



Twin City Camera Club

ViewFinder

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

June 2006 Roll 70, Exposure 6 Editor: John Opie Associate Editor: Dennis Mally

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This newsletter is available on the website or by regular mail. ViewFinder e-mail: joscribbl@comcast.net

Monday, June 26 Annual Year-End Judging. All your entries from 2005-6 competitions can be entered. Remember to bring your prints.

July 8th & 9th is the Krasl Art Fair and TCCC will again have a booth to display prints and promote TCCC. Reserve that date to work in the booth. Sign up sheet will be available later or call Len Anderson NOW (429-4126) if you have a time you wish to work.

Monday, August 7, Annual Picnic at Riverview Park. Meat courses will be provided.

SWMCCC Activities Reminder

Summer Weekend of Photography — July 27, 28, 29, 30 — Hope College, Holland, MI

Once again a great four days of “summer school” are being planned this year, with many popular carryover events as well as new venues and opportunities to learn, practice and improve your photography. The Weekend is organized with a great deal of flexibility to accommodate the needs of everyone. You can come for one day or stay for all four days in accommodations that are provided on campus. If you’ve not attended one of these weekends before I’m sure you’ll be impressed with both the offerings and the setting.

Besides SWMCCC’s *Counsellor* newsletter, check out <http://www.swmccc.org/> as this website has been recreated and contains up-to-date news on SWMCCC happenings including the spring competition and the Summer Weekend of Photography and Digital Imaging. The website is up and more information is being added weekly so check it often.

Birds of Prey Photo Shoot will take place on Saturday Oct. 14, 2006 at the Outdoor Discovery Center in Holland, MI. Introduction will be at 5:00pm. The shoot will begin after the intro and continue until dark. Sunset will be at 7:04pm that night with twilight ending around 7:30pm. The total cost for the program is \$250 split among the photographers that participate. A sign-up sheet and maps will be available at the picnic and at the September meetings. For more information, check with Sharon Bogner, who we thank for organizing this event.

First-Ever Northern Michigan Wild Flower Shoot on June 2-4 a Success.

Don Vander Molen reports that we had 9 club members and two guests up in Mackinaw City for the first Northern Michigan photo shoot. The weather was great. The group managed to find four Michigan Orchids and several other unique flowers in bloom. Plus, some great photos were taken of the bridge, Mackinaw Lighthouse, and surrounding area. Don says he hopes to do another shoot next June, perhaps one that is landscape oriented. Please contact Don Vander Molen with any comments or ideas.

Select Subjects for 2006-7 Calendar (2nd Monday of each month)

Sept--Parts of a motor vehicle

Oct--Neon sign(s)

Nov--Rivers or streams

Dec--Entryways

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

Honors Received for June 12 Competition (Select Subject: Nature)

B&W

Curtis Drake

1. Holland Lite House
2. Water Power

Color

Bud Friesen

1. Lunch Time
2. Red Lady Slippers

Rod Krieger

1. Fishing

Sharon Bogner

1. Hawk Portrait #1

Jim Lynch

1. Red Bellied Woodpecker

Slides

Don Vander Molen

1. Solomon's Seal
2. White Touch-Me-Not

Sylvia Schlender

1. White Swirls

Ralph Harju

1. Big Moth

Digital

Bruce Newman

1. Humming Bird in Flight
2. Male Blue Bird on Branch
3. Female Blue Bird on Branch

Jim Lynch

1. Pelican #2
2. Downey Woodpecker
3. Showy Lady Slipper
4. Blue Heron

Ken McKeown

1. Matched Pair

Tom McCall

1. Dancing Waves

Sharon Bogner

1. Nature's Way
2. Don't Bug Me
3. Butterfly on Cone Flower

May 22, 2006 Program Night
The Art and Technique of Creating Portraits of Children
John E. Owen

PPA/PPofM professional photographer
Former owner, D'Elegance Photography, Portage MI

John Owen (with his wife Jean) emphasized that excellent child photography doesn't demand the latest studio space. They have focused professionally on children and family photography. John distilled the essentials for child photography into several principles:

Collaborate with parents for creative ideas. Get beyond the "Norman Rockwell" white background.

Use a child's or family's personal props for that homey, intimate, friendly touch.

See the world through the child's eyes. What are they thinking about or seeing?

Keep a harmony of tones. Avoid clashing, contrasting, or extreme colors.

Remember the impact of backgrounds.

Make certain that the face stands out, not clothing, props, colors, etc.

The visual flow in the photo should center on the eyes.

Wall displays require large portraits. An 8 x 10 is simply too small for good observing and display. A 20 x 24 is much better, really the minimum.

John Owen also emphasized that there are two approaches to child photography. One is the grab or candid shot, truly a snapshot, which emphasizes spontaneity. Another is the orchestrated portrait shoot dedicated to serving specific parental desires. Neither approach is better than the other; they are simply different kinds of photography with different outcomes.

In a handout, John wrote, "The ultimate goal of the Owen's studio in Portage (MI) was to produce portraits that would be displayed on the walls of their clients' homes. A standard head and shoulder portrait seldom qualified. The portrait had to have a strong visual appeal." He added, "Photographing children is like launching a rocket—regardless of the detailed planning you never know if the effort is going to 'get off the ground.' Many times the best laid plans fell apart when the session began. Jean and I would work as a team: I'd stay behind the camera and act as 'director;' she'd work in front of the camera guiding the child on the set, and was, in 99% of the time, the one really responsible for getting a great image. I wanted perfection; but, it was she who was dealing with reality."

John Owens also took the time to answer a lot of questions. It was an impressive presentation. Afterwards, some members disagreed with the staging and props that were a strong feature of John Owen's style. One alternative was to keep it simpler, with only a figure or face in the image. Nevertheless, Owen's principles (above) hold true for most child and family photography.