



The *f*-STOP

Monthly Newsletter of the Arkansas Outdoor Photographers Club
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March 2009

NEXT AOPC MEETING: Thursday, March 19, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Second Presbyterian Church., 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock
Monthly Meeting. Program: "Marty Allen - Photoshop"

The President's Message.... *Nick Dawson*

"ON THE ORIGIN OF THE DIGITAL SLR"

This month's article was inspired by being present at two recent photo seminars, organized by Bedford Camera & Video, for recent purchasers of entry level Canon and Nikon digital SLRs. Over 270 new digital SLR owners attended these events, a number I found astounding. Truly the renaissance of the SLR camera has arrived.

This year marks the two hundredth anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth. His treatise, "On the Origin of Species", began to explain how biological life evolved over hundreds and thousands of years. The origin and evolution of digital SLRs (and electronics in general) is a much more condensed affair.

While digital recording instruments and media did exist prior to the mid 1990s, it was not until then that any SLR camera was converted from film to digital. Each camera cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and had minute (by today's standards) resolution. In 1997, Hal Page, at that time head of the photography section at the Arkansas State Crime Lab, decided that digital capture and storage of forensic images would have greater longevity than traditional film based technology and in the long term save money on processing and storage of images. With the help of a grant, three Minolta digital SLRs were purchased, at \$16,000 each, to be used in the lab and in the field. Each camera was larger than most medium format camera bodies, was heavy and had the impressive resolution of 1.8 MP! As an early user of this equipment I can say they were universally hated. Slow, noisy, heavy, low quality enlargements need I say moiré (pun intended). I didn't know at the time whether Hal was prescient or just plain crazy. I carried on shooting film on 35mm cameras.

Move forward to late 2000. Nick's got the digital "bug" and Canon has just announced the D30, the first "affordable" digital SLR. After parting with \$3,000 each, Rod Miller and I became early adopters of digital SLR technology; 3.3 MP in a Canon Elan body. Looking now at the images I took then I am still impressed with how smooth and grainless they seem even if the resolution is not enough for large prints. But it felt and worked just like my film camera. Within 18 months of the D30's announcement Canon was introducing a digital SLR (the D60) which had doubled the megapixels and almost halved the price. Other camera companies did the same and the digital SLR began to gain momentum. And so it has gone on: 10D, 20D, 30D, 40D, 50D

Today, a mere 8 years after the D30's introduction, and only 12 years since the \$16,000 Minolta, we can buy a 10 -12 MP digital SLR (with lens) for around \$600, a 15MP digital SLR for \$1,200, a Sony A900 24 MP camera for \$3,000 and a compact 14 MP camera (Canon G10) for \$500. In real terms the entry

level digital SLRs are as affordable as the \$200 Pentax K1000 or Canon Rebel X were in their heyday 15 years ago. These digital cameras are superior in every way to their 35mm film equivalents of 15 years ago and to the digital offerings of just a heartbeat ago. Higher resolutions, truer colors, less noise (grain), no wasted shots or wasted film are just some of the advantages that persuaded all those folks at the Canon and Nikon seminars to invest in digital cameras. Exciting times.

Somewhere along the way things changed. Cameras evolved, prices dropped, photographers embraced the advantages. What does the future hold? The new Panasonic G1 blurs the line between SLRs and compact camera with its high resolution electronic viewfinder and interchangeable lenses; the Nikon D90 and Canon 5D Mk 2 have video capture, blurring the video/still divide; The Nikon D3 can shoot useable images at ISO 12,800. Exciting times indeed

Tips and Tidbits

By Ernie Decker

Since “flower season” is coming up, and many of you will be going to Garvan Gardens and other places to shoot those little beauties, I thought of something that will make your life easier. KNEE PADS. You can buy some really cheap ones and even the better ones are not that expensive. Lowes or Home Depot are two good places to find them. Not only will they save your knees, you won't have mud or grass stains on

your clothes, at least not at the knees.

While we're talking about getting shots of close subjects, you don't have to have a special macro lens to get good close-ups of flowers, butterflies or dragonflies. In fact my favorite butterfly lens is my 300mm with an extension tube. The Kenko brand is what I use. A set of three is about \$170, far cheaper than a good macro lens. Good shooting!

ARTS OF UAMS

By Max Baker

The Club has a photo exhibit in the Gallery of the Library of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences during the months of February and March, 2009. This will be our third exhibit as a part of the Arts of UAMS series. The Club's photos are always very popular and receive many good comments.

Exhibit Reception

There will be a reception for the Arts of UAMS AOPC exhibit on Friday, March 6, 2009, from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM. The exhibit is in the second floor gallery of the UAMS Library, in the Education II Building on the UAMS campus. Park on the north deck (Markham Street) and walk toward the old hospital entrance. The Education II building is the second building on your right. The reception is in the entrance foyer.

SHOWING IMAGES AT AOPC MONTHLY MEETINGS

By Nick Dawson

All members are welcome to show 10 – 15 of their images at the monthly AOPC meetings. Due to increasing number of members who are wanting to show their pictures PLEASE DO NOT BRING MORE THAN 15 IMAGES.

We have a high quality digital projector and regularly showcase up to 25 AOPC members' photographs.

Please use the following guidelines for image size etc.

- ... 8x10 or larger image size at 150 – 240 dpi ... jpeg format only (NO tiff, pdf, gif formats please)
- ... label your batch of images with your initials as a 3 letter prefix (eg: NJD1, NJD2, NJD3, NJD\$ etc.) ... the preferred color space is sRGB for the best rendition of colors on our projector.
- ... bring them on CD, DVD or USB thumb drives only with NO additional software on the medium you use.

2009 Field Trips

March 21st: Little Rock Zoo. Time to take those winning images ready for April's AOPC- sponsored, 12th Annual Little Rock Zoo Photo Contest.

**AOPC
Dues are
Due**

Meetings

March 19th, monthly meeting. Program: Marty Allen - Photoshop

April 16th, monthly meeting. Program: Jason Crader and Ernie Decker. Bald Eagles

May 21st, monthly meeting. Program: Randy Zellers - AGFC Publications and Photo Submissions



Photo by James Griffin

2009 LITTLE ROCK ZOO PHOTO CONTEST

By Cindy Dawson

This year AOPC and Bedford Camera & Video will again sponsor the Little Rock Zoo Photo Contest. This is the 12th year of the contest and entries must be received by Tuesday April 14th. The club will host an exhibition of all the entries and give out prizes to the winners at Little Rock Zoo's Earth Day celebration on Saturday April 18th. Please see the enclosed rules and entry form for more details. Every year we seem to get more fabulous entries and we hope this year will be no exception. AOPC's field trip this month will be a photo shoot at the zoo (with early entry for great animal visibility). Good luck!

12th Annual Zoo Photo Contest

2008-2009

Fact Sheet and Contest Rules

WHEN: All photos exhibited April 18, 2009

WHAT Black & white photographs - all ages
& Color photographs - adults (age 16 and over)
WHO: Color photographs - youth (age 15 and under)

Altered images – all ages

PRIZES: Best of Show: \$150 Bedford Camera & Video gift certificate, one-year family membership to LR Zoo & to the Arkansas Outdoor Photographers Club.

Adult Color, B&W, Altered Images categories: 1st - \$75 Bedford Camera gift certificate; 2nd - \$50 Bedford Camera gift certificate; 3rd - \$25 Bedford Camera gift certificate. Youth Color: Safari Trader Gift Shop gift certificates donated by Arkansas Outdoor Photographers Club - 1ST, \$50; 2ND, \$30; 3RD, \$20.
Viewers' Choice Award: \$75.

DEADLINE: Entries by mail or hand delivery must be received at LR Zoo by Tuesday, 5 p.m. April 14, 2009:
LITTLE ROCK ZOO PHOTO CONTEST
#1 Jonesboro Dr
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

OTHER

CONTEST Only photos taken at the Little Rock Zoo since April 16, 2008 are eligible.

RULES: Entrants may enter as many photos as they wish. All photos must be 5" by 7" or larger. All photos must be matted, with mat on top, but not framed. No more than 2 prizes per person. Entrant's name, address, and phone number must be on the back of each mat or photo; photos must be accompanied by proper entry fee and 1 entry form per person for each category each time photos are submitted. All winning photos in each category shall become the property of the Little Rock Zoo for all purposes and will not be returned. The Zoo will appreciate having non-winning photos donated. Non-winning photos may be picked up at the Zoo during the 2 weeks following Earth Days at the Zoo, starting Monday April 22. Alternatively, non-winning photographs will be returned by mail if a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage is provided at time of entry. Zoo, City of Little Rock and contest sponsors and organizers not responsible for loss, theft or damage occurring to entered photos.

ENTRY FEE: Each category for each person: \$5 each of first two photos, \$3 for each subsequent photo, each time photos are submitted. Additional entry forms may be obtained at the LR Zoo or at Bedford Camera & Video. All fees generated go to support the Zoo.

ENTRY FORM

12TH ANNUAL LITTLE ROCK ZOO PHOTO CONTEST

Sponsor: Bedford Camera & Video/ Organized by Arkansas Outdoor Photographers Club
Visit www.littlerockzoo.com, www.arkphoto.org or www.bedfords.com for rules & entry forms.

By submitting an entry form, entrant agrees to abide by all contest rules listed on the reverse.

Please check one of the following categories:

(use separate entry form for each category)

_____ Black and White Photographs – all ages

_____ Color Photographs – Adult (age 16 and over)

_____ Color Photographs – Youth (age 15 and under)

_____ Altered Images – all ages

How many photographs are being submitted with this entry form? _____

Submit proper payment:

\$5 per photo for each of first 2 photos, \$3 per photo thereafter in same category

Total amount submitted with this entry: \$_____.

Make checks payable to *Little Rock Zoo*.

*** Thank you for entering! All proceeds donated to the Zoo.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Mail or hand deliver to: Little Rock Zoo Photo Contest

#1 Jonesboro Drive

Little Rock, AR 72205

Remember: Deadline for receipt of entries is Tuesday, April 14th, 2009, at 5 p.m.

MARCH 2009 AOPC FIELD TRIP LITTLE ROCK ZOO

7:30 am, SATURDAY, MARCH 21st, 2009

by Cindy Dawson

This month's AOPC field trip will be to the Little Rock Zoo. We will meet at the back rolling gate (near the zoo administration building, opposite Ray Winder Field, on Jonesboro Drive) at 7:30 a.m., on Saturday, March 21st. After assembling as a group we will enter the zoo at 7:45 a.m.

LR Zoo members will get free entry and others will pay the group rate of \$5.00 per person (discounted from the normal \$9.00 entry fee). You will be able to take pictures of the animals and birds before the zoo opens to the public at 9:00 a.m. and possibly see the keepers feeding and caring for the animals. Of course you are welcome to stay the whole day and experience all the zoo has to offer including the new Cafe Africa restaurant, re-incarnated from the old "lion house".

With the 2009 LR Zoo Photo Contest entry deadline coming up in April (see accompanying article and entry form in this newsletter) this is a great opportunity to get those winning shots! Hope to see you there.

AOPC Dues are Due

AOPC dues are due. Dues are \$35.00 for a family membership for the entire year. We accept checks as well as cash. You can either give them to me at the next meeting or send it to me at my address on the AOPC Website.

Photography Workshop - Saturday, April 25, 2009 - 9AM-4PM

How to take a good picture

How to make it better

How to store and print it.

Ernie Decker and Jason Crader will be presenting a photography workshop to help students learn the basics of photography and post processing. Cost is \$59 and will be limited to 25 students. Come learn the basics of exposure, composition, workflows in and out of the computer, printing tips and much more. This course will give students a general overview of what it takes to make a good picture from beginning to end. If you have any questions, please email or phone Ernie at Egd@aol.com & 223-2530 or Jason at jacrader@yahoo.com or 940-1370.

FOR SALE: Canon ef.s 17-85 IS lens. This is a SHARP copy. I bought it new shortly after the 40Ds came out. I don't use any cameras it will fit on now, so it needs another good home. \$325. Ernie Decker 223-2530

ALSO: Computer system. I have a new one now, and thought of keeping this for a backup, but...decided to sell. It's a Dell 4550 desktop model. Specs are: P-4 2.4 ghz, 1 gig ram, upgraded video card (128mb I think), Dual DVD/CD burners, Two internal hard drives, one 40 gig and a second 230 gig, Two monitors. both crt. One is a Dell 17" the other is an NEC 19". This was a top grade monitor just a few years ago. It still has a great picture. This computer still runs pretty fast. It bogs down with Lightroom a little, but Photoshop Elements is just fine. All this for only \$360 Call Ernie, 223-2530.

Mid-America Photography Symposium

www.mapsym.org

Join us May 16-17, 2009 for the annual Mid-America Photography Symposium in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Our host is the Inn of the Ozarks, where you'll find lots of space to stroll, jog, and relax in a beautiful historic city. This year's symposium features photographers from around the nation leading workshops and symposium sessions. In addition to the symposium, and pre-conference activities, check out the annual late night photo session. This year's Vendor Fair will feature door prizes during every break in addition to companies with the latest in photographic tools and toys.

Registration & lodging: Please register online. AOPC members will receive a \$25.00 discount linking thru the AOPC web site.

You may call the Inn of the Ozarks at 1-800-552-3785 and ask for the room discounts listed under the Mid-America Photography Symposium. The room rate is \$92 per night for standard rooms on space available basis.

The Mid-America Photography Symposium is organized by a volunteer committee with the intent to provide a well balanced weekend of fun, education and a creative muse for your photography. Professional photographers will give presentations on photography projects and practices for hobbyists through professional participants.

Refund/Cancellation Policy

Refunds, minus a \$50 processing fee, will be made if the request is made in writing by April 15, 2009. Refunds will not be given for cancellations made after April 15 2009 or in the event that an exhibitor or registrant simply does not show.

Please do not hesitate to contact the MAPSym Event Committee with any special requests or questions. info@mapsym.org will not be given for cancellations made after April 15 2009 or in the event that an exhibitor or registrant simply does not show.

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Photo Op

Robert Herron

Garvan Gardens is one of the state's showcase photo ops in the spring time. 90,000 tulips are planted and will be blooming by the end of March and into April. Plus many other flowers will be blooming also.

I am going to Garvan Gardens on Saturday April 4th. And anybody that wants to go along with me is more than welcome to go. We will meet at the commuter parking lot at I-630 and Shackelford at 8:00 and leave a few minutes after that.

Please let me know by e-mail if you are going to go so I know to look for you.

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