



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

September 2014 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

September

Meeting: Sep. 5
Program: HDR, Jim Bornert
15 Minutes of Fame: Jo Dodd
Contest: Wheels (unltd. proc.)
Outing: Document a Town,
Golconda, Sep. 20
Planning Meeting: Sep. 16

October

Meeting: Oct. 7
Program: Document a Town,
Karen Carlton
15 Minutes of Fame: Dave Hammond
Contest: Wildlife
Outing: Colors in East Shawnee Nat'l
Forest
Planning Meeting: Oct. 21

November

Meeting: Nov. 4
Program: Photoshop,
Steve McGlaughlin
15 Minutes of Fame: Swap Meet
Contest: Calendar
Outing: Studio Lighting
with Dave Horning
Planning Meeting: Nov. 18

Inside...

All the news and the latest from Jim Osborn!

August Meeting

Our program for August was Photographing Birds, by Richard Day. His message was that Patience, Persistence, and Passion pay off.

Starting with equipment, Richard recommends a 400mm lens (minimum), a medium telephoto zoom, multiple camera frames and/or a crop sensor, a tripod, flash, a teleconverter, and shooting blinds. The advantages of a blind are that it puts less stress on the subject and creates better opportunities for you, with more unusual or behavioral images. The blind can be a house blind or a car blind. Platforms with a blind work well to get a bit above the subject. In a car, a beanbag rest on a car window works well.

What makes a good bird photograph? Good composition, bird looking into the frame, and the eye must be in focus. Portraits are OK, but behavior is everything---flying, mating ritual, bathing, etc. Photograph in the best light, watch the background, and use a high shutter speed (1/500 minimum). Shoot, shoot, and then keep shooting.

Important things: Know your subject. Read and research, and find out who knows about your subject in your area. Be familiar with your equipment so you can be prepared. Anticipate your subject's next move (observing is just as important as photographing). Find behavior in your subject. Illustrate the life cycle of your subject.

Richard showed the setups he uses on his property, including using limbs, sticks, feeders against different backgrounds, with summer and winter settings. Set feeders and individualized food in good photographic areas, and don't forget to provide water---all birds need it.

Modern DSLRs also often have video capability. To use it, you need a different tripod and a microphone. Keep level, with only slow movement of the camera. Clips should be a minimum of 10 seconds. Use "native" (auto) ISO, with no autofocus.

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Tech Savvy

by Jim Osborn

Recently, I took time to view a number of photographs that were entered in an online photo contest. Some of the photos were absolutely stunning but others failed to "hit the mark." In some of our club presentations we have talked about composition and what makes a picture worthy of entering in a contest. In viewing the pictures online, I noticed something that we don't usually talk about---having a clean lens. A couple pictures had clear signs of dirt and smudging. It seems almost too obvious, but please try to shoot with a clean lens! Even if you keep a cap and or a filter on your lens be sure and wipe the glass with a microfiber cloth before shooting. Every once in a while, take the filter off and wipe off the lens and the inside of the filter. If necessary, have your sensor cleared occasionally. When you put your pictures in your computer for editing, take time to look for traces of dirt in the images and edit the spots out of the pictures using either the spot healing brush or the clone tool. The most expensive camera will not produce high quality pictures if you don't keep both the sensor and the body clean.



2015 SIPS Board

At our September meeting we solicit nominations for the 2015 SIPS Officers and Board. The positions up for reelection are: president, vice-president, secretary of records, secretary of technology, and five at-large board members.

All members are encouraged to consider a position, as several current members will not be continuing in their positions next year. There are many people with great ideas in SIPS, so help add to the variety and enjoyment of the club!

August Meeting

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Richard had a lot of great bird shots throughout the program, as well as a short video of baby wood ducks emerging from their nest into the water.

Our 15 Minutes of Fame was given by Dave and Lu Horning. Each showed several shots from the Day outing and from their backyard, including birds, butterflies, and a chipmunk. Dave also showed recent shots of some models.

We had several items for Show and Tell. Carol Sluzevich showed pictures of butterflies and bees from the Day outing. Dave Hammond also brought pictures from the outing; he focused on flowers, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Linda Bundren showed pictures from her trip to Glacier National Park as well as recent contest winners. Joanna Gray brought butterfly pictures from the Day outing as well as owls, birds, and a raccoon from her yard.

Friends of the Shawnee has a contest running Mar. 1 through Nov. 14. This celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Details are at **snffriends.org**.

The Shrode Photography Competition is open, with entries due Sept. 12 (hand delivery or postal mail). This contest is open to all professional and amateur artists 18 years of age and older living in southern Illinois (south of I-70, including Charleston). Each artist may submit up to three photos, with a \$20 entrance fee. For details and an entry form, visit **cedarhurst.org**.

We had two contest results this month, the usual monthly in-meeting contest as well the scavenger hunt. The results of the scavenger hunt, judged by Dave Hammond, were:

1st place: Bill Thomas

2nd place: Joanna Gray

3rd place: Jo Dodd

Honorable Mentions: Linda Bundren, Sharon Wittke

Our regular contest for the month was on the subject "Water." The winners were:

1st place: Linda Bundren, "Avalanche Gorge"

2nd place: Dana Tetzlaff, "Water Spout"

3rd place: Carol Sluzevich, "I Can Fly"
Congratulations to all the winners of both contests!

SIPS at The Pavilion

The Pavilion in Marion will host SIPS member photos from Sept. 15 to Dec. 15. We had 10 people sign up this month, and Linda has forwarded the list to the Pavilion board. We may have a reception, which would entail a small fee (to be determined by those displaying). Stay tuned for details.

SIPS at Mr. Koolz

Mr. Koolz in Marion has agreed to host SIPS member photos at their location (east of the mall north of Rt. 13). Each member will get a three-week display, with space for 8-10 photos. Contact Joanna Gray or Lu Horning to sign up. Jo Dodd has a display beginning on Sept. 1, so go check it out!