



From the President,

Did you see the paper? Or, better yet did you see the bluebonnets? I actually saw some primrose and paintbrush blooming last Friday! It is a sure sign that Spring is on its way.

For some of you the first time to get out and photograph this year may not have happened yet. For others, I predict that you have been out every week. Which brings me to my point. You can find something to photograph anywhere and at any time.

I would like to say that opportunity can strike at any time. Are you ready?

Remember, the assignment for this month is Texas Spring. So read the assignment carefully on the website or in this newsletter and get out and be creative.

I believe the new club activities are working well. Evaluation and Critique is catching on and comments have been very positive. Congratulations are in order for the great images and their makers in January. We expect to see more this month.

I have received many positive comments about the Member Moment. Both Rose and Dolph did an excellent job of bringing some enlightening techniques with their images.

One additional word from an admin standpoint. If you have not yet paid your dues, please bring it to the meeting or mail it to our treasurer, Paul Munch.

So keep up the great photography. Make good images and most of all HAVE FUN!!

See you soon, Brian Loflin

March Meeting

Thursday, March 24, 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!

March 26th Field Trip

It's spring and time to get off your duff for an ASC field trip! Dust off the bird books and get out those long lenses on Saturday, March 26th for a pleasant trip to privately owned Denney Ranch 2. The ranch/ nature preserve will provide a great opportunity to photograph birds, early spring flowers and possibly wildlife. On 96 acres located near Burnet, Texas, the ranch features four miles of paths where bird feeding and watering stations beckon the birds. Besides a chance for a great place to enjoy a spring walk, there is a pond and seasonal creek on the property. Even if the birds are not cooperative about being photographed, this will be an interesting and creative early spring challenge for photographers. If all else fails, the web site mentions some friendly chickens who may be amenable for some practice shots.

We will meet between 9 and 9:30 AM at the main building at the ranch entrance for brief comments and then move on to photograph on the ranch. Lunch (time and location to be announced later at the ASC meeting) will be at a local restaurant. There are picnic tables at the ranch for those ambitious enough to prepare and bring a lunch.

Denney Ranch 2 website: www.birdburnet.com

Directions: Plan on about an hour and fifteen minutes drive from Austin. The ranch is located about a 12 minute drive northeast of Burnet, Texas near the intersection of FMs 963 and 1174.

From North Austin: North on Rt. 183 to Tx 29W, turn Right on FM 1174 in Bertram (check the map here), left on FM 963, ranch on right side of road.

From South Austin:

Rt. 71 to Right on Rt 281 to Burnet, turn Right on FM 963, ranch will be on left just beyond RM2340.

<http://maps.google.com/>

For gardeners with spring fever, the Highland Lakes Lawn and Garden show is also on Saturday from 9 AM to 3 PM. <http://yantislakesidegardens.giving.officelive.com/show.aspx>

Website tips for bird photography: The lesson is patience, patience, patience.

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<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/bp/>

<http://www.outdooreyes.com/photo30.php3>

Lois Schubert

Photography Insights by Brian Loflin

Many people ask me, “What lenses should I buy.” This is how I try to answer:

First, I personally do not buy third party lenses. I believe that my manufacturer (Nikon) makes the best lenses for my cameras. So does Canon, Olympus and others. I also suggest the long term equity in the equipment is higher if the lenses are not an amalgam of a variety of brands.

I am concerned about the duplication in focal lengths with zoom lenses found today. I try to have continuity from the widest to the longest without overlap where possible. To have a lot of focal length overlap is an investment in redundancy. An example of a good focal length range is the Nikkor glass from 14 mm to 200 mm in three lenses. That would be the 14-24 mm F2.8G; the 24-85 F2.8D; and the 80-200 F2.8D lenses. That is a great combination of glass.

Now a word of note: D lenses provide distance info to the camera from the “In lens” processor. G lenses do as well but, they have no external aperture ring so they may be used on electronic cameras ONLY. We say that “G” stands for “Gelded.” If you want to use them on older film cameras, manual extension tubes and bellows, etc.- that would not work.

So what about focal lengths to buy? The order in which you buy glass is dependent upon your personal needs. If you mostly shoot sports, then a longer zoom is probably your first pick. If you shoot general stuff, then perhaps a mid-length is best. If you want to concentrate on wildlife a real long lens is best.

Maximum aperture (Smallest F number) is most important. I believe the variable aperture lenses like the F3.5 ~ 5.6 lenses are good for those who need to keep budgets constrained. However, if you really want to maximize on image quality, buy the fastest, constant aperture glass that you can. That will give you some amazing picture opportunities at the maximum aperture.

When you consider FX glass for a DX camera you must not forget the angle of view or crop factor. This is frequently stated as a 1.4 to 1.6 crop factor. Based upon Nikon’s data, you will lose about 23 – 33 per cent of the angle of view when used on a DX camera. So, if you are going to use the DX camera for some time, your wide angle end may not be wide enough. The 14mm will act like a 20mm on a full frame camera. It still projects a 114 degree circle, but you can use only about 87 degrees of it.

In my bag I have some pretty expensive glass, all Nikkor: 15 mm prime; 20 mm prime; 24-70 mm; 80-200; and 300 all these are F2.8. Then I have a 600 mm F4.0 for wildlife. And right in the middle of all that I have a 60 mm F2.8 macro and a 200 mm F4.0 macro. This allows me to cover the waterfront. In addition, I have several specialty lenses, like real fast primes and very high power macro.



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March ASC Meeting

March is an Evaluation and Review month.

The assignment for March is **Texas Spring**. Spring in Texas (when we have rain) can be incredible, as we all know. This assignment is intended to get you out and about to capture Spring at its best. Naturally, one’s thoughts are drawn to images of wildflowers as far as the eye can see, and that is certainly one scenario, but maybe you can do better. Or not. Just remember, you aren’t limited to only wildflowers.



Sunset Image from camera: no processing

**Dolph McCrainie presented
February's Member Moment**

**Here is an example of his
informative presentation**

Kathy McCall will present
March's Member Moment.

Sunset image after import processing.

The *import preset* does the following:
All of this takes place as the image is imported into Lightroom 3 and is the basic starting place for further adjustments:

1. Import, Convert to DNG and place image into a new folder on a hard drive.
2. Add "Punch" Clarity 50 and vibrance 25
3. Set curves to strong contrast.
4. Sharpening applied.
5. Lens corrections applied.



After import processing:

1. Fill light was increased to 18.
2. The black point was increased to 28 increasing the darkness of the silhouetted mountains and cacti.
3. Saturation was increased slightly to 10.
4. In the HSL or Hue Saturation and Luminance panel, using the on screen adjustment tool, the saturation of the sunset was increased slightly. And to intensify the colors the luminance of the red and blues was slightly decreased. All adjustments were done on screen with the adjustment tool.
5. The camera calibration was then changed from Adobe Standard to Nikon's Landscape Profile.



As you may have guessed I like the intense colors which were as I saw this incredible sunset.

Austin Shutterbug Club Meeting Minutes February 24, 2011

President, Brian Loflin, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Hospitality Chairperson, Phyllis Rummel, introduced tonight's visitors. All were greeted and welcomed.

This evening's refreshments were provided by Linda Sheppard, Paul Munch, and Fred Peebles.

Treasurer, Paul Munch, explained the dues paying procedure. He also stated that the club's bank balance is \$4,461.51. He reminded the group that dues for this year are \$25 for single, \$35 for family, and \$18 for students. He then passed the dues envelope around the room asking new members to be sure to include name, address, etc., when paying their dues.

Events Coordinator, Lois Schubert, spoke briefly about upcoming field trips. She said she and Linda Sheppard will be scouting Denny Ranch soon as a possible field trip venue for March 26th. She mentioned that the Blanco Flower Farm might be a nice flower photo op this spring. In April, there will be a scavenger hunt, yet to be named and the date will be announced later.

Brian announced that Joe McNally and David Hobby (Strobist) will be in Austin on their Flash Bus Tour March 25th providing a full day of speedlight flash instruction for \$99.95. Check it out at www.theflashbus.com.

This evening's guest speaker is Julie Fox, the Fotomechanic. Julie specializes in 'fixing' photos artistically with Adobe Photoshop CS5 and Corel Painter. She provided a handout for the group that included tips on correcting color cast, whitening teeth, creating your own borders/frames, and finding neutral gray.

After the break, member Dolph McCranie, shared several of his images with the group describing where the images were taken and how they were post processed. Many thanks to Dolph for his presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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

Learning Opportunities

Hobby and McNally Flashbus Tour 2011

Austin, March 25th, Palmer Events Center
\$99.95 10 am to 5 pm. See www.theflashbus.com

Rocky Mountain School of Photography is hosting the workshop "**Lightroom® for Photographers**" in Austin, Texas with instructor Laura Shoe, **April 17-22, 2011**. Space is limited to 16 participants. See the RMSP website for more info.

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.

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"**. Forty five to fifty images will be selected for exhibition. A Blurb catalogue of the exhibit with all accepted entries will be available for purchase. Awards are \$250 for Jurors Choice, \$250 Creativity Award from the gallery director, \$100 for Visitors Choice and five Honorable mentions. 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, please see:
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