

Volume 13, Issue 7

March, 2011

The Info Sheet

FLUSHING CAMERA CLUB

... in our 40th year

FCC Executive Committee Officers:

President: Stan Strauss,
718.423.2825

Vice President: Marty Neff,
718.380.0649

Treasurer: Joe Caruso,
718.357.4251

Secretary: Joan Egan,
718.441.6210

Committee Chairpersons:

Administration: Carl Barnett,
718.964.7275

Competition: Helen Repstad,
718.845.4477

Programs/Education: Marty Neff,
718.380.0649

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

Membership:

Publicity: Pat Burns, 718.591.7067
PFLI Delegate: Ron Caldwell,
917.806.6170

The Info Sheet: Dorothy Gist,
516.328.3776; Ron Caldwell
Web Master: Ron Caldwell

Additional Members:

Dennis Golin: 718.749.0643
Marty Fleischer: 718.591.8246
Mary O'Connor: 718.939.4963

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"

Flushing Camera Club is more than competition. It is about fellowship. It is about experiencing photography with others who feel the same way about photography. In February, there were two great examples that we can share the experience of being with other photographers at the same event. First, on Saturday, February 12, a number of us gathered in downtown Flushing to see what we could see and record in the annual Lunar New Year Parade (thanks Michael Sender for setting this up). There were a number of photographers, not just from FCC, and we all shared and photographed and just had a grand time. Then, on the following Wednesday, there was a setup night. Dorothy Gist and Michael Sender had the idea that we could setup a number of table-top arrangements and have our members bring in cameras and tripods and see what they could produce. So Dorothy, Michael, Vernon Smith, Marty Neff, Joe Crupi and Bob Green brought in items. Stan Goldstein brought in lights and Roberta Goldstein and Victor Fichera served as our models. We had several members act as mentors and Bob Green prepared handouts. And it was a SUCCESS. Members kept on asking - when is the next setup night. This just goes to show what we can accomplish as a club if we pitch in and work together.

Now the next step is seeing our work. A e-mailbox has been created shows@flushingcameraclub.org for you to email some of the work created at either event and we will make slideshows to be shown at one of our meetings. Here are the guidelines--

Submit images with same rules as for competition - max size-750 pixels, sRGB and 72 dpi.

Use any title you want

Images can be used in competition or not.

No more than 10 images per event.

Put your name and the event in the subject line of the email.

If you have any questions, either call me (718-423-2825) or send me an email (stan@stannich.com).

Also, before we started photographing the setups, we were treated to a presentation by Stan Goldstein on his specialty, Figure Studies. It was very impressive to see how uses studio lighting so effectively and how and why to do use specific lighting setups. It is so informative to learn from such an experienced and accomplished photographer who is willing to share his secrets.

- Stan Strauss

MARCH

2: 7:30pm: Competition #7 James Paradise, former member of L. I. Camera Club

16:7:15pm: Mini Session: "Keep It Solid, Keep it Sharp...Using A Tripod" by Roy Woelful

16: 7:30pm: Adobe's Lightroom by Stan Strauss..several prize drawings

30: 7:15pm: Mini Session: "Understanding and Explaining Judging" by Dennis Golin

30: 7:30pm: Discussion: What Constitutes 'Photography?' Do some of the new photo manipulation techniques take photography over the edge? Marty Neff will moderate.

30: 8:00pm: Presentation: New Tools for Photo Manipulation by Sy Roth.

APRIL

6: 7:30pm: Competition #7 Leon Hertzson, Huntington Camera Club

20: 7:15pm: Mini Session: "Easy Photoshop Tips That Make Your Pix Pop, Before and After" by Robert Glick

20: 7:30pm: Presentation: How to Improve Your Slide Show Presentations by George Favale, Huntington Camera Club



Happy Birthday To You!



- 1 Adele Robbins
- 7 Ann Grodman
- 24 Vernon Smith
- 4 Russ Burden
- 20 Robert Glick

FCC: MINI-SESSIONS @ 7:15pm

- Mar. 16: Keep it Solid, Keep it Sharp ... Using A Tripod by Roy Woelfel
- Mar. 30: Understanding/Explaining Judging by Dennis Golin
- Apr. 20: Easy Photoshop Tips That Make Your Pix Pop, Before & After by Robert Glick

COMPETITIONS:

Since the February competition meeting was cancelled, the competition will be made up in the following way:

- On March 2nd** February Color Prints
February B&W Prints
March Color Prints
March B&W Prints
March Digital Images
- On April 6th**..... February Digital Images
April Digital Images
April Color Prints
April B&W Prints

On May 4th: We will return to the usual three categories.

REMEMBER: This is the Restricted Competition: CURVES.

The subject of each image must demonstrate "CURVES." Images that do not will be disqualified (receive an automatic "6"). This will be for the judge to decide.

- On June 1st**..... Best of the Best
You may submit up to five(5) images in each category that have scored "7" or more in the monthly competitions during the year.
If you have any questions you may respond to me at glaniana@verizon.net

Helen Repstad, Competition Chairperson

PHOTO—ASIAN PARADE



Left to right: Carla Visser, Bob Green, Michael Sender, Helene Sender, Joe Crupi, Tom Mrwik, Joe Caruso
Asian Festival & Parade by Joe Crupi, Trips & Tours
On Saturday, Feb. 12, the Flushing neighborhood hosted an Asian Festival and Parade in FCC's back yard. It was a great day for photography - not too hot and not too sunny. Just perfect for making PJ images.

We had nice club participation and members met at the municipal parking lot. From there the members spread out to capture images in their own particular style. Participants in the festival were all too willing to pose and we saw the best side of the Asian community. Gorgeous ladies from various communities and striking men in ethnic costume ...as well as the many children on both sides of the police barriers. Even the police horses were hamming it up for the camera!

In all we had a good opportunity for some cultural photography and later to sample the food Flushing is noted for. Expect to see many of these photos in upcoming competitions.


**“Adobe® Photoshop® Lightroom® 3 Is for Photographers” by Stan Strauss
Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 7:30 PM**

Simplify photography from shoot to finish

See how Adobe Lightroom 3 helps you bring out the best in your photographs, whether you're perfecting one image, searching for ten, processing hundreds, or organizing thousands.


Create incredible images that move your audience. Experiment nondestructive editing tools. Easily manage all your images. Still able to work with Photoshop and Photoshop Elements. Showcase your work in shows, and web galleries, as well as on popular photo-sharing sites.

Free door prizes: including a copy of Adobe Lightroom

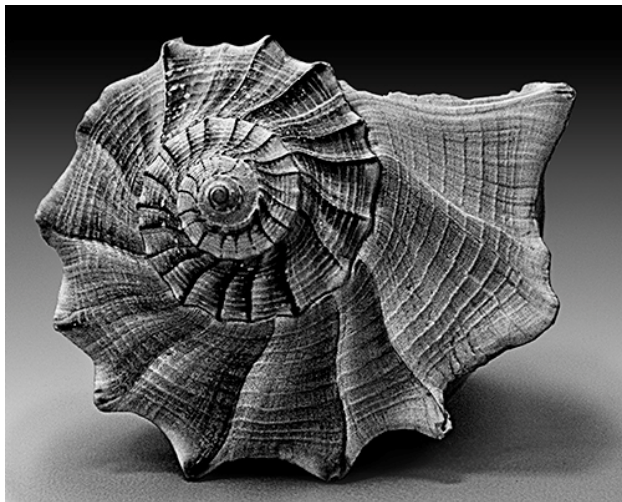
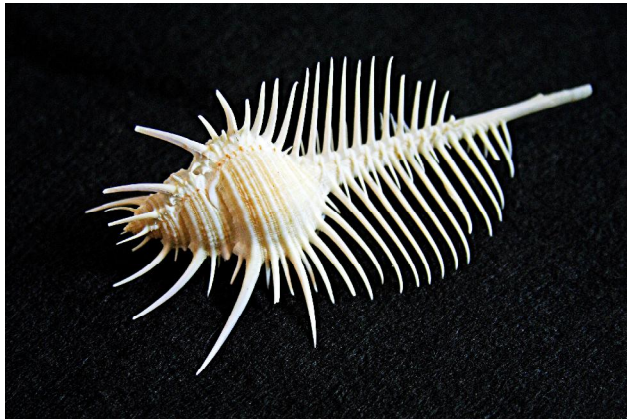


New Members:

59 Members



Night Of The Table Top!



February 11, 2011

	Name	Title	Score		Name	Title	Score
BWA	(Jan) Bob Green	Dennis	21	CPB	Diane Rausch	Enchanted Forest	20
BWA	(Jan) Ann Grodman	Leaf 2	21	CPB	Stan Strauss	Leaf Up Close	20
BWA	(Jan) Sy Roth	Flower Close Up 5	22	CPB	Uris Mckay	Selma	21
BWA	(Jan) Sy Roth	Fully Erupted Thistle	24	CPB	Joseph Muratore	Sharon Rose	22
BWA	(Jan) Robert Glick	Penny For My Thoughts	25	CPB	Ramiro Agredo	Pussywillow	23
BWA	Bob Green	Day Dreamer	21	CPB	Adam Holstein	Hawaii Swan	21
BWA	Sy Roth	Polluting The Sky	21	CPB	Gene Kolomatsky	Market Woman 1	21
BWA	Ann Grodman	One Too Many	22	CPB	Eugene Forsyth	Lake Crescent	22
BWA	Bob Green	Eagle	22	CPB	Joe Caruso	Fishing Cove	22
BWA	Robert Glick	grin And Bear It	24	CPB	Joan Egan	Reflection	22
BWB	(Jan) Gene Kolomatsky	Peach On The Beach	21	DPA	(JAN) Ann Grodman	Weird	21
BWB	(Jan) Marty Neff	Succulent Leaves	22	DPA	(JAN) Joe Crupi	SLURP	21
BWB	(Jan) Suzanne Abruzzo	Crow Against Moon	23	DPA	(JAN) Helen Repstad	Old Glory	21
BWB	(Jan) Stan Strauss	Arizona Cactus 7	23	DPA	(JAN) Michael Sender	Flower with Buds	22
BWB	(Jan) Ramiro Agredo	Old Wheel	24	DPA	(JAN) Robert Glick	Butterfly on Pear	24
BWB	Marty Neff	Yellowstone Fall 2	21	DPA	Helen Repstad	Temple of Love	22
BWB	John Baratta	Small Flower	21	DPA	Tom Mrwik	Wild Water Run	22
BWB	Suzanne Abruzzo	Bird On A Branch	21	DPA	Robert Green	Alien Flower	22
BWB	Stan Strauss	Arizona Landscape 8	22	DPA	Joe Crupi	E TOPSHAM RAIN CLOUDS	22
BWB	Ramiro Agredo	Sunglass Smile	24	DPA	Robert Glick	Glowing Swan	24
CPA	(Jan) Sy Roth	Taking Off	20	DPB	(JAN) Barbara Shea	Summer_Night	20
CPA	(Jan) Robert Glick	Somber Lion	21	DPB	(JAN) Eugene Forsyth	yosemite waterfall	21
CPA	(Jan) Bob Green	Self Portrait	22	DPB	(JAN) Louise Destefano	Cancun1	21
CPA	(Jan) Ann Grodman	Tiffany	22	DPB	(JAN) Henry Szcpanski	Glade Creek Grist Mill WV	22
CPA	(Jan) Joan Egan	Flower Combo	22	DPB	(JAN) Stan Strauss	Barn & Clouds	25
CPA	Bob Green	Snow Leopard	21	DPB	Barbara Shea	Hard_Times	20
CPA	Robert Glick	Back Off	21	DPB	Helene Sender	OREGON COAST #1	21
CPA	Sy Roth	Flower Abstract	22	DPB	Lucy Pearce	Le Petite Fleur	21
CPA	Ann Grodman	Oak	22	DPB	Roy woelfel	Iris	22
CPA	Robert Glick	What A Day	24	DPB	Stan Goldstein	Jess R mg7897b back over	23
CPB	(Jan) Stan Strauss	Old Leaf Up Close	21	DPB	(JAN) Joan Egan	Motorbikes	21
CPB	(Jan) Rich Destefano	Falling Balloon	21	DPB	(JAN) Lucy Pearce	Early Spring	21
CPB	(Jan) Joseph Muratore	Hop Scotch	21	DPB	(JAN) Diane Rauch	Tall Timbers_Birch	22
CPB	(Jan) Gene Kolomatsky	Cuke Tower	22	DPB	(JAN) Roy woelfel	Flower156	22
CPB	(Jan) Ramiro Agredo	Port Sunset	25	DPB	(JAN) Ramiro Agredo	Hawk	23
				DPB	Michael Fleischer	Nice 'n Close	20
				DPB	Stan Strauss	Photographer in a Meadow	21
				DPB	Ramiro Agredo	ParkRun	21
				DPB	Joan Egan	Fall	22
				DPB	Diane Rauch	TT LAKE_FALL	23

SPOTLIGHT ON Helene Sender

Helene Sender has been a Flushing Camera Club member for a few years and has participated in many events and traveled with the club on field trips. Helene entered our competition in January and her image "Oregon Coast #1" won the Image of the Month award!



Let's hear from Helene:

I am a recreational photographer and have not taken any formal classes in photography nor do I belong to any other camera club. Until about seven years ago, I had no interest in photography; travel was and remains my great love. Friends pressured me to get a camera so that they could share the wonderful places that I visit. I complied reluctantly by purchasing a Nikon film point and shoot.

My cousin, Michael Sender, saw some of my photos and encouraged me to join the Flushing Camera Club which I did after much coaxing on his part. I have been a member for about five years but had not competed until January 2011. Helen Repstad and Joan Egan, who I occasionally go out on shoots with had indicated that they wanted to see some of my images as has Dorothy Gist so I entered the January competition unbeknownst to anyone but Helen who was sworn to secrecy. Low and behold one of my images: "Oregon Coast #1" received a top score of '9' and Image Of the Month! I am indebted to FCC for the lectures and all the photography tips and information that has enabled me to become a better photographer. I now use a Panasonic Lumix G1 DSLR camera with a telephoto lens; I also own a Canon Power Shot S5 that I rarely, if ever, use. The G1 camera is a good fit for me, since I deliver bone marrow and stem cells all over the world and am very limited in what I can carry on the plane; I am not allowed any checked baggage. Photography has now become a part of my life and I would never dream of travelling without my camera. I have found that I see the world differently with a camera in my hand and that it greatly enhances my travel experience. I consider myself an average photographer but, do aspire to continue to improve my skills through continued attendance at FCC. Trees, roots and landscapes are my predominate photographic subjects. People who know my work consider me a 'tree hugger.'

A Valentine Kiss, Table Top Workshop by Pat Burns

Although it was two days after Valentine's Day, Wednesday's meeting at FCC, was by far a very enjoyable evening. It started off with one of the best Stan-up comics of this or the last century, one professor Stan Goldstein presenting his unique lighting technique on the human frame...each image shown with shadows and light was pure drama, all were imaginative and intelligent, many with a touch of intrigue, pathos and some with a sense of joy. I personally am looking forward to a live presentation of Stan Goldstein's fine art photography and lighting technique of the human anatomy.

The bulk of the evening was turned over to Table-Top Photography. The walls of the auditorium were lined with tables displaying wonderful presentations of *Objects d'art*. From several still-life's displays to a day-glow black light lit slinky... from wonderful seashells to art glass in colors I have never seen before, from colorful rubber balls flowing from a jar to a silvery fish head on a plate, all that was missing was a bowl of rice, chop sticks, wasabi and soy sauce! All free to be photographed and photographed they were. Professor Stan had set up some lights and provided a few live models, he directed his group like John Ford with a touch of Alfred Hitchcock for mystery and the macabre...he seemed to have had the most fun of us all. Missing were a few of the newer members and some of FCC regular members, again that is the norm at many of our meetings... the volunteer mentors were present and in full swing and seem to be working very well.

There were many comments about the night's festivities, and here are just a few:

"This is what a camera club is all about."

"When is the next Table-Top display workshop?"

"It would be great if we can do this on a Saturday morning/afternoon for three or four hours."

"I have a whole bunch of stuff at home that would look great as a table-top setup."

"Can we do this in the Park ...you know, just the teaching part."

My own personal comment was ...*"I'm bringing my camera to the next one!"*

The best comment of the night came from Bob Green. *"It would be nice if FCC had a SHOW & TELL night of the images taken at this Table-Top Workshop."*

All that participated in making this a joyful evening deserves a big wet belated Valentine kiss!

PS: Did anybody take photos of the activities as they were going on? I think we need an official club photographer....anybody got a camera!

See Table Top Photos on Page 3

Part II Cold Weather Pictures ... New York Institute of Photography

Keep Yourself Warm: The final camera tip for shooting cold weather photos is for you to keep warm. Dress in layers. Wear good warm boots. Bring along a thermos of hot soup (coffee and alcohol are counterproductive: they make you less able to maintain your body warmth!) And, if it's really cold, consider some supplementary heating devices, such as skiers use: plastic packets of chemicals that can warm the hands/feet .. Or even battery heated insoles of your boots.

Shooting in Snow: If it's just a few flakes, simply keep your camera under our coat except when you shoot. Heavy snowfall can play havoc with the exposed parts of a DSLR, where any moisture can snarl the all-important circuits that control all the camera's functions. Don't use your DSLR for cold weather pictures during heavy snow unless you have it protected by a waterproof device. Make sure that snowflakes or water droplets don't obscure the view of the lens. If necessary, wipe your lens with a dry, lint-free absorbent cloth.

Condensation: Now it's time to come back indoors. You've seen moisture condense on a cool glass of water on a hot summer day. Your lens and the electronics inside the camera behave the same way when you bring them inside—moisture from the warm inside air condenses on their cold surfaces. The lens can become completely covered with moisture, as can the mechanical and electrical components inside the camera. You don't want moisture—water! - on your lens or inside the camera.

Let the camera warm up slowly. Place it on a cool windowsill or an unheated porch for a couple of hours so it can rise slowly to room temp. Condensation can play havoc with an all-electronic camera. This is where the suggestion of wrapping a cold camera in a plastic bag comes into play. The moisture will settle on the outside of the bag rather than on the camera's outside and inside surfaces. You can protect the delicate electronics this way. In fact, it's best if you place the bag on the camera while still outside, not when you bring the camera in.

With these simple precautions and camera tips, you'll be able to take great cold weather pictures. Winter offers exceptional opportunities for wonderful landscapes because of its crystal-clear air. So don't be daunted when the temperature drops into the Arctic zone. Just dress properly, take these few winter photo tips to heart, head outdoors, and get going.

New York Institute of Photography—Www.nyip.com

You don't take a photograph, you make it. -Ansel Adams

PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION OF LONG ISLAND

PFLI COMPETITION: Friday, March 11, 2011, 7:30 pm, Plainview-Old Bethpage Library, Plainview.

PHOTO CLASS, Plainview-Old Bethpage Library, Plainview, Sun., March 27, 2:00-pm—4:15pm, Jan Altes, Great Neck Camera Club, "Photography As Art"

SPRING SPECTACULAR: Sunday, April 3, 2011, 8:30am—4:00pm. Suffolk County Community College, Brentwood Campus. Canon will sponsor **"A Day With Lewis Kemper"**

"How to Get the Most Out of Your Digital Camera"

"The Opportunities Digital Allows"

"Digital Darkroom Techniques"

Tickets: \$30.00; high school & college students FREE with school ID.

Box lunch: \$10.25: deadline for lunch reservations is: March 14, 2011. Ron Caldwell has tickets and lunch order forms.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CONTEST. Reception: Sat., April 9, 2011, Ethical Humanist Society, Garden City, 2:30pm—4:30

Joe Caruso serves as our liaison to Townsend Harris High School, Flushing, and St. Francis Prep High School, Fresh Meadows in preparation for the Contest.

Last year 6 high schools participated in the 2010 Showcase. For this year's Showcase, we hope to have 12-14 schools to participate. We're very pleased that FCC is serving as liaison to 2 high schools: Townsend Harris High School, Flushing and St. Francis Prep High School, Flushing.

Through the PFLI camera clubs, this year we have 12 high schools in the Contest. After the Reception, all prints will be sent to the PSA for their 2011 Youth Showcase

Youth Showcase Committee includes: Co-chairs: Dorothy Gist & Margo Zarro, Ramiro Agredo, Ron Caldwell, Mary Thompson, and liaisons from several camera clubs.

LEONARD VICTOR COMPETITION: Fri., June 10, 2011, will be held at the Plainview Old Bethpage Library, Plainview, NY. Each photographer may enter up to 3 entries per category with score of 23 and above.

Set aside your images with 23 and above so by June 10 you'll be prepared with your entries for each category.

PFLI Website: www.pflionline.com

FCC Delegate: Ron Caldwell

GUIDELINES for a GOOD IMAGE by the late Felix Occhiuto

<i>Impact</i>	<i>Composition</i>	<i>Technique</i>
<i>Originality</i>	<i>Print Quality</i>	<i>Complimentary Mounting</i>

SUGGESTION BOX: *FCC Suggestion Box is located at the Greeters' Table Let us hear from you. Thanks much!*

PHOTO HAPPENINGS

The following events are not a part of programs by the Flushing Camera Club. These are events that may be of interest to you and they are shared for information purposes only. The FCC assumes no responsibility for the events, content or information. For information on these events, you should contact the event.

NEW JERSEY FEDERATION OF CAMERA CLUBS: I am pleased to announce Photorama 2011 on April 9th featuring Darrell Gulin. You can find more information on the NJFCC site with links here:

<http://www.njfcc.org/0/Photorama/Photoramainfo.aspx>

Ticket cost: \$30.00 and it is at Monmouth Universities Wilson Hall. Seating is limited this year, so get your ticket early to avoid being left out!

Roman Kurywczak, www.roaminwithroman.com

roaminwroman@comcast.net

908-241-2248

115 W. Roselle Ave.

Roselle Park, NJ 07204

NY BOTANICAL GARDENS: Orchid Show on Broadway, March 5– April 25, 2011. Bronx River Parkway, Bronx, NY, tickets; 718.817.8700.

HICKS NURSERY—21st Annual Flower and Garden Show, Friday, March 11—Sun., March 20, 2011. Hicks opens at 8:00am.

Jericho Turnpike, Westbury 11590, 516.334.0066.

'QUEENS MUSEUM OF ART, Flushing Meadows Park, Queens. "Luis Marquez in the World of Tomorrow: Mexican Identity and the 1939-40 New York World's Fair." Features photographs by Luis Marquez (1899-1078) the official photographer for and art advisor of the Mexican Pavilion at the 1939-40 World's Fair. Till March 6, 2011.

Contacts: 718.592.9700; info@queensmuseum.org

TRANSFORMING LIVES, an exhibit of photographs of Uganda's youth taken by artist/activist Stephen Shanes. Nassau Community College, Firehouse Plaza Art Gallery, College Center Building, Garden City. Through March 17, 516.572.0619.

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART: Pictures by Women: A History of Modern Photography—on view through March 21, 2011. 11 West 53 St., NYC, 10019. Contact for hours and fees: 1.888.999.8861; www.moma.org

NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION with photographs by Martin Hochberg. Thru March 30 at African-American Museum, 110 North Franklin St., Hempstead, NY. For hours: 516.572.1730; aamoflongisland.org

WESTBURY CAMERAS HAS MOVED: 380 W. Old Country Rd., Hicksville ... just 4 blocks west of our old store. "We're excited to announce opening our doors to the new store! Please come in for your camera related needs and repairs. 516.937.0707."

'PHOTO FINISH' an exhibit of works by African-American artists who have been in residence at the Center for Photography at Woodstock's workspace for emerging photographers of color. Till March 20. Islip Art Museum 50 Irish Lane, East Islip. For information and fees: 631. 224.5402; islipartmuseum.org

'NIKON SCHOOL: Intro to Digital SLR Photography: \$129.00

Next Steps; Color, Light, Technology: \$159.00

Photo Editing with Nikon's Capture NX 2: \$99.00

Dates: March 5, June 11, 2011. Register: 631.547.8666; nikonschool.com

EAST COAST CAMERA STORE, Valley Stream, has closed.

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.photoshopuser.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

Sometimes I do get to places just when God's ready to have somebody click the shutter. -Ansel Adams

It's About Russ Burden

Russ Burden Photography Tours— 303.791-9997

www.russburdenphotography.com

Life's too short to miss out on a Russ Burden Nature Photography Tour!

2011 Trips:

Apr 16 - 22: Monument Valley / Slot Canyons

May 7 - 13: Arches & Canyonlands National Parks - includes 5 days of Photoshop instruction

May 25 - June 3: Oregon Coast - 10 day trip

June 18 - 24: Tetons & Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Spring

Sept 24 - Oct 3: Tetons & Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Fall - 10 days

PHOTO TIPS by Russ Burden:



Shooting Close Ups

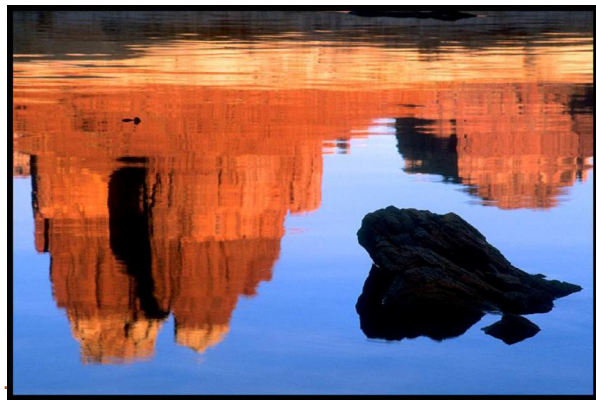
Close up photography allows a photographer to enter a world within a world. Ordinary subjects can be depicted with a fresh perspective in a way not commonly seen. Whether it's an isolated portion of a large subject or an exploration into the mouth of a tulip, an array of new material is offered. Pieces of a whole become entirely new items, details in small creatures are revealed that are too small to notice, and patterns can be created in mundane or ordinarily overlooked subjects. Learning to see the world through macro eyes and knowing how to capture it can be learned with practice and by following a few tips.

EQUIPMENT: To enter the world of close up photography, you need to have a lens or piece of supplemental equipment that allows you to focus closer than normal. A true macro lens provides this but the trade off is \$price\$. Less expensive ways are with the use of a bellows, extension tubes, or close up filters, providing you buy quality ones that are dual element. I use filters made by Nikon and they work just fine. In that I enjoy making close up images but they're not my main stay, I feel comfortable using this set up.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: Knowing how to control depth of field when making close ups is critical to the success of the image. Depending on the amount of magnification of the subject, depth of field can be measured in millimeters. Needless to say, it's critical where you place the focus point. In conjunction with this is how perpendicular the subject is to the lens. Subjects that are parallel provide more depth of field than those that fall perpendicular. Just as important is the aperture at which the photo is made. It's sort of like a recipe. If one ingredient is left out, the soup will not taste right. The analogy here is if one of the above aspects is overlooked, the image may fall short.

CREATIVE: In keeping with the depth of field theme, very narrow depth of field provides an effect known as selective focus. This is where wide open apertures are used to create a result wherein only a sliver of the subject is in focus. This portion of the photo becomes the focal point. Explore the depths of your subjects to create abstract patterns. For instance, a butterfly's wing, the graining of wood, a small section of a fabric swatch, or even small portion of an automobile grill may provide striking images of patterns, shapes or textures indiscernible unless you get close.

To learn more about this subject, join me on one of my photo tours. Please visit www.russburdenphotography.com to get more information.



Abstracts

In every art form, connections can be made between real life and the given medium. A connection is a great way to get an artist fired up to pick up a camera, grab a paintbrush, ignite the welder, or head to the studio. Some connections I often make when I think of the word abstracts are zoom in, isolate, macro, dreamy, and find the picture within the picture. If I choose to shoot abstracts, I view the surrounding area as if it's a giant Rorschach test. I look past the reality of the subject and think of ways I can portray it that get past the obvious. Whether I start with a large subject and extract a small section or begin with a macro subject and get even closer, the goal is still the same - to create an image where a piece of the whole is as powerful, if not more so, than an image of the entire subject.

I love to watch the faces of people as they view a series of abstracts. If a conversation is initiated, inevitably it starts with something to the effect of, "So what do you think this is?" If there is silence, it's as if I can see the wheels turning inside the minds of the viewers as they think the same spoken words. This is very powerful as it compels the viewer to study the photograph for a longer period of time and gets them thinking about your work. With a subject that's easily identifiable, a quick viewing is often all that's necessary to communicate why an image was made. But with abstract images, it requires an actual thought process to synthesize what the subject is. The longer a photographer can get someone to view their work, the greater the possibility the photographer's name will be remembered.