

VIEWFINDER



Volume XXXXIII no. 7

MARCH, 2004

COMPETITION RESULTS: PHOTOGRAPHERS' CHOICE II

TYRO DIVISION: 6 entries, 24 images, 24 accepted Average score: 20.3

GOLD	Judy Pucher	COZUMEL BEACH HOUSE
SILVER	Michel Gagnon	COL DE L'AUBISQUE, PYRENEES
HM	Christiane Delage	MOUNTAIN TRACK
HM	Michel Gagnon	MOUNTAIN ROAD
HM	Judy Pucher	HIBISCUS

ADVANCED DIVISION: 8 entries, 32 images, 24 accepted Average score: 18.8

GOLD	Clark Bales	DAYS END
SILVER	Virginia Simone	WHERE'S MY DINNER
HM	Clark Bales	HALCYON HAVEN
HM	Corinne Deverell	PENGUINS JUMP

SUPERSET DIVISION: 13 entries, 52 images, 48 accepted Average score: 20.1

GOLD	Judy Griffin	DUNES AT SUNRISE
SILVER	Alan McCord	HOCKLEY VALLEY
HM	Carm Griffin	BAKING VESSEL & OVEN
HM	Judy Griffin	WINDOW STUDY
HM	Rob Kennedy	MORNING REFLECTION
HM	Andre Kleyhans	DOZENS OF DUNES
HM	Andre Kleyhans	MISTY MORNING

GOLD OF THE MONTH: Judy Griffin DUNES AT SUNRISE

JUDGES: Bill Morrissey, Latow PG; Ron Manning, Mississauga CC; Dave Perry, Toronto CC.

FEBRUARY 23 MEMBER SHOW: BEAUTY OF THE NEAR NORTH - ANDY HEICS.

Andy's presentation, titled Beauty of the Near North, was an illustrated tutorial on photography techniques, somewhat shortened because of the 3 competition salons presented in the first half of the evening. And he reinforced his comments with images he's taken within 3 hours of Toronto (the near north).

The compositional points Andy emphasised are as follows:

1. Know your subject - we're drawn to what appeals to us:
 - be aware of the direction of the lighting,

- use the viewfinder as an aid for positioning your subject in the image,
 - select your lens & shooting position depending on the subject setting, background, and what you want to include/eliminate,
 - decide on exposure (your decision whether or not to bracket),
 - pay attention to the changing light which can change rapidly when clouds are fast moving, and depending on the time of day.
2. Rule of Thirds – consider the focussing screen being divided into 3 rows & 3 columns, and therefore, having 2 horizontal & 2 vertical lines and place your subject at one of the 4 intersecting points. Some cameras have a built-in grid feature/option which you can activate,

and which may inherently include the 4 intersecting points.

3. Decide whether you should use the typical landscape (horizontal) or the portrait (vertical) format for your image.

And when you've completed your evaluation of the above, then consider the following points - which are listed in no specific sequence:

- note that our eye is drawn to the brightest areas of an image,
- generally place horizon higher or lower in the scene, depending on whether you are emphasising the water/earth subject matter or the sky,
- watch for corner vignetting which can occur when you use multiple filters, or a filter on an extremely wide-angle lens,
- look for images which include complementary colours (yellow vs. blue, etc.), but in sports photography, Andy shoots subjects having more brilliant colours,
- use side-lighting to enhance shape,
- consider using an incident light meter to measure exposure, but you may have to adjust exposure for bright & dark subject matter,
- for winter subject matter, over-expose your image based on your in-camera meter reading (Andy over-exposes by up to 3 stops depending on the subject matter),
- use depth-of-field preview button if your camera has one,
- use the weather to benefit your final image - use of a long exposure can make blowing snow appear as fog,
- in high-contrast light, use a diffuser to even-out the light, or a reflector to insert fill light in a nature subject,
- use the rule-of-thirds to position your subject, but position it 1/3rd into the image - leaving space for it to move/look, etc., into the space,
- consider making your nature image a nature story,
- focus on an animal's eyes, they must be sharp,
- sunset images – expose for the highlights (use your in-camera spot meter and measure just outside the actual sun circle), and use a tripod and cable release and/or self-timer for long exposures,
- use a polarising filter to enhance water images (lily pads, etc.) by reducing/minimizing reflection,

- when creating star trails, point the camera to the north star to get the circular pattern due to the earth's rotation, and set exposure depending on length of streaks you want (use neutral density filter(s) and/or polariser to increase exposure time),
- to achieve the satiny flowing of water, shoot slower than 1/30th of a second, and it's a good idea to shoot where you have reflected colour throughout and can minimise white-water areas.
- use 50 or 100 ISO film to minimise film grain,
- for canoe/kayaking, the Minden area is good in the summer, but several points: shoot to include colourful clothing, be sure to get face/eye contact, and use at least 1/500 shutter speed,
- for maximum subject sharpness, check that you have the film plane & the subject plane parallel,
- use panning in action photography to maintain sharpness in the subject and blur the background - practice makes perfect,
- and, remember the Sunny 16 Rule, correct exposure will be f 16 at 1/ISO. This means that on a sunny day the exposure for 100 ISO film would be f 16 at 1/100 sec, or some equivalence thereof (f11 @ 1/200; f8 @ 1/400; f22 @ 1/50, etc.).

Andy's presentation contained a wealth of useful and relevant information for our many new members, and was an excellent review for the more experienced members.

MARCH 1 PRESENTATION: MORNING IS BROKEN: DON DAWSON - ECC.

Don told us that his intent in this presentation is to create a mood with his images, which he certainly did through his absolute use and control of light, shadow, and also through the composition of his images. Don is a nature photographer par excellence, has conducted numerous nature workshops, and over the years has presented his shows to many of the GTCCC member clubs. He's a former member of Toronto Camera Club, and for the past 4 years has called Etobicoke CC his home club.

The title of his show is most appropriate, as Don is and has been an early riser (is regularly up at 5:00 a.m.) for most of his working days and since retirement, and makes regular photographic

sojourns to James Gardens and vicinity for the early morning light - hence the title Morning is Broken. For years his ritual was to photograph in the park en route to work. Quite an accomplishment! And the images Don showed us are testament to his dedication, vision, and technique.

Don commented that he:

- never uses flash, but uses reflectors and ones as simple as crumpled metal foil,
- takes multiples of an image rather than getting dupes made - which results in every image being an original,
- normally underexposes $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ stop,
- to determine exposure for macro work, he inserts a grey card into the subject area and positions it facing the sun so it's illuminated the same as the subject, and takes his meter reading off the card,
- determines the required depth of field, and adjusts shutter speed to get the correct exposure,
- uses a versatile combination of 200mm lens and bellows,
- does tie natural nuisances, such as stray grass, etc., out of the way, but unties them unharmed after completing his image.

At the conclusion of his presentation Don demonstrated his bellows assembly.

Thanks, Don. We all learned by seeing your masterful use of early morning light, shadow,

MARCH 8: MEMBER PHOTO ESSAY EVENING:

We were entertained with no fewer than 9 photo essays by 6 of our club members. This evening started a number of years ago as a photo essay competition, and although we had several successful seasons as such, the current format as an evening for members to do any type of presentation - formal, or experimental as with Julian's show this year - seems to be more successful, and rewarding for the participants.

In sequence of presentation, they were:

- Andre Kleynhans - a delightful visual show to music of the rolling farmlands of an area 50 km east of Cape Town,
- Mark Bargent - a work-in-progress of a number of scenes of the environs of a tree through the 4 seasons, adjacent to his previous home in Flesherton,
- Rob Kennedy - 2 shows: the first was a compilation of images taken by club members

on club outings since June 2003, the second on the theme of water, including creative techniques for which Rob is so well-known,

- Maggie Sale - an updated version of her show titled Red Hot in which every image contains an element of red,
- Julian Sale - an experiment sequence of images to create a 3rd image, which was a montage of the two original images,
- Diane Sawatzky - 2 shows: Deep Peace - images taken in Cemeteries, Cloisters, & Abbeys in France (with both monochrome & colour images), and People of Trinidad - a brief collage of people images taken on her recent trip to Cuba.

MARCH 22 MEMBER SHOW: DIGITAL SHORTS - CARM & JUDY GRIFFIN.

Judy introduced 4 digital image shows which she & Carm have created using Vegas 4, a Video-editing software which happens to have excellent still-image show capabilities. The first show was an update of their Car Cemetery - their first venture into digital presentation 2 years ago. Each show included both scanned-film and digital images.

- Car Cemetery show consisted of some 25 film images which Judy manipulated in Photoshop to create some 130 images in sequences of evolving patterns & colours to show the rust and deterioration of the old vehicles.
- Grand Manan is their vision impression of the island: coastal fog, dew drops on webs, and on wild flowers, and the quaint fishing villages.
- Autumn Farewell deals with the changes the season brings and its beautiful array of textures & colours. One sees the magical blend of the seasons as fall winds down and winter signals its intent. This show concluded with an embedded video clip of falling snow.
- Spring Awakening focuses on the many signs of spring with its lush colours and delicate renewal.

OUTING - APRIL 17TH :

Rob has scheduled an outing to the Distillery District (Gooderham Worts) for April 17th. Meeting time is 8:30 a.m. Rob reports there's lots of interesting subject matter to photograph, including the Distillery architecture, people, cafes, nostalgic machinery, and "whatever tickles your fancy". And there's a coffee shop & restaurant for those who'd prefer to just "hang around". Save

film (flash card space) for a continuation down to Cherry Street to check out the interesting old shipping yards down by the lake. Rob will have a sign-up sheet at the membership table, so do plan to participate - and then provide images for Rob's photo-essay on outings next year.

2004 GTCCC COMPETITION RESULTS:

Attached is the handout from the Kodak Presentation, listing individual and club winners in the 4 competitions, and the Freedman, and the sponsors.

- We should congratulate Andre Kleynhans who won the Best Landscape and an HM in Pictorial, and an HM in Nature, and also Don Poulton who won an HM in Pictorial. I'll pass on the individual scores to the ECC participants and our club standings when we receive them later this week. We'll return the slide entries at our April 5th meeting.
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JANUARY CAPA COMPETITION RESULTS:

Pictorial Slides:

- ECC standing 5th of 34 clubs,
- Individual honours - HM for Diane Sawatzky.

Nature Slides:

- ECC standing 5th of 27 clubs, no Individual honours.

Prints - our first club entry:

- ECC standing 7th of 14 clubs,
 - Individual honours - HM for Carm Griffin.
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MAY 29 PORTRAIT WORKSHOP:

Rod Lord has organised a portrait workshop to be conducted by Lynn Holden (Lynn presented a How to Take Good People Pictures seminar October 27th, 2003). It will be a 2-hour workshop conducted May 29th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in James Gardens. The focus will be individual and group portraits. Price will be \$20.00 per person, with a minimum of 10 and maximum of 15 participants. Contact Rod to secure your place.

WEB SITES:

Bill Harrison has provided the following website: www.steves-digicams.com. It's a site which provides camera, printer, accessory reviews, and what really caught Bill's interest and which he highly recommends is the "photo of the day". Note that there's archival listing of previous "photo of the day".

Epson: A couple of weeks ago I received a snail mail notice regarding Epson's annual Print Academy tour. While checking out that description on line I noticed reference to Epson's Print Academy Online Experience and subscribed to it. It's CAD \$29.99, but for the \$ you download tutorial video clips of about 15 minute's duration, 5 days a week for 17 weeks by such people as Julieanne Kost (Photoshop's evangelist with tutorials & tips etc., on Photoshop CS), Jay Maisel (on street photography in New York, etc.) Bruce Dale, National Geographic photographer discusses photographing people, Marc Holbert the major printer for Nash Editions in California discusses inkjet printing, and Henry Wilhelm of Wilhelm Imaging Research discusses archival inkjet printing, and surprise, surprise, mentions the increased archival quality of some inkjets ink/paper combinations over chemical prints. That's the people so far, and we're now into day 21. For Judy & I, it's the best 15-minute daily value for the \$. To sign up for this excellent programme, phone Kathleen Murphy at Epson - 416-498-4574 and ask about the Online Experience, and how you can sign up. Please note that I receive no benefit from promoting this.

SLIDE-OF-THE -YEAR COMPETITION:

Diane Sawatzky announced at our last meeting that it's time to get your images ready for the slide-of-the-year competition. This competition is closed to the membership and the results are shown and awards handed out at the Annual Banquet May 10th held at the Canadiana Restaurant.

All winning (Gold, Silver, & HM) images are eligible, and every member can submit up to 3 images which they entered in regular competition this year and which received an 18 or higher score. This competition has no categories - all submitted images are judged together as one category.

April 19th is the last club night to submit entries.

AGFA PHOTO COMPETITION:

Agfa is holding a Black and White Competition, the motto "move it!". Check the Agfa web site <http://www.agfa.com/photo/multicontrast-competition/> and select your language of choice to read the description and rules. In June a jury of experts will chose the best images from all the entries, and the top 3 winners will each receive a Hasselblad 501 CM camera.
