



HUNTINGDON VALLEY CAMERA CLUB NEWSLETTER MAY 2009

May 6th Nature Competition

HVCC's Nature Competition is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6th at 7:15 PM at the Huntingdon Valley Library, 625 Red Lion Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA. For this meeting only, we will be meeting in the All Purpose Room on the second floor (where the Library is located). Please try to sign in your entries, up to three in each category, by 7:00 PM. PSA rules will apply—here are the rules, from the PSA website:

- “Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that well informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify as to its honest presentation.
- The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality.
- Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion when those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable.
- Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens or obviously set arrangements are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
- No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. No manipulation or modification is permitted except resizing, sharpening, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color of the scene. No special effect filters can be applied. Any adjustments must appear natural.”

Scavenger Hunt on May 16th

HVCC's Annual Scavenger Hunt, scheduled for Saturday, May 16th (rain date Sunday, May 17th) is one of our most enjoyable events. This year Sandy Livezey and Ken Sichel are managing the hunt and will be scouting the 15 specific locations we will be “hunting”. The exact venue will be revealed on the morning of the Scavenger Hunt, but (hint) it is one of the most famous sites in the Philadelphia area and especially beautiful at this time of year. The fee for participating is \$10 per entrant. Please call Charlotte Bernstein (215- 673-9712) by May 13th to register for a fun day.

We will meet on the back parking lot of the Huntingdon Valley Library at 8:30 AM and form carpools. Bring a camera, digital or film, to use in the competition. (We encourage the use of digital cameras, but if you absolutely have to use film, call Frank or Sandy for details about special arrangements.) The first shot will be a picture of you, and you will be allowed one shot per location. If you want to take additional shots at each location, bring a second camera.

Our initial meeting place at the Scavenger Hunt venue will be revealed the morning of the hunt, and we will also let you know the meeting place for lunch and turning in our shots. The winner will be announced at our June 17th Banquet.

June 17th Banquet Reservation Form with this Newsletter

Be sure to fill out and return the reservation form for our Annual Awards Banquet on June 17th, which is attached to this newsletter. Spouses, friends and relatives are most welcome to join us.

Sandy & Frank's Corner

As we rapidly approach the end of our first year as the Huntingdon Valley Camera Club in our new home, we still have exciting events to close out the year.

The annual interclub competition sponsored this year by the Churchville Camera Club Center was held on April 20th. Thanks to Marty Malgieri for coordinating this events with the other clubs. We also want to thank Marty for the workshop he gave on Composition on April 22nd. He discussed the proper use of the grey card in order to calibrate your camera's exposure, how to compose your photograph by using the rule of thirds, framing your image, lighting your subject, and the use of people to enhance the story telling of the photograph, all of which should greatly improve your photography.

On May 6th we will have our annual Nature Competition. in which the Photographic Society of America (PSA) rules apply. Basically all images should be without human elements, hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens and, set arrangements, are ineligible.. No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. Sharpening, resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color to the scene is allowed. You may want to check out the link to the PSA on our website to see how Nature Photography is defined. **Remember that this meeting will be held on the second floor, in the meeting room where the library is located.**

A thank you to those who completed the survey that was e-mailed by Edie Krieger. Your feedback is important in making our club the best in the region. So far the feedback that Edie has received has been encouraging.

Looking ahead, on May 16th we will have our Scavenger Hunt, with the rain date on May 17th. We will meet at the library at 8:30 AM. On June 10th, HVCC members have an invitation to a tour and ng reception for the Philips' Mill Photographic Exhibition. On June 3rd we will have our Major Competition to determine the image of the year, and more details about that meeting will be provided in the June newsletter. Remember to send in the reservation form—included with this newsletter—for our Annual Awards Banquet on June 17th. Details about all these events are provided in this newsletter, and more information, including plans for summer field trips, will be in the June issue.. . **Please remember to read the entire newsletter for valuable information concerning our club.**

Finally, if you have any suggestions or comments, such as topics for future competitions or trips or workshops, please e-mail them to either of us, or turn them in at our May 6th meeting.

~Sandy Livezey and Frank Linder, Co-Presidents

Results of Interclub Competition

Thanks and congratulations to all our members who contributed to HVCC's good showing at the Interclub Competition on April 20th. HVCC took second place with 548 points, while host club Churchville was first with 572 points, Newtown third with 519 and Focal Plane fourth with 498. The five highest scoring images for HVCC were:

Marty Malgieri	Musician in Archway	26 points
Marty Malgieri	Water of the Desert	23 points
Charlotte Bernstein	Girl at Fence	20 points
Sherry Resnick	Upstairs	20 points
Sandy Livezey	Flowers in the Mist	20 points

Workshop on Composition on April 22nd

A special thank you to Marty Malgieri, who hosted a Workshop on Composition at his home on Wednesday evening, April 22nd. Marty touched on such topics as simplicity, framing, the rule of thirds and, most important, taking the time to plan your picture. He ended the evening with a video slide show with music, "It's a Whole New World," with beautiful images he has captured all over the world. Attendees were Val Sauler, Jerry and Sandy Weiner, Sid Snyder, Stewart Snyder, Frank Linder and Sandy Livezey.

April Best in Show was New York Newstand by Cary Rush



The April 1st competition, with the theme of "Night Photography", presented a challenge for HVCC members as they practiced the special techniques that are required. The Best in Show was another great black and white image by Cary Rush, "New York News Stand". Congratulations again, Cary!,

Here's the complete list of winners in April:

Best in Show	Cary Rush	New York News Stand
Color		
1 st Place	Sid Snyder	Light on Rocks
2 nd Place	Sandy Livezey	A New York Night
3 rd Place	Sandy Liveszey	An American Favorite
Honorable Mentions	Leslie Ogle	Night Geometrics
	Rhissa Levy	Red Nite
Monochrome		
1 st Place	Cary Rush	New York Newstand
2 nd Place	Sandy Livezey	New York Sparkle

Florida Birds: Seducing Photographers

Photographers who live in or visit Florida cannot escape being seduced by the diversity of birdlife there—400 species of birds are native to Florida. I became a Florida "snowbird" six years ago. It took only a short time to discover that birds were the subject of choice in local camera clubs. Fine bird images provide tremendous impact; the birds are graceful, colorful and beautiful, and they are always fishing, eating, flying, mating, building nests, and nurturing their young. This makes them very interesting but challenging subjects....

It has taken several years for me to more routinely make acceptable bird images. I am not a patient photographer, and, in the beginning, I accepted the challenge of bird photography only "kicking and screaming." More often than not it takes an inordinate amount of time to get an acceptable image; I would rather be shooting *something* than waiting a long time for the desired shot. I also have an aversion to lugging around heavy equipment, and this is a significant part of bird photography. In spite of these tendencies, like most Florida photographers, I have been seduced.

First, the bad news. The extraordinary bird photography is done by professionals and amateurs [1] who are well educated naturalists with knowledge of the birds, their habitats and their rituals, and who

love just “being with them;” [2] who are local residents or who at least know Florida well enough to know very explicit locations to find very specific birds; [3] who have and who are able to carry very large lenses and tripods, especially for the small birds (many are shooting 600 to 1200mm) and, most importantly, [4] who are infinitely patient and extremely committed observers willing to wait perhaps more than two hours for the shot they seek (e.g. a heron catching his lunch).

Now, for the good news. Those of us who are neither naturalists nor residents, and who have neither the ultimate equipment nor the “patience of Job,” can have a little bit of luck and a great deal of fun seeking the best bird shots we can make—and some of these just may be wonderful. In the process, we can enjoy being in some of the most unique ecosystems in the world....

Equipment: Long lenses help to create the most dramatic shots. To fill the frame with a bird carrying out the routines of daily life usually requires a 400mm lens or more. This is especially true at Ding Darling. At both Shark Valley and Corkscrew Swamp, 300mm, even less, may be sufficient. Bird photographers typically want to “tell a story” by shooting birds catching breakfast, mates passing sticks as gifts or building their nests, mothers feeding their young, the preening and primping during breeding season, males and females mating, or birds in flight. However, a beautiful bird, quietly posed in a lovely setting, is still irresistible. No other animal exudes such grace. Particularly with wonderful light, such shots can have tremendous impact and artistic flare. Images of birds that show their wider habitat are also appealing.

You will want your tripod for many settings, however, if you have image stabilization, hand holding your equipment may be easier for catching birds on the move. The need for long lenses and the often dark backgrounds require 200 or 400 ISO equivalent. For birds at rest 100 will often work fine. Pay attention to background and contrasts, and spot meter the white birds especially—adding a stop or two to your shot. It is bright in Florida and easy to over-expose images...

By Dana Vannoy, APSA, PPSA

Editor’s Note: The above article was originally published in PSA Journal, July 2006. (Huntingdon Valley Camera club is a member of Photographic Society of America). These excerpts provide some helpful hints on bird photography. For the complete article, along with many other interesting articles, go to www.psa-photo.org, under Resources/PSA Journal Articles.

Photokaboom.com Offers Online Lessons and Other Resources

If you’re online you have access to lots of free, high-quality photography resources. This month we’re highlighting photokaboom.com, developed by Jim Beecher, a photography teacher at the International Center for Photography and the 92nd Street Y in New York City. The website provides free lessons on digital photography and Photoshop Elements, along with links to the work of famous photographers and hundreds of articles on every aspect of photography. In addition, Jim will answer your e-mailed questions.

Phillips’ Mill Invitation for June 10th

Add to your June calendar an exciting invitation from the 17th Annual Phillips’ Mill Photographic Exhibition. Our club has been invited to a special reception and tour on Wednesday, June 10th at 7:00 PM, at Phillips’ Mill, 2619 River Road, New Hope, PA. Phillips’ Mill is often referred to as “the Best Show on the East Coast”. Each year the Exhibition features unique works from a wide range of talented sources, including local artists as well as those from other countries. In past years, HVCC members have been among those whose entries have been accepted to this juried exhibition.

Thought for the Month

Just as a fisherman cannot catch fish unless his line is in the water, a wildlife photographer cannot shoot great wildlife images unless he or she is out there with camera in hand and the knowledge of what to do when the 'magnificent moment' occurs.

George H. Harrison,

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HVCC

Wednesday, May 6th—Themed Competition—Nature

Saturday, May 16th—Scavenger Hunt & Picnic

Monday, May 18 – CESOP Photoshop Special Interest Group

Wednesday, June 3rd – Major Competition

Wednesday, June 10th – Reception and Tour of Phillips' Mill Photographic Exhibition

Wednesday, June 17th – Awards Banquet

Officers & Contacts 2008-2009

Co-Presidents: Sandra Livezey (215) 335-3972 & Frank Linder (215) 698-7642

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