

Southwest Missouri Camera Club

Photogram

JUNE

Club Meeting Topic: Panel:
A Q&A on Club Members' Unique and
Creative Work / Club Anniversary
Celebration



Simplicity often reveals
the most profound
beauty in life.



What's in it for you this month?

June 10: Connect Social - Wire Road Brewing Company
June 6: Field Trip - C-Street City Market * Springfield, MO
June 19: Field Trip - Hot Air Balloon Glow * Ozark, MO
June 25: Club meeting - Botanical Center * 50th Anniversary
Celebration * Panel Presentation

Carrie's Corner



Carrie Alkier
President

The Beauty of Transformation

June is a remarkable month for our club—a time of celebration, reflection, and incredible milestones. This month, I want to invite you to look at the world around you through the lens of Transformation—not just as a creative theme, but to challenge how we view our subjects, our craft, and our personal growth. I chose this concept to encourage all of us to look beyond the surface of what we see and consider how photography allows us to capture a world that is constantly shifting and evolving.

As a macro enthusiast, June always draws my eye to our local pollinators, and butterflies are easily one of my favorite subjects to capture—especially Monarchs. I am constantly amazed by the incredible stages of life they go through, and I feel so privileged to witness and photograph these moments. With patience, I managed to frame a Monarch with its intricate, stained-glass wings completely still for just a split second. It was a beautiful reminder that the finest things in nature take time to develop; a butterfly never rushes its growth, undergoing a quiet, steady transformation before it finally takes flight.

Our camera club has experienced its own beautiful transformation. What started as a small gathering of passionate local photographers has grown into a vibrant, enduring community. As we look through our viewfinders this month, let's challenge ourselves to capture the spirit of transformation around us—whether it's a caterpillar changing into a butterfly, the dramatic shift of a summer storm, or our own evolving skills as visual artists.

Opportunities to Connect & Celebrate This Month

- Connect Social ~ June 10 | 5:30pm–8:00pm @ Wire Road Brewing Company: Come out and join us for a relaxed evening of great conversation, friendship, and community. It's the perfect, informal setting to grab a drink, share our recent photo adventures, and catch up on everyone's summer photo plans.
- SWMCC 50th Anniversary Celebration ~ June 25 | 5:30pm–7:30pm @ Springfield Botanical Center: The big moment has arrived! We are officially celebrating a half-century of capturing life through the lens. This milestone honors 50 years of creativity, mentorship, and friendship in Southwest Missouri. Thank you to every member, past and present, who has contributed to this incredible legacy. I can't wait to celebrate with you all!
- Sense of Place Deadline ~ June 30: We are in the final countdown! The deadline for our Springfield Botanical Gardens portfolio project is the end of this month. Please continue taking photos and uploading your best shots to our shared Google Drive folder so we can finalize this historic "Park Partner" collection.


Reflection: Spreading Our Wings

When you look closely at a butterfly, you realize that its beauty isn't just in its colors, but in the journey it took to get there. The legacy of SWMCC isn't just measured by the 50 years on our calendar; it's measured in the way our members have encouraged one another to stretch their creative wings and grow.

Whether you have been with us for decades or are joining us for your very first meeting, you are a vital part of our club's ongoing story. This June, let's celebrate where we've been, embrace where we are going, and keep our shutters clicking. I look forward to celebrating 50 wonderful years with all of you on June 25th!



Carrie Alkier

 President, SWMCC

Meet 'n Greet a Board Member



Elaine Miller
Exhibits Chair

This is me!

I was born in Houston, Texas, and lived there until 2002, when my family and I moved to Springfield. I have three sons—one lives in Minnesota, one in Fair Grove, and one in the Netherlands. I'm also the proud grandmother of six grandchildren, ranging in age from a baby due this July to 21 years old. In addition to photography, I enjoy reading, quilting, and traveling. Spending time with family is especially important to me, and I'm grateful that today's technology makes it possible to stay connected through video calls, no matter the distance.



This is my photography!

I've always had some kind of camera in hand, mostly using it to capture family events and vacation memories. In my late teens, I began to appreciate photography as an art form, but working with film made learning both challenging and expensive. Everything changed in 2005, when I was given a Canon Rebel for my birthday, which truly launched my photographic journey. Wanting to learn and grow as a photographer, I joined the camera club in 2006—and it has been an incredibly rewarding experience ever since.



Carrie Alkier
President



Lori Long
Vice President



Susan Gettys
Treasurer



Linda Wise
Secretary



Harley Dutoit
Competitions
Chair



Richard Baumann
Board Consultant



Jim Gulley
Field Trip Chair



Kerri Seichter
Web Admin/
Past President

This is my photography philosophy!

My goal as a photographer is to capture beauty in whatever surrounds me—whether it's flowers and nature, architecture, or cityscapes. For several years, I was especially drawn to dark and moody imagery, and while that style still resonates with me, I've also developed a love for high-key photography and abstract work. I've never felt the need to limit myself to a single genre or style of photography. Exploring different creative approaches keeps photography exciting for me, and I enjoy the artistic process of editing and processing my images almost as much as taking the photographs themselves.



This is my vision!

A camera club should be more than just a place to share photos—it should be a community that helps photographers grow and improve their skills. Through workshops, outings, discussions, and shared experiences, members can explore new types of photography, experiment with different processing techniques, and expand their creative vision. Just as importantly, the club provides an opportunity to meet people, build friendships, and connect with others who share a passion for photography. My vision for the club is that it will be a supportive photography community where members encourage one another, grow in their photography skills, and explore new creative ideas together; a place to make friends and have enjoyable experiences shared along the way.



Exhibits

Current Exhibits

This month, we invite you to experience "Intimate Perspectives: Whispers of Detail" at the Library Center, on display throughout May and into early June. This exhibit showcases close-up and macro photography that reveals the quiet beauty found in life's smallest details, encouraging viewers to slow down and see the familiar in new ways.

Upcoming Exhibit

The Botanical Center's exhibit, with the theme "Butterflies and Birds" will be on display this month.



Photo Credit: Lori Long

2026 BOTANICAL CENTER THEMES & DUE DATES



7/23 – Wildlife
9/24 – Fall / Fall Festival
11/12 – Christmas



TO NOTE

Spring Scavenger Hunt Winners Announced

Apples: **Carrie Alkier**

Busy: **Lori Long**

Colorful: **Ted Pagel**

Downtown: **Ted Pagel**

Expressions: **Ted Pagel**

Front Door: **Carrie Alkier**

You may view the above winning photographs on the SWMCC Members Private Facebook Page in addition to the second and third place winners in each category.

“

Of the May club meeting attendees surveyed, 73% have their personal photography displayed in their home.

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If you have a "notable" concerning your photography, please drop a line to rlcclong4@gmail.com and let us celebrate with you!

Members' Musings...

Beginning Flash

Don't Be Left in the Dark

* First 5 Things to Do *



1. Get a flash with an adjustable head. It lets flash bounce off of walls, scrims, or reflectors. Direct flash aimed straight at a person looks flat and artificial.

2. Shoot manual flash power. Auto flash modes (TTI or E TTL) seem easy. In practice, it changes your flash power from frame to frame based on what the camera meters, which means results vary. Manual flash provides consistent, repeatable results. Start with TTL on the first test shot to get a ballpark reading, then switch to manual and lock in the power level. In direct sun, start at full power 1/1. If using modifiers that eat light, even more output may be needed. Use the inverse of ISO as a guide: ISO 200 = start at 1/2 power; ISO 400 = start at 1/4 power; ISO 600 = start at 1/6 power.

3. Use AF Assist in low light, but know its limits. Modern flashes include a built in AF assist feature that projects a pattern of red lines onto the subject to help the camera focus in dark conditions, but those red lines are visible to everyone in the room. Those may be disruptive at event photography. Switch to flash modeling light instead.

4. Use flash zoom to control light spread. The zoom function on your flash controls the width of the beam. Zoomed in tight, the more focused (narrow) the light. Zoomed out, of course, spreads the light wider.

5. Match flash color temperature to ambient light. Flash from the factory is calibrated to roughly 5500 kelvin, daylight balanced. That's ideal outdoors, but while working alongside tungsten lights inside, set the temperature to about 3200 kelvin. If you fire an ungelled flash, the subject goes blue, while the background looks natural.

The flash adds a color temperature orange gel to your flash to bring it down to match the tungsten ambient.

Learn more about flash photography at the **club workshop** on flash presented by **Randy Henderson**, Tuesday, June 23, at Schweitzer Brentwood Library 6:30-8:30 pm

Don't be in the dark! Make plans to attend this learning class!

-Chuck Bruton

LENSES TO LOVE

- 70-200mm f2.8 for versatility, sharp/great reach/used with teleconverter/sports, portraits, and compressing backgrounds in landscapes/details in larger scenes (6 recommendations)
- Canon RF 100-500 L
- 18-140mm for the coverage
- 100mm macro for details and textures
- 28-105mm - my walk-around lens, most often on camera
- Sony FE 24-70 1.4 for sharpness, close focus + useful focal length
- Tamron 18-300mm F3.5 for lots of range
- Nikon 500mm F4 for wildlife photography
- 24-70mm for landscapes, astro-photography, portraits and sports
- Canon 75-300mm F4-5.6 with tube extender for macro, versatile, holds up well
- Nikon 24-200mm gives a lot of choices
- 50 mm macro - most useful

3rd Round PSA Entries



Top row: Grist Mill Grind by **Lori Long**, Pagoda Ascension San Francisco by **Valerie Rippey**, and Port of Call by **Ted Pagel**
Middle row: The Great Tetons by **Patty Doyle** and Remnants by **Kerri Seichter**
Bottom left: Wandering Nagoro Scarecrow Village by **Ross Payton**



3rd Round PSA Entries



Top row: Summer Sweetness by **Patty Doyle** and Messy Chef by **Ted Pagel**
Middle row: Center of Spring by **Kerri Seichter** and

Chinatown Grant Place San Francisco by **Valerie Rippey**

Bottom: Dear Ancestors, We Remember by **Lori Long** and Prima by **Ross Payton**

3rd Round PSA Entries



Top row: Lift to Victory by **Ross Payton** and Wrapped in Love by **Kerri Seichter**
Middle row: On the Ice by **Ted Pagel** and Trimming the Log by **Chuck Bruton**
Bottom row: Dragon Breath by **Valerie Rippey** and Psalms on the Psaltry by **Lori Long**

3rd Round PSA Entries



Top row: Little Visitors by **Ross Payton** and Autumn Gold by **Ted Pagel**

Middle row: Eye of the Beholder by **Lori Long** and Yellowstone King by **Patty Doyle**

Bottom row: Vervet Monkey in Acacia Tree by **Doug Sampson** and Morning Light by **Valerie Rippey**

Chat with Chuck



Photography - The Fountain of Youth?

Researchers in England have discovered that people who engaged in arts and cultural activities every week appeared to age more slowly at a biological level with effects comparable to regular exercise.

We've been told exercise is one of the best things we can do to age well.

Participating in photography should double the effects of visiting an art gallery, joining a choir or taking a pottery class.

The new study from University College London, reports that regularly taking part in art activities may help slow the pace of biological aging.

The researchers analyzed survey responses and blood test data from 3,556 adults in the UK. The team found that people who engaged more often in arts and cultural activities and who took part in a wide variety appeared to have a slower pace of aging and a younger biological age.

As a photographer going out and photographing at least once a week, we could age about 4 percent more slowly than those who rarely engaged with art.

If you are like me, photographing flowers in macro, bending down, stooping 50-60 times a session will keep you in shape. Researchers said this was like the difference seen between people who exercised weekly and those who did not.

One researcher, author Feife Bu said, "Our study provides the first evidence that arts and cultural engagement is linked to a slower pace of biological aging."

Arts activities are shown to reduce stress, lower inflammation, and improve cardiovascular disease risk - just as exercise is known to do. (Maybe that's why I've had a flare-up of my bad knees; I haven't photographed in a while).

Adults aged 40 or over showed better results (to that previously found) between current smokers and ex-smokers.

The study suggests that arts and cultural activities deserve a place alongside exercise in how we think about healthy aging.

Stay healthy, and get out and use that camera!

HAPPY SNAPPY,
CHUCK

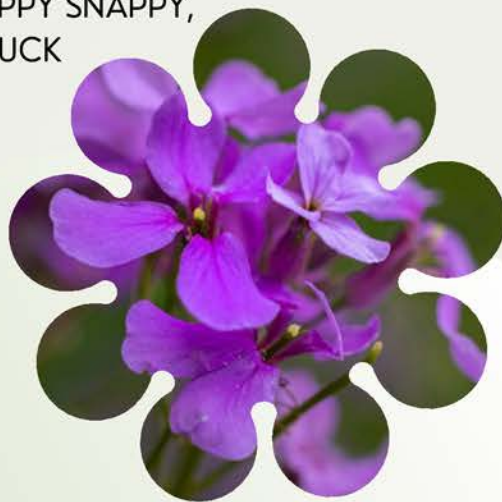


Photo credit: Chuck Bruton

You're
INVITED

Making Connections



Wire Road Brewing Company, with historical ties to the early 1800's Native American Trails, postal service, Civil War routes and the telegraph, features a family-friendly brewery, outdoor space for food trucks, events, and live music. In addition to its unique brews, kombucha, seltzers, cider, wine and wine slushes are also available. Join SWMCC friends and enjoy an evening of relaxation and sharing.

Wednesday, June 10th, 5:30-8:00 PM
4453 Timbercreek Ave. * Battlefield, MO
65619

Mark Your Calendar
June 25, 2026
Club Meeting & Celebration
Botanical Center

Happy
Anniversary
SWMCC

LOOK TO THE SKIES (AND C-STREET) FOR FIELD TRIP FUN

Oh, the places we'll go...

C-Street City Market



Uniting urban communities with farmers & artists. Located in the shadow of Historic Jefferson Avenue Footbridge, one of two left in the country. The C-Street City Market offers a wide range of homegrown, handmade, and locally produced products on a weekly basis from April thru November.

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Saturday, June 6th

**10:00 a.m. * Pavilion at the bridge
321 E. Commercial Street**

Info and photo from www.springfieldmo.org/listing/c-street-city-market/4466/

79th Annual Hot Air Balloon Glow



Friday, June 19th
5:00–9:00 p.m.

Location
Finley River Park
Ozark, MO

Photo Credit: Lori Long



*Remember.
Remember.*

**"Sense of Place" images
are due at the
end of
THIS MONTH!**
