



IN FOCUS



THE SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

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

Enriching Our World Through Photography

VOL XXVII, NUMBER 12

www.sandhillsphtoclub.org

December 2011

PRESIDENT'S NOTES: *Jim Davis*

WOW! The year has gone by quickly. This will be my last message as President for 2011.

I have enjoyed serving as your President and watching our club continue to grow and become even more active. If you believe we have had a successful year then

I am pleased and I am also grateful to all our members who made it happen. Your board members and committee chairs and their members have done an excellent job this year.

Kathy Green our Vice President and Program Chair arranged some very good programs. They were very entertaining and informative. We had outstanding speakers from outside and two of our own: *Donna Ford* and *Linda Piechota*. Good job Kathy and thanks for your help and support.

Tom Reedy our Secretary kept our board meetings on track and made and distributed excellent minutes for our follow-up. Tom also led our Wildlife focus group which included organizing two bird photography field trips; one to the outer banks and one to S.C. We are fortunate that Tom has agreed to serve again in 2012. Thanks Tom

Dave Verchick served as Treasurer and did an excellent job looking after our club finances. Dave was also active in several activities: Workshop on lighting; Zoo Walk day trip; and Fall Field Trip to Blowing Rock. Many thanks to Dave for all his good work.

I believe the other officers would join me in saying that the real success of our club is due to the Committee Chairs and the members who have been willing to be involved and give of their time and talent. **Scott Duvall** and the Competition Committee; **Bill Matthews** and those who helped with Workshops and anything necessary to project the images for competitions and programs; **Pat Murray**, **Gisela Danielson**, and **Donna Ford** with Membership even with the big increase in our numbers, **June White** led our exhibits including our first Pottery Auction Exhibit for



the First Health Hospice Foundation; **Alison Earl** continued to publish an excellent newsletter even from her new home in S. C.; **Barbara Milson and Suzanne Kirkman** led a very successful Spring Field trip to Old Salem. Workshops were presented by **Mike Stratil, Bill Matthews, Len Barnard, Dave Verchick** and **Tom Reedy, Hunter Rudd, and Bob Biamonte** (in December). Our other Board members of **Susan Capstick, Brady Smith, Jim McGill, and Bill Sheppard** were very effective in their areas. Thanks to these and all the members who supported their efforts.

We had a number of special activities including a workshop for the CHAS 4-H Club, a scavenger hunt and our note card fund raising project. **Linda Piechota** made an excellent presentation to the young people of the 4-H club that increased their interest in photography. **Jill Margeson** coordinated a scavenger hunt in Aberdeen. **Gary Magee** has led our photo note card sales project which should help restore our reserve funds.

I was personally helped a great deal by our immediate Past President **Len Barnard**. He gave me a lot of good advice and was very supportive. I wish Len and **Carole** the very best in their new home in Twin Lakes, N C. Both Len and Carole will be missed.

I close my year by wishing much success to our new officers: **Scott Duvall, John German, Tom Reedy, and Dave Powers**. I am confident they will provide excellent leadership and have an even better year in 2012.

Thanks and Happy Holidays to all.


Seasons Greetings

TREASURER'S REPORT*Dave Verchick*

- Balance as of 10/31 is \$3398.43
- Balance as of 11/17 is \$6983.43

Hospitality - Bill Sheppard

December

CHRISTMAS DINNER –
NO MEETING**CLASSIFIEDS:**

Club Patches still
available. \$8.00
each (9 left)

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

December 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NEXT MEETING

HOLIDAY PARTY, 6pm
Midland Country Club

BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 15; 2pm

WORKSHOP

Using Layers in Photoshop, Dec. 3rd, 10-12
SCC, Little Hall

2012 MEETING INFO

January 9th, Vinny Colucci

COMPETITION COMMITTEE, Scott Duvall

The 2011 Stoffel Awards will be presented at the club Christmas dinner on Monday December 12th. These prestigious awards are given to the Class A and Class B members who have accumulated the most points in the year's competitions. The awards are in honor of Bill Stoffel, who was one of the founding members of the Sandhills Photography Club, and are presented by his wife Kaye.

The first competition of 2012 will be held at the club meeting on Monday, February 13, 2012. The topic is *Still Life*. This involves "photographs of arrangements of objects, natural (flowers, food, rocks, leaves, etc.) or manufactured (books, bottles, crockery, etc.) put together or captured "as found" to create a pleasing image".

This will be a DIGITAL competition with separate judging for Class B and Class A. Members can submit up to 2 entries taken within the past 3 years (on or after February 13, 2009). Entries must be submitted by 6:00PM on Sunday, February 5, 2012 by email to competitions@sandhillsphtoclub.org or on digital media to Competition Committee member Gene Lentz. All entries must follow the guidelines for Digital Competitions listed in the Competition Manual on the club website www.sandhillsphtoclub.org. It is important that entrants explicitly follow the rules for "Identification of Images" including the digital image *file name* and the "Type and Size of Image File". If there are questions, please contact Gene at [910-673-3071](tel:910-673-3071) or jglen6117@nc.rr.com. Also, remember there is a big advantage in entering well ahead of the deadline in order to work with Gene and correct any problems. Several times in 2011, entries had to be rejected because there was not enough time to correct them by the deadline or there were problems with a computer, etc. No extensions are allowed.

Christmas Dinner

We hope everyone has their reservations for the Christmas Dinner, Monday, **December 12th** at **Table on the Green at 6:00PM**. As an added feature this year there will be a 50/50 cash drawing. Tickets will be on sale at the door for \$2.00 for 1 ticket; \$6.00 for 3 tickets; and \$10 for 8 tickets. Participation is optional but some lucky person will win 50% of the pot and the club will get the other 50%. So come prepared to buy your tickets and *Win*.



Presentations: *Kathy Green*

And to start off the New Year, **Vinny Colucci** is planned to speak at the January 2012 meeting on "Into to HDR".

WORKSHOPS: *Bill Matthews*

Last Workshop This Year

***Using Layers in Photoshop* with Bob Biamonte**

Saturday, December 3, 10 to 12 noon

227 Little Hall, Sandhills Community College

Layers is the main feature in Photoshop that allows us to edit photos without destroying the original image. This workshop will show you how to use them and its features like blending modes, adjustments and masking.

This workshop can be attended by users of Photoshop elements also. Although masking is not available in Elements, there is a work around.

Since this workshop will be held at a computer lab at the college with 20 computers, it will be limited to 20 people plus a few more if they bring their own laptops.

To sign up or for more information, please contact Bob directly at 910-603-2217 or bobbymonte@earthlink.net.

Looking Ahead to 2012

Starting off in January we hope to offer *Image Preparation for Digital Competitions* before the first competition in February. Although the *Lytro* Light Field Camera did not arrive in time for a workshop in 2011, we now anticipate delivery in late February or March and plan to have the workshop soon thereafter.

Additional workshop topics under consideration for 2012 include *How Photoshop Can Enrich Your Art; Basic Digital Photography; Managing, Organizing & Backing Up Your Images; Understanding Color Space; Making Videos* and a *Member's Monitor - Club Projector Calibration Project*. Also, we are excited that Hunter Rudd and Dave Verchick have offered to present workshops again this year on topics yet to be determined, and Tom Reedy and the Wildlife Focus Group have great ideas for one or two Wildlife Workshops.

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

Membership Dues for 2012

Membership dues for 2012 are being accepted by our Treasurer, Dave Verchick.

Couple: \$60

Single: \$45

Student: \$20

Please make your checks payable to Sandhills Photography Club and mark them membership dues 2012.

Mail them to: PO Box 763, Southern Pines N.C. 28388.

We will also be accepting dues at the December and January meetings.

The deadline for 2012 dues is January 15th, 2012.

Thank you and Happy Holidays to you all!

Membership News: *Donna Ford*

November was another month of growth for our club. We welcomed 4 new members and 7 guests. We had 79 at our November meeting to hear Todd Pusser's program. Our membership stands at 127 paid members and 5 honorary. All of us extend a warm welcome to our newest members.

Connie Stanley considers herself an amateur. She shoots a Canon EOS and enjoys photographing her pets, landscapes, waterfalls and sunrise/sunsets. Connie has lived in the area for 7 years, moving here from Maryland. Connie hopes to learn more about her camera and its abilities as well as photography composition. She wants her images to tell a story.

Paul Bunker came to the United States from Britain 7 years ago. Prior to moving to NC he lived in Texas. He considers himself an amateur and shoots a Nikon D90. He has no favorite subject and hopes to gain photography experience, knowledge and make local friends.

Wildlife Focus Group

2012 Potential Activities – Wildlife Focus Group

To all our wildlife focus group members and all club members interested in wildlife photography,

Some thoughts about wildlife photography activities are provided below. I would like to know if you are interested in any of these possible overnight and day trips. Let me know what sounds interesting to you. If you have other ideas that might be of interest to our group, please let me know. For the overnight trips, the quoted days and nights are just a guess. We would develop the most cost effective approach once we know there is club interest in this activity.

Photographic workshops are primarily opportunities to capture images and would not have much instruction. Instructional workshops would provide hands on instruction from a professional photographer or from an experienced club member. If we are able to get Todd Pusser or Mark Buckler for a workshop, they will have reasonable professional fees.

As with any wildlife photography, there will be pain and pleasure. Great images require great patience. And sometimes you come home with nothing but fresh air.

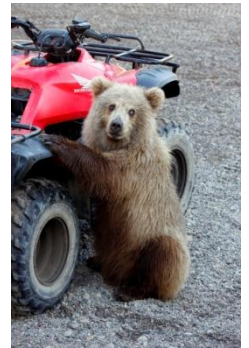
If you are not in the wildlife focus group and would like to be, please email me and I will add your name

The bear to the right was photographed in Alaska. We plan to have a workshop or program in early 2012 on “*The Brown Bears of Alaska*” featuring images from three club members who visited Alaska in 2011.

Thanks.

Tom Reedy

wreedy1@nc.rr.com



Overnight Trips

January – Bird Photography at Pocason Lakes and Mattamuskeet (3 days, 3 nights)

We did this in 2011 with Juan Pons as our guide. Although cold, it was fun. We had sunny weather and plenty of opportunity for bird photography. We saw tundra swans, snow geese, ducks, redwing blackbirds, a few eagles, and many others. There is a slight possibility to see some black bears. We know enough now to conduct this trip ourselves. If the weather is rainy in December/January, the roads will be impassible. But if it is dry, this could be an excellent photographic opportunity. (Photographic Workshop)



TBD – The Wild Horses of Corolla with Mark Buckler (3 days and 3 nights)

This would be an instructional workshop in Corolla on the Outer Banks. “*Nowhere else can you see wild Mustangs walking along the beach and grazing among beach homes.*” We will see if we can get Mark Buckler, who is an outstanding nature photographer, to lead us. Mark lives in Corolla and works at the Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education. Some of our club members have already taken photographic workshops with Mark and highly recommend him. (Instructional Workshop)



TBD – The Black Bears of Alligator River with Todd Pusser (3 days and 3 nights)

Todd's wildlife presentation was well received at our November meeting. His discussion on black bears of North Carolina was especially interesting. We will try to get Todd to be our photographic instruction workshop leader. If we are not able to get him, we can also try Mark Buckler. Mark has excellent knowledge of these wildlife refuge centers. This could be an excellent opportunity to photograph black bears and other wildlife. If neither Todd nor Mark is available, we will see if we can conduct this workshop ourselves. (Instructional Workshop)

Day Trips

May – the Wacatee Zoo for Egret Rookery Images

We have done this trip two years in a row. The Wacatee Zoo is near Myrtle Beach. It is not much of a zoo, but it does have an egret rookery. Early May provides a good opportunity to photograph nesting egrets with young. The rookery is small and requires at least a 300 mm lens, but it is not crowded and the light is very nice between 7:30 and 9:30 AM. This is where Dave Verchick captured his image of an egret that won our bird competition in 2011 and also was featured on the cover of Pinestraw. We might ask Dave to share with us how he captured such a fine image. (Photographic Workshop)



Spring -- Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park in Scotland Neck NC

Sylvan Heights is northeast of Raleigh. It has over 1500 birds (captive) from around the world, many of them are extremely rare. According to its website, the founder, Mike Lubbock, is "*considered by many biologists to be the most intuitive and prolific waterfowl aviculturalist in the world.*" (I'm impressed.) Although these are captive birds, there are many excellent photo opportunities and we should allow ourselves plenty of time at Sylvan Heights. CNPA also conducts field trips to Sylvan Heights. (Photographic Workshop)

Fall – NC Zoo (possibly with Dave Verchick as leader as he did in 2011)

The zoo always offers many good photographic opportunities. Images from the zoo are frequent winners in contests sponsored by CNPA, Our State magazine, and Wildlife in North Carolina magazine. This would be an instructional workshop to help less experienced wildlife photographers to better understand the basic principles of wildlife photography. (Instructional Workshop)



TBD -- Carolina Raptor Center near Charlotte

The Carolina Raptor Center offers us an opportunity to observe an outstanding collection of birds of prey. There is a self-guided trail to be followed. We will see the birds in enclosures, which does not lend itself well to picture taking. It is also difficult to see these magnificent birds in captivity. However, the goal of the center is to nurse these birds back to health so they can be released into the wild. This is a good learning experience and a limited photo opportunity. (Photographic Workshop)



TBD – Sandhills Wildlife with Todd Pusser

This would be a "spur of the moment" photographic workshop. I would ask Todd to let us know if he becomes aware of any wildlife hot spots in the Sandhills, such as the owls, hummingbirds, and other wildlife he encounters. He would guide us to the location, help us set up for photographs, and provide limited guidance for perhaps a 2 to 4 hour session. (Photographic Workshop)

TBD – The Big Cats

There are three facilities close by that have collections of tigers, lions and other wildlife. They are Tiger World (Rockwell), “*a fun and educational place to experience endangered species up close and personal*,” Carolina Tiger Rescue (Pittsboro), “*learn to talk to a tiger*,” and the Conservators’ Center (Mebane), “*you get so close to these amazing animals you can feel their power*.” At least one of them should be able to provide us with decent photographic opportunities. If there is club interest, I will visit all three and determine which would be the most productive for us. (Photographic Workshop)



Let me know which of these many opportunities would be of interest to you.

SPRING FIELD TRIP, Linda Piechota and Jill Margeson

YA’II COME TO SAVANNAH!

Spring Field Trip – April 15 – 18, 2012, Savannah, Ga.

Sign-up sheets and more info will be available at the next 3 club meetings

Plans have been made for 3 nights at Comfort Suites Historic District, 630 W. Bay Street. All rooms are non-smoking, 2 Queen Beds, with sofa/coffee table, desk, large flat-screen LCD TV, free unlimited wifi, microwave, coffeemaker and refrigerator with free breakfast each morning. There will be wine & cheese & a speaker at the hotel Sunday evening and dinner afterwards with free transportation to and from one of Savannah’s best restaurants. On Monday & Tuesdays we can view photos of the day at the motel late in the evenings.

If you are a single, try to make arrangements to room with another single member before making your reservation.

Rate per night is \$109 + tax (Total \$124.17/night). Cutoff date for reservations is March 16, 2012.

Call the hotel on their direct line (912) 629-2001 for reservations. Do not call the toll-free national Comfort Suites number. Ask for a room in the Sandhills Photography Club block.

Savannah is a 5-hour drive from Southern Pines if no stops are made. If you need a ride, email Linda Piechota, lp7611@embargmail.com to see if arrangements can be made to carpool with someone else.

Thinking about going? Here are some places to help you research. Use the Visitor Guide you got at the November meeting for reference also:

General info about Savannah: <http://www.meetsavannah.com/area-attractions.htm>

Vic’s On the River – www.vicsontheliver.com

The Olde Pink House - <http://www.americascuisine.com/georgia/savannah/TheOldePinkHouse.aspx>

Paula Deen’s “The Lady & Sons” - <http://www.ladyandsons.com/>

The Pirates’ House - <http://www.thepirateshouse.com/>

Wilderness Southeast – arranging canoe or motor boat trip – www.wilderness-southeast.com

A-J’s Dockside restaurant, Tybee Island, for sunset pix on the back eating porch, www.ajsdocksidetybee.com

Savannah Wildlife Refuge free 4 mile drive around tour-alligators, pelicans, wading birds

River’s End Campground and RV Park Tybee Island, <http://www.cityoftybee.org/Campground.aspx>

Bonaventure Cemetery 1-877-651-6843 – no website

City Market – shopping and eating near hotel www.savannahcitymarket.com

Old Savannah Tours - On off historical area tour bus www.oldsavannahtours.com

Roundhouse Railroad Museum www.chsgeorgia.org

Oatland Island Wildlife Center www.oatlandisland.org

Mercer House Carriage Shop and Museum www.mercerhouse.com

Skidaway Island State Park www.GeorgiaStateParks.org

Fort Pulaski tybeeisland.com/attractions/fort-pulaski/

Tybee Island Light station www.tybeelighthouse.org

A-J’s Dockside restaurant, might be good for sunset pix on the back eating porch, Tybee Island www.ajsdocksidetybee.com

Turner’s Creek, Tybee Island <http://spotted.savannahnow.com/galleries/1265/>

Wormsloe Historic Site – oldest remaining tabby house ruins, museum, live oak lined drive, trails

www.GeorgiaStateParks.org/wormsloe

SPRING FIELD TRIP, continued:

Proposed canoe/boat tour for coastal wildlife.

www.wilderness-southeast.org or 912-236-8115. Contact Jill Margeson (pennyjill@nc.rr.com) if you would like to participate in any of the following tours.

Wilderness Southeast is a private nature tour company. It is located about ½ hr drive from our hotel. They can offer 3 types of trips for us: [1] Wildlife and blackwater (cypress) creeks by canoe; [2] Wildlife of the estuary, salt marsh and Georgia's newest barrier island by motorboat; [3] a boat tour up the Savannah River, including the busy port where ships are being loaded with containers, plus a foray into freshwater marshes of Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. This tour leaves from River St. dock, near hotel.

The emphasis on two of the tours would be finding wildlife and scenic areas, not so much on the naturalist information about the wildlife and plants. There are a couple nature guides who also do photography and might be provided; all guides are patient, and can assist with finding new organisms/scenes to photograph. This would be scheduled Monday or Tuesday, April 16 or 17 in the early morning. There are 3 types of transport (kayaks are not recommended for the island programs with the use of photo equipment):

1. Pairing up in canoes, (5-20 participants) your guide will lead you through the cypress swamp, exploring the still, black water creek lined by tall and strangely shaped trees. Low to no current allows easy positioning for photos, especially for canoe partners who take turns. Reflections, water birds, warblers (including the "swamp canary", interesting trees and floating plants. If the group wants to try to see alligators, the guide could shorten the time in canoes and lead your cars about 15 minute drive back toward town for almost-guaranteed alligator sightings. Charges for 3 hours would be \$35 per person, includes canoes, life jackets, and driving directions to the site. (byo kayak is possible, however canoes are recommended because they are more stable and it would be easier for the photographers to take pictures. If someone prefers to bring their kayak that is fine as long as they understand the risks of getting their equipment wet.). The site is about half hour from the hotel.

2-A. Small motor boat for your group of no more than 15 (legal capacity is 20, but we want to give you more room) to explore salt water marshes, estuary, and a bit of wild, natural beach. Dolphin sightings are likely, as are shorebirds (possibly including skimmers) and many long-legged wading birds on oyster bars. Charges for 3 hours would be \$55 /person for group of 7 to 14. Driving directions to dock provided; about 25 minutes from hotel.

2-B. Larger motor boat carrying 15-25 people with roof, benches seats, small bathroom on board; There is a ramp to walk off onto beach; 3 hour tour to a new barrier island for driftwood, sea life; limited creek explorations for close-ups of oysters, crabs, snails, marsh grasses. Larger boat for 3 hours would probably be a charge of \$55/person for group of 14 – 25. (Note: this 47-foot boat could be available for a group of 10-14 participants, but it is considerably less cost-effective. Fee is \$75/person for group of 10-14). Driving directions to dock provided; about 25 minutes from hotel.

3. The larger motor boat can give a tour of the activity at the port-good way to really photograph the loading cranes, port action, large container ships. You are not allowed near the port via land. This boat would pick up at River St., which is near the hotel. Because the boat and captain have to travel much farther, cost is greater. This tour can be either 3 or 4 hours long; The 3-hour tour for 11 to 15 people is \$75/person; or only \$60 /person if group is 16-25 people. A 4-hour tour for 11 to 15 people is \$80 per person, or only \$70 per person if group is 16-25 people. (note: Club must decide length of tour at time of booking)

Congratulations to our very own **Debra Smith**, on the publishing of her book: **Tales of Art Beyond the Frame**. It is now available on Apple iTunes, Barnes and Noble for Nook, and Amazon for Kindle.

This is from her website: Tales of Art Beyond the Frame, was written by Debra Rhodes Smith, a professional art advisor and appraiser. The author weaves a journey through her life and 34 years of an exhilarating career. This is a memoir of anecdotes relating to things that happen along the way to a savvy gal wearing all the hats and running a successful business built from the ground up. Many experiences are shared while amassing the art collection for some of the largest corporations and luxury hotels worldwide.

Tales include how a Monet at auction shocked the audience at Sotheby's; what seemed like a simple case for an appraisal turned into a case involving the FBI, IRS and Insurance Commissioner; how a presentation in Miami evolved into a day of living challenges and how Mr. Right was discovered while compiling a major corporate art collection.

All the tales are an honest account that are witty, intelligent, sophisticated, sometimes poignant and a fresh informative perspective of the often mysterious world of the art business. A must read that will reach out to anyone who has the ambition to get anything done at any level.

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CONGRATULATIONS DEBRA!!!!!!