



# Twin City Camera Club

## ViewFinder

Member: Photographic Society of America  
and The Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs

December 2006 Roll 70, Exposure 12

**Editor:** John Opie e-mail: [joscribbler@comcast.net](mailto:joscribbler@comcast.net) **Assistant Editor** Mary Lee Buckleitner  
**Website:** <http://www.twincitycameraclub.com>

**New Assistant Editor** is Mary Lee Buckleitner. Thanks Mary, for volunteering. Dennis Mally served for several years; he often wrote the Program Meeting report. Mary may also be called upon to publish an issue of the ViewFinder once in a while when your editor can't, but I promise to make it a cakewalk, Mary. We currently have upwards of 70 members, 16 of whom receive the VF in the regular mail, and the rest take it in e-mail.

### Upcoming Competition Subjects for 2006-7 Calendar (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month)

Jan--Antiquity

Feb--Sweets or treats

Mar--People at work or play

Apr--White

May--Upton Arboretum (you must be inside the arboretum boundary while taking the photo)

June—Nature

*Note: Be certain to review rules and procedures for competitions on the TCCC website:*

<http://www.twincitycameraclub.com/competition1.htm> Remember to e-mail digital images to [digital@twincitycameraclub.com](mailto:digital@twincitycameraclub.com), no later than the Monday one week before the competition.

### December Competition Honors (reported by Sharon Bogner, who also scores our competitions)

#### *Monochrome:*

1. Curtis Drake - "Becky"
2. Elaine Harju - "Beauty on the Beach"
3. Sharon Bogner - "Falcon with Mouse"
4. Bruce Newnum - "Mexican Grey Wolf"
5. Bruce Newnum - "Boats & Bridge"

#### *Color:*

1. Bud Friesen - "Silhouette"
2. Bud Friesen - "Fountain"
3. Bud Friesen - "Beach Walker"
4. Ralph Harju - "Exit and Entrance"
5. Elaine Harju - "Dinner"
6. Sharon Bogner - "Seed Pod Art"
7. Sharon Bogner - "Jennifer #1"
8. Sharon Bogner - "Mushrooms on Fallen Tree"
9. Gorson Drake - "Hat in a Window"
10. Gorson Drake - "Girl in Pink Dress #2"
11. Gorson Drake - "Girl in Hat"
12. Steve Dorsey - "Codey"
13. Jim Lynch - "Dutch Door"
14. Jim Lynch - "Blaney Park Fire Dept."
15. Barbara Yack - "Enter Ye that are Weary"
16. Curtis Drake - "Temple"
17. Curtis Drake - "Church"

**Remember:** There is no program meeting in December because of the holidays.

**Editor's Query:** Has anyone else experimented with **Adobe's Lightroom**, now in its beta 4 version? I've found it a fine way to download Raw, organize a collection of digital images, process, and print. Full version is supposed to be available in February at \$\$\$?

## **Bird of Prey Photo Workshop, Saturday February 10, 2007.**

The Outdoor Discovery Center in Holland, Michigan will be hosting its second annual Bird of Prey Day and Photography Workshop on Saturday, February 10, 2007.

\$25 per person

- lunch and event admission included
- birds on hand from falconers of the Michigan Hawking Club
- wildlife photography instruction by professional photographers Ed Post and John Dykstra
- multiple species of birds on-hand for natural setting shots

For more information visit the Outdoor Discovery Center web-site at [www.outdoordiscoverycenter.org](http://www.outdoordiscoverycenter.org).

You can also contact:

Jamie Krupka  
Program Director  
Outdoor Discovery Center of Wildlife Unlimited  
A-4214 56th Street  
Holland, MI 49423  
(616) 393-WILD

### ***Additional information from Ed Post and John Dykstra:***

March 3, 2007: Outdoor and Nature Photography Seminar at Hope College, Holland MI  
Capturing the image; post-photo workflow in Photoshop

April 24-27, 2007: Turkey Run Workshop  
Photoshoots of wildflowers, covered bridges, and much more; one-on-one instruction

Mid-September: The Pacific Northwest  
Great photography locations, great photo opportunities, joined by Outdoor Discovery Center

Phone: 616-669-1755, or e-mail: [johndykstra@yahoo.com](mailto:johndykstra@yahoo.com), or [erperp@chartermi.net](mailto:erperp@chartermi.net).

## Program Meeting on November 27 focused on Composition

Did you enter a photo at TCCC that is rejected, and then has an honor at SWMCCC? On a competition night do you shake your head in disbelief over a rejection, acceptance, and an honor? Don't we all agree that our competition judges can score us very differently from month to month? Think you know pretty well how to compose your photos? Or wonder how good composition happens? Then meet Ed Post, a professional photographer from Hudsonville, Michigan. With his colleague John Dykstra, he runs popular photography workshops and tours. Not that he claims to show us how to work magic with every photo we shoot. It is a life-long process that can be rewarded with exceptional images. Despite your competition experience from month to month, Ed Post sees a universal sense of composition. TCCC members learned from Ed Post that composition does have an important set of visible rules that make good images. Yes, exceptions to the rules can produce fine results, but in virtually all cases following a simple set of rules make for far better images.

When we try to find that right image that captures the scene before us, Post emphasized three key concepts for photographic composition:

1. Photography is the art of exclusion; eliminate confusing elements from the frame.
2. If an object doesn't add to the composition, it will detract from the composition.
3. Composition involves seeing (selecting) and showing (organizing) design elements.

Ed Post said we find *design elements* that shape the composition of a photograph: *line, texture, pattern, form, setting, color/tone*. Since such a list can seem too academic, he offered several good examples of how design elements control the impact of our photos. For example, strong diagonal features give the image a dynamic feel—force, energy, action, and motion. Horizontal lines, like the water line or horizon on Lake Michigan, are static, and create a feeling of tranquility, calm, and peacefulness. A vertical line, like a mountain or a skyscraper, is also static, but creates a sense of strength and grandeur. Curved “S” or “C” lines, like a river or a forest path, created a sense of elegance, gracefulness, and even the sensual.

Post also described the other design elements. *Texture* involves the surface feel of an object in the image, is most effective on small subjects, emphasizes detail, and is often a subordinate element in a composition. *Pattern*, or repetition, gives the image structure and unity, a visual rhythm. *Form* is more important than we often realize, since we work in a two-dimensional medium but usually want to show a three-dimensional world of objects, people, buildings, and scenes. *Setting*, or background, is always subordinate, should make the subject stand out, and should not compete with the main subject. Setting tells us context and should showcase the subject. *Color*, as we all know, is a complex problem. Ed Post went into issues of low and high contrast, analogous and complimentary colors, and warm and cool color temperatures. Warm colors advance the image; cool colors make an image recede.

Ed Post reminded us of the importance of the *Rule of Thirds*. “Bull’s Eye” compositions are usually static. There are photo “power points” where horizontal and vertical lines intersect when the image is divided into thirds. He also spoke of other composition elements for great photos: *balance, depth, format, illusion, simplicity, and vantage point*.

Post also reminded us, “Take your time.” “Work your subject” from different vantage points, lighting, and times of day. Above all, “Simplify,” then “Simplify” even more, and finally, *Simplify*! Thanks, Ed, for a challenging and fruitful evening. He also gives talks on lighting and equipment. Come again! Contact him at 616-669-1755, or [erperp@chartermi.net](mailto:erperp@chartermi.net).