

# DEVELOPMENTS



Memphis  
Camera  
Club

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MCC meets Twice a Month  
1st Thursday: Competition  
3rd Thursday: Program & Business  
In the Longinotti Auditorium  
behind St. Francis Hospital ER  
West of Park & Ridgeway  
At 7:00 PM

### Club Notes:

#### Is Photography Art?

At one of the MCC exhibitions in which I was lucky enough to have images, someone asked me if I was one of the "artists." I proudly puffed up and said "wellll yesss." Then I thought wow, cool, me an "artist." Then I thought "What did I just say?" and decided to look up "art." First there was Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) – sounds interesting. Then there was ARmy tactical Task (ART) – sounds dangerous. Then there is AntiRetroviral Treatment – definitely not. Finally there was: Human endeavor thought to be aesthetic and have meaning beyond simple description. It includes music, dance, sculpture, painting, stitchery, weaving, poetry, writing, woodworking, etc. (There we go again; photography confined to etc. behind stitchery). A more recent narrow sense of the word art is as an abbreviation for creative or "fine art." This means that the artist's skill is used to express the artist's creativity or engage the audience's sensitivities. The ultimate definition of fine in "fine art" comes from the ancient Greek philosophy of Aristotle. He proposed four causes of a "Thing." The final cause of a thing is the purpose of its existence and "fine art" is derived from this notion. If the final cause of an artwork is simply the artwork itself and not a means to another end, then, that artwork could be called "fine." How could a three letter word be so complicated?

So art is there to produce pleasure. It is desired (sells for millions: "The Pond") and is displayed in numerous museums and galleries worldwide. Therefore photography, which meets these criteria, must be considered "art." Robert Balcomb said... "For photography to have its place in the world of art, it must have within it that quality of having been achieved by the hand of a competent photographer. Many technical photographers do magnificent work in the way of reaching what the world has but only the Artist-Photographers can do the work that can hold its place in art salons and collections." Others say photography is not art any more than oil paint is art. Alan Briot says... "A painter is not separated from his subject by a mechanical device. All that is involved is his subject, his canvas and himself. Brush and paints are just tools used to carry the painter's vision onto the canvas." The photographer must work with film, filters, pixels, printers and papers of numerous types to achieve their purpose. Sounds comparable. But wait... Paul Weiss said "Photographers have little and sometimes even no appreciation of the aesthetic values of experience. And when they do have such appreciation it is rarely relevant to their purpose. One need not be an artist to use a camera with brilliance." Kind of out-to-lunch comment, do you think?

Some claim the advent of digital photography has added more complexity to the issue. Digital, some would say, hinders rather than helps the status of photography as art. Conventional photography is the result of a mechanical process and digital the result of an electronic one. They would say with more advanced machines, the creativity of digital photography declines, In other words, just buy a camera that "takes good pictures" and put it on "P" for professional. What do you think?

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## PROGRAMS FOR 2006

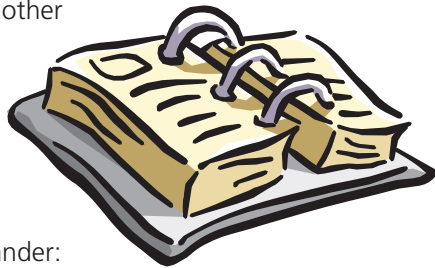
**August:** Tom Furlotte: Images from Race for the Cure 2005. This was another excellent club field trip

**September:** Zoo Extravaganza--more fun from the 2006 Camera Club Field Trip Committee

**October:** Charles Alexander: Wildlife photography with a special view of the endangered lowland gorillas of Africa.

**2nd Thursday:** Digital Photography Class

**4th Thursday:** Enthusiastic Photographer Class by Carl and Tom



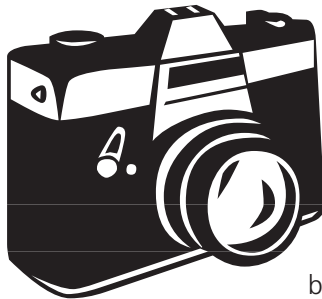
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If one agrees that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, that beauty can be art, and that many photographs are beautiful, then photography is an art and judged so by the viewer. Also art may display emotion, drama and the dark side of life. Photography can be expertly applied to these subjects.

Any ideas about art and photography? How do you feel about some of the quotes of these people? Why do you photograph? Are you an artist? What is a "good" photograph (don't say 6) and what is a "bad" photograph? Do you have to be born a good photographer or artist to be that way or can you evolve? Put it on paper (or electrons), send it to me and we'll put it then next newsletter.

### Reelfoot 2006: Tom Richey

We had a real nice turnout for the Reelfoot field trip this year. It ended up being 21 members. Friday night wasn't conducive to shooting sunsets so it was do your own thing after dinner. On Saturday members that were of a mind to arose at 4:30 am to do the sunrise. At approximately 8:30 am, we boarded the pontoon boats for a day on the lake. Heron, egret, American lotus, water lilly and a pair of osprey chicks that hadn't fledged from the nest. After dinner that evening a group of the members boarded one of the boats to do the sunset from the lake. A few decided to do the same from the campground on the south end of the lake. Sunday morning, for the serious, it was up at 4:30 am to do the sunrise from the boardwalk at the visitor center. After breakfast our host, State Ranger David Haggard, let the members get into the cage with the eagles and then got out some of the birds and one really docile rattlesnake to photograph. Everyone seemed to have a really good time and I am sure some of the work will appear in the near future.



COME ONE, COME ALL!!! POPCORN AND A MOVIE!!

Take a walk on the wild side!

Hear the roars, squeaks and snorts!

See photos of exotic animals!

Featuring the work of the MCC members from ZOO SHOOT 2006!

Produced by the Field Trip Committee

Directed by Carl Nilson

Showing September 21 at 7:00 pm, Longinotti

Snacks and Surprises!

### MCC Family Picnic!

Weekend of October 7th; 2:00 pm till ?

At Charlotte Zortman's house in Olive Branch, MS

Play games and visit.

Club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and buns. We will also ask for a small donation for the meat (hamburger/hot dogs) depending on the number of people attending. We will also have a sign up sheet for potato salad, chips, drinks, dessert, etc. that will be passed around at upcoming MCC meeting.

No alcoholic beverages please

Map to be provided by e-mail.

### Thanks To:

**Patty McLaughlin:** MCC members at the July meeting were treated to a visual feast by Patty. The combination of still shots by Patty and videos by Barry made the presentation of the trip to Africa come alive and especially enjoyable.

David Haggard for again leading us to the best sites at the best times to test our photographic talents. David is a real photography pro as well as a State Ranger and we always benefit from his support. We saw the outstanding results of our trip at the August competition. Thanks again David!

Barry Siegel for judging in July. His name was omitted from the last newsletter.

### Should you move up to that new digital camera?

With Photokina opening in about 6 weeks I'm sure we'll see many new cameras introduced. Should you upgrade? Bells and whistles aside, will you see a difference? Here is the summary from an article by Michael Reichmann titled "Understanding Sensors Issues" in digital cameras that sheds light on the subject. If you would like to read the full article you can find it on the web at [www.lumnious-landscape.com](http://www.lumnious-landscape.com) under "What's New."

"-- sensors with photosites down to about 6.8 microns produce the highest quality, with little if any image quality degradation over ones with larger photo sites.

*Continued on back cover*

# August Photos of the month



## Print Competition

### Nature

"Looking for Mr. Goodbar"  
Barry Siegel- 27 Points Points (POM)



"Looking for Mr. Goodbar"  
Barry Siegel- 27 Points Points (POM)

### Color Open Print

"Curious Giraffe"  
Mary Stubbs- 25 Points

### Color Scenic Print

"Boggy Knees"  
Jimmy Knight - 26 Points



"Boggy Knees"  
Jimmy Knight - 26 Points

### B&W Print

"Diner"  
Brenda Silberman - 26 Points



"Curious Giraffe"  
Mary Stubbs- 25 Points

### Portrait Print

"Mother and Child"  
Patti Possel - 26 Points



### Candid People

"His Trusty Yellow Pencil"  
Brenda Silberman- 25 Points POM

### Creative/Manipulated Print

"Sunburst Fantasy"  
Tom Furlotte - 25 Points



"Mother and Child"  
Patti Possel - 26 Points



"Sunrise Fantasy"  
Tom Furlotte - 25 Points

## Slide Competition



### Nature Slide

"Black Eyed Susan"  
Blair Ball - 24 Points (SOM)

### Scenic or Landscape Slide

"Sunburst"  
Blair Ball- 22 Points

## Special thanks to these Judges:

Carl Nilson, Tom Furlotte, Brenda Silberman and Mary Stubbs.

## Be a good Winner

Be sure to send your images to maryphotcollage@aol.com and ellen.isaacman@goodadvertising.com for the web and newsletter respectively. This applies to both the slide and print of the month as well as all category winners. Send your stuff.

## ASSIGNED CATEGORIES FOR 2006

**Sept:** Single Tree

**Nov:** Most effective use of color

Bonus category in Nov worth 200 points in year-end competition and special recognition in Jan; Topic: Awe-Inspiring Image- the reviewer must say WOW in every way.

### Check Our Website. It's Great!

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

There is also additional information about dates of photo related events in the Mid South, field trips, etc at the website.

### Books Oprah Missed

by Barry Siegel

I've done some book reviews in the past, but never really got around to one of my favorites. Before I do that though, I'd like to mention a couple of books I've reviewed in the past for those new members who may be interested. The first of these is John Shaw's Nature Photography Field Guide ©2000. This is the best book I've seen for learning about your camera. It's a must have for the beginning photographer, whether you enjoy nature photography, portrait, or creative photography. Another book I've reviewed in the past is The Art of Photographing Nature ©1993 by Martha Hill and Art Wolfe. It's like a competition meeting except that every photo is challenged and discussed. OK, now for a new review. The book I'd like to highlight is The Making of Landscape Photographs, a practical guide to the art and techniques, ©1992 by Charlie Waite. No, he's not some rare photographer that nobody's ever heard of. This favorite of mine and Bob's is very well known across the pond. His photography is primarily landscape, both with and without the hand of man. Not only is his photography beautiful for its compositional elements, but his photographs are endearing to me for his subtle use of color. No bleeding edge, full tilt, high impact, color saturation like is seen with many of the US western landscape photographers. No, his colors are used like they are an expensive perfume, just a little bit here and there to seduce the viewer. He says it best "And of course the catalyst for it all, the one thing that a photographer must know, must learn to understand, must come perhaps, in the end, to love, is light."

Perhaps some of our portrait photographers would like to review some books for the next month? If you've got something to say, there's usually plenty of room in our newsletter. Contribute!!!

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Maybe the judgement of whether something is art or not should come from the viewer and not the doer"— Alan Babbitt

### August Birthdays

Ellen Cox	8/06
Marshall Kelly	8/07
Tom Fox	8/09
Bob Laster	8/12
Jeno Lehel	8/14
Steve Johnson	8/23
Dodie Bush	8/30
Jeff Tallant	8/31



### Another Quote:

"I predict that within five years, all major university-level 'required' texts in the category of The History of Art will, and certainly should be titled: The History of Esthetic Experiences as none of today's art scholars or writers appear, understandably, capable of defining what presently passes for...art." James Weaver, Art History Instructor.

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### Should you move up to that new digital camera?

- sensors with pixels between about 5 microns and 6.8 microns are capable of excellent image quality, but are being pushed close to the limits of current technology when used at higher ISO settings, and suffer in this regard when compared with sensors with a larger pixel pitch.
- CMOS and CCD imagers will continue to share the market. More companies are moving to CMOS to reduce costs, but there are still new cameras coming to market using CCDs, and the high end of the market (medium format backs) continues to be the exclusive domain of CCD.
- physically larger sensors will always have an advantages over smaller ones. This means that (other factors aside) image quality from medium format will be higher than full-frame 35mm, which will be better than APS size, which will have an edge over 4/3, etc, etc.
- when upgrading from one camera to the next these factors should be borne in mind. Setting aside any other differences and advantages, be aware that unless you are making a "two stop" increase, it is unlikely that you will be excited by the difference in output or resolution seen. So, while a jump from a 6MP to a 12MP camera will be worthwhile, from a 6mp to an 8MP won't, and neither will a jump from 16MP to 22MP. " —©Michael Richmann