

DEVELOPMENTS



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MCC meets nearly every Thursday
1st Thursday: Competition
2nd Thursday: Digital Class
3rd Thursday: Program & Business
4th Thursday: Carl & Tom's Class
for Enthusiastic Photographers

February 2009

www.MemphisCameraClub.org

The job of president is filled with excitement!

-Barry Siegel

Going...Going...G..o..n..e....Oh, not really.

The job of president is filled with excitement, peaks and valleys, and a lot of diplomacy. No president stands alone. He is held in position by all those who support the cause. Sometimes he is buoyed like a raft in the ocean by a flood of support. Other times he or she must lead practically in isolation. That's why I'm so mad he didn't find any WMD's!!! You didn't think all that high falutin' talk was about the MCC president, did you ;) Well, now that you mention it, compared to him, I'm starting to feel better about my time at the reins.

As a photography club, I should really be telling this tale with pictures.....think Petit Jean, the Race for the Cure, the Botanic Garden, portrait workshops, gallery shows, Reelfoot Lake, studio tours, our many fine speakers, our digital and enthusiastic photographer classes, and so on. We had a lot of great activities thanks to all the wonderful work of our committees. We firmed up our web presence which really helped us grow as a club. I made a lot of new friends during these last two years.

With these new members we gained some new ideas and extra hands to carry them out. We were able to upgrade our presentation capabilities during these two years with some really state of the art equipment. Some of it was a result of our larger treasury made possible by our new members.

I'm still warmed by the wonderful generosity of our members who made additional contributions beyond their dues so that we could purchase a new laptop. It was so uplifting to me personally to see that so many of you pulled together to provide the additional support that our club needed.

Our committees really ran themselves...all I had to do was to step out of the way. The executive committee provided the team I needed to keep the club running from week to week. It quite purposeful that I have not mentioned any names here. There have been so many members that have helped the club, I would feel remorseful if I left even one of you out.

I feel like the mortar, thinned by unscrupulous bricklayers, between two of the strong bricks of our foundation, those being Bob Laster and Blair Ball. Unlike Bob, who after two years was freed by DNA proving his innocence, I have been

righteously convicted and am ready to pay for my sins as president by serving an additional two years as competition chairman.

When I started as president, I promised that in return for your support, I would provide a chicken in every pot, or perhaps a flashcard in every slot, or at least a good time to be had by all. Well, if you didn't have a lot of fun, then you weren't participating enough! I'm looking forward to two more great years under Blair's tutelage for the Memphis Camera Club, now in focus for over 70 years.

Upcoming program February Guest Speaker

Our February speaker will be one of our own, Jenö Lehel. His program will be titled "Made in Cordova"! This will be a show of images that were taken for the Commercial Appeal and personally during a period from 2004-06.

All Smiles at Gallery 32! -Tom Richey

Friday the 9th of January was the opening night of the Camera Club's exhibit at Gallery 32. The large crowd that attended was treated to a great show and a bountiful spread of food and wine. With over 50 images displayed in all of the halls and operatories, there were eye-catching images wherever you looked. Thanks to Patti Possel, Beverly Hammond and Beth Behm for their masterful layout. In addition to the photographs, Ann Moore and Ellen Cox lent some of their fabulous bronze and wood sculptures for display in Dr Barton's office. Our "Thanks" to Ann and Ellen for their generosity. Kudos to Beverly for being inspired to include their work. The food and wine was donated by the members and was prepared by Patti, Bev and Beth. They deserve a big pat on the back for their hard work.

Happy Birthday!

Special greetings to our members celebrating between 2/15 and 3/15.

Sollée Neyle	2/12
Mike Sorenson	2/23
Mohan Gehi	2/26
Jack Reynolds	3/13
Joe Sullivan	3/13
Carl Nilson	3/14

Italy with Connie Grayson -Patti Possel

A warm Mediterranean breeze blows, as the smell of baked and buttered garlic bread dipped in fresh olive oil heightens my senses. All around me, I see the simplistic beauty of the rolling hills that leads one to the Apennine Mountains and the tiny, hilltop villages that pepper the Umbria region of Italy. The people, uncomplicated and humble, greet foreigners with smiles and joy-filled hearts. The sounds and smells of the time gone by have not slipped into the pages of history in this off the beaten tourist path. Connie Grayson, owner and tour guide extraordinaire, leads groups of photographers, cooks and artists through this scenic and peaceful place.

Ms. Grayson started her professional life as an attorney. For 25 years, she actively pursued defending the innocent and helped to convict social-deviants. Growing ever weary of listening to heart-wrenching stories of abuse, Connie needed a diversion. At first, she thought, "I'll buy a Porsche" but, reconsidered due to the thought of uncomfortable driving conditions of a sports car, especially if one is six-foot tall. Ms. Grayson then turned to her next idea; buy a house in Italy! Her husband thought it was not a realistic idea until they were on a plane to look at Italian property.

Fast-forward nine years, today, Ms. Grayson is not only an Italian landowner, she is also a painter, sculptor and owner of "Caifiordi Art School". During the January business meeting and presentation on the 22nd, MCC club members were inspired and encouraged as Ms. Grayson recounted her life's story that brought her to develop this artistic outlet.

Classes for the 2009 calendar year include photographic journeys during Holy Week in April; during the sunflower season in late June, early July; and during the olive harvest in autumn. College credit may be earned by attending the Umbrian Art Experience. In addition to offering photographic journeys, the school offers courses in several other genres of art: cooking, watercolor, acrylic, sculpture, drawing and art history.

For more information on attending Ms. Grayson's Umbrian Art Experience you may call 1-888-300-6323 or visit their website: www.caifiordi.com.

I wish to thank Ms. Grayson and her sidekick, Phyllis Boger, for coming to town to share with MCC their wonderful Italian adventures. Miss Connie drove from Lexington, Kentucky, after moving there earlier this week, just to keep her comment to speak with us. Many thanks!

Also, several thought the presentation was so inviting that they are suggesting that MCC take a road trip to Italy in 2010 and attend one of Ms. Grayson's tours/classes. The 2009 cost to attend is \$2,900, which includes accommodations, transportation to and from the Rome airport and around the mountain villages. Space is limited to 10-14 guests per tour. Start saving your money, if you think you may like to attend.

The Annual Awards Banquet -Tom Richey

The annual MCC awards banquet was held at Colletta's Restaurant. A large turnout of members and guests enjoyed a night of good food and good photography. Blair Ball presided over the evening and Bob Laster presided over the awards presentation. A total of 129 images were submitted for year-end judging this year. We presented a total of 40 medals, ribbons and plaques. This year's judges were Mary Hewes, Bob Kremser and Woody Woodliff. Mary along with her husband Newton and Bob with his spouse Brenda were in attendance as guests of the club. The following is a list of this year's winners.

Candid People

- 1st Patti Possel
- 2nd Susan Wood
- 3rd Steve Copen
- HM Steve Copen

Scenic

- 1st Steve Copen
- 2nd Steve Copen
- 3rd Beverly Hammond
- HM Mary Stubbs
- HM Patty McLaughlin
- HM Blair Ball

Open

- 1st Barry Siegel
- 2nd Barry Siegel
- 3rd Paul Fultz
- HM Patty McLaughlin

Print of the Year



Southern Charm
Beverly Hammond

Creative

- 1st Mary Stubbs
- 2nd Mary Stubbs
- 3rd Rog Sphar
- HM Ellen Cox

Nature

- 1st Beverly Hammond
- 2nd Quinn Strother
- 3rd Joe Sullivan
- HM Patty McLaughlin

Black & White

- 1st Peggy Copen
- 2nd Steve Copen
- 3rd Barry Siegel
- HM Mary Stubbs (2)

Portrait

- 1st Beverly Hammond
- 2nd Beverly Hammond
- 3rd Beverly Hammond
- HM Beverly Hammond

Digital

- 1st Alan Sparks
- 2nd Alan Sparks
- 3rd Jill Griffith
- HM Jill Griffith
- HM Asa Black

Members Choice Award - Steve Copen
Print of the Year - Beverly Hammond
Digital Image of the Year - Alan Sparks

Photographer of the Year - Joe Sullivan

Carl & Tom's Class for Enthusiastic Photographers!

The February class will be on Settings & Controls. This is being updated from the class on F-stop and shutter speed to include the various settings on the newer digital cameras.

Digital Image of the Year



Hummingbird
Alan Sparks

Good Bye Mid-South Fair

-Beverly Hammond

Well, the Mid South Fair has come and gone once again, only this time it will never come back. This 152-year-old iconic event will never be held here in the heart of Memphis ever again. Having been involved in the Creative Arts division for many years, I have never ceased being amazed at the talent displayed there. The school art exhibited by K thru 12th grade is absolutely amazing. You cannot imagine how talented some of those kids are. Had it not been for Mid South Fair, I would never have seen their art work.

Carl Nilson shared chairmanship with me, and it was a big job, but we loved it. Esther Prieto worked right beside us every step of the way. We got to meet many up-and coming photographers; some of whom have become members of MCC. In August of 2008 we hung 572 photographs done by amateur photographers from Memphis and the surrounding area. Among these photographers were some of our own. Paul Fultz won a first place ribbon, Glenn Fuqua won two ribbons, and Emmanuel Villa also was a winner.

This year the Mid South Fair will be held in Tunica, Mississippi. It can never be the same, but we will just have to wait and see what happens. My understanding at this point is that all entries, (crafts, photos, paintings, etc), will be checked in somewhere here in Memphis and taken down to Tunica by Fair workers and displayed as usual.

I don't know about you all, but the Mid South Fair was a HUGE part of my childhood. My Mom and Dad suffered through a trip to the Fair with my sister and me every year. They listened to the endless begging, and pleading, and whining to go into the freak shows to see the two-headed goat, and "Snake Girl," and who could forget the "The man covered with Fish Scales". The answer was always the same as we knew it would be. We never gave up. We also never understood why Daddy refused to give us a hand full of change to pitch into slick glass bowls to try and win a goldfish in a plastic bag full of water, which probably wouldn't live 'til we got home anyway. AND, don't forget the smiling yellow ducklings, with numbers on their bellies, floating around in a circle. All you had to do was pay your money, pick a duck, and you were a winner. DADDY!! The man said "EVERY BODY'S

A WINNER!" I dreamed of owning the Giant Blue Teddy Bear. "No" he said. What in the WORLD was wrong with my parents?? How could that possibly be THROWING MONEY AWAY?? I just didn't get it! What were they thinking? But, Let me just say, when I became a parent, and took my three to the Fair, ----- I finally ----- GOT IT!!!!

Well, I don't know about you all, but I for one will truly miss the Memphis Mid South Fair. The smell of the roasted corn and the pronto pups, mixed in with the smell of the cattle barn: what can I say? It's just not something you can forget! (Or is it?)

Upcoming Field Trip Schedule

March 14, Saturday morning

Macro Class

Bob Laster will again lead us at the Memphis Botanical Gardens. Daffodil Hill, Japanese Cherry trees, and native wildflowers begin to bloom in the Wildflower Woodland. Check out their web site. <http://www.memphisbotanicgarden.com/>

April 9-12, Easter Weekend

Fall Creek Falls Trip

This will be one of the highlights of the year. We have villas & cabins reserved in name of Patty McLaughlin. Memphis to Pikeville is about 330 miles, east of Nashville. 4 ½ hours. You can email her at ptpatty@mac.com Visit the website for more information. Inn & Cabin Reservations: 1-800-250-8610. Call before March 5th deadline.

<http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/parks/>

[FallCreekFalls/](#)

May 16 – Saturday

Lichterman Nature Center

Allen Sparks, our own ornithologist will lead us on a nature walk. Allen is a skilled birder, publisher, and has the patience of a house cat on the prowl. Meet at 9:00 to 1:00 with a late lunch after at Jason's Deli. Check out the website: <http://www.memphismuseums.org/lichterman-overview/>

July 10-12

Reelfoot Lake

Details will follow. Check out the website: <http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/parks/ReelfootLake/>

The Future MCC
-Blair Ball

First let me say thank you to Barry Siegel, all past presidents, committee chairpersons, and all volunteers! All of you helped to better MCC. As we move forward in 2009... my vision comprises a few key elements, however before I share those let me start with a quote.

“No man has the right to dictate what other men should perceive, create or produce, but all should be encouraged to reveal themselves, their perceptions and emotions, and to build confidence in the creative spirit” Ansel Adams

- At the top of the list is to produce a newsletter on a monthly basis
- One of the first elements that I want to stress is **encouragement**. Each one of us needs to encourage our fellow members to be better, to stretch ourselves to step out of our comfort zones and look for positive words to communicate to one another.
- We need to reach out into the local community on a regular basis to grow our membership and promote what MCC has to offer.
- We each need to stretch this year, learn new techniques, learn new skills, and step out of our comfort zone in pursuing our passion of photography, and express what stirs your soul.
- We need to pursue the possibilities of creating a blog or forum on our website.
- We need to encourage more young people to join and get involved in committees



Make a commitment to yourself as we start this New Year to step up to the next level in your photographic efforts. If you haven't volunteered - get involved. Have a hand in shaping MCC for today and for years to come.

February 2009 Competition			
Category	Winners	Title	Points
Black & White	Patti Possel	Pose	25
Candid People	Peter Pace	Hitchcock Anyone?	24
	Teresa Chumney	Can You Feel the Blues?	24
Color Open	Paul Fultz	Downtown Diner	25
Creative	Tom Furlotte	Stonewall's Ghost	24
Digital	Alan Sparks	Female Warbler with a Snack	26
Landscape	Mo Gehi	Take the High Road	25
Nature	Paul Fultz	Delicate Beauty	24
Portrait	Steve Copen	Lorelei	27
	Peter Pace	Audrey	27
Image of the Month	Steve Copen	Lorelei	27

**THIS MONTH'S
WINNERS**