

# N4C

# Springbrook 2011

## April 29 - May 1

## You might ask, What is Springbrook?

**“Springbrook”** is one of the two week-ends each year that N4C members from all camera clubs **MEET TOGETHER**. It is named after Iowa’s “Springbrook State Park” which is a centralized location west of Des Moines. After attending for the first time, why do members keep coming back? Well....just ask them and look at the schedule.

### All About Photography

Bring your camera, tripod and notepad. Springbrook is totally about photography and making friends with others passionate about photography. There are educational programs, member’s slide shows, workshops, equipment demonstrations, hiking, meals and much more.

### Super Economical

**The total cost is \$91 for two nights lodging, five meals and registration** by sleeping in the park’s dorm lodging,. What a deal!! This cost is \$76 if you choose to camp on your own in the park campground or an area motel. See the registration form.

### What to Expect

It is a casual and friendly time to make friends and talk about club ideas, travel locations, and equipment. Or just hang out, relax, and soak up what is offered.

### Comfortable Facilities

The Education and Conference Center is a small campus-like facility operated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. There is a conference center building with a large screen, projector, sound system, and tables for programs and workshops. The dining hall is close and meals are served cafeteria style with snacks and drinks provided at breaks. There are separate women’s and men’s lodges. Each lodge has 4 large sleeping rooms each accommodating about 8 twin-size beds. Bedding and towels are provided and there are showers in the bathrooms. All buildings are handicap accessible.

### Park Environment

The state park is densely forested in an area of rolling hills. There are many hiking paths and ponds. Deer and birds are common. Usually the early spring flowers are beginning to bloom and mushrooms can be found by those with good eyes. It will be too cool yet to swim at the beach. Search the internet and you’ll find more information and brochures about the park.



Updates & Registration form on the N4C Website <http://n4c.us>.

# N4C

# Schedule Springbrook 2011

## Friday April 29<sup>th</sup>

3:00 pm – Registration

3:30 pm – Board Meeting, open to all members – presiding, President, Ed Siems

### 6:30 pm---Dinner

7:30 pm – “Incidents of Travel in Asia” by Gerry & Hope Solomons

8:30 pm – PSA Council Challenge Awards by Gene Schwope

### 9:00 pm---Refreshments

9:15 pm – Geotagging Photos (adding GPS location to photos) by Ken Johnson

## Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>

### 8:00 am---Breakfast

8:45 am – Entering and conducting an N4C Contest by Ken Johnson

Covering light boxes for prints, judging software, digital slide sizing, etc.

### 10:15 am---Break

10:30 am – “Do It Yourself Usually Overpriced Photo Accessories” by David Graham of Sioux Falls Camera Club

### 12:00 Noon---Lunch

1:00 pm – Creating Digital Slide Shows & Photo Essays by Jo Eland Apple Mac’s and Ken Johnson for PC Windows.

2:00 pm – “Umbrella for the Prairie: Prairie Chickens in Southern Iowa” by Stephanie Shepherd Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program.

### 3:00 pm---Break

3:15 pm – PHOTO SHOOT—Around the park or many still-life set-ups in meeting room.

Our wizard, Jerry Bonsack will have this year’s project - a multi-point pendulum with LEDs and fiber-optics fed by lasers. The end results will be light painted harmonographs.

5:15 pm – Print Judging (open to judging panel – Curt Stoever contest chair)

### 5:30 pm---Dinner

6:30 pm – Invitation to the Topeka 2011 Convention

6:50 pm – “Spring Migrating Birds” by Ty Smedes

8:00 pm – “Bird Photography Basics” by Mike Landwehr

### 9:00 pm---Refreshments

9:15 pm – Using Photography skills for old family photos and genealogy by Ken Johnson

## Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>

### 8:00 am---Breakfast (move out of lodge rooms by 9:00 am)

9:00 am – N4C Photo Essays—Dwight Tomes

9:45 am – Favorite Photography Stuff by Everyone

10:15 am – More N4C Photo Essays—Dwight Tomes

11:00 am – More Favorite Photography Stuff by Everyone

### 11:30 am ---Lunch

Have a good trip home and see you at the N4C Convention in Topeka September 9-11, 2011.

# Springbrook Program Notes



## Spring Migrating Birds by Ty Smedes



It should be something new for everyone, and will include the smaller birds that most people don't even notice, let alone photograph. Lots of colorful warblers and other migrant birds, and lots of images of birds catching insects & worms, at nests, feeding young, etc..

Ty is author of "[Capturing Iowa's Seasons](#)" (his 1<sup>st</sup> book), and to be released this summer "The Return of Iowa's Bald Eagles".

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## Umbrella for the Prairie: Prairie Chickens in Southern Iowa by Stephanie Shepherd (DNR)



In the late 19th century the Greater Prairie Chickens (*Tympanuchus cupido cupido*) was a popular and common game bird on Iowa's landscape. The 1950's saw the demise of this charismatic bird in the state with the last nesting attempt recorded in 1952. Roughly 30 years later efforts began to bring this iconic symbol of prairie grassland back and while success has been questionable many positive and unexpected things have arisen from this bird's return to Iowa. And the story continues with plans for a future effort to bring the boom back to southern Iowa's prairies.

## Bird Photography Basics by Mike Landwehr



Bird photography is a popular pursuit for many nature photographers. Whether you're thinking about giving bird photography a try for the first time, or already an experienced bird photographer, Mike's discussion of six keys to successful bird photography should help you improve your results. Most of the keys to successful bird photography apply equally to other types of wildlife photography. For those who simply appreciate beautiful bird photographs, Mike's presentation includes a number of his favorite images.

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## Inexpensive Do-It-Yourself versions of commonly advertised and usually overpriced photography accessories by Dave Graham



The presentation will cover 18 D.I.Y. Photographic Accessories as well as three really useful additions to the kit of the physically unsteady, less-than-robustly-backpacking photographer. Just a few of the items: Car window camera bracket for \$5.00, Home-made gimbal head, Flash extender, Grid for a flash from drinking straws, Digiscoping balance beam, and adapting several common household items for photo use.

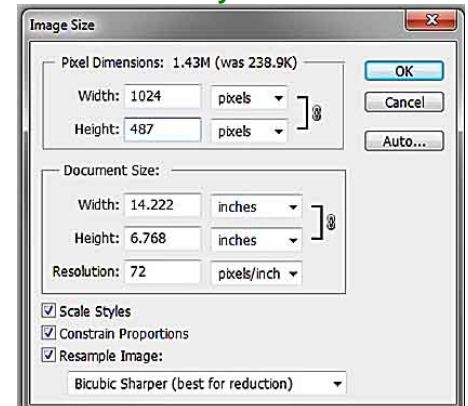
## Creating Digital Slide Shows & Photo Essays by Ken Johnson for PC Windows and Jo Eland Apple Mac's.



Tips will be given for creating dynamic slide shows – some of the do's and do not's. The group will then divide, depending on computer operating system, for demonstrations of creating a show using common software.

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## Entering and Conducting an N4C Contest by Ken Johnson



This will be a mock contest where we will review essentials for preparing all types of entries for contests, discuss judging methods, use of light boxes for judging prints, N4C judging software, and awards.

| Microsoft Excel - ENTRIES                          |     |   |     |   |     |       |                                                                  |             |          |    |    |    |     |     |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----|---|-----|---|-----|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Security - 3 judges for each                       |     |   |     |   |     |       |                                                                  |             |          |    |    |    |     |     |
| Technique, Composition, Interest & Judges comments |     |   |     |   |     |       |                                                                  |             |          |    |    |    |     |     |
|                                                    | T   | C | C   | I | I   |       | S                                                                | P           | O        | R  | S  |    |     |     |
|                                                    | tot | C | tot | C | tot | Total | Award                                                            |             |          |    |    |    |     |     |
| 1                                                  | 5   | 5 | 5   | 5 | 4   | 5     | Comment                                                          | Spell Check | Comments | 15 | 14 | 43 | 1st |     |
| 2                                                  | 4   | 5 | 5   | 4 | 4   | 5     | lighting superb, nice iness, framing of subject                  |             |          | 14 | 13 | 15 | 42  | 2nd |
| 3                                                  |     |   |     |   |     |       | wow great subject, placement could be improved by cropping left! |             |          |    |    |    |     |     |

# Springbrook Program Notes



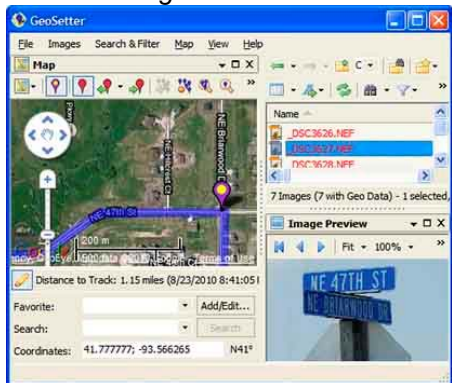
## Incidents of Travel in Asia by Gerry and Hope Solomons



We fell in love with Asia more than 20 years ago, and this love affair has continued. It can be a difficult area in which to travel, and many times we are glad to get home. But the call of Asia is hard to resist, and within a short time we start planning our return. We all have memories of the places we've been—some good, some bad—but now and then a particular experience imprints itself in your mind and becomes an "incident" you will never forget. Let us share some of our "Incidents of Travel in Asia" with you.

## Geotagging Photos by Ken Johnson

*Late evening extra credit session*



.....For landscape photographers and for other reasons of documentation it is helpful to record GPS location data to include in the metadata of photos. This can quickly link a photo to something like Google maps and pin point the location of the shot. I will show the workflow of using a hand-held GPS unit and software to synchronize the files, load into Photoshop Lightroom and link to common mapping programs. Members are encouraged to share techniques with each other at this session.

## Using Photography Skills for Old Family Photos and Genealogy by Ken Johnson

*Late evening extra credit session*



.....While not usually seen in N4C contests, family photos and particularly old snap shot prints and studio photos are some of the most precious photos we have. They need to be preserved, identified and shared with family members and the younger generations. We can use our photo skills to record genealogy with photos, to repair, enlarge, enhance, and print copies of old photos. We can create family photo essays that can be shared on CD's and viewed from DVD's. We will look at popular "Family Tree Maker" software and see examples of shows.

## N4C Photo Essays by Dwight Tomes



All the entries in the annual Photo Essay contest will be shown. Winners will not be announced until the Convention.

## Favorite Photography Stuff by Everyone



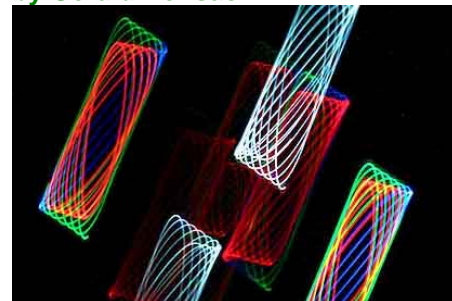
Everyone is encouraged to bring a favorite photo gadget or piece of equipment – any item related to photography. Give a very brief review and show it to the group. What do you carry in your pack, bag, or vest -- whether it is common or unusual?

## PSA Council Challenge Awards by Gene Schwope



N4C won 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in this year's Photographic Society of America Council Challenge. and 1<sup>st</sup> place in prints, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in slides, and a 3-way tie for 5<sup>th</sup> place in digital. Individual awards will be presented and entries from the 13 camera councils will be shown.

## Photoshoot with the Wizard by Gerald Bonsack



April 29, 30, & May 1, 2011

## N4C SPRINGBROOK CAMP-IN

### Springbrook State Park

Near Guthrie Center, Iowa

Mark your calendar NOW to attend.

Complete the registration form and send it along with your check NOW.

DEADLINE DATE for arrival of your registration is Wednesday, April 20.

NO registration will be accepted after the deadline date of April 20.

PLEASE – This means that you have to mail your registration BEFORE April 20.

A confirmation email will be sent out to you upon the receipt of your money and registration.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: N4C - SPRINGBROOK CAMP – IN

Return Registration & check to: Delores Meister  
421 Pleasant View Dr.  
Solon, IA 52333

Questions?  
phone: 319-624-2516  
email: [LDKlikmeister@aol.com](mailto:LDKlikmeister@aol.com)

Please PRINT

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Eve. Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

City-State-Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of \_\_\_\_\_ camera club in N4C

|                                                                                                                                      | Number of people | Total cost           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Package #1: Dorm Room Use @ \$91 per person<br><i>(Includes: Meals &amp; lodging in dorms. Bring your own soap &amp; toiletries)</i> | _____            | \$ _____             |
| Package #2: Day Use @ \$76 per person<br><i>(Includes: Meals &amp; day use learning center. <b>Not use of dorm room</b>)</i>         | _____            | \$ _____             |
|                                                                                                                                      |                  | Grand Total \$ _____ |