



FOCUS

Editor: Judy Edwards

February, 2015

BRIAN ZWIT TO JUDGE IN FEBRUARY

Our judge in February will be Brian Zwit, who has judged for CCC twice before. He also will teach a full day class on the NIK suite of programs for photo processing. Brian owns and is an instructor for the *School of Creative Photography* which conducts weekend workshops, one-day field trips and offers classroom instruction on Lightroom, Photoshop, and Nik software. He has academic degrees and work experience as a chemical engineer and as an attorney, in addition to his professional training and extensive experience as a photographer and photographic instructor.



Brian Zwit at CCC February, 2014
Photo by Dave Lyster

The biographical sketch on his website includes the following information. About 40 years ago, Brian discovered that photography provided a powerful means for expressing his vision of the world. Over the years, his love of the outdoors and photography as well as an aptitude for computer technology have morphed into a passion for capturing the elegance and majesty of the unique landscapes, wildlife, and flora of the United States.

Brian has been teaching workshops, field trips, and classes and speaking to camera clubs, schools, and other non-profits for over seven years. He recently reached a milestone: He taught Lightroom to his 500th student! Brian is well known for his ability to distill complex topics to their essence and explain them in simple, easy to understand ways.

MEETING INFORMATION

CAMERA CLUB MEETINGS: 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Dinner at Appleby's, 5:00 pm.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015
ASSIGNMENT: TOOLS OF THE TRADE

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015
ASSIGNMENT: WHAT IS THAT?

*You may submit only ONE (1) entry per category. All Assigned and Creative entries will be **projected**. Open entries may be **either projected or printed and matted**.*

TOOLS OF THE TRADE: What are "Tools of the Trade?" Any implement, instrument, or piece

of equipment used to create, repair, build, or perform. For instance, ballet shoes—with or without the ballerina. How about a violin or piano with their musical scores? An easel with painting materials, or the hand of an artist holding a paintbrush. Anything used by--or being used by--a skilled craftsman, such as a carpenter, telephone linesman, farmer, or mechanic. Look around you; there are examples everywhere. Use your photography skills (and tools!) to make these images speak.

WHAT IS THAT?: Something unusual or unfamiliar, and hard to identify should tend to evoke a response of "What is that?" from a viewer. Any unfamiliar or unusual object, or part of an object, qualifies. While "macro" (extreme close-up) might seem to be the default, try thinking "outside the box."

FIVE POINTS IN COMPETITION

JUDGE: DENISE SILVA

ASSIGNED TOPIC: CHANGING SEASONS

**COLOR AND/OR MONOCHROME PRINTS
& CREATIVE**

(Best in category is designated by an *)

ASSIGNED A

*Deb Snelson
Gerry Bishop

ASSIGNED B

*Greg Dudley
Sandy Hodge

OPEN A

Projected
*Gary Powell
Howard Gutgesell
Rick Stillings

OPEN B

Projected
Mariah Dean

Prints

*John Hulburt
Deb Snelson

Prints

CREATIVE

*Jim Demas
Rob Fehnel
Jim Marshall

that I enjoy the most is sharing the experience with friends. Traveling with, shooting with, comparing with friends keeps me motivated and excited about photography, as I am constantly learning new things. To me, these experiences are inspirational and I believe they can elevate each participant's photography to the next level."

Her photography tours, specifically the planned trip to Iceland that she described during dinner, sound like great fun with lots of individual attention. (Two leaders, and a total of six participants.)



Denise Silva judges in January. Photo by Gene Runion

As a judge Denise was fluent and detailed. She looked for the best aspects of each image, and was specific with her suggestions of how it might have been improved.

Denise's presentation topic was titled, *Textures and Blending*. She describes texture as a method to give a tactile feel to a physically smooth image, and blending to mix smoothly and separately together. As she discussed each method, she demonstrated the steps of the process, and recommended various programs that she uses. She then presented a short video demonstrating some of the techniques. She showed us some of the different textures she uses and projected some truly interesting and impressive images which she describes as

DENISE SILVA, JANUARY JUDGE

A new speaker, photographer Denise Silva, judged and presented at our first meeting of 2015. She is the co-owner, with Don Rosenberger, of *Road Runner Photography Tours*. She writes, "One aspect of photography

depicting the feeling she had when she first took the original photography, rather than producing a true to life photograph.

See her website at:

<http://denisesilvaphotography.com/>

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

By Jim Simmons

2015 is here, and the club is off and running. Before we get too far ahead, let's take a moment to reflect on what happened during 2014 and what may lie ahead for us in this New Year.

Much of 2014 was consumed with a long ongoing discussion about "projected images" vs. "prints." Arguments, pro and con were voiced loud and clear on both sides. Finally, in December, a vote was taken and it was decided that all *Assigned* images, beginning with January, 2015, in both "A" and "B" would be *projected images*. Photographers entering images in the *Open* category could choose to do so either by print or projection. And finally – the *Creative* category would continue as in the past. So, the decision is made and we will operate under the New Rules of Competition as passed last December. My recommendation to everyone is let's live with and abide by these new rules to give them a fair chance to work. Time will provide us with the opportunity to test them.

Last year saw the organization of PET, *Photography Exhibition Team*, which attracted a fairly large group of our photographers whose objective was to organize exhibits that would afford them an opportunity to both show and sell their work. The group hung several excellent exhibits during the year and experienced a reasonable amount of success. I personally attended all but one of the exhibits and found them to be hung with taste; several works were purchased by attendees. Congratulations to this group and I look forward to their upcoming exhibits.

Membership for 2014 grew to the largest it has ever been in the club's history: 100 of us participated in a true growth spurt and demonstrated a prolonged interest in our goals and activities. Congratulations everybody. But, a reminder, your dues for 2015 are due - \$48.00 a year. Give them to our treasurer, John Hulburt at the February meeting—checks only please!

As we move along in 2015 I want to invite all of our "B" Photographers to jump in and enter more images in our monthly categories. I know it is a bit daunting to put your work up before the judges. I have been there and it was no easy task to finally get up the nerve to do so. But once I got going I was okay with the process even though I sometimes feel a bit "queasy" now when I enter images for critical review. The main thing to remember is that the entire process is an "educational" one, and we can benefit from the judging if we listen closely to our judges and try to practice what they offer in the way of "constructive" comments. I hope to see more of your work in our monthly competitions as the year progresses.

Finally, there is considerable discussion within your Executive Committee regarding offering more "high powered" workshops conducted by noted experts in the field. However, these types of workshops are costly and require available space to hold them. Current thinking is that maybe we can offer such programs with some subsidy provided by the club thereby reducing the cost of them to you. These are early discussions and I know we will continue to explore the possibilities. We will keep you informed.

That's all for this time. Stay tuned. I'll see you at our monthly meetings and workshops.

Jim

CCC MINUTES

January 8, 2015

First meeting of the New Year called to order by
Jim Simmons, President, at: 6:28 pm

Attendance 53+

Combined projected and printed entries: 74

Finance: John Hulbert

Bank: \$3795.74

2015 paid members: 32

2014 Surplus of: \$862.28

Senior Center has a new mike but it is physically
located on the far side of the room.

NOTE: executive committee members later
commented about acquiring a longer cord for
ease of mobility during mtgs & judging

Membership: Beth Bass

New Members: Fax Ayers, Anne Costain, Karen
Lang, Kathie Moran,

Ken Porter, Sam Saunders

Welcome back: Leslie Buchanan

Focus: Judy Edwards

Apology for late Focus - computer issues

Goal is to have Focus out two weeks before the
next meeting

Workshops: Gerry Bishop

Peer Review Workshop

Saturday, January 24, 2015 - 2:00pm to 3:45pm

Northside Library

Bring three images on a thumb drive to show
and discuss with your peers.

Panoramas Presentation

Wednesday, January 28, 2015 - 6:30pm to
8:45pm

Northside Library

This presentation will cover, step-by-step, all
you need to know to get started in this
gratifying form of photography.

You are encouraged to bring your camera and
tripod to this meeting so you can follow along

with some of the basic steps in setting up a
shot. And if you have a way of leveling your
camera (either an add-on or built in), you might
want to get comfortable with using it before the
meeting. Other helpful items to bring, if you
have them, are a focusing rail, L bracket, and
remote shutter release. However, these are
certainly not necessary. You also might want to
try your hand at using your camera's manual
focus and manual exposure control, if you don't
already use them regularly.

LRW - Lightroom (software) Group Workshop
Saturday, February 7, 2015 - 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Northside Library

The entire LRW group will meet for a general
overview of Lightroom, presented by Rick
Stillings.

NIK Software Training Class Workshop

Thursday, February 12, 2015 - 9:00am to
5:00pm

Have you heard about NIK Software? Many CCC
members have found this suite of programs
very helpful in processing their photos. It
includes highly regarded programs for adjusting
tone and color, creating black and white
images, sharpening images, and dealing with
high-contrast scenes by using "high-dynamic
range" techniques. Brian Zwit will teach a one-
day class on the NIK programs. Brian taught the
very successful class on Lightroom for us two
years ago. He is a full-time professional
instructor for the School of Digital Photography
in Sterling, VA and has judged and presented
programs at CCC. His classes are very well
organized and clearly presented.

The class will be held in the classroom at ACAC
on Rt. 29 North, Thursday, February 12 from 9
to 5. The class size is limited to 15. The cost of
the class is expected to be about \$60 per
person. Lunch can be purchased at the ACAC
food court or other restaurants in the area. To
reserve a place in the class please email Jim
Fergus at fergusjim@gmail.com.

General Business: Jim Simmons

Jim thanked both Anton Largiader and Robert Fehnel for their work on the Club Website. Robert is hosting the new On-line Monthly Forum Contest. Jim also thanked Ginger Ferrell for being the 2014 club secretary and welcomed Liz Marshall as the 2015 club secretary. Jim introduced Rick Seaman as the Club's new web master. Rick stated that if anyone has suggestions for or changes to the Club Website &/or if anyone is interested in putting photos up on the web and/or would like to do some writing to let him know.
rickseaman@hotmail.com

The 2014 End-of-Year Social was a "wiz bang"! Well attended and fun. The 2014 club winners were announced at that time and will have their certificates presented tonight.

The Ted and Rita Shyan Award: Beth Bass
Best Projected Image in the Creative Category: Jim Demas
Best Projected Image in the Assigned or Open Category: Deb Snelson
Best Printed Image in the Assigned or Open Category: Howard Gutgesell
The Class B Photographer of the Year: Beth Bass
The Class A "Rothman" Photographer of the Year: Deb Snelson

Judging: Jim Fergus

Jim announced that before judging begins, Liz Marshall would read the theme for the month. Jim then introduced the judge and speaker, Denise Silva. Her topic was textures and blending.

Denise demonstrated how she blends her work on the computer, removing the "real" background and putting in another, ie firefighters with a background of equipment to the same firefighters but now emerging from a background of smoke....a whole new image and more like what she had in her mind's eye than actually what her eye saw. She showed how she

blended 6-7 images into one, using a mannequin face as the main object.

Meeting closed at: 9:10 pm

Liz Marshall,
Secretary

WORKSHOPS

(Please note: February and March there will be no meetings at the Northside Library as they will be closed for moving.)

PEER REVIEWS

Saturday, February 21, 2:00-4:00, McIntire Library, TBA

WORKSHOPS

Saturday, February 7, Northside Library, 1-3pm:
LRW group : General overview of Lightroom presented by Rick Stillings

Thursday, February 12, 9:00-5:00, ACAC classroom, 29N, Brian Zwit NIK software workshop. Email Jim Fergus at fergusjim@gmail.com to see if spots are available: \$60 fee

Monday, February 23, McIntire Library, TBA
Monday, March 23, McIntire Library, TBA

THE WONDERS OF WIDE

On January 10, Gerry Bishop presented a workshop on how to create a panorama. He began with the definition of a pano, talked about the tools needed for optimum performance, explained how to find the nodal point for best alignment of images to be stitched, and went on with information on how to set everything up, where to stand, and how

to recognize what might make a good panoramic image.

This was a well-organized and interesting presentation, with photos and examples of each topic. If you are interested in seeing what was covered, the workshop may be found on the CCC website under "presentations."
<http://cvillecameraclub.org/howto>



Pano Workshop well attended. Photo by Gene Runion

FIRST MEETING OF THE THREE TIERED LIGHTROOM WORKSHOP (LRW)

The first meeting of the entire Lightroom Users group was held on Saturday, January 10. There were quite a few attendees, and we divided ourselves into three groups, Advanced, Intermediate, and Basic. John Hulburt, who organized this very complicated workshop, is leading the Advanced Group. Jim Fergus will be running the Intermediate group, and Gerry Bishop and Rick Stillings are heading up the Basic group. The meeting was well attended, and, as expected, the largest group is the Beginners and the smallest, the Advanced! After the first two introductory meetings, each group will meet separately. Participants are encouraged to "graduate" themselves from one group to another as they learn more. Anyone in the club is welcome to begin attending at any time. You will need to bring a laptop loaded with Lightroom, and photos to work on.

The next whole group meeting will be held on Saturday, February 7, 1-3pm, at Northside Library. Rick Stillings will give an overview of

Lightroom. Many thanks to John for organizing this workshop, and to Jim, Gerry, Rick, and Gene Runion for acting as "teacher/tutors."



John organizing the Lightroom "Group" Photo by Gene Runion

ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

FEBRUARY FORUM CONTEST – ENTRYWAY: The February forum contest is now underway. The theme this month is Entryway. Head over to the forum to submit your entry by 6 PM on February 26. You can go to the contest by clicking on this [link](#). Get a photo critiqued and see how it does, the winner will be announced shortly after the contest closes and it will be shown at the regular March camera club meeting.

JANUARY FORUM CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED: The entries are in, the judge has given his critiques and chosen the winner. Go check out the images and critiques as well as give your own opinions and thoughts. Head over to the thread by following this [link](#) and join the conversation.

(The two announcements just above are what you will see when you go to the website and look under "Announcements.") There were 13 entries for the first monthly Forum contest. Congratulations to Rob Fehnel for the well run contest and the good participation!

ENTRIES FOR THE JOE MILLER ABSTRACT PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT will be accepted starting December 27, 2014 and the deadline for submission of entries is February 25, 2015. If the four previous Joseph Miller Annual Juried Abstract Photography Exhibits are any gauge, this fifth exhibit will show examples of outstanding abstract photographs and should

not be missed by serious photographers and anyone interested in art. Further information, including a definition of abstract photography

and a calendar of important dates can be found on the www.NVACC.org website. Click on Abstract Exhibit.

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.)