

Southwest Missouri Camera Club

Photogram

SEPTEMBER

Club Meeting Topics: 3rd Quarter Competitions
Results * Vote on Scavenger Hunt Photos



*Photography is the beauty
of life, captured.*



What's in it for you this month?

September 9: Connect Social - Big Momma's Coffee & Espresso Bar

September 10: Deadline - Scavenger Hunt Entries Due

September 12: Field Trip - Japanese Fall Festival

September 17-20: Club Mini Trip - St. Louis

September 24: Monthly Meeting * THE LIBRARY CENTER
Deadline - 4th Quarter Competition entries
- Botanical Exhibit images due

Carrie's Corner



Carrie Alkier
President

Shifting Focus

There is a distinct shift in the air as September arrives in Southwest Missouri. The high-summer heat begins to ease, the light softens into a warm golden hue, and the very first hints of autumn start to touch the treetops. In our craft, this time of year naturally invites us to play with depth of field and selective focus—choosing deliberately what stands out in sharp detail while letting the background gently blur away.

Just as we adjust our aperture to isolate a single dew-draped leaf or highlight the texture of changing bark, September asks us to shift our organizational focus as a club. We are moving from the wide-angle exploration of summer field trips into the intentional work of refining and finalizing our artistic vision.

What to Focus on This Month

Finalizing Capture Group Photos: The October reveal is just around the corner! Use this month to review your files, fine-tune your edits, and put the finishing touches on the work you've created with your Capture Groups.

Midtown Carnegie Library Exhibit Preparation: Looking ahead, our SWMCC exhibition at the Midtown Carnegie Library will run from December 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027. September is the ideal time to start curating the images you wish to submit. Give your portfolio the selective focus it deserves so your finest work can shine.

Chasing the Seasonal Transition: Take advantage of the shifting light this month. Early mornings at the Botanical Gardens or local trails offer incredible opportunities to practice shallow depth of field as nature begins its gradual transformation.

Reflection: Choosing What Matters

In photography, we can't have every single element in crisp focus all at once—and that's what makes an image compelling. It's the contrast between what is razor-sharp in the foreground and what softly recedes into the background that creates depth, narrative, and mood.

The same is true in our creative lives. As the busy pace of summer settles down, take a moment to ask yourself: What do I want in my primary focus this fall? Is it mastering a new editing technique? Preparing your best print for the library exhibit? Or simply enjoying a quiet morning walk with your camera?

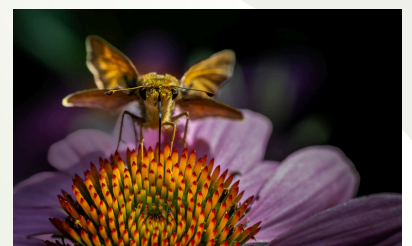
Whatever you choose to bring into sharp focus this month, know that your contribution brings depth and richness to our entire club. I can't wait to see your finalized work at our October reveal!

Choose your focus, keep exploring the details, and happy capturing!

Carrie Alkier



President, SWMCC



A Lesson on *Light Painting* - Part 2

 by Randy Connell 

Note: If you would like to try your hand at light painting, this is the time! Brush up on "A Lesson on Light Painting" from the August Photogram, then read Randy's generous offer below.

Light-Painting Contest

Part II

The folks at **Ants On A Melon** has provided a discount code that ALL members of the camera club can use for 10% off anything in their store. The following code is good through the end of the year: TIMECOLLECTORS10 .

In addition, they provided a significant discount on their light painting beginner's kit, so I purchased one, and a (one) lucky club member will win it.

How to enter:

- 1) Share at least one light-painted photo that you personally took, and your name will go into "the hat."
- 2) Share the image on the camera club's Facebook page and tag it "Contest", or contact me (Randy Connell) directly if you don't use Facebook.
- 3) The deadline to submit photos is **October 1, 2026**. The drawing will take place during the club's October meeting, and the kit will be presented to a current member* whose name is randomly drawn from a hat. Old school!

*Member must be present to win.

Submit two images for a second chance to win; you may share as many photos as you'd like, but there is a limit of two chances per person.



Good luck! We look forward to seeing your creative ideas illuminated!
Thank you, Randy, for this fun experience!

Do what matters, beautifully!



Carrie Alkier
President



Lori Long
Vice President



Susan Gettys
Treasurer



Linda Wise
Secretary



Kerri Seichter
Web Admin/
Past President



Elaine Miller
Exhibits Chair



Harley Galland-Dutoit
Competitions Chair



Jim Gulley
Field Trip Chair



Richard Baumann
Board Consultant

Exhibits



Photo credit: Dallas Maxwell

Current Exhibits

The Botanical Center's exhibit "Wildlife" is on display this month.

Upcoming Exhibit

Eight photos are needed for our next exhibit at the Botanical Center, which will be **collected on September 24**. Start looking through your image collections or planning your next outing for opportunities to capture **fall/fall festival** subjects.

Photos should be matted with outside dimensions of 16" x 20". The standard mat opening is 11" x 14". If your image works better in a different size, however, Michaels or Hobby Lobby can cut a custom opening to fit your photograph.

2026 BOTANICAL CENTER THEMES & DUE DATES

9/24 – Fall / Fall Festival

11/12 – Christmas



Fall Scavenger Hunt

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Action • Children's Movies
Comedy • Horror Films
Musicals • Science Fiction

Guidelines: Enter up to six images - one per category.

Due 11:59 P.M., September 10th.



Fall-on the
Camera-Club Crowd
for camaraderie and
conversation

at



Design from bigmommascOFFEE.com

.....and while you're there, you might try their Coffee: Coffee, Cold Brew, French Press, Cafe au Lait, OR their Espresso: Espresso, Americano, Macchiato, Latte, Breve, Cappuccino, Tall Dark + Handsome, Momma's Mocha, Money Momma, Old 66, Mint Momma, Sweet Momma, Great Outdoors, North-side Turtle, Pumpkin King, Steam Engine, 222, The CEO OR their 3 Wise Drinks: Fireside, Peppermint Mocha, Snowball, OR their Holiday Drinks: C-Street Zombie, Monster Frappe, The Thrilla, Pumpkin Spice Chai, OR their Non-Coffee Drinks: Hot Tea, Chai Tea Latte, London Calling, Italian Soda, Tea Pot, Brewed Iced Tea, Hot Chocolate, Hot Apple Cider, Bottled Drinks, Smoothies, OR the many food offerings from their sandwich menu, soups + salads menu, and breakfast menu. (which includes homemade baked goods)!

There's something for just about everyone!



Wednesday, September 9th * 9:00-11:00 *
217 E Commercial

FIELD TRIP FUN



h, the places we'll go...

Japanese Fall Festival

Saturday, September 12

Photo Shoot: Japanese Fall Festival 2026

Location: Stroll Garden at Nathaniel Green Park
2400 S Scenic Ave

Focus: There will be numerous vendors and artisan booths featuring authentic Japanese wares, the Nihon bunka taiken tent (cultural experience), the omiyage and dagashi tents (souvenirs and snacks), and concessions. Cultural opportunities will be geared toward children and include an activity area with traditional games and crafts led by Japanese language students from Kickapoo High School. These events end at dusk.

Logistic Note: Meet at 11:00 A.M. at the picnic tables near the entrance to the garden.

Other Notes: Cost - \$15 adult, \$4 kids 3-12. Open until 10:00 P.M.

Wide-angle to zoom lenses will work well. There will be special performances by at least 10 unique groups. Additional information will be provided on the SWMCC's members' Facebook page.



SWMCC Mini Trip

Great Forest Park Balloon Race

September 17-20

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Location: Emerson Central Fields in Forest Park, St. Louis, MO, 63110

Photo Shoot: Balloon Glow and Hare & Hound Race

Focus: Photographing bright colors, nature, public scenery (parks), zoo, arch park, and museums around Forest Park.

Logistic Note: Gear - a wide-angle lens, medium telephoto, and/or zoom lenses will be useful. A tripod, filters for special effects, and bright lights might be other helpful considerations.

Other Notes: The Great Forest Park Balloon Race returns on September 18th and 19th with two days of family-filled fun, unforgettable views, and one of the regions most beloved traditions. A live DJ will keep the energy high on the main stage and there will be food trucks, family activities, inflatables, games and more. All events are free.

THURSDAY, September 17

5:00 PM - Leave Springfield

8:00 PM - Check in to the hotel (TBD)

8:45 PM Shoot a few night shots around the park, streets, and skylines

FRIDAY, September 18

The Balloon Glow & Day Shoot

9:00 AM - St. Louis Arch and National Park

10:30 AM - Toy Museum

12:00 PM - Lunch

5:00 PM - Gates at Emerson Central Fields open

6:45 - 8:45 PM - Balloon Glow (balloons inflate and glow but do not launch)

9:00 PM - The U.S. Army Golden Knights Skydiving Team will perform

9:15 PM - Fireworks finale

SATURDAY, September 19

Hare & Hound Race

1:00 PM - Fields open; entertainment, children's activities, food trucks

3:00-3:45 - Opening ceremonies featuring the U.S. Army Golden Knights

4:30 & 4:45 PM - "Hare" then "Hound" balloons launch

4:30-6:00 PM - Flight window (weather permitting)



Photo Credit: Lori Long

Whether you're making family memories, capturing incredible photos, or simply taking in one of St Louis's most iconic annual events, this is a weekend you don't want to miss. Be sure to check the members' Facebook page for additional or updated information.

SWMCC Members Fare Well at the Fair



To Note



Color: Insects
2nd Place

To Note



Color: Transportation
3rd Place

To Note

Monochrome: Country
1st Place



Monochrome: Flowers
2nd Place

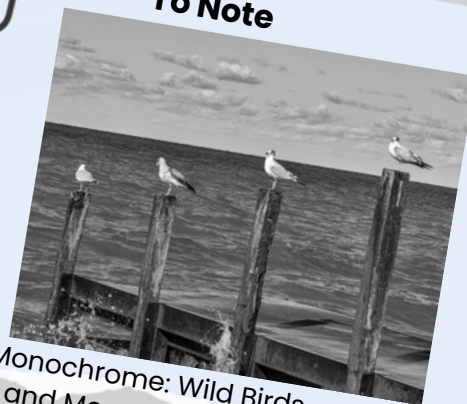


To Note

Color:
Country
3rd Place

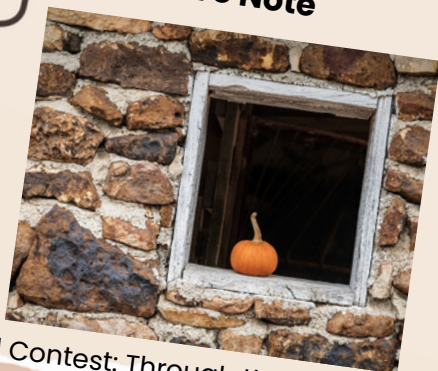


To Note



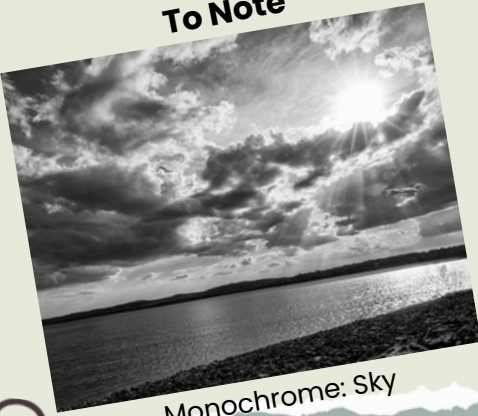
Monochrome: Wild Birds
1st Place and Monochrome Champion

To Note



Special Contest: Through the Window Frame
Honorable Mention

To Note



Monochrome: Sky
2nd Place

To Note

Color:
Wild Birds
Honorable
Mention



To Note

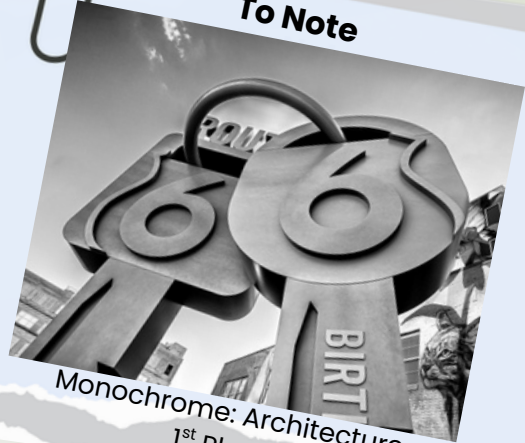


Color: People Portrait
2nd Place and
Sponsor's Choice

Monochrome:
People Portrait
1st Place



To Note



Monochrome: Architecture
1st Place

To Note

Color:
Water
Honorable
Mention



To Note

Monochrome:
City
2nd Place



To Note

Monochrome:
Nature
2nd Place



To Note

Monochrome:
Sky
1st Place



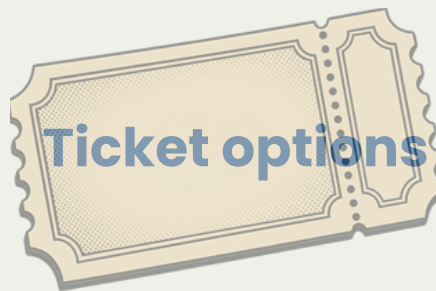
Looking Ahead

2026 Annual Awards Banquet

and Ticket Information

Thursday, December 17th, 5:30–7:30 PM, Botanical Center

Reservations and payments will be accepted via cash, check, or credit card at the September 24th meeting.



Full dinner

\$28 (\$30/PayPal) per person – Includes full meal, dessert and drink

Sweet Tooth

\$12 (\$13/PayPal) per person – includes dessert and drink only

Reservation and Payment Deadline

December 1st

Menu

Delicious slow-smoked brisket and tender, sliced chicken breast

Savory twice-baked potato casserole

Classic pit beans

Fresh salad Homemade hot rolls

Cinnamon rolls & cherry cobbler

Catered by



Dadeville, MO