



THE APERTURE

NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPE COD VIEWFINDERS CAMERA CLUB

April 2007



www.capecodviewfinders.org

Editors: Barbara Pike, Terry Gavin

FLASHES: An Informational Column by Our Members

FLORIDA, HOT and HUMID

by Peter Selig

From December 18th through December 25th (Christmas Day) of this past year, my wife and I vacationed in Florida. Having flown into West Palm Beach, we first headed north to visit Merritt Island and the National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is just north of the Kennedy Space Center on Cape Canaveral. Since the weather on Cape Cod was mild, I found the weather at the refuge hot (in the low 80's) and somewhat humid for my taste. Merritt Island is one of Florida's best wildlife viewing areas on the east coast of Florida.

I was using my digital camera, the Canon 20D with my new Tokina Zoom Telephoto AF-D 80-400 F/4.5-5.6 ATX Autofocus lens that Vince Scarnecchia had recommended. I bought this lens because of what it offered in the price/performance trade-off.

The main area in the Refuge is a one-way loop road called Black Point Wildlife Drive, which is very similar to the five-mile one-way loop road at Sanibel Island on the west coast of Florida. Merritt Island is a key wintering area along the eastern migratory routes. Birds heading south arrive in October and stay until early March. This is very similar to the human migration which goes from late fall through late spring. Wading birds, shorebirds, raptors, waterfowl, alligators, otters, and other species are spotted along the drive.

My best find at Merritt Island occurred on the drive down Bio Lab Road that ended at Mosquito Lagoon. On the Lagoon were hundreds of turkey vultures fighting over a dead fish. The larger trees were filled with vultures. After looking around, I could see many more. It looked like a scene out of Alfred Hitchcock's movie, "The Birds". Talking with another photographer at the Lagoon, he related what he experienced on a similar trip and this is what he said. "When I returned to my car in the sandy lot, each car was covered with vultures, fighting each other for the last bit of space on the hoods, trunks, and tops of the vehicles. Of course, the cars were a mess. I moved slowly towards my rented car, not wanting to provoke a territorial confrontation. I was ready to press the trunk release button on the car's keyless remote control, launching at least eight of the vultures into the air and hopefully frightening the rest off. When I saw that some were pulling off the rubber strips around the windows and trying to remove my windshield wipers, I lost it and started yelling. They all rose straight up with a roar of wind through their wings and settled again in the tops of the trees around the parking lot. I was surrounded by hundreds of vultures. I threw all my camera gear on the front seat, hopped in, and got out of there".

I got my shots of a few vultures fighting over a dead fish and vultures soaring in the thermals and got out of there. My wife stayed in the car while we were at the Lagoon.



MORE FLASHES

PHOTOGRAPHING AND TRAVELING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Some photographer friends of mine started organizing a trip to China last February 2006 for November. Gurli and I started planning early. We wanted to travel light, as we would be visiting many places over a month's time, and I would head off to Tibet on my own for the month of December. We didn't mind wearing the same clothes, but we had to have our photo gear. What exactly does that mean in the digital age? It gets a bit complicated. We would be visiting many different areas in China, from warm cities, to mountainous areas which were to be cold and wet. Lhasa, Tibet at 12,000 ft. is a world unto itself. Transportation of all types: boats, large and small, trains, planes, buses, and walking, lots of walking. We wanted to be mobile and not carry too much weight, but of course we both wanted all our gear.

We had to make some serious choices about what to take, and what was not essential. For the best quality images, of course I had to take "the beast", my Nikon D2X, as well as a few good lenses - a wide angle 12-24, 17-55, and a 70-200, with a 1.7X tele extender. Also we needed to bring filters, a polarizer, an N/D filter, sensor cleaning tools, etc. Gone were the days of filling a bag full of film (of course after taking all the rolls out of their boxes) and putting them into a lead pouch. Although we complained about having to take all that film along, it was somehow simpler, as you'll soon see. I did decide to get a few new toys to make things run more smoothly. I really wasn't sure how many images I would shoot over almost 2 months time. Although I know when I am in a foreign country, get excited, and sometimes I have only one opportunity to get that shot, I can get carried away. One thing is for sure, you never want to run out of film, or rather storage space, on that day trip to some exotic area. I did end up bringing about 5000 images home after light editing on the road.

I decided I had to have a small light weight laptop to save all those images, so I left the big heavy Dell laptop, and got a Toshiba 12" light weight laptop. Of course I had to have Photoshop loaded, so I could edit and develop some photos on the road. Well, I found out quickly enough, that there really wasn't much time for editing or developing. I bought a few extra 2GB flash cards as the D2X, being 12 MPX and always shooting in raw format, uses a lot of memory, almost 20 MB per image.

Two of the other photographers going recommended a great device for uploading your photos. So I got a Hyperdrive to upload my images to out in the field from the flash cards. I kept all the images there as a backup, and every evening uploaded a copy to my laptop. It's a very small light weight stand alone unit. I bought one with the 80GB hard drive for about \$250. What is really nice is that you can actually swap the hard drive from the case when that one is full. You can buy an extra hard drive inexpensively. There is a new version out now at www.hypershop.com. Another alternative is the Epson P-5000 80GB multimedia storage viewer, photo/Video/MP3 player. You can view your images, play a slide show, or video, and listen to downloaded music. But at \$680, I opted to get the hyperdrive, and a small laptop instead. Every evening, as well as uploading the hyperdrive or flash cards to my laptop, I also made a backup to another device. I used a USB hard drive, by Iomega, that plugs, and powers directly from your laptop. I took 2 100GB devices along. They run around \$100. Maxtor makes a good one as well, which I believe is available at Staples. One additional fact to remember is that all the devices must be rated at 240-250 volts to work without a step down transformer, in China and many other countries.

Of course you will need an extra battery for your camera, and don't forget the charger for your camera, and all of the chargers for your laptop, cell phone, etc. We decided to get an international cell phone to travel with, and it came in very handy, as in the time when I was so caught up in getting that perfect shot, that the next thing I knew was, "where did everyone go". I was totally lost, but I was able to call my guide, and he came to find me. After some research, we bought online, an "unlocked GSM cell phone". Once in China, we purchased a local Sim card to use the phone, and also a local calling card, for local calls. This was the least expensive way to keep in touch with family etc. back home. You can also use these in any country in the future. I should mention that we also used Skype on our laptop to make free calls to anywhere in the world. You can use this great service at home as well, by signing up at www.skype.com.

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Most of the rooms in foreign countries don't have many wall outlets, so with that plethora of electrical devices in mind, I purchased a 6 outlet surge protector strip for \$30. Also don't forget the proper electrical plug adaptors for the country you are going to. A good website for all this is www.international-electrical-supplies.com. The problem is that you don't want to send all this through with your luggage, because you really can't afford to lose it or have it come a few days late. It will really put you out of business, so to speak. So, pack all the chargers laptop, etc. into a small wheeled carry-on bag that is of current legal size for flying. Then you can fill that photo backpack with all the really precious goodies, such as your second carry-on bag. I also took a sturdy fairly light-weight tripod with a carrying strap, which had to go in my checked luggage, with the few pieces of clothing. Instead of a carrying bag for the tripod, just wrap it in some clothing. For the rainy days, of which we had quite a few, I would recommend a chamois cloth, and a camera rain jacket by Kata bags, (great for snow and rainy New England weather as well) available for about \$50 at www.bhphotovideo.com. B&H is one of the most reliable and best priced online photo stores. If you are in N.Y.C., stop into their amazing, huge store. It's like being a kid in a candy store.

When I said traveling in the digital age gets complicated, now you see what I mean. Where is that bag of film? Yes, China was great, and Tibet was another world altogether. The people are so special in Tibet, and the scenery and monasteries are magnificent.

by Jeff Lovinger
www.lovingerimages.com

SNAPSHOTS

Fred Gaechter will be having an exhibit of his images at the Truro Council on Aging on Route 6A for the entire month of May. He'll be showing 15-20 works, mostly 11 X 14 (unframed). It is for the entire month with an opening reception on Sunday, May 6th. He'll be including color as well as Black & White images that will include landscapes, to nature, outdoor still lifes, seascapes, and buildings, some of which have been recognized with ribbons at our Club.

PROGRAMS

The Cape Cod Viewfinders were in for a treat on Wednesday, April 4, 2007 when Michelle Fontaine presented her program, "Creating a Digital Slide Show". Although there are several programs available, Michelle's program featured ProShow Gold 3.0, which seems to be one of the most versatile currently available.

Michelle explained through examples some of the possibilities for creating a show, such as, weddings, reunions, family outings, self-promotion, etc., to name a few. The program also featured some of the many functions the program offers and how one might apply them to their own situation. Michelle's presentation was well received, and it looks like we might start to see some individual slide shows cropping up at the Viewfinders meeting in the future. For more information check out: www.mfontaineproductions.com/capecodviewfinders.htm.

Michelle, a member of Gateway Camera Club, enjoys both event and fine art photography and is climbing the photographic awards ladder, earning several judge's choice awards at the New England Camera Club Conference in 2006, and was recognized by the Greater Lynn International Salon in 2006. Michelle is also a camera club program contributor, speaker at local events, official photographer for the National Park System and Blackstone Valley's Greenway Challenge Adventure Race, and a Virtual Tour photographer for MLS properties. Michelle will also be a speaker at NECC 2007 where she'll present her program, "Creating a Photographic Website".

Other upcoming events are: **April 18, "What is Nature"** presented by CCVFCC member and past president David Jordan and **May 2, "Photoshop"**, presented by CCVFCC member and President of the Cape Cod Art Association Camera Club, Bob Singer. We hope to see you there!

Paul Church

2007 MEETING SCHEDULE

- May 2 Program Photoshop with Bob Singer
- May 16 Final Competition (Digital, Print, Slide of the Year) John Fuller, judge
- Jun 6 Banquet

NEW ENGLAND CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL (NECCC) INTERCLUB SLIDE COMPETITION RESULTS

NATURE SLIDE COMPETITION, MARCH 5, 2007

The Spring Nature Interclub Competition was held on Monday, March 5, 2007 at the Huntington Photographic Society. With 19 clubs competing in Class A (Top Class), we finished in 2nd place with 95 points. The final standing for the year put us in third place with 286 points behind Charter Oak Photographic (289 points) and Greater Lynn Photographic Association (288 points). Boston West Photographic Society, who was in first place after the second round, had either an incomplete entry or had a disqualified slide and finished in 15th place. Cape Cod Viewfinders individual results are as follows:

Title	Name	Points	Awards
Male Towhee	Diane Robertson	24	HM
Cannon Beach at Dusk	Janet DiMattia	24	HM
Field Clover	David Jordan	22	
Wave Action	Peter Selig	<u>25</u>	2nd (Tie)
		95	2nd Place

"Pine Warbler in Winter" by Diane Robertson and "Wave Action" by Peter Selig are eligible for "Slide of the Year" Nature Medal and must be received by June 18th. The "Slide of the Year" Award is announced at the NECCC July Conference in Amherst.

Peter Selig

PSA NEWS

The 2007 Annual PSA International Conference will be held in Tucson Arizona Sept 2 to Sept 8th. Planned is an exciting lineup of presenters, photo tours and workshops. For additional information: www.psa-photo.org

Results of recent PSA competitions are as follows - **NATURE DIVISION Digital Interclub Competition**

Current Standing after the March competition finds Cape Cod Viewfinders in 12th place with a total of 81 points. Even though we are technically in "Class B", the first two competitions were held as a single class due to the small amount of clubs participating in the program. The clubs will not be broken down into two classes until more clubs participate. There is one more competition in Digital nature to be held in May.

Individual scores for the first competition are -

Bull Moose	10	Diane Robertson
Bee Gathering Pollen	10	Janet DiMattia
Downy Woodpecker	10	Peter Selig
Hoping for a Handout	10	Terry Gavin

Individual Scores for the second competition are -

Finback Surfacing	9	Terry Gavin
Piping Plover and Chick	11	Peter Selig
Egret Nestlings	12	Janet DiMattia
Marmot	9	Diane Robertson

NATURE DIVISION - Second Slide Competition

White-Breasted Nuthatch	10	Diane Robertson	
Bee Gathering Pollen	12	Janet DiMattia	AWARD OF MERIT
Snowy Egret/Breeding Plumage	8	Vincent Scarnecchia	
Willet Feeding	8	Peter Selig	
Monarch Caterpillar	11	Diane Robertson	HONORABLE MENTION
Washington Sunset	10	Peter Selig	

Janet DiMattia

CCVF COMPETITION RESULTS, FEBRUARY 21, 2007

Competition #4, February 21, 2007

Judge: Ray Guillette

Digital - Open:

1 st Place	"Cormorant Fisherman"	Jeff Lovinger
2 nd Place	"Reaching Out"	Paul Church
3 rd Place	"Oregon Coast Sunset"	Peter Selig
HM	"Wintering Robin"	Diane Robertson
HM	"Fall Color"	Terry Gavin
HM	"Winter Skiff"	Robert Ward



"CORMORANT FISHERMAN"

Digital - Altered:

1 st Place	- "Two Slinkies"	Peter Selig
2 nd Place	- "On Your Mark"	Paul Church
3 rd Place	- "Winter Sunset"	Robert Ward
HM	"Hydrangea"	Terry Gavin
HM	"Milkweed Flowing"	Janet DiMattia
HM	"Cheerful Chickadee Dee Dee"	Janet DiMattia

Slides - Open:

1 st Place	- "Cannon Beach At Dusk"	Janet DiMattia
2 nd Place	- "Cityscape No. 4"	David Jordan
3 rd Place	- "Redwoods In The Fog"	Diane Robertson
HM	"Salute To A Soldier"	Matthew Ryan
HM	"Colorado Fall"	Janet DiMattia



"TWO SLINKIES"

Slides - Nature:

1 st Place	- "Male Towhee"	Diane Robertson
2 nd Place	- "Wave Action"	Peter Selig
3 rd Place	- "Peaceful Walk"	Peter Selig
HM	"Rabbit Munching"	Janet DiMattia
HM	"Rainy Landscape"	Matthew Ryan

Prints - Color Class B/A:

1 st Place	- "Spring Daffodils"	Marge Uhl
2 nd Place	- "Eagle Lock"	Fred Gaechter
3 rd Place	- "Pelican #1"	Nancy Cormier
HM	"Quiet Days"	Fred Gaechter
HM	"November Morn"	Jim Stewart



"CANNON BEACH AT DUSK"

Prints - Color Class M:

1 st Place	"Mother And Child"	Jeff Lovinger
2 nd Place	"Frozen Over"	Gurli Lovinger
3 rd place	"Lone Tree"	Diane Robertson
HM	"Peruvian Farm Scene"	Jim Mills
HM	"Red Barn In Fog"	Janet Dimattia
HM	"Schooner #1"	Matthew Ryan
HM	"Untitled"	Larry Sweeney
HM	"Children Of Tibet"	Jeff Lovinger

Prints - Black and White:

1 st Place	"Misty Morning, Yellowstone"	Diane Robertson
2 nd Place	"Trees In The Mist"	Diane Roberson
3 rd Place	"Tom's Hand"	Paul Church
HM	"Pilgrim Girl"	Paul Church
HM	"Boston Bridge At 60 MPH"	Larry Sweeney
HM	"Tea Ship"	Jeff Lovinger



"MALE TOWHEE"

CCVF COMPETITION RESULTS, MARCH 21, 2007

Competition #5, March 21, 2007

Judge: Dan Charbonnet

Digital Open:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1 st "Merganser" | David Farquhar |
| 2 nd "Morocco Door Detail" | Peter Selig |
| 3 rd "Monarch Orange Blossom" | Diane Robertson |
| HM "All In A Row" | Debbie Owen |
| HM "The Big Picture" | David Farquhar |
| HM "Misty Beach" | Jim Mills |



"MERGANSER"

Digital Altered:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st "Tea Ceremony" | Jeff Lovinger |
| 2 nd "Solarized Flower" | Peter Selig |
| 3 rd "Church In Provence" | Debbie Owen |
| HM "Glowing Butterfly" | Jim Mills |
| HM "Polar Playground" | Janet DiMattia |



"TEA CEREMONY"

Slides – Open:

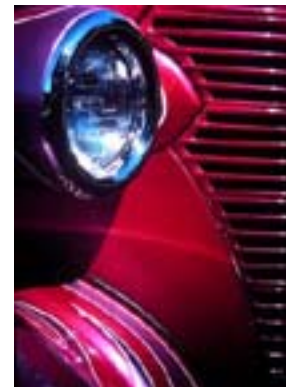
- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1 st "Chrome and Color" | Janet DiMattia |
| 2 nd "Sunrise at Bandon Beach" | Peter Selig |

Slides – Nature:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1 st "When The Tide Goes Out" | Janet DiMattia |
| 2 nd "Elk With Young" | Diane Robertson |

Prints – Color Class B/A:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 st "Barn Texture" | Fred Gaechter |
| 2 nd "Hummingbird Moth" | Bill Low |
| 3 rd "Chat En Provence" | Debbie Owen |
| HM "In My Dreams" | Bill Low |
| HM "Peabody" | Paul Goetinck |



"CHROME AND COLOR"

Prints – Color Class M:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1 st "Rusty Boot Abstract" | Diane Robertson |
| 2 nd "Moth Orchid (Phalaenopsis)" | David Jordan |
| 3 rd "Cassie's Vision" | Larry Sweeney |
| HM "Beached" | Jeff Lovinger |
| HM "Great Blue Heron" | Larry Sweeney |

Prints – Black and White:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 st "Tibetan Pilgrim" | Jeff Lovinger |
| 2 nd "Harsh Winter" | Diane Robertson |
| 3 rd "Coiled and Ready" | Diane Robertson |
| HM "Dinner Time" | Bill Low |
| HM "Derelict Farmhouse" | David Farquhar |



"WHEN THE TIDE
GOES OUT"