



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

June 2014 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

June

Meeting: Jun. 3

Program: Double Header:

Photo Printing Media, and
How to Make Panoramas

15 Minutes of Fame: Mike Hicks

Contest: Flowers (unltd. proc.)

Outing: SIPS picnic, Jun. 7

Planning Meeting: Jun. 17

July

Meeting: Jul. 1

Program: Karen Carlton

15 Minutes of Fame: Linda Bundren

Contest: Scavenger Hunt

Outing: Richard and Susan Day,
Jul. 26

Planning Meeting: Jul. 15

August

Meeting: Aug. 5

Program: Bird Photography,
Richard Day

15 Minutes of Fame: Linda Bundren

Contest: Water

Outing: Mermet Lake

Planning Meeting: Aug. 19

Inside...

All the news and the latest from Jim Osborn!

May Meeting

Our program for this month was Composition of Panoramas and Landscapes, given by member Mike Hicks, with help from James Maher from the Digital Photography School.

Mike started by noting that it has to look good first—no guessing "what is this?" If you don't like it, others won't either.

Mike's foremost technical rule is the rule of thirds, and he showed several examples from nature and cityscapes. Triangles can also be important, and similarly having three of something. Triangles encourage the eye to go over an image many times, and groups of three feel balanced.

Fluid paths create leading lines for the eye to follow (for example, spiral stairs). Images need to feel balanced, whether with a natural look or a Photoshop frame. Sometimes, the image needs to be centered for symmetry or a strong subject.

Think about the lines you want in the photo. Should they be horizontal, vertical, or skewed? Think about perspective: from below, or above. What do you want to show? Do you want it in greater or lesser detail? Getting close and filling the frame with something can work well.

Sometimes having a minimalist scene, with only a few things in it can be powerful. Other times, having a lot of something in the frame works well.

Color can add major emphasis, even in a black-and-white. Try using complementary colors, such as blue and yellow. Similarly, colors that are analogous (close to each other) can work well, such as pink and red, or multiple shades of the same color.

Another option is breaking the rules for some unique effect. You just have to use your eye sometimes!

Mike showed a number of his examples, including bridges, gardens, beach sunsets, sunrises, canyons, and mountains. He included several "small" landscapes, such as a spider web and a wall of flowers. Mike said it's hard to know just what to look for in a landscape—he knows it when he sees it.

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Tech Savvy

by Jim Osborn

Recently, I have also been fielding questions about long telephoto lenses. I am currently using a Sigma 150-500mm lens (I used to use a Canon 100-400mm lens). A couple years ago, I found myself getting frustrated with a maximum length of 400mm and came up with the money to get a slightly longer lens. Usually, the longer the lens the greater the cost.....or.....the longer lenses that come at a cheaper price can result in less than satisfactory image quality (unless you aren't that picky). I am very happy with my Sigma lens and with the sharp images I am getting. It cost a little over \$1000 (relatively cheap for a long lens) and the only issue I have is that I get some vignetting around the corners of the images when I am shooting at 500mm. But usually I can crop the edges from the image without affecting the subject of the photo. If you use thick filters on the front of a long lens, then the vignetting can be even more noticeable. Recently Tamron came out with a 150-600mm lens for a little over \$1000. It is intriguing but the early reviews of the lens suggest that the sharpness declines when the lens is set at anything over 500mm. If you compare the quality and cost of a long Sigma or Tamron lens to a comparable Canon or Nikon lens there might be a difference in overall image quality, but at least you won't have to take out a second mortgage on your house.....and that may be totally acceptable to you for the extra distance.



SIPS Picnic

Reminder: The annual SIPS picnic is Saturday, June 7, starting at 4:30pm. The location is The Haven, which is on the south side of Route 13, across from Cambria Rd, surrounded by Crab Orchard Lake. BYO steaks/hamburgers, and potluck to share. We will have grills ready to go. Hope to see you there!

May Meeting

cont'd from p. 1

Our 15 Minutes of Fame was given by Joanna Gray. Her favorite topics are wildlife (especially birds) and nightlife (especially bands and concerts). She showed images from a 2014 birding trek to Alligator Farm Rookery in St. Augustine and Viera, Florida, where many migratory birds stop. She also went to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. On the way home, she stopped at the Photoshop World Conference & Exhibition in Atlanta. At the recent Centralia Light and Lens Show, Joanna entered and placed first in the portrait category.

A number of SIPS members competed in the Herrin Festa Italiana art contest. In the professional category, Dave Hammond took second place with "Waterfall Trail." In the amateur category, Carol Sluzevich placed first with "Ice Dancer," and Jo Dodd placed second with "Tea for Two."

We are planning a show at The Pavilion in Marion for the fall. This is pending approval by the Pavilion board, but we plan a reception around Sept. 15 with photos shown through Dec. 15. All members are welcome and encouraged to participate. There will be a small cost to display. Lu has the signup sheet for this event.

Our contest for the month was "Trees." The winners were:

1st place: Virginia Stith, "Dogwood"

2nd place: Myers Walker, "Sunrise at McElmo Canyon, CO"

3rd place: Mike Hicks

Congratulations to these winners! Next month, our contest is "Flowers," and unlimited photo processing is allowed.

Outings

Our May outing to Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge was held on May 10. Linda Bundren led, starting from Rocky Bluff. Myers Walker and Dave Hammond joined.

As noted on the previous page, our outing for June is the annual SIPS picnic, which will be held on Saturday, June 7 at The Haven on Rt. 13. Please bring a meat dish for grilling for yourself as well as a potluck dish to share.

Our outing for July is to Richard and Susan Day's place in Alma, IL. This is scheduled for Saturday, July 26. They will be available all day, so you can come and go when you like. This is a great opportunity to get some tips from a professional, as well as take advantage of their carefully tended natural area. There is a cost of \$50 for this event; Dana has the signup sheet. More details at <http://www.daybreakimagery.com/>.



Winners from the Herrin Festa Italiana photo/digital art contest. From left: Carol Sluzovich (SIPS/ALPS), Jo Dodd (SIPS/ALPS), David Hammond (SIPS), David Brewer (ALPS) and John Mitchell (ALPS)