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## June 2007 Newsletter

### From the Prez

As the summer gets into high gear, the competition committee has been busy wading through all the emails and attachments that have been sent to them. They are close to coming up with a document that simplifies and speeds up the process, addresses the question of digital manipulation, clarifies some points, and updates the document to fit some current practices.

The role of the digital darkroom has been debated over the past year (or several years!), and there is no one simple method of handling it in competition "out there". Yes, digital manipulation can make a good photo great, but getting it right in the camera to begin with can save you lots of time in front of the computer.

The following, which came from [www.n4c.org](http://www.n4c.org) gives us a perspective that I think is good to keep in mind (Kipp Baker, forgive me for paraphrasing):

Those we empower as judges are just as directed and enlightened as we are. Judging is subjective, but we can all learn to articulate the visual. Even when you don't agree with the judges' opinions, don't lose the insight from the discussion. The criteria for judging can be identified by many names and is debatable.

Growing our photographic skills is what competition is all about. So even though we couldn't take those two steps to the left to get a stronger composition because of that cliff, we gain insight that the image might have been stronger if we could have.

Keep on clickin',

*Marilyn*

## TACC Board Meeting May 17, 2007

Members present: Duane Dinse, Donna Lane, Kathie Carpenter, John Eshelweck, Marilyn Hoogstraten, Chris Holdwick, Babs Young, Kay Smith, Hugh Rea, John Russell, Barb White, and Steve Engle guest.

President Marilyn opened the meeting at 5:30 PM.

The minutes were approved as printed, by motion. No historian report.

Treasurer's report: By motion, the report was approved.

By motion, the Club approved sending a sympathy card to Cris Burgess, and giving a donation in his mother's name to the scholarship fund.

Membership: no report.

Ballot committee: The ballots to vote on the revised by-laws, are ready and will be distributed at the general meeting.

Tent: No report.

Lending Library: The committee has made an index of books and those that can be discarded. There was discussion about rules for borrowing books in the future. It was decided the committee would continue discussion and make a definite proposal.

Seminar: Duane reported that we are waiting for the picture of Nevada Wier, our speaker. Discussion centered on pricing of the seminar. We are hoping to have around 90 people. The matter was referred back to the committee to finalize details.

Discussion was held about what classes might be offered to take the place of Jim Blue's digital classes which he offered twice a year to the community and our membership. Jim is considering options.

The June organizational board meeting will be June 21<sup>st</sup> at Chris Holdwick's house, at 5:30PM.

Other committee reports: Donna distributed a list of suggested programs for next year. She needs

presenters.

Kay Smith thanked all those who contributed pictures for the newsletter. She can use a maximum of ten per issue.

There was discussion about programs for internet storage including SmugBug, Godaddy, etc. It was decided each person will find his own. Also, we questioned if we had enough space.

A thank you note was read from Gail Eschelweck expressing her appreciation to the club for having her play at the April Library Photo show.

Linda Dittmar, who is in charge of the Scavenger Hunt, gave the list of topics for the summer competition.

By motion, the meeting was adjourned.

*Barbara White, secretary*



By Jerry Boner

## Washington Park Camera Club Visits TC by Bruce Bodjack

Members of the Washington Park Camera Club from Chicago IL, made a short photographic trip to Traverse City on May 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Several of the TACC members were there to meet and greet and help guide them on their Saturday outing.

At the meet and greet, Marilyn Hoogstraten provided a brief history and description of our club, Steve Engle presented a wonderful wildflower slide show and an incredible packet of information on current flowers and locations, complete with maps. Kay Smith presented a comprehensive photo essay on Leland (Fishtown) and also talked about the history of TACC. Ken Scott from Suttons Bay, presented his 52 weeks slide show and handed out a few dozen past issues of the Leelanau Enterprise. Bruce and Sam Bodjack acted as host and hostess as well as facilitated the meeting.

Saturday was a long photo shoot of Leelanau and Old Mission Peninsulas. The group traveled in two groups and meet in Leland for lunch and to trade location ideas. The Washington Park Camera Club members, had a the primary goal to photograph cherry blossoms. Thanks to Kay Smith they were not disappointed as she found the only late blooming orchard in all of Leelanau County.

It really was a great time, and everyone became fast friends. I'm always amazed how quickly a common interest can bring people together. The Washington Park Camera club was so impressed with our hospitality, they made a donation to TACC.

A slide show presentation of the outing will be shown this fall at one of the TACC meetings.



## Competition Guidelines Reviewed By Bruce Bodjack

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Marilyn Hoogstraten, Kathy Silbernagel, Dick Templeton, Terry Clark and Bruce Bodjack met to review the clubs Competition Guidelines. The group considered the guidelines in good shape, but needed to more accurately reflect the current practices of competition night. Largely the guideline language was tweaked to help new members approach this program with less questions and more accurate written direction.

Two items surfaced as having more significant changes, first: the amount of photos one can enter is being changed from 4 to 3, which is to say one less. This was changed because of concerns about the program running too late. While many alternatives were discussed, this simple change will help achieve a shorter duration without making any other significant changes to the program. Also the guidelines now permit the chairperson to introduce ways to speed up the process, should the need arise.

The second item was the consideration of Categories. This turned out to be a key issue and one discussed at length. In summary the group agreed to keep the existing categories, with making some word changes to both “Open” and “Nature” to reflect a greater acceptance of post processing (Photoshop) practices done by most members.

Overall the group was very considerate of the “process” or helping members become better photographers. The approach and practices of competition needs to be nurturing and supportive. The guidelines need to embrace as wide a palate as possible in photographic arts.

One last area worth mentioning, is taking turns at judging. Everyone agreed this is a substantial way to learn and grow as photographers. Taking a turn at judging should be encouraged if not expected. More information on judging should be included as a routine part of the program to help new judges gain confidence in this process. The competition program must be accommodating of new judges and allow for this process to take place with the same supportive understanding.

## Rod Planck Wildflower Workshop, Munising, MI

By Terry Clark

Not having participated in a photography workshop, I really was not sure what to expect. Being immersed in photography for a whole week without any other distractions was fun. It was also interesting and invigorating to be around 10 other photographers all week. It was icing on the cake to learn so much from Rod Planck (and Marlene, his wife).

The workshop started Sunday afternoon with introductions and backgrounds to a real cross section of participants. Some had been to other seminars or workshops and were quite experienced. Most were guys about my age, some younger. The youngest was a girl of 17 who had only just received her Canon 30D. One guy, a pilot from California, had very little experience, but was enthusiastic.



Nodding Trillium by Terry Clark

Rod then explained some things about the week. We would shoot early in the morning, take a break, have a class, take another break and go back out to shoot again. Each day actually was different, although we generally were in the vehicles by 5:30am headed out to shoot for about 3 hours, back to the motel for breakfast and a little nap. Lectures started about 1pm featuring various topics using lots of Rod's photos. After another break, the cars would leave the lot about 6pm to stay out 'til 9:30 or 10. By then, it was all I could do to get my images downloaded onto my laptop. Lights out after that!!

We did *not* have the best week weather wise with thundershowers, rain, fog, cold and wind, wind, and

more wind. We went out all but once, but the periods varied and we quickly changed sites when it was too windy. We photographed wild flowers, a number of waterfalls and various beaches. Miner's Castle was a center point because the wind challenged our ability to photograph the drifting mounds of small flowers. We also enjoyed interior lakes, a beautiful woodland 20 miles east of Munising where Marlene served a marvelous brunch and, 30 miles west, Laughing Whitefish Falls. Sometimes we hiked a long ways, once it was strenuous.



Miner's Castle by Terry Clark

Rod is interesting as well as a fantastic photographer. His images ranged from close-ups to grand landscapes to amazing wildlife. He explained how each image was taken, the equipment he used and why. He really set the tone for the week on the first day. "I expect everyone to respect our environment. You will show that respect by leaving a small foot print...In the field, we will separate to primarily work the edges. If there is a way to wend your way into a field of flowers without trampling them, go for it. But when we leave an area, I do not want it to look like we've been there."

We were asked to bring images to be shown and talked about. One class was dedicated to our images. The combination of Rod's instructive critique of images by other participants, my images and his own work made the week something very special.

Only time will tell if and in what ways my photography will improve, but I count the entire week as a great experience. My eyes were opened to a number of aspects of photography that hopefully

will make me a better photographer. It also was a special treat to share the workshop week with Jody on the field trips and at the critique.

Rod explained the end of the experience as being a good news/bad news situation. "The bad news is you all flunked the workshop, but the good news is you are now a part of the Planck family and we look forward to seeing you at another workshop!" The only thing I can add, is I would highly recommend the experience for anyone whether beginner or experienced. Check out his website and see some of his images and lists of his workshops.

<http://www.rodplanck.com/>



Warbler by Bruce Bodjack



Terry Clark & Marlene Planck



Babs Young – Briggs

## Opportunities to Learn More

Many opportunities are available this summer at NMC. Some of the offerings are:

### Introduction to Digital Photography

#### Module 1: The Digital Camera

Two different options with different instructors and different dates.

#### Module 2: Printing/Output/Scanning

August 12<sup>th</sup>

#### The Photo Shoot

August 14<sup>th</sup>

#### TACC Nevada Wier Seminar

October 27-28



Nodding Trillium by Steve Engle



Ready to face the day – Sam Bodjack



Tending Flowers by K. Carpenter



Spring Planting by M. Hoogstraten



Sharing the dream by J. Clark



Another Sunset by R. Johnson

## Results of Competition June 2007-Assignment: "Perspective"

### --- Club Standings to Date ---

<b>Beginner / 60 points result in advancement to the Intermediate Class</b>						
Name	Entry Points	Merit Points	Place Points	Competition Total	Previous Accumulated Total	Club Accumulated Total
Browning, Heidi					9	9
Burgess, Cris					13	13
Courville, Marc					13	13
Flowers, Amanda	1	1	3	5	23	28
Johnson, Ron	1	4	12	17	25	42
Kenny, Pat					34	34
Kilander, Matthew					17	17
Moore, Mindy					31	31
Newton, Alan					40	40
Trepte, Jocelyn					16	16
<b>Intermediate / 120 points result in advancement to the Advanced Class</b>						
Name	Entry Points	Merit Points	Place Points	Competition Total	Previous Accumulated Total	Club Accumulated Total
Batdorff, Steve					40	40
Boner, Jerry	1	3	6	10	25	35
Clark, Jody	1	4	12	17	26	43
Dittmer, Linda					21	21
Hood, Jack					1	1
Johns, Russ					37	37
Lane, Donna					43	43
Pickering, Ken	1	1	3	5	50	55
Piggott, Lori					75	75
Rea, Hugh					19	19
Silbernagel, Kathy	1	4	10	15	29	44
Sprague, Stan	1	3	8	12	7	19
Tufts, Chad					40	40
Ulrich, Mary Jane					60	60
Vannoy, Dana	1	4	10	15	24	39
Warren, Pam					14	14
<b>Advanced / 180 points result in advancement to the Master Class</b>						
Name	Entry Points	Merit Points	Place Points	Competition Total	Previous Accumulated Total	Club Accumulated Total
Bodjack, Bruce	1	4	5	10	67	77
Bodjack, Sandy	1	4	9	14	0	14
Carpenter, Kathie	1	4	5	10	28	38
Clark, Terry	1	4	10	15	48	63
Haxby, Tom	1	4	6	11	140	151
Henry, Richard					49	49
Hoogstraten, Marilyn	1	4	5	10	132	142
Loy, Rick	1	4	3	8	124	132
Tempelton, Dick					60	60
Wilson, Bill	1	2	3	6	140	146
Young, Babs	1	4	10	15	0	15
<b>Master</b>						
Name	Entry Points	Merit Points	Place Points	Competition Total	Previous Accumulated Total	Club Accumulated Total
Baja, Glenn					40	40
Engle, Steve	1	4	7	12	55	67
Harvey, Dave					73	73

**Traverse Area Camera Club  
c/o The Presbyterian Church  
701 Westminster  
Traverse City MI 49686**

**Mark your Calendars!!  
Saturday & Sunday October 27-28, 2007**

**TACC Bi-Annual Photography Seminar featuring travel  
photographer Nevada Wier**