



# THROUGH THE LENS

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## President's Comments . . .



*H* Folks.

We are in for a real treat on May 3rd when Bob Hill presents a program on cutting edge close-up and macro techniques. In addition to being a top notch photographer, Bob is an extraordinary speaker and educator. This program shouldn't be missed!

For those of you unfamiliar with the term "macro" a simple definition is that macro photography is a kind of close-up photography. The classical definition is photography in which the image on film is at least as large as the subject. On 35mm film (for example), the camera has to have the ability to focus on an area at least as small as 24x36 mm, as this is the size of the image on the film, this is a magnification of 1:1.

Macro photography is both fun and challenging and can provide photo opportunities even when weather conditions and lighting make landscape photography difficult. Macro photography works well under drab overcast skies and can even be quite successful in harsh midday

light, provided you can create a little bit of shade. There are several products such as a five-in-one Photoflex lite disc ([www.photoflex.com](http://www.photoflex.com)) which can be used as a reflector or a diffuser. The diffuser creates a nice soft even light over your macro subjects, even at midday. In a pinch, a piece of cardboard can be used to shade the subject and block motion from the wind. The Chicago Botanic Garden is a wonderful location to practice your macro techniques.

Over the past year Bob Schwarz has been tagging along on field trips and other club activities to create a slide program documenting the club. On May 17th we'll get a preview of this program which we hope will become a continuing part of the Club. When you're out on Club activities we want you to keep this program in mind and periodically contribute a new slide to it. We are also looking for someone to become the official keeper of this program, someone who'll store it and add new slides from time to time. Many thanks to Bob Schwarz for his hard work on this project!

Also on May 17th we will review the slides for the farm scavenger hunt and, if time permits, look at our new website. Jim Roberts has come up with a fantastic new site for us and I'm sure you'll all enjoy taking a look at it.

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## Upcoming Events at ACC

**Important: ACC meets at the Arlington Historical Society, 110 W. Fremont, Arlington Heights.** {The Arlington Historical Society is located 2 blocks west of Arlington Heights Road, just south of Euclid}

### **May 3 – Program**

Bob Hill — Cutting Edge Close-Up and Macro Techniques

### **May 17**

Bob Schwarz — ACC Documentary

Arlington Camera Club meets on the first and third Wednesday, from September through June at 7:30 PM.

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Finally, don't forget our big display of nature photos at the Spring Valley Nature Center in Schaumburg. Directions are provided below. Please take a few minutes to stop by and see the work of your fellow members. Also give a big thank you to Sue Farwick for suggesting this

opportunity and for Carol Arnolde and Cindy Kuffel for working on the mounting and setup. And of course thank you to all our members that contributed images. We also welcome donations of \$2 per image submitted to help defray the cost of mounting materials.

Don't forget to sign up for committee positions. We can't continue to operate the Club at a high level without your assistance.

*Ken Olsen*

**SPRING VALLEY NATURE CENTER  
Schaumburg, Illinois  
May 1 through June 30, 2006**

Thanks to the contributions from the members of the Arlington Camera Club, we are going to have an excellent display of nature photography. We have over 85 images to show the people who comes to see our exhibit. We are planning to change out the display at the end

of May, so you might want to make a trip to Spring Valley Nature Center both in May and June. The Nature Center is located on Schaumburg Road between Plum Grove Road and Meacham Road (1/4 mile west of Meacham) and they are open between 9:00 and 5:00 daily.

I encourage everyone to go see the exhibit and tell your family and friends to do the same. Thank you again for your contribution. We appreciate you sharing your sharing your work with the community.

# The Digital Corner

From PSA PhotoEditors

By Art Hansen

Photographic Society of Chattanooga

**Question:** My camera can be set for "auto" white balance, which I use all the time. At times I have had pictures (prints) look bad from the standpoint of color. The people in the store where I have the prints made tell me my white balance was set wrong. Can this be true, or are they making excuses for their own mistakes?

**Answer:** Either may be true. The auto white balance program on your camera may occasionally make errors. This usually happens when the light being used is borderline. This might be in daylight when clouds are approaching, or when the warmer light of evening is moving in, or in any situation where the light is

transitioning. It is also true that some cameras simply do a better job of setting white balance than others.

The digital lab making your prints can also make errors and might not get the color right. This is not a new problem and is not one limited to digital images. If you think it is a lab error simply ask them to make the prints over.

If you want to eliminate most "auto" white balance problems, simply set the white balance yourself, based on the light you see as the image is made.

**Question:** My Digital SLR camera has an "auto" setting that sets everything, I guess. I have been using it from the time I first got the camera. My friend has been somewhat critical of my doing that. Is there a reason I should stop using it?

**Answer:** When someone uses the "auto" setting on a digital SLR, they are, in effect, reducing a very capable and quite costly SLR camera to the level of a less capable and less costly point and shoot camera.

The whole thing is better understood if you consider what "auto" is. Choosing "auto" is a way of turning over the job of taking pictures to a computer programmer whose programs will control all the crafty and some of the aesthetic choices involved in making *your* pictures. You will be left with the singular job of framing each image. That being the case, *anyone* should be motivated to learn all they can as quickly as they can, so they can claim the images coming from their camera as their own.

**Arlington Camera Club Travels & Events**  
**By Cindy Kuffel – ckk116@comcast.net**

<b>Travel</b>	
May	Rustic Roads, Wisconsin Reed Turner Nature Center, Long Grove, IL (Late May)
June 17	Architecture Tour — Downtown Chicago and/or Lake-In-The Hills Air Show
July 8 & 9	Rodeo, Wauconda
August	Renaissance Faire, Bristol, WI
September 2 & 3	Anderson Japanese Gardens, Rockford, IL and/or Morris Sky Fest, Morris, IL
October	Nothing Planned
November	State Street Thanksgiving Day Parade, Chicago Thanksgiving
December	Christmas
<b>Local Photo Events</b>	
May 1—June 30	Spring Valley Nature Center Exhibit
May	Illinois Salutes (May 27, 8-10 a.m.) Memorial Day Parade* (May 29, 9:30 a.m., Arl. Hts. Rd. & Sigwalt)
June	Friday Night Races at Arlington Park Farmers Market Opens (June 3) Promenade of Art, June 3 and 4 (June 3&4, 10-5 p.m.) Sounds of Summer begins (June 8&9, 7-8:30 p.m.) House Walk (June 11)
July	4th of July Parade* Frontier Days (June 30-July 4) Criterion Bike Race* Irish Fest* (July 14, 6-11 p.m.; July 15, 2-10 p.m.) Arlington Heights Garden Walk*
August	National Night Out (Aug. 1, North School Park) Main Event (August 11, 6-10:30 p.m.)
October 7	Autumn Harvest Festival* (11-4 p.m.)
November	Tree Lighting Ceremony (Nov. 24, 5:15 p.m.) ChristkindlMarket (Nov. 24-26) Visit with Santa Movie with Mayor and Santa

\* Photographer turnout needed

*Some dates may change and events will be added. I will try to keep everyone as informed as possible. If anyone hears of anything that they would like to add, please contact me at [ckk116@comcast.net](mailto:ckk116@comcast.net).*

## Just Say Cheese!

By Sue Farwick

### Move Over, H.G. Wells

Some years ago, I heard via the family grapevine that my grandson, who was about eight years old at the time, was planning on building, with the aid of a few spare parts from an old vacuum cleaner and other discarded household appliances, a time machine.



Now I figured that if anyone could do it, it would be him. The kid is clever. I immediately called and told him to book me on the first flight. I was quite willing, I informed

him, to risk life and limb in the pursuit of such a worthwhile cause, provided I was given a crash helmet and a few snacks for the journey.

Of course, the project never quite got off the ground although I'll swear we came pretty close to it once or twice, especially when the magic fuel, a mixture of lemonade, Chanel #5 and prune juice, was added, but we always seemed to be missing that one vital ingredient that would enable us to be hurled miraculously back into the past or forward into the future.



However, I haven't given up. I'm hoping that with a few years of college under his belt, my grandson will once again take up the challenge and I'll tell you why.

I've always thought how great it would be, to be the only person to come up with actual pictures of some of the



greatest historical figures of all time; not just painted likenesses but real, honest-to-goodness photos.

Imagine being there on the spot, camera in hand, when Queen Elizabeth I gave her speech to the troops at Tilbury.

"I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the....."

"Excuse me Your Majesty. Would you mind just posing for one or two quick shots? Perhaps we could get the Earl of Exeter in there too. Could you get a little closer? That's it. Lovely!" Of course you wouldn't expect her to smile, given the circumstances. There was probably more a look of stern resolve on the royal face.



A picture of Moses coming back with the Ten Commandments would have been a good one to add to the collection although I suspect he may have been a little testy.



"Hurry up, for God's sake! I can't stand around all day holding these things up while you get the composition right."

I see Henry VIII as being something more of a challenge. Get caught taking an unauthorized shot of him messing about with Anne Boleyn and your head would be up on a spike with the rest of the paparazzi before you could say "cheese."



*A photographer's main instrument is his eyes. Strange as it may seem, many photographers choose to use the eyes of another photographer, past or present, instead of their own. Those photographers are blind.*

Manuel Alvarez Bravo

*Some of us cynics say that "the quickest way to make a million dollars in photography, is to start with two million dollars".*

Anonymous

## Arlington Camera Club April 2006 Competition Results

### *Color Slides*

Waikaki Before the Rains	Bill Ditman	23 pts.	AW SOM
Killa-way-ah Bow	Bill Ditman	21 pts.	AW
Maple Colors	Pat Wadecki	22 pts.	HM
Carrizo Plains	Pat Wadecki	22 pts.	HM
Red & Gold	Pat Wadecki	22 pts.	HM

### *Small Color Prints — Class B*

Milwaukee Art Museum	Sue Farwick	23 pts.	AW
Winter Scene	Sue Farwick	24 pts.	AW
Tune Up	Nathan Silvers	22 pts.	HM
Sunset #1	Nathan Silvers	22 pts.	HM
Yellow Tulip	Laura Gross	22 pts.	HM

### *Small Color Prints — Class A*

Tulips Through Glass	Barbara Borchert	24 pts.	AW POM
Frosty Bison at the Geyser Basin	Pat Wadecki	24 pts.	AW
Botanical Garden at Night	Ken Olsen	24 pts.	AW
A Head of the Crowd	Ken Olsen	23 pts.	HM
Autumn Symmetry at Red Jack Lake	Pat Wadecki	23 pts.	HM
Newly Emerged Amanita	Pat Wadecki	23 pts.	HM

### *Monochrome*

Three Tulips	Carol Arnolde	22 pts.	AW
Tulips	Carol Arnolde	23 pts.	AW
Burden Falls #2	Paula Matzek	21 pts.	HM
Tropical Flowers	Jane Maio	22 pts.	HM

## How To Predict A Rainbow

**Rainbows are scientific phenomena** which can be accurately predicted. A rainbow occurs when sunlight passes through a fine spray, such as at the base of a waterfall, and is refracted into its component colors - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.

You can see rainbows in Yosemite at the base of Vernal Fall and Bridalveil Fall in the late afternoon, when you're standing directly between the fall and the sun. A circular halo will form with a 42 degree radius, around a point exactly opposite the sun.

*Excerpted from: **PhotoSecrets San Francisco and Northern California.**  
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## SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW

### Member Profile: Scott Gross

**Born:** December 1965

**Family:** Wife Laura

**Hobbies:** Photography, graphic design, golfing, fishing, shooting (target, skeet, etc.), skiing, hiking, reading, collecting.

**Little Known Fact:** It took me twenty years to earn my Bachelor's Degree .

**Favorite Music:** A little of just about everything.

**Favorite Book(s):** *Imprints* by David Plowden, *Summit* by Vittorio Sella, *The Waking Dream*, *Photography's First Century*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, *The October Country*, By Ray Bradbury, *From the Dust Returned*, by Ray Bradbury.

**Favorite Movie(s):** Godfather trilogy, The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, The Third Man, Wonder Boys, Lost in Translation, Blue Velvet.

**Favorite Food:** Pizza!

**Favorite Place to Shoot:** Crabtree Nature Center, Southern Illinois.

**Favorite Photographer/Photograph:** Anything from the Farm Security Administration collection, which in my opinion is the greatest portfolio of photography ever assembled. Of particular note is Migrant Mother by Dorthea Lange. I believe this photograph sums up the entire Great Depression in a single image. Another photograph is Pepper by Edward Weston. It's a photograph of a simple object made beautiful through the art of photography.

**How did you get interested in photography:** My father. He loved photography and inspired me to take it up at an early age. He then bought me a Nikon SLR and that was all I needed to be completely hooked.

**Favorite Pictures I Have Taken:** I have many favorites! The one below is my niece, Abby. My sister asked me to take some pictures of Abby in a Fall environment. This was actually a test shot to check my lighting. I love her relaxed expression.



#### Officers

President – Ken Olsen  
Treasurer – Brian Kruser  
Programs– Scott & Laura Gross  
Competition– Carol Arnolde  
Workshops –Dave Lomblad/Paula Matzek  
Judges – Mary Stitt/Kathy Wessels  
CACCA Representatives – Mary Stitt/Scott & Laura Gross  
Newsletter – Diana Jacobson  
Publicity – Laura Gross  
Web Page – Bob Schwarz  
Arlington-In-Pictures – Bill Kruser

#### Coming In June

June 7, 2006 — Competition and Election

End-of-the-Year Competition and Election of Next Year's Officers

*Editor - Diana Jacobson*

[dlj8248@yahoo.com](mailto:dlj8248@yahoo.com)

**Nature Museum and Lincoln Park Zoo**  
**By Cindy Kuffel**

On Saturday, April 1, five camera club members (Nancy, Dave, Carol, Bill and Cindy) met at the Historical Society parking lot and drove down to the Peggy Notebart Nature Museum to photograph butterflies. Driving down Fullerton Avenue was worth the trip itself. DePaul University, Children's Memorial Hospital, and of course the beautiful architecture of some of the old row houses with their stained glass and bay windows. Once arriving at our destination our room was located on the second floor. Opening the double doors we found a humidity controlled

room with lush green plants, a waterfall and butterflies galore — everywhere you looked you saw different colors and shapes. Once done photographing the butterflies we decided, since we were down in that area, we might as well walk across the street and visit Lincoln Park Zoo. What a treat photographing the lions, seals and monkeys. With lunchtime fast approaching we decided to head for home and stop at Siegelman's Restaurant for a corned beef sandwich and beverage . Another great outing with lots of laughs, photographs and conversation.

**WWII Reenactment — Lowell, Indiana**

One of the largest reenactments held in the Midwest will be held at the Buckley Homestead Living History Farm, Lowell, Indiana on Saturday May 6, 2006 (10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.) and Sunday May 7, 2006 (10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.). The admission charge is \$5 per person, children under 7 are free.

“Reenactors from all over the Midwest, and some from as far away as Canada, don authentic

uniforms and use restored military equipment to portray that most important time period in our history. Throughout the weekend, the park comes to life with memories of the war years, both military and on the homefront. If you are a veteran, history enthusiast, or would just like to learn more about the 1940s era, this is the place for the entire family. It's wonderful for families and students.”

You can find more information, along with a calendar of events, at [www.lakecountyparks.org/](http://www.lakecountyparks.org/) events.



Last month we learned about shutter speed and how to make water blur with a longer shutter speed. Have you gone out and tried that yet? It's springtime and the crocus and daffodils are out - time to get out and try these methods and improve your skills.

## **Aperture**

Aperture governs your depth-of-field, and it determines where the viewer's eye is drawn to in a picture. Impact in our images - impress those judges. This is why we need to learn about aperture.

### **What does the aperture do?**

The aperture refers to how much light the lens lets through. Inside the lens there's a circle of blades called the iris (similar to the eye) that opens and closes to let more or less light through. The different sizes are given numbers (f/numbers) to tell you how much light it is letting through.

As well as controlling the amount of light, the aperture also influences the amount of the images that's in focus, known as the depth-of-field. A wide aperture (f/2.8 to F/4) gives the smallest area that's in focus, while a small aperture (f/11 to f/22) ensures the greatest area is in focus.

Although the aperture has a major effect on the depth-of-field, it's not the only factor. Longer focal length lenses have less depth-of-field than shorter ones, so if you want the greatest amount of your image in focus use a wide-angle lens.

Depth-of-field also decreases the closer you are to the subject. The advantage of the digital camera is that you can experiment without wasting film, so if you have a digital camera, find yourself some subjects and just practice.

### **How do I control the settings?**

You'll find an aperture-priority mode on your camera, most commonly accessed via the Av or A setting on the mode dial. This mode allows you to set the aperture and the camera will automatically set the appropriate shutter speed.

You can change the aperture setting by turning the control dial on the camera, with the value displayed on the LCD screen and also in the viewfinder display. You'll normally find that, as well as traditional settings, your camera also allows you to choose intermediate values.

### **Aperture Settings**

F/2.8 F/4 F/5.6 F/8 F/11  
F/16 F/22

F/2.8 - large opening - think of it as 1/2 or one-half and that is bigger than 1/22 so it is a larger opening.

### **F/2.8-Tiny or shallow depth-of-field**

This setting is only available on more expensive lenses, but the tiny depth-of-field makes it great for throwing the background right out of focus. You need to be especially precise with your focusing though, as it's easy to find that the main part of your subject is blurred. A tripod would be helpful with this aperture.

### **F/4- Very shallow depth-of-field**

This setting allows you to blur the background while keeping as much of the main subject in focus as possible. An aperture of f/4 is also good for lowlight situations, allowing you to shoot without having to increase the ISO setting, but you need to focus carefully to ensure the main subject is sharp.

When you get really close to your subject, even a small aperture will

give very little depth-of-field. But this can be used to give your close-up shots loads of impact. A macro lens can be useful with the f/4 setting.

### **F/5.6-Most useful setting**

This is one of the most useful settings you can use. With longer focal length lenses, this aperture will give limited depth-of-field, whereas with a short focal length, there will be plenty of the image in focus. It's also wide enough to allow you to handhold the camera in a variety of lighting conditions.

### **F/11-Middle-ground**

The middle-ground of the aperture settings, f/8 and f/11 are great when you want to make sure all your main subject is in focus. When your image has a background that is distraction, then this large depth-of-field will not be the one to choose. But these are useful settings for more general shots, and using them on a wide-angle lens will allow you to keep most of the scene in focus.

### **F/22-Maximum depth-of-field**

With tiny aperture settings like f/16 and f/22 you get the maximum depth-of-field, which is great for some subjects. Remember that using such small apertures can mean slow shutter speeds, so you may need to steady your camera, ideally by putting it on a tripod.

Now that you understand aperture, go out and try it. Take the same image with different aperture settings. Record in a notebook what setting you used. Then next time you will know what aperture is best for the conditions. Bring your images to camera club and show us. We would love to discuss this over the summer.