



THE APERTURE

NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPE COD VIEWFINDERS CAMERA CLUB



<http://www.photo-ne.com/clubs/te04011.htm>

January 2005 -- Happy New Year!

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

There are many pleasures associated with membership in a camera club. Being able to exhibit your work among an appreciative audience and have it judged along with that of other photographers is certainly one. Having the fellowship of others who share your interests along with the rewarding interchange of ideas is certainly another. The constructive comments of judges along with the ideas presented by the many instructive programs is surely a third.

It seems to me that a great benefit from club membership is being able to view the works of others in so many different areas of photography. I find it continually inspiring to see the great talents that our members exhibit on continuing basis. We have members who specialize in B/W, nature, portrait, landscape, contemporary and digitally processed images with stunning effects. You can't avoid coming away from a competition, whether you have won or not, without a sense of awe at the creativity displayed by our members. Winning, of course, is fun but seeing what other winners have accomplished in many ways is more so. Our club is a vibrant organization and continues to attract new members who display cleverness, talent and ingenuity in their creations. Therein lies a real sense of the continuing pleasure of our chosen avocation.

Jim Mills

MEMBER NEWS

The husband and wife team of Mary Doering and Mikael Carstanjen never cease to amaze us with their artistic accomplishments. During the month of November, the couple's work was displayed at the Snow Library in a show entitled "Double Vision". Featured in the Crane Gallery were Mary's floral and contemporary prints and Mike's pictorial framed tiles, using a process which results in a handpainted appearance, many with a nautical motif. While browsing through the guestbook, the writer noted that visitors to the exhibit included noted Cape Cod artists, Roger Everett and Karen North Wells, a number of CCVF members, and a multitude of area residents. Congratulations, Mary and Mike!!!

Barbara Pike

ABOUT OUR JUDGES

On January 20, 2005, the Jake and Susan Mosser team will be our competition judges. They have judged CCVF competitions many times in the past, including the challenging Slide and Print of the Year Competitions.

Susan Mosser, FPSA, Hon. NEC

Susan Mosser has been involved in photography at the organizational level since 1978. She is the long-standing chairman of the Greater Lynn International, America's and possible the world's largest single division PSA approved color slide exhibition. She has served as program chairman for the Photographic Society of America, the New England Camera Club Counsel, Yankee Photographic Society and the Greater Lynn Photographic Association and been President of all except PSA. For her dedication to photographic organizations and for her success behind the camera Susan has been awarded a "Fellowship" in the Photographic Society of America and been made an "honorary" member of the New England Camera Club Counsel.

Susan has organized and led photo-safaris to Africa and across North America. Her eye for an image has earned her four stars as an exhibitor in PSA color and nature slide exhibitions.

Jacob Mosser III, FPSA, Hon. NEC

Jake Mosser is a serious amateur and semi-professional who has been obsessed with photography for the past 30 years. He has earned top photographic honors from the Photographic Society, the New England Camera Club Counsel and the Greater Lynn Photographic Association for both his skills with the camera and his efforts on behalf of the photographic community. Jake is most at home in the field with camera in hand, but he finds great satisfaction in teaching the techniques and vision he has learned through experience and the kindness of other sharing photographers.

Diane Robertson

If you are a CCVFCC member and would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, please email your name and email address to Terry Gavin at arubrum@rcn.com.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In an attempt to assist CCVF members with their possible entries in the Greater Lynn Salon, Peter Selig presented a program laden with information. Peter, himself, is a prize-winning photographer, a competition judge, and a presenter at regional conferences. Following a detailed explanation of the Salon, a summary of which can be found below, Peter discussed the broad subject of slides. He pointed out the differences between calendar, street, advertising, studio and portrait slides, contrasting those with slides deemed appropriate for camera club competitions.

The thrust of the remainder of Peter's presentation was on common mistakes in color slides photography and how to correct them. A melange of slides of less than top quality was used to illustrate his points. Audience members were asked for suggestions to improve each slide. Peter encouraged participants to do the same with their own slides. He also urged members to use mounts, Gepe or Erie. Some areas on which to focus for slide correction are: overexposure, sloping horizons, too bright sky, light traps (discontinuous patches of light shown through the tops of trees), equal arrangement of light and dark (unnecessary), mergers, such as line, point, edge, tone, and corner, as well as sloppy slide mounting. Additional discussion centered around elements of design, composition, and light. An extensive handout reviewed these areas in greater detail. There may be additional copies available for members who did not attend; please make this request to Peter directly.

Using Peter's helpful suggestions for both local competitions and salons will clearly improve the quality of our images.

Barbara Pike

GREATER LYNN INTERNATIONAL SLIDE SALON

This prestigious annual competition will take place on February 24, and 25, 2005. Judges will be Diane Robertson of CCVF, Gary Stanley, professional photographer (one of two main presenters at the recent Yankee Photographic Conference in Danvers), and Gerald Tucker of the Photographic Society of Rhode Island. Peter Selig has volunteered to coordinate our club's entry, which must be submitted as a package by February 23. Peter will be accepting slides for entry at the CCVF meeting of February 17. There will be a \$5.00 fee per maker, which represents a discounted amount. The winning club will receive the "Best Club Medal" award based upon the top seven winning entries from each club. Each individual may submit a total of four slides in the following categories: scenics, nature, photojournalism, phototravel, and contemporary. Judging will take place in a four-round format. If there are any questions, Peter will be happy to provide answers at the next meeting. Start searching through your slide collection. February 17 will be here before you know it!

Barbara Pike

PSA RESULTS OCTOBER 2004

PSA -Photographic Society of America, of which Cape Cod Viewfinders is a member, was established over 60 years ago with members in 75 countries. PSA Competitions, encompassing all levels of achievement, are held throughout the year. We participate in the Nature Division and the Color Slide Division. Results of the competitions to date are as follows:

COLOR SLIDE DIVISION

Ballerina	Barbara Pike	13
Lupine #4	Diane Robertson	12
Bee and Lupine	Mike Carstanjen	12
Storm at Ghost Ranch	Janet DiMattia	11
Trumpets-A-Blow	Larry Delgrego	10
Fire Fighter II	Peter Selig	9

For a total of 67 points :

GROUP D - Fourth Place: out of 15 clubs

NATURE DIVISION

Male Bluebird in Snow	Diane Robertson	12
Heron at Sunset	Ron Westgate	11
Little Brown Frog	Stan Johnson	11
Atlantic Brown Pelican	Janet DiMattia	11
Ocelot	Peter Selig	10
Sunrise Sandy Neck	Dick White	9

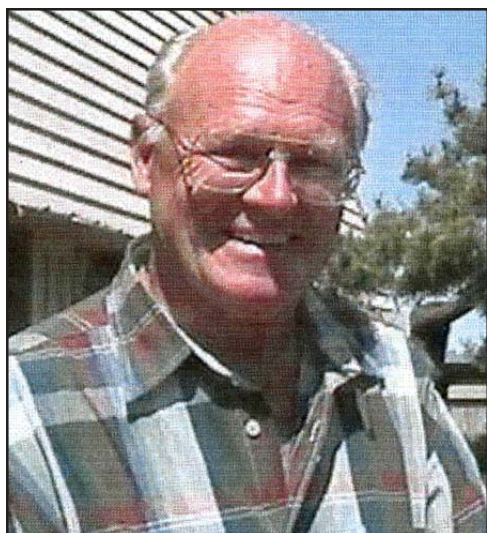
For a total of 64 points:

GROUP B- Ninth Place out of 17 clubs

Janet DiMattia



Mary Doering's 3 photos above, "Mike Eigen", "Black and White Birches" and "Orange Dahlia" received Honorable Mention at Greater Lynn Yankee Photographic Society in Danvers in November.



FOCUS ON: DAVID JORDAN

When considering possible subjects for the first "Focus On" column, there was no question in my mind that our first honoree should be our esteemed former club president, David E. Jordan.

Born in New Jersey, David graduated from the Academy of Advanced Traffic with a major in Interstate Commerce Law. His early career encompassed Transportation Management with corporations in New York City and Schenectady, New York. He returned to New York in 1955 to pursue a career in Logistics, Asset and Financial Management with Union Carbide. After 35 years, David retired in 1990.

He served in a variety of management positions, both on the local and the national levels, which provided him the unique opportunity to travel to all fifty states, Canada, and Mexico. During any free time he could manage, David explored each area, and he pursued his hobby of photography at the same time. His interest in photography goes back to the 1940's, but

he did not become formally involved in the world of camera clubs until the 1970's, when he joined the West Essex Camera Club. In his words, "I've been hooked ever since!"

David met June, his future wife, in New York, where they both worked in the same building. Married for fifty-five years, David and June are the parents of three married daughters, who reside in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts, and they are the grandparents of two young men, one in high school, and one in college. David's love of the Cape began in 1949, when he and June spent a portion of their honeymoon here. Later, the Cape became a favorite vacation spot. Finally, the Jordans moved to Harwich in 1996, when June retired from the Montclair, New Jersey school system with twenty-four years of service.

Beyond his passion for photography, which is demonstrated in his superb images, David enjoys writing, reading, doing research, gardening, and yard work. He maintains an acre and one-half of woodland in his backyard as a nature preserve. A recent challenge for David has been learning Photoshop 7 on his computer. In addition, he has been investigating ways to catalogue and possibly print his more than 30,000 slides. David and June vacation annually in either Florida or the Cayman Islands. When on Cape Cod, the couple walks three miles a day, often enjoying a picnic lunch and the chance to investigate many locations in greater depth.

When David joined the CCVFCC in 1996, his leadership skills were quickly recognized. He became first vice-president in charge of programs that year and president the following year. He held that position for the past seven years, retiring in September 2004, when he handed the gavel to Jim Mills. During his tenure, the club has expanded both in scope and in membership. Among his accomplishments are the updating and color coding of competition rules and club-related forms, the authoring of an eight-page "Introduction to the Cape Cod Viewfinders" brochure, the establishment of the annual non-members' photography contest held at the Chatham Creative Arts Center, the introduction of pre-meeting instructional classes, the formulation of slide evaluation/study groups (there are currently three active groups which meet monthly), and the designing and implementation of same-night entry and return for slide and print competitions. This is just a small sampling of David's multiple contributions to our club.

David holds memberships in several photographic organizations in addition to CCVFCC, including PSA, Yankee Photographic Society and the Creative Arts Center in Chatham. Just recently, David was invited to become a member of the Massachusetts Camera Naturalists, an organization comprised of "serious nature photographers and naturalists dedicated to the appreciation of the natural environment". Membership is by invitation only and the potential candidate must participate in a rigorous six to eight-month evaluative process. A frequent ribbon winner at local competitions, David has had his photography recognized in a number of national publications. He has ten photos in "New England -- A Photographic Portrait", five pictures in "Mid and Lower Cape Cod -- A Photographic Portrait", and photos in several magazines such as "Outdoor Photographer", "Modern Woman" magazine, the "Harwich Oracle", and many trade and house journals.

The Cape Cod View Finders Camera Club is grateful to David for his many years of service, as well as his leadership skills, his wisdom, his energy, his creative ideas, and for the many innovative practices which he conceived and established.

Barbara Pike

FLASHES: Members' Columns

THE WORLD INSIDE THE BOX

If you like birds, and you love photography, sooner or later these two interests will come together. I can remember obtaining a 200 mm lens for my Pentax K1000 camera, and thinking that I could sit still in the backyard and soon capture a frame filling image of a chickadee, nuthatch, or whatever from 35 feet away. Big let down! There had to be a better way.

The obvious starting place was to position myself near the feeding areas for the birds. However, the birds didn't think much of this idea. The need for a blind was apparent, but the cost presented an impediment to my progress.

"Big enough to stand or sit in with a tripod, portable, adaptable and easy to store" were the thoughts that came to mind for a blind of my own creation. A cardboard shipping carton for a refrigerator would work. It is big, lightweight, can be flattened out for storage, and could be cut into with a knife. Availability was not a problem, I found, after checking the local appliance store.

The box I obtained went through an evolution. A door and a lens port were added with the help of a jack knife, and a stool was set inside. Now the fun began.

As I spent hours inside this makeshift blind, I began to recognize the approaching birds by their sounds, and I actually found my heart pounding as my first photo subject neared the target area of my lens. A sudden movement, and the opportunity was lost!

My failures were greatly outnumbering my successes, and some changes and additions to the set up were needed.

#1. To help in dealing with occasional harsh lighting, or lack of good lighting, as the case would be, a flash was added. This would be placed off camera, outside of the box on a stand, tree branch, broomstick or whatever else works.

#2 Since the birds were aware of my movements, seen through the lens port area which was about 12" by 12", a sheer piece of curtain with a hole from which the lens could protrude was taped over the lens port. I could now watch the birds easily, but they could not see me.

#3 A "survival kit" containing extra film, batteries, eyeglasses, Kleenex, a small flashlight, snacks——everything I might need while ensconced in my box, were packed in bag.

Now that the logistics for photographing had been addressed, effort could go toward creativity. If backgrounds were a problem, a "set up" could be assembled and placed on a porch railing, a stump or anywhere that provided some distance between the subject and what would become the background. A piece of driftwood, a rock, a cattail stuck in a bottle, a pine branch——all could be made to look natural, and, as long as I placed some birdseed near the designated landing sites, the birds would come.

By the way, birds don't care if the box has "REFRIGERATOR THIS SIDE UP" printed in it. They don't care what color it is either. I just gave these little guys a few hours to find the food at the set up and then placed the box nearby. (6 to 10 feet away, depending on the lens capability) Within a day I entered the world inside the box, and have beautiful images of my backyard birds for my trouble. I invite you into my world. All it takes is patience.

NECESSITIES FOR BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

1. 35 mm interchangeable lens SLR or digital camera with lens capabilities of SLR equivalent 200 to 500 mm

2. lens in the 200mm to 500mm range. (200 is pretty minimal)

3. Film

4. Tripod

5. Big box

6. stool

NICE TO HAVE FOR BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

1. flash with TTL capability

2. cord for off camera flash

3. stand for off camera flash

Diane G. Robertson

TAKING BETTER IMAGES

It's a joy to attend a camera club competition and hear the judge praise your photo and give it a good score. It's also a bit of letdown to hear that you blew out the sun, had a tree sticking out of grandpa's head, didn't focus on the main subject, etc. Sometimes we just don't pay the amount of attention on our photography that we think we do.

Taking a competition photograph is more than just setting the camera on program and pointing it in the right direction, it takes your "concentration" and full attention. You may have the technical aspects down, but you need the right frame of mind to complete the process. Help is on the way in a couple of very interesting books that help you to think outside the box. Freeman Patterson's books help you do just that, and the following information is taken from some of them and it's good advice for improving not only your photographs but your approach too!

Here are a few points Patterson recommends:

1. Let go of yourself ... abandon your preconceptions, stop thinking about the process or whether or not you can take good pictures, just let go, and new feelings and ideas will guide you.

2. Preoccupation ... Get your mind to relax so your body will relax and you'll be in better shape. Preoccupation is a big barrier to creativity.

3. Stimuli ... Patterson believes there is so much stimuli in the world that we select some and become comfortable with that, but it blocks us from other stimuli and we become stale. We fail to see the world around us for what it is.

4. Labeling and familiarity ... Because we label things, see a chair as a chair, and a dog as a dog, we become familiar and fail to see the objects in different ways and explore them, etc. Objects become things we label and not things to "see".

So what does this mean? Freeman says that a photographer who really wants to see has to recognize the value of the familiar. If you can't make a good photograph in your yard or home then you won't make a good one in Venice or Tibet etc.

If you're interested in improving your photography, then I would suggest reading Freeman Patterson's "Photography for the Joy of it" and "Photography and the Art of Seeing". I also recommend Bert Eifer's "Developing the Creative Edge in Photography".

Enjoy, get out there and keep shooting!

Paul Church

PRINT COMPETITION RESULTS FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2004



"At Rest"

PRINTS - COLOR

1st	Gurli Lovinger	"At Rest"
2nd	Jeff Lovinger	"Kalmar Nyckel"
3rd	Terry Gavin	"Infinite Fence"
HM	Wallace Frye	"My Red Balloon"
HM	Mary Doering	"Red Vine"
HM	Bruce Blance	"Shell Collector"
HM	Norm Kenneally	"Horse Country"
HM	Diane Robertson	"Grand Canyon in Early Light"
HM	David Farquhar	"Two Flickers"
HM	Janet DiMattia	"Cosmos and Lace"
HM	Gurli Lovinger	"Lily Girl"



"Albino Water Buffalo - Vietnam"

PRINTS - BLACK & WHITE

1st	Paul Church	"Yoga Master #2" (not available)
2nd	Rebecca Bruyn	"Trees & Bench"
3rd	John Knapp	"Venice"
HM	Jim Mills	"Silver Mansions"
HM	Paul Church	"Yoga Master"
HM	Jeff Lovinger	"Woman in the Dunes"

PRINTS - PORTRAITURE

1ST	Jeff Lovinger	"Albino Water Buffalo - Vietnam"
2nd	Jeff Lovinger	"Sugar Shack"
3rd	Paul Church	"Untitled Portrait No. 1"
HM	Wallace Frye	"Little Green Apple"
HM	Mary Doering	"Althea"
HM	Larry Delgrego	"Disgruntled Republican"

NECCC RESULTS

FALL SLIDE COMPETITION

Color

Title

Ballerina
Sage Brush and Storm
Magnolia Bud
Trumpets A-Blow

November 4, 2004

Name

Barbara Pike
Janet DiMattia
Diane Robertson
Larry Delgrego

Awards

3rd. Place (Tie)

Points

26
23
24
23
96

Competing in Class AA with 20 clubs, our club finished in second place (Tie with Greater Lynn Photographic Association).

Nature

Title

Atlantic Brown Pelican
Little Brown Frog
Male Bluebird in Snow
Heron at Sunset

November 17, 2004

Name

Janet DiMattia
Stanley Johnson
Diane Robertson
Ron Westgate

Awards

Points

20
20
25
21
86

Competing in Class A with 23 clubs, our club finished in 11th place (Tied with two other clubs).

FALL PRINT COMPETITION

Black & White

Title

Christine
Boat in the Grass
Clock
Sleepy Leopard

November 17, 2004

Name

Mary Doering
Joe Tambascio
David Farquhar
David Pike

Awards

Points

19
23
19
20
81

Competing in Class A with 14 clubs, our club finished in 10th place (Tied with one other club).

Color

Title

Nobska with Storm Clouds
Matt White on Flying Trapeze
Retired but Majestic
Study in Purple

November 17, 2004

Name

Mikael Carstanjen
David Farquhar
David H. deBaun
Diane Robertson

Awards

Points

25
21
21
23
90

Competing in Color (all one class) with 28 clubs, our club finished in 9th place (Tied with two other clubs. We are only 3 points out of second place).

Peter Selig

SLIDE COMPETITION RESULTS FOR OCTOBER 21, 2004



"Heron at Sunset # 2"



"Cranberry Harvester II"



"Sofia"



"Tri-colored Heron"



"Fall Scene"



"Adobe Home"

SLIDES - PICTORIAL B

1st	Ron Westgate	"Fall Scene"
2nd	Paul Blackmore	"Moonsail"
HM	Ron Westgate	"Red Tree"

SLIDES - PICTORIAL A

1st	Vince Scarnecchia	"Cranberry Harvester II"
2nd	Fred Durr	"Lighthouse Spiral Staircase"
HM	Fred Durr	"Heads Up"

SLIDES - PICTORIAL M

1st	Janet DiMattia	"Adobe Home"
2nd	Janet DiMattia	"Storm at Ghost Ranch"
3rd	Jim Mills	"Out of the Mist"
HM	Peter Selig	"Sunset at Keys View"
HM	Diane Robertson	"Magnolia Bulb"
HM	Barbara Pike	"To the Lighthouse"



SLIDES - PORTRAITURE

1st	Stan Johnson	"Sophie"
2nd	Bob Cormier	"Red Sox Fan"
3rd	Janet DiMattia	"Country Western Singer"
HM	Diane Robertson	"Flicker"
HM	Peter Selig	"Men in Golden Robes"

SLIDES - NATURE B

1st	Ron Westgate	"Heron at Sunset #2"
2nd	Larry Delgrego	"Beach Plums"
HM	Paul Blackmore	"Journey"

There was no Nature A competition

SLIDES - NATURE M

1st	Janet DiMattia	"Tri-colored Heron"
2nd	Janet DiMattia	"Young Eastern Cottontail"
3rd	Vince Scarnecchia	"Frost on Leaves"
HM	Matt Ryan	"Mushroom #2"
HM	Matt Ryan	"Night Heron"
HM	Stan Johnson	"Autumn Mushroom"
HM	Peter Selig	"Nesting Swan"

Peter Selig received Third Place in the first "Portfolio Competition". The three slides included "Rutting Elk", "Bass Harbor Lighthouse" (previously printed here) and a third image not available for reproduction.

BARBARA CRAIG MCDOWELL

Barbara Craig McDowell died recently at 84 after a brief illness. An avid photographer, she was a member and former president of the Cape Cod Viewfinders Camera Club and had won several awards. She exhibited her works at Falmouth Artists Guild, Cape Cod Arts Association, Creative Art Center in Chatham and Mystic Seaport. Barbara's son has graciously offered her photo equipment (lighting, darkroom, tripods and more) to the club as a fundraiser. If you are interested in purchasing any of the items, please call Dee Forst at 508-945-0858 for further details.