



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com
June 2013 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

June

Meeting: Jun. 4
Program: On-site library photos
15 Minutes of Fame: Jo Dodd
Contest: Rocks and Stones (1 year)
(unlimited postprocessing)
Outing: SIPS picnic, Jun. 8
Planning Meeting: Jun. 18

July

Meeting: Jul. 2
Program: Archiving and Storage
15 Minutes of Fame: Dave Horning
Contest: My Kind of Town/City
(60 days)
Outing: Richard and Susan Day's,
Aug. 3
Planning Meeting: Jul. 16

August

Meeting: Aug. 6
Program: Photo Manipulation,
Bill Randall
15 Minutes of Fame: Jonathan
Springer
Contest: My Neighborhood (1 year)
Outing: DuQuoin Fair, Aug. 24
Planning Meeting: Aug. 20

Inside...

The latest from Jim Osborn, Linda Bundren, and Joanna Gray!

May Meeting

Our May meeting program was to review our outing last month, "4 Hours in the Life of Anna, Illinois," organized by Karen Carlton. Karen went over some of the statistics about Anna to start with: its population is 4200, 96.2% white, median family income is \$30,912, with 23.6% below the poverty line. Anna has 6 items on the National Registry of Historic Places. After this introduction we took a look at the portfolios that several members created from this outing.

Dave Horning: fire Station, fire hoses, train tracks, chicks at a feed store, scales, barbershop chair, cigar box mandolin, pool hall 8-ball, mannequin with wig.

Teresa McIntosh: Jonesboro square, iris & flowers around town, house architecture, Jim & Dot's shoe store hat tree, organ in Chornthall Church, Texaco sign & pump, pottery in Isom's Antique Shop.

Lynn Love: Lincoln Memorial Park, church in Anna, home architecture & windows, reflection on Kiki's Coffee House, tulips along walkway in downtown Anna, duck sign, organ in Chornthall Church, out front door of Cornthall Church.

Bill Thomas: WWI memorial at Anna cemetery, wall near antique store in Anna, inside of banquet hall of Lou's Place, window reflection, pulpit, family home, llama.

Dana Tetzlaff: Warehouse past Jim & Dot's in Anna, Barbie head, Lou's place decorations, Choate center, Davies School B&B, house beside Cornthall Church, Cornthall Church, llama, Ron (the artist) building.

Jo Dodd: Steve Beck selling hot dogs, Jim & Dot's boots, Cornthall Church, Mayberry's music guitar, looking out the window to an outhouse at Cornthall Church, Lincoln Memorial Park, St. Ann's Church.

Karen Carlton: Anna graffiti, Jim & Dot's outside, inside behind counter, Stan behind the counter, family buying boots, girl arranging stuffed animals, series of belts, boot toes lined up, stacked hats, Stan

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Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

Often when people join the Southern Illinois Photographic Society (SIPS) I hear them say that they just want to learn to take better pictures. I really think that's what we all want regardless of whether you just got your first camera or you are a professional. When I first became seriously interested in photography, I didn't know about SIPS, I didn't have a mentor and I REALLY didn't know much about photography. The best advice I got was to read about photography and look at lots of pictures. In the magazines, I found that I didn't even understand the jargon of photography so when an article mentioned f-stop or shutter speed or ISO or SLR, I was mystified. I kept track of my questions, I sought out someone who could "talk photography" with me and I educated myself. I subscribed to a variety of photo magazines such as Nature Photographer, Outdoor Photography, Popular Photography, Shutterbug, Digital Photo Pro, American Photo, etc. and I did look at lots of pictures and I did read the articles. Sometimes I would cut photos out of a magazine that appealed to me and put them in a folder. I remember going into B & L Photo in Carbondale and asking questions of Brian, the owner. He was very helpful and steered me in the right direction. At that time, SIH employed a photographer. I made friends with him and took him out and bought lunch for him just to get him to look at some of my photos and critique them. He turned out to be another great resource....up until he left the organization. The other important step I took was to take an evening class at John A. Logan College. Jack Holderfeld was the instructor. I really learned to understand the lingo of photography and I learned about managing depth of field and exposure and composition. Just when I thought I was getting pretty good I was introduced to



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Meet a SIPS Member – Myers Walker

by Joanna Gray

If the name Myers Walker sounds familiar it's because you've heard his name announced as the winner of the SIPS monthly photo contest many times over the past months. Originally from Durham, NC, Myers and his wife Frances live near Cedar Lake south of Carbondale. Not surprisingly, Myers' first job after high school was at a commercial photography school where he did everything from assist the owner to sweeping the studio floor. After college he worked at the local television station where he worked on live broadcasts and did news photography – even “in the air” shooting news film from a Goodyear Blimp. Now learn more about Myers in his own words:

Why did you move to southern Illinois?

I came to SIUC to work at WSIU-TV as art and staging director and instructor in the Radio-TV Department. After retiring from there, my wife and I operated the first bed & breakfast in Jackson county for 12 years. Also, after retiring from SIUC, I began going out to Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico on "EarthWatch" archaeological expeditions to document petroglyphs and historical American Indian structures. During many summers, a Colorado archaeologist has let me "help" her on projects at Mesa Verde in CO, the Aztec Ruins National Monument in NM, and other primitive areas in Utah. (The "Four Corners" area is covered with petroglyphs.) These photographs were "documentary" rather than "scenic" in that the proportions and scale were strictly maintained for archaeological records and not for aesthetic beauty.

What kind of camera, lenses, and other photography gear do you use?

I started out using a 4x5 Speed

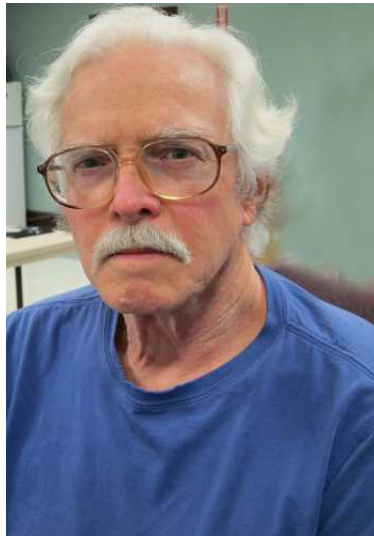
Graphic, but now use a "35 mm" digital Fuji S5. I have acquired Nikon, Sigma, and other brands of lenses ranging from 8mm to 1300mm (not the expensive ones however). I print with an Epson 2200 printer (13-inch).

When did you first become interested in photography?

One day it dawned on me that, not only the drug store, but I myself could actually print photographs when my art teacher in the 5th grade demonstrated how to use blue print paper to print designs. I got a "developing kit" for a birthday present and my interest in photography took off from there.

What is your most memorable photography experience, or most memorable photograph?

Hiking several hours into a Utah primitive area (and several hours out) to document a spectacular 16 meter wide petroglyph panel on a high ridge in



Myers Walker (photo: Joanna Gray)

Utah which had to be photographed in sections with a wide angle lens and stitched together because the ledge in front was less than 2 meters wide. The most memorable photograph was of a simulated "overhead view" documentation of the 14 meter diameter "Great Kiva at Lowry Pueblo" in CO which had to be photographed in about 100 sections using a camera atop a 15 foot pole and then stitched together manually.

Do you feel that your interest in photography has enriched your life? If so, in what way?

Composing photographs has caused me to closely observe things, and notice details and backgrounds.

What are your goals for photography for 2013?

Just to enjoy participating in SIPS. It is inspiring to associate with such a talented group.

Photo Op

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Nature's Best magazine. OMG!! The images in Nature's Best were stunning, exciting, memorable and truly brilliant. I remember feeling totally incompetent. I even thought to myself, "what's the use." It took a while for me to get it through my thick head that I wasn't in competition with anyone. Everything I learned I was putting to good use. I braved the real world and entered some photos in the fall Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest. Lo and behold, I won two awards.....and I met George Stone. George told me about this little club called the Southern Illinois Photographic Society that met at John A Logan College. I went to my first meeting, only about 8 or 10 people were there, but I was totally hooked. The members of the club were more than willing to explain things, give tips, discuss new equipment and critique photos. I would like to think that our club still offers those "perqs" to folks who are new to photography. If you are new to the hobby, don't be afraid to ask questions, bring your photos to meetings for show and tell, and participate in contests and outings. We all just want to learn to take better pictures.

SIPS Picnic

Our June outing is the annual SIPS picnic. This will take place June 8 from 4-8 p.m. at the Jonesboro Park. Members are asked to bring their own meat for grilling (this is a change from past years), as well as a side dish for sharing. Please also bring any plates, cups, and utensils you may need. The club will provide the charcoal for grilling.

Our July outing will actually take place early in August: we are going to Richard and Susan Day's on Sat., Aug. 3. There is a \$50 per person fee for this, which gives access to their extensive experience and extensive grounds for the whole day.



Rifle Falls, Rifle Falls State Park, Colorado (photo: Linda Bundren)

Colorado in Spring

by Linda Bundren

Jo Dodd and I recently attended the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers Conference (RMOWP) in Fruita, Colorado near the Colorado National Monument. We were quite excited as we arose at 3:30 a.m. to catch our flight out of St. Louis. Landing in Colorado two hours later we met our friend, Ryan Weishalla from Bloomington, Illinois and began our discovery tour of Colorado.

We drove to Grand Junction for a couple of days of hiking before the conference began. We visited Rifle, Colorado and a state park that featured triple waterfalls along a mile long trail. We enjoyed imaging the American dippers and Steller's jays while relaxing in the cool breeze near the falls.

We spent the next day at Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Early morning we took the five-mile motor trail to the bottom of the canyon (15 degree incline) for a beautiful morning with the sunlight pouring over the canyon wall. It was cool and peaceful along the canyon stream below and we imaged fly fishermen busy at their craft and small singing birds as well as landscapes of the canyon walls.

Afterward we ate bison burgers at a local café then back to the canyon rim. We continued to observe a multitude of awesome landscapes and imaged small birds. (I will be researching for a while to identify the western bird species.) My favorite bird images were the Steller's

jay, Mexican jay, broadtail hummingbird and the mountain bluebird. The scenic images included a kneeling camel (similar to our camel rock at Garden of the Gods) and the fire-breathing dragons on the wall of Black Canyon. Returning to Grand Junction we observed a gorgeous golden sunset in the west (but no place to pull off to image it).

The first conference meeting was on Wednesday but not before we had time to visit a wildlife refuge or two. We observed prairie dogs and various varieties of birds. It is always fun seeing old friends and making new ones and that is the purpose of the first evening together at RMOWP. Happy Hour was followed by a slideshow of all the RMOWP contest entries.

The first activity of the conference was a five-mile hike into Monument Canyon to the namesake of the park. Independence Monument set on the floor of the canyon with several other massive rock spires and sheer walled canyons surrounding it; i.e. Kissing Couple, Twin Sisters, Coke Furnaces and Mushroom Rock.

Colorado National Monument was discovered by John Otto in 1906. He stayed in the area to promote this place, because he thought it should be a national park. Some folks thought he was crazy. He lived alone out in the wild and desolate canyon country southwest of Grand Junction. He loved the land so much that he campaigned tirelessly for it to be set aside as a national park. With

the help of the citizens of Grand Junction his dream was realized in 1911 when Colorado National Monument was established. He served as the park's caretaker until 1927 for a salary of \$1 a month. A job he did gladly.

This hike was an exhausting trip with the trail meandering up and down along the canyon wall but it was well worth the effort. We imaged Gambel's quail, western King birds, western cotton-tailed rabbit, desert big horned sheep and multiple lizards. The most beautiful one was the Collared Lizard. We had four opportunities to image this beautiful yellow and blue reptile as they frolicked along the rocks protecting their territory.

The next morning began with Jack's Jaunt to the rim of Monument Canyon for a sunrise shoot. It was beautiful along the rim but the sun did not cooperate and only spotted the canyon wall long enough to get two images fired off. However, it was enjoyable obtaining scenes of the

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Tech Savvy

by Jim Osborn

Last fall I bought a wrist strap for my camera because I felt that most neck straps were bulky and awkward. I used it almost exclusively on my DSLR. The wrist strap had a pinch release for quick removal. Recently, while at the Botanical Gardens in St. Louis I was getting off the tram with my camera tethered to my wrist. I let go of the camera to hold the rail on the tram car. In an instant my camera fell to the ground...on concrete. The clasp had come apart. Fortunately the filter that was on my camera took the brunt of the damage. It cracked and wedged into the lens. I had to take the lens to an expert who was able to remove the filter without damaging the glass of the lens. Unfortunately, that was the second time the clasp had come apart. The first time I thought it was just a freak accident and I kept using the wrist strap—now, after a little heartache and with a lighter billfold, I know better. I avoided major catastrophe to my lens by a fraction of an inch and because the glass was protected by a filter. The bottom line—I will no longer use wrist straps. Bulky and awkward or not, I will use neck straps. Heed my warning!!

Colorado in Spring

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rock formations from the top of the canyon. The afternoon featured a picnic at the Saddlehorn Picnic area along the rim in the Colorado National Monument. This was followed by slideshows presented by four RMOWP members. Linda Martin showed and narrated a slideshow featuring LaRue Pinehills and all the creatures she had imaged there, as well as educational activities that occur at these swamplands of Southern Illinois. She loves that snake road much more than I.

Friday featured a guided walk in Fruita Paleontological Area and Devils Canyon. The highlights of this walk were the sites where the remains of dinosaurs have been found within McInnis Canyons and desert wildflowers. Eight

ancient species have been found here which includes the giant plant-eating brontosaurus. Jo made this trek but Ryan and I went back to Monument Canyon to image the Gambel's quail again. During our free time in the afternoon, Jo and I toured the Dinosaur Museum next door to our motel. It is interesting to see the size of the animals that once walked the earth in America and to realize how small we are in the total realm of things. It is also amazing to realize that these giant critters were discovered in America in 1900.

In the afternoon Bill Haggerty, a local writer, gave a comical presentation on "How to Make Money from Your Outdoor Adventures". He was very entertaining but it was geared more to the writers. Tom Ulrich followed with a workshop, "In Pursuit of the Winning Image". He gave us tips on what to avoid and emphasized the rules of basic photography; i.e. rule of thirds, leading lines, s-curve entry lines, the focal point (what's the topic), landscapes need an anchor point in the foreground with interest in the foreground, middle ground

and background and that most important item, tack sharp focus.

Saturday morning began with another sunrise "Jaunt with Jack" to the rim. The town of Fruita also was hosting a festival, "Mike, the Headless Chicken Festival". The town and the parks were full of people so we headed for the refuges to image birds and other wild things.

The afternoon was our annual auction to raise funds for our Scholarship Fund. (I could not miss the second leg of the Triple Crown; and therefore missed the first half of the auction.) Beto Gutierrez was our auctioneer and was very entertaining as he conducted the business of selling our items. We raised over \$3000 for a scholarship in writing or photography.

The last night was

the banquet featuring the awards ceremony. I received an honorable mention in the "Funny Photo" category. The Best of Show and the Member's Choice Awards both went to Hector Astorga for his wild mustang images.

They were gorgeous!

I seldom travel without running into someone I know or someone who knows people in southern Illinois. This trip was no exception. While driving back to Denver we made a trek into the mountains to image snow scenes. Stopping in Georgetown for lunch we saw two mountain men with pack mules walking up the street. We visited with them a while as we took pictures of them and their burros. One of the men asked us where we were from. "Illinois." "Where in Illinois?" "Southern Illinois." "Where in southern Illinois?" "Marion, Carbondale area." He then replied "Creal Springs?" He was raised in Creal and had moved to Colorado in 1981. He still has family here in southern Illinois. Just how often do you get to meet a "Creal critter" in Colorado? This encounter made a delightful end to my trip.



Collared lizard (photo: Linda Bundren)

Scavenger Hunt

A reminder, we have a yearlong "scavenger hunt" photo contest. Entries are due at our November meeting, and should consist of one photo from each of the following categories: Still Life, Through My Window, My Best Friend, 6- or 8-legged Creatures, Pond Life, Railroads, Curves, Abandoned Buildings, Shoes/Boots, and Silhouettes.



Monument Canyon, Colorado (photo: Linda Bundren)

iPhone Apps & Accessories Web Site List

At the April meeting, Dave Horning and Jim Osborn presented lots of info on how to get the most out of your smartphone camera. In the previous newsletter, we included an annotated list of apps. In this one, we include all of the web site links that they shared. Note that these links are also available in the "Club News" section at sipscameraclub.com.

Lens:

http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/search?atclk=Accessory+Type_Photo%2fVideo+Attachments&ntt=iPhone+Lens&ci=11773&N=4220238582+4197011088

Tripods: [http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/895319-](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/895319-REG/Joby_jb01256_bww_Grip_Tight_Gorillapod_Stand_Black_Charcoal.html)

[REG/Joby_jb01256_bww_Grip_Tight_Gorillapod_Stand_Black_Charcoal.html](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/895319-REG/Joby_jb01256_bww_Grip_Tight_Gorillapod_Stand_Black_Charcoal.html)

Filters: http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/890214-REG/Holga_400131_Lens_Filter_and_Case.html

Underwater housing: [http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/896472-](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/896472-REG/Watershot_wsip4_001_Watershot_Underwater_Camera_Housing.html)

[REG/Watershot_wsip4_001_Watershot_Underwater_Camera_Housing.html](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/896472-REG/Watershot_wsip4_001_Watershot_Underwater_Camera_Housing.html)

Handheld Camera Stabilizer: [http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/824320-](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/824320-REG/Glidecam_XR_1000_Handheld_Camera_Stabilizer.html)

[REG/Glidecam_XR_1000_Handheld_Camera_Stabilizer.html](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/824320-REG/Glidecam_XR_1000_Handheld_Camera_Stabilizer.html)

Dolly: <http://thewirecutter.com/reviews/best-iphone-pico-dolly/>

Light: <http://www.iphoneography.com/journal/2013/3/29/the-pocket-spotlight-from-photojojo-a-bright-constant-light.html>

Through-the-lens: <http://www.iphoneography.com/journal/2013/3/24/this-week-through-the-lens-of-an-iphone.html>

Another through-the-lens: <http://www.iphoneography.com/journal/2013/3/31/this-week-through-the-lens-of-an-iphone.html>

April Meeting

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& his wife, lunch at Potato Barn.

Linda Bundren: Cornthall Church (outside, entrance, kerosene lamp, old parsonage), brick home built in 1855 in Jonesboro, St. Ann's church in Anna (1886), Main Street Anna - the Keyhole House built in 1890, house where Lincoln stayed in 1858 to prepare for Lincoln-Douglas debates, Jo Dodd's granddaughter's house, Potato Bard (Country Cupboard), Lincoln Memorial Park.

Virginia Stith: Tulips & Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, sidewalk drawing across street from Jim & Dot's, Mary (the mannequin) in This 'n That, walk on the sidewalk of trees, sidedoor into basement of church, scenic route from Cornthall Church to Ebenezer Church, Cornthall Church inside shots & to house next door.

Karen took the photos to Reppert Publishing for inclusion in the Anna Monday paper.

The Gallery at Crossroads Cafe is ongoing: Linda Bundren was exhibiting in May, with Christine Keeney up for June. Currently, all of the remaining months in 2013 have been taken, but if you would like to do one, let a board member know in case there is a cancellation or someone wants to swap.

The SIPS clothing arrangements have been made by Linda Bundren now. She will take orders at the next meeting.

Please note that the orders must be prepaid.

For Show and Tell this month, Jim Osborn had some frames from Mermet Lake, with Canada Geese, osprey, snakes, and turtles.

Tom Rabideau showed us a visit to the Lone Elk Conservatory with the Light & Lens Club and some ALPS members. It was also mentioned that the Light & Lens Club meets in Centralia on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Their upcoming outing schedule includes the Butterfly House (Jun.), the Balloon Fest (Aug.), Cedarhurst (Sep.), and Our Lady of the Snow (Dec.).

Our photo contest this month was "Cell phones and point-and-shoot," in which all entries were to be made using a point-and-shoot or cell phone camera. Our winners were:

1st place (tie): Christine Keeney, "Hand Held Nightlite" (Canon Elf) and Dave Horning, "Bloomer" (iPhone)

3rd place: Dana Tetzlaff, "A Boy and His Dog" (iPhone using InstaGram)

Congratulations to these winners! Our contest next month is "Rocks and Stones," and unlimited photo processing is allowed.