



# 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 12

December 2009

## NEXT MEETING:

**Monday, Dec. 14 - 6:00 PM**

Table on the Green  
Midland Country Club  
2205 Midland Dr., Pinehurst

**Annual Holiday Dinner**



## PROGRAMS: Jim Davis

**Jan. 11, Macro Photography:** Our January 2010 program will be presented by Melissa Southern. Melissa is an award-winning photographer and presenter. She has been shooting since childhood and has been a working professional since 2003. She has photographed in Ireland, England, France, California, and Mexico as well as all over North Carolina and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Melissa has presented at Grandfather Mountain, Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), and the City of Orlando. She works as the Forensic Photographer in Wake County, NC. Melissa has a B.A. in Anthropology and an Associate Degree in Photography.

Macro Photography/Close-Up Photography means different things to different people. Melissa believes it is essentially the technique of getting a closer view of a subject. Macro Photography is a subset of Close-Up Photography in which the photographer is getting even closer to the subject, focusing in on the eye of the dragonfly or on the dewdrop at the edge of a petal. She will discuss several techniques in Close-Up Photography as well as some of the key factors to keep in mind when doing this kind of work, Depth of Field being the principle factor. Her presentation will include composition, framing, and lighting. Close-Up Photography captures the true essence of a subject, be that the "heart" of a flower, the vein structure of a leaf, the colors of yarn, or the patterns in wind-blown sand.

## WORKSHOPS: Bill Matthews

**Macro Photography** with Mike Stratil, the first workshop for 2010, will be held on Saturday, **January 16**, 9:00 am, at the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Center. Signup at the December 14 or January 11 meeting or call Mike (949-6518) for more information.

As a complement to Melissa Southern's program on macro photography at the January 11 club meeting, Mike will expand the discussion in several directions. First, he will demonstrate how to do macro photography with three levels of equipment: (a) point and shoot cameras, (b) medium level cameras like the Canon 30D using the Tokina 100mm macro lens, and (c) advanced cameras such as the Canon 5D Mark II with the 65mm 5X lens. He will also explore various aperture, ISO, and lighting options under conditions of simulated breeze and indoor calm, with and without a tripod. He will demonstrate how macro can capture the hidden beauty of the natural world, especially at high levels of magnification. These demonstrations will be projected live onto a screen. During the last hour, members will be able to set up their own equipment and receive suggestions from Mike and others on how to best use it in macro photography. Members who want to participate in the latter segment should bring their cameras, manuals, charged batteries, empty memory cards, any macro lenses they own, something to photograph (e.g., artificial flowers, miniature statues), and a tripod. The formal presentation will run from 9 am to 11 am, with the hands-on guidance period from 11 am to 12.

## Programs 2009: Len Barnard

**December 14:** I hope you have made your reservations for our Christmas Dinner by now as I assume you are receiving this after the cutoff date. No promises, but if you still want to attend our Christmas Dinner let me know and I'll try to work you in! NO promises!

2009 from my perspective-- I have enjoyed identifying and obtaining the programs that we have had this year. It has surprised me at how agreeable people are to do programs for us without pay. But then I must remember, that as photographers we enjoy the opportunity to show and exhibit our work and to help others in their efforts to show in photographs what we see with our eyes. I hope you have enjoyed them as much.

As such, I want to encourage new members to identify areas of interest to them and let it be known. We need new ideas and people to do all type of activities to keep this a great club!!

**Photographing Wild Birds** with Tom Reedy on Saturday, **March 13**, 9:30 - 12:00 noon, at the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Center.

This workshop will focus on how to capture good images of birds in the wild. The discussion will be targeted to large wading birds, such as herons, egrets, wood storks and spoonbills. Many of the fundamentals identified in this workshop should apply to most wildlife, not just the large birds. The workshop is meant to be a group participation activity not a "wisdom from the expert" class. Everyone will have an opportunity to talk about the lessons learned from their bird and other wildlife photography.

The discussion will include images of birds and other wildlife, both good images and not so good images. We will discuss what we need to do to control the image, including lighting and composition. To capture a good wildlife image, we need to use the correct equipment and we will discuss cameras, lenses, flashes, and other photographic accessories. The last topic will cover what we need to do in the field in order to come home with some really good images.

This workshop is intended to be very interactive. We all will be learning from one another, which will help us to become better wildlife photographers. It should be a fun and valuable morning.

**Lightroom 3** with Glenn Gilchrist on Saturday, **May 15**, 9:00 AM, at the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Center. Glenn has spent many hours working with the Lightroom 3 Beta and will share his experience with us. The expected LR3 release is next spring or summer and the Beta version is available free until then. Glenn's Lightroom Workshop last year was very well received and we look forward to learning the new features of LR3 with him this spring. More details to follow.

Additional workshops being considered for 2010 include **Artistic Composition, Resizing & RAW Revisited and Mounting and Mat Cutting**.

Suggestions for 2010 workshops are always appreciated. Please pass them on to Bill Matthews, 692-8254 or [wmatth@embarqmail.com](mailto:wmatth@embarqmail.com).

#### **EXHIBITIONS: June White**

The Sandhills Photography Club has been asked to participate in the *Palustris Festival* (Latin for long leaf pines) March 2-30, 2010, at the Sandhills Community College. Coordinating this event is Denise Baker who has teamed up with photographers from the sister city, Newry, County Down in Northern Ireland to display their work along with ours. After the show, all the photographs will be sent to Ireland for a similar festival. The goal of the festival is to show an overview of Moore County.

Photographs should be taken within Moore County with a focus on Southern Pines. Photographs can include people, places, animals, things and nature. Two photographs per club member may be submitted.

**Please send the title of your photo, subject, your name, and price for your photograph in case someone would request a reprint, to June White no later than **January 18**, 2010. Brochures for the Palustris Festival will need to be printed thus the early date for sending information to me: [juncwhite@embarqmail.com](mailto:juncwhite@embarqmail.com) or 910-692-6385.**

Photos are to be **mounted and matted but not framed** for this exhibit. Mats should be neutral such as white or off white, beige or gray. **No colored mats, please.** The college will provide three sizes of Crystal Clear Bags for the hanging. All outer dimensions must exactly fit into the bags: 8 x 10; 11 x 14; 16 x 20. The back of your mat must

#### **COMPETITIONS: Scott Duvall**

**Gene Lentz, Jill Margeson, Jim Smith and June White** have graciously agreed to serve with me on the 2010 Competition Committee. **Jim Davis** and **Brady Smith** have volunteered to share their expertise by consulting with the new team as needed to insure a smooth transition.

As a reminder, the first competition in 2010 will be a digital competition in February involving Macro photography. It is the art of taking pictures close up of large or small subjects, live creatures or inanimate objects.

The standard rules of a maximum of two entries taken in the last three years apply.

The other competitions in 2010 are:

**April Black & White**

**June Open**

**Aug. Stop Action**

**Oct. Architectural**

We will announce the 2011 competition topics shortly.

#### **COMPETITIONS 2009: Brady Smith**

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving you as the competition chairman for the last two years. I especially am grateful for **June White** and **Jill Margeson**, who served as committee members in 2008, and **Jim Smith** and **Jim Davis**, who have served in that capacity this year. There is no doubt I could have survived without them.

Additionally, I thank **Scott Duvall** for taking on this position in 2010. He's got bigger feet than mine, so he'll have no trouble filling my shoes, even to overflowing.

#### **Looking Ahead**

This is my last article as competition chairman [pause for the applause], so thanks again and **HAPPY SNAPPING!**

include your title, your name and price of the photograph if someone would like a reprint of it. If you would like to enclose your business card it can be placed in the bag holding the photograph. Denise Baker will deliver bags to participants at the January club meeting.

The date for delivering your work to the Hasting Gallery will be **March 1, 2010**. If there are too many entries or duplications the photos may need to be juried. The photographs will be returned to the club participants after the festival in Ireland. A rack will be located in the exhibit area (library) and photographers are encouraged to print note cards and postcards of their photograph on display. These will be for sale the night of the closing reception on **March 25 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM**. Denise will provide someone to be responsible for handling any sales for the club members. There will not be a commission for sold items.

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Don Hiscott**

This will be my last message as your President. It has been fun serving and watching the Club membership grow so dramatically.

As is the case with any organization, successes are to be attributed to many people. Some of them even work behind the scenes. I have been blessed to have a great Board and they deserve a lot of credit.

**Len Barnard** has done a marvelous job as Vice President and has brought us interesting and informative Programs. Next year will be a challenge for the incoming VP.

**Donna Ford** has served as Secretary. I don't know how she kept the minutes because sometimes the Board discussions got off the track occasionally. Good job.

**Denis Smetana** has been Treasurer for the past two years. It seems that the job could become full time. Lots going on. We only wish that we could have had a little more interest income. Too bad rates are so low.

We've had exciting Competitions this year thanks to **Brady Smith** and his committee. We seem to be able to gripe about certain aspects of the Competitions but they came off smoothly. I know it's a real challenge to find topics and judges. I think the Competitions give us a great chance to learn and improve our photography.

**Betty Hendrix** has looked after Exhibitions for as long as I can remember (sorry Betty, that's not an insult). Because of her good work our members have had lots of opportunities to display their skills. It's a lot of work; Betty we appreciate your efforts.

We had two very successful and fun Field Trips thanks to **Brenda Hiscott** and **Kathy Green**. There's a lot of work that goes into planning them and making sure everything goes as planned. Sometimes keeping the participants together is like herding cats. Well done both of you.

**Jim Smith** has served very ably as our PSA (Photographic Society of America representative).

I believe we have had more press coverage this year than ever before thanks to **Ann Stokes**. I know that getting the cooperation of the press is not easy. Thanks for a great job.

It's hard to say enough good things about the Workshops **Bill Matthews** has put together this year. We have had good attendance and have learned a great deal. I think that those who have not attended have missed good times and lots of good experiences. Thanks Bill.

You will be reading this in the Newsletter. **Ann Stephens** is one of our newer members and has stepped into a very challenging job. In addition to having to edit the Newsletter she has had to bug people like me to get the information to her on a timely basis. I don't envy her the task. The Newsletter is a great help in keeping us informed, thanks to Ann

One would guess that our Membership Chair is due all the credit for the increase in membership. Even though that may be true, I think we would be lost without the good work of **Alison Earl**. She keeps the rolls up to date and prepares the nametags. What a big job. Thanks to you Alison.

**John Wynton** has worked on the Website this year. John we haven't seen you at Club meetings and miss you.

**Jim McGill** took over from **John Witkowski** as Club Photographer during the year. I can't imagine a Photography Club without a Club Photographer. We hope to see Jim back in an active role soon following his illness. Best wishes.

We had fun times with the Youth Photography group during the summer. Our young members were enthusiastic and full of great creative ideas. We had help from **Brenda Hiscott**, **Dave Verchick**, **Brady Smith**, **Gary Magee**, **Susan McKibben**, **Bill Newton** and **Jim Smith**. It would be wonderful to see that group expand and meet throughout the year. I know the kids would like that.

What can I say about the **Sheppards**? The job of coordinating the refreshments for the meetings is a big one. I know one of the hardest jobs in the Club would be to get Bill to slow down and give up his beloved Hospitality job. I'm glad the Board voted to continue next year. Thanks Sandy and Bill.

It's been a fun year. Thanks for the opportunity of being your President.

*Don joins me in extending our appreciation for your prayers, cards, calls, food, flowers and many e-mails. You have joined this journey with us and your outreach has helped me endure this ugly illness. From the deepest part of my heart I thank you. **Brenda Hiscott***

**MEMBERSHIP: Alison Earl**

As of the November meeting we are at **103** paid members, along with our two honorary members! We had two new members join at the November meeting:

**Vic Koos** says he has taken thousands of pictures and slides with 35mm cameras, but considers himself a rookie with digital. His current camera is a Canon 50D and his favorite subjects are family, sports, and scenery. He is hoping to gain knowledge and constructive criticism from the members. He has lived in Foxfire Village for seven years and came from Michigan. He wants us all to know **HE IS A NICE PERSON!**

**Virginia Fenton** was a former member before we moved to our current location. Virginia considers herself a photography beginner, using a Kodak EasyShare Z740. Her favorite subjects are flowers and garden and she would like to someday be confident enough with her photos to either use them as postcards or enlarge and display them. She and her husband moved to Pinehurst in 2000, coming from NJ where she was a Professor with a Management and Information System company. She has always felt our members were very talented and welcoming and that Saturday workshops were packed with concrete tips and professional pointers. We welcome Virginia back!

I would like to thank **Kathy Green** and **Pat Murray** for their help at the back table again. They are both a major help and I really appreciate them! Kathy has agreed to be the Membership Assistant next year. YAY!!!!

2010 dues are here! Please complete the form, and mail it to PO Box 763 in Southern Pines.

It's Membership Renewal Time for 2010!!  
2010 MEMBERSHIP COUPON FOR DUES:

Couple: \$45.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Single: \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Sandhills Photography Club  
and mail to: Sandhills Photography Club  
Dave Verchick, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 763  
Southern Pines, NC 28388

The strength of an organization depends upon the active support of its membership. Please indicate your area of interest by checking one or more of the following committees:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Party
- \_\_\_\_\_ Competitions
- \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibitions
- \_\_\_\_\_ Field Trips
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting Set-up
- \_\_\_\_\_ Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter
- \_\_\_\_\_ Programs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Publicity
- \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone
- \_\_\_\_\_ Website
- \_\_\_\_\_ Workshops

**LIBRARY: Gisela Danielson**

**NEW BOOKS/DVD:** Two new books and one DVD were donated in October:

***The Digital Photography Handbook*** by Doug Harmon

***The Photography Bible*** by Daniel Lezano

***Travels to the Edge with Art Wolfe***, DVD

You may borrow books and/or DVD/CDs. 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 and is due the following month.

Donations of gently used and **recent** photography related books and CD/DVDs are always appreciated.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

**Thursday, Dec. 17, 3:00 PM,**  
**Sandhills Community College**  
**Horticultural Gardens**  
**Visitor's Center.**

**SPC WEBSITE:**

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

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

Oct. 1, 2009	Starting balance	\$5,123.21
	Expenses	-\$0.00
	Income	\$335.58
Oct. 31, 2009	Final balance	\$5,458.79

There were no expenses for October.

Income was from Christmas party reservations, 2010 dues paid by three members and interest on our checking account.

**Monthly Financial Report Projects Account**

There was no activity in our projects account. Our beginning and ending balance was therefore \$49.48.  
The balance of the Total Club Bank Account (including the Projects Account) is \$5,508.27.

**PHOTO EQUIPMENT CLASSIFIED****FOR SALE – Contact DON HISCOTT at 295-9544**

Three lenses: all Nikon mount (auto Focus) and in excellent condition.

- Nikon ED 18-35mm f3.5-4.5 focuses to 0.33m. Sells new for over \$500. \$250. Internal focus.
- Tamron XR 18-200mm f3.5-6.3 macro \$225.
- Tamron XR 28-300mm f3.5-6.3 macro \$225.

Also Giottos MT8160 tripod \$175; Bogen #3030 Pan/Tilt Head \$25; Tripod & Head together \$185.

**WANTED TO BUY:** An inexpensive, basic digital camera, call Lisa Varney, @ 207/671-9133.

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.

**PLEASE WEAR LOGO CLOTHING** you might have to January meeting. New members can see what is available and sizes, colors, etc. to help them decide what to order for themselves.

Matt McNeill at JuBilee Screen Print Inc. is the person who handles the orders from our club. JuBilee is in Seven Lakes in the industrial park area, next to the boat repair on 314 Grant Street (Grant runs parallel to Seven Lakes Blvd). Phone 910-673-4240, [www.jubileescreenprint.com](http://www.jubileescreenprint.com).

Matt prefers that we turn in **one group order**, though he says come on over if you want to see samples of sizes, colors, etc. You can contact me (Jill Margeson 763-1497) with questions. I have colors and a catalog.

- Embroidered patches have a 3” diameter - \$6.00
- Light weight sweatshirts with hood, zip front, pockets - approx. \$24.55
- Baseball caps - \$10.00
- Short sleeve polo shirts, prewashed, cotton knit - \$24.55

If you are interested in placing an order, call or email Jill Margeson at 763-1497 or [pennyjill@nc.rr.com](mailto:pennyjill@nc.rr.com). You could also see Jill to order at the January club meeting-and look to see colors, sizes, examples of what members are wearing.



Going somewhere? Anywhere! Take **Happy** along. Happy has just returned from Ecuador, traveling with **Jill Margeson** and **Chris Christiansen**. Here he is in the Andes Mountains admiring an active volcano - at a safe distance!

As soon as you know the dates of departure and return, call or email **June White** (692-6383) or **Jill Margeson** (673-1497) to get on the schedule. **Happy** has also been to New Jersey, Florida, Hawaii, Montana, Maryland, Ireland, mountains of NC, and Oregon. He'd love to come along with you!

### 2010 SPC Board Members

President	Len Barnard	673-2135
Vice President	Jim Davis	673-7017
Secretary	Tom Reedy	295-2674
Treasurer	Dave Verchick	246-2080
Past President	Don Hiscott	295-9544
Programs	Jim Davis	673-7017
Competition	Scott Duvall	673-1501
Exhibitions	June White	692-6385
Hospitality	Bill Sheppard	944-1219
Publicity	Ann Stokes	235-0950
Workshops	Bill Matthews	692-8254
Newsletter	Ann Stephens	673-2091
Library	Gisela Danielson	673-0521
PSA Rep	Jim Smith	673-4744
Membership	Alison Earl	215-0316
Website	Brady Smith	947-3946
Club Photographer	Donna Ford	295-2674
Field Trips	(Spring)	
	(Fall)	
Day Trips		