



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 2

February 2009

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, February 9, 7:00 PM

Christ Fellowship Church

Midland Road at the corner of Pee Dee Road

Southern Pines, NC

Program: Moore County Scenes digital competition



Photo by Jim McGill

At left Bill Stice, an accomplished nature, scenic, and travel photographer for over 30 years, explains his many macro lenses to (L to R) Linda Piechota, Fred Furland, Walter Morris and Gisela Danielson. A large crowd of SPC members and guests turned out for Bill's presentation of stunning macro photography at the January 12 meeting, and Bill answered many questions about macro equipment and techniques following his presentation.

PROGRAMS: Len Barnard

Following our program on Macro Photography with Bill Stice in January, I have had several requests for his Web site. He can be found on the CNPA Portfolio section. Look under William Stice and he also is on www.naturephotographers.net. They have a portfolio link off the main site or you can just go to www.photoportfolios.net and look for William Stice under the photographer link. Enjoy.

March Program: Wildlife photography

For March 9, Vinny Colucci, a professional Wildlife Photographer, will do a program on wildlife photography. (<http://www.naturescapesphotoworkshops.com/>). At this time I think Melissa Southern (also a professional Wildlife Photographer) will be with Vinny and do a wildlife program from her perspective. There is a possibility that we will have some door prizes. 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 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 Program: "Take A Second Look with George." More info later but save any photos that you want help in improving,

President's Message: Don Hiscott

I know it doesn't come as any surprise when I say, "photography has changed at an unbelievable pace".

I was thinking just the other day about my first experience with a camera. In the town I lived in, one of the highlights of the early summer was the local Lions Club fund-raising carnival. As a young man I played one of the "try your luck" games. I don't remember how much I bet but I managed to win a prize. I was elated!

What I won was a Kodak Brownie Box Camera. I don't remember very much about it, but I do remember that it took 120 roll film. It sure was easy to use.

The reason I bring this up now is that I have read many books and have had the opportunity to attend various workshops. Of all the things I've learned, one important thing is that the middle of the day in bright sunlight is far from the best time to shoot. That's why we get up before the crack of dawn, even in the cold weather. People must think we're crazy.

Well, back to the Kodak Box Camera. I recall that one of the most important instructions was to shoot in bright sunlight with the sun at our back. Nothing good was ever said about shade or backlight. The pictures we were able to create were acceptable even though they were not great. Remember the Sunny f16 rule?

Many of us remember those old days and have watched as photography has progressed to where it is today. We talk about the good old days but I wouldn't trade my fancy, complicated digital camera for that trusty Kodak Brownie Box camera. Happy shooting.

COMPETITIONS: Brady Smith

The February club meeting will be a **Digital** competition on the topic of **People & Scenes of Moore County, NC**. Photographs will be judged on how effectively they capture the feeling and spirit of Moore County. Emphasis will also be given on the quality of the image. Regular quantity and time rules apply: up to **two (2) entries** per entrant, taken within the last **three (3) years**.

Not only have we found a judge for the competition, we've found two! Two very appropriate judges, I might add. Our two judges are Jim Dodson and Andie Rose from *The Pilot* and *Pinestraw Magazine*. Jim Dodson is a best-selling author, writer-in-residence for *The Pilot*, and editor of *Pinestraw Magazine*. Andie Rose is the art director for *Pinestraw Magazine* and lead graphic designer for *The Pilot*. They will be critiquing and scoring as a team, working together to come up with a single score for each entry just as if there was just one judge. We are very grateful for their willingness and enthusiasm and look forward to their 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@sandhillspgclub.org.
6. You must send them before midnight on **February 2** 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 2nd to give it to me!).

Starting in March, 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.

Looking ahead... April's **Digital** competition topic is **Animals** and will be held on **April 13**. Images can be one or more animals of all sorts: from the wild, in captivity, or family pets. Insects are not included (even if they are family pets). Regular quantity and time rules apply (two images taken within the last three years). **HAPPY SNAPPING!**

WORKSHOPS: Bill Matthews

North Carolina Zoological Park Workshop with Vinny Colucci 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 meeting and it will be available again at the February meeting when Len Barnard will give us an update on the workshop. For more information contact Len at lbarnard@nc.rr.com or 910-673-2135.

Tone Mapping, HDR and related digital darkroom techniques with Glenn Gilchrist will be presented on Saturday, April 11, at the Sandhills Community College Landscape Gardening Center. 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 and resulting in images that display a rich and greatly enhanced tonal range.

Enhancing One's Photographic Creativity with Mike Stratil is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, at the Sandhills Community College Landscape Gardening Center. 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 will be provided in the March Newsletter.

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.

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

EXHIBITIONS: Betty Hendrix

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2009 EXHIBITION

SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HASTINGS GALLERY – at the library

February 25 – Wednesday – Pick-up Photos

The exhibition is a wonderful array of color and subjects. Please recommend it to your friends and neighbors. The library is closed on Sundays, but open long hours on weekdays and a half-day (morning) on Saturdays.

The members were generous with food and hospitality for the opening reception. I'd like to thank especially **Jill Margeson, Ann Stokes, June White, Lois Pollard** and **Jim Smith**. They were marvelous assistants in the hanging, and the reception set-up and clean up. These events can't happen without lots of cooperation.

It is most important that everyone with photos at the show mark their calendars for the pick-up date. The college must have all photos picked up on the one day only. **NO PHOTOS ARE TO BE REMOVED PRIOR TO Feb. 25.** You may park in the faculty lot or very briefly in the loading zone at the back door of the library. There is a door to the left on the loading dock where you may go in and out to make it easier to carry your photos out. You may pick your photos up any time that the library is open on 2/25. If you cannot pick up that day, please ask a friend to do so or call me, **Betty Hendrix** – 949-4131.

MEMBERSHIP: Alison Earl

January's meeting proved to be very close to a full house! What a great way to start out the New Year. We went from 61 paid members to 75 paid members very quickly! We had eight guests join us for Bill Stice's presentation, and had three new members join:

Susan McKibben has been a previous guest. She said she really enjoyed the three programs she has seen so far. She considers herself a beginner (especially with digital) and has a Nikon D-80 camera, with her favorite subjects being people and landscapes. She wants to learn anything she can about photography and meet others with similar interests. We think she's come to the right place!

Paul and Marilyn Baxter also joined at the January meeting. Paul would rate his expertise at somewhat above a beginner, and has a Canon SLR 35mm EOS. His favorite subjects include nature, scenery, flowers and birds. He hopes to learn more about cameras, composing shots, using filters and some limited photo editing through his membership. Marilyn has some experience with "Point and Shoot" but considers herself a beginner. She currently uses a Fuji F-10 Digital and a Fuji S7000 Digital and enjoys taking pictures of people and animals. She hopes to learn more about cameras with adjustable settings. They have lived in this area 15 months and came from Elmira, NY. Paul is retired from commercial banking, and Marilyn works at Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church.

We welcome them all.

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.sandhillsphtoclub.org/>

Place your order via email, 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.

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. Ads run for two issues unless you request otherwise.

REFRESHMENT ASSIGNMENTS: Bill Sheppard

The following are refreshment providers for the next three months:

February	Pat Murray
March	Nancy Wehr & Sarita Stevens
April	June White & Donna Ford

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT: Denis Smetana

Monthly Financial Report Regular Account

December 1, 2008	Starting balance	\$5,973.17
	Expenses	-\$1,536.00
	Income	\$974.21
December 31, 2008	Final balance	\$5,409.38

Expenses were for Christmas dinner and deposit slips.

Income was from '09 dues from fifteen members, nine Christmas dinner reservations 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.

Annual Financial Report Regular Account

Jan. 1, 2008	Starting balance	\$4,277.76
	Expenses	-\$3,785.03
	Income	\$4,916.65
December 31, 2008	Final balance	\$5,409.38

Annual Financial Report Projects Account

Jan. 1, 2008	Starting balance	\$152.65
	Expenses	\$0.00
	Income	\$10.00
December 31, 2008	Final balance	\$162.65

SPC WEBSITE:

www.sandhillsphtoclub.org

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Thursday, February 12,

3:00 pm, Sandhills

Community College

Horticultural Gardens

Visitor's Center.

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

SPRING FIELD TRIP: Brenda Hiscott

I'm still working on plans for the trip to New Bern, April 27- 30.

Twenty-four people at the meeting (including five couples) indicated their interest in the trip.

I understand that some of you did not see the sign-up sheet and some members were not at the meeting. Those of you who are interested and did not sign up, please email me at Hiscott@nc.rr.com.

I plan to have more information by mid-February.

CLIPBOARDS: Don Hiscott

At the Board meeting we had a discussion regarding clipboards and the fact that some members don't get to see them at the meetings.

Beginning next month there will be a table at the back of the meeting room with the clipboards.

They will be available before the meeting, during and after. We hope this will make it easier to get everyone signed up.

North Carolina Zoological Park Workshop

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 attached schedule of events.** 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 who 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. Please make your check payable to "Naturescape **Photography**" and give it to me. For those members that are also members of the Zoological Society, see me for information on the reduced price. If we have more than 24 members that sign up I will keep a priority waiting 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 pay so I can have firm numbers to work with.**

Len Barnard

lbarnard@nc.rr.com or 910-673-2135



North Carolina Zoological Park Workshop Schedule

Date: **14 March 2009**

Times: **9:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

Cost: **\$60/person**, includes entrance fee to the zoo and a catered lunch

Size Requirements: 15 minimum, 20 preferred, 24 absolute maximum

Schedule of Events:

8:45 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.

There will be some sort of special activity provided by the zoo. The exact nature of this special activity is still being discussed. The presentation during lunch can be on any subject that you would like to have discussed in a more detailed, classroom-type fashion or it can be an open forum for questions about any photography-related challenges, experiences, etc. That is at the discretion of our club. Just let me know what your interests are so that Vinny and Melissa can prepare for it.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Len Barnard

lbarnard@nc.rr.com or 910-673-2135