



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 XXVI, NUMBER 1

January 2010

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, Jan. 11, 7:00 PM

Christ Fellowship Church

Midland Road at the corner of Pee Dee Road

Southern Pines, NC

Program: **Macro Photography – Melissa Southern**

PROGRAMS: Jim Davis

January 11: Macro/Close-up Photography: Melissa Southern of Naturescapes 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.

March 8: Photographing and Experiencing the Cascades: Scott Ziegler, author of a book on the Cascades in Washington and Oregon entitled, *The Cascades: A Natural Heritage*, will discuss photography related to his published photography book.

COMPETITIONS: Scott Duvall

Remember our upcoming digital competition at the February 2010 meeting. The topic is MACRO...the art of taking pictures of subjects close up. It can be of relatively large subjects (e.g. a bird) or very small objects (an insect's eye). The image could also be an extreme close-up of a large object like a piece of cloth or a building. The key is getting up close! Submit up to two images taken within the last three years to competitions@sandhillsphtoclub.org.

There will be five additional competitions in 2010...all limited to two (2) entries photographed within three (3) years of the date of the competition. The topics are:

- April: Print...Black & White...images enhanced by B & W photography
- June: Digital...Open...any subject is acceptable within competition guidelines
- July: Online...photographs of local, state, or national parks
- August: Digital...Stop Action...any subject
- October: Print...Architectural...man-made buildings or structures

Six topics have been selected for competitions in 2011. They are: 1) birds; 2) transportation; 3) "just add water"; 4) portraits; 5) sports; and 6) nature.

The committee hopes this gives you lots of reasons to get out and start shooting!



Sandhills Photography Club Officers for 2010, from left, are: Vice President **Jim Davis**, President **Len Barnard**, Secretary **Tom Reedy** and Treasurer **Dave Verchick**.

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 January 11 meeting or call Mike (949-6518) for more information.

More details about 2010 workshops are outlined on page 5.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Len Barnard

First, I want to congratulate and thank **Don Hiscott** and his team for a great 2009. You can see the results of his efforts by the increase in membership. Thanks Don!

Next, I would like to comment about the friendship of our photography club. A few months back **Bill Sheppard** (in his normal expressive way) expressed his concerns for ensuring that our club was always one of friendship. I think he hit it on the head – we are a friendly and helpful club. As I think back on my experience and association with different photography clubs in West Virginia, Virginia, South Carolina and now North Carolina, they have all been great clubs, but none as friendly as ours. But to clarify on these different clubs, I did take a long sabbatical of nearly 30 years after South Carolina in which I would not even use a camera. During that time if you could see the images taken on any of our trips etc., you will not see my wife in any of them, only me. Needless to say I did hear about that. My interest was rekindled a few years after retirement and taking some extended tours and seeing some great sights. But I have drifted away from the subject—friendship. In conversations with several other members I have learned that more than just I have this feeling of this being a great and friendly club. To ensure that we continue to be that friendly club, it is up to each of us to step out of our comfort zone, get involved and get to know the other members.

On the 2010 SPC Board, we have had several new members to step up and accept positions in various areas of responsibility on the Board and committees and I applaud each for that. As of the time of this writing I still do not have all the positions filled, so I solicit your response saying you want to help the club. In fact even on those committees that I already have a chair, what a great way to not only learn but to be on a committee without the responsibility and learn for future years. That is what makes for a great club, the willingness to become involved. As I recall, sometime in 2005, I met a couple of SPC members selling note cards for our club during a Southern Pines festival. Shortly thereafter I was talking with Roy Kita about our club, and at his encouragement I joined the SPC club in late 2005 and Roy got me into doing field trips. From that point on I did three different field trips and I really think I got more enjoyment in organizing the field trips and going on those trips than did the people that just went on them. My one concern is that I did not get to know everyone as I would have liked – but I am still working on that. Do not let me be the only one to have all this fun!

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.**

**junecwhite@embarqmail.com
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 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 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.

MEMBERSHIP: Alison Earl

As of December we are at **104** paid members, along with our two honorary members!

Our latest member is **Paula Taggart**. I haven't gotten any information from her as of yet, but will share it with you once I do!

If you have any changes to your information (address, email, phone, etc) PLEASE let me know, and I will let the rest of the board know. I keep a roster of all members and their information. Email me at theearls@nc.rr.com or call at home (910) 215-0316. Thanks!

2010 Dues are here! Please complete the form below, 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
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**ONLINE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY:**

Judging by the loan requests, we had 18 for the year; your interest in our Library is pretty sparse. Should we continue or discontinue the Library? Please send me a quick YES or NO email: gdanielson@nc.rr.com.

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

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

REFRESHMENT ASSIGNMENTS: Bill Sheppard

The following are refreshment providers for the next three months:

January	Sandy & Bill Sheppard
February	Scott & Ethel Duvall
March	Carol Smetana & Joan Herrman

Hospitality following our meetings: Len Barnard

In a recent meeting in 2009 **Bill Sheppard** expressed his belief in the benefit to our club of having the social time following our monthly meetings. And I agree with him totally. Bill is so very dedicated in ensuring that for each and every month someone has signed up to handle the refreshments that we enjoy. Then following the social time most people walk out leaving Bill to do the vacuuming and general clean up. I hope that starting in January 2010, and thereafter, the person or persons supplying the refreshments will take it as a part of their responsibility to leave the social area as we found it and not leave the clean up for Bill to do.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2:00 PM,
Sandhills Community College
Horticultural Gardens
Visitor's Center.

Please note new date and time above.

SPC WEBSITE:

www.sandhillsphtoclub.org

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. Ads run for two issues unless you request otherwise.

The annual Stoffel Awards were presented to two SPC members, **Donna Ford**, left, and **Dave Verchick**, right, by 2009 Competition Chair **Brady Smith** at the holiday dinner meeting held Dec. 14.

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	295-5301
Field Trips	Kathy Green (Spring)	525-0190
	Dave Powers (Fall)	692-2539
Day Trips	Mike Stratil	949-6518
Scavenger Hunt	Jill Margeson	673-1497

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT: Dave Verchick**Monthly Financial Report Regular Account**

Oct. 31, 2009	Starting balance	\$5,458.79
	Expenses	-141.03
	Income	2,206.59
Nov. 30, 2009	Final balance	\$7,524.35

Expenses were for Web hosting and speaker's meal.

Income was from Christmas party reservations, 2010 dues paid by 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 \$7,573.83.

WORKSHOPS: Bill Matthews (continued from page 1)

Macro Photography with Mike Stratil, the first workshop for 2010, will be held on **Saturday, Jan. 16**, 9:00 AM, at the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Center. Signup at the January 11 meeting or call Mike at 949-6518 to sign up or 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 noon.

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 will follow.

Additional Workshops

Additional workshops being considered for 2010 include *Artistic Composition, Resizing & RAW Revisited, Photoshop 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.