

Focal Points

The Official Newsletter of the Flagpole Photography Club

Volume 2
Issue#17-May 2010



NEXT MEETING:
June 10, 2010

Location:
Cyrenius H. Booth Library
Newtown, CT

**Program: Digital Techniques
Using Photoshop Elements with
Ken Graff**

Assigned Topic:
People: Emotions

September 16, 2010	“Nature”
October 21, 2010	“Best Of Summer”
November 18, 2010	“Photojournalism”
December 10, 2010	Holiday Party
January 20, 2011	“Cars”
February 17, 2011	“Sunsets”
March 17, 2011	“Still Life”
April 21, 2011	“A Different Point of View”
May 19, 2011	“Religion/Sacred Spaces”
June 9	“Abandoned”

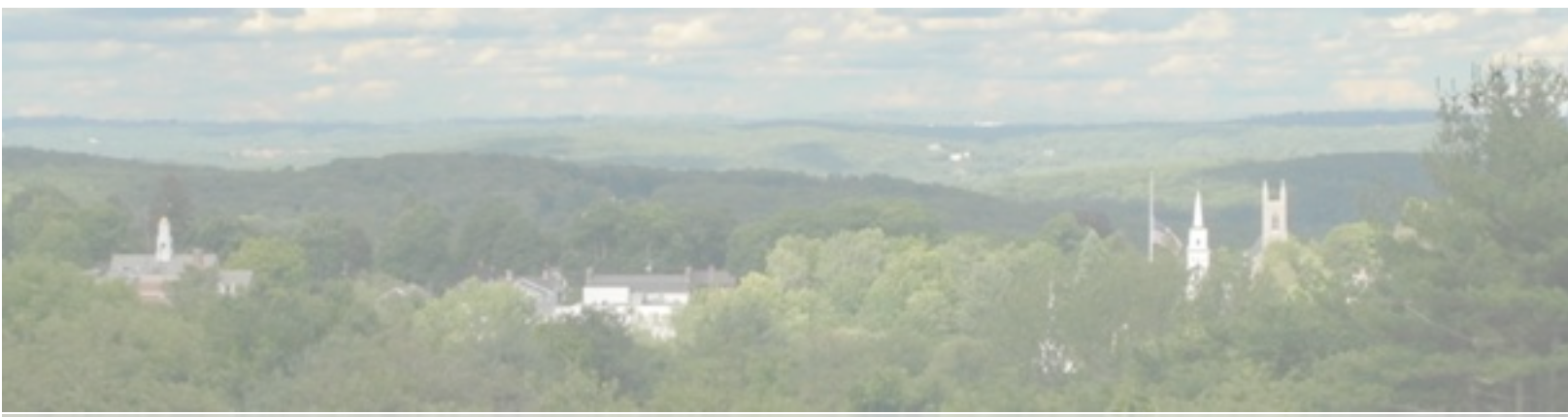
Rick Tyrseck has supplied us with the online resource, http://shutterbug.com/picture_this/0410picture/ where we can get examples of these topics and photography techniques for them by typing them into the “Search Site” box.

FLAGPOLE PHOTOGRAPHERS 2010-11 ASSIGNED SUBJECTS

Numerous members responded to our request for suggestions for topics for next year with a wide variety of excellent and creative ideas. A committee of board members Don Books, Donna White, Jim Talarino, Bob Berthier, and Anne Eigen reviewed, discussed, and voted on the items for the upcoming season. It has been a long-standing tradition for “Nature” and “Best Of Summer” to be the topics for September and October. We need the Nature topic for generating images for the NECCC Fall, Winter, and Spring Nature competitions.

FPP VOLUNTEERS FOR 2010-11

Ercole Gaudio has volunteered for setting up our meetings (including the lightbox). Rhonda Cullens and Kathleen Skandera join current volunteers Ed Siciliano, Sara Frampton, and Donna White, to cover signing in our competition prints. Win Brickmeier and Rhonda Cullens have taken on the job of seeking out and organizing a couple of exhibits for our photographs in area restaurants. We still need volunteers to serve on a committee to plan and organize the Holiday Party.



CHARTER CABLE CHANNEL 21 SEEKS FPP IMAGES

Channel 21 Community Access Supervisor Greg Van Antwerp has initiated contact with us about spotlighting our images each month on Channel 21, which provides information on community events and happenings for about 14 area towns, spanning Trumbull, Southbury, Kent, Washington, Sherman, Roxbury, the Danbury region, and others. He is looking for digital images representing a microcosm of community actions and goings-on as well as characteristic local flora, fauna, and wildlife. Photographers' names and the titles of their images would be displayed along with our club name. Here is a chance to get your images out there in a new way. We would send him 10 new images each month, and he would choose 4-6 out of those to spotlight. Please send 3 of your images by June 30 to our email address. If sizing is a problem, you can send in a large file.

flagpolephotographers@yahoo.com

SCOTT KELBY 3RD ANNUAL PHOTOWALK

Scott Kelby's 3rd Annual Worldwide Photowalk is happening on July 24, 2010 this year. For the past 2 years tens of thousands of photographers have participated worldwide, spanning practically all major cities. This is a great opportunity to meet, share ideas, and network with fellow photographers. Check out the official site here for details and registration: <http://worldwidephotowalk.com/> And by the way -- it's free!

NECCC ANNUAL CONFERENCE July 16-18

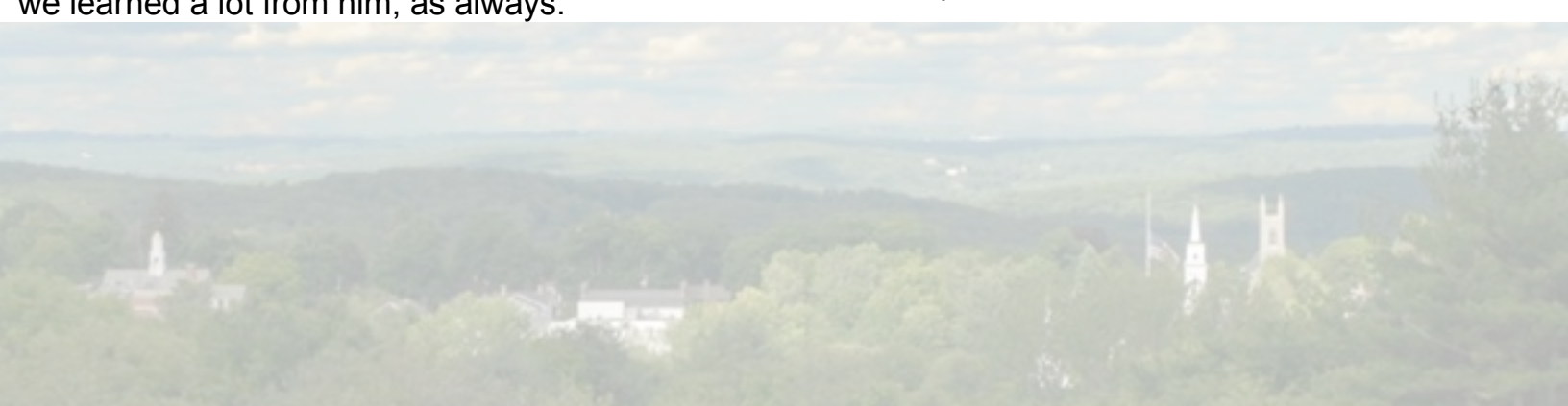
If you have not yet registered, you can still take advantage of the early bird registration fee for a short while longer. After June 25, fees increase by \$30.00. You can register online or download a registration form to fax or mail at neccc.org. The site also provides information on the workshops, activities, and competitions.

MAY'S PROGRAM: PORTRAITURE WITH BRAD STANTON

With an instructive slideshow incorporating examples from his studio photography, Brad started with a description of a simple one-light strobe setup on a stand about 45 degrees to the side of the model and about 2 feet above, angled down so that the light falls on the model's face. Model is positioned 2-3 feet from the background. An umbrella or soft box can be set up with the strobe to produce soft, diffused light. Umbrellas make for nice round catchlights. A reflector can be positioned or held by someone opposite the main light to provide fill light. Fill light can add a second pair of catchlights. Some photographers find double catchlights objectionable, and others find them natural. Brad recommends using simple foam core sheets as reflectors. A reflector can also be held beneath the model's face. Model is positioned 2-3 feet in front of the background.

A lighting unit can be placed overhead to cast light down from above and behind for hair highlights. Other light units can be used for rim and back lighting and to separate the subject from the background. One problem that can arise is when the model has eyeglasses. The solution is simple: Tell your model to tilt her/his head down slightly.

Finally, Brad shared a special Photoshop post-processing tip for de-emphasizing the "five o'clock shadow." Select the area of the face in question and run the "Dust and Scratches" filter, adjusting the opacity appropriately. As always, Brad was Brad, ever ready and willing to help. There were many questions, many answers, and we learned a lot from him, as always.



MEMBER MACRO

Micheline Williams has distinguished herself with wins in our monthly and annual competitions due to her innovative points of view through the camera and her magic with Photoshop. As well, we have been deeply moved by her images from her trip to Ghana with the Reed Intermediate School.

1. What inspired you to get into photography?

I have always taken photos since I was a kid in Belgium. Now I want to document the important people, things and events in my life, such as my children and family, my travels around the world and my gardens. This has become very important as my memory is quite diminished these days. I need to look at these photos (often with my children) to remember.

2. What one piece of equipment can you not live without?

My point and shoot cameras. They really make a difference for me. They are small and I don't have to change lenses. It is much easier to travel with them. And also my fisheye attachment. I enjoy the unusual images it allows me to make.

3. What is your biggest photographic achievement?

Documenting the lives of civil war victims in a refugee camp in Ghana. The people there all had horrible stories to tell and through my photography, I tried to capture this. Often, I spent time listening and connecting with them without my camera, which allowed the photos they ultimately let me take show more of their pain and sadness. Sharing these photographs with the children in Newtown helped them to see and understand in a more tangible way the suffering and hopes of people less fortunate.

4. What is your biggest photographic challenge?

Capturing animals in motion.

5. What is the most important photographic lesson you ever learned?

No one thing comes to my mind, but I learn continuously from all of you and the judges. And these lessons will go on and on.

6. When you were just starting out, what was your biggest photographic a-ha moment - the thing that created a major change for the better in your photography?

As most of you know, I had a traumatic brain injury that totally changed my life. Now I feel freer to "play" and I have more time to devote to my hobbies (knitting crazy

weaters, doing weird pottery). I started taking more photos and made many albums to put in the waiting room at the office. That is where Frank Gardner saw some of my photos and encouraged me to join camera clubs.

7. What is your favorite subject to shoot and why?

The people and the cultures in my travels.

8. Which photographer(s) inspire(s) you?

All of you.

9. Describe the dream photographic field trip you'd love to take.

I would love to be able to visit countries like Tibet, Bhutan, India, Namibia, South Africa. Distant cultures fascinate me.

10. What are your photographic goals/resolutions for the upcoming year?

Learning to organize my thousands of photos in Lightroom and labeling them so I can find them again. Right now they are all somewhere in cyberspace.

11. In what area of photography would you like to increase your knowledge?

I want to learn faster ways to use computer programs and be more efficient. What takes you 1 minute takes me an hour and then I forget what I did and then I cannot reproduce it.

12. Do you prefer taking the photo or post-processing and readying the photo for print? Why?

I love both but at this time I have more time to use my computer and change my photos into images that mean more to me.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, A NOTE FROM EDITOR BENAY YAFFEE

Many of you know that Benay recently had surgery, was in the hospital for several days, and is recovering well.

Dear Flagpole Friends,

Thank you so much for the adorable and very delicious fruit basket arrangement. Since I got out of the hospital, I've been resting in the afternoons, and yesterday, awakened with a powerful craving for fruit. As if summoned by magic, the fruit basket was delivered to my house within the hour. How did you manage that?

I just wanted you to know how much your thoughtfulness means to me.

Warmly,
Benay

Competition Winners

May, 2010

Assigned Subject: City or Town Skyline



1st Place Assigned
Metro Highlights
L. Adriana Gomez



2nd Place Assigned
Evening Skyline Manhattan
Ercole Gaudio

3rd Place Assigned
Sunset Lower Manhattan
Bob Berthier



1st Place Open-Color
Egret & Chicks
Bob Berthier



2nd Place Open-Color
Feminine Beauty
Micheline Williams



3rd Place Open-Color
Never Too Young to Protect from
the Sun
Rita Buonnano



1st Place Open-B & W
Men's Club Noir
Ercole Gaudio



2nd Place Open-B & W
Lone Tree
Bob Berthier



3rd Place Open-B & W
No Rush!
L. Adriana Gomez