

Southwest Missouri Camera Club

Photogram

JULY

Club Meeting Topic: Intro to Astro
& the Effects of Light Pollution
Bonus Workshop: Lighting



*O'er the Land of the Free and
the Home of the Brave*



What's in it for you this month?

July 3-6: Field Trip - Fourth of July events

July 8: Connect Social - 14 Mill Market * Nixa, MO

July 23: Club meeting - Botanical Center * Speaker Brennan
Nicole Duffield

July 25: Field Trip - Bass Pro Shop * Springfield, MO

July 28: Bonus Workshop - Lighting * Schweitzer Brentwood
Library

Carrie's Corner



Carrie Alkier
President

Chasing the Light

Summer is in full swing here in Southwest Missouri, bringing with it long, sun-drenched days and a brilliant intensity to our local landscapes. As the July heat sets in, the way we interact with our environment inevitably changes. This month, our creative theme is Chasing the Light. July challenges us to look closely at how illumination dictates our compositions—whether we are waking up early to catch the soft warmth of the dawn, navigating the high-contrast, harsh geometric shadows of midday, or framing the explosive color of fireworks against a night sky.

As a visual metaphor, light is the very lifeblood of what we do. The word photography literally means "drawing with light," (photo = light, graph = to draw) and July is the ultimate playground to test that definition. Think about how a direct beam of golden hour sun can turn a simple patch of prairie grass into a glowing tapestry, or how a deliberate underexposure can transform a standard summer silhouette into something deeply dramatic and mysterious. This month let's step out of our creative comfort zones and actively chase those fleet-footed, luminous moments that only summer can provide.

Opportunities to Connect This Month

- Connect Social: July 8 (5:30 PM – 8:00 PM)

Join us at 14 Mill Market (203 E Mt. Vernon St., Nixa, MO 65714) for a relaxed summer evening of great conversation, friendship, and community. It's the perfect casual setting to get a snack; share your past, recent, or upcoming travels and outdoor photo adventures; catch up with fellow members; and swap stories from our big 50th Anniversary milestone.

- Monthly Meeting: July 23 at Springfield Botanical Center (5:45-7:45 PM)

Brennen Nicole will be our guest speaker for the evening. We are excited to learn about Intro to Astro & The Effects of Light Pollution where she will break down each technique like the Milky Way, moon, meteor showers, star trails, etc. and how to capture them from a beginner friendly level.

- Sense of Place Project Reflection: We have officially crossed the finish line! June 30th marked the final cutoff for our Springfield Botanical Gardens portfolio sprint. A massive thank you to everyone who poured their time, creativity, and perspective into this historic "Park Partner" collection. We look forward to sharing updates soon as we begin curating and finalizing this phenomenal collection of work.

Reflection

Illuminating Our Community When we chase the light with our cameras, we quickly realize that it isn't just about the brightness of the sun, but how that light interacts with the shadows. The beauty is found in the contrast. In many ways, our club operates under the same principle. SWMCC is a rich mosaic because of our diverse interests, varying skill levels, and different stylistic choices. Following the incredible joy of celebrating our historic 50th Anniversary last month, I am reminded of how much our shared passion illuminates this community. Thank you for continuing to show up, share your unique perspectives, and support one another. Keep chasing the light, and happy capturing!

Carrie Alkier
 President, SWMCC



Photo credits Left: From My Palms to the Sky, Chasing the Light - Bill Alkier,
Right: Foxglove Forager-Bathed in Morning Sunshine - Carrie Alkier

Meet 'n Greet a Board Member



Harley Galland-Dutoit
Competitions Chair

This is me!

Mother, nana, wife, friend, daughter, Christian, photographer... just a few of my titles that I am proud of. I am a 50-some-year-old who believes she is still in her 20's and still acts like a child! I was born and raised in Salix, Iowa (a tiny farming town on the Missouri River). I moved to the Ozarks when I was a teenager and began my career when I was 20. I have been an EMT, firefighter, arson investigator, law enforcement officer, 911 dispatcher, and a probation officer. After 35 years of public safety, I finally 'retired' a few months ago, and now run a furniture flipping and junkin' business from home.

I am married to Brad, and together we have five kids and eight grandkids. We live in Billings, in our 146-year-old home, which we love and hate at the same time! We spend our time outdoors taking photos, hiking, floating, camping, fishing, chasing the waterfalls and history of the Ozarks, and being with family.



This is my photography!

My first camera (an old Brownie) was one that I found in my grandma's house when I was a small child. I would pretend to take photos of my stuffed animals, propped up in lawn chairs, on her front porch. I always liked taking photos but thought good photography meant waiting until the sun was high in the sky and the shadows were all around. About 15 years ago, I got my hands on an older Nikon DSLR and started taking photos of people, kids, high school seniors, and anyone outside that would stand still long enough. I realized shortly after, that I really liked photographing things that couldn't talk to me, and I fell in love with nature photography. Now, Brad and I travel through the Ozarks finding things to photograph in the woods and on our yearly vacations to far off places.



Carrie Alkier
President



Lori Long
Vice President



Susan Gettys
Treasurer



Elaine Miller
Exhibits Chair



Richard Baumann
Board Consultant



Kerri Seichter
Web Admin/
Past President



Jim Gulley
Field Trip Chair



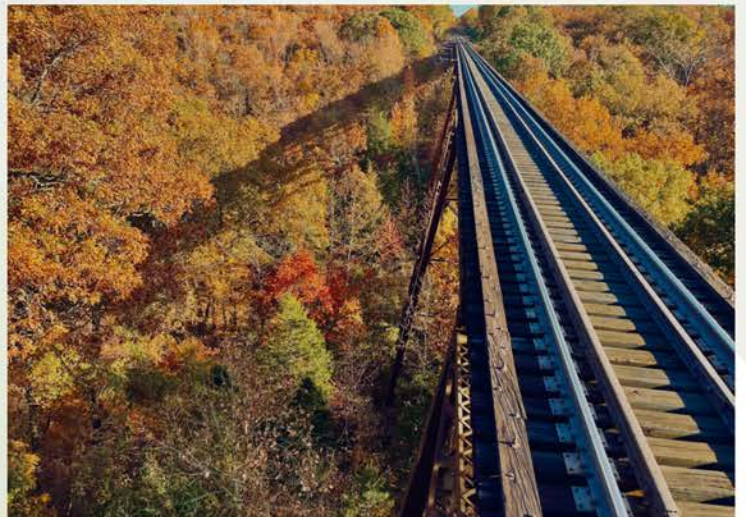
Linda Wise
Secretary

This is my photography philosophy!

I think you can forget so much as you grow in life, and, at times, struggle to recall a memory, a person's face, or a place that you have been. If you take a photograph, you instantly remember everything about it...where you were, who you were with, what you were doing, and how you felt. It not only brings that memory to life again, but it engages all of your other senses. Photography is a powerful, beautiful, and impactful tool.

This is my vision (for the club)!

I have only been a member of the SWMCC for the last year and a half, but I have seen such growth in that time. I am excited to see what the future holds for the club and all the great learning tools to help me (and you) grow as a photographer.



Fun Facts!

 I own every book that Tim Ernst has published (I want to be just like him, or Brennen Nicole, when I grow up).

 I tried to recreate the 'dancing on the log' scene from the Dirty Dancing movie, across a creek in Arkansas. I fell off the log, landed on a boulder, and broke my back, but the video made it onto America's Funniest Home Videos.

 I took a photo of my husband (who is now a retired Springfield firefighter) at a structure fire, six months before we ever met each other on a blind date.

 The movie Children of the Corn was filmed in my hometown, and my older brother was one of the 'children'.

 Our dog (River, a black labrador) works at a hunting preserve in Kansas. He retrieves pheasants for hunters and makes more money in a year than I do!

 I have an unhealthy addiction to Dr. Pepper and Sharpie markers.

Exhibits

Current Exhibits

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

Upcoming Exhibit

Eight photos are needed for our next exhibit at the Botanical Center, which will be **collected at the meeting on July 23**. Start looking through your image collections or planning your next outing for opportunities to capture **wildlife** subjects.

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



2026 BOTANICAL CENTER THEMES & DUE DATES

7/23 – Wildlife

9/24 – Fall / Fall Festival

11/12 – Christmas

Richard Baumann will have seven images exhibited at the Library Center during the month of August, including this one, entitled "Pancake House," along with additional images from **Chuck Bruton** and **Tom Severt**. The images are a continuing series of exhibits they have done over the years called "Three Old Guys Do Photography." This year, they are presenting black and white film and film emulation images that represent the look of photographers past who used Kodak Tri-X and Ilford Pan black and white films. Whether anyone who looks at the exhibit will know what this all means is unlikely, but it is an interesting challenge for these self-proclaimed "old" photographers. Baumann explains, "Now that we are in the printing stage, the challenges are substantial—I am learning that today's digital cameras and large format printers are no match for the smooth, deep tones of true black and white film. But since few will know, or care, I guess we can just smile and be smug about it as if we are somehow thus informed. Are we sure Ansel Adams started this way?"

Three Old Guys Do Photography

Library Center Exhibit



Image captured on old Route 66, outside Gallop, NM

July Club Meeting

Intro to Astro

and the Effects of Light Pollution

This beginner-friendly presentation is designed to remove the intimidation from astrophotography and make the night sky feel accessible to everyone. We'll break down the fundamentals of capturing the Milky Way, the moon, meteor showers, star trails, and night landscapes, focusing on simple camera settings, lens choices, and planning techniques that actually work in the field.

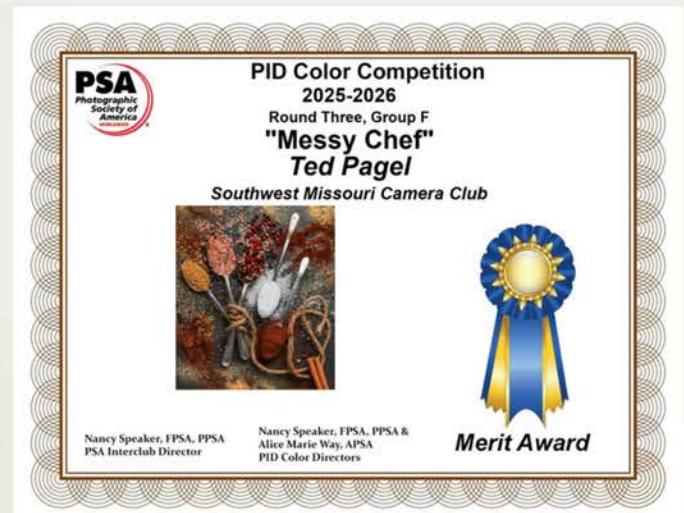
We'll also take a deeper look at light pollution, what it is, how it affects your images, and what you can do to help the issue. You'll learn how to read light pollution maps and how to combat it.

July 23, 2026 * 5:45
Botanical Center



PSA Picks

Four of our talented SWMCC members have received honors from PSA during the 2025-2026 year. Round One submissions, as depicted in the *January Photogram*, resulted in **Reginald Single** earning Honorable Mention in the Travel category and **Steve Holmes** earning a Merit standing in the Photojournalism category. In the third and most recent round of the year, **Doug Sampson** and **Ted Pagel** were each awarded Merit nods in the Nature and Color categories, respectively. Exceptional work! Congratulations to all!



2025-2026 PSA Scores * Rounds 1, 2, & 3

COLOR

4 Ladies Dancing
Lori Decker
20
Chromatic Sky Cruisers
Lori Long
19
Time Gone By
Reginald Single
20
Crystal in the Air
Ross Payton
20
Iowa Bounty
Steve Holmes
20
Books
Valerie Rippey
19

MONOCHROME

Suspended - Nature's Dolly
Lori Long
20
Murano Island
Margaret Single
20
Curves and Light
Rachelle Leonardo
21
Shikoku Fog
Ross Payton
18
Lost Rider
Suzanne Walker
17
Dreaming
Valerie Rippey
20

NATURE

Ribbons of Ice
Lori Decker
11
Ozarks Orange
Lori Long
9
African Sunset
Margaret Single
11
Spider's Lair
Rachelle Leonardo
16
Inspiration Point
Suzanne Walker
8
Echinacea
Valerie Rippey
12

PHOTOJOURNALISM

Through Her Eyes - His Future
Douglas Sampson
20
Raising A Behemoth
Lori Long
16
The Yangtze River Dam China
Margaret Single
6
One With Nature
Rachelle Leonardo
15
The Agony of Defeat
Steve Holmes
24 - Merit
Matykanskis were Deported Le
Marais
Valerie Rippey
15

TRAVEL

Sawmill House on Rocky Creek
Lori Long
11
Church of the Spilled Blood
Margaret Single
18
Carrick-a-Rede Bridge Ireland
Rachelle Leonardo
15
Temple of Dawn Bangkok
Reginald Single
22 - HM
Oh Buoy!
Suzanne Walker
16
Île Saint-Louis Paris
Valerie Rippey
16

COLOR

Starburst Hollies
Lori Long
14
Flowing Sand
Rachelle Leonardo
15
Balloon Launch at Dawn
Randy Henderson
18
Leaves in Autumn
Ross Payton
14
Rainy Day Blue
Valerie Rippey
18

MONOCHROME

Streets of Paris
Rachelle Leonardo
18
The Mother Road
Randy Henderson
19
The Forest Path
Ross Payton
15
Study in Pattern and Light #1
Valerie Rippey
15

NATURE

Bald Eagle Focus
Carrie Alkier
14
A Moment Among Many
Douglas Sampson
13
Spider Web Jewels
Rachelle Leonardo
11
Sunflower
Randy Henderson
13
The Snake Ponders
Ross Payton
12
French Alps
Valerie Rippey
10

PHOTOJOURNALISM

Statue Meets an Adoring Fan
Ross Payton
12
That's Life in Regensburg, Germany
Valerie Rippey
16

TRAVEL

Grindewlad First, Switzerland
Rachelle Leonardo
16
The Five Sisters
Randy Henderson
15
Welcome to Route 66
Ross Payton
15
Secession Building Vienna, Austria
Valerie Rippey
14

COLOR

Center of Spring
Kerri Seichter
18
Dear Ancestors, We Remember
Lori Long
15
Summer Sweetness
Patty Doyle
18
Prima
Ross Payton
16
Messy Chef
Ted Pagel
24 - Merit
Chinatown Grant Place San
Francisco
Valerie Rippey
16

MONOCHROME

Frozen Fern
Douglas Sampson
22
Towards the Light
Kerri Seichter
16
Work-Worn Wheel
Lori Long
20
Yusuhara Library
Ross Payton
20
In the Weeds
Ted Pagel
20
Time Travel
Valerie Rippey
19

NATURE

Vervet Monkey in Acacia Tree
Douglas Sampson
25 - Merit
Eye of the Beholder
Lori Long
20
Yellowstone King
Patty Doyle
17
Nature's Little Visitors
Ross Payton
15
Autumn Gold
Ted Pagel
21
Morning Light
Valerie Rippey
17

PHOTOJOURNALISM

Trimming the Log
Chuck Bruton
19
Wrapped in Love
Kerri Seichter
18
Psalms on the Psaltery
Lori Long
20
Lift to Victory
Ross Payton
20
On the Ice
Ted Pagel
18
Dragon Breath
Valerie Rippey
18

TRAVEL

Remnants
Kerri Seichter
10
Grist Mill Grind 1867
Lori Long
16
The Great Tetons
Patty Doyle
12
Wandering in Nagoro Scarecrow
Village
Ross Payton
14
Port of Call
Ted Pagel
11
Pagoda Ascension San Francisco
Valerie Rippey
13



Scores based on a total of 30 points per image.



LIGHT'S COLOR AFFECTS A PHOTO'S MOOD

A Series on Color

WHY WE SEE LIMITED RANGE OF COLOR

When light hits a surface, some wavelengths are absorbed while others bounce off. While a black surface absorbs most of the light, reflecting only a small number of photons, a white sheet of paper does the opposite, absorbing very little. A green surface absorbs all other colors and reflects only green. That is why leaves appear green and absorb ultraviolet light to photosynthesize. This same principle applies to other colors. Visible light, for most of us, falls within the range of 400 nanometers (violet) to 700 nanometers (red), which is a tiny slice of the entire electromagnetic spectrum. All colors we see fall within that range at a different frequency. It's a good range for us because if only shorter wavelengths were available to us to see, they would cook us. (The modern microwave that we cook with was accidentally discovered when a sailor walked in front of a microwave signal and got fried - at least that's what I always heard. But it was really Percy Spencer, a self-taught engineer working at Raytheon Corporation and involved in military radar production, who noticed a chocolate candy bar in his pocket had melted. (Spencer was testing a high-powered vacuum tube called a cavity magnetron, which generates microwaves for radar systems to detect enemy planes and ships.) Microwaves and gamma radiation fall into that category. Thank goodness they are mostly filtered out by the atmosphere, particularly the ozone layer. To see longer wavelengths, everything in the structure of our eyes and cameras would need to be much larger, like the size of radio telescopes which detect wavelengths ranging from millimeters to over 10 meters.

....for example we consider reds, oranges, and yellows to be warm colors and blues and greens to be cold. In physics, it's the opposite. The bluer the flame the hotter it is. A red car fades in the sun because it reflects low-energy red light but absorbs high energy ultraviolet frequencies. The energy breaks down the paint molecules. In astronomy, the colors of stars indicate their temperature. Red giant and supergiant stars are not as hot as our sun. They sit between 3,000 and 4,000 Kelvin while our sun is between 5,500 and 6,000K. The blue B-type stars such as Regulus and Rigel are much hotter, between 12,000 and 14,000K, much hotter than the sun. Photography uses Kelvin measurements when applying white balance. In Photolab, Lightroom, and Photoshop, the left hand blue end of the temperature slider is 2000K, and the right-hand yellow end is 50,000K. That might seem the wrong way around, but it is a measure of the correction required to make whites appear white. In the early days of color TV, to make the color cameras make correct color, the engineer had to use oscilloscopes (wave-form monitors) to make a perfect black/white to produce the correct colors for the TV camera. • Tungsten/indoor bulbs: 3000K • Fluorescent lighting: 4000K • Daylight(sunny): 5500-5600K • Cloudy: 6000K • Shade: 7000K



Photo credit: Jo Bolton

Milling Around...Making Connections



14 Mill Market features a total of 11 vendor concepts--10 uniquely crafted culinary selections offering breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert and one full-service bar with 16 taps, many dedicated to our local breweries. Our outdoor patio features additional table dining, as well as bar seating. Finally, we'd welcome you to the Mill's "backyard" to enjoy almost 5,000 square feet of play or event space for live music, corn hole, bocce ball and fun family time!

*Info and photo from www.14millmarket.com

Wednesday, July 8th
5:30-8:00 PM
203 E Mt. Vernon St.
Nixa, MO
65714



FIELD TRIP FUN

Red, White & Celebrate

Oh, the places we'll go...

July 3rd – 6th



Location: With your family and friends

Photo Shoot: This will be our first 'solo field trip.'

Focus: Shooting bright vibrant colors and facial expressions (smiles, ooh's and ahh's from kids, couples together, time elapsed fireworks, etc.)

Logistic Note: Photograph stills, motion, or time elapsed subjects.

Other Notes: Take photos and portraits of anything (people, places, things) that represents our nation's celebration: fireworks, 4th of July items, and red, white, and blue colors (food on celebrated table cloths, clothing, flags, etc.)

Post shoot, please share two to three adventure photos on the club Facebook page.



Photo Credit: Lori Long

FIELD TRIP FUN, CONT.

Bass Pro Puzzlers

Oh, the places we'll go...

Saturday * 7/25/26 * 11:00 a.m.

Location: Bass Pro Shop

Photo Shoot: This will be our first 'trio field trip.'

Focus: A team will be tasked with solving a riddle relating to outdoor activities, survival, and/or nature and will photograph the item/subject that depicts the answer. Afterwards, groups will meet at the snack shop (next to the checkout) to compare notes.

The winning group will receive a small prize.

Logistic Note: You will need a camera and a wide angle to medium zoom lens. Skills to develop: shooting around or through obstructed items and from different points of view.

Other Notes: Members will meet at the front entrance next to the large fireplace.

Photo Credit: Lori Long

To Note

Jane Ballard's canvas "Cars on Rt 66" sold at the "Spiva Center for the Arts 66 Stories Exhibition." Small prints, mugs, and coasters with this image are also available for purchase in Spiva's gift shop.



To Note

"Pancake House" by Richard Baumann, from the exhibit "Film vs. Digital: Black-and-White Photos" is featured in the library's publication, Bookends.

To Note

The Park Central Branch Library exhibited "Stories on the Road: Photography by David Eslick" in the month of June.

To Note

Doug Sampson
&
Ted Pagel
received a Merit Award from PSA
in the Round 3 Competition.



"Don't compare your work to others,
compare your current work with your early work
and [see] how you have advanced your talents."
-Jane Ballard



SWMCC's Celebration





SWMCC's Celebration



"Most critical element [of a great photo] - it's never about the gear, it's about YOU, the photographer, and how you "see" your image, both when you capture it and when you edit it - the gear is just a tool!"
- Jane Ballard



Capture Group Recaps & Review



Richard Baumann



Richard Baumann



Richard Baumann

Seven photographers interested in Macro work met recently at one member's home to work on lighting and backgrounds for close-up scenes. They accomplished this by using sets in a home studio.



Lori Long



Tom Sevard



Lori Long

The Sportography Group has done independent shooting this past month, with the exception of **David Strong**, **Guy Fox**, and **Lori Long** shooting at the State Baseball Final Four game at the Ozark Sports Complex. The group continues to use a private Facebook page to share photos, seek advice when needed, and share tips and tricks of the trade. Always looking for new events!



Rachelle Leonardo



Jo Bolton



Linda Wise

Artistic Floral

Capture Group Recaps & Review



Ronny Martin



Ronny Martin



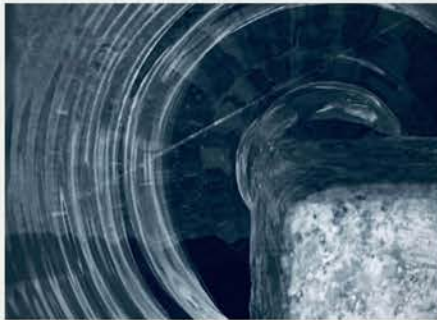
Tom Sevalt

This night photography group recently met at Phelps Grove Park under the light of a full moon. Participants had a great time.

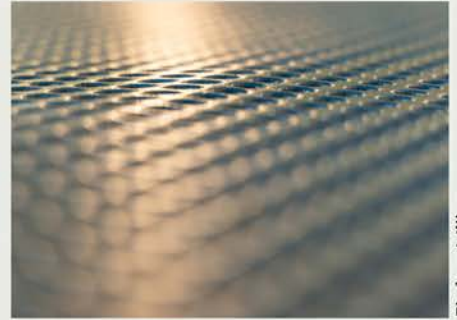
The first two photos were from this outing, the third from a previous gathering downtown.



Elaine Miller



Kelly Sutton



Elaine Miller

The Abstract Capture Group, Perception, Pattern, and Possibility, spent a June morning exploring Jordan Valley Park in search of abstract images. From reflections and textures to shapes and shadows, members challenged themselves to see familiar surroundings in new ways. It was a fun and creative outing that reminded us that compelling photographs can often be found in the ordinary when we take the time to look at things differently.



Chuck Bruton



Chuck Bruton



Chuck Bruton

Macro Floral

SUMMER'S BIGGEST PARTY IS BACK!

The Ozark Empire Fair runs from July 30-August 8. It has a wonderful exhibit of photos from talented photographers from across the Ozarks. Don't forget to sign up for a shift and help promote SWMCC while enjoying a free day at the fair and connecting with a fellow club friend!

Bonus Workshop

Lighting Workshop
#2
with **Richard Baumann**

Schweitzer/Brentwood
Library
6:30-8:30 pm

Tuesday, July 28

Look for upcoming details on the members' private Facebook page.



Fire Meets Water at the Shell Knob Bridge by Jane Ballard

Happy birthday, America!

1776-2026