



InFocus

May, 2009

Newsletter

April Meeting

The April 23rd meeting was very busy. The winner of the 2009 Scavenger Hunt was announced by guest judge, Will Michaels. I'll speak about this in more detail later. We also spent some time with Lightroom 2.2 and Photoshop, learning how to bring back shadow detail and then highlight detail using a mask and levels in Photoshop.

Then we looked at the monthly assignment, April Showers. Joe was prolific and provided 10 photos to review. All agreed that this one was top notch.



Earl also had a stunning photo of a Koi pond.



After the discussions, we discussed the upcoming Renaissance Fair fundraiser. More on the results later.

May Meeting Photo Assignment

The topic for the May meeting is "portraits." Let's count on people portraits. Any style will be ok, studio, environmental, candid, multiple people. Remember, this should be new work. Put your thinking caps on, pick up your camera and shoot. The photos should be printed on 8.5 x 11 or smaller, 4x6's would be just fine. Although I will have my computer at the meeting, I may not have the projector this month.

Think about the portrait telling the story of the person you are shooting. It should tell us something about the person, reveal their personality. This will be the creative component. Next think about lighting and exposure. This will be the technical

component. The last component will be composition. We will score each shot using the scoring criteria listed on the agenda link on our home page, listed below.

Photo Judging Criteria

1. Composition – Are the items of interest placed well? Is your eye led to the subject? Are there elements that distract? Are horizons level and not centered? Is movement into the photo? If rule of thirds is violated, is it appropriate? Is there clutter? Cropping appropriate? Appropriate format? Background is simple and uncluttered? Avoids mergers? Landscapes have adequate foreground interest?
2. Creativity and Originality – Is the subject viewed in a unique way or interesting point of view? Is the lighting interesting? Is the image or idea powerful? Is there a central theme or idea? Is there an obvious story?
3. Technical – Is the photo sharply focused, unless deliberately blurred? Lighting balanced? Was depth of field considered? Shutter speed appropriate for the subject? Color Balance? Contrast? Clipped shadows or highlights? Use of flash?
4. Overall Impression – Does the photo grab your attention? Wow factor? Special effects? Presentation?

Renaissance Jamboree

We had a successful event at the Renaissance Jamboree. Successful in the manner that everything went well with the concept. Thanks need to go out to Earl Naugle, Joe Hoosty and my wife Joan, for helping during the day. A special thanks to The Costume Shop and La Fontana for their help. The Costume Shop provided the hats and accessories that made the shoot into a costume photo experience. The kids really loved the fairy wings, butterfly wings, and the many head pieces. Thanks also to La Fontana for providing the electrical power for the PC and Printer.

The day was also successful in that we advertised the club. We met at least a dozen photographers and

invited them to join the club. Hopefully, many will follow through.

The day was less successful with our fund raiser. The crowd was down and most were holding on to their money. We were only able to raise \$85 toward our \$500 goal for a projector for the Library. I will turn this over to them and ask them to earmark the funds.

This still leaves us without a projector. If anyone has an idea on how to solve this issue, please bring them forward. A projector would be a great asset. Perhaps if we each came up with a \$25 or \$30 assessment, we could move forward.

2009 Scavenger Hunt Winners

Big thanks to Will Michaels for judging our first contest. Will came to the last two meetings and contributed considerably to both meetings.

The first prize went to E. Venarchick from Danville. She is a photography student at LCCC in Nanticoke. Best of show went to Earl Naugle. You can see all the photos in the gallery and the scores are in the critique section of the Forum. You must be logged in to see the critique section since it is for members only.

Seminar Topics

Do you know anyone that can present a seminar for us? Here are some thoughts.

- 1 What makes a good photo?
- 2 When do I modify my camera's suggested exposure?
- 3 What lens should I buy?
- 4 How do press photographers work?
- 5 Shooting weddings?

Club Activities

- 1 Table top night – everyone brings something to put on the table and shoot.
- 2 Portrait Night – everyone brings a costume or prop and we shoot each other's portraits.
- 3 Photo excursions – where?

