

Focal Points

The Official Newsletter of the Flagpole Photography Club

Volume 1

Issue#5- February 2009



Next Meeting:
March 19, 2009

Location:
Cyrenius H. Booth Library

Program:

Assigned Topic: Snow

Don Brooks "Going for Lunch"
Helen Taylor "Tulips"
NECCC Nature Interclub Electronic Competition
Winter 2009
Flagpole Photographers Scored 5th in the Overall
Club Scores in the Nature category.
Thirty-two clubs participated in this category.
Two Flagpole Photographers won Honorable
Mentions:
Bob Berthier: "Cardinal in the Snow"
Anne Eigen: "Anhinga with a Big Catch"

UPCOMING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS:

http://www.photosafaris.com/Tours_2009/JohnShawSeminars/JohnShawSeminars.asp
March 14-15 Boston with renowned nature
photographer John Shaw
http://www.photoconnectionoc.com/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=40
Hands on Photoshop workshop with David Singer
<http://www.mountwashington.org/education/edutrips/schedule.php>
Mt. Washington Photo Workshop Mar. 21-22
<http://www.photoshopworld.com/>
March 25-27 Boston
<http://yankeephotosociety.homestead.com/>
All day seminar April 4
http://photoconnectionoc.com/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=41
Exploring the Light, Rick Samon, April 19 UCONN
<http://www.peec.org/eventsubject.html#3>
May 15-17 with John Barclay, Photography
may 29-31 with Raymond Klass, Digital Weekend

FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

President Rui DeSousa announced that the Wolf Conservation trip is April 11 at 10:00 a.m. (\$85). Rui then discussed what defines macro photography. The strictest sense of this type of photography and what we should be striving for is the following:

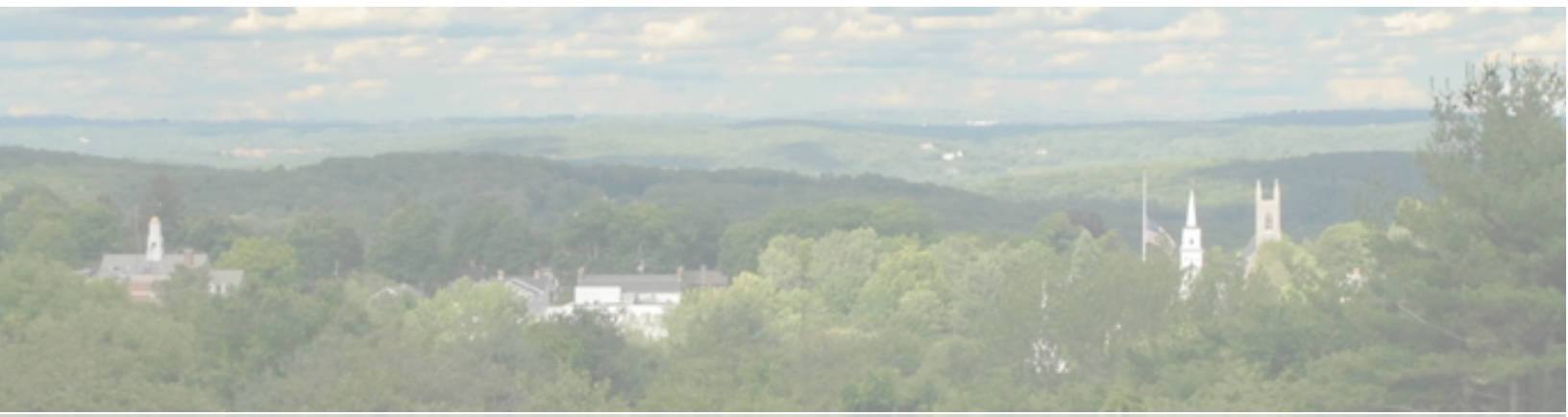
• 1:10 to 1:1 is considered close-up photography -- image is one-tenth life size to life size on the negative/sensor.

• 1:1 to 10:1 is macro photography -- image is life size to larger on the negative/sensor. We should be trying to get as close to 1:1 as possible to give the image impact.

The Macro/Close-up Competition then took place. Judges Frank Gardner, Warren Johnson, and Bill Snellings pointed out images they felt were in the spirit of macro photography.

NECCC NEWS:

NECCC Winter 2008-9 Print Competition:
Two Flagpole Photographers won Honorable Mention for their photographs:



http://www.resourcenter.net/Scripts/4Disapi3.dll/4DCGI/events/202.html?Action=Conference_Detail&ConfID_W=202
NANPA Roadshow, Photography Instruction June 26-28
http://www.neccc.org/New_Outline_13.htm
NECCC Conference, July 10-31

UPCOMING FLAGPOLE PHOTOGRAPHERS MEETINGS:

Next Meeting March 19, 2009
Subject: Snow
Program by

FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM

Frank Gardner presented a program on Guidelines for Better Photography. He led an informal, interactive discussion along with having the club critique his own work to help us apply those principals and show us how the photos could have been improved, etc.

His 10 points for better photography include:

1. Join a local camera club.
2. CAMERA: Become very familiar with your camera. Study your manual with camera in hand. You want that camera to be like a third hand.
3. PRINTING: Many great pictures are never printed correctly. Have incorrectly printed ones redone.
4. SHARPNESS: If not sharp, throw away. Fast shutter speeds, correct depth of field and shooting off a tripod help to guarantee sharpness. The reciprocal of shutter speed should be equal to or greater than the focal length of the lens of the camera. (1/250 shutter speed = focal length of camera set at 250mm).
5. COMPOSITION: Picture should have an impact. Subjects should be positioned at intersection of vertical and horizontal lines, such as on a tic tac toe board. Picture should not contain too many

subjects, which make it too busy. Position of subjects is key; use the rule of thirds as a guide.
6. BACKGROUND: Hot spots are distracting. White is distracting. Out of focus busy backgrounds take away from the subject.

7. SKY: If the sky doesn't compliment the picture, don't include it. Nothing is worse than a gray or white sky. Use a polarizer during the day to pop the clouds and bring out the blue. Sunrise and sunset skies are fantastic.

8. LIGHT: Understand the light and you will take great pictures. Don't take pictures between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The light at this time is too contrasty. Sunrise and sunset provide the best light. Also cloudy days provide filtered light. Your eye can record about 9 f-stops, but the camera can only record about 5 f-stops.

9. HISTOGRAM: This graph shows the arrangement and balance of pixels throughout an image. It indicates if an image contains areas that are over or under exposed.

Zero represents pure black, pure white is about 255, and the mid-tone around 128.

10. DEPTH OF FIELD PREVIEW BUTTON: When depressed this button will stop down your lens to the f-stop you selected, so that you see what portion of the image is in focus.

Frank recommends the following book for the photographer's library:

Digital Nature Photography Closeup

Author: John Cox

ISBN 0-8174-3674

We have learned a great deal from Frank over the years and appreciate this excellent summary of the basics of good photography.

LINKS:

<http://jonathanpenney.blogspot.com/>

Digital imaging and printing services

<http://digitalprotalk.blogspot.com/>
David Ziser

<http://digitalprotalk.blogspot.com/>
David Cross

<http://www.timecatcher.com/index.cfm>

In the Gallery click on a point on the map of the world to view beautiful photographs from that area

<http://www.pixchannel.com/flash/index.html>

An ongoing series of vignettes that explore the creative process of iconic photographers in their own words.

Competition Winners

February 2009



1st Place Assigned
Signs of Spring
Rick Tyrseck



2nd Place Assigned
Frozen Leaf
Shawn James



3rd Place Assigned
Too Early, Mom
Micheline Williams



1st Place Open
Sunrise, Portland Headlite, ME
Rick Tryseck

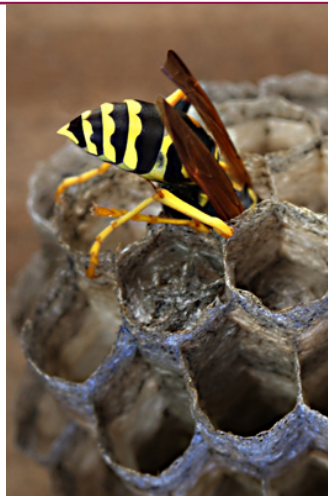


2nd Place Open
Graceful Danger
Donna White

3rd Place Open
Thimble Islands, Pastel Morning
Bob Berthier



1st Place Assigned Digital
Caterpillar on Leaf
Bob Berthier



2nd Place Assigned Digital
Nice Butt
Jim Talarino



Place Assigned Digital
Pink
Debi Connolly