



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

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June 2009

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, June 8, 7:00 PM

Christ Fellowship Church

Midland Road at the corner of Pee Dee Road

Southern Pines, NC

Program: **Print competition - Travel**

COMPETITIONS: Brady Smith

On **June 8** we will hold our first **Print** competition of the year. This topic is **Travel**. 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**.

In my article in the last newsletter, I directed you to the Competition Manual on the club's website to review the rules for submitting images for print competitions. This time, I decided to lay out the rules in this article and to clarify them a bit. So, from the Competition Manual:

1. Prints must be mounted on core board or rigid poster board and/or matted.

Clarification: Mounting images is mandatory. Matting them is not. Please ensure that your image is securely glued or taped to the mount and, if you include a matte that it is also securely glued or taped.

2. Prints that are matted must be single matted with plain white or off white matte material.

Clarification: No double mattes and no colorful (except off-white) or black mattes.

3. Prints must be a minimum of 7 inches in both directions and the mount must not exceed 20 x 20 inches.

Clarification: Prints smaller than 7 inches or mounts larger than 20 inches will not be accepted.

4. Prints must be identified on the back ONLY. The identification must include the photographer's name, title of the print and the class of the entry. This identification should be placed on the upper left corner of the print mount (as viewed from the backside of the mount).

Clarification: Make sure your name is not on the image itself or on the front of the matte or mount. You can handwrite the required information, but make sure we can read it. You can put the information directly on the back of the mount or on a label that is affixed to the back of the mount.

The night of the competition, just bring your photos with you and give them to us in the refreshment room before the meeting starts. We will process them for the competition and hopefully be ready before the end of the business portion of the meeting. If you need any further clarification, please contact me or a member of the Competition Committee directly.

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS: Don Hiscott

It's a great time of the year to be an amateur (or professional) photographer. The flowers are blooming, the trees are looking great and there are lots of birds to be found.

In addition, our Photo Club members have lots of opportunities to get out to get those good shots.

At the last meeting we heard about the needs of Moore County for their website. The opportunities seem endless. It should be fun helping to get the word out about this wonderful part of North Carolina. You may e-mail your questions about submitting photos or your digital photos (in jpeg or tiff format) to Moore County CIO/IT Director Darlene Yudell at dyudell@moorecountync.gov.

Jill Margeson has worked hard on "A SCAVENGER HUNT JUST FOR YOU." Additional information (see attachment at end of this issue) is in the newsletter. Final details will be available at the June meeting. I hope we'll have great attendance. It sounds like a fun adventure with a great deal of variety. It will certainly give our imaginations a good workout. Let's support Jill on this fun activity.

See you at the June meeting!

Additionally, I ask that you send me an email giving me the following information about your entries:

1. Your name
2. Image title
3. Your competition class (A or B)
4. A digital copy of your image.

Please submit the above information to the competition email address: competitions@sandhillspphotoclub.org.

By providing a digital copy of your image, we won't have to take photos of the winners the night of the competition for posting on the club's website. **Please note that providing this information and a digital image is not required for this print competition, but it will help us streamline the process.**

Again, don't forget about our first **Online** photo competition. This is 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. You may start sending me images now, although those images will not be shown until later.

To send images, just use the same procedure outlined in previous Newsletters for digital competitions. Just be sure you put Online Competition in the subject of the email and don't send them with images for one of the other competitions.

*Again, please note that images will not be viewable on the website until **September 1**.*

Looking ahead... Upcoming competitions are:

Aug - Magazine Photography / Digital

Oct - Landscapes / Print

As I tried to locate a list of competition topics for 2010, I realized that one was never created. So, we will meet as a Competition Committee and determine the topics for 2010 and put them in the July newsletter.

HAPPY SNAPPING!

PROGRAMS: Len Barnard

July 13: Tina Wrona of *Tina Wrona Photography* will present a program that will give parents and grandparent pointers on taking quality family photos—not just snap shots. Check out her web site WWW.tinawronaphotography.com for some beautiful examples of her work.

September 14: Photographing and Experiencing the Cascades. Scott Zielger, 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.

November 9: "Take a Second Look with George" More information later but start saving that "**great photo**" that is just missing something and that you would like to have help in improving.

December 14: This is the date for our **Christmas dinner**. It will be a **Jolly Good** time!!!! More later....

Tid Bits

I hope you did not miss our program in May on Magazine Photography by Frank Pierce. But if you did, here is an added benefit you get anyway. Frank Pierce is offering all Sandhills Photography Club members a 20 percent discount on their printing needs. I will be providing him with a list of members, but no addresses, email or otherwise.

Frank is also considering an instructional workshop on Photoshop if there is enough interest. This would be a paid workshop, not a free one. If you are interested please respond to me with the following info:

- 1) Are you interested?
- 2) What version of Photoshop do you have, Elements, CS, CS2, CS3 or CS4?
- 3) Do you have it loaded on your laptop?

At this point Frank is not sure where this class would be taught, maybe his studio or maybe even at the college. Please respond to me if interested and after Frank has looked this information over, I will get back to you with his decisions.

WORKSHOPS: Bill Matthews

Lightroom Basics with Glenn Gilchrist will be held on Saturday, **May 30**, at the Sandhills Community College Landscape Gardening Center, 8:30 – 11:30 am. If you have ever had trouble organizing your images, or if you sometimes have to quickly process a large number of images at the same time, Lightroom may be for you. Lightroom also replaces Photoshop for those PS users that do not make use of masking, layers, and filters.

Glenn will review the Library Module and how it is used to assign images to collections, how to sort and rate images, how to keyword them, and updating metadata. He will describe some features in the Develop Module that allow you change white balance, exposure, color, contrast and sharpness, both for individual images or globally for entire groups. For more details or last-minute sign-up contact Glenn at 910-725-0112 or glenngilchrist@nc.rr.com.

A Practical Approach to Digitizing Your Slides, Understanding the RAW Digital Camera Image Format and Getting Your Monitor Calibrated with the SPC Projector, a three-part workshop with Bill Matthews, will be held Saturday, **June 27**, 9:30 – 11:30 am, at the Sandhills Community College Landscape Gardening Center. Converting one's 35mm color slides to digital files by scanning sounds like a great idea until simple multiplication shows how long it will take. I've got a good scanner, but with 7,000 slides (50,140-slide carousels) at 2 minutes per slide the prospect of a 233-hour (29, 8-hour days) task caused me to keep putting off the project. I finally came up with a more practical approach that allowed me to complete the project in about 16 hours. I'll describe and demonstrate this method in the first part of this workshop.

Many photographers now capture their images in the RAW file format. Amongst other things the RAW (or Native) format offers the possibility of adjusting exposure and white balance in your computer *after* the picture is taken. Some serious nature and professional photographers enthusiastically endorse this approach while others do not. In this part of the workshop, the RAW digital will be explained and arguments for and against its use will be presented.

The last part of this workshop will be a review of the current state of standardization and calibration of the club digital projector. Although the projected image can never exactly replicate the image as displayed on your individual monitors, a reasonably close match can be achieved. The factors involved will be reviewed and tips on how to best prepare digital competition images will be presented.

A Photoshop Workshop with **Bob Biamonte**. Bob hopes to be able to present a Photoshop Workshop at an SCC computer lab in September or October.

EXHIBITIONS: Betty Hendrix**Appalachian Physical Therapy at Olmstead Village**

Twenty-two of our members are showing 40+ photos. This is a busy clinic. The staff and the clientele enjoy having a variety of images to look at during therapy sessions. If members wish to go see the display, the center has requested that you stop in between 12:15 and 1:00 pm while the staff is on lunch break. You will see our work in the lobby and may then ask at the check-in window if it would be convenient to take a short tour of the photographs.

Mark your calendars for the pick-up on **July 10 between 2:00 & 3:45 pm.**

Weymouth Center Photo Exhibit: **September 1 to November 1**

Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities is celebrating their 30th Anniversary. They have invited our club to provide a display of artful Weymouth subject photographs to be shown in their St. Andrews Room on the second floor of the mansion. This is a large boardroom, which has limited wall space broken up by windows and doors. We will be hanging on existing wall hooks, hang some from the molding and use some easels. This will not handle a large number of pieces. It would be nice to have a variety of new images to put in this show. You may shoot on the grounds or in the mansion during the hours that they are open. We will probably have to limit the show to one per member (your best or favorite shot) if we have good participation in this event. Subject matter may be architectural (inside or out), plants, flowers, grounds, animals, etc. **No photos in the show of the fountain**. There may have to be a jury process of some sort to assemble a special show for this venue. These photographs may be for sale. **See the attached Scavenger Hunt information prepared by Jill Margeson.**

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL – Arts Council of Moore County
Reminder: **July 18-24 submit entries at the Campbell House**
 Entry fee: \$15/ entry for ACMC members
 \$25/entry for non-members

MEMBERSHIP: Alison Earl

As of May 12, we now have 90 paid members, along with our two honorary members. Our three newest members are *Scott Miller, Kelly Peckels, and Mary Weatherspoon. Kelly and Mary are returning members from previous years.*

From April we have a returning member, Dave Mathias, who describes his level of expertise as “one step above point-and-shoot.” He currently has a Fuji S2 and enjoys photographing blooming plants, wildlife and most nature scenes reflecting changes in weather. He is enjoying the works of other photographers in the club. We welcome him back! Also April new members, who got to go on our Spring Trip, are *Scott and Ethel Duvall*. Scott considers himself an amateur as a lifetime photographer. His current camera is a Canon Rebel XT, with landscapes, people, and animals being his favorite subjects. He hopes to gain improved photography ability through our club and has been in the area for almost seven years, coming from Connecticut. He says he appreciates the chance to get constructive critiques on his photos! Ethel is a brand new photographer with a Canon Power Shot. She also enjoys photographing people, animals and landscapes, and hopes to gain some photo skills from our club. She is looking forward to joining some more field trips in the future. We welcome them both!

I would also like to take this time to personally thank *Bill and Eva Ball*. Many of you may not even know who they are, but they are the wonderful couple that volunteers to help by handing out the nametags (and collecting them) in the back of the room at every meeting. While they were gone for two months, I had friends from the club sit there (and a BIG THANK YOU to each of you) and each one of them expressed an appreciation for the 15 minutes of chaos when everyone seems to come at once through that tiny doorway at the back of the room and want their nametag! Bill and Eva do it each month with smiles on their faces and never complain. I truly appreciate their help.

The first months that Eva and Bill were gone (March) I was also missing in action, having my second knee replacement done. I had asked *Kathy Green* to help out, along with *Brenda Hiscott* and *Pat Murray*. They were wonderful to step up to the plate to cover our positions and we thank them.

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 and CD/DVDs are always appreciated.

REFRESHMENT ASSIGNMENTS: Bill Sheppard

The following are refreshment providers for the next three months:

June Alison Earl & Kathy Green
July Linda Piechota
August Carole Bernard & Joanne Lentz

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

**Thursday, June 11, 3:00 pm,
 Sandhills Community College
 Horticultural Gardens
 Visitor's Center.**

SPC WEBSITE:

www.sandhillsphtoclub.org

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
Library	Gisela Danielson	673-0521
PSA Rep	Jim Smith	673-4744
Membership	Allison Earl	215-0316
Website	John Wynton	673-1084

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

March 31, 2009	Starting balance	\$5,239.74
	Expenses	0.00
	Income	\$220.08
April 30, 2009	Final balance	\$5,459.82

There were no expenses in April.

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

Monthly Financial Report Projects Account

As reported last month, the Projects Account was folded into the Regular Account but a separate accounting will be kept. Thus the actual balance of the Regular Account (including the Projects Account) is \$5,622.47.

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

Photo Tip of the Month: Pat Murray

The movie, "Everlasting Moments" about how a camera changed the life of one woman, is set to run June 4 - 8 at the Sunrise Theatre in Southern Pines.

To see the movie trailer go to: <http://www.ifcfilms.com/viewFilm.htm?filmId=1216>

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

PHOTO EQUIPMENT CLASSIFIED

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.

A SCAVENGER HUNT JUST FOR YOU- Jill Margeson

Where? Weymouth (across from Campbell House) grounds (except not the fountain), outside or inside the house, stables, or pond area.

When? Any time during June and the first two weeks of July: June 1 through July 12

Who? All new and “old” members. You can photograph on your own or call a volunteer member to possibly meet you at Weymouth and help with finer details of how to work your camera or work the shot. Call or email Jill Margeson (673-1497) if you want to volunteer to help or if you’d like to get some camera help around Weymouth.

What will you do?

This activity is meant to increase your camera skills, challenge your ability to see, think about composition and lighting, let you get a little “arty” to capture something beyond the “record” type of shot. Later in July participants will meet in a workshop to share photos and offer comments and helpful suggestions. Please note that this is NOT a competition. To simplify discussion and focus on camera skills, limit Photoshop use to cropping and use of levels only.

All participants will PICK four (4) subject topics from the six listed below. You will be asked to email your best picture in each of the four categories you have chosen so they can be arranged in a slideshow.

Hunt for four (4) of the following subjects at Weymouth:

1. Photograph something that is 90 percent straight lines. This will be a pattern type of shot. A brick wall with a bit of vine curves; straight lines of the barn doors, grasses, tall trees, architecture of house, windows from the inside or outside, other buildings.
2. Find a spiral. A spiral curves around a fixed center point, bark on a paper birch, fiddle neck fern, spider web, curled up hose, tendril of a flower, design in furniture, etc.
3. Include water as the main subject or a subject with water included in the photo: pond, dew drops on a leaf, puddle, rain, frog in water, sweat on a horse, fog, frog on lily pad, fish under water, foggy morning view of the pond, etc.
4. Something that shows motion: frog in midair, wind blowing plants, trees, horses with feet in the air, dragonflies, butterflies moving. Possibly use a slow shutter speed to show subject moving, or use a panning technique to show blurred background and focus on subject
5. Photograph a red subject.
6. Find a living thing other than a plant. For example a person at Weymouth, bugs, fish, frog, horse, fly, etc.

Final details of the scavenger hunt will be announced at the June club meeting. Don’t wait for the details though- Get out shooting!