

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

June/July 2009

www.MemphisCameraClub.org

Telling a Story with Pictures

—Blair Ball

With Memorial Day just passing, it congers up images of summer, water, vacations and fun. Can't you hear the song playing now...School's out for summer; ah those were the days, to have the whole summer off, the freedom of time. Perfect time to tell your story with pictures. So what do you want to tell?

While technical aspects of taking a photo are important, such as composition, lighting, rule of thirds, dodging, burning, printing...nothing brings about an emotional response more than a photo that tells a story. Let it move you either positively or negatively. Much of it is subjective and as they say, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. A picture is truly sometimes worth a thousand words.

What does it say to you? Some people are just fascinated with capturing the moment. Take time to slow down, and enjoy what's around you. Next time...listen to the enthusiasm of a child as they tell you a personal story. What theme did it convey?

Themes

When you purchased your new car, didn't you start to see all those same vehicles on the road? Why? A well known psychiatrist has coined the part of the brain that explains this...it is called the reticular activating system. *It would work the same way when you focus in on a particular theme to photograph.* Suddenly... out of nowhere appears the theme you were concentrating on. Start with a particular theme and see where it leads, then you can add other themes. Avoid the clutter, make it simple without a lot of distracting background elements that can confuse the viewer about what the story is trying to convey. So let's venture into what some themes might be.

Visual themes - perhaps colors or shapes that come up again and again on a trip - for example, a friend showed me his photos from a recent trip to the West that featured quite a few shots with red stone, blue sky, and stone patterns - very compelling.

Stylistic themes - repetition of photographic techniques and styles. For example, when members of the club went to Memphis Botanical Gardens to do macro. It included a series of macro shots of the different flora that was present in the springtime.

Locational themes - re occurring photos from similar types of places. For example, when going on a trip to several cities you can decide to make 'markets'

a theme in your shots on the trip. You can seek out and photograph markets in every city and town you visit. You will find it fascinating to see the similarities and differences between them.

Relational themes - shots that focus upon a person or people over time. On a travel story this might document the moods of a person as they go through the highs and lows of travel or could document the development of a relationship between friends, lovers, siblings, etc. over time.

What moves you, what are your passions', what moves your viewer and stirs their imagination? Take yourself to places in your past, or posit yourself into the future of what might be.

Get out there and create pictures that tell a story. Strive to create a body of work related to your theme by having 20-30 photos. Inspire yourself, move yourself to be, to do and you can. Let your imagination run. Remember when you were younger and you believed that you could do anything and created your own world sometimes, without thought of criticism or ridicule. Time has a tendency to dampen our spirits and stifle our creativity. Make a decision today to throw caution to the wind and step out. Put your own personal brand to what you do and how you do it. As the old saying goes, if you believe you can... you can.

Member Birthdays

July 15 to Aug 14

7/15	Bob Christian	8/1	Dana Stine
7/17	Kelly Green	8/2	Susan Wood
7/26	Asa Black	8/5	Diane Reed
7/26	Eddie Jones	8/6	Ellen Cox
7/27	Lynn Conrad	8/8	Carl Ray
		8/8	Ron Brasfield
		8/9	Tom Fox
		8/12	Bob Laster
		8/14	Jeno Lehel



Happy Birthday, One and All!

Photographing White Birds

—Tom Richey

One of the more difficult things to do is to photograph White birds in bright sunlight. Having just recently returned from a bird photography outing in Louisiana, I am wondering if I am the person to be writing this article. If you are going to give advice you should be able to do what you are teaching. Some of my results have left me wondering. I have been asked on more than one occasion about photographing white birds in bright sunlight. More specifically Great Egrets. In bright sunlight, they tend to n be overexposed and you lose detail in the feathers. This is a tricky problem. I am still pretty much old school and tend to use the “Sunny 16” rule and shoot manual whenever I can. For “Sunny 16” see last month’s newsletter article “Exposure and Metering”. If you are going to shoot manual also you will need to meter the bird and close down about 1/3 stop to allow for the high degree of reflectance of the bird.

If you are going to shoot in your advanced modes on your camera i.e.; AV or TV, you will need to be aware of a few things . If you are spot metering on the bird, your camera will try to make the white bird 18% gray and will close down accordingly. Result, the picture will be very dark and to compensate you should treat the white bird like snow or white sand. That is to open up 1½ to 2 stops. If you are metering the whole scene and it is mostly trees, it will tend to open up and the bird will be extremely overexposed. In that case you will need to close down by a like amount. 1½ to 2 stops should give you the proper exposure.

Lichterman Field Trip

—Steve Copen

The day started out cool and windy but no rain at the Lichterman Nature Center field trip. We all met in the front before they even opened. Angie took our group photo, as she’s become an expert. Then, we all scattered. Most of us wandered over the many bridges on the lake. There were turtles, geese and their goslings. In addition snakes, lizards, lily pads and lots of flowers near the visitor’s center. There were insects of all kinds on the wildflowers. This was an easy and relaxing shoot that kept everyone busy. Lunch was at Jason’s Deli.

“It’s All About You!”

—Jill Griffith

This month, it’s all about you, Steve Copen! Steve is married to Peggy Copen, who is also one of our very own MCC members. They pursue their common interest in photography together and have developed many unique memories in the process. They have a beautiful family which includes two beautiful daughters, Casey and Erin, who are both successful young women living in Washington, D.C., and California, respectively. Amongst Steve & Peggy’s other travels, they visit their daughters frequently. Careerwise, Steve has been a business owner for many years and is a clothing manufacturer based out of Tupelo, Mississippi, where he was raised. He still owns his parents’ home in Tupelo and is there three days every week to look in on his business responsibilities. When Steve is not working, he loves to venture out of doors and use his cameras of choice - a Canon 40D and a recently purchased G10. According to Peggy, it is hard to get the little G10 out of his hands! Steve and Peggy joined the camera club in January 2006 and have been active members ever since.

For as far back as Steve can remember, he has had a love of art. He studied art at University of Memphis, then known as Memphis State University. He was first a major in fine art before changing his major to graphic arts. Steve can remember developing black and white film in his college dorm room as well as in the school’s darkroom. He also has some early memories of his father being fond of photography. During these same college days, Steve owned his first business with another college-aged friend which was located in downtown Memphis on Madison Avenue. Called Moonlight Ink, it was a small graphic design company. Steven doesn’t recall the exact name of the camera that they used then, but he does remember it being too large to be brought into the building any other way than with a crane through a window. That is what I call a large camera! Steve still uses his art skills today in his business. He uses his drawing/sketching skills to design facets of his clothing line, he does all the photography for his clothing catalogues, and he uses his computer design knowledge to design and print all his business’ brochures, flyers, etc.



When asked what his favorite type of photography to do in his spare time might be, he said he enjoys creative manipulation the best. He enjoys the way these photos can tell a story, either in series or standing alone. He feels he “overworks” pictures sometimes just because he has a tendency to fiddle with them. While he can take the photo just right, he always feels an inclination to “do something to it” whether it be cropping, saturating, vignetting, etc. When asked what keeps his interest up in photography, he replies that he is a “gadget man.” He loves to try out new cameras, lenses, gadgets, and techniques.

Steve has several mentors he likes to keep up with which include several websites he visits on a daily basis. One of these websites is produced by Craig Tanner who is the founder of “The Mindful Eye” at www.tmelive.com. Craig does a daily critique of a photo which Steve looks in on.

Steve enjoys many of the aspects of this website as well as Craig’s podcasts which Steve downloads and listens to in his car, etc., while doing his daily/weekly driving. Another favorite website is www.msjpgallery.com by Mark Johnson. This website has little Photoshop lessons, etc., that Steve also checks out and tries on a regular basis.

I asked Steve if there was one particular trip or photography adventure that he could pinpoint as his best experience. He commented that he truly loved all of his overseas adventures but would have to say that the Peru and Amazon trip was his favorite. He found photographing in Africa easy and Egypt he found difficult. He does feel that these trips can be a stressful time to take photos in that one is usually out in inclement weather, traveling, photographing in low light, and/or just generally in some sort of duress. He feels this is the time when you have to know your camera’s features so well that they are second nature to you. He says one just can’t spend much time thinking about how to photograph your subject; you simply have to do it. He takes lots of exposures and angles, etc. Steve spends very little time in such circumstances looking at the photos on the back of his digital camera for guidance. He does say, in retrospect, that he probably takes too many photos in such settings!

I had to ask Steve what his photography “bucket list” might still be. In other words, what would he still like to photograph before he is unable to do photography any longer. With no uncertainty, he replied that he would like to tour and photograph The Galapagos Islands. He would also like to do more street photos “without getting killed.”

Steve has won many awards through MCC over the last few years. Additionally, one of his photos was selected and printed last year by The Phoenix Club (Boys & Girls Club of Greater Memphis) to be a holiday card for 2008. Several thousand cards were sold!!!

Keep up the good work, Steve! We at the MCC will look forward to many more beautiful and awe-inspiring photos by you in the years to come.



July's Speaker

—Patti Possel

The journey began more than 38 years ago, after the shutterbug bit while he was in college. As a young man, eager to explore the world, the zest for knowledge and for exploration led our fellow club-mate, Curt Hart, into a career in broadcasting. Living life on the edge of making history, Mr. Hart traveled with his camera. This gave him the opportunity to document the movers and the shakers through the turn of the 21st century. Along the way, Curt documented some of the natural wonders and nature in and around Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Join us on July 16, 2009 as we discover the upper east coast and travel back through the images of famous entertainers, sports figures and historic moments captured on film by Curt.

June 2009 Competition			
Category	Winners	Title	Points
Special Cat. - "Blur"	Ellen Cox	The Trip Was a Blur	23
Black & White	Paul Fultz	Junkyard Shadows	22
	Teresa Chumney	Acoustic	22
Candid People	Bill Belus	Big Wheel Eyes	23
	Blair Ball	You Lookin at Me?	23
Color Open	Paul Fultz	Clean vs. Dirty	25
Creative	Patty McLaughlin	Barn Owl with Attitude	24
	Steve Copen	Cow Canyon Trading Post	24
Digital	Steve Copen	Snails Trails	27
Landscape	Ellen Cox	Sunset at London Bridge	25
Nature	Chuck Spencer	Sitting Pretty	27
Portrait	Patti Possel	Audrey	24
Digital of the Month	Steve Copen	Snails Tails	27
Print of the Month	Chuck Spencer	Sitting Pretty	27

JUNE'S
WINNERS

Wings Gallery Exhibit

—Beverly Hammond

Friday night, the 15th of May, one of our own MCC members exhibited in the Wings Gallery of the West Clinic. The show was works of cancer survivors. Jerry Penrod was selected along with several other survivors to have their work displayed. Jerry is currently doing well and we applaud his efforts as a photographer. He has an amazing attitude and seemed pleased that some of his fellow photographers and club friends came to support him. Those present were Blair Ball, Tony and Angie Menne, Tom and Carolyn Furlotte, Esther Prieto, Quinn Strother and me. The show was nice and will hang until June 24th and is open during regular clinic hours.

I have never had a show and probably never will, but I can imagine that the greatest fear would be that nobody would come. At least that would be mine. I feel that it is important to support our friends and fellow club members who have put so much heart-felt time and emotion into choosing just the right image or images

that not only define their talent, but also hope to impact their viewer. I expect it is quite a step to decide to do this. So, in the future let's let them know that we admire them for doing it and we will be there.

Could camera clubbers possibly ever end any event without "eating"? I think not! Several of us went to Macaroni Grill and topped off a great evening Italian style.

New Members

These new members have joined MCC since the last newsletter. Please take the time to say "Hi" and to make them feel welcome.

John Bates	Edgar Orellana
Melinda Davis	Mike & Jane Ellen Rawdon
Robert Landess	Charles Reynolds
Linda Lucchesi	Arn Vertrea
Teresa Mellstrom	Steve Williams

July 2009 Competition			
Category	Winners	Title	Points
Black & White	Mary Stubbs	Quiet Sentinel	26
Candid People	Rog Sphar	Surfing the Endless Wave	25
Color Open	Peggy Copen	Sandstone Skylight	26
Creative	Rog Sphar	Fading Glory	24
	Blair Ball	Red, White, and Blue	24
Digital	Allen Sparks	Spider Snack in the Wild	27
Landscape	Paul Fultz	Swampland	22
Nature	Allen Sparks	Hummingbird in Hyssop Flower	26
	Charles Spencer	Assassin Bug	26
Portrait	Peter Pace	Aleena	25
	Patti Possell	The Eyes of Audrey	25
Digital of the Month	Allen Sparks	Spider Snack in the Wild	27
Print of the Month	Charlse Spencer	Assassin Bug	26

WINNERS
JULY'S