



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

March 2014 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

March

Meeting: Mar. 4
Program: Linda Martin
15 Minutes of Fame: Linda Bundren
Contest: Art in Nature (unltd. proc.)
Outing: Tom Ulrich, SIU, Mar. 18;
Buffalo Roundup, Mar. 22;
Mo. Botanical Garden Orchids
Planning Meeting: none

April

Meeting: Apr. 1
Program: Panel Discussion: What
to Look for in Contest Photos
15 Minutes of Fame: Swap Meet
Contest: Historic or Antique
Outing: Fountain Bluffs, Apr. 26
Planning Meeting: Apr. 15

May

Meeting: May 6
Program: Panoramas and Landscapes
Mike Hicks
15 Minutes of Fame: Joanna Gray
Contest: Trees
Outing: TBD
Planning Meeting: May 20

Inside...

All the news and the latest from Jim Osborn and Linda Bundren!

February Meeting

The meeting opened with our featured speaker, Christine de Shazo, owner of Spectrum Graphics Studio in Murphysboro. Spectrum Graphics is a local printer specializing in large, high quality images on a wide variety of media, including vinyl, canvas, and “fat head” adhesive-backed matte paper that sticks to a wall.

Chris specializes in commercial printing, such as product labels and packaging, advertising signs, flags, and vehicle wraps. However, she can also print large fine art photo images on most any of the media she carries. She will consult with a photographer to help select the best media for the type of image to be printed.

Digital images to be printed can be sent to Chris via e-mail or brought to her directly on a flash drive or CD. The image must be in either JPEG or EPS format. Pricing depends on the media type. For example, a lightweight canvas is \$8.00 per square foot. Banner cloth runs \$5.00 per square foot and is a good media for large banners, flags, and even fine art giclee prints.

For our 15 Minutes of Fame, Jim Osborn presented a series of beautiful images from his past and recent journeys to national parks in New Mexico, Colorado, and other parts of the Southwest. Jim included images he captured at Bosque del Apache, Capitol Reef, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Arches National Park, and Great Sand Dunes National Park.

In announcements, Tom Dunn will showcase 10 images at Crossroads Coffee House during the month of March. There are still some months available and club members are encouraged to show their work at Crossroads.

Bill Thomas is arranging for us to hold our annual SIPS Picnic in June at The Haven. The Haven is right on Crab Orchard Lake, off Rt. 13 at Carterville.

Dave Hammond let us know that the Light and Lens Club of Centralia has a Spring Contest that is open to the public. Entries are due Apr. 4, and are \$20 for up to

cont'd on page 3 - February Meeting

Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

What a brutal winter this has been! The good news was that I got my wish for a cold spell (although it seemed more protracted than I would have preferred)! I made the trek up to Alton for the swans—there were between 700 and 800 swans at the Riverlands Migratory Area across the Mississippi River from Alton. What a fabulous sight!.....and I traveled on to Louisiana, MO and Clarksville, MO for the eagles. When I discovered that the weekend I chose for my trip was the same weekend as Eagle Days in Clarksville, I was a little disheartened. In past years, I have seen the crowds at that event and I did not relish elbowing in among the myriad of photographers that would be lining the river to get their own images of the diving eagles. In reality, the cold weather probably kept a lot of people away. Parking in Clarksville right along the river was not a problem and there were only a few hardy souls out taking pictures. There were, indeed, a lot of bald eagles at Clarksville. At one point I counted around 25 in the air all at once. However, there were a lot of immature eagles and, generally, the eagles were far enough away that I needed every millimeter of my Sigma 150-500mm to get a “decent” shot.

I had booked a room at the River's Edge Motel 10 miles north of Clarksville in Louisiana, MO. It was no frills (but clean), the price was right, and the eagle photography was outstanding! Right behind the motel was a rather non-descript alley-type road that went right down to the river. From the vantage point of the road there were eagles galore....and close, too! In one tree alone I counted 18 bald eagles, while another 30 eagles stood on the ice. Of course there were eagles in other trees and more soared on the air currents above the open water and ice. There had to be over 100 bald eagles in that one section of the river. For me, it was the true Photo Op I



cont'd on page 3 - Photo Op

Linda's Corner

We had to reschedule our February Outing due to severe weather, but yesterday in spite of the severe forecast 13 SIPS, L & L, and ALPS members and friends met at the Endangered Wolf Center for a private guided tour of the facilities. They have 30 wolves in residence of varied species. We viewed or imaged the Mexican gray wolf, red wolf, African painted dogs, maned wolf, and the swift fox. It was a delight to see these mammals up close since they are naturally shy around humans. Our guides were very friendly, courteous and tried to provide us with the best opportunity to get good images. The shoot was complicated by double fencing around the confinement areas; however we were allowed to image from an elevated area where the red wolves were confined.

We visited the Lone Elk Park and enjoyed a very nice drive but I was somewhat disappointed with the abundance of elk and bison that we observed in the park.

Our last stop was the World Bird Sanctuary. This facility housed numerous species of raptors: various species of eagles, hawks, owls and a Peregrine falcon. They house a Bird Hospital on the premises. There were numerous injured specimen of my favorite bird of all, the American Bald Eagle. One pair had even made a nest on the ground in their enclosure. We observed them change positions on the nest to keep the egg warm. Again it was a challenge to image some of the birds due to size of the wire on the enclosures but there were areas where the birds were tethered without any obstructions.

The best part of the day was the camaraderie and fellowship of the participants. The outings provide a wonderful opportunity for us to get to know each other better as we travel to the event and shoot at the same venues. I hope everyone enjoyed the day as much as I did. Hope to see more of you at our next outing. March 18 we will be going to Tom Ulrich's presentation at Morris Library—Guyon Auditorium at 7 p.m. Tom is a well known nature photographer and former graduate of SIU-C. This presentation is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Southern

Illinois Photographic Society, SIU
Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab and
SIU Alumni Association.

Linda



Mexican Gray Wolf, Endangered Wolf Center



Lone Elk Park



Bald Eagle, World Bird Sanctuary



L-R BACK: David Sluzevich, Codie Petersen, Joseph Proscice, Bill Thomas; MID: Leslee Forbes, Linda Martin, Joanna Gray, Carol Sluzevich, Mary Sikovski, Jo Dodd, Linda Bundren; FRONT: Declan and Christie Bingham.

Photo Op

cont'd from p. 1

had hoped for! For the first time in almost a decade the eagles were in great abundance at that location and I was able to capture the best images of eagles in the wild that I have ever taken.

Recently, Leon Stith posted a short video on Facebook of a huge flock of snow geese flying over Lake Carlyle. I think my next weekend trip will be down to Union County Conservation Area (UCCA) to look for snows. In normal years, 30,000 to 60,000 migrating snow geese stop over at the UCCA. It is one of the great spectacles in our area to see thousands of snow geese explode into flight all at once. Perhaps the snow geese will not be there in abundance—I have not heard any reports yet, but wildlife photography is about the search and patience. We will win some and we will lose some but I never tire of the hunt for quality pictures! By the way, March signals the start of the mating season for wild turkeys. The jakes will strut their stuff and fan their tail feathers for the ladies. Keep your camera at the ready!

February Meeting

cont'd from p. 1

4 photos. The show runs Apr. 25 to 27 at the Centralia Cultural Society.

Tom Ulrich will give his annual presentation at SIU on March 18 at 7 p.m. in the Guyon Room in Morris Library. This counts as our March outing, but if you can't make it, another option is the Buffalo Roundup in Cobden, on Mar. 22. Yet a third option (if you hurry) is the annual Missouri Botanical Garden Orchid show, which ends Mar. 7.

Please also note: the normal date for the March planning meeting falls of the same day as Tom's presentation at SIU, so we are cancelling the planning meeting. (This could be a testament to the tremendous efficiency of our Feb. meeting...but really we all just want to hang out with Tom!)

Our contest this month was "Black and White." The winners were:

1st place: Dave Hammond, "King of the Hill"

2nd place: Jim Osborn, "Bunker"

3rd place: Dave Hammond, "Symmetrical Trees"

Congratulations to these winners! Next month, our contest is "Art in Nature," for which unlimited processing is allowed.