



Indian River Photo Club

April 2009

INFOCUS NEWSLETTER

The Club President's Snapshot.

The future is so bright we will have to wear shades, it has been said. And it is so true for our club right now! And all thanks to club members who took an interest in our club!!

Our program at the monthly meeting April 23rd will be Sports Photography by newspaper photographer Craig Bailey from the Florida Today newspaper in Brevard County. It is through the effort of club member and Camera Club of Brevard President Richard Thomson that this program is possible. We can all learn about photographic skills for all kinds of photography from a professional like him. Thanks Richard and Craig.

Our contest theme this month is "Texture"WOW! Get creative.

Next month the program will be on Low Light Photography by club VP Pat Rice. Thanks Pat! Our contest theme will be "Open". Anything goes!

Thanks to Barbara du Pont, through a friend of Hal du Pont's - Doug Walsh, we will have a Seminar April 30th in our regular meeting room on HDR, High Dynamic Range. The owner of the George Lepp Institute, Hal Schmitt will teach us how to keep detail in our shadows and highlights when we edit our images. This is a rare and special opportunity!!!! Thanks to Barbara, Hal, Doug and Hal. Remember, there is no admission charge for members or guests, and the Seminar begins at 5.30 PM for 6 PM Don't miss this, and please bring guests!!! Register through our special e-mail address at irphotoclubseminars@gmail.com

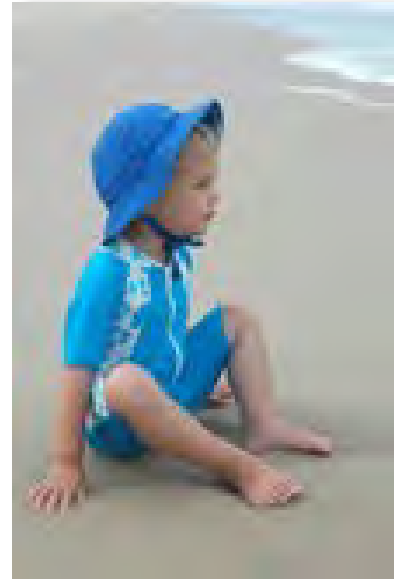
When reserving please give your name, number in your party plus your telephone number.

Our annual bus trip to St. Augustine which began under former President Hal du Pont's administrations - (Thanks, Hal) will be May 16th. To reserve your spot, register and pay online or mail to the club's PO Box 1491, Vero Beach, FL 32961.

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New Member's first competition entry is a winner!

Congratulations Linda



In February Linda Leonard came to our monthly club meeting and decided to join up. March was her first time entering a photograph in our monthly competition. She entered a photograph which she felt expressed the monthly theme of "Beauty", not expecting anything more than having her picture critiqued, and then to return home having learned a little bit more about what it takes to compose a good photograph.

Although she was confident, like most of are, that her entry was one of the best, if not the best, Linda was most surprised and proud, to find herself in the position of receiving the first place ribbon for color in class B.

Linda used a Nikon D70 at a digital focal length of 75mm. f/9.0 @1/320 seconds. It was taken on Vero's Beach on an overcast day. Linda said she wondered what a two-year old could be thinking as she gazed at the sea.....hence the title,

"Sea-gazer".



Hackberry Hammock, 2009

By Carolyn Shafer

One weekend last month, Saturday March 14th. to be exact, several of our members participated in a special photo field trip to Hackberry Hammock.

This a brief account of the visit as told by Carolyn Shafer who was the “expedition” leader for the trip.

We were to all meet at the Pilot Service Station on the corner of King’s Highway and Route 70 at 8:30 am on Saturday March 14.....What I forgot to include in the instructions to the Pilot Station was that there were two of them on opposite corners of the highway! I did mention that the corner to meet on was the NW corner, but I guess people just



didn’t realize.....at any rate we all finally came together in one place. Once organized in our cars we then drove in convoy to the lovely home of the Comers.



quently the plants were in full bloom, including those in the butterfly garden.

Towards mid-morning our hosts came out with homemade chocolate chip cookies and lemonade so we could keep up our strength and continue to make more great images.



Once there the Comers warmly greeted us all and told us about their property. They gave us directions on where to find the bird blind and also the boundaries of where we were welcome to explore. The comers have set up little still life settings throughout their property. They also have a barn for photographs.



Just before noon we gave them our thanks and were on our way home with lots of great memories and some unique images in our cameras.



The painted buntings were there in their full colors and each of us had plenty of time behind the blind to take as many photos as we wanted.



The Indian River Photo club wishes to thank the Comer’s for their hospitality and also Carolyn for writing this article, and being the group leader. The photographs are courtesy of Richard Thomson.

Please note that your seat on the coach is not reserved until payment is received and receipt acknowledged, *and* we must limit seating to 25, total. Hurry, because soon we will open spots to other clubs and guests.



Instructing or?!

The Photo Club *Fire Fighter's Fair Photo Contest* is to be judged on the 30th after the Hal Schmitt HDR Seminar. Hal has agreed to judge.

Only photographs taken by club members in good standing (dues paid) which were taken at this year's Indi-

an River County Fire Fighter's Fair may be entered in this special contest. There will be no classes or categories, but print size and matting/framing rules are the same as the regular monthly contests rules. Maximum 3 entries per person.

We have so many things going on, there is so much additional helpers can do to make their club better. Just look what club member Kelly Ward did for us while she was working on the Fire Fighter's Fair. She combined two interests she had and helped both organizations. Thanks Kelly! Please offer your services to any Board Member/Club Officer and maybe you can help and have more fun, too!

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The Photo display at this years Fair

Third place wins a coffee mug with the club Logo. Thank you Lighthouse Art and Frame for the mugs and Patrick Rice for the Logo. Second place wins a \$25 gift certificate at Southern Photo in Melbourne or a Jiffy Photo certificate in Fort Pierce. First Place is a \$50 gift certificate at the same locations or a free seat on the bus to St. Augustine!!!! **Bring your best shots.**

And remember to bring guests to the Meeting on the 23rd and special Seminar on the 30th!

Smile,
Bill

Great Club Photographers Every Where



"All in a day's work"

George Bachmann's First Place Photograph in the Fire Fighters Fair Competition. *Congratulations George!*



"Veterans Day"

By J. R. Williams
Second Place in the Fire Fighters Fair Competition
Congratualtions J.R.

Club members, do not forget to enter your Fire Fighters Fair photographs in the competition being judged by Hal Schmitt at our special seminar on April 30th. Three (3) prints per member permitted. Color, and/or Black and White and/or Digitally Altered!
Must have been taken at this years fair

March 25th. Contest Winners Congratulations to Everyone

Class A:

Color: 20 entries

1st	Nancy Seabol	“Great (Heron) Landing”
2nd	Denise Ritchie	“American Beauty”
3rd	Gail Cohen	“Displaying Peacock”
HM	Mike Ricciaardi	“Underwater Beauty”
HN	George Bollis	“Beauty and the Bee”
HM	Bob Barbour	“Fairy Bluebird”

Special Techniques: 2 entries

1st	Gail Cohen	“Mustang Sally”
2nd	Bob Mitchell	“Miss Gracie”

Monochrome: 11 entries

1st	Barbara du Pont	“In the Eyes of the Beholder”
2nd	Gail Cohen	“Webb of Pearls”
3rd	Hal du Pont	” Soft Volcano”
HM	J. Scott Kelly	“Machinery -- A Beautiful Thing”

Class B:

Color: 4 entries

1st	Linda Leonard	“Sea-Gazer”
2nd	Kelly Ward	“Brunch”
3rd	Susan Webb	“Treasures of Hackberry Hammock”

Special Techniques: 1 entry

1st	Tammy Harvey	“Morning Dew”
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Monochrome: 2 entries

1st	Susan Webb	”Waves of Poppy Petals”
2nd	Tammy Harvey	”Blessing”

Once again, many thanks from our members and especially our contestants to our judges and their judging team. Always a difficult job.

This month's Competition
theme is titled
“TEXTURE”.



Texture is the quality of something that can be known by touch or the degree something is rough or smooth, or soft or hard.

A wall hanging can add *texture* to a room, or an artist could use unique colors and *textures* in her paintings.

This should give us a lot of photographic latitude, and the judges a really hard time!

Look around you, there's *texture* everywhere!

Welcome to our new members

Carl Tanner, Melody Sanderson, Kim Black, Linda Leonard, Katie Kutchinski.

Members, please introduce yourselves to them and welcome them warmly. Exchange e-mail addresses and get to know them socially as well as photo and camera-wise.

Don't forget to regularly check the club's web site at www.irphotoclub.org where a wealth of information can be found.

Dr. Len S. Hood writes about....



What Works in Black & White



Any picture is just a two-dimensional representation of reality. If the colors in the scene are turned into shades of gray, from pitch black to brilliant white, other aspects of your photograph, shape, lighting, contrast, texture, tone, become the dominant elements. If your scene is already bland, removing color totally could elevate a boring snapshot to an interesting landscape. Or perhaps you want to recreate the nostalgia of a bygone era. Black-and-white photographs have a way of conveying an antique, sentimental feeling that isn't possible in color photographs.

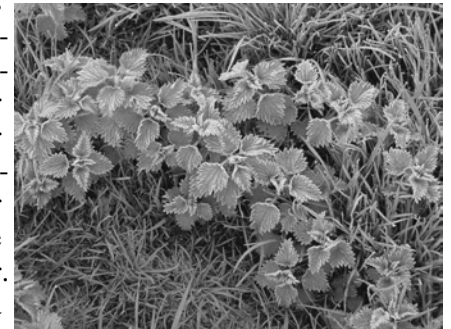


Learning how film and pixels convert colors into gray tones is perhaps the hardest part of black-and-white photography.



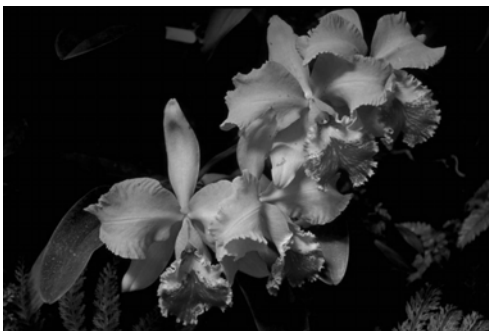
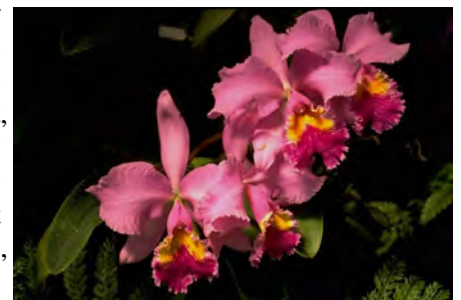
Above: Early morning frost on nettles

Then again, if the perfect Kodak moment occurs while your toddler is wearing totally mismatched clothing, black-and-white quickly becomes your best friend. Ask yourself whether the scene before you would look better in color or black-and-white. For instance, flowers almost always look best in color. But if your emphasis is on a dew drop hanging from the flower, perhaps black-and-white is the answer. You might also imagine a stop sign against a green background. If you want to emphasize the sign, keep the color. To minimize it, use black and white, because green and red convert into nearly identical gray tones.



Above: Early morning frost on nettles

If you are using picture-editing software or a traditional darkroom to make your black-and-white photos, contrast and key are aspects you can emphasize or minimize in ways that are impossible in color pictures. High-contrast (an extreme range between bright and dark) scenes may confine a viewer's attention to one element, while a low-contrast (with a narrow brightness range) scene may convey serenity and peace. You may also hear the terms high key (predominately light tones) and low key (predominately dark tones) in relation to black-and-white photography. Contrast and key are not synonyms. A photograph may be low in contrast, yet high in key, such as a blond, blue-eyed girl against a white background.



Maybe there's an interesting weave in your son's sweater. Or the leaves of your palm plant have an interesting texture. Imagine how the lack of color would emphasize the texture, and how that might change the visual impact of your photo. Likewise, lines and shapes lead our eyes through a black-and-white picture in ways they do not in a color picture. A meandering fence, rows of corn growing in a field, and layers of rock on a cliff wall all have strong lines, and removing the color from these scenes may improve them.

Take the color away and light does become a much more important part of your picture. Imagine a weathered picket fence with an old barn in the background.

Waiting for an overcast or even foggy day will result in a soft, romantic landscape. However, shooting it late on a sunny afternoon when the sun is low on the horizon and the shadows from the fence are long and dark will accentuate the texture of the fence. The mood in this picture will be totally different.

Winning Photographs in the March "Beauty" Category



Left
 ."Great Heron Landing"
 By Nancy Seabol
 First Place
 Class A, Color

Taken on the river in Sebastian on a very windy day, using a Nikon D70 and an IS Nikon lens . There was no photo shop or anything else done to it except a crop.



Left "Brunch"
 By Kelly Ward
 Second Place
 Class B, Color

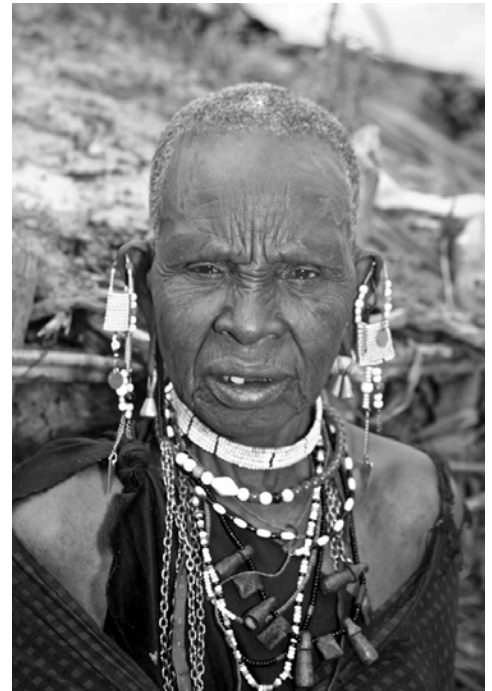
Photo above was taken at Arnold's in Okeechobee - about 10:30am, the Saturday immediately following the February photo club meeting - "quality" (!!!) was a direct result of March's club presentation! Many thanks to Mary Ester, George, and J.R.!!!!!! Thanks for the learnings!!!!
 Kelly



Right
 "Fairy Bluebird"
 By Bob Barbour
 Honorable Mention
 Class A, Color

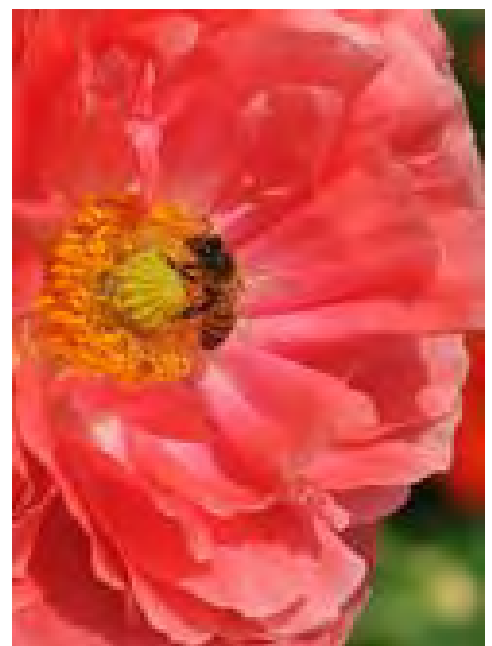
© 2009 Bob Barbour
 EyesforLight.com

Below
 "The Eyes of The Beholder"
 By Barbara duPont



First Place
 Class A
 Black and White

Below
 "Beauty and The Bee"
 By George F. Bollis Jr.
 Honorable Mention
 Class A, Color



Winning Photographs in the March "Beauty" Category



"Underwater Beauty"
By Mike Ricciardi
Honorable Mention
Class A, Color



"Mustang Sally"
by Gail Cohen
First Place
Class A
Special Techniques



"American Beauty"
By Denise Ritchie
Second Place
Class A, Color



"Web of Pearls"
By Gail Cohen
Second Place
Class A, Black and White

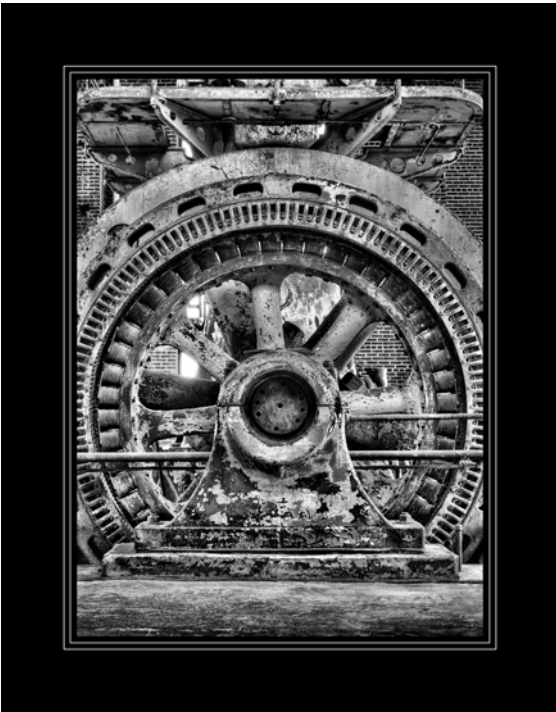


"Waves of Poppy Petals"
By Susan Webb
First Place
Class B, Black and White



"Displaying Peacock"
By Gail Cohen
Third Place
Class A, Color

Winning Photographs in the March “Beauty” Category



“Machinery a Beautiful Thing”
By J. Scott Kelly
Honorable Mention
Class A, Black and White



“Treasures of Hackberry Hammock”
By Susan Webb
Third Place
Class B, Color

Publishing your pictures in the club newsletter.

After each month’s competition the newsletter editors strive to publish each photograph that has achieved some recognition from the judges. The newsletter is published a few weeks after the meeting. The editors would like each winner to get their photograph, as a JPEG, in to us within the seven days following the club meeting.

If you do not want to have your picture published in the newsletter, please let us know that you are opting out as we try to set up the layout of the newsletter allowing space for every photograph that is presented with a ribbon. Laying out the newsletter does take lots of time and considerable planning, and re-allocating space is time consuming.



We ask that you send your photographs to us at about 3 x 5 inch size and at 300 dpi and NO frames! We do not manipulate your pictures in any way, allowing the publishing program to insert your picture to scale at a suitable dpi for publishing and linked to your archived photo on our storage medium.

Please send from your original if you can, not from a copy. Each time a JPEG is copied it deteriorates, as JPEG files are compressed files already.

If you wish to send your JPEG slightly larger than the dimensions we have asked for, that is quite OK, but please keep the DPI to 300.

We do examine the picture properties to check the validation of the photo in an effort to forestall any reproduction problems. However please understand that the newsletter is produced to be made into a low data volume PDF for sending by e-mail and not for printing on a four or eight color traditional printing press. The two pictures in this article probably demonstrate the variations in appearance through handling the same photograph differently. That is the beauty of shooting in RAW and developing as required. Another subject for another time!



SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

This month's club program at our April 23rd. regular meeting, will be on Sports Photography.

It is a "photo" subject that many of us have not attempted. Perhaps that is because you may not believe that you are a sportsman of any sort, and you do not know what to do. However think again, as you might find it fun. After all, sport is a wide ranging range of occupations. Some very physically active, while others extremely gentle. Some very professional and many nothing more than recreational and a pastime, such as golf, fishing, bird watching, hiking, or perhaps even snooker or darts!

Our presenter on this subject will be Craig Bailey who



has been employed for 25 years as a photographer by the *Florida Today* newspaper in Brevard County .

Craig has his passion. It is sports photography. Why you might wonder?

He says, because the opportunity for another great photo happens again and again, day in and day out and that is so satisfying. He says he is still at the same job after 25 years because it is fun and because he gets paid to do

something he loves to do.

He came to Florida from Vermont as a toddler at the age of 3. Craig has a degree in Journalism



from the University of Florida. His first job was at the Patriot Legend in Quincy, Massachusetts which is a short distance south of Boston.

By far the largest portion of his career has been at the *Florida Today newspaper*. He is an ardent Nikon man and uses Nikon camera bodies and principally the Nikkor 80-200 mm f2.8 and 400 mm f2.8 lenses. Nearly always Craig shoots his sports photographs using available light.

You will find that his presentation is informative, educational and very entertaining. Craig welcomes questions and will relish the real stumper if you can come up with one!





Third Place in the recent Audubon Photo Competition went to Keith Wright-Osment, with his picture "Spores"



First Place in the recent Audubon Photo Competition went to Bob Barbour, with his picture "Osprey"

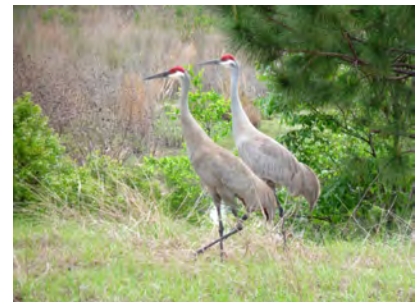
Don't Forget our Bus Trip on May 16th. to St. Augustine and The Alligator Farm and Zoological Park.



The park is now a hundred years or more old, and above is a photo taken in the good old days! The park is a wonderful place for the photo enthusiast and if you check their web site you will be able to see what is going on "nature wise" during the next few weeks and months.



If you wish to sign up for the trip, you can register with Maria Heffernan at: mayheff8@aol.com. Payment can be made to PO Box 1491 Vero Beach Fl 32961 or online. Until payment is made, and acknowledged, you do not have a seat and seating is limited.



For more information on Alligator Farm and Park please go to: <http://www.alligatorfarm.us>