



# IN FOCUS



Member

A Publication of

THE SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB P.O. Box 763, Southern Pines, NC 28388

*Enriching the North Carolina Sandhills through Photography*

VOL XXV, NUMBER 3

March 2009

## **NEXT MEETING:**

**Monday, March 9, 7:00 PM**

Christ Fellowship Church

Midland Road at the corner of Pee Dee Road

Southern Pines, NC

Program: Wildlife photography

## **PROGRAMS: Len Barnard**

### ***March 9 program: Wildlife Photography***

For March 9, 2009, Vinny Colucci, a professional Wildlife Photographer, will do a program on wildlife photography. (<http://www.naturescapesphotoworkshops.com/>). Melissa Southern (also a professional Wildlife Photographer) will be with Vinny and do a wildlife program from her perspective. We will have some nice door prizes and I hope you are lucky. As a follow-up to our program, Vinny has agreed to do a one-day photo workshop with both he and Melissa Southern as instructors at the Asheboro Zoo on March 14. **For more information on this workshop see the Workshop section for more details.**

***May 11 program:*** Frank Pierce has agreed to do a program on preparing for and doing a magazine photo shoot with thoughts and ideas toward our upcoming magazine photo competition.

***November 9 program:*** "Take A Second Look with George" More info later but save any photos that you want help in improving,

## **COMPETITIONS: Brady Smith**

February's competition, **People & Scenes of Moore County**, made me even happier to be living here in this wonderful place. Our two judges, Jim Dodson and Andie Rose of *The Pilot* and *Pinestraw Magazine*, did a stupendous job. Their comments and critiques were most helpful and thoughtful. We express our deepest gratitude for their involvement.



*Class A winners (l to r) were **Brady Smith, Donna Ford, June White, Jim McGill, and John Witkowski** for the February competition.*

*Photo by Jim McGill*

## **President's Message: Don Hiscott**

As I was thinking of what to write this month it occurred to me that the membership might be interested in having a report on some of the items discussed at the Board meeting.

First, let me say that I have been remiss in not thanking those who have provided the delicious refreshments following our meetings. As usual **Bill Sheppard** has coordinated the hospitality function for the club. He and Sandy brought the goodies to the January meeting. **Pat Murray** was responsible for February. Thanks for being the unsung heroes in allowing us to enjoy the food, drinks and fellowship after the meeting.

I'm pleased to see that the Club membership is growing. **Alison Earl** reported at the Board meeting that the paid membership now stands at 76. Even more exciting is that attendance at the meeting was 61 or 80 percent of the membership. I remember, in the past, that 50 to 60 percent attendance was normal.

In the area of Competitions, we were pleased to have Andie Rose and Jim Dodson. They did a very good job (although I didn't win anything). Unfortunately there were several comments on the quality of the images shown on the screen. **Bill Matthews** assures us that the projector will be calibrated by the next competition. If this doesn't work, the Board may have to consider investing in other equipment.

Also related to Competitions, members are encouraged to read and be familiar with the "Competition Rules and Procedures". I hope those of us who were members when the Rules were approved still have their copies. We will make arrangements for the newer members to get a copy.

One important aspect of the Competitions is that entries received by the Committee after the entry deadline will be rejected in the future.

Special thanks to **Ann Stokes** for the wonderful publicity. Great job.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the March meeting. Sounds like we are in for a treat with a great program.

Here are the winners, which will be viewable on the website soon ([www.sandhillspgphotoclub.org](http://www.sandhillspgphotoclub.org)):

### **Class A**

- 1st Place – “Village Smithy” – Jim McGill
- 2nd Place – “Morning in the Country” – June White
- 3rd Place – “Malcolm Blue Festival” – John Witkowski
- HM – “Old Moore County Courthouse in the Snow” – Brady Smith
- HM – “A Thanksgiving Tradition” – Donna Ford

### **Class B**

- 1st Place – “Frosted Mini Wheats” – Lois Pollard
- 2nd Place – “Destination Unknown” – Gene Lentz
- 3rd Place – “First Cabin” – Glen Gilchrist
- HM – “Sunday Races on Lake Pinehurst” – Tom Reedy
- HM – “Country Book Store” – Brenda Hiscott
- HM – “The Moore County Hounds” – Jean Walker



*Class B Winners for the “People and Scenes of Moore County” competition were, (l to r) Gene Lentz, Jean Walker, Lois Pollard, Brenda Hiscott and Glenn Gilchrist*

*Photo by Jim McGill*

As mentioned at the end of the competition, Jim and Andie are reproducing the images of all the winners in the March edition of the *Pinestraw Magazine*. They were truly blown away by the quality of the images for this competition.

Our next competition will be **April 13**. It will be a **Digital** competition on the topic of **Animals**. Submitted images can include animals of all sorts: from the wild, in captivity, and family pets. Insects are not included (even if they are family pets). Regular quantity and time rules apply: up to **two (2) entries** per entrant, taken within the last **three (3) years**. We have already secured a judge for this competition in Don McKenzie ([www.mckenziephotography.com](http://www.mckenziephotography.com)), a well-known local photographer who has been a judge for our club many times. We look forward to his comments.

Remember, the rules for sizing your images for digital competitions have been adjusted to ensure that I will not receive files that are too small. Since I will be resizing all images to fit within a 758 x 758 square, while keeping the aspect ratio the same as your original image, I can receive them a little larger. Just don’t get crazy and send me full-size images, especially those taken with the new 60-mega pixel Hasselblad.

1. Size your image so that the shortest dimension is a minimum of 768 pixels (1024 x 768 pixels is okay, but 768 x 576 is not. The smaller of the two numbers should be 768 or larger).
2. File type should be JPEG or TIFF and should not exceed 2MB in size, if you can help it.
3. You must include the following information in your email:
  - Image title
  - Your name
  - Which class you’re in (A or B)
4. You may also include a brief description of the photo.
5. Please submit your photos to the competition chairman email address: [competitions@sandhillspgphotoclub.org](mailto:competitions@sandhillspgphotoclub.org).
6. You must send them before midnight on **April 6** to be included in the competition.
7. You may also give/send me a copy of your submissions on a disc or flash drive (but please don’t wait until midnight on the 6th to give it to me!).

Also, starting **March 1**, you may submit images to the competition committee for our first **Online** photo competition. This will be a completely **Open** competition with **no time limit** for how long ago photos were taken. You will be able to submit **two (2) images**, which will be judged during the month of September by all club members who wish to judge. Winners will be announced during the October club meeting.

To send images, just use the same procedure outlined above. Just be sure you put Online Competition in the subject or the email and don't send them with images for one of the other competitions. *Also, please note that images will not be viewable on the website until **September 1**.*

**Looking ahead...** June's competition topic is **Travel** and will be a **Print** competition held on **June 8**. Images should capture the feeling of a time and place and portray a land, a people or a culture in its natural state. Travel images have no geographical limitations: they are not limited to other lands, and may include those of domestic situations. Titles with the name of the place are encouraged. For this competition, we are still allowing only two (2) images per member, but they can be up to five (5) years old. **HAPPY SNAPPING!**

#### **WORKSHOPS: Bill Matthews**

**North Carolina Zoological Park Workshop** with Vinny Colucci and Melissa Southern has been arranged by Len Barnard for **March 14** at the North Carolina Zoo. This special paid all-day workshop will be presented by professional wildlife photographer Vinny Colucci. Vinny is also presenting the program on wildlife photography at our March 9 general meeting.

The \$60/person cost includes the entrance fee to the zoo and a catered lunch. This cost will be reduced for Zoological Society members. A minimum of 15 participants is required and the upper limit is 24. At this writing 17 have signed up.

More details and a schedule of events are attached to this newsletter. A sign-up sheet was circulated at the January and February meetings and it will be available again at the March meeting. For more information contact Len at [lbarnard@nc.rr.com](mailto:lbarnard@nc.rr.com) or 910-673-2135.

**Tone Mapping, HDR and related digital darkroom techniques** with Glenn Gilchrist will be presented at the Sandhills Community College Landscape Gardening Center on **Saturday, April 4 (please note change from original date)**. Glenn will give an overview of the latest shooting and digital darkroom techniques that allow you to capture a wider range of light values while providing greater control over local contrast, resulting in images that display a rich and greatly enhanced tonal range. Glenn provides more detail in his article attached to this newsletter.

A sign-up sheet was circulated at the February meetings and it will be available again at the March meeting. For more information contact Glenn at [glenngilchrist@nc.rr.com](mailto:glenngilchrist@nc.rr.com) or 910-725-0112.

**Enhancing One's Photographic Creativity with** Mike Stratil is scheduled for Saturday, **May 16**, at the Sandhills Community College Landscape Gardening Center, 9:30 – 11:30 am. This workshop will explore the dependence of the quality of photographic work on the imagination, symbolism and emotional message that the photographer brings to the task. More information is provided in Mike's announcement included with this newsletter. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the March and April meetings.

**Understanding the RAW Digital Camera Image Format** and **Getting Your Monitor Calibrated with the SPC Projector** with Bill Matthews is planned for a Saturday in June at the Sandhills Community College Landscape Gardening Center. Details to follow.

**A Photoshop Workshop at SCC** with Bob Biamonte is being planned for September or October.

#### **EXHIBITIONS: Betty Hendrix**

**New exhibition opportunity:** Appalachian Physical Therapy at Olmstead Village in Pinehurst has been displaying various art and photography for two-month spans for the past two years. The club has just been given an opportunity to show our photos there during May and June 2009.

The exact dates are not set yet, but you would need to commit to delivering in early May and leaving them there through June. All work **must** be properly framed and wired prior to delivery. Anything delivered improperly will be omitted from the show.

I need to know how many photographers wish to participate as soon as possible so we can determine about how many photos per person. If we have a large number who wish to show, we might divide in half and some show later in the year (perhaps summer or fall).

Please e-mail or call **Betty Hendrix:** [bettyhendrix@charter.net](mailto:bettyhendrix@charter.net) or 949-4131 letting me know if you will participate. Based on the response, we will get back to those who wish to participate with the details.

There will be no commissions due on resulting sales. Sales would be directly to the photographer. They have sold various items in most of the exhibits or resulted in future commissions.

**SPRING FIELD TRIP: Brenda Hiscott**

Plans for the Spring Trip to New Bern, NC, **April 27 - 29**, are coming together nicely. We have been in touch with the New Bern Camera Club and hope to be able to meet with some of their members on Monday evening when we first arrive. They should be able to give us some good tips on things worthy of photographing.

On Wednesday evening we are planning on a group dinner at Chelsea's Restaurant. We have been told that it is the best one in town. It should be a fun time before we head for home.

We are also investigating activities in Oriental for at least part of one day.

Currently twenty-five people have expressed an interest in the trip. If you would like to know more and have not signed up, please call me at 295-9544 or email at [Hiscott@nc.rr.com](mailto:Hiscott@nc.rr.com)

**MEMBERSHIP: Alison Earl**

As of February 15, we now have 78 paid members, along with our two honorary members.

We'd like to welcome **Paul Gibson, Binky Albright** and **Paul Embry**. **Paul (Gibson)** attended the January meeting as a guest of Bill Mathews, and joined at the February meeting. **Binky Albright** and **Paul Embry** were guests at our February meeting and joined the following week. We welcome them all!!!!

**Paul Embry** considers himself a novice with his Sony A-100. His favorite subject to shoot is sports and he is hoping to gain a 'better eye' through his association with SPC. He has been in the area for 14 months, coming from Louisville, KY.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Twice yearly a list of members' information is provided to all other members. This will include:

- Your name
- Mailing Address
- Home Phone Number
- Email Address

If you have had any changes to any of the above, **or** do not want any or all of your information shared with the other members, please contact me by email at: [theearls@nc.rr.com](mailto:theearls@nc.rr.com) (preferable) or at home 910-215-0316 by **March 15**. The roster will be sent with the notification of the availability of the April newsletter.

**LIBRARY: Gisela Danielson**

Our library is growing and easy to use. You may borrow books and/or DVD/CDs. There is a link to the Library Index on our Website: <http://www.sandhillphotoclub.org/>

Place your order via email, [gdanielson@nc.rr.com](mailto:gdanielson@nc.rr.com) or call me, 673-0521. Your order will be ready for pick-up at the next SPC meeting.

Donations of gently used and fairly recent photography related books are always appreciated.

We have received some new books so please check out the updated Library Index. December and January saw lots of activity but February was a lonely month for the librarian.

**PHOTO EQUIPMENT CLASSIFIED**

**FOR SALE:** Manfrotto (Bogen) Model 3265 Joystick Head like new, \$75. Call **Don Hiscott** 295-9544.

If you wish to buy or sell photo equipment, send your ad to **Ann Stephens** at [astephens95@nc.rr.com](mailto:astephens95@nc.rr.com). Ads run for two issues unless you request otherwise.

**REFRESHMENT ASSIGNMENTS: Bill Sheppard**

The following are refreshment providers for the next three months:

<b>March</b>	<b>Nancy Wehr &amp; Sarita Stevens</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>June White &amp; Donna Ford</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Lori Fischler</b>

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT: Denis Smetana****Monthly Financial Report Regular Account**

January 1, 2009	Starting balance	\$5,409.38
	Expenses	-\$195.15
	Income	\$300.21
January 31, 2009	Final balance	\$5,514.44

Expenses were for First Quarter rent, dinner for the speaker and PO Box rental.

Income was from '09 dues from ten members and interest on our checking account.

**Monthly Financial Report Projects Account**

There was no activity in our projects account so the beginning and end balance was the same at \$162.65.

**2009 SPC Board Members**

President	Don Hiscott	295-9544
Vice President	Len Barnard	673-2135
Secretary	Donna Ford	295-5301
Treasurer	Denis Smetana	944-8124
Past President	Bill Matthews	692-8254
Programs	Len Barnard	673-2135
Competition	Brady Smith	947-3946
Exhibitions	Betty Hendrix	949-4131
Field Trips	Brenda Hiscott (Spring)	295-9544
	Kathy Green (Fall)	585-0190
Day Trips	Jill Margeson	673-1497
Hospitality	Bill Sheppard	944-1219
Publicity	Ann Stokes	235-0950
Workshops	Bill Matthews	692-8254
Newsletter	Ann Stephens	673-2091
PSA Rep	Jim Smith	673-4744
Membership	Allison Earl	215-0316
Website	John Wynton	673-1084
Club Photographer	Jim McGill	295-6686

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

**Thursday, March 12, 3:00,  
Sandhills Community  
College Horticultural  
Gardens Visitor's Center.**

**SPC WEBSITE:**

[www.sandhillsphtoclub.org](http://www.sandhillsphtoclub.org)

**Photo Tip of the Month: Marilyn Owen**

I just received this as a link in an email from Penn Camera up in Washington, and I thought it might be of interest to the membership.

It is a 4-page pdf file that can be downloaded and read or printed if members are interested. It identifies various places in Washington, D.C., to practice different photo techniques: depth of field, shutter speed, etc. It could easily be used as a starting point to think about similar areas closer to home. Go to

<http://www.penncamera.com/UserFiles/File/copy.pdf>

If you have a photo tip to share with SPC members in the newsletter, please e-mail to Ann Stephens at [astephens95@nc.rr.com](mailto:astephens95@nc.rr.com)

# North Carolina Zoological Park Workshop

With  
Wildlife Photographers Vinny Colucci and Melissa Southern  
Saturday March 14, 2009

Arranged for SPC by Len Barnard

On Saturday March 14, 2009, we have an all day photo workshop scheduled at the Asheboro Zoo from 8:45 AM until 4:30 PM with two Professional Wildlife Photographers Vinny Colucci and Melissa Southern. (<http://www.naturescapesphotoworkshops.com/>).

During the workshop we will explore both the North American and African Exhibit for photo ops, have field discussions of challenges faced while shooting in captivity and tips for designing a photograph to look more natural. We will end the day at the lion exhibit. **See the schedule of events on page 2 of this attachment.**

There will be some special activity provided by the zoo to provide unique photo opportunities. During our lunch, which is included in the price, there will be classroom discussion **and there will some very nice door prizes!** To maintain an acceptable ratio of attendees to our instructors, the group size requirements are a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 24. We must restrict this workshop to the first members that sign up and pay. The price is \$60.00 for non Zoological Society members, which will include your lunch. A sign-up sheet will be available at our next meeting or you may call Len Barnard at 910-673-2135 or email him at [lbarnard@nc.rr.com](mailto:lbarnard@nc.rr.com). Please make your check payable to “**Naturescape Photography**” and give to me. For those members that are also members of the Zoological Society, see me for information on reduced price. If we have more than 24 members that sign up I will keep a priority list of those members in event we have some cancellations later.

**Due to special arrangements that need to be made, we will be cutting off sign up in early March. So please sign up and send you check to me so I can have firm numbers to give to Vinny.**

Len Barnard  
[lbarnard@nc.rr.com](mailto:lbarnard@nc.rr.com) or 910-673-2135

**Schedule of Events**  
**North Carolina Zoological Park Workshop**  
 With  
 Wildlife Photographers Vinny Colucci and Melissa Southern  
 Saturday March 14, 2009, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

- 8:45 am** Check in and meet at the W. David Stedman Education Center
- 9:00** Day begins at the W. David Stedman Education Center
- 9:00 - 9:20** Introduction
- 9:30 -11:30** Exploring the North American Exhibit, field discussions of challenges faced while shooting in a captivity area and challenges faced when shooting certain animals
- 12:00 - 1:30** Lunch and presentation at W. David Stedman Education Center. Door prizes to be awarded.
- 2:00 - 4:30** Exploring the African Exhibit, field discussions of challenges particular to this half of the zoo and tips on designing a photograph to look more natural
- We will end the day at the lion exhibit.
- Cost** \$60/person, includes entrance fee to the zoo and a catered lunch  
 Must be paid by 3/9/2009.  
 Size Requirements: 15 minimum, 20 preferred, 24 absolute maximum

If you have any questions please contact Len Barnard at 910-673-2135 or [lbarnard@nc.rr.com](mailto:lbarnard@nc.rr.com)

## Tone Mapping, HDR & Related Digital Darkroom Techniques by Glenn Gilchrist

Have you ever photographed a beautiful landscape, only to find that the picture you took has blown out highlights, white skies, flat tones and none of the drama of the original scene? Have you ever photographed a scene with both indoor and outdoor components, where you had to compromise your exposure and choose to lose detail in one of the other? Have you ever been at the right place but the wrong time – a beautiful scene at high noon with harsh, high contrast light?

All of these are examples of photography's greatest limitation, dynamic range. Dynamic range is the range of light intensity over which small increments can be discerned by the human eye, film, a digital sensor, and displayed on a monitor or printed. In every case, the human eye wins. The eye can see a far wider range of light than any device, often resulting in images that disappoint.

While camera, monitor and printer manufacturers race to expand the range of their equipment, software developers bring us two alternatives – exposure blending and High Dynamic Range (HDR) photography with Tone Mapping. Exposure blending, which has been around the longest, allows you to stack bracketed exposures as layers, and then use simple Photoshop masking to construct an image using the best from each. It is interesting to note that this procedure has been used successfully in the darkroom as well. HDR, on the other hand, creates a computerized “image” that includes all of the tones from the bracketed images – an image with such a wide dynamic range that it cannot even be displayed on the screen. You then use tone mapping sliders and settings provided in the software to map the image back to something you can work with. This all sounds very complicated, but is actually quite simple.

HDR photography has generated almost as much controversy among some photographers as did the onslaught of digital technology. HDR photography can produce very natural looking images, and can also be used to create unnatural looking images and a number of special effects. Like anything else, it can be used and it can be misused. But one thing it cannot do is make a poorly composed photograph into something other than a poorly composed photograph.

If you would like to see some examples of HDR photography, check out the galleries at <http://www.tonysweet.com>, <http://www.hdrsoft.com/examples.html> and a few at my site at <http://glenn.zenfolio.com>. If you Google “HDR Galleries” you will find many more – but beware, they will cover the entire gamut of the “overdone” controversy. Remember though, they are only pixels!

Join us at our workshop on **April 4** where we will take several images through the entire process. We will use Photomatix, which is available in a free trial version at <http://www.hdrsoft.com>.

For more information contact Glenn at [glenngilchrist@nc.rr.com](mailto:glenngilchrist@nc.rr.com) or 910-725-0112.



### Enhancing One's Photographic Creativity with Mike Stratil Saturday, May 16, 9:30-11:30 am

This workshop will focus on techniques for enhancing the creative aspects of one's photography. It will be guided by the following principles:

- (a) As an art form, the quality of photographic work depends partly on the imagination, symbolism, and emotional message that the photographer brings to the task;
- (b) These capacities are often suppressed by deeply ingrained habits and social pressures;
- (c) The individual photographer can learn to release these suppressed capacities by participating in activities that promote self-awareness and artistic spontaneity.

After an opening discussion of these ideas, the workshop will move to active participation. Attendees will use finger painting to express their deeper thoughts and feelings about selected photographs. Attendees are asked to bring the following materials:

- (1) One of the favorite photographs they have taken (at least 8.5" x 11" in size)
  - (2) Two magazine photographs that they find particularly interesting, stimulating, educationally informing, or emotionally arousing
  - (3) A set of finger paints
- See: <http://www.michaels.com/art/online/displayProductPage?productNum=kd0288>
- (4) At least 6 sheets of paper suitable for finger painting (e.g., copier/coated inkjet paper at least 8.5" x 11" in size). They should wear informal clothing, and they should arrive in a spirit of childlike openness and enthusiasm.