

Volume 14, Issue 4

December, 2011

The Info Sheet

FLUSHING CAMERA CLUB

... in our 41st year

FCC Executive Committee Officers:

President: Mary O'Connor, 718.939.4963

Vice President: Mary Thompson, 718.353.0878

Treasurer: Joe Caruso, 718.357.4251

Secretary: Joan Egan, 718.441.6210

Committee Chairpersons:

Administration: Frank Reynolds, 718.263.9131

Competition: Mary Thompson

Programs/Education: Stan Strauss, 718.423.2825

Field Trips: Joe Crupi, 718.343.0280; Michael Sender, 718.459.0203

Membership: Dianne Rauch, 917.533.7566

Publicity: Adam Holstein, 718.463.5538

PFLI Delegate: Helen Repstad, 718.845.4477

The Info Sheet: Dorothy Gist, 516.328.3776; Pat Burns, 718.591.7067; Ron Caldwell

Website: Ramiro Agredo, 718.664.7366

Additional Members:

Marty Fleischer: 718.591.8246
Dennis Golin: 718.479.0643

www.flushingcameraclub.org

Meetings: 7:30 pm, 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesdays at Flushing Hospital, Auditorium, 45 Ave & Parsons Blvd., Flushing. Park on street or in lot across the street from Hospital. Parking ticket MUST be validated by the Camera Club.

Dues: \$40.00 for individual
\$60.00 for family; \$20.00 for students: up to 23 yrs.

Member: Photographic Federation of Long Island (PFLI)
Member: Photographic Society of America (PSA)
"Together in friendship may we learn the art of photography"

DECEMBER

7: 7:30pm FCC Competition #4, Judge: Ken Bausert
9: 7:30pm PFLI Competition, Plainview-Old Bethpage Library, Plainview
17: 9:30am FCC PFLI Selection Meeting
21: 7:15pm: FCC Mini Session: "Computer Creativity" by Bob Green
21:7:30pm: FCC Holiday Party & "Creative" Portfolio: How I Can Be Creative.
Members to present a small portfolio (limited to 15 images) restricted to "creative" – i.e., creative image – not just crazy Photoshop.

JANUARY

4: 7:30pm FCC Competition #5, Judge: Robert Glick
13:7:30pm PFLI Competition, Plainview-Old Bethpage Library, Plainview 9:30am
14: 9:30am FCC PFLI Selection Meeting
18:7:15pm FCC Mini Session: "Bird Photography" by Tom Mrwik
18: 7:30pm FCC Program: TBA
22: 2:00pm PFLI Photo Class by Rod Goldman, title to be announced, Plainview-Old Bethpage Library, Plainview

FEBRUARY

1: 7:30pm FCC Competition #6, Judge:
10: 7:30pm PFLI Competition, Plainview-Old Bethpage Library, Plainview
15: 7:15pm FCC Mini Session: "Use of the Polarizer" by Joe Crupi
15: 7:30pm FCC Program: TBA
26: 2:00pm PFLI Photo Class "Photographing National Parks" by Bill Ruddock, Plainview-Old Bethpage Library, Plainview
29: 7:30pm FCC Program: TBA



Merry Christmas
Happy Hanukah
Happy Kwanzaa

Happy Birthday To You!



- 3: Tom Mrwik
- 24: Richard DeStafano
- 27: Bob Green
- 30: Joe Mancher

NEW MEMBERS:

Tony Coppeta — David de la Rocha

WELCOME: Tony and David to the Flushing Camera Club ... we look forward to your full participation.

FCC MEMBERS:

Joan Egan: We were so pleased to have Joan with us at our last competition.
Joan: *It's upward and onward!*

Lucy Pearce: Had surgery and she joined us at the last competition.
Lucy: *So glad your recuperation is going so well.*

Mary Thompson: Mary's Mom—Norma Thompson—was hospitalized and has recently moved to Silvercrest Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, Briarwood.
Let's keep Norma and Mary in our thoughts in these days.

Ron Caldwell: reports that they're adjusting well in Florida with the mild weather ... and they're not homesick yet!!!

Thank goodness for Skype! They were able to communicate with all the NY family at Thanksgiving while they celebrated with the Florida family.

Marty and Joanne Neff: Shared the following information on the new arrival in their family. The message arrived too late for the November Newsletter.
"On October 24 at 11:35am we welcomed our newest grandson—Charles (Charlie) Nathans in Newark, Delaware. Mother, son and grandmothers are all doing well."
Our warmest wishes to the family on Charlie's arrival.

Marty and Francine Fleischer: We were informed that this birth was scheduled for November ... and now we've received this word:
"Sharon had a baby girl..7 lbs 5 oz.. 1:30 pm 11/22/11.... @ Flushing Hospital! Her name: Serina May Jackson."
Our warmest wishes to Sharon, Ben, and grandparents on Serina May Jackson's arrival.

Meet the Family: Sharon, Ben, Serina May Jackson



SPOTLIGHT ON Frank Reynolds

I am 70 years old, married, and have been retired for a little over 4 years. When I was in my 30's I always had one or two cameras with me: one loaded with B&W film and the other with slide film. I had a B&W darkroom set up in my basement. I photographed everything. A friend owned "Walking Flowers Studio" and he did model portfolios. He "allowed" me to take the portraits, mail eight 8"X10"s to the aspiring model and he collected the money. I loved it!!

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SUGGESTION BOX

*Our Suggestion Box is located at the Greeters' Table
 We're anxious to hear from you. Thanks much!*



Flushing Camera Club's Standings from September 2011 to November 2011

Division	Media	Position			Accum. Points	Total Entries	Image the Month
<i>B</i>	<i>Digital</i>						
		1	Bell	Smith	11	6	2
		2 (Tie)	Dianne	Rauch	7	4	
		2 (Tie)	Eugene	Kotmatsky	7	4	
		2 (Tie)	Louise	DeStefano	7	6	1
		4 (Tie)	Martin	Neff	6	4	
		4 (Tie)	Joe	Caruso	6	6	
		4 (Tie)	Eugene	Forsyth	6	6	
		6	Richard	DeStefano	5	6	
		7	Jim	Huang	4	4	
		8	Bernie	Gellman	3	3	
	<i>Nov '11 I.O.M.</i>	<i>Louise</i>	<i>DeStefano</i>		<i>Walk in the Fog</i>		

Division	Media	Position			Accum. Points	Total Entries	Image the Month
<i>B</i>	<i>B & W Prints</i>						
		1	Jim	Huang	7	4	2
		2	Eugene	Kotmatsky	5	2	1
	<i>Nov '11 I.O.M.</i>	<i>Eugene</i>	<i>Kotmatsky</i>		<i>Sphinx in Pain</i>		

Division	Media	Position			Accum. Points	Total Entries	Image the Month
<i>B</i>	<i>Color Prints</i>						
		1	Eugene	Kotmatsky	11	4	1
		2	Eugene	Forsyth	7	6	1
		3	Judy	Diaz	3	6	
		4	Jim	Huang	2	4	1
	<i>Nov '11 I.O.M.</i>	<i>Eugene</i>	<i>Kotmatsky</i>		<i>Mushrooms #1</i>		

Division	Media	Position			Accum. Points	Total Entries	Image the Month
<i>A</i>	<i>Digital</i>						
		1	Lucy	Pearce	15	6	2
		2	Helen	Repstad	13	6	
		3	Stan	Strauss	11	6	1
		4	Roy	Woelfel	8	6	
		5	John	Baratta	7	6	
		6	Henry	Szcepanski	5	6	
	<i>Nov '11 I.O.M.</i>	<i>Lucy</i>	<i>Pearce</i>		<i>Puma</i>		

Division	Media	Position			Accum. Points	Total Entries	Image the Month
<i>A</i>	<i>B & W Prints</i>						
		1	Stan	Strauss	9	6	2
		2	Suzanne	Abruzzo	7	6	
		3	Sy	Roth	6	3	1
		4	Marty	Neff	4	4	
	<i>Nov '11 I.O.M.</i>	<i>Stan</i>	<i>Strauss</i>		<i>Portland Head Light</i>		

Division	Media	Position			Accum. Points	Total Entries	Image the Month
<i>A</i>	<i>Color Prints</i>						
		1	Uris	McKay	8	6	
		2 (Tie)	Marty	Neff	7	4	1
		2 (Tie)	Stan	Strauss	7	4	2
		4	John	Mufatore	5	4	
		5	Joe	Mufatore	3	2	
	<i>Nov '11 I.O.M.</i>	<i>Stan</i>	<i>Strauss</i>		<i>Silverton Railroad</i>		

Division	Media	Position			Accum. Points	Total Entries	Image the Month
<i>Salon</i>	<i>Digital</i>						
		1	Joe	Crupi	15	6	2
		2	Robert	Green	14	6	
		3	Tom	Mrwik	12	6	
		4	Michael	Sender	11	6	1
		5	Ann	Grodman	10	6	
		6	Martin	Fleischer	8	6	
		7	Joan	Egan	6	6	
		8	Barbara	Shea	5	3	
	<i>Nov '11 I.O.M.</i>	<i>Michael</i>	<i>Sender</i>		<i>beneth the surface 1</i>		

Division	Media	Position			Accum. Points	Total Entries	Image the Month
<i>Salon</i>	<i>B & W Prints</i>						
		1	Ramiro	Agredo	15	6	3
		2	Robert	Green	14	6	
		3	Ann	Grodman	9	6	
	<i>Nov '11 I.O.M.</i>	<i>Ramiro</i>	<i>Agredo</i>		<i>Mother & Daughter</i>		

Division	Media	Position			Accum. Points	Total Entries	Image the Month
<i>Salon</i>	<i>Color Prints</i>						
		1	Ramiro	Agredo	16	6	3
		2	Sy	Roth	11	4	
		3	Ann	Grodman	6	6	
		4	Robert	Green	1	6	
	<i>Nov '11 I.O.M.</i>	<i>Ramiro</i>	<i>Agredo</i>		<i>Crane Eyes</i>		

PFLI November Competition							
Class	Name	Title	Score	Class	Name	Title	Score
BWA	Ann Grodman	Glassware	20	CRE	Diane Rauch	House Reflection	19
BWA	Robert Green	The Flutist	21	CRE	Ann Grodman	Hanging Out in Queens	21
BWA	Sy Roth	Blue Heron	22	CRE	Pat Burns	The Best of Friends	21
BWA	ramiro agredo	Indegenous	23	CRE	Michael Sender	message to michael	22
BWA	ramiro agredo	Native Pride	23	CRE	Robert Green	The Mask Knows	22
BWB	Suzanne Abruzzo	Tulips	19	DPA	Ann Grodman	Just A Normal Coney Islan	21
BWB	Har Er Huang	Nude	20	DPA	Tom Mrwik	Skimmer Glide	22
BWB	Suzanne Abruzzo	Manhattan Bridge At Night	21	DPA	Helen Repstad	red tulip	23
BWB	Martin Neff	The Band In Seattle	21	DPA	Joe Crupi	Bklyn View	23
BWB	Stan Strauss	Swirling Water In Bw	22	DPA	Michael Sender	jersey city bldg	24
CPA	Sy Roth	Sailboat In Rough Waters	19	DPB	John Baratta	Standing Up	20
CPA	Robert Green	Pretty Lady	20	DPB	Martin Fleischer	Pink Burst	21
CPA	Sy Roth	brown And White Duck	22	DPB	Stan Strauss	Rocky Mountain Cabin	21
CPA	ramiro agredo	Iris Magic	23	DPB	Lucy Pearce	feedingtime	22
CPA	ramiro agredo	Parrot Head	24	DPB	Diane Rauch	Tree Reflection	22
CPB	Eugene Forsythe	The Hammer Bryce	19	DPB	Bell Smith	Black eye	20
CPB	Judy Diaz	A Pretty Flower	20	DPB	Bernie Gellman	Bklyn Brg	21
CPB	Har Er Huang	Lite	20	DPB	Louise Destefano	Vita	21
CPB	Martin Neff	Japanese Garden Seattle	21	DPB	Jim Huang	CHICAGO2	22
CPB	Joseph Muratore	Lily A	22	DPB	Barbara Shea	Sunset	22

SPOTLIGHT ON ...Frank Reynolds ... *continued*

When I was in my 40's, I slowly drifted away from photography I drifted far! One of the first things I did when I retired was to learn "basic computer for seniors" at a local senior center. Then I bought a computer. About two years ago my niece gave me her old digital camera saying "Unks I have 100's of 8X10 pictures you took of me when I was growing up. Why don't you take this camera: it's digital, and you can put the pictures on your computer."

That was the beginning! I just looked back at the images I have in web albums and can track my digital camera progression. The first was the camera my niece gave me: a 3MP Olympus, followed every two or three months by 4MP Canon G3, 6MP Canon S3, 10MP Canon SX10. All of these I bought used from craigslist, I was lucky and all worked beautifully.

A friend of a friend's daughter wanted a model portfolio, and it was a case of "oh you used to do that!" I had to look for a studio that was available for rent that was reasonable in price. I found one in NYC and when I went to see it, I found out they now use studio strobes instead of the hot

lights I used 30 years ago. The owner was very nice, and when I explained what I had to do, he gave me a quick tutorial on basic studio lighting using studio strobes.

I used my Canon SX10 point and shoot, and the young lady loved the images. She was looking at a slideshow of the edited in Picassa images on her laptop and her friends saw them ... they all wanted to do "Photoshoots" FR ImageMagic was born.

I shoot in the studio a few times a month. I still carry a camera most of the time and shoot just about everything and anything. About 15 months ago I bought a Canon XSi SLR (my first digital SLR): loved it. About 8 months ago I bought Photo Shop Elements 9

My studio images are getting better, thanks to all the help and advice I have received at the FCC both before and during the meetings.

At this time I own a Canon SX10is (20X zoom) point n shoot (craigslist); Canon XSi SLR, (refurb from Canon); Canon 60D, my new baby (refurb. from Canon). Lenses: Canon 100mm macro (craigslist); Canon 18-135mm (craigslist); Canon 50mm, (craigslist); Canon 24-105mm (new!!). Flash: Canon 430EX, (craigslist); Brand X, (ebay).

PHOTO ITEMS: SELL, SWAP, DONATE!**A. NIKON LENS FOR SALE:**

1. Nikon Zoom Super Wide Angle AF 18-70mm lens
f/3.5 - 4.5G Ed-IF AF-S DX ZOOM NIKKOR
AUTOFOCUS— ASKING: \$200.00
2. Nikon AF-S ZOOM 70-300mm Full Frame, f/4.5-5.5G IF-
ED Telephoto VR II ASKING: \$500.00
3. Tamron 28-75mm Full Frame Nikon F Mount, f2.8 XR DI
LD Aspherical IF AF with built in motor. ASKING: \$400.00
4. Tamron 70-200mm Full Frame Nikon F Mount, f2.8 DI
LD IF Macro AF Telephoto with built in motor.
ASKING: \$650.00. **All prices negotiable.**

Contact: Pat Burns: jsnpops323@earthlink.net

B. SMALL PORTABLE SCREEN & STANDARD SCREEN.

Contact: Eugene Forsyth: Eugene.forsyth@yahoo.com

READING BETWEEN THE LINES, By Pat Burns

When it comes to making heads or tails out of buying a NEW camera...Don't always believe everything you read. When a Camera manufacture says that: "THIS CAMERA IS !!!!!!! ... *What he really is saying is...*

"THIS CAMERA IS ALL NEW AND DISTINCTIVE" *The parts are not interchangeable with other camera of the same model and make, not this year anyway, and it's a different color and shape from previous design.*

"THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS CAMERA IS UNMATCHED" *Almost as good as the competitions camera of nine-years-ago and will operate through the warranty period only.*

"DESIGNED SIMPLICITY" *The camera manufacturer's cut cost to the bone, and all previous faults have been corrected, we hope.*

"FOOLPROOF OPERATION" *There is no provision on this camera for any adjustments"*

"THIS CAMERA IS OF ADVANCED DESIGN" *No one in the company understands how it works and it does things we can't explain.*

"THIS CAMERA HAS BEEN FIELD TESTED IN THE MOST EXOTIC LOCATIONS" *That they took a few pictures in the company's parking lot.*

"AFTER YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT WE ARE PROUD TO INTRODUCE" *We finally got one that works and we figured out a way to sell it."*

"THIS CAMERA IS A FUTURISTIC REVOLUTIONARY BREAKTHROUGH" *It's different from our competitors, well it's almost different, well it's not exactly different, and there is no other reason why it looks the way it does.*

If any explanations are required, talk with Pat Burns!

PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION OF LONG ISLAND

PFLI COMPETITION and PFLI PHOTO CLASS dates are on page 1 of the Newsletter.

PFLI CREATIVE MONTHLY ON-LINE COMPETITION ... Exclusively for camera clubs in PFLI.

On October 14, the PFLI launched the new monthly competition category for CREATIVE images. Three outside judges scored the images. Scoring is the same as a regular competition—the total of the 3 judges score will be the official PFLI score for the CREATIVE category. Club members are encouraged to vote on the images. Register on the PFLI Creative website to rate the competition images to help select the most popular images each month.

The images will be displayed for members and visitors to view—high scoring and most popular images highlighted. Club members may now use the Global Password (see club president) to register for their FREE voting account. You do not need to register to submit images through your club, or to view images. **Website for CREATIVE ON-LINE COMPETITION ... www.pflicreative.com**

PFLI WEBSITE: www.pflionline.com
FCC DELEGATE: Helen Repstad

PHOTO HAPPENINGS

The following events are not a part of programs by the Flushing Camera Club and are shared for information purposes only. By listing the Photo Happenings, this does not constitute an endorsement or approval of the events by the FCC. It is your responsibility to contact the event for details related to fees, hours, exhibits, etc.

LONG ISLAND CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY: presents an exhibition of photographs from Dick Lopez's project "Williamsburg" for: January 3—March 31, 2012. Dick gives a personal look into a neighborhood in which he has spent many years. Despite the various paths that Dick has taken throughout his life, he still finds that his heart is drawn to the Williamsburg community. In shooting this work, Dick hopes to depict the past, present, and future for this historic borough.
Artist Reception: Sat., January 14, 2:00—4:00pm .
African American Museum., 110 N. Franklin St., Hempstead 11550. For LICP info: laura@longislandcenterofphotography.org

YOU'RE INVITED BY ISLAND PHOTO GROUP... PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIAL

Monday, January 2, 2012, 7:30pm - 9:30pm, Farmingdale, NY. Refreshments, meet new friends, bring photo portfolio to share and network with other photographers.
Space Limited: Register: <http://ipgsocial.evenbrite.com/>

PHOTO EXHIBITION—LONG ISLAND CITY. The men and women who make up Long Island City's small businesses are the focus of LaGuardia Community College's student photo exhibition: "**LONG ISLAND CITY WORKS.**" More than 100 faces, including photographer Tony Vaccaro, were captured by the school's commercial photography students.

The Director of the Commercial Photography Program and one of the project developers shared "The exhibition is a way for the college to recognize the workers of Long Island City at a time when the country's economy is facing difficult times." Viewing: Mon-Fri: 7am—9pm, Saturdays: 9am—4pm. LaGuardia Community College: 31-10 Thomson Ave., LIC 11101; info: 718.482.5985.

MESSAGE FROM SCOTT KELBY TO ADOBE PHOTOSHOP

Everyone who uses Photoshop needs to read what's on the attached link. It's an open letter from Scott Kelby to Adobe about their new upgrade policy which affects how you need to upgrade your current version of Photoshop.

http://www.scottkelby.com/blog/2011/archives/22903?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

PHOTO WEEKEND: Rocky Mountain School of Photography

schedules week-end classes with top-notch photographers around the country. Over the course of two days their knowledgeable and inspiring instructors present information-packed lectures teaching new techniques and core skills. They'll answer nagging questions and conduct a lively and constructive group critique session (it's anonymous!). Whether you're a beginner wanting to switch from auto mode to manual mode or an intermediate photographer wanting to take your schools to the next level, this week-end course is the way go to. Class closest to Queens: Albany, NY, March 31—April 1, 2012. For full info, subject areas, cities, dates: www.rmisp.com/weekends or 800. 394.7677.

COMPETITION, sponsored by www.wantagh.li No cost to enter. Monthly prizes, including \$100. awards for 5 and 10 time winners. Images must be taken in Wantagh (*i.e. Jones Beach State Park, Mill Pond, Wantagh Park, etc.*). Large number of PFLI members have won awards over the years. For all details: www.wantagh.li

MOMA's ANNUAL NEW PHOTOGRAPHY SERIES expands to feature the work of 6 artists, with the aim of capturing the diversity and international scope of contemporary photographic work. **New Photography 2011:** Moyra Davey (Canada), George Georgiou (England), Deana Lawson (USA), Doug Rickard (USA), Viviane Sassen (The Netherlands), Sang Dali (China). The artists in New Photography 2011 approach image-making from very different perspectives, making for a truly dynamic combination. Until January 16, 2012. Photo Gallery, 3rd floor, Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., NYC, 212.708.94001

QUEENS COUNTY FARM, Little Neck Parkway, Holiday Open House: Dec. 26-28, 12Noon-4pm. Warm up with mulled cider, tours of decorated historic farmhouse & craft activities for children. 718.347.3276: call for fees, www.queensfarm.org

B&H EVENTS SPACE

"B&H offers "an astonishing array of free seminars and inspirational lectures by talented pros from around the world. You can self-register on-line to guarantee a seat, however, we do accept walk-ins for events that have not reached capacity. "

Contact B&H for a list of seminars, registration, and leaders for the free seminars: 2nd floor, 420 9th Ave., NYC; www.bhphotovideo.com/find/Eventspace.jsp

NYC PHOTO SAFARI @ Madison Square Park

"Learn to take better pictures before you go on vacation or out of town. This will be an all around Photo Safari: you'll learn both portrait and location photography. These are the two most common scenarios people find themselves in. You'll learn composition and positioning, what lighting conditions to look for. Safari is appropriate for all level of photographic knowledge."

Sat., Dec. 3: 9:00am

Sun., Dec. 4: 2:30pm

Sun., Dec. 11: 12:30pm

Sat., Dec. 17: 9:00am

Contact for additional info and fees: Madison Square Park, One West 23 St., NYC 10010, 212.538.6667

"THE RADICAL CAMERA: NEW YORK'S PHOTO LEAGUE, 1936-1951."

11:00am—5:45 pm, free on Saturdays. Contact the Jewish Museum for hours and admission: 1109 5th Ave. & 92 St., NYC. 212.423.3200, www.thejewishmuseum.org

DIGITAL PHOTO ACADEMY, NYC,

Photo classes throughout NYC with professional photographers. Sessions designed for beginner, intermediate and advanced photographers and are held at various locations through NYC. For full listing of classes, fees, hours, locations, instructions:

contact:www.digitalphotoacademy.com

PHOTOGRAPHY LINKS/ RESOURCES

Flushing Camera Club: www.flushingcameraclub.org

PFLI: www.pflionline.com

PSA: www.psa-photo.org

Stan Strauss: <http://www.stannich.com>

Ron Caldwell: <http://www.fotosbyron.com>

www.photoplugins.com

Hunt's Photo: Gary Farber,

www.DigitalGuyGary@wbhunt.com

Russ Burden: www.russburdenphotography.com

www.takegreatpictures.com

Online Display and Review: www.flickr.com

Digital Photography Review: www.dpreview.com

Canon Camera:

www.usa.canon.com

Nikon Camera: www.nikonusa.com

Adobe Photoshop: www.adobe.com

Natl. Assoc. Photoshop Professionals:

www.photoshopper.com

B&H: www.bhphoto.com

International Center for Photography: www.icp.org

COSTCO—Photo Center— for prints

Neptune Camera, 130 Seventh St., Garden City, 516.741.4484; www.neptunephoto.com

Koh's Camera, 2662 Jerusalem Ave., N. Bellmore, NY 11710, 516.826.9566; kohscamera.com

Westbury Camera, 380 W. Old Country Rd., Hicksville, NY 11081, 516.937.0707, westburycameras.com

Russ Burden Photography Tours— 303.791-9997
· www.russburdenphotography.com

2012 TRIPS:

Feb. 18 - 24: Florida Birds: Everglades / Fort Myers / West Palm.

Apr 14 - 20: Monument Valley / Slot Canyons

May 5 - 11: Arches + Canyonlands National Parks - includes 5 days of Photoshop instruction

May 26 - June 4: Oregon Coast - 10 day trip

June 16 - 22: Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Spring

Sept 23 - Oct 2: Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Fall - 10 days

Oct. 16 - 21: Hunts Mesa - Aerial perspective of Monument Valley and Capital Reef National Park

.Nov. 3 - 9: Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks

Dec. 1 - 7: Bosque Del Apache / White Sands Natl. Mon.

Russ Burden's Photo Tips



Fall Foliage Photo Pointers: Part II

It's autumn - gone are the mornings of hazy white skies. Sunrise now greets us with a crisp blue and a chill in the air. The air is fresh and clean, a sense of change permeates the environment, and all living forms seem to sense the transformation that's about to take place. It's a time when nature goes into transition. Soon all the leaves will be down leaving skeletons of deciduous branches. This can be viewed as a sad phenomena, but also a celebration of life in the way Mother Nature goes out in a blaze of glory. Her fireworks motivate photographers around the world to capture gigabytes of color in a short period of time. Enjoy this last installment of my fall photography tips. I'd love to have you join me on one of my autumn nature photography tours so you can apply what you've learned from them. Furthermore, I'll be happy to share all my others that I didn't get to.

Bring on the Backlight: Many photographers prefer a certain quality of light in which to photograph fall color. To me, whatever condition I'm bestowed on a particular day, I'll exploit to its fullest. One of the conditions I take advantage of is backlight. Autumn colored leaves take on a glow as if each has a built in spotlight that gets turned on to a varying intensity. Find a solitary tree in full fall color and do a 360 degree walk around. Watch what happens to the leaves as the quality of light changes from front light, to sidelight, to backlight. Front light is flat and dull while back light makes the tree come alive. Shield your lens to prevent flare and check your histogram to get the best exposure as shooting into the sun can cause the photo to be underexposed

Bring on the Morning Mist: A warm autumn day followed by a chilly autumn night motivates me to get into the field early the next morning. The reason for this is these are the conditions that create ground fog and mist. Capturing this mood with fall color added in as a bonus is a nature photographer's dream. Preserving the moment is technically not difficult. Most of the exposures are pretty much straight forward unless the fog is backlit. If so, check your histogram to see how you need to compensate as shooting into the sun tends to produce underexposure. Compositionally, shoot it wide, shoot it tight, isolate a detail, shoot vertically and shoot horizontally. In other words, as I've often said so many times, "exhaust all possibilities." These are magical conditions and you want to make sure you capture the moment.

Bring on the Overcast: If the weather deals me an overcast hand, I'll take advantage of it and concentrate on just the leaves as the reds, yellows and oranges saturate well in this condition. The reason for this is glare from the sun that would otherwise rob the foliage of its saturation doesn't factor into the equation. Depending on how gray it is, it will be necessary to add warmth to the photo in the form of a warming filter or setting the white balance to cloudy. The yellow imparted by the filter or the warmth imparted by the cloudy white balance setting helps negate the dull color of the gray sky. If you encounter overcast skies, look for branches that are low growing and zero in on a single leaf or a clump that has a nice composition. Look toward the ground for the intimate landscape that may often go unnoticed. Red leaves nestled in pine needles, the veining of a single oak leaf, or a fallen log surrounded by an autumn mosaic are all wonderful subjects that deserve more than just a few pixels worth of capture.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2012