



~ Lynn Nunn ~
October, 2011
Photographer of the
Month

When asked to write something about myself and my photography, I decided to take a different approach than what one might expect. I decided to write about my life and how my love for photography evolved, because I have loved taking photos for as long as I can remember. As a child, I was fixated on my View Master and a wooden Fisher Price play camera (yes, I am old enough to have had wooden toys instead of plastic ones!). I don't know when my parents decided to buy me my first camera, but I have multiple photo albums dating back to 1968, which would put me between 9 and 10 years old when I started my photographic journey. The photo at the right I took of my father and brother on a camping trip to Colorado in the Summer of 1968 when my brother was 4.



This photo was taken in 1970, again of my brother, at an animal park in San Antonio. My family took a road trip to Southern Texas and just over the border of Mexico and we stopped at an animal park with a petting zoo, similar to Arbuckle Wilderness. I took pictures of everything – friends, family, all of my houses, pets, birthday cakes, literally everything. Taking pictures has been a joy for me my entire life and I have rarely been without a camera; I remember having a camera that had the 4-way bulb you put on top of the camera and it spun around for 4 flash pictures, and then you changed the flash bulb. I remember being fascinated by how the bulbs looked after they were used – it amazes me of the things you can remember from your childhood. I thought the coolest thing in the world was my first Polaroid camera that gave me instant photos!

I took this photo of my brother and one of our **MANY** St. Bernards in 1970. For some reason, when my mother remarried, she and her new husband were infatuated with St. Bernards – an infatuation that lasted many, many years – our first Saint was Duchess, pictured at the right. Dig that orange shag carpet in this photo?? If you are someone like me who has taken photos their whole life, I think it is so cool that you have your own personal time capsule. I still vividly remember most of my cameras through the years, and the excitement you felt when you picked up your photos from the developer, **AND** having to wait at least a week to get them back!



Fast forward to college, where I took only a few hundred photos of my friends, my dorm room, the band members (yes I was a band geek in high school and college), the band directors, the places we visited on band trips – you name it. I always had a camera at hand. And frankly, when you really stop and think about it, you can't remember even a small portion of your life unless you have it captured in photos or diaries – and photos are so much more stimulating to your mind – it takes you back to that time, even if only for a moment. I feel one of the biggest gifts a photographer has is his or her ability to capture events in their own life to revisit again and again.

After college and marriage, I started taking photography seriously, purchased my first SLR camera (a Minolta), and took photo classes and darkroom techniques at the nearby junior college, then known as "Sock Joc". I took photos quite a lot in the 80's until I got into the cat fancy in 1988. I never stopped taking photos, but it again became a sideline while I bred and showed Maine Coons (a pedigreed domestic cat) from 1990 to 1997. This photo was taken in about 1996, and has one of my friend's daughters being goofy by sticking her head through the hole in a cat tree, with the white kitten playing in her hair.





Fast forward to 2007 when I retired from the cat fancy, and I knew I wanted to get back into photography on a serious level. I bought my first digital SLR, a Canon Rebel, in December 2007, and I was off – but this time to learn and perfect the art of photography. However, I don't feel you ever "perfect" the art of photography, but rather, learn as much as you can and be the best that you can be. A few months after getting my DSLR I went online to look for a local camera club, and well, the rest is history. This photo was one of the first I took with my new DSLR and even though its not a great photo, I loved it because of the moon behind the copper art during daylight – I just thought it was really cool to have bright blue skies, the moon and some neat artwork in the same photo.

So, you now have seen a mini photo pictorial of my life. I want to share a few of my favorite photos since joining the Metro Camera Club, and feel blessed to have been able to share a small part of my life with each of you, and hope that it wasn't too terribly boring ☺ --



I love glass, so I took this photo at one of our recent Arts Festivals and really like all the color and textures you can see in this photograph.



This is a photo of my best friend and my god-daughter, who is my photo protege´. She wants to join the Metro Camera Club this fall because, as she states: “I want to do those cool Treasure Hunts!”. She is already showing a great deal of promise and earned a First Place ribbon in this year’s Shoot the Wild OKC Zoo photo contest, as well as a First Place ribbon at the State Fair of Oklahoma, with the photo below. I must point out, however, I did very little retouching on this photo before submission – she had the idea of shooting half the lion’s head – it wasn’t cropped by me. She really thinks outside the box sometimes, using funky angles and taking photos like this one.





I like photography of all kinds, from macro photography to landscapes, from people to architecture.



I recently had the pleasure of joining a Mississippi Kite release in Noble, Oklahoma. Hundreds of these young birds were burning up and dying in the tops of trees because of the summer heat here. They were dropping to the ground when they left their nests to seek shelter from the sweltering heat. Hundreds were rescued and taken to WildCare in Noble. They were rehabilitated and released back into the wild a few weeks ago. It was an awesome experience, and most of us in attendance got to release one of the rescued birds.



And finally, I will mention how much I enjoy the club's field trips. The capitol, although needing some work, is a beautiful piece of architecture, and I really enjoyed the recent field trip to the capitol, as I had not been there since the dome was installed. The architectural elements in this building are incredible!

Thank you, Metro Camera Club

- For the opportunities you have given me, for letting me tell a little bit of my life's history, and to share what a joy photography is for me.

Lynn Nunn