

DECEMBER 2024



SOUTHWEST MISSOURI
CAMERA CLUB

Photogram



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Just a reminder-2025 membership dues are due



From your president, Susan Gettys:

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president for the past two years. 2024 was a very busy and productive year. We provided a lot of opportunities for members to learn something new. The board has already started making plans for more learning opportunities in 2025.

Southwest Missouri Camera Club Accomplishments in 2024:

- We gained 44 new members throughout the year!
- We hosted various workshops: Tim Bradshaw – Compositing in Photoshop; Brennen Nicole & Hal Mitzenmacher – Milky Way Workshops; Gary Shaver – Beginning & Advanced Photoshop; and Greg Disch – Advanced Lightroom.
- We transitioned back to a digital format for Quarterly Competitions to save members the cost of printing and make it easier to submit digital prints. We utilized judges from the Photographic Society of America, a free service provided for member clubs. This saved our club \$900 over the year.
- We set up a booth for the second time at the Ozark Empire Fair to promote the club and awarded prizes for the Photography Contest. Our booth included a photo shoot with a Route 66 backdrop to attract people to the booth and have their photos taken.
- We continued participating in the Photographic Society of America Interclub Competitions. We placed well among the other clubs for our first time participating.
- We began a new type of exhibit – team exhibits. This allowed groups of our members to develop a theme for an exhibit and bring multiple photos to showcase. We continued with club exhibits in several area libraries and our bi-monthly exhibit at the Nathaneal Greene Botanical Center.
- We distributed a survey at the end of the year to gather feedback on our members' needs for the upcoming year. Your new board will use this information to plan meetings and activities for the new year.
- We celebrated our year with awards for Photographer of the Year and Photograph of the Year in all three categories and had fun with our fellow club members at our Christmas banquet.

I am looking forward to a new year in 2025 with more learning opportunities for all of our club members. I'm excited to have some of our newer club members serving on our board and bringing new ideas for the club.



Susan Gettys

MEETINGS AND EVENTS CALENDAR

2025 Calendar

Most meetings for 2025 will be at the Library Center – Auditorium. The exception will be May 8 & 22, when we meet in the Community Room at the Schweitzer Brentwood Library.

January 9 – Education Committee – Skills Night. Prints due – Nathanael Greene Botanical Center “Night Sky.” PSA entries due for Round 2 of Interclub Competition (Color, Monochrome, Nature, Photo Travel & Photojournalism).

January 16 – 1st Quarter Competition Prints Due. **(Not a meeting night.)**

January 23 – Hazel Meredith – “Layers & Masking Demystified”

February 13 – Education Committee – Skills Night. Spring Scavenger Hunt topics announced.

February 27 – 1st Quarter Competition Results. “How to get started with wedding photography or how to turn your photography into a business” - Kerri Siechter. Prints due – Nathanael Greene Botanical Center “Winter.”

March 13 – Greg Disch – “How to Edit a Photo”. PSA entries due for Round 3 of Interclub Competition (Color, Monochrome, Nature, Photo Travel & Photojournalism).

March 15 & 16 – Greg Disch Workshop – Beginning Lightroom. 9-5 Saturday & Sunday. Location TBD.

March 27 – Meeting topic TBD. Spring Scavenger Hunt photos due.

2025 Competitions

PSA Interclub Competition Round 2 Photos – Due January 9

1st Quarter Competition Photos – Due January 16

PSA Interclub Competition Round 3 Photos – Due March 13

Spring Scavenger Hunt Photos – Due March 27

2nd Quarter Competition Photos – Due April 10



Susan Gettys

CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY AND AWARDS BANQUET



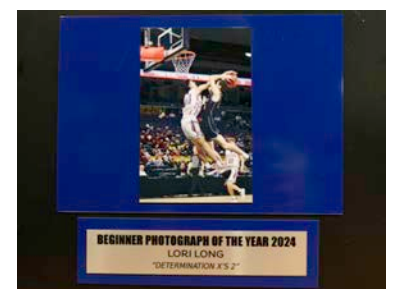


ADVANCED

INTERMEDIATE



BEGINNER



GAMES AND PRIZES



FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER FOR DECEMBER

SUSAN GETTYS

My photographic journey began in early adulthood. Shortly after college, I bought my first film camera, Canon AE-1, and took it with me on my travels. One of the first trips I can remember with my camera was going to Oregon and exploring along the coast. The following year, I traveled to Canada, and I had a chance to go to Ottawa and see the changing of the guard in the capital. I enjoyed taking photos then and wish I could find those photos! Over the following years, I photographed all my travels and nearby places.

When I retired in 2013, I switched to digital and bought a Canon Rebel (I don't remember which number, and I have since passed it on to a family member who wanted to get started in photography). As I moved to Springfield after retirement, I discovered the Southwest Missouri Camera Club and was invited on a field trip to Nathanael Greene Botanical Gardens. The club members were friendly and helpful as I was new to the digital camera world. I joined the club soon after this, and my learning began.



I traveled on my first Supertrip in 2015 when the club went to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. It rained on us almost daily, but we put our raincoats and rain sleeves on the cameras, and off we went. The colors were so vivid that year – probably due to the rain. I remember feeling like I was being assaulted by color everywhere I looked. I was still learning how to take better photos with my camera. The camera club members on the trip were helpful and patient whenever I asked questions about the settings on my camera.





I started entering competitions to get feedback on my photography. I felt like I had arrived when one of my photos was chosen as the 2017 Basic Photograph of the Year. It was a picture I had taken at Glade Creek Grist Mill at Babcock State Park, near the New River Gorge National Park. I kept entering competitions, scavenger hunts, theme challenges, and any opportunity to gain feedback on improving my photos. I was thrilled when I earned enough points during competitions to be named Basic Photographer of the Year in 2019.

Winning photos from 2019 Competitions:



I love focusing on different projects and enjoyed the camera club's participation in the Color Project. I did this for an online camera club that I belong to and brought the project to our club in 2020. Each month, we challenged members to shoot photos that primarily contained the color of the month. Here are some collages from my online project.



I love photographing anything outdoors – flowers, landscapes, national parks, and wildlife. It's a great way to capture sights as I travel. I've been fortunate to travel to Africa on safari twice and loved capturing the animals in their natural habitat.



I've enjoyed attending several seminars and workshops on techniques and post-processing. Greg Disch's Lightroom workshops have helped my post-processing skills immensely. I'm not very good with Photoshop, so there is still more to learn. Here are two photos of Alley Springs Mill, both taken in early November. The first was taken in 2014, and the second in 2024. I think these show the progression of my photography and post-processing skills.



I've been through several cameras and am currently shooting with a Canon R5. I am learning Intentional Camera Movement, abstract, and more creative photography. I just bought my first Lensbaby lens after watching a seminar from Anne Belmont about shooting the winter garden. I'm anxious to try it to improve my creative outlook, especially with flower photography.

Every year, I aim to learn something new and go on more field trips. Unfortunately, this past year didn't lend itself to attending many of the camera club field trips. There is always next year!

2ND THURSDAY CHAIRMAN SKILLS NIGHT

Really?

I came across an interesting video this week where one of the YouTube influencers was telling about many of the responses to their photography segments. They said often that these responses began, “Well, a real photographer ...”

All of this made me think about myself and our members. Are we real photographers? They were saying a “real photographer” only shoots film. I started out shooting film as most all of us did. I was very slow to make the transition to digital, but I have.

“Real photographers” never shoot J.PEG. They only shoot raw. Myself, I shoot J.PEG. I personally hate all the processing, so I let the camera do the job for me, other than cropping and some very slight adjustments from time to time.

A real photographer doesn’t shoot with a phone or a point and shoot camera. I quite often do. I carry a point and shoot with me quite a lot and like most all of us, my phone is placed into service quite often. Why? Because I have one, or both of them, on me everywhere I go. And photos are better taken, rather than missed. The quality from these cameras is quite good and often as good as any other camera could capture.

One of my favorites was, “A real photographer will only shoot in manual.” Yes, I do use manual quite a bit, but I also use the automated settings. Aperture and Shutter priority are very useful at times and I usually use auto ISO.

I know I would have often missed the shot or messed up the exposure without them. I am just not that fast at making sudden changes on manual.

All of this went on for some time with what made a “real photographer.” Criticizing edits, crops, how one makes money or not with their work, teaching others, and so on. And, by the way, a “real photographer” never shares their knowledge.

So, am I, are you, a “real photographer?” I think so. I think we all are. The members of this club constantly show how skilled we are. None of us should ever be embarrassed by our work. However, I believe that often these so-called experts tend to make us doubt in our abilities. For me a “real photographer” is the one who gets out and shoots rather than “Monday Morning Quarterbacking.”

So, get out and shoot, set up stuff to shoot in the house or your studio space. Use whatever you have for equipment and remember the audience you need to please is YOU. I have three point and shoots, a phone and a nice mirrorless. All of

which make nice, clean photographs when I do my part. I am sure it is the same for you no matter what you are using. You get better with practice, practice, practice.

Really and truly, you are all “Real Photographers.”

Don’t let anyone tell you otherwise!

David Stotts

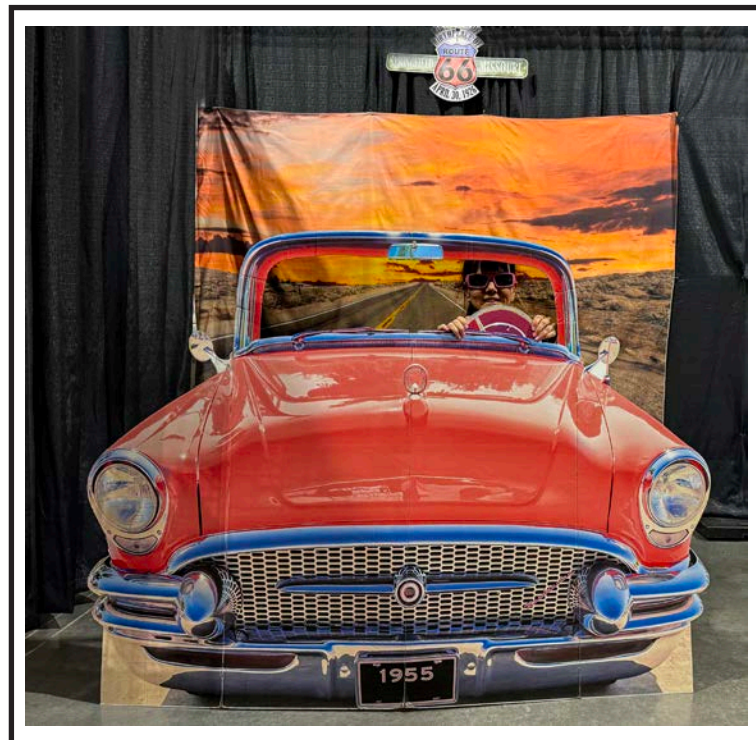


A MESSAGE FROM OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN LORI DECKER

This wraps up my term as Public Relations Chair. My job was pretty easy as other committees play a big part in promoting the club too. Local photography exhibits show our photos in public places which promotes our club and of course all the social media with the website, Facebook and Instagram really keeps us well promoted.

Thanks to all members who helped promote the club especially during the Ozark Empire Fair this year. Many of you signed up to sit at the club exhibit table and talk to potential members. We got a Christmas card from the Life & Arts Coordinator along with a letter hoping we come next year and to inform us of the results of the International Association of Fairs and Exposition contest. The Ozark Empire Fair placed 2nd in category 10: Any Other Competitive Exhibits and we were mentioned on the list that helped make that happen. Next year I won't be the Public Relations Chair but I will be around to help out with this committee and other committees as well.

Looking forward to 2025!



EXHIBITS

ELAINE MILLER

I hope everyone has a good holiday season! It's not too early to start thinking about 2025. We will again be having club and team exhibits, along with our on-going exhibit at the Botanical Center. The following list is the exhibits that will be hanging in the first quarter:

Location	Hanging Date	Due Date	Club/Team	Theme	Notes
Botanical Center		1/9/2025	Club	Night Sky	8 Photos – Matted – No frames
Botanical Center		2/27/2025	Club	Winter	8 Photos – Matted – No frames
Republic Library	3/1/2025		Team	Abstract	Jane Ballard and Elaine Miller
Joplin Library	3/1/2025		Club	Moments	12 – 20 Photos – Must be framed*
Botanical Center		3/27/2025	Club	Patterns in Nature	8 Photos – Matted – No frames

*All photos hung in Joplin, regardless of how it is printed (metal, canvas, photo paper) must be framed. I have seen “offset” frames used for canvas prints and it looks good.

Reminders

- The Botanical Center photos are to be matted with a single mat and a thin backing (about a mat's thickness). The outside dimensions of the mat need to be 16 X 20. Please do not frame.
- For Club exhibits
 - Individuals are responsible for bringing and picking up their photo(s), or ensuring someone will take and/or pick up your photo(s) if you are unavailable
 - May be printed on metal, canvas, or printed, matted, and framed
 - ALL IMAGES MUST BE WIRED ON THE BACK FOR HANGING - NO SAWTOOTH HANGERS
 - Minimum size of Image: 11 X 14
 - Maximum size of Image: 20 X 24
 - Minimum size of Frame: 16 X 20
 - Maximum size of Frame: 20 X 24
 - **Exceptions (larger or smaller) to image and frame sizes must be approved by the Exhibits Chair**
- For Team exhibits
 - The team decides on the theme (except for Midtown Carnegie), types of prints, and sizes of prints
 - The team chooses one member to coordinate with the venue
 - The team is responsible for hanging and taking down
 - The team is responsible for the opening presentation if one is scheduled

It is cost effective to use a standard size frame and mat. Custom sizing is allowed with no approval needed as long as the minimum and maximum print and frame sizes are met.

Standard Frame Size	Mat Opening	Print Size
8 x 10	4.5 x 6.5	5 x 7
11 x 14	7.5 x 9.5	8 x 10
16 x 20	10.5 x 13.5	11 x 14
20 x 24	15.5 x 19.5	16 x 20
24 x 36	19.5 x 29.5	20 x 30
30 x 40	21.5 x 31.5	22 x 32

2025 Team Shows

The following team shows are available:

Midtown Carnegie Library

Dates: 6/2/2025 – 8/30/2025

Theme: We will use the library's summer reading program theme. This year it is Color Our World with an emphasis on art. A great theme for abstracts, still life, fine art, and whatever your interpretation might be!

Opening: None

Photos needed: 20

Promo due: 3/1/2025

The Coven Collective

Dates: 6/30/2025 – 7/30/2025

Theme: Decided by team

Opening: Will be scheduled for July 5 or 6

Photos needed: 30 or more

Promo due: 5/15/2025

The Library Center

Dates: 7/1/2025 – 7/31/2025

Theme: David Eslick will be heading up this exhibit and needs some team members. He has chosen "Destinations" as his theme, described as images that make you say, "I know that place" or "I have been there."

Opening: Joshua Best with the Art Museum will be doing a photography theme Slow Viewing with one of the photos in our exhibit. Slow Viewing is a supportive practice for anyone who wants to develop their skills of interpretation, observation, and discussing art. Participants spend an hour carefully observing and speaking about a work on view, resulting in a deeper understanding of how they and others relate to the artwork and to each other. Slow Viewing is free and open to the public. The library will be setting this up with no requirements from the team.

Photos needed: 18 – 24

Promo due: 2/1/2025

Schweitzer Brentwood Library

Dates: 8/1/2025 – 9/30/2025

Theme: Decided by team

Opening: Time and date TBD

Photos needed: 24

Promo due: 2/1/2025

Nixa Library

Dates: 10/25/2025 – 12/6/2025

Theme: Decided by team

Opening: 11/1/2025 3:00-5:00, Presentation at 3:30

Photos needed: 12 – 14

Promo due: 8/1/2025

FALL SCAVENGER HUNT CHAIRMAN

PSA COMPETITIONS

JANE BALLARD

Jane Ballard

Scavenger Hunt & PSA Interclub Competitions

A new year and new challenges are coming! We just completed our first PSA Interclub Competition (due in November) and the results are trickling in. Overall, I think we fared pretty well again! Keep up the good work!

PSA Interclub Competition - Round One - November 2024

Color

F	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	Morning Glory Seed Pod	Elaine Miller	9	
F	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	Drove My Chevy to the U Drop Inn	Jane Ballard	10	
F	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	The Temple Cleaner	Margaret Single	12	
F	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	The Mighty Guardian	Rachelle Leonardo	13	HM
F	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	Tulip Burst	Susan Gettys	12	
F	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	The Messy Painter	Ted Pagel	10	

Monochrome

E	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	As Summer Ends	Elaine Miller	10	
E	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	Photographs and Memories	Jane Ballard	9	
E	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	Readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic	Lori Long	8	Insufficient depth of field
E	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	The Maharaja India	Margaret Single	11	
E	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	Bridge of Sighs Venice	Reginald Single	9	
E	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	A Moment in Time	Valerie Rippey	9	

Photo Travel

B	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	Roaring River Spring	Jane Ballard	9	
B	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	Cinque Terra Italy	Margaret Single	12	Merit
B	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	A Stroll in Majestic Zion	Rachelle Leonardo	7	
B	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	Burano Island Venice	Reginald Single	9	
B	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	Elephant Crossing	Susan Gettys	9	
B	Southwest Missouri Camera Club	Budapest Parliament	Valerie Rippey	10	HM

We are still waiting on the results for Nature and Photojournalism.

Round Two of this round of competitions is due on Jan 9, 2025 so get me your best images! One image per photographer per category - Color, Monochrome, Nature, Photo Travel, and Photojournalism. Resized to no more than 1920 px wide OR 1080 px tall (neither number can exceed these numbers) - ie, if you choose 1920 wide, but the height is 1200, you will need to resize the height to 1080 which will make the other number smaller than 1920. Also, please RENAME YOUR FILES to include YOURNAME.YOURIMAGETITLE.jpg. Do not send me DSC_2935.jpg as your file name! I will NOT rename your files for you anymore, so if you send me images that are not resized and titled properly, I will NOT include them in the PSA Interclub Competition! Email your entries to jane@janeballard.com.

The Spring Scavenger Hunt categories will be announced on February 13!

MEET TWO OF OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT



Thank you for electing me as your president of the Southwest Missouri Camera Club. I am honored to serve in this role and look forward to helping us grow together on our photographic journeys.

I joined the Southwest Missouri Camera Club last year after moving to the area from California. Photography has been a passion of mine for over 20 years, and I love the opportunity to connect with fellow photographers who inspire me to keep learning and growing. I own a wedding and portrait photography business, KS Photography, and teach photography, video, and design at two colleges. Serving my church is another important part of my life, where I contribute to live production and collaborate on the creative team with other photographers.

My favorite things to photograph are weddings, portraits, and memorable moments that tell a story, but I also enjoy capturing outdoor scenes and experimenting with creative techniques. I am excited to meet new members and deepen connections with current ones as we continue to explore our shared passion for photography. I plan to attend more field trips this year and start a personal photography project.

Here's to a wonderful year of creativity, connection, and growth!

SECRETARY



Hi everyone! I joined SWMCC mid 2024. I started photography about 5 years ago when our kids started leaving the nest. I had some extra time on my hands and bought my Canon EOS Rebel T6 with 2 kit lenses. Initially for birding, wildlife, vacations, and just to learn something new. I was initially interested in it as a hobby for wildlife only. My favorite things to photograph are birds and sunsets but I'll snap a pic of anything. Over the past 2-3 years, I have realized I like portrait photography (HoneyPot Photography) and I'm focusing on building that business. I have several other hobbies such as hiking, working with my wild Yorkie to become a therapy team, crochet, reading, traveling, camping, volunteering with hospice, and, most importantly, spending as much time as possible with my 3 1/2 yr old grandson. Everyone I have met in this club has been so warm, welcoming, and helpful. I am excited to be a part of this group and look forward to serving as secretary for the group.

SOCIAL MEDIA

New 2024 Website Passcode: **GreatShot!**



PRIVATE GROUP
for MEMBERS ONLY

Southwest Missouri Camera Club
(Paid Members Only Group)

www.facebook.com/groups/swmcc



To Find Current Announcements & Club News:

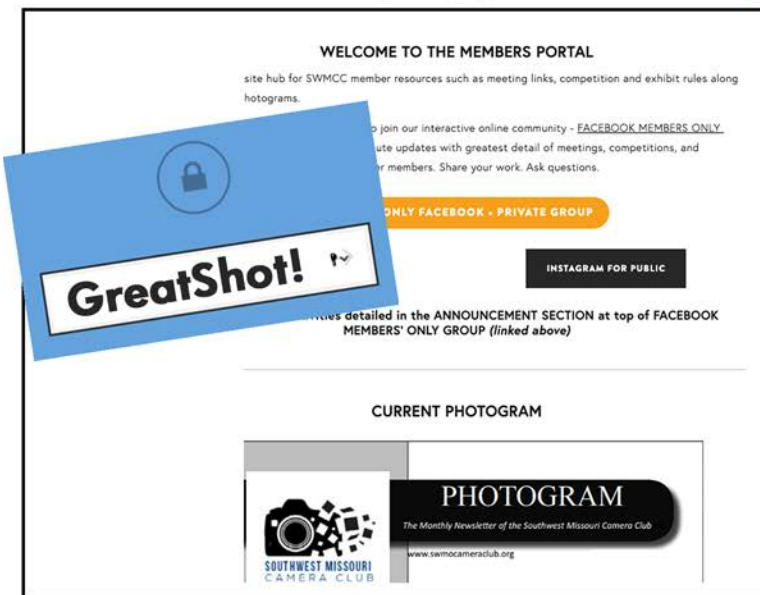
- Go to the Facebook Members' Group (above). We recommend that you bookmark this in your browser.
- In MENU BAR below cover image (shown above), click **Featured**.
- Scroll through current posts to locate details of current meetings, competitions, field trips, exhibits as well as other club news items.
- If you have trouble locating what you are looking for, please feel free to post a question in the group or contact the appropriate chairperson through Facebook messenger.

WEBSITE ACCESS to MEMBERS ONLY INFORMATION

www.swmocameraclub.org



home about calendar activities join club/payments contact **members only**



To Find Details related to Competition & Exhibits (instructions, submission forms, etc):

- Go to the SWMCC website (top of column). We recommend that you bookmark this website.
- In MENU BAR at top of landing page (shown above), click MEMBERS ONLY.
- Enter the 2024 MEMBERS ONLY PASSCODE: **GreatShot!** (includes exclamation point)
- Scroll the page for instructions and button links to relevant documents available to view or download.



@SWMCC_cameraclub

https://www.instagram.com/SWMCC_cameraclub



Southwest Missouri Camera Club

<https://www.facebook.com/swmocameraclub>

SUPPORT SWMCC through our PUBLIC SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

SWMCC 2024 BOARD MEMBERS

President



Susan Gettys

Vice President

Vacant Position

Secretary



Linda Wise

Treasurer



Elaine Miller

Exhibitions

Field Trip



Cynthia June

Co-Field Trip



David Eslick

Past President



Summer McFall

**Vacant
Position**

Publicity



Lori Decker

**Quarterly
Competitions**



**Mary Edna
Wilson**

Scavenger Hunt



Jane Ballard

**Second
Thursday**



David Stotts

**Web
Administrator**



**Teresa
Brown**