



# The Reflector



[www.delawarecameraclub.org](http://www.delawarecameraclub.org)

Delaware Photographic Society

April 2003

Founded in 1931 as the Delaware Camera Club, serving DE, southeastern PA, southern NJ, and eastern MD

## President's Perspective

This month's program will feature our fascinating Annual Photo Essay Contest. Unlike other competitions throughout the year, photo essay allows us to tell the story as it develops (no pun intended, well...maybe just a bit). This is an opportunity to capture the sequence of events according to your own special perspective and present it for others to appreciate. Whether slides or prints, there are categories for each. If you haven't already done so, you still have time for this interesting self assignment. Entry forms are available at regular meetings. Contact Photo Essay Chairman, Laszlo Hopp, for details.

March Print Night Competition hit a new record for the number of prints entered. It was due in part to the cancellation of the previous month's competition because of the snowstorm, resulting in doubling up on the judging of Assigned Subjects for two months. However, that was not the only factor. The popularity of print making is growing as more of us take to the digital darkroom and photo quality ink jet printers. For the record, we had 25 entries in Creative Abstract, 73 in Open and 78 in Assigned Subjects for a total of 176 prints. Bear in mind, this year we reduced the number



*Jeff Smith and Ray Magnani negotiate a high stakes transaction at DPS Swap Night. Photo Bob Coffey*

of entries in Open from 3 to 2. Just for comparison, Slide Night Competition had 21 Creative, 65 Open and 40 Assigned Subject entries for a total of 126. That explains why Slide makers get to go home early, while Print makers must scramble to finish before they kick us out at 10:00 p.m. Frankly, this type of growing pain is a welcome problem. It is certainly gratifying to see that participation is growing, not only in quantity, but in quality. We are seeing exciting work from our newer members. We applaud your efforts and urge you to keep up the good work.

*Bob*

## Annual DPS Photo Essay Contest April 28 • 7:30 p.m.

Our annual contest will be held on the regularly scheduled program night. Once again we have an excellent judging panel. Please note that the program will begin at 7:30 p.m.

### Upcoming Events

- April 7th  
7:30 p.m. *Instruction Night*
- April 8th  
6:30 p.m. *Exploratory Committee Meeting*  
Newark Library (page 10)
- April 14th  
7:30 p.m. *Slide Night*
- April 21st  
7:30 p.m. *Print Night*
- April 26th  
DVCCC Spring Fling (page 9)
- April 28th  
7:30 p.m.  
*Annual Photo Essay Contest*



## Six Shooting Errors

Contributed by  
Herb Gustafson, Hon.PSA, FPSA

### 1. Cluttered Edges

This happens all the time: you spy a great moment and quickly grab a shot, oblivious to the stray objects littering the picture frame. Before you take a shot, be sure to check the edges of your frame for unwanted intrusions, then simply move your camera angle to get them out of the frame.

### 2. Too Far Away

If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough. More often than not, moving closer will get rid of some useless space and create a photo with more impact. It may help to crop a picture after it's been taken, but you should learn to see before you shoot.

### 3. Lost in the Dark

Remember that in photography, a viewer tends to look at the brightest area of a picture first, and assumes that it's the center of interest. While you can't always place your subject in a well-lit spot, there are alternatives. The most feasible method is to move in closer and eliminate the lighter areas. If that isn't possible, you can shed a little light on your subject by using a fill flash, or in less contrasty light, it may help to use a white card or mirror to bounce extra light onto the subject.

### 4. Wrong Technique

Once you've mastered the technical fundamentals of a new photographic tool, it may be hard to find a subject that's appropriate for its

use. Unusual techniques, multiple exposures, special effect filters, darkroom sleight of hand work to enhance some subjects, but not others. The best use of special techniques grow out of the demands of the subject. For example, a brightly lit Christmas tree could look all the more festive when photographed with a star filter. Before photographing, ask yourself exactly what kind of effect you're after and what device would help you achieve it.

### 5. Background Is Distracting

Even the best shot can be ruined by what's behind your subject. There is usually something you can do to improve the background. Most important, of course, is to be aware of it. If it's potentially confusing, it may help to change your angle. That is, route around your subject until you see an acceptable background in the viewfinder. Move up and down. If you can't change your angle or background, then open up your aperture to decrease your depth-of-field and throw the background out of focus.

### 6. What's the Subject?

When you see an interesting scene, do you try to jam as much of it as possible into a single picture? We are all guilty of this, especially when traveling. While these crowded shots may be good for memories, they aren't visually pleasing. Before you shoot, ask yourself what is the most important element, what gives the subject its personality, and then play it up. You can emphasize it by making it the largest, brightest or sharp part of the picture.

## Questions & Answers

*Contributed monthly by Erik Kissa*

**Q:** *You told us that the lens you use mainly for flower photography is a Sigma zoom. Do you prefer independently made lenses made to the camera-brand lenses?*

**A:** Not really, eight of the eleven AF lenses I currently use are Nikkors. I have bought three independently made lenses because of their superior optical performance or useful features. The ultrawide 17mm f/3.5 is a Tokina PRO, the 70-300mm f/4-5.6 is a Sigma APO zoom, and the 28-200mm zoom is a Sigma (I sold my Tamron but if I will buy a newer model, it may be a Tamron again). If price is a consideration, independent lens manufacturers offer a good value and, in some cases, superior optics.

### MONOCHROME PRINTS: DEFINITION

**Q:** *When is a color print a monochrome print?*

**A:** The word monochrome means "one color", hence a monochrome print has only one color. In order to decide that a color print is a monochrome print we have to understand the meaning of the word "color". Colors are created by absorption of light at certain wavelengths in the visible spectrum. If light is absorbed completely, the surface is black. Black&white prints are called monochrome prints, their only color is black. A black&white print painted with a color is no longer a monochrome print, because it has now two colors - the black areas

and the color of the paint. However, when a black&white print is toned, it remains a monochrome print because the black color is replaced, not complemented, by another color.

The definition of a monochrome print hinges then on the definition of color. A color can be described by its lightness, chroma and hue. Color systems have been designed to express colors with numbers. The L\*a\*b\* color system is the easiest to explain. As an approximation, the L\*a\*b\* color system can be visualized as a stack of disks, like a stack of CD disks. The lightness of the disks decreases gradually from the white disk (L = 100) at the top to the black disk (L = 0) at the bottom. Now visualize that each disk is a color wheel. When moving along the edge of the disk, the hue changes from yellow (+b), to red (+a), blue (-b), green (-a), and back to yellow. The intensity of the color, called chroma, decreases along the radius from the edge to the center. (The chroma is sometimes equated with saturation but for photographers saturation has a different meaning). The lightness of the colors decreases from top to the bottom of the stack. The colors on the top white disk are extremely bright. In real life the colors are duller and are described by colors on the lower disks with a gray component.

A color print meets the monochrome definition when its colored areas have the same hue. The intensity (chroma) of the color may change but not the hue. Since black is a color, it should not be a significant component of the color print.

Colors have been defined by other color systems as well. Printing and design industries use the notation developed by the American artist Munsell. Each color is presented by a color chip with letters and numbers. Several more sophisticated color systems have been developed, the CIE color space and its modifications are most often used.

**Q:** *What does the dynamic range of a scanner mean?*

**A:** The dynamic range indicates how well shadow detail and highlights can be captured by the scanner. A value of 0 represents white and black has a value of 4. A dynamic range of four indicates that the scanner can capture the whole range of tonal values ranging from white to black, as recorded on film. A value of 3.4 is the minimum dynamic range for getting an acceptable scan. Best scanners have dynamic range values above 4.0. It is not quite obvious how the dynamic range can exceed the value of four. This is like saying that the scanner is better than film.

Send questions to [ekissa@aol.com](mailto:ekissa@aol.com)



**April Assigned Subject**  
*Into the Sun*

## Field Trips • Workshop • Field Trips

### • Hagley Field Trip

Chair: Val Donor

Co-Chair: Peter Lindtner

Date: Friday, April 25, 2003

Place: Hagley Mansion

Time: Arrive 9:45 a.m.

Please make a note on your calendar to join us at the Hagley Museum in Wilmington to photograph the gardens and grounds. Thanks to the influence of our member, Peter Lindtner, who is also the Gardner for Hagley, we will be allowed access to the grounds at Hagley free of charge. Thank you Peter! **Bring your tripods, macro and telephoto lenses.** Peter is also working on having an Exhibition of our prints taken at Hagley to be shown at Longwood Gardens. So take a lot of photos and show the world how good you are and how lovely Hagley's is. Obviously it will take more than one visit, and Peter will let us know when is the "peak" time. I will e-mail you as soon as Mother Nature delivers. If you have not already signed up —then e-mail me with your name, e-mail address and phone number. This is a tremendous opportunity for everyone! Come and have fun.

• **Valley Garden Park Oriental Motif Workshop:** Ray Firmani has planned an outdoor Oriental Motif workshop at the Valley Garden Park located on Route 82 just off Route 52 in Greenville, for **Saturday, May 17**, beginning at 10 am. Rain date: Sunday, May 18.

The park is ideally located for a workshop. It is easy to get to and has a beautiful stream running through it with several small dams,



Photo Ray Firmani

Valley Garden Park Workshop

which create many image reflection opportunities. There are flowering trees, and if nature cooperates, the hillsides should be loaded with blooming daffodils and other flowers. We shall have several beautiful oriental models in kimonos with colorful parasols to enhance our vistas. Bill Talarowski and I will help set up photo ops to aid members and make this a memorable occasion.

We had a similar, very successful workshop a few years ago and the resulting photographs still show up in our monthly contests. We are also entertaining the possibility of having a special showing of the pictures taken at this event so that we can compare what was photographed. This would be very interesting to see how differently the members work. **Bring tripods, flash guns and plenty of film.**

**Directions:** Take Route 52 north through Greenville, turn left onto Route 82, (Campbell Rd.). The park entrance is just a short distance on your left.

### • June Field Trip—Rickett's Glen Park • June 6-8, 2003

Chair: Val donor

Co-Chair: Kathy Tyrrell

Clear your calendar for the weekend of June 6-8! We hope you'll join us for a field trip to Rickett's Glen State Park, PA.

Located on 13,005 acres spanning three counties, the park's attractions include forested hillsides, a scenic lake and 22, yes 22 waterfalls! Camping is available and reservations are suggested. A good place to stay for non-campers is the Super 8 motel just off I-80 at Mifflinville. From the motel, a drive of about 25 miles provides numerous photo possibilities, including barns, picturesque stream views, covered bridges and occasional wildlife, such as deer and wild turkeys.

The waterfall trail, a loop-trail of about 7 miles, is an all-day hike. The trails provide an array of subjects as well. The old growth forest is filled with ferns, mountain laurel and a wide variety of flora and fauna. The trails have steep, rocky sections, but are excellently maintained. Come out and have fun!

### • Finger Lakes Region, NY

Are you interested in photographing colorful leaves, scenic lakes, charming villages, and indulging in a bit of wine-tasting? Contact Marj Whitmore to sign up for a DPS trip to New York's famous Finger Lakes Region, **October 17-19, 03**. More details in the May issue of *The Reflector*.



# 70th Wilmington International Exhibition



◀ WIEP Print Docent, Karl Leck discusses Tom Oathout's print, "Courtney" with Monica Nagy, Courtney in real life, and Tom.



▶ *Just One* by Jan Stake

**People's Choice Awards** - There was a tie for local winner between Tom Oathout for *Courtney* and Bill Talarowski for *Last Rays of Sun*. The Non-local winner was Jan Stake of Sweden for *Just One*.



Lynn Maniscalco (right) explains stereo photography to WIEP attendees.



Slide Show creator, Bram Saad discusses his show with two appreciative admirers.



Brett Breeding and Ray Firmani formed a powerful duo in conducting a digital portrait session in the lobby for those attending the WIEP. After Ray captured the image, the digital file was fed directly into Brett's lap top computer where it was tweaked in Photoshop and then sent to his ink jet printer...all in a matter of minutes. In this case, Al Webber, Sr. follows Ray's direction in posing for the camera. We appreciate their contribution of time, talent and toys for this very popular addition to our annual salon exhibit.

## Contests • Contests • Contests

### • PNC Bank Calendar

Once again it is time for the annual right of spring. That is, getting all your images together for the 2004 PNC Calendar. This is a great way to use the images of Delaware you have taken this past year. The main interest should be on location rather than nature, although having a pretty bunch of flowers in front of a historic site never hurts. Naturally, most of the shots we enter are taken right here in New Castle County where many of us reside, but if you want to have a better chance at acceptance, exploring Kent and Sussex County should bring a higher acceptance rate. The bank is paying \$135 for each image chosen and \$200 for the cover. If you have faces showing in a single shot of a person or a small group, you must have a model release.

You may give your images to Bill Talarowski at any of our meetings left this year. After that you will have to make arrangements with Bill to drop them off.

### • DPS Photo Essay Contest

**Program Night, Monday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m.** It is not too late to submit your entries in this year's competition. Your essay may be in prints or slides; it must tell a story, evoke emotion or set a mood. The print mounting boards may be any shape, but not to exceed 640 square inches. Entrants should arrive by 7 p.m. Complete entry rules and applications are available at DPS meetings. **Entry deadline is Print Night, April 21, 2003.**

### • DVCCC Spring Foto Fling

**Sat., April 26, 03, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.** Maple Shade Municipal Complex, 200 Stiles Ave, Maple Shade, NJ. The afternoon programs include *Surviving Nature* by Steve Green. Also, in the afternoon are the results of the 3rd DVCCC sponsored travel exhibition and table top setups, so bring your camera. The day is free to members of DVCCC member clubs and PSA members. Thanks to the DVCCC Travel Circuit whose proceeds fund this event.

## Instruction Night

Instruction Night sessions are held at the First Unitarian Church, 730 Halstead Road, Wilmington, DE 19803, beginning at 7:30 p.m. These popular classes are free to DPS members. For information, contact Education Director, Karl Leck.

### April 7: *If it Moves, Shoot It*

Karl Leck

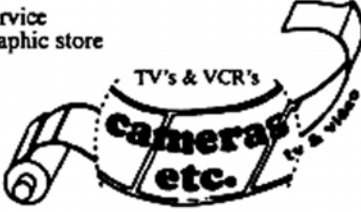
The April Instruction Night will be a discussion of capturing fleeting moments of moving subjects. We will review the modern camera features that make it easier now than ever before. Then learn how to think ahead into the moment you want to capture; what will it look like and how can it be captured. To better appreciate the subtle points that separate the exceptional "moments" from the rest, we will closely examine some action stopping images.

Karl Leck, an internationally recognized photographer of equestrian sports, will discuss his passion for capturing interesting subjects that move. You are invited to bring your own work and questions for discussion. But don't fall asleep because that very fleeting moment will be gone!

## Member News

Congratulations Steve Berkowitz for his Third Place and Honorable Mention awards in *The Horse of Delaware Valley's* 12th Annual Photo Contest, Best Pet Division.

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James F. Cycyk - President

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