Alternate Reality in the Swamp
by Bill Barnett, MSPE

Elk River Swamp, Kansas (Sony A7 Sii, 24mm f/1.4, iso 200, 1/60 second)

We see only a tiny part of the electromagnetic spectrum. Looking at the big picture of the world around us, we see barely more than a bug. What if we could see more of the spectrum? Looking at the universe, there are arguably more than three dimensions; we just see three of them. How would our world look to someone from a different star system? They might be living in a world of mostly infrared light or ultraviolet light or any other part of the spectrum. When we assume there are other intelligent beings out there, we assume they would be like us. Even if they had the same base design, their sight must be evolved to their own spectrum and their own environment. How would they see something if they traveled here? And how would things look to us on a planet orbiting a red dwarf star? Or blue giant? What would our world look like to someone viewing us from a different dimension, if they could?

If you want to travel there, then let your imagination go, and travel there in your mind. Creativity and new discovery do not come from seeing the same thing the same way. Exercise the imagination. What would the world around us look like if we saw it from different eyes or from a different dimension? You don't need drugs, only a free imagination.

This photo is of a swamp in Kansas. There really are swamps there. It could almost be the deep South coastal region, except the trees are different. It seems magical being there, even in morning light. The backwaters of a flood-control lake formed a swamp in the middle of a forest in the middle of a prairie. No one would think it could be there without seeing it for themselves. It is a hidden gem visited only by wildlife, a few fishermen, and the rare explorer.

The original photograph was color-graded to take the dull-looking raw file to a natural look. Then the colors were inverted, and the brightness was inverted. It was beyond any more color-grading after that. **Ω**