

DEVELOPMENTS

June 2007 · www.memphiscameraclub.org



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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

Listen with your eyes

—Joe Sullivan

"Red and yellow and pink and green,
orange, and purple and blue.

I can sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow,
sing a rainbow, too.

The sights and sounds of things that surround us should ideally prompt the use of all of our senses. But, sadly, in a world of high-tech gadgets we seem to lose the ability to fully appreciate what goes on around us. How many times a day do you see someone with ears glued to a cell phone while their ignored companion sits and waits uncomfortably for recognition? How often do you see a walker with face towards the ground, head encircled with earphones and topped with antennae, seemingly oblivious to the out-of-doors in which he travels?

When I was a child, "Stop, Look, and Listen," was the slogan of the National Safety Council. It was primarily aimed at safety. But I think the adage goes further. It is great advice for those who would photograph the natural world. How else can we know the world of nature, comprehend the seasonal and daily weather patterns that dictate everything from the flight patterns of birds to the migratory and feeding habits of animals and fish, or understand the waxing and waning of plant life? How else can we learn the songs of birds or recognize the signs of mammals? How else can we hope to know the ever changing characteristics of light on this world that are so important to the photographer?

Patience and quietness are the hallmarks of the successful nature photographer. How can one sit quietly on the edge of a pond or in a blind for hours? One way is by finding things of interest to fill your senses. The sound of a bird, the rustling of an animal in the brush, the warmth of a spring breeze against your face, the lapping of lake water on the shore, or the sight of a soaring hawk will all help to calm your feelings of urgency while you wait for that perfect shot. Allow those peripheral sights and sounds, smells and feelings to lead you to a feeling of peace. Worry less about the quality and extent of your equipment and more about the quality of your experience and you may just find that the day itself will suffice. And as an added benefit if you are observant and diligent, patient and quiet, the photo opportunities will appear and your longing for that perfect shot will eventually be satisfied.

"Listen with your eyes, listen with your eyes,
sing everything you see.

You can sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow,
sing along with me."

"I can sing a rainbow" ...from Pete Kelly's blues

Programs for 2007

July 19: Barry Siegel – Cuban Trip

August 16: Tom Furlotte – Race for the Cure

Second Thursday: Digital Photography Class

Fourth Thursday: Enthusiastic Photographer Class by Carl and Tom

Lake Martin Re-visit

—Tom Richey

A number of years ago I was looking for a place, near by, to photograph shore birds. Having been to South Florida, Ding Darling, Corkscrew Swamp, and the Venice Rookery I had developed a real interest in photographing these marvelous creatures. It is a stretch to go that far with limited time unless you want to fly. I started searching the Gulf Coast for a place that was within reasonable driving distance from Memphis. With the help of some wonderful members of the Louisiana Ornithological Society I was introduced to Lake Martin in Breaux Bridge, La. What made this place so special was the relationship of the birds to the people that were there to observe or to photograph them.

Roseate Spoonbills, Great Egrets and other birds were nesting within 40 yards of the road. How great is that! With at least 20,000 birds in the rookery during breeding season (late January to early June) it was a very unique area. I was hoping that it would be a lasting love affair with a place I could go back and visit again and again. In March of 2006 an incident occurred that changed that. I have no personal knowledge of what happened.

Friends and acquaintances of mine in the area said that someone had interfered with the natural order of the rookery and flushed the birds from the nests. Within 48 hours the nests were empty and the birds were gone. Once disturbed it was going to be iffy for them to return. In the spring of 2007 the birds did return to the area. I just returned from a trip to the area and it was sad to see the major, major difference from my previous trips. It is difficult to say how many birds are there because they are now nesting deep in the swamp and nowhere near the roadway.

Very few of the birds come near the road to search for food and those that do are extremely skittish. Only time will tell if they will nest near the road again. The story of someone deliberately causing this disturbance, if true, can only make us wonder what prompted this individual to disrupt the lives of these birds and their cycle of life.

Will nature photographers like me survive without Lake Martin, yes? There are other places rife with wildlife and photographically interesting. Will those places be as close to us as Lake

Martin? Since I haven't done any research into the subject I can't answer that. I found that the birds were not my only attachment to the area. Acadiana has its own culture, music, food and warm friendly people. It was a nice place to go and visit and the birds were the icing on the cake.

Seeing in Black and White!

– Part One

— John Stitt

One of the huge dilemmas of the transition to digital photography has been how to do good black and white. Some people might ask why would one want to do black and white when color is so easy? Well, there are good reasons and now good methods for doing black and white – digitally. But before one can make a good black and white print with their new digital camera and high end printer, he/she should learn to “see,” pre-visualize the picture in black and white when the world and the viewfinder are color.

Most of the members of the club know that black and white prints have been my forte, and though I am not the only club member doing black and white, our numbers are limited. I was one of a few who fought hard to keep it as a separate category in competitions; I think with good reason. Black and white is not the same medium as a color prints.

Black and white is really a different art form, at least a different sector of photography. It's a semi-abstract form of representation of what we see, and maybe what we feel. Just as a pencil or pin-and-ink drawing are not realistic, neither is black and white. Seeing a picture in black and white is not the same as seeing in color. Much more emphasis is placed on composition, form, quality of light, tonality and texture. There is no color to zing the viewer.

Those of us with gray hair probably learned to shoot black and white film first. I did. Color was much more expensive, a situation that has reversed itself now. Color was nearly impossible to do at home but a good cover over a bathroom window or a changing bag and one could develop black and white negatives. Then black and white was not as much art form as an economic necessity. So, we learned all the skills of this one medium. And there were many to learn. And one of the most important skills we learned was to pre-visualize a scene in the tonalities of a black and white print.

I did not do it alone. A book I suppose is long out of print but one might find used in a library or Amazon.com is “The Complete Photographer” by Fenninger.

I had a discussion with another older photographer several

weeks ago about how could one really be good at PhotoShop if they had never worked in a darkroom? My thought also went to how can one really be a good photographer if they have not mastered black and white? Maybe that is limited thinking by me, but mastery of light is a prerequisite of all photography, and good black and white certainly demands mastery of light.
to be continued...

Photojournalism with Alan Spearman

—Ronnie Booze

This past month of May was punctuated by an exemplary meeting, which presented Alan Spearman as our guest speaker. Alan Spearman, a photographer for the Memphis Commercial Appeal Newspaper, presented us with memorable images of the city of Memphis along with images from other locals. His photos illustrate the importance of using a variety of techniques in photography to convey a more compelling story. For example, the perspective he used in the image of the boxer jogging near a downed light pole gave the impression that the boxer had knocked out the light pole with a punch.

Another illustration he used was a long time-exposure to photograph a night shot of the Sun Studio during a heavy rain, thus making these ordinary subjects a compelling and stunning piece of art. Other photographs that were displayed showed the importance of clicking the shutter at the right moment.

These photographs effectively exemplify the story behind the photograph, such as the intense image of the expressions displayed by the doctors and staff attempting to save a wounded man's life on the operating table in the Med's Emergency Room. These are great examples of Alan Spearman's knack of telling a story through the camera lens.

Mr. Spearman and Lance Murphy recently received the Indie Memphis award on their documentary film, "Nobody," about a man's travels down the Mississippi River on an inflatable canoe from Marion, Indiana to Memphis. Further information on this award winning film can be obtained at: <http://www.nobodythefilm.com/team.php>.

Check Our Website. It's Great!

www.memphiscameraclub.org

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

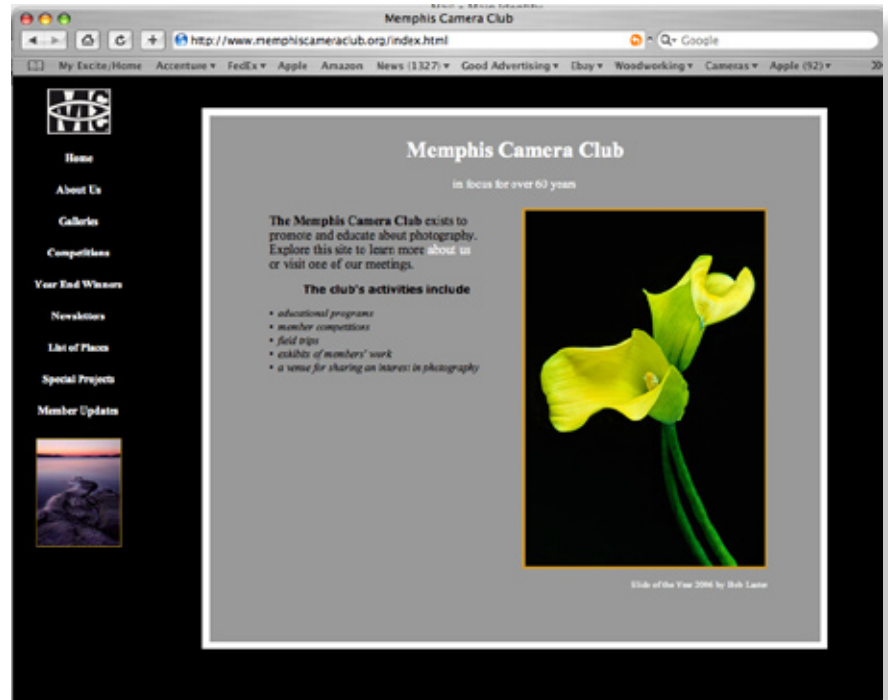


Image size and file name of winning photographs for newsletter submission

There has been a little confusion about what size to submit your images for the newsletter. Please go into PhotoShop and size your images at 300 dpi and make the longest side 4." Save this as a high resolution jpg and email it. **Please name it the winning name.**

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.

Photography Competition

June Photos of the Month

Assigned Subjects for 2007*

Nature (22)

"Hmmm"
Joe Sullivan – 26 Points

Color Open Print (9)

"Rio Mango"
Ann Moore – 25 Points

Color Scenic Print (8)

"Maipo Morning"
John Stitt – 25 Points

B&W Print (4)

"Quite Morning in the Cove"
Mary Stubbs – 25 Points

Portrait (3)

"Sweet Innocence"
Patty Possel – 24 Points

Candid People (11)

"The Herbalist" (POM)
Brenda Silberman – 27 Points

Creative (3)

"Pink Pearl"
Mary Stubbs – 22 Points

Assigned (3)

"The Cardinal Sin (Gluttony)"
Ann Moore – 27 Points

August Old - Not a person
October Country Lane
November Photo for a Holiday Card

*Only images shot after February 2007 are eligible.



"The Cardinal Sin (Gluttony)"
Ann Moore – 27 Points

Special thanks to these Judges:

Tom Furlotte, Uttam Shah, Bob Laster and Paul Fultz.

There was a whopping number of photographs entered this month... 63 photographs!

A new addition (number of entries)
Please look at the titles of the categories, in parenthesis, is the number of entries in that category.



"Hmmm"
Joe Sullivan – 26 Points

Additional Winners



"Lotus Blossom"
Tom Furlotte – 26 Points



"Rio Mango"
Ann Moore – 25 Points



"Quite Morning in the Cove"
Mary Stubbs – 25 Points

Additional Winners



"Maipo Morning"
John Stitt – 25 Points



"The Minstrel"
Jim Nazzaro – 25 Points



"Sweet Innocence"
Patty Possel – 24 Points

June and July Birthdays

Jill Griffith	06/02	Louis Ingram	07/11
Charles Everhart	06/03	Sheri McClatchy	07/15
Jack Van Hooser	06/07	Kelly Green	07/17
Ann Jenkins	06/13	John Stitt	07/19
Dale Cox	06/18	Shilesh Jani	07/24
Nathan Collier	06/22		
M. J. Scanlon	06/28	Happy birthday to you all!	



"A Watchful Eye"
Bob Lussier – 24 Points



"Pink Pearl"
Mary Stubbs – 22 Points