

# DEVELOPMENTS



Memphis  
Camera  
Club

September 2006 · [www.memphiscameraclub.org](http://www.memphiscameraclub.org)

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## Club Notes:

The Club Notes this month are somewhat tongue-in-cheek but I had fun doing them. It in no way reflects the official policy of the MCC or its Board of Governors. It is brought to you today by the number Seven, which is alive and well in the southern mountains of Transylvania on the Bulgarian border.

After the recent (September) rigorous judging, I was in a blue funk (photoshop color) and decided to end it all. I went to the Memphis Bridge and being a good (6) and conscientious (4) photographer I had my camera with me. Before I could jump, the police arrested me for having a camera and obviously being a terrorist infiltrator (9-works into your psyche). I assured them only a few people considered me a terrorist (9- impact and emotion) when they saw my pictures (4) and as for infiltrator I carefully keep my filters in my backpack. But no... on to 201 Poplar (the jail to you uninitiated). Wow, what character and characters! I tell you, the Field Trip Committee (9) should consider this place. It's open year round, rain or shine. You can go after work or on the weekend. It has interest for the portrait photographers, the photojournalists, the macro people (vertical patterns) and just about everyone. It's not too hard to get model releases (tips in future articles). Well, anyway, time went by and I got to see someone called the judge (5). Now... my blood was boiling and I told him I don't like judges (3). He (or she, Carl) told me he didn't like crazy photographers (9) and he had never been a photographic judge. Err...ah...oops..but it was too late and as a part of my probation I had to do the Club Notes for September 2006 (not 05).

So to continue from last month in considering photography as art, I found some characteristics that art often displays. It:

1. Encourages an intuitive understanding rather than a rational understanding
2. Is elusive...communicates on many different levels of appreciation.
3. Is created with the attempt of evoking an understanding in the medium.
4. May offer itself to many different interpretations.
5. Demonstrates a high level of ability within a medium.
6. Offers appealing structures or forms.

Photography seems to conform to these characteristics. Photography as "good" art may explore new territory, cause controversy and make people think differently about the world around them.

But what about the photographer? Are they made or born as artists? The answer is probably both. I was in Michigan on a field trip when John Shaw came by shooting the fall color. He talked about how he had improved so much compared to his earlier work. So how do you improve or grow as a photographer? I found a few suggestions:

1. Breathe—Fear needs a timeline to exist. When the fear of being a beginner creeps into our minds we can respond by paying attention to our breathing. Just a few seconds of observing our breathing can dissolve our fears by bringing us back to now and to the presence we need to be the artist we desire to become.

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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

*Continued on page 2*

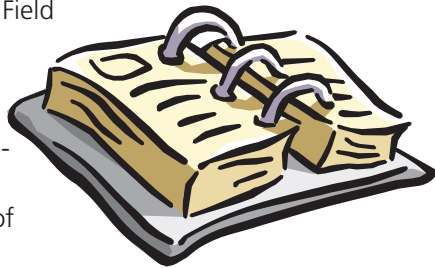
## PROGRAMS FOR 2006

**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



*Continued from page 1*

2. Set Goals-- Create goals and share them with the universe.
3. Model on Others-- Only you can walk your path but you can help to make it more of a straight line from where you are to where you want to be. Pay attention to those further along the road.
4. Reflect-- Each day create time for a quiet time of inner reflection.
5. Recharge-- Play or rest....but definitely recharge yourself each week by taking some time off.
6. Create an artist support group-- surround ourselves with people who share in our desires.
7. Be your own best supporter-- Most of us are our own biggest critic. Here are five ways to be self supportive.
  - a. Be kind...balance self criticism with an immediate self compliment.
  - b. Suspend judgement. Am I making progress is the better question to ask than Is this any good.
  - c. Practice, practice, practice-- to be more creative, be more productive.
  - d. Embrace uncertainty-- Embrace the uncertainty of following your vision
  - e. Be thankful and generous-- Be in gratitude for what is and share what you have to offer.

Many of these are probably common sense but sometimes common sense is not so obvious. Give them a try.

### **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.

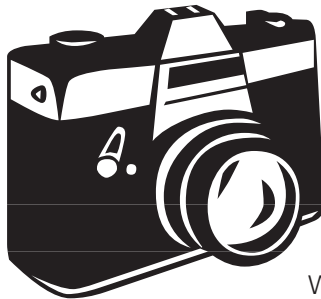
Club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and buns. We will also ask for a small donation for the meat (hamburger/hot dogs) depending on the number of people attending. We will also have a sign up sheet for potato salad, chips, drinks, dessert, etc. that will be passed around at upcoming MCC meeting.

No alcoholic beverages please

Map to be provided by e-mail.

### **Thanks To:**

Thanks to Carl, Angie, Charlotte, Tom and everyone who participated in the preparation of the program reviewing the Race for the Cure photographs from 2005. Everyone there was inspired to participate in the 2006 race.



### **Symphony Number 27**

*by Barry Siegel*

Recently I was reading the book, George De Wolfe's *Digital Photography Fine Print Workshop*. In it, author-photographer George DeWolfe compares the print maker to the conductor of an orchestra, whose job it is to make sure that all the musicians function harmoniously in the rendition of the musical score. While contemplating this thought, I couldn't help but think of my unfortunate old violin teacher, Mr. Noel Gilbert. I assume that many of you assumed that I am not musically talented. You are absolutely correct! But even back then I was developing my photographic eye. Applying overly copious amounts of rosin to that horsehair bow every few minutes or so, I would watch the particles drift into the streaming window light, glistening like diamond dust in the quiet peaceful interludes between tuneless meandering of violin practice. But this total lack of musical talent didn't stop me from participating in the school orchestra for many years. I realize now how Mr Gilbert could make the orchestra work as a whole with such a major distraction in his midst. You see now what I am getting at with your photographs. The most obvious way to get rid of that cacophonous nuisance was to kick me out of the orchestra, i.e. crop me out.

Well my mother, who threw good money after bad on lessons, would hear nothing of that. So the next best alternative was

# September Photos of the month



## Print Competition

### Nature

"Like Bees To Honey"  
Mary Stubbs- 25 Points

### Color Open Print

"Who Wants To Go Next"  
Glenn Fuqua- 27 Points (POM)

### Color Scenic Print

"Paseo de Marti"  
Barry Siegel - 24 Points

### B&W Print

"Morning Calm"  
Mary Stubbs- 27 Points Points



### Portrait Print

"Secrets Behind the Red Door"  
Beverly Hammond - 24 Points  
(See page 5)

### Candid People

"Keeping My Brothers Shoes"  
Brenda Silberman- 24 Points

### Assigned: Lone Tree

"Tall Tail"  
Ann Moore - 25 Points  
(See page 5)

## Slide Competition



### Nature Slide

"Pretty in Pink"  
Blair Ball - 22 Points

### Scenic or Landscape Slide

"Storm Beyond Bryce"  
Bob Laster- 23 Points (SOM)



"Who Wants To Go Next"  
Glenn Fuqua- 27 Points  
Points (POM)



"Morning Calm"  
Mary Stubbs - 27 Points



"Paseo de Marti"  
Barry Siegel- 24 Points



"Like Bees To Honey"  
Mary Stubbs - 25 Points

## 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.

## Special thanks to these Judges:

Ellen Cox, Beverly Hammond, Shilesh Jani, and John Stitt. There was a whopping number of photographs entered this month... 87 Prints and 16 slides!

## ASSIGNED CATEGORIES FOR 2006

**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.

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*Continued from page 2*

to tone me down, i.e. get me out of the spotlight and have me play softer. I can still hear Mr. Gilbert instructing me now, "still too loud Barry, soft and quiet Barry, like a mouse peeing on cotton." How would you do this photographically? Sharpen your soloist a little extra and leave the remainder a little less sharp. (Thanks Dale for that tip!).

Burn down those distracting highlights. Add a little vignetting to the corners to focus the attention on the interior. Mask in the main subject and use a little more contrast there and little less contrast on the remainder of the photograph. What about selectively adding saturation to parts of the photo or desaturating the supportive players? Perhaps all the color is distracting. If so, then convert it to black and white or sepia. I'm sure that many in our club know some additional techniques, especially those who were trained in the wet darkroom. Let me know what I left out and I'll try to mention it in a future article. In closing, I would like to say I'm sorry Mr. Gilbert. You deserved much better.

...A penny for your thoughts? I'll pay a full nickel if you write them down and include them in the next newsletter. Ronnie, get the checkbook ready!

Barry

### Competition Chair's Corner

Goodness, where to start this month... perhaps I should start with the Judge's meeting held on the last Thursday in August where several topics were discussed. Our planning goals for the year end was to ensure that the competition is fair for everyone and an enjoyable event for all club members. Decisions made by the judges were discussed at length and then a consensus was reached by voting on the various options.

First of all it was felt that the "B" category of photographers could be eliminated. The judges, after a lengthy discussion, reached that conclusion based on past competitions where the club did not have enough entries to make it a

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

I don't care about making photographs as art. I want to make good photographs. Take things as they are; make good photographs and the art will take care of itself." — Edward Steichen

### September Birthdays

Tom Furlotte	9/01
Frank Gibson	9/02
Glenn Fuqua	9/02
Brenda Bryant	9/02
Quinn Strother	9/03
Lenette Mewborn	9/03
Blair Ball	9/07
Frank Gattuso	9/11
Baylen Greever	9/16
Christine Burkett	9/18
Elsbeth Behm	9/18
Paul Fultz	9/23
Frank Collins	9/23
Joi Alia	9/24

Apologies to Carolyn Furlotte, who we are happy to know was born on 8/16 but was listed with Tom who was born in September. Happy birthday to you all!



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solid competition. Often we would only see one or two images in a "B" category at year-end, and often the images were from the same photographer. (Not taking anything away from those photographers as their images were very, very good)

Secondly, "B" photographers compete against "A" photographers each month and in many cases score above the threshold for entering in the year-end competition. It is a fact that members that compete regularly will notice a dramatic improvement in their photography and, yes, sometimes the critiques at some monthly competition can inadvertently be brutal, but we all learn from them. Just remember, critiques are never personal and are given in a sincere effort to help all of us improve.

The professionals judging our year-end competitions are not affiliated with the club and have a different point of view than our normal club member judges, this "levels" the competition so it is fair to all. As we see year after year, that just because an image scored well in our monthly competition does not mean that it is a guaranteed winner at year-end.

Third, to recognize our new members the judges voted to create a new category of awards for members that have been with the club less than one year.

### Suggested guidelines for these awards are:

1. New members must have at least four entries entered in monthly competition to be eligible.
2. New members are exempt from the 20 or better qualification.
3. An award for the most entries entered by a new member (New Member of the Year)

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**"Secrets Beyond The Doors"**  
Beverly Hammond – 24 Points



**"Tall Tail"**  
Ann Moore – 25 Points

- Awards for 1st , 2nd , 3rd and 3 honorable mentions will be awarded for the new member's entries
- New members may choose to enter an image(s) in the regular year-end competition or the new member competition but not both. Entries in the regular year-end competition must meet the regular criteria for entries.

#### **Members Choice Award**

This year members attending the year-end competition will be asked to vote for their favorite images as they watch the slide show of all the images entered in this year's competition for a new Member's Choice Award and three runner's up.

#### **Year-end Entries**

This year members may enter up to 5 images that scored a 20 or better and 1 additional image regardless of score (the image may have scored low but the photographer thinks it should have scored better) for a total of 6 images. All images must have been in this past year's monthly competition.

Also new this year, the year-end judges may choose as many honorable mentions for each category of slides and prints as they wish.

The judges worked hard this year to set up a competition where all members, regardless of experience have an equal chance of taking home an award. This is a call to all members to enter your best work and enjoy a great time at the year-end awards banquet.

I have received a lot of feedback on last Thursday's competition. Member's opinions range from; the judging was just right to scores were too low and the critiques were brutal. I know all the judges personally that judged Thursday and I'm certain that all critiques were given in an effort and spirit to teach and help all of us improve our skills... never were they intended to be personal. If you felt discouraged by the judging Thursday and fear that your work may be "ripped apart" in some future competition, in a word... don't be. Keep entering and learning, you'll have fun and (trust me) your photographs will improve with each entry.

Let me know what you think.  
Email me at [dale.cox@goodadvertising.com](mailto:dale.cox@goodadvertising.com)

#### **You Know You Are a Serious Photographer When:**

- When you set your alarm for two hours before sunrise on Saturday mornings
- You have learned to operate your camera with numb fingers during cold weather
- You have dropped your polarizing filter and watched it roll at least ten feet downhill
- You have taken so many photographs during cold weather you know how frequently to wipe your nose before it drips on your tripod
- You have waited at least fifteen minutes between photos for wind to die down
- You remove food from your refrigerator so you have room to store more professional slide film (for the old-timers)

#### **Light Bite on Composition:**

Do not be afraid to get close to your subject. Fill the photograph with it. Try to get a set of images of the complete object. Remember, as in all photography, you know about the subject but the viewer does not. So, don't forget to take pictures of side views and of the bottom and back. As always when doing serious photography, bracket. With digital cameras it costs next to nothing and even with film it is always cheap when you compare it to cost of lost information and the pain of re-shooting. You don't want to be embarrassed by your pictures when you do a presentation. Remember that, to get a feeling of an object, you need at the very least six "faces" and shots in perspective. Having gotten your basic "views," ask yourself "What is interesting about this thing? Is it the textures? the reflections? The way it sits in your hand? The way it looks when it is dirty?" In other words, most objects will have something interesting about them that you want to make viable in your pictures. This is the moment to take pictures that attempt to convey that point of interest. Remember bracket, bracket, bracket.