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January 2007 Newsletter

From the Prez:

While I have enjoyed the great weather for hiking and other “fall” activities, I haven’t found it to be very inspiring photographically. Some of you have proven differently with full moon and northern lights images.

With the weather the way it has been, it’s been a good time to work on some still life and try your hand at architectural interior shots for the May competition. The January meeting promises to give us techniques for working with lighting on still life and product photography. Could be useful for the “music” or “game” competition topics, too.

But we’ve finally gotten some of the white stuff, so I hope you’ve been able to get out and get some winter pictures.

Many thanks to Steve Engle for volunteering to head up the winter rules review committee for competition. If you’d like to help, contact Steve. Keep on Clicking,
Marilyn Hoogstraten

Setting the record straight . . .

Several TACC members have prints displayed in the TC Visitor and Convention Bureau, not the Sleeping Bear Dunes Visitor Center as previously reported . . .

TACC received this email -

Can You Help?

It is my distinct pleasure to introduce myself, and the growing Montessori community here at Central Grade School. I am the Director of the Traverse City Area Public Schools' Montessori program located at Central Grade School. We are a public school offering Montessori programming for children from pre-school age through sixth grade.

Our Montessori philosophy emphasizes the need to "follow the child", and to provide arts and cultural experiences that are being provided in our environments, and we are seeking opportunities with artists and organizations from various disciplines to share in these experiences. Our community is passionate about the arts, and we value the unique perspective of every individual in his or her pursuit of artistic expression. It is intended to be an extension of the child's learning, occurring naturally their interests. We believe that exposure to various arts and cultural programming will further refine and enhance the innate human love of, and need for the arts.

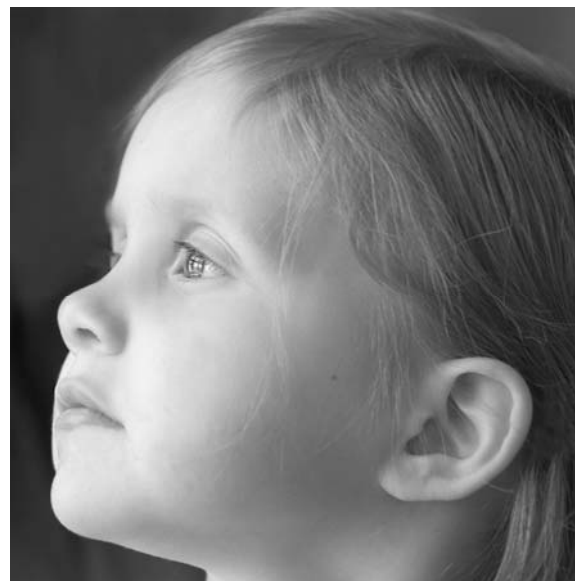
A very important piece of our curriculum then, is the inclusion of arts and cultural programming. Due to ongoing budget constraints, we are unable to employ a full time art teacher at this time. The ramifications are significant, and felt deeply by our staff and students to whom this programming is so important. We currently rely heavily upon a generous volunteer base to provide interesting and diverse arts and cultural activities for our students. We are grateful for the many opportunities afforded

to us by many family and community members. We are however, eager to continue expanding our relationships with the local arts community to further enrich our existing curriculum.

If you have an interest in sharing your skills and knowledge with our Montessori community, we would truly love to hear from you. I would be happy to meet with you personally, give you a tour of our classroom environments and let you meet some of the young people who would benefit from your time and effort. If you are interested in sharing your skills either on a volunteer or small fee-for-service basis, we will provide the necessary materials. Please consider sharing your gift with our young, appreciative Montessori minds.

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TACC Programs 2006-2007

January 18- Dave Speckman Product, still-life photography at the studio

February 15- Tom Auch

March 15 - Infrared Bette Bos & David Fox

April 19- Ken Scott

April 23, 26 and 27 - Jim Blue digital photography classes

May 17- John Russell

October 17-28 – Seminar – Nevada Wier
Speaker

Competition Topics

Competition nights are on the 1st Mondays of the month at 5:45 pm at The Presbyterian Church. The Topics for the year are the following:

February: Food

March: Music

April: Games

May: Architectural Interior

June: Perspective

The Registration Form for 2006-07 membership can be found on TACC's website, www.tacconline.com. Print it off the website and mail it to Chad Tufts with your dues. Chad's address is on the form.

Digital

Digital Meetings are on the second Saturdays at 9 am at The Presbyterian Church. Topics for the year are as follows:

February: Scanners, software, twain, digital "ice", - high quality vs. low quality & how to tell the difference.

March: Proper use of sharpening on Photoshop. Difference between printing at home vs. a lab.

April: How to check out a new camera?

How to reduce grain with night photography. Know what ISO to use with digital. Digital photography techniques. Using white balance. Jim Blue

May: Relative merits of CD & DVD for archiving. Choosing a site to host your photos. Alan Newton

June: Working with channels and layers. Terry Clark

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By Steve Engle



By Kathie Carpenter

An Approach to Winter Photography

Steven R Engle

Winter is a time of year when photographers will stay indoors, unless an obvious photograph presents itself. This is clearly a time of year we should all get out and take a lot of photos. We need to brave the cold and find those photos which elude the fair weather photographers. Let's discuss how.

When I go out in the cold and snow, I start by dressing in layers and being well hydrated. I wear a good pair of gloves and boots. Keeping fingers and toes warm will help to keep you in the field longer and your day more delightful. I use a pair of gloves that have the tiny rubber dots on the fingers. By using those I can keep my gloves on more and not expose my skin to the cold.

I also carry extra camera batteries. I carry these inside my coat to keep them warm, thus holding more of a charge. When the battery in my camera gets cold, I take it out of the camera and put it into the pocket inside my coat to warm up while the warm battery which I just put into the camera is being used and getting cold. When that one gets cold I switch them back. By then the first battery has gained it's charge back and is ready to use again. I can do this several times.

We all have in our minds how we like to compose our photos. The trick is seeing a subject to use that mind set. I start by looking for something which will interest people who look at my work. Maybe a babbling brook, some birds or something with bright colors to contrast with the very white snow. When you find a subject, you

will want to look at all the different angles to get the best photo. Do so carefully. You don't want to put tracks in the snow where you may see them when you find that perfect composure. I find that often there is so bright a light that it's very hard to get a long exposure to my photos. To do just that, I use the smallest ISO possible. The f-stop has to be set for the depth of field that I want to use but I will also use an f-stop for infinity. This too will give me a longer exposure time. I also have a couple neutral density filters which I sometimes stack to get as close to the long times that I need.

On the other side of having such bright light - you can get shutter speeds fast enough to stop the subtle movements from a breeze affecting your subject. The light from the sun this time of year is always low in the sky. Especially December, when we have the shortest day of the year. Shooting mid day now is totally acceptable. This will allow you to wait till it warms a few degrees before you go out. Be aware that you may miss some really great shots if you do wait and the sun melts a really heavy frost or the wind blows all the fresh snow off of the branches before you get there. Since the sun is lower in the sky, it can enrich those patches of color you just found to photograph. With the cold weather, you find that some small birds will set still a little longer and maybe let you get a little closer.

While you are composing, remember to fill the whole frame. Either with the subject or just the composition. By this I mean to say "don't get too far back". Keep those little bits of color in mind to get that rich contrast of color and white. Like these berries



And leaves



found in the two photos above. Remember, now is the time for some of your best photos. Stay warm but get some great shots.

Note – January 18th Meeting

The January 18 general meeting of the camera club will be held at the studio of Dave Speckman which is at 2785 Garfield N. (formerly Don Rutt's studio). Dave is a commercial photographer. If you thought you knew all about flash photography, come and see what you've missed. You will be amazed!! The meeting starts at 7 PM. Remember, our next competition is FOOD. Get some great ideas.

Opportunities for Learning

www.blacklockgallery.com and click on upcoming seminars. Craig Blacklock will be teaching digital photography at the Clouquet Forestry Center in June. June 24-29, Craig will be teaching digital nature photography for the Split Rocks Arts Program of the University of Minnesota.

GLIP (Great Lakes Institute of Photography) will again hold its week-long seminar June 10-15 at NMC here in Traverse City. Go to www.GLIP.org to see what classes are available. Several of TACC members have gone in the last few years and have learned a lot each time. If you are interested in talking to someone who has attended, talk to Donna Lane, Babs Young, Kay Smith or Marilyn Hoogstraten.

Another good photographer to take classes from is Rod Planck. Go to his website www.rodplanck.com and see what he has to offer. He is located in the UP. He has week long classes that are offered throughout the summer and fall and day long seminars offered at other times. Well worth the time and money.



By J. Clark



By Johnson



By Lori Piggott



By Dittmer



By S. Bojack



By S. Bojack

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By B. Bojack

Results of Competition January 2007-Assignment: "Up Close and Personal"

--- Club Standings to Date ---

See you on Monday February 5th - Assignment: "Food"

Beginner / 60 points result in advancement to the Intermediate Class

Name	Entry Points	Merit Points	Place Points	Competition Total	Previous Accumulated Total	Club Accumulated Total
Browning, Heidi					9	9
Burgess, Cris					13	13
Clark, Jody	1	4	8	13	15	28
Courville, Marc					13	13
Flowers, Amanda					23	23
Johnson, Ron	1	3	6	10	15	25
Kenny, Pat					21	21
Lane, Donna*	1	2	6	9	53	62
Moore, Mindy					31	31
Newton, Alan					40	40
Silbernagel, Kathy	1	3	8	12	34	46

Congratulations to Donna Lane!! You will compete in the Intermediate Level for February's competition!

Intermediate / 120 points result in advancement to the Advanced Class

Name	Entry Points	Merit Points	Place Points	Competition Total	Previous Accumulated Total	Club Accumulated Total
Batdorff, Steve					40	40
Bodjack, Sandy	1	4	7	12	97	108
Boner, Jerry					11	11
Clark, Terry**	1	3	8	13	118	131
Dittmer, Linda	1	3	4	8	8	16
Hood, Jack					1	1
Johns, Russ					20	20
Pickering, Ken	1	1	3	5	40	45
Piggott, Lori	1	2	2	5	70	75
Rea, Hugh					10	10
Tufts, Chad	1	4	3	8	16	24
Ulrich, Mary Jane					60	60
Vanoy, Dana					13	13
Young, Babs					92	92

Advanced / 180 points result in advancement to the Master Class

Name	Entry Points	Merit Points	Place Points	Competition Total	Previous Accumulated Total	Club Accumulated Total
Bodjack, Bruce	1	3	2	6	24	30
Carpenter, Kathie	1	0	0	1	15	16
Haxby, Tom	1	4	10	15	98	113
Hoogstraten, Marilyn	1	1	3	5	103	108
Henry, Richard					49	49
Loy, Rick	1	3	7	11	71	82
Tempelton, Dick					53	53
Wilson, Bill					127	127

Master

Name	Entry Points	Merit Points	Place Points	Competition Total	Previous Accumulated Total	Club Accumulated Total
Engle, Steve	1	1	0	2	18	20
Harvey, Dave	1	3	4	8	65	73