your luggage. Having said that, I do stow my tripod in the bag that I check. There is no weight limit for carry-ons—so take advantage of that.* Just remember though that your carry-on must fit in the overhead compartment. Pelican makes a hard-sided case that easily fits in an overhead compartment. Also, Kata makes a great backpack with LOTS of room that fits as well. If you still have equipment you can't squeeze into your carry-on, put smaller items in your coat pockets.

Sand—Sand is not your friend. The little grains can do more damage than you can imagine from getting into the moving camera parts to scratching your

**Editor's note: While domestic carriers do not typically have a weight limit for carryons, some international airlines do. British Airways made me redistribute the contents of my carryon bag once because it was over their limit. Ask in advance when traveling overseas.*

sensor, lenses or filters. If you must take your camera to a beach, put the lens you want on the camera before going. At the beach, do not set your camera, any lens, any filter, or any camera peripheral that you care about on the sand. Sand that gets on one piece can be transferred to other pieces.

Final note: If you travel a lot or are prone to accidents with your equipment, consider buying insurance for your gear.

Outings and Announcements

Our September outing was to Mermet Lake, in Massac County. Attendees included Linda Bundren, Jim Osborn, Lu Horning, and Jonathan Springer. Please note that if you went either weekend (the 15th or the 22nd) you are due member-of-the-year credit; let Lu know so she can update the records.

Our October outing with be to New Harmony, Indiana. We will meet at the Visitor Center parking lot at 9 a.m. on Oct. 20. Dave Horning is leading this outing.

Jim Osborn let us know about SIH's need for photos for a new space in Carbondale, for which they will be holding a contest. Look for details soon, but if you have work covering healthy living in Illinois you should consider submitting images.

The Friends of Crab Orchard Photo Contest entries are due Oct. 31. It's open to amateurs for up to 5 photos (\$5 per photo), which must have been taken in southern Illinois. Go to **friendsofconwr.com** and click the Photo Contest link for details.

The Federal Recreation Lands Photo Contest entries are due by Dec. 31. There are several categories, and the grand prize is \$15,000 and your image gets used on the Annual Federal Recreation Lands Pass for 2014. Entries must have been taken since Jan. 1, 2010. Go to **sharetheexperience.org** for details.

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum is holding a Photography Competition in celebration of the artist's 125th birthday. Submissions must be applicable to the contest theme, "Flowers." Early entry deadline is Nov. 15, with a final deadline of Dec. 15. The fee is \$35 for 3 images. See **okeeffemuseum.org** for details.

Linda's Corner

by Linda Bundren

Mermet Lake was originally an old cypress swamp. In the early to mid 60's it was developed into a shallow lake by creating a system of levees. I remember as a young child going to Mermet Lake for a family picnic. It was not the lake it is today. What stayed with me as a lasting memory was that they were fishing with bow and arrows that were attached to a reel. I remember the fishermen were hauling in very larger fish, mostly grinnell and carp (neither of which are very good eating fish). Today, it is a different lake and quite the fishing spot. There are plenty of sporting fish available now; large mouth bass, channel cat and perch. The lake was primarily developed as a duck hunting spot through the winter months. But one will also find an abundance of Canadian geese throughout the winter months as well as some blue and snow geese. The level of the lake is dropped 2 feet each fall to accommodate the duck hunters. During this season the lake is closed to the public.

There is a variety of other birds that can be imaged there at different times of the years; such as white pelicans, yellow crowned night heron, great blue heron, green herons, egrets, red winged black birds, wild turkey, blue and rose grosbeak, cormorants, hawks, osprey and bald eagles.

The lake is abloom with American lotus about 3 to 4 months out of the year.



Mermet Lake (photo: Linda Bundren)

Unfortunately when we met on Saturday I saw only one bloom. I suppose the drought affected them too. In the past I have imaged the beautiful lotus bloom into October. There was a beautiful misty sunrise on Saturday morning but the wildlife was limited. I enjoyed the shoot and a few SIPS members shared the morning with me.

Mystery Tour Contest

Reminder: Our Mystery Tour contest "Ghost Towns" is now running and due at the November meeting (Nov. 6). Unlike in previous years, there is no specific route you have to follow. Pictures can be taken anywhere in a ghost town (one, or several) in Southern Illinois. Turn in a portfolio of 10 images, each of which should be 5x7 prints. You may provide text for each item if you wish, but it is not required. Do not identify yourself by name anywhere in the portfolio. The contest will be decided by an outside judge.

For more details visit sipscameraclub.com; click the Club News link and you'll get the instructions and some fascinating background.

Scavenger Hunt Contest

Reminder: Our scavenger hunt photo contest entries are due at the November meeting. The hunt items are: Shot in the dark, Cereal, Reflections, Life is a stage, Country Roads, Vivid colors, Bridges, Tools, Make Believe, and Peace & Tranquility.

The 10 photos should be printed at 5x7, and collected into a portfolio or album. Do not identify yourself in your portfolio. The winners will be announced in December at the SIPS Christmas Party.



Heron at Mermet Lake (photo: Linda Bundren)