



FOCUS

Editor: Judy Edwards

May, 2013

CCC HOSTS JIM STEELE IN APRIL

Jim Steele, our judge and speaker at the April meeting, was particularly qualified to judge the topic of Black and White Texture, as he frequently photographs in black and white; some of the most beautiful images on his website fit the category perfectly.

(<http://www.photographybysteele.com>)

As a judge, Jim looked at the entries for such things as leading lines, shapes, contrast, richness, luminosity, and depth of lighting. He pointed out that in a color image, the color is one of the most important aspects, but a monochrome photograph becomes an instant abstraction, and it's the lines and shapes that make the impact.



Anton and Jim Steele prepare for judging.

Jim's presentation was titled *Visual Literacy and the Digital Workflow*. He worked with specific images, taking us through the process he uses, and the decisions he makes in his own work as

it comes from the camera and is finished in the computer. He stressed the importance of understanding ahead of time what you, as the photographer, are trying to achieve. He pointed out the two most important pieces of equipment any photographer needs—specifically a tripod and a wastebasket!

As a judge he is concise, and articulate. He evaluates every entry without wasting words; his comments are educational and positive; he includes specific suggestions for improvements, and clear reasons for not including an image in the final decision. We look forward to having him return.

MEETING INFORMATION

CAMERA CLUB MEETINGS: 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. Dinner before meeting at 5:00 pm. Assigned, Open, and Creative Digital and Print entries as announced. Each month, all entries in the *Creative* category will be projected and all entries in the *Open* category will be displayed as prints. Assigned entries will alternate as noted below.

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2013

ASSIGNMENT: TRANQUILITY
PROJECTION

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2013

ASSIGNMENT: FRESH PERSPECTIVE
PRINT

*You will receive two points for each entry in the Assigned topic, and one point for entries in the Open and Creative categories. **You may submit only ONE (1) entry per category.***

Tranquility: An empty beach, a hot cup of tea, a comfy chair, a baby sleeping. How do you visualize tranquility? Tranquility is defined as an untroubled state free from stress or emotion, or as a state of peace and quiet. Use your camera to try and capture these peaceful moments, in either the human or natural world, to produce an image that conveys tranquility to the viewer.

Fresh Perspective: Ansel Adams said, "A good photograph is knowing where to stand." It's such a simple idea and still rings true today. Sometimes, all we need is to take a step back (or up, or down, or sideways) and get a fresh perspective on an old scene you've photographed before, or a completely new idea that you've been eager to try. Give your camera some new angles to try out instead of just keeping it at eye-level. Crouch down and shoot from a lower vantage point than you are used to. Climb up high and shoot from a bird's eye view. Get up close and personal instead of staying at arm's length. Take a look above you, below you, or behind you and shoot something you may have never glanced at. Make sure your perspective is unusual enough that the viewer will notice.

CCC WELCOMES JOHN CONNELL BACK AS JUDGE

John began his serious interest in photography in 2001, as digital photography became more generally available. He joined the Vienna Photographic Society in 2002 and began his education and development as a photographer. He served as a Board member of VPS, and was President for two years. He has been successful in monthly VPS competitions and the Meadowlark Photography Exhibition and has sold work at local art and craft fairs. Over the past five years Connell has been invited to judge local photography competitions in Northern Virginia and Maryland, and has been invited to CCC several times. He is an experienced judge who has made his judging criteria available ahead of time.



John Connell judges in 2011
Photo by Bob Travis

He writes, "An invitation to judge a photo club competition contains within it an expectation that the judge will provide the means of accomplishing the club's goals for the competition. In other words, I believe a judge's primary responsibility is to provide "distinctions of merit" for the images entered into the competition. The judge must separate the images one from another and assign different "values" to the individual images. By so doing, awards can be made based upon the rules previously established by the club; first place, second place, third place, honorable mentions, etc. If time permits, and if the club desires, I believe it is extremely beneficial to provide the rationale used to make the distinctions of merit. This should be done so that club members will be encouraged to participate in future competitions and challenged to stretch and improve as photographers. It is incumbent on the judge to be informative, courteous, respectful and fair. A club member may disagree with the choices made, but should

have a very clear understanding of why the judge made each decision.
My photo competition judging criteria fall into two major categories: technical and creative

“TECHNICAL” ELEMENTS:

Technique- focus, exposure, etc.

Presentation- cropping, matting

Color Balance- selection of color for subject matter, creative use of color

Lighting- good use of light, dynamic lighting, light patterns, shadows, mood

Print Quality- strong contrast, dynamic range, good color balance, accurate colors

Basic Rules- white whites, black blacks, vertical verticals, horizontal horizontals, rule of thirds, hot spots, no edge distractions, no amputations, proper separation, etc.

“CREATIVE” ELEMENTS:

Impact- first impression, power or strength, the “wow” factor, eye movement

Story Telling- complete story, curiosity aroused, mood or emotion induced, imagination evoked

Creativity- originality, fresh approach, unusual camera angle, focus, lighting, color, vantage point, etc.

Composition- placement of subject, lines, balance, proportions, symmetry, rhythm, repetitions, weight, spaces, color, shades and tones

Center of Interest- dominance of subject, balance of subjects, arrangement of objects, secondary subjects in proportion to main subject

Subject Matter- interpretation for subject matter, camera angle, timing, humor, surprise

AWARDS FOR COMPETITION: APRIL, 2013

JUDGE: JIM STEELE

ASSIGNED TOPIC: TEXTURE IN BLACK AND WHITE

COLOR AND/OR MONOCHROME PRINTS & CREATIVE

	<u>ASSIGNED A</u>	<u>ASSIGNED B</u>
1	Gerry Bishop	Toni Zappone
2	Jim Marshall	Beth Bass
3	Anne Scott	Pam Cairns
HM	Gary Powell	Diana Rockwell
	<u>OPEN A</u>	<u>OPEN B</u>
1	Gerry Bishop	Beth Bass
2	Howard Gutgesell	Toni Zappone
3	John Hulburt	Rick Seaman
HM	Jim Marshall	
	<u>CREATIVE</u>	
1	Rob Fehnel	
2	Paul Grimm	
3	Deborah Murren	
HM	Gerry Bishop	

SISLEN TO PRESENT MAY PROGRAM

Alan Sislen is a Washington, D.C. area based photographer specializing in landscape photography, although, he mentions that he often photographs subjects that go beyond traditional landscapes.



Alan Sislen at Canaan Valley. Web photo.

On his website he writes, "I am passionate about photography; not just the finished photograph, but also the process of visualizing and capturing each illusive image, processing the image, and then creating the print. For me, the photographic process is not complete until the viewer is moved or intrigued by what they see, regardless of whether their reaction is exactly the same as what motivated me to press the shutter release.

"While I use the most modern digital photographic equipment, my style and technique are traditional, and I use minimal digital manipulation. In the digital "darkroom" I often spend considerable time "processing" and printing an image that may have taken just 1/30th of a second to "capture." Through my photographs, I am showing the viewer what I saw, but often more importantly, also what I felt.

Photography enables me to communicate the incredible world around us, as I experience it. The writer uses words; the musician uses musical notes. My goal is to present images that stimulate more than our sense of sight, but hopefully, also evokes our emotion and imagination.

"My greatest influences have been those with whom I have studied, including well-known British landscape photographer Charlie Waite, former National Geographic photographer Bruce Dale, digital expert Thom Hogan, and fine art Photoshop masters Eliot Cohen, Charlie Cramer, and John Paul Caponigro.

"My photographs are in numerous personal and corporate collections, as well as in the private collection of the Embassy of Chile, in Washington, D.C. My photographs can be seen at Multiple Exposures Gallery, located in the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, Virginia, 703-683-2205, and at my studio/gallery in Bethesda, Maryland, 301-365-5177.

"One of the things I enjoy most about photography is sharing my enthusiasm for the

image creation process from image capture to image processing, and importantly, through to the final print. In our digital age, the photographer must balance the "art" and the "craft" of photography by continuous reading, studying and applying what has been learned with the help of a mentor(s) and instructors. One of the most important things I've learned is that photography education never ends. We must challenge ourselves to expand our horizons, and must continually hone our "craft," our skills and techniques. Over the years I have taken dozens of workshops and seminars, and I continue to do this today.

"I regularly speak at photography groups, teach workshops and classes, and do one-on-one tutoring for aspiring photographers. The topics include, Photoshop for Photographers, Lightroom Intensive, Matting and Framing Fine Art Photographs, Self-Critiquing, Best Practices in the Field, Printing With Epson Printers, Digital Infrared Photography, and Shooting and Processing Panoramas. Presentation topic for the May meeting is *The Beauty of the Landscape*.

Alan Sislen's website:

<http://www.alansislenphotography.com/about.php>

PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

Last month I wrote about new growth that I saw in my garden and in the camera club. This month I began to see my garden really grow, especially the grass. It's time to nurture, fertilize and water those plants. The same is true for our camera club members. So let's look at how we are doing that.

Last month John Hulburt did a wonderful workshop on Nik software. It nurtured my desire to go home and work with the Nik software. The workflow he showed has helped me create better photographs. By the way, if you have bought any Nik software in the last

two years you can get the whole suite for free and if not it is only a little over \$120.

The other cool add-on John showed us is *Perfect Resize*. It takes a photo and increases the size beyond what the camera could create by adding pixels. I tried it and it worked amazingly well.

The first *Peer Review Session* was a great success. It was held on a Saturday, with the next one scheduled for May 18. This is a great time to get some nurturing and fertilizing into your picture taking. During the workshop, they will also look at the next month's assigned category.

The forum has some great stuff on it but only a few faithful people are posting. I was just on the games folder and that looks like a lot of fun. There's the alphabet game where you post a photo that follows the alphabet. "A" was Abstract and the last photo posted was "J" for Jaws, a turtle looking right at you. Or the other game is I-Spy—the first photo was Robert Fehnel's ladle with reflections on it. The next person takes an idea from that photo and uploads their photo, which was Lydia Handsfield's person's face, reflected on a coffee machine. Then Anton Largiader posted a big eye. See the movement. It continues and I challenge you to see what you can post.

There are workshops scheduled for the third week of every month and now a *Peer Review* session every month. All workshop times and descriptions are posted on the web page and in the FOCUS. If you need help there are a number of members that are willing to help you. Just ask!

We are known as the C'ville Camera Club, nurturing and fertilizing society. Oh, by the way we also learn a lot every second Thursday of the month at our club meeting. See you then.

Gordon

CCC MINUTES, APRIL, 2013

- The April 11, 2013 meeting of the Charlottesville Camera Club was called to order at 6:30PM by President, Gordon Putnam.
- Treasurer John Hulburt reported 74 paid members.
- A guest was introduced.
- Gordon encouraged the membership to take advantage of the mentoring program.
- Gerry Bishop reminded everyone of a workshop to be led by John Hulburt on the complete Nik Software Suite scheduled for 6:30 pm on April 23 at the Northside Library, and a peer review workshop same location on April 27. An additional peer review workshop is scheduled for May 18, and a workshop on "Top Trix for Great Pix" is set for May 29.
- Gordon encouraged members to register for the forum and contribute to its success. It is possible to look around the forum without signing in, but if you want to post/contribute to the site registration then signing in is required.
- Jim Fergus introduced our judge and presenter, Jim Steele.

Submitted by Deb Snelson, Secretary.

NIK SOFTWARE WORKSHOP WELL ATTENDED

On Tuesday, April 23, John Hulburt presented a workshop titled, *Using Nik Software by Google in your Workflow*. Using a PowerPoint presentation, John software in Lightroom. Using his own images, he went through the process so the audience could see the difference that the software makes, and how simple it can be to use.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE 2013

Saturday, May 18, 10:00—12:00, Northside,
****PEER REVIEW SESSION.** We'll also discuss
the next assigned theme, *Fresh Perspective*.

**Wednesday, May 29, 6:30-9:00, Northside, "Six
Trix for Great Pix:--a primer for beginners and
intermediate photographers on the basics of
lighting, composition, perspective, and more.
Mastering these six principles will boost your
photography—and satisfaction—to a higher
level. Gerry Bishop**

Saturday, June 15, 1:00—3:00, Northside.
****PEER REVIEW SESSION.**

Wednesday, June 26, McIntire. TBD

Tuesday, July 16, 7:15-9:00, Northside TBD

**Saturday, July 27, 2:00-4:00, Northside. **PEER
REVIEW SESSION**

****PEER REVIEW SESSIONS: Bring a few images
(3 max. please) on a thumb drive or as prints
for your fellow members to view, critique, and
enjoy.**

Considering that the Nik software
is now in the affordable range,
this was a workshop no one
should have missed—the
attendance indicates that not
many of you did! Many thanks,
John, for taking the trouble to
make this subject clear,
understandable, and interesting.



Early arrivals wait for the show to begin.
Photo by Judy Edwards

WINNERS' GALLERY

APRIL, 2013

TOPIC: TEXTURE IN BLACK AND WHITE



1st Assigned A, Gerry Bishop, "Sweetgum Fruit and Leaves"



2nd Assigned A, Jim Marshall, "Morning Fog"



3rd Assigned A, Anne Scott, "A Prayer Plant"



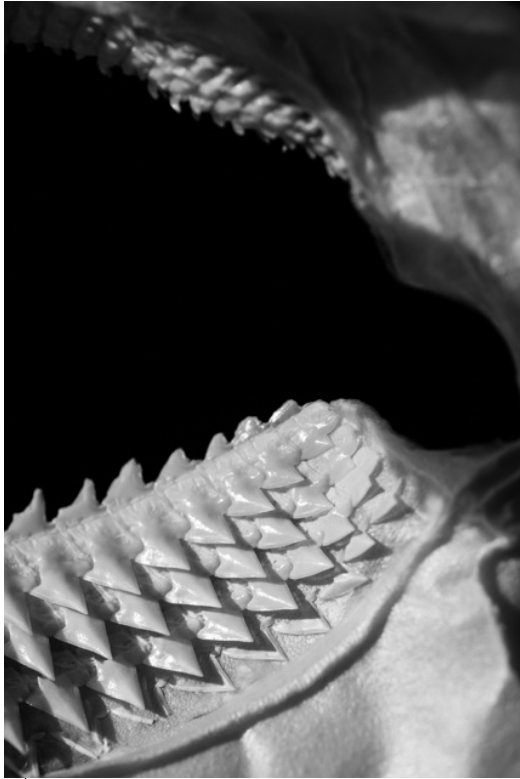
HM Assigned A, Gary Powell, "Pacific Stonecrop"



1st Assigned B, Toni Zappone, "Bird's Nest"



2nd Assigned B, Beth Bass, "Wrapped"



3rd Assigned B, Pam Cairns, "In the Shark's Jaws"



1st Open A, Gerry Bishop, "Just a Weed"



2nd Open A, Howard Gutgesell, "Gouda Canal"



HM Assigned B, Diana Rockwell, "Cows"



3rd Open A, John Hulburt, "Antelope Slot Canyon"



HM Open A, Jim Marshall, "Garden Walk"



3rd Open B, Rick Seaman, "Determination"



1st Open B, Beth Bass, "Winter Pier"



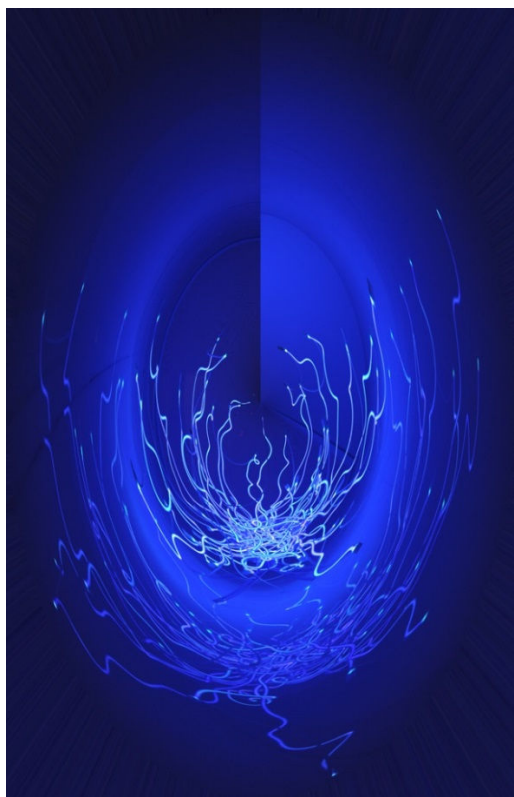
1st Creative, Rob Fehnel, "Bird of Prey"



2nd Open B, Toni Zappone, "Strollin' in the Rain"



2nd Creative, Paul Grim, "Ginter Orchid"



3rd Creative, Deborah Murren, "Electrified"



HM Creative, Gerry Bishop "White Tulips on White"

ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

CCC MEMBER FRANK FEIGERT will exhibit some two dozen images in the lobby of the UVA Hospital, May 28 - August 30. The opening reception will be May 28, 3:30 – 5: and all are invited.

FOR SALE, CANON 100MM MACRO F/2.8 LENS.

Excellent condition. Was purchased new in June 2008. Selling because there is a newer version with IS, and since I do a lot of work handheld, having IS will be a benefit to me. \$395. Includes lens cap, back cap, and lens shade. For more information please email me at mollie@f2photographicdesign.com, or call me at 757-773-0194. The price for a new one varies between \$550 and \$600.

Mollie Isaacs

F2 Photographic Design

www.obxportraits.com

252-480-0194

JOE MILLER ABSTRACT EXHIBIT opens at 12:00 pm. On Friday, May 3, and goes through Sunday, May 26. Exhibit hours from 12:00—5:00 pm. Reception and Awards Sunday, May 5, from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

Rob Fehnel, Toni Zappone, Jim Sullivan, and Judy Edwards from CCC have all had images juried into the exhibit. Joe has received entries from as far away as South Africa. This exhibit and Joe's studio are really worth seeing. It's just a two hour drive up 29N, with lots of photo ops on the way. Hope many of you will be able to visit.

CCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS:

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CCC Website: www.cvillecameraclub.org

(The Charlottesville Camera Club is an organization that fosters photography as an art, a hobby, or a vocation, by instruction and by sharing of knowledge and experience. Membership is open to anyone interested in photography. The club is not associated with any other organization or venue.)