



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 3

March 2010

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, March 8, 7:00 PM

Christ Fellowship Church
Midland Road at the corner of Pee Dee Road
Southern Pines, NC

Program: **Photographing the Cascades – Scott Ziegler**

PROGRAMS: Jim Davis

The March program will be **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.

The May program will be presented by members **Jim Smith** and **Gary Magee**. The program will include the DVD, titled "Florals, Nature & Wildlife," which was produced with ProShow Producer 4. The show contains 248 slides with pictures submitted by SPC members and a musical sound track. It is intended that this show will be the first of a series called "Through the Lens," produced by SPC Productions.

The July meeting will feature a program on **Wild Nature Photography** by Juan Pons. Juan is a professional photographer who lives in Pittsboro, NC. You can find out more about Juan Pons and his work on his website: <http://wildnaturephoto.com/>

COMPETITIONS: Scott Duvall

Our first competition in 2010 was held February 8 involving digital images of "Macro and Close-up Photography." Eleven members submitted 21 entries in Class A, while 29 images were submitted by 15 members in Class B. The winners were:

Class A

1st Place	"Through the Eyes of a Child"	Brady Smith
2nd Place	"Chestnut Breasted Cornet Portrait"	Chris Christiansen
3rd Place	"Swallowtail"	Jill Margeson
Honorable Mentions		
	"Cat's Eye"	Jim Davis
	"Green Spider"	Chris Christiansen

Class B

1st Place	"Eyes of Blue"	Dave Powers
2nd Place	"My Clock"	Don Hiscott
3rd Place	"Dragonfly Meets Black Eyed Susan"	Pamela Wandrey
Honorable Mentions		
	"Sleeping Beauty"	Lori Fischler
	"Literary Angles"	Marilyn Owens
	"Claude, My Best Buddy"	Brenda Hiscott

SPC Logo Patches and other items

Matt at Jubilee Printing has finished the 30 patches we ordered and is awaiting the orders for shirts and hats to arrive from the supplier. ***I will hand out items at the next meeting.*** For those who ordered patches, please bring exact change of \$6.50 (included tax) or a check made out to **Jill Margeson** to pay for your patch.

If you have ordered other clothing, I will call you to tell you final cost. If you want your order earlier than the next meeting, call Jill Margeson (673-1497) and we will talk about delivery.

EXHIBITIONS: June White

Delivery of photographs to the library at Sandhills Community College gallery will need to be made during the following hours on **March 1**. The college is on spring break and the library has shortened hours:

**9:30 - 11 a.m. or
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

These are hours that are different from the original planned times. If this will present problems for you, please contact June White after Feb. 27 at 910-692-6385 or junecwhite@embarqmail.com.

The winning images and all other entries have been posted on the club's website. The winning photographs are scheduled to be published in the April 2010 edition of *Pinestraw*.

On April 12, 2010 we will hold a PRINT competition where the subject will be "Black and White Photography." Prints will be judged on how they are enhanced by using black and white photography. Any subject is acceptable as long as the finished print is black and white. Sepia or other color variations will not be accepted.

Each club member is allowed up to two (2) entries that have been taken within three (3) years of April 12, 2010.

Prints must be mounted on core board or rigid poster board and/or matted. Those that are matted must be single matted with plain white or off-white matte material. Prints must be a minimum of seven (7) inches in both directions, and the mount must not exceed 20 X 20 inches. The member's name, image title and entry class should be put on the back upper left corner.

There are ***THREE THINGS DIFFERENT*** about this year's PRINT Competitions! Members will still drop off their entries at the sign-in table prior to 7PM on April 12. However, new this year is a mandatory requirement that all entries be registered before midnight on the eighth day before the competition (11:59PM on **April 4**, 2010 for the April 12 event). To register, the name of the photographer, class being entered, and titles of images to be submitted should be emailed to competitions@sandhillsphtoclub.org or mailed to Competition Committee member **Gene Lentz** at 6117 Seven Lakes West, West End, NC 27376.

Contestants will receive an email acknowledging they are registered *along with* their entries' randomly generated **competition numbers**. Contestants are asked to put their assigned "competition numbers" on the back upper left corner along with their name, etc. PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME, IMAGE TITLE, CLASS, AND COMPETITION NUMBER BIG AND DARK SO IT CAN BE READ IN LOW LIGHT!

The third thing different this year is that we are asking you to submit digital images of your PRINTS when you register your entries. The purpose of this strange request is so your photographs can be put on the club's website and the winners can be sent to *Pinestraw*. Please send your digital images to

competitions@sandhillsphtoclub.org or get them to Gene Lentz before April 12, 2010. This is important as we will not be taking photos of the winners at the meeting. If this creates a difficulty, please get in touch with me.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Len Barnard

Each month I struggle in an attempt to find a subject to write about that will be helpful or beneficial to all our members. This time I am sorry, but I will ignore one segment of our membership. That excluded group will be the more experienced membership portion.

Since I have been on the SPC Board for the last few years I have heard concerns regarding the lack of experience and knowledge from some of our newer members. This has made me recall some of my past experiences in learning my camera and general photography guidelines.

When I first got involved in photography, I was using a 35 MM film camera. To save money I would buy my film from the various stores selling film that was past the expiration date, take it home and store it in the refrigerator to preserve it for future use. To my knowledge I never had an image failure due to the film being out dated. However, part of the reason I took a 30-year sabbatical from photography was I became so frustrated when I went out, shot 100 shots and after having them developed, I would only have one or two halfway decent shots. Now with digital I shoot 500 images and still maybe get one or two decent images, but the cost per shot is cheaper until I include the cost of the camera. During this time my education came from reading the "Kodak how to" photography books which I do not think are published anymore. I wish I had kept those books. However, are you aware that our club has a library of books on various levels of photography for our member's use? If you are interested, check out our SPC website of the many books available. You will be surprised at the number of books that will be beneficial to all levels of photographers.

Another concern that I have heard from the inexperienced photographer is, "I do not know how to use my camera and while on a field trip, will I be matched up with a more knowledgeable photographer so I can learn." While I cannot speak for all photographers, a field trip is not the time to request someone to teach you unless you are paying. However, scheduled for later this spring, we will be having a "Scavenger Hunt" that is planned for the Sandhills Community College Horticulture Gardens. The best part is that it is local, admission is free, you can have numerous opportunities to redo and test the various functions and operation of your camera. I would also bet you could find a more experienced photographer that would accompany you and assist you as they will also want to learn. We all are interested in learning more about photography. Recently I wanted to understand more about noise in low light photography. What did I do to set up the conditions to test for very low light (like at night) photography in the middle of the day? Do not laugh: I went into our bedroom, closed all the drapes and blinds to shut out as much light as possible. In fact it was so dark I could not see the subject so the camera could not focus, so I had to turn the lights on, manual focus and then turn them off again. Then I took several shots at different ISO values to determine the noise impact at different settings. It was very enlightening plus it made me become more familiar with my camera.

So you can see, we all must experiment with our equipment to learn what it will do in the various situations that we may find ourselves in. Do not be intimidated by your camera. The only way you will learn its functions is to go out and take pictures in different environments and look at the results.

as we will not be taking photos of the winners at the meeting.

WORKSHOPS: Bill Matthews

Photographing Wild Birds with Tom Reedy is our next workshop on Saturday, **March 13**, 9:30 - 12:00 noon, in the Burlingame Room at the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Center. The objective of this workshop is to learn how to take better images of wild birds (as opposed to captive birds). This includes birds in flight, which are always difficult to capture. The workshop will have information that will be useful to beginners and experienced bird photographers. It will be fun and informative and will focus on five topics:

- What is essential to a good bird image
- What equipment (e.g., lenses, bodies, accessories) is required to capture good images
- How light and exposure impact bird photography
- How composition and "creative intent" can improve bird photography
- What we need to do to capture good bird images when we spend time in the field, including where to find birds and what camera settings should be used.

Bird images will be used to illustrate points in each of these discussion areas. The discussion will be specific and practical and strive to get everyone involved in the discussion. Collectively, club members possess excellent information and years of experience.

A handout will be sent by email to all who sign up. For optional preparation, review the top 100 bird images from the 2009 competition at <http://www.audubonmagazine.org/> to see examples of outstanding bird images.

To sign up please send an email to Tom Reedy at wreedyl@nc.rr.com. For more information Tom may be contacted by email or by phone at 295-2674.

Lightroom 3 with Glenn Gilchrist on Saturday, **May 15**, 9:00AM, in the Burlingame Room 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 this 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.

Flower Photography at the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens now has a definite date: Saturday, **June 19** (not July or August as originally anticipated). This workshop, a joint effort with our club and the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Society, will promote the flower photography opportunities available at the Horticultural Gardens, welcome beginning photographers and be open to the public - details to follow.

Additional workshops currently being planned for this year include

- **Artistic Composition with Mike Stratil** (September date TBD).
- **Basic Photography, Resizing & RAW Revisited** with Bill Matthews (Fall date TBD).
- A **Photoshop** topic in an SCC Computer lab with Bob Biamonte (Fall date TBD).

Suggestions for workshops are always appreciated. Please pass them on to Bill Matthews, 692-8254 or wmatth@embarqmail.com.

SCAVENGER HUNT: Jill Margeson

SCAVENGER HUNT #2 COMING SOON! Do you like this flower pot shot taken at SCC gardens? Why do you like it or not like it? Should it be lighter? Cropped? Deleted and forgotten? Are there leading lines? Did anyone else photograph that same subject in another way? Lots of questions...come to the workshop on **June 5** at 9:00 AM for some answers to questions you might be asking about your pictures. Hear friendly, honest, helpful feedback from club members. No judging, no points, no being quiet.

The spring hunt for at least 4 of 6 topics will begin after the April club meeting in the SCC gardens. You will be asked to email four (4) pictures ahead of time. Look for a couple "bonus" challenges for the more advanced in our group. Questions? **Jill Margeson** 673-1497.



MEMBERSHIP: Alison Earl

As of the end of the February 2010 meeting we are at **79** paid members, along with our five honorary members! By our count we had **59** people at our February contest with Vinny Colucci, which included members and guests!

Our new members is: **Laura Gingerich**, Laura considers herself an amateur/semi-pro with her Canon 5D Mark II and Canon 50D cameras. Her favorite things to photograph are mission and relief/places and faces of the world. She hopes to gain a fresh perspective and camaraderie from our club. Laura was born in Brooklyn, and moved to North Carolina in 1990. Please join me in welcoming Laura!

Notices will be sent to members where we have not received their 2010 dues yet. We understand that the mail may be the problem, but please contact me as soon as possible if you think there has been a mistake (theearls@nc.rr.com).

NOTICE: 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!

LIBRARY: Gisela Danielson

PHOTOSHOP BOOKS: Bob Biamonte, SPC member and Photoshop guru, donated three books on the Photoshop subject. Scott Kelby's *DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY BOOK* #1, #2, and #3 are outstanding.

Check out the SPC website: <http://www.sandhillspgphotoclub.org/library.html> for the updated library index.

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.

REFRESHMENT ASSIGNMENTS: Bill Sheppard

The following are refreshment providers for next month:

March Carol Smetana & Joan Herrman



Take Happy on your next trip! Our traveling bluebird, Happy, will soon be available for your trip. He is returning from the Philippines, Iraq and Costa Rica. Most recently he has been to Greensboro and the CNPA conference. In the photo at left, he is taste-testing something our President Len has chosen from the hotel breakfast line. In the photo below, Happy is scuba diving with June White in the Philippines. Happy will have a tab on our website soon for all to see his exciting adventures. Call **Jill Margeson** (910-673-1497) or **June White** (910-692-6385) to reserve your bird!



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT: Dave Verchick

Monthly Financial Report Regular Account		
Dec. 30, 2009	Starting balance	\$5214.38
	Expenses	132.56
	Income	1,005.09
Jan. 29, 2010	Final balance	\$6,068.91
Income: 2010 dues, interest		

NEXT BOARD MEETING:
Thursday, March 18, 2:00 PM,
Sandhills Community College
Horticultural Gardens Visitor
Center.
Please note change of date

SPC WEBSITE:
www.sandhillphotoclub.org

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

Spring Field Trip-Myrtle Beach/Georgetown/Murrells Inlet: Three nights - April 20, 21, 22
Leaders are Kathy Green (910-858-0190) and Jill Margeson (910-673-1497)

So far, 42 people have signed up for the Myrtle Beach trip on April 20, 21 and 22: Pat Murray, Owenses, Diane McCall, Janice Huff, Dave Powers, Gisela Danielson and June White, 2/Duvall, Debra Regula, 2/Herrmann, Mike Stratil, 2/Lentz, 2/Hiscott, Linda Martin, Alison Earl, Kathy Green and Nancy Wehr, Jill Margeson and Chris Christiansen, 2/Bernard, 2/Davis, 2/Wheeler, 2/Walker, 2/German, Lori Fischler, Pam Wandry, 2/Smith, 2/Smetana.

Most have signed up for dinner on the first night at Carrabba's, conveniently located next to the Hampton Inn. We'll have a wine and nibbles gathering in the hotel before dinner.

Arrangements have been made for local photographer, Sean Thompson, to show his area shots the first evening. He has also generously offered to guide us to a spot with carnivorous plants for no charge early morning on the 22nd.

Fifteen people are interested in the April 21st boat trip with Capt. Rod to barrier islands, plantations, rice fields, lighthouse, etc. We are hoping for 20 people so our group will be the only ones on the tour. This will be \$25 per person, leaving Georgetown dock at 10:00am, for a 3½ to 4-hour tour geared to photography.

A packet of area information and activity details was handed out at the last meeting. Contact Kathy or Jill if you want to sign up and get a packet or get one at the next meeting. We can email you the information sheets.

IMPORTANT: Call to reserve your room at Hampton Inn, 512 Courtfield Dr., Murrells Inlet 29576, phone 843-651-6687, before **April 6**, for the special club rate of \$82.50 with tax included. Be sure and mention Sandhills Photography Club. Questions? Call **Kathy Green** at 910-585-0190.

PHOTO EQUIPMENT CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE - Contact Gisela Danielson at 673-0521

Ballhead, Manfrotto Model 322RC2 Grip Action Ballhead with integrated quick-release platform. Excellent condition. Asking \$65 (B&H new price \$130). Call number above or email gdanielson@nc.rr.com.

FOR SALE - Contact Tom Reedy at 295-2674

Two Tripod Heads -- Excellent Condition

- Manfrotto/Bogen Super (Maxi) Ball Head (3038) \$80;
- Manfrotto/Bogen Compact Pro 3D Pan/Tilt Head (3410) \$90;

Both together \$150.

FOR SALE - Contact Beth Allison at 910-246-6378

Epson Stylus Photo R1800 printer and three ink cartridges of each color. Highly rated printer. Used only a few times. Please make offer. Call number above or email Bethallison44@yahoo.com

FOR SALE – Contact Bill Newton at 692-7113 or 692-2110

Epson P-4000 80GB multimedia storage drive (external hard drive) w/great carrying bag \$380. Call number above or email Newtonw@mac.com

FOR SALE – Contact DON HISCOTT at 295-9544

Nikon ED 18-35 mm f3.5 - 4.5 lens focuses to 0.33m. Sells new for over \$500. \$250. Excellent condition.

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.