



Twin City Camera Club

ViewFinder

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

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Next Competition Night Monday April 11: Night Photos

Images must be taken AFTER sundown. The sky does NOT have to be dark.

Twilight is acceptable.

Keep in mind:

May topic is: architecture; June topic is: Nature

A Reminder from Ken: Now is the time to recommend topics for the competition nights of 2005-2006, which will begin in September and run through June. Please include a brief description of your topic in order to help both participants and the judges.

Remember to get your digital slides to Dan a week in advance.

Spring SWMCCC is coming up: Entries due at April 25 meeting

One last reminder that entries are due as of our April 25 meeting. Entry fee is \$3.00 for four entries in any of SWMCCC's 11 categories including General Slides, General Digital Slides, Nature Slides, Nature Digital Slides, Portrait Slides, Portrait Digital Slides, Large Color Prints, Large Monochrome Prints, Nature Prints, Portrait Prints and Small Prints. Please email the digital entries to Don by April 25th. Sizing and format are same as for TCCC.

The judging will be at the Jackson Community College on May 22 and anyone is welcome to attend. The Spring Conference will be at Jackson Community College on June 3, 4 and 5, 2005. The Jackson Camera Club has planned several interesting events including a Friday night shoot at the Cascades Falls Park, a Sunday morning shoot at the nationally known Wilkins Hosta Garden (includes more than just the 1000 varieties of Hostas), Saturday evening banquet, print display and day long series of programs. The programs are digitally oriented and will include Terry White from Epson with a one hour seminar on Photoshop Elements and a one hour seminar on Photoshop CS, Dick Callen from Epson who will give an update on new Epson products plus demonstrations of printers and a scanner, and Bob Guilliani of Mid-Michigan Community College with a seminar on Digital Asset Management.

See the latest Counsellor for all the details and registration form. Fee is still an unbelievably low \$15.00 for the weekend.

Enjoying Nature

by Dennis Mally

I like looking at nature photos. (Who doesn't?) I especially enjoy the work of someone who specializes in the genre and does so with great skill; someone who knows how to find, "see", capture, process and print unique and beautiful images of the natural world we live in. I relish every opportunity to learn from such people, and it is a special pleasure to meet one who generously shares his "secrets" and can describe them in a clear, understandable and memorable way.

Such opportunities as this don't come our way often, but one did so on March 28th when Dean Pennala, a retired schoolteacher from Plainwell who has turned his 25-year hobby into a profession, visited TCCC. Dean conducted a two-hour travelogue/seminar that vicariously took us to beautiful and serene places ranging from Yankee Springs, which is just a few miles away, to the distant National Parks in the Western US.

Dean used a computer and digital projector for his presentation in which he interspersed statements of his photographic philosophy, and provocative quotations from other artists, with dozens of his landscape images. Most photos had been captured on film (Fuji Velvia), then digitally scanned and adjusted in Photoshop. About four months ago Dean switched to using a digital camera (Nikon D70 and D2x) and believes now that they are superior to film. He included a few of these digitally captured images in his presentation as well.

Throughout the visual journey Dean explained the "what", "when", "why", "how" and "where" for each projected image. I attempted to scribble some of these in my notes, and the ones that I could read when the lights came back on I share with you here:

- Good photos should translate both vision and feeling; evoke an emotion.
- Everyone's way of seeing is different; so don't expect others to "see" what you do.
- Photography is about light. Chase and observe light to capture good images.
- Soft, painterly light is ideal for nature shots.
- Use wide-angle lenses, and compositions with foreground, mid-ground and background elements to produce images with 3-Dimensionality.
- Avoid mergers of elements, hues or tones when framing a composition.
- All parts of a photograph are important and should harmonize into a meaningful whole. Check for problems in corners and along edges.
- Most images need a center of interest that the eye finds naturally or is "pointed to" by other elements.
- Repetition of form with variation often makes for a good image.
- "See" the shape, line, form and texture of elements when composing an image.
- Subject is what you photograph. Style is how you photograph. You can photograph several different subjects in the same style. Seek to find and follow your unique style.

Dean concluded by saying that his hope is that his photography conveys a mindfulness of nature and a moment of peace. I think he succeeded.

Monochrome Prints from Digital Color Images? Here's one controversial suggestion

Item from website: <http://www.outbackphoto.com/tforum/viewtopic.php?TopicID=912>

The author writes:

I have been looking for a way to make beautiful B&W on the Epson 2200. I have this printer for about 2 years.

Like everyone tried imageprint RIP(very expensive),gray balancer that i can not fine tune for my taste, and the black only with ebony black that is not perfectly black for my taste. Quadtone sound very good but can not install on my computer because I have Windows 98.

But last night, I tried a setting in the Epson driver that gave me perfect neutral B&W with no color cast. I was stunned to see that all that time we had this option and never gave it a try and no one on all the forum that I been reading mention this. Here are the settings!

When you go into the advance setting there is Photo enhance and in this section instead of the option hard, they are others option and one of them is MONOCHROME.

So you simply choose your paper you want to print on (glossy,enhance etc.) then I choose 2880 dot, no speed, edge smoothing off and in the ink config -10%.

In the print preview of photoshop, print space is set to ICM (internal color management)

These settings will give you absolute neutral print and I suspect that they are using only the black ink and the grey ink.

Please give me some feedback and maybe this could help some of you out there who like beautiful B&W!

For me my quest is over. it gives me the kind of B&W print that I want.

From John Opie, Editor VF: The above seems to be a shortcut that breaks a lot of rules. Anybody have the same experience? It would seem to apply to printers other than the Epson 2200. Other suggestions for highest quality monochrome prints?

Photoshop Plug-Ins? I am trying out Nik Color Efex filters, Nik Sharpener Pro, and Extensis Mask Pro 3. I will report on them in another issue of the VF. Are there TCCC members using 3rd party plug-ins? Write or e-mail me about your experiences. One minor problem is that the Extensis works only on 8 bits/channel while a lot of my recent scans are on 16 bits/channel. Or do you feel that most 3rd party plug-ins are a waste of time and money?

Also see: <http://luminous-landscape.com/reviews/software/must-have.shtml>