

New Westminster Photography Club's

Shutter Release

November/December 2003

"A Turkey's Worst Nightmare"

by Steve Grover



That sea of gorgeous red is pure cranberries from MayBog Farms, our November 2 outing. Todd May, Lila May and the staff of the farm treated the club to an awesome afternoon of fabulous light, rich colours and a fascinating look at the harvest process. The plants are vining, requiring special pruning; all plants must grow the same direction; so they can be harvested with commercial equipment. When the berries are ready the fields are flooded. The vines and berries then float off the ground. To loosen the berries, "beaters", which look like one-person paddlewheelers, are driven through the fields by a specially trained crew (in hip waders). Booms are then used to corral the harvest, gradually drawing the whole field's crop to an elevator. Again, this is done by a specially trained crew wading through all that cold water. Then berries are scooped into the elevator buckets and loaded into semi trailers with a mini grain chute. Excess water is drained out the bottom of the cargo box and the berries are taken away for shipping, grading, packaging, marketing and finally end up decorating turkeys across the country. So, next time you sit down to a holiday dinner or even that morning glass of juice, make sure you appreciate all the hard work that went into getting those tart red treats to your table. *Thanks again to the May family for an excellent afternoon, and Kelvin Chao for organizing everything!!*

From the Pres!

I first joined a camera club in 1983. The club had a rigorous competition schedule. Soon, instead of taking pictures of the people and events in my life I was out, armed with my husband's 35 mm fixed lens, meterless camera, "sunny 16ing" my way through my first rolls of slide film to interpret each theme assignment.

We picked a new assignment every 6 weeks, so it was fortunate slide film was relatively inexpensive. The regular assignments and the lack of automation in the camera helped me quickly master technique and develop a better eye for the varied subjects. I was thrilled the first time one of my images was selected to compete in a CAPA competition.

Over the years I gained many close friends, several cameras (I still mostly shoot "manual" though), some ribbons, thousands of slides and a wealth of knowledge about photography and evaluation, all through my involvement in camera clubs.

As with many things in life, you get out what you put in, and I encourage you to participate in our evaluations, workshops and outings. Your Executive members are always working to bring you topics of interest, so if there is something you would like to see, let us know.

Executive Report

From the Executive meeting held on Oct. 14 came some changes to our slide competition. In order to allow more evaluation time, we will decrease the entries to two "open" (any subject) and one "assigned". We have eliminated the "nature" category but if you shoot nature, you may enter one or two nature slides in "open". We will alternate a guest evaluator with 3 club evaluators (who

will score using the "card" system. We will select the CAPA entries outside the club. A committee headed by Steve Grover will handle this.

Paid-up members will soon have a new handbook to help guide you through the club's activities.

Thanks for joining us!
Shona LaFortune

Member News

Several members enjoyed the Abbotsford Photo Arts Club Seminar on Saturday October 18. Featured speaker was Canadian photographer Richard Martin <www.richardmartinphoto.com>, but for many the highlight of the full day lies in the 4 sessions chosen from a broad menu offering 24 topics – everything from use (or not) of tripods to digital editing. Watch for next year's session at www.apac.bc.ca after May 15.

Bill Gumbleton has invited club members to view his online photo gallery at <http://community.webshots.com/user/nikond>

Speaking of gallery, don't forget Grace Darney's show at the Pan Pacific November 15th to 17th.

Communication

Dean is updating the email list. He needs to know what your preferred address is. Please contact him ASAP at 604 467 9188, so he can transfer the info to the new server.

Newsletter submissions can be directed to Sarah or Lawrie, through the club's webmail system. (Sarah@newwestphotoclub.net) Questions about the club should be directed to info@newwestphotoclub.net.

Photo Tips

This time we have a great winter project for you –

How to Organize Your Photo Archive

Organizing your photo archive is a lot like organizing your closet. It will help you get rid of garbage and make room for new items. If you do this every couple of years, you keep putting your best image forward. And, it's actually easy and fun.

You have five guiding principles:

- 1 – Does it fit?
- 2 – Is it good quality material?
- 3 – Is it in style?
- 4 – Have I looked at it in the past year?

And most importantly

- 5 – Does it make me look fabulous?

Sounds easy and fun doesn't it? No really, you can do this project and enjoy it.

Here's how you get started: first gather all of your slides, prints and negatives together in one place. Next, decide on a storage medium. Are you going to burn CDs, use sleeves and binders, photo boxes, or just a big rubbermaid tote? Whichever you decide on, make sure all your materials are acid free and guaranteed stable for at least 50 years. Invest in the best quality you can afford. Then, decide where in the house you're going to keep your collection.

Somewhere dark, cool and dry with a bit of room for more is best. Set aside a couple of hours at a time in your schedule – DON'T try to do this all at once, your eyes will go berserk! If you can, invite a camera buddy over for tea, cookies and their objective criticism to help you.

Believe it or not, all that was the hard part – it's all downhill from here. So, take each image and examine it closely with your loupe, checking it against the guide.

Does it fit? Be brutally honest with yourself. Is that really how you want people to view your work? Sloppy, strained or

trying to hard to be something you're not; accept your limitations and learn from them.

Is it good quality? Sharpness and exposure can make or break an image. Are there scratches or deterioration? Was this the right film for the subject? Did you make an obvious effort at composition or lighting?

Is it in style? - Those kodachromes have great survival ability but viewer can spot those 60's colours without a telephoto. Break out a new roll of film once in a while. Similarly, those fad filter effects may look ridiculous after ten years.

Have you looked at it in the past year?

Chances are if you haven't bothered to look at this image twice, no one else wants to see it either. Photography is about developing your "eye", creativity and skills. If that image doesn't do it for you, try again next time.

Does this make me look fabulous? If this is a great image – Show It Off! Make a print, enter a competition, exhibit or add it to your portfolio. All your hard work deserves an audience.

There, now all you have to do is put the image in its new home and catalogue it. A simple notebook or a folder on your hard drive work equally well. All you need from the catalogue is enough info so you can easily find the image again.

Just a wee note about disposal. Like your closet, you can give items away or recycle. Duplicates of family and friends will make a really cheap holiday gift. Mediocre travel or nature slides can be assembled into shows for senior's homes. Over exposed or weird slides can be sandwiched, used as texture screens or projected as backgrounds in the studio.

Admit it, this project really was easy and you enjoyed it.

COMING NEXT ISSUE: The Tripod of Photography – Club Members Tell Why They Like Slides, Prints or Digital.

Competition Results: October 7, 03

Sports:

- 1st: "Laid Back" by Marjorie Mowers with 25 pts.
2nd: "Single Rider" by Peter Ellis with 23 pts
3rd: "Snapper" by June Exworthy and "The Flight" by Ava O'Sullivan with 21 Pts

Open

- 1st: "Phone Home" by Kelvin Chao with 27
2nd: "Silver Creek" by Peter Ellis and "Canyon Bottom" by Shona La – Fortune with 24
3rd: "Sparkling Web" by June and "Centre of Interest" by Ava with 23

Nature

- 1st: "Spider Eye View" by Kelvin Chao with 24
2nd: "Tanglewood" by Marjorie Mowers with 23
3rd: "Polyphemus Moth" by June Exworthy with 22

Open

- 1st: "Patterns In The Wheat" by Vivian Harbord with 23
2nd: "Russian Church – Sitka" by Joan Greaves and "Water and Light" by Steve Grover with 21
3rd: "In Series" by Kelvin Chao, "Shining Reeds" by Peter Ellis and "Lost Data" by Shona LaFortune with 20

Many thanks to the Greaves for compiling the competition results!

Schedule Updates

November 18: Vivian Harbord with a presentation on "Mushrooms and Insects"

December 16: Xmas Party – Guest Speaker Ron Long on Africa

January 6: Fit To Judge Module on "How to Judge Abstracts" presented by Peter Ellis and Shona LaFortune

Comments on the newsletter are welcome:
Sarah@newwestphotoclub.net

Picture submissions are very welcome
(And can be scanned for you).