



INFOCUS



THE SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

P.O. Box 763, Southern Pines, NC 28388

Enriching Our World Through Photography

VOL XXVIII, NUMBER 1

www.sandhillsphtoclub.org

May 2012

PRESIDENT'S NOTES, Scott Duvall:

Photo competitions are an important aspect of our Club's activities. The chance to see how one's best images rate in comparison to other members' entries is of paramount importance to some members. But for all members, it is an opportunity to learn from the pro's and con's of the critiques so as to improve one's skill as a photographer. Obviously, the key to all of this is the quality of the judging.



We all agree that judging quality has varied from competition to competition. Some is due to the judge. Some is due to the method of judging and whether the judge has previewed the entries beforehand or sees them for the first time on the night of the competition. Several people feel that this latter issue is at the heart of judging quality.

In most recent competitions, the judge has first viewed the entries on the night of the event. However, the two competitions at the April meeting (the Class A "Still Life" left over from February and the Class B and A "Night Photography") were exceptions. In both, the competing images were examined prior to the Club meeting. Most members I talked with afterward were very pleased with the scoring and critiques. In particular, they felt that the quality of the critiques was excellent and very educational. But not everyone! There were a few who told me they thought the judging that night was horrible.

This reminds us that it will probably never be possible to satisfy everyone, everytime. However, it is a worthy objective to continuously work at improving judging quality. Our Photo Club Board has spent considerable time recently discussing how to accomplish this. We have agreed that future competition judging must meet three key requirements. First, and most important, is to maximize the quality of the critiques to get the best possible learning experiences. Second, improved judging quality must be achieved within a reasonable length meeting on competition nights. Third, all final judging decisions for awards (1st, 2nd, 3rd and honorable mentions) must be determined by viewing the best entries through the Club's projection equipment (for DIGITAL competitions) or in the Club's Light Box (for PRINTS) at the Club competition meeting.

Our Competition Committee Co-chairs Jill Margeson and Diane McCall and their committee have been tasked to determine the best possible future judging system to meet these requirements. They are to present their recommendations at the July, 2012 Board meeting. Please appreciate that we are asking them to take on another important assignment. The Board looks forward to learning what they determine.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

- May 14th, 7pm Nature Photography

BOARD MEETING

- Thursday, May 17th, 2pm

PROGRAMS

- May 14th – Edward Smith – Nature Photography
- July 9th – Eric Ton – Fractal Art
- September 10 – Gene Furr – “His View on Nature Photography”
- November 12 - George Butt-“Another Evening With George”

COMPETITIONS

- June - Nature/Digital/3 year
- August - Abstract/Digital/3year
- September - Reflections/Online/3year
- October – Open/Print/No time limit

FIELD TRIPS

WORKSHOPS

SPC Scholarship Winner

Each year the Sandhills Photography Club awards a \$300 scholarship to an outstanding student in the Fine Arts Department. This year's winner is **Toni Chavis**, who was recognized as an outstanding artist and student at Sandhills. Congratulations to Toni.



TREASURER'S REPORT; Dave Powers**CHECKING ACCOUNT:**

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| STARTING BALANCE 3/1/2012 | \$4460.10 |
| EXPENSES | \$447.00 |
| INCOME | \$190.03 |

3/31/2012**ENDING BALANCE \$4203.13****SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

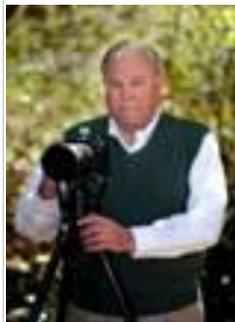
| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| STARTING BALANCE 3/1/2012 | \$3378.38 |
| INCOME | \$.29 |

ENDING BALANCE \$3378.67**TOTAL FUNDS \$7581.80**

Remember to send your articles and images to be included in the next newsletter by the 25th of each month.

Send your information to:

alisonspcnewsletter@gmail.com

PROGRAMS, John German**May Program: Photographer Edward Smith on Nature Photography**

Edward discovered photography as a seventh grader and worked during the summer to save the few dollars necessary to purchase a Kodak Brownie camera and film. He continued photography into

his adult life and until the demands of a career and family replaced the camera.

In 1999, doctors discovered a health problem that required surgery and Edward discovered it was time to return to some of the pleasures and passions of his earlier life. Since '99, he has worked to develop his skills as a photographer of nature and natural objects. His efforts and technique include photographing his subjects in their natural settings. None of his work is manipulated in the camera or in any photography computer programs.

Edward shares his work with others through lectures, exhibits, prints, note cards and this web site. His motive is to share the magnificent beauty of nature - especially the details - with you.

Although photography is a hobby and passion, Edward recently retired from a large national brokerage firm to find more time for his wife Georgia, a retired professor of French literature, and with his two children and their families, including three grandchildren.

Website: <http://ncnaturephoto.com/bio.php>

Membership News: *Donna Ford*

Our photography club continues to grow. We welcomed 7 new members the month of April and 6 guests. Our total membership stands at 125. All of us extend a warm welcome to our newest members

Rebecca Leen comes to us from Raleigh. She has lived here since 2009 with her husband and two pups Munchie and Marley. Rebecca considers herself a beginner in technical terms but has loved the art of photography since childhood. She hopes to increase her photography skills through interactions with club members as well as competing in club competitions. Her favorite subjects are nature, landscapes, animals and smiles. Rebecca currently shoots a Nikon CoolPix S630 and is the proud new owner of a Nikon D7000. She is looking forward to contributing to our club and getting to know everyone. You can take a look at Rebecca's work at <http://landseerphotography.weebly.com>

NOTE: Also honored at the Sandhills Awards Ceremony (see Scholarship, page 1) was one of the newest members of our club. Rebecca Leen was a triple award winner, being selected for the "Tony" Parker Entrepreneurship award as the outstanding Entrepreneurial student from Moore County, the Business Faculty award for the Outstanding Second-year Business Student, and, also nomination to Who's Who Among Students.

Rebecca will be starting her own photography business when she finishes Sandhills.

Congratulations to Rebecca.

Ira Miller considers himself a moderate amateur. Ira moved to Pinehurst 12 years ago from Connecticut with his wife Kathy. He uses a Konica Minolta DImage A2. Ira's favorite subject to shoot has yet to be determined. However, some of his best results have been close-ups of nature. Ira hopes to gain knowledge and increase his skills as a photographer. He is looking forward to meeting members, making friends and creating photo art. Ira is a professional musician and business executive. His major hobby is playing at golf. His wife Kathy is a local artist whose work can be seen at Artists Gallery in Southern Pines. He and Kathy have been married 44 years and have two daughters and twin grandchildren.

Also joining our club this month are **Jeffery Byron, Sue Deutsch, Anne Edens, Richard Krankoski, Robert Hunsicker**, and returning member **Chris Laughlin**.

Please join me in welcoming our newest members.

2012 SPC Board Members

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| President | Scott Duvall |
| Vice President | John German |
| Secretary | Tom Reedy |
| Treasurer | Dave Powers |
| Past President | Jim Davis |
| Programs | John German |
| Competition | Jill Margeson & Diane McCall |
| Exhibitions | Tom Reedy |
| Hospitality | Bill Sheppard |
| Publicity | Susan Capstick |
| Workshops | Bill Matthews |
| Newsletter | Alison Earl |
| PSA Rep | Susan Capstick |
| Membership | Gisela Danielson |
| New Member Development | Debbie Regula |
| Website | Brady Smith |
| Club Photographer | Al Reeder |
| Spring Field Trip..... | Jill Margeson, Linda Piechota |
| Fall Field Trip | Linda Piechota |
| Day Trips..... | OPEN |
| Wildlife Focus Group..... | Tom Reedy |
| Historian | Linda Piechota |

Hospitality - Bill Sheppard

| | |
|-----------|---|
| February | John German |
| March | Paula Taggart |
| April | Scott and Ethel Duvall |
| May | Joe and Marilyn Owen |
| June | Susan Capstick and Kathy Green |
| July | Janice Huff, Diane McCall, Susan Angelier |
| August | Gene and Joanne Lentz |
| September | Lisa Messina and Jeanmarie Schubach |
| October | Carol Smetana, Joan Herrmann, Sandy Bachofner |
| November | POT LUCK |
| December | CHRISTMAS DINNER – NO MEETING |

Thanks to all for volunteering your time and talents to enable us to continue this time to eat a little, drink a little, and chat with photo friends both NEW and OLD!!!!

And special thanks to *Bill and Sandy Sheppard* for organizing and providing the paper products and ice and ALL that they do!

MACRO – THE BASICS, from Susan Bailey, previous judge

We are offering a **Macro workshop** on **June 23rd** from **9am – 4pm**. The main topics taught in this workshop are: Equipment and Accessories, controlling Depth-of-Field, Composition and Lighting methods. You will be given assignments and work as teams in the morning and afternoon.

Susan Bailey and Mary Doherty are both award-winning photographers and avid macro shooters. The studio space is in Raleigh near the Fairgrounds and the workshop will be all indoors, so weather is not an issue.

The cost including lunch and snacks is \$95. The workshop is limited to 12 participants. Please call Mary at (919) 306-2517 to register.

WORKSHOPS: *Bill Matthews*

Taking a Portrait

with *Al Reeder*

Saturday, June 2, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Burlingame Room, Ball Visitors Center, Horticultural Center, Sandhills Community College

In recent *In Focus* newsletters we have had a chance to see some samples of the wonderful portraits Al Reeder has been taking of club members for the on-line directory. In this workshop Al will show us how he does it. He will set up his equipment and with the help of a model demonstrate seeing light, using your equipment, setting up your lights, five different basic setups and finishing.

For more information please contact Al Reeder at 295-5311 (areeder@nc.rr.com) or Bill Matthews at 692-8254 (wmatth@embarqmail.com). Although it is not necessary to sign up ahead of time to attend, a call or email would be appreciated as an indication of how many plan to come.

The Lytro Light Field Camera?

This was originally hoped to be our June workshop. Unfortunately, although Lytro is now delivering cameras, Windows software for the Lytro is still not available as originally promised. No definite dates have been announced as to when it will be - they only say that a Windows application is in development. As a result I think it best we put this workshop on indefinite hold until more information is available.

Later in the Year

We hope to offer workshops covering other requested topics such as *Digital Workflow* and *Processing RAW Files*, and *Hands On f-stops and Shutters*.

And finally this year: From Your Monitor to Club Projector - An Experiment in Calibration. Here I am planning to run tests with a number of members and their cameras and monitors, with special attention to color and tonal range, and present the results in a workshop in the fall.

Suggestions for workshop topics are always appreciated. Please pass them on to me, Bill Matthews, at 692-8254 or wmatth@embarqmail.com.

Spring Field Trip, Linda Piechota & Jill Margeson

Weather was perfect in Savannah with bright days and cool winds. There was terrific fresh fried wild shrimp at Vic's on the riverfront. Getting the whole gang there by trolley made parking easy. Our first speaker, personable Tim Nealon, showed how to get a little different perspective on city sights. The following couple of days people headed in every direction - to the off-and-on trolley into the historical sections and parks, or the cobbled streets on river front. Some found Fort Pulaski, the lighthouse, and Tybee beaches, city cemeteries, beautiful churches, and Paula Deen's. Five early risers got a lesson in proper paddling and enjoyed a calm, restful 3 ½ hour journey on an extremely reflective black water creek lined by tupelo and swamp cypress. The motorboat eleven got out to a new barrier island and spent their 4 hours spotting sea scenes and wildlife. Tim met us at Forsyth fountain and walked with us to some of the more interesting historical sections. Another evening a second speaker, Dale Raegon, showed some of his interesting spots in Savannah. It was a busy, fun trip with a warm, friendly group. Bet you can't wait to see the Christmas slide show!

Thanks for heading south, y'all! From your planners who had a good time arranging things for you: Linda Piechota and Jill Margeson

COMPETITION COMMITTEE, Jill Margeson

THE NEXT COMPETITION: “**Nature**” is the topic of our June competition. This is digital, with capture images between June 3, 2009 and June 3, 2012. **Deadline is Sunday, June 3 at 6:00 PM.** We will start monitoring the competitions@sandhillspclub.org email box on May 16. Please email again if you have not had a response within 24 hours. Follow manual directions on website for file name and size.

Nature theme description-**READ CAREFULLY:**

The photographs should be images of nature, wildlife, plants, natural landscapes or seascapes. If people or man-made objects are in the scene, they must not be the main subject (or be more than 25% of the photograph). Do not include photos of pets, domestic animals or captive animals in zoos or wildlife farms. If Frank Pierce printed your photo in the last 3 years, or your photo was entered in the Double Takes/ Palustris Festival (even if it was not selected by an artist), do not use it in this competition.

Please note: Explanation for the two additions to the description above:

- 1) Frank Pierce is our judge. We felt he would know the maker of any picture he has printed or seen in the selection of prints that were submitted to Palustris Festival/ Double Takes. Assigning points is hard enough without the added tension of encountering a possible conflict of interest. We are sorry if you can't enter a photo you have in mind at this time. Consider using it in the October print competition if it is under 20"x20".
- 2) People or man-made objects may not take up more than 25% of the photograph. If more than 25%, they could easily become a subject. Natural things must be the subject.

YOU ARE ALLOWED TWO ENTRIES BUT... Help us try something new for this next competition. We have allowed 2 entries for each person. With 87 B's and 27 A's now in our club, and a fairly easy, broad topic, we are concerned that there might be too many photographs and too little time and energy for really good critiques. If entering two photographs, please designate a 1st choice and 2nd choice by a one or two next to class in the file name that is sent with the photograph. (Example of first choice entry for class B: NAT_B1_Doe_John_Biedler Swamp.jpg) Both choices will be placed in the slide show. However, if the total number of photographs becomes too large, the 2nd choice photographs from both A and B will be withdrawn and put into a separate slide show. They will not be awarded points, but will be shown for all to enjoy, and for a quick comment or critique by the judge, possibly with audience interaction as time allows.

THE JUDGE FOR 'NATURE' TOPIC: **Frank Pierce** owns the graphic design and photography studio in Southern Pines called *Eye Candy Gallery*. He has printed and framed many photographs for our club members and is a very accomplished artist as well. Frank states: "I've been painting in oils and selling my work since I was 16...I still work as a fine artist and teach oil painting and other media out of my studio. Art is the one constant great joy in my life and I am pleased and happy to share my images and that joy." His photography background is extensive. He had a darkroom for many years, and still has a great collection of old film cameras there in the studio.

OUR RECENT 'NIGHTTIME' AND 'STILL LIFE' COMPETITIONS: At the April 9th meeting, we presented the delayed judging of 'Still Life' for the "A" Class. The 21 entries were previously judged by Linda Piechota, Betty Hendrix, and George Butt. Their critiques and averaged points were read to the members present. Congratulations to the following "A" Class ribbon winners for their still life: 1st Place –Jill Margeson – *Tulips*; 2nd Place-Donna Ford – *Pomegranate*; 3rd Place-Marilyn Owen – *Overlapping Interest*; Honorable Mentions- Debra Regula-*Bright Reflections*; Gisela Danielson-*Contemplation*.

The committee went on to present 'Nighttime' photos for judging in "B" Class, followed by "A" Class. Our honorary member, George Butt, judged and critiqued. Congratulations to all 31 "B"s and 25 "A"s" who entered. The 'Nighttime' ribbon winners:

"A" Class -1st Place-Jim Davis – *Village Chapel*; 2nd Place-Kathy Green – *My Starry Night in Glacier*; 3rd Place-Tom Reedy – *Night Watch*; Honorable Mentions- Pam Wandry – *Illuminated Innocence*; Pam Wandry – *Patient Fisherman after Sunset*.

"B" Class - 1st Place-Don Hiscott – *Victoria Harbor*; 2nd Place-JeanMarie Schubach – *Bonfire's Sparks*; 3rd Place-Diane McCall-*Waiting for Breakfast*; Honorable Mentions-Suzanne Kirkman – *After the Rain*; Matt Smith – *Goodnight Kiss*; Matt Smith – *Midnight Snack*

These winning photographs will appear in the May issue of the "Pinestraw" magazine.

- With his win in this competition, **Don Hiscott** has moved in "A" Class. Way to go, Don!!!!

CAN YOU HELP? We are still looking for a person or persons who could judge our Abstract competition in August. Do you know anyone who might be knowledgeable in the art of abstract, enjoy abstract works, and have some artistic or photographic experience?? Call us with your suggestion – please don't ask the person yourself just yet. Diane McCall –

CLASSIFIEDS:

Club Patches still available!
\$8.00 each



See **Kathy Green** at the next club meeting or Ph-910-585-0190



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295-9544 or email at
Hiscott@nc.rr.com.**



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Thanks!

Suzanne Kirkman
digital-art@nc.rr.com



NEW MEMBER DEVELOPMENT, *Debra Regula*

Hello everyone, I am trying out an idea for our new members. Each new member will have a bright colored, happy face sticker on their name tags. All members please look for the stickers and introduce yourself to our newest additions and make them feel welcome. If you have been a member of the club for awhile and would still like to meet new people, contact me and I will put a sticker on your name tag also. When you feel you no longer need the sticker, just remove it. I hope this will help all of our new members and established members get to know each other. We all share a love of photography so finding topics of conversation shouldn't be a problem. I would appreciate any feedback about this idea and if it is working out for new members. Thanks! Debra Regula

OUT AND ABOUT



Images thanks to our Club Photographer, Al Reeder

Spring Field Trip to Savannah, GA



Thanks for sharing: David Powers, Linda Piechota, Jill Margeson, John German, Bruce Krucke, June White, and Jennifer German.





Which of these is not like the others?????

