



April ASC Meeting

This month our guest speaker is Dustin Meyer



Dustin is an internationally recognized portrait and wedding photographer. Published in numerous magazines, including Style Me Pretty, Tribeza, Austin Bride, the Knot, Edible Austin, Austin Monthly and more, He lives with his family on 25 acres near the Bull Creek Preserve. His studio is surrounded by giant oak trees, gorgeous creeks, and a large pond.

To see some of Dustin's great images log on to: dustinmeyer.com

April Meeting

Thursday, April 28, 2011 • 7:00 pm
LCRA Redbud Building
3601 Lake Austin Blvd.

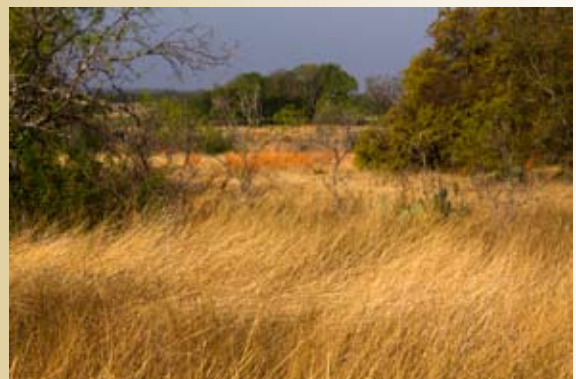
(corner of Redbud and Lake Austin Blvd.)

Visitors are always welcome!

Members don't forget to pay your 2011 Dues!

Austin Shutterbug Field Trip to Denney Ranch 2 March 26, 2011

Fourteen intrepid Austin Shutterbugs assembled at the Denney Ranch 2 in Burnet, Texas on a sunny, cool morning on March 26th for a pleasant walk over several trails with some challenging subjects to photograph. A sharp eye was needed to find birds fluttering around in the brush but not easily seen. The dry landscape offered seed pods, grasses and cobwebs. The occasional blooming wildflower grew close to the ground at a reduced size. The ranch owners are in the process of restoring the land to its original condition with the planting of native grasses, removing some of the cedar trees but leaving brush for the wildlife and adding feeding stations throughout to attract birds and deer. Afterwards the group enjoyed a tex-mex lunch at the Mexican Restaurant in Burnet. We were the last group to visit the ranch which is now closed to the public.



Lois Schubert



Kathy McCall



Linda Sheppard

March 2011 Evaluation and Critique
Judges were Dolph McCranie, Shirley Loflin and Phil Charlton

In the **General** category out of 20 entries 12 received top scores:



Petals of Pink - 14
Barbara Hunley



Spoonbill in Flight - 14
Beverly McCranie



Dahlia Lilies - 15
John Baker



Bee Line - 15
John Davis



Hung Out To Dry - 14
Kathy McCall



Coffeehouse View - 14
Marlene Lebel



Nostalgia - 15
Marc Perry



Sunflower - 14
Paul Munch



Hill Country Sunset - 14
Rose Epps



Garner State Park - 14
Marc Perry



The Paluxy River at Dinosaur Valley - 14
Pete Holland



Three Yellow Tulips - 15
John Davis



May ASC Meeting May is an Evaluation and Review month. All architecture has detail, even the most modern. Your assignment is to take a photograph of an architectural detail (on a building, but you knew that), and render it in black & white. It doesn't have to be a fancy detail, but it can't hurt. Just make sure the detail is, well, detailed. Have fun.

In the **Assignment** category--**Texas Spring**, out of 16 entries 8 received top scores:



Morning Sunflowers - 15
Liz Duncan



Springtime Texas Thistle - 15
Lois Schubert



Winding Road - 15
Phil Charlton



Let's Go Riding - 15
Beverly Lyle



Brilliant Texas Spring - 15
Linda Sheppard



Cheapside Church - 14
Phil Charlton



Texas Planter Box - 15
Linda Sheppard



The First Sign of Spring - 14
Lois Schubert



Photography Insights by Brian Loflin

Extension Tubes

Many of my students and photographers ask me what extension tubes do they need to buy. Before I can

make a firm answer, they need to answer a question. Why do you want to use an extension tube?

The answers to the question can be twofold:

1. You want to use it to achieve macro, (Images close to life-size) or,
2. You want to use a longer lens to be able to focus closer. (Like getting a 200 mm to focus under 15 feet, or so.)

If the answer is #1, then all the electrical connections are not necessary. If it is #2, then some electrical connections are appropriate.

Let me share some facts:

If you are shooting macro, then you do not need to zoom or auto focus your lens. You can shoot in aperture priority and the camera will pick the shutter for you. If there are no connections, AP still

works, just adjust the aperture manually, the camera sets the shutter. It is basically just like Manual.

If you want to shoot macro, a fixed prime lens works best anyway. You are going to lose light with an extension tube. Perhaps as much as 3 f stops. If the effective aperture of your camera falls greater (bigger number) than F 5.6, then the camera will not have enough light to auto focus anyway. If your 80-200 mm zoom lens has an aperture of F 3.5 – 5.6, then it will not autofocus at the longer focal lengths. So you are back to manual focus. If the effective maximum aperture is F2.8, then you are okay.

All this is not bad. It just means you have to do some thinking instead of relying solely upon the camera.

Remember, an extension tube is just a pipe with lens mounts on each end- no optics and no electronics.

Kenko is a brand that is not bad. So, if you want to save a few bucks, then that is a reasonable choice.

If it were me, I would buy the brand from my camera manufacturer to keep all my gear the same. Also, I would buy the one to do the job for you, not a kit. Try one and add others as you find reasons later. Either the 25 or 50 mm extension would be the first choice. The 50 will allow you to focus closer, either in macro or telephoto. You will lose two stops, plus.



Kathy McCall presented March's Member Moment Here is an example of her presentation

The **Horny Toad in Big Bend** image is made up of three photos.

The Big Bend photo was taken at dawn at Grapevine Hill in Big Bend in March of 2006.

The clouds in the sky came from a sunset image at my house.

The Horny Toad photo was taken in Uvalde TX at 7 pm in May of 2008.



Beginning with the Big Bend photo, I selected the sky using the magic wand tool set to a tolerance of 32--this worked here since there was strong contrast between the sky and ground. Then I added a new adjustment layer for levels--since I had the sky selected the thumbnail in the layers panel showed the sky as white and everything else was black so only the sky was adjusted. Then to adjust the rest of the image, if you hold down the option/alt key when you click on the layer thumbnail your entire image goes to black and white and you can click in the black area to select it and add another layer mask for levels and now the sky is blocked out and you can adjust the rest of the image.



I wanted to add some clouds to the image so I found a sunset image that I liked and added it on top of the Big Bend photo. I then added a layer mask and just drew a selection around everything but the clouds I wanted to use and filled with black which deleted that section from the layer. I got rid of the selection and still working on the adjustment layer using a big soft brush with an opacity of 20 to 30 and the foreground color set to black I painted away the clouds until I liked what I saw.

To get the final image I started out by selecting the horny toad--no easy task. First I changed the background to a layer so as I deleted the background I would have transparency. Since the subject and background were basically the same color I used the polygon selection tool in Photoshop set to 5 px feather and at 200% view, carefully clicked all the way around the toad cutting out each little spine until the background was completely deleted. You can do this in sections since this is going to take a while. I saved it as a Photoshop with layers file after I deleted each section so I wouldn't lose any of my hard work.



I opened the horny toad image which I had saved as a Photoshop file. If you have adjustment layers in the file make sure you click on the horny toad layer and drag onto the adjusted Big Bend photo. Under the edit menu I used Transform to Scale, Skew and Rotate into position. Under the Layer menu I went to Layer Style and add a drop shadow adjusting until it looked natural. Again under the Layer Styles I added a Gradient overlay. I chose the preset gradient of blue and gold and reduced the opacity to 40% and set the angle to 130°. To finish the toad I used a small brush with a dark tan color set to 30% opacity and toned down some of the bright spots on the shadow side.



Austin Shutterbug Club Meeting Minutes March 24, 2011

President, Brian Loflin, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Visitors were introduced and welcomed. Brian introduced a special friend and visitor, Cindy Dyer, from Washington, DC.

Tonight's refreshments are being provided by Dan Slutsky, Nancy Naylor, and Bev & Dolph McCranie.

Brian reminded the group that dues are due. Treasurer, Paul Munch, explained the dues paying process and passed the envelope. He announced that the club has \$4750.85 in the bank. Those who have not paid their dues by the end of March will be dropped from the roster.

Events Coordinator, Lois Schubert, announced the upcoming field trip to the Denney Ranch, northwest of Burnet, this coming Saturday, March 26th. She will be emailing directions. There is an optional \$5 donation to the Ranch. It is a nature preserve with photo ops including birds, water features, and macro possibilities. Lunch will be at 11:30 at Mexican Restaurant south of Seton. The Highland Lakes Airforce Museum is in the area.

There is also a garden show in town if anyone is interested. Brian announced that there is a call for entries in Cuero at the DeWitt County Photo Club. Images are due Saturday 3/26/11.

Program Chair, Pete Holland, announced that our guest speaker for April will be Dustin Myers. He owns an Austin photography and wedding portrait business. He uses collages.net to market images and will speak to us on workflow, Lightroom, etc.

Fred Peebles, Competition Chair, began the Evaluation and Critique. This month's judges were Dolph McCranie, Shirley Loflin, and Phil Charlton.

After the break, Kathy McCall gave this month's Member Moment. She demonstrated compositing, cropping, and converting images to black & white; one image was converted with Photoshop and the other using Nik Silver Efex Pro. Many thanks to Kathy for her informative demonstration.

Brian will be emailing the group with information regarding the upcoming field trip.

May's competition is Black & White Architectural Detail. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Learning Opportunities

Photographic Muse: Austin
November 6-11th, 2011, Austin TX
Casa De Los Santos, 1504 Treadwell Street
Penny De La Santos, Lynn Johnson and Scott Martin are combining their talents to present a seven day intensive photography workshop in Austin, Texas. The price for the workshop is \$995 and includes some meals. See website: www.on-sight.com for more info.

Club Leadership for 2011

President	Brian Loflin	331-2820
Vice President/Programs	Pete Holland	689-5939
Secretary	Jane Guerin	261-3572
Treasurer	Paul Munch	836-6379
Competition Co-Chairman	Fred Peebles	441-7913
Competition Co-Chairman	Tom Delaney	266-6490
Competition Committee	Dolph McCranie	394-9031
Events Coordinator	Lois Schubert	947-4864
Events Coordinator	Linda Sheppard	306-1516
Hospitality Chairman	Phyllis Rummel	264-1412
Newsletter Editor	Kathy McCall	264-9602
Refreshments Chairman	Charlaine Matthews	418-9405
Refreshments Chairman	Bev McCranie	394-9031
Webmaster	Barbara Hunley	250-1144
Electronic Communication	Rose Epps	502-0608
Roster and Name tags	Rose Epps	502-0608

Call for Entries

Participate in the **HCA Photo Contest**
Call for entries March 1st to May 31st
The hill country is full of beauty - capture what speaks to you. What about the Hill Country should future generations continue to experience? See www.hillcountryalliance.org for more information.

Snap to It! 2011 photo contest underway
The **Wildflower Center's second annual photography contest** is now underway. This year's contest is sponsored in partnership with Texas Highways – the travel magazine of Texas. **Entries may be made online through June 15.** Cash prizes are available, and winning images will be published online at www.wildflower.org and within the Winter 2011 issue of Wildflower magazine.

In honor of the celebration of July 4, 2011, **A Smith Gallery** would like to fill its walls with **photographic interpretations of "America"**.
The juror for "America" will be D. Clarke Evans, the president and director of the Texas Photographic Society. **Deadline for entries is May 16th.**
Creativity is encouraged. For more information, https://asmithgallery.com/America_Call_for_Entry.php

For more "Call for Entries" see www.texasphoto.org/NatNewsCompetitions.html, The website of the Texas Photographic Society