

REFLECTIONS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB

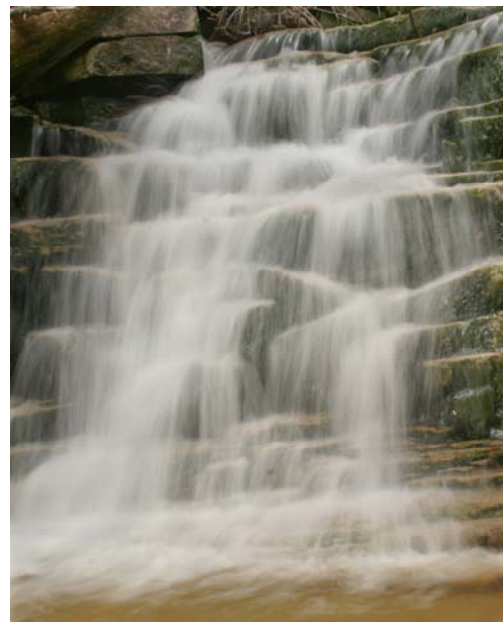
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A NICE PLACE

With the advice, "Take a hike," my wife gave me the New England Waterfalls book this past summer. In August, you know the hot and humid month, I decided to try one of the top falls listed in the book, Arethusa Falls, outside of North Conway, NH. Arriving at the parking lot just after 8 am, I faced a sign that warned the hike to the falls was 1 hour and there was an 800 foot vertical climb to reach the falls. The book also listed a side trip to Bemis and Coliseum Falls from the trail and recommended visiting those 2 falls on the way up or down. I chose to try the side trail on the way up.

The hike started uphill about 5 feet from the trail information sign and stayed that way for all but two sections. I had arrived early enough to be the first car in the parking lot. I soon found out mosquitoes do not leave cars in parking lots while they visit places. A good bug spray insured they would not light on me, but the spray did not keep them away. They were buzzing in my ears and hanging around my eyes for a good portion of the trip. Thankfully, I did not climb them after a half hour or so.



Bemis Falls, luckily, had a sign telling me where they were. If not for the sign, I would have missed them entirely. Height is not the strength of Bemis Falls. And, unless water running over 12 inch high rocks is your idea of a falls, you would probably miss them as well. A short distance away (all uphill), however, there were some real falls. Coliseum falls actually provided some true waterfalls. What did not add to the photo opportunity was the dead tree stretched across the top of the falls. I was able to get a few shots without the tree, but not of the full falls.



After I finished with Coliseum, I looked for the trail. It wasn't hard to find – it is clearly marked in yellow. It just went straight up. The rocks and exposed roots were like stairs and it had to be an 80 foot climb and at a very steep angle. I was suddenly glad I had not decided to find these falls

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B&W Prints	Ken Wiedemann
Color Prints	Ray Guillette
Digital	Bob Sheppard
PSA/NECCC	Dan Charbonnet
Multi-screen	Jim Jones

STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB

PURPOSE: To promote enjoyment and proficiency in all aspects of photography through education by mutual exchange of knowledge and experience; and, to promote a broad appreciation of our environment.

MEETINGS: Meetings will be held every Thursday of each month; no meetings in July and August. Consult the SBCC Calendar of Events. All meetings start at 7:30 P.M. The regular meeting place is Stony Brook Audubon Preserve, Norfolk, MA off Route 115. At other times activities are scheduled in other nearby locations.

DUES: Individuals: \$30.00, Families: \$40.00, and \$15.00 for students and members over 65 years of age. To be eligible for competitions, dues must be paid before the first competition.

NEWSLETTER: Published six times during the year for Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar, Apr/May, and Jun/Jul and solely for the information, guidance and enjoyment of the Stony Brook Camera Club, Norfolk, MA

OFFICERS: Elected annually and serve as the executive committee with two past presidents. The Stony Brook Camera Club is affiliated with the New England Camera Club Council and is a member of the Photographic Society of America

on the way down. I can't imagine what it would have been like to climb down that trail. (I could see myself doing a "Paul Burke" but not landing in water).

I arrived back at the main trail which was wider and not quite as steep, but uphill almost all the way. The "stairs" are rocks, roots and logs that have been put in strategic places. The Waterfall book claims that people think the hike is worth it once they see the falls. The book is correct. Even though it had rained earlier in the week, Arethusa Falls was not any where near its peak flow. However, the low flow allowed me to get close to the falls and get a different perspective of looking straight up. The top of the falls reveals nothing but sky. The falls are so high, the water's source is not at all visible. I was the first person there, and for 15 minutes was alone and free to shoot without people being in the way. I stayed for 45 minutes, capturing both digital and film images of the falls. During that time, other visitors showed up and seemed to want to "be in" the photographs. It was time to leave.

On the way down, I had to pass at least 50 people heading up to the falls. If you decide to go, make sure you arrive early, otherwise all your photos will show the scale of the falls with the people climbing over the rocks and showering in the cold water.

The hike in is strenuous, unless you are used to climbing 800 feet over the course of a 1 mile trail. The falls are beautiful in a low flow, so they must be very impressive in a high flow. In August, bugs, heat and humidity are a consideration, but the early morning sunlight does not interfere with photographing the falls until about 10 am. By then, there are also quite a few people present. If you want to photograph Arethusa Falls, be prepared for a long uphill hike with lots of beauty at the end.

Glenn Browning

Websites to check out:

Register Now! The 62nd Annual Conference of the New England Camera Club Council, July 13-15, 2007, at UMass/Amherst

Conference highlights: Expanded Digital programs; borrowing equipment from Canon and Nikon; pre-conference Photoshop Elements workshop; photo-opportunities with: birds of prey nature set-ups, models, and campus architecture; nature and digital mini-seminar series; vendors; conference competitions: slide, digital, and print; door prizes; new campus dorms. www.neccc.org

See www.opalphotos.com for up-to-date photography news.

From a Walpole Historical Society newsletter:

"Hello to those on the Walpole Historical Society's "Friends" list. A new website and an important link on our website have recently been provided which "Walpoleans" should find of interest. Walpole resident Richard Laronde has a website at "RL99.com", detailing his recent adventure to the South Pole and a previous trip to the North Pole. The photographs are astounding."

Karl West

HUNTING IN THE FOREST

Photography in the forest can be very rewarding. It's a great place to lose yourself in the creative process. But the forest landscape presents some challenges. As always, light is the first element to consider. Diffuse, non-directional light will allow the complex graphics found in trees and branches to be best appreciated. Bright, directional sunlight creates a "forest" of highlights and confusing shapes in a wooded landscape. Cloudy-day light will simplify the composition and minimize highlights. It will also bring out details that would otherwise be hidden in shadows. Remember that leaves and pine needles are great reflectors of even diffuse, cloudy light. A polarizer will minimize these reflections, and enhance color saturation. Careful framing can eliminate most of the cloudy sky, and focus attention more toward the ground.

In bright sunlight, try backlighting to emphasize shape and add drama to the image. Early or late light gives the opportunity to use a small lens opening and make a sunstar with the sun partially hidden behind a tree. If you are blessed with a foggy morning or a windy morning after a snowstorm, the backlit sun will interact with the fog or the snow being blown off of treetops to enhance the sunstar effect.

Viewpoint is critical in forest photography. Try to find a camera position that will make a composition with contrasts of size and shape. Try to show depth, width, and scale in this large, complicated space. An interesting tree or other foreground element might help this effort.

Look very carefully before and after selecting a viewpoint. Use your viewfinder to see possible distractions resulting from the type of lens you have chosen.

A wide angle lens pointed up will make trees converge and look unnatural. A higher camera position and a medium focal length will minimize the convergence and make the trees more parallel. I carry a light stepladder, allowing me to raise my tripod to its maximum height. Telephoto lenses will compress trees and depth giving an abstract element to the composition.

My favorite position in a tall forest is flat on my back, looking upward with my widest lens. Here the intentional and maximized convergence of treetops is captivating and purposefully unnatural. Watching the slow sway of treetops is hypnotic in a forest quiet but for the swish of leaves and the creak of tall trunks. Don't miss this opportunity. Forests also show the change of seasons; the buds and new

green of spring, the lush summer foliage, the warm fall colors, and the snow-covered silent beauty of winter.

Ray Guillette

Meetings in Review...by our members

Mar 8 – Julie Vito

Brrr . . . the night was one of the coldest of the year. It felt like a very long walk from my minivan (a.k.a loser cruiser) to the front door of the Norfolk Library. Upon entering with my Dad (Larry Levesque), I was warmly welcomed by Paul Burke holding a tape measure, telling me I needed to be 5 feet tall to enter. Luckily I am not only 5 feet tall but also 5 feet around since I am 8 months pregnant . . . will probably have a son before this is published.

Chairs were at a premium as the night was well attended. We sat down and took in all the conversations. As new members, we are just starting to get to know other members. We were chit-chatting when Shiv and Denise approached me and asked if I'd write the night's minutes for the newsletter. I thought it was a pretty funny joke. Go figure . . . they were not joking and hence my summation of the night's event.

The PSA Inter Club Nature Competition began. Being unfamiliar with the competition, I asked a few questions to members sitting nearby and got a few answers. I still do not completely understand but I just went the flow. The competition was of digital nature images. The judges were Gail Hansche (former member of SBCC), Ray Guillette, and Shiv Verma. The competition consisted of 12 clubs in total. There were some great images, and SBCC did pretty well. The results for Stony Brook Camera Club are:

Leopard Stealing Duiker by Dan Charbonnet – 13 points

Cleaning Station by Pam Medeiros – 11 points

Brown Pelican by Richard Shirley – 11 points

Reddish Egret Fishing by Joan Shirley – 10 points

Congratulations to our club members who were in this competition and especially to Dan Charbonnet who won an award with his Leopard Stealing Duiker.

Goodnight my friends and you too Dad!

March 15 – Adam Firniql

WORKSHOP - Adobe Lightroom - Tools beyond Photoshop

Shiv Verma did an excellent job in providing a member-packed workshop at the Norfolk Library with an informative insight into Adobe's newly released *Lightroom* V1.0. The key points that I took away from this presentation are:

***Lightroom* Is**

- a photo management tool - easy cataloging, sorting, rating, searching, etc
- a logical and guided digital photo processing workflow
- a great RAW processor while still handling jpg, tiff, etc
- non destructive - your original file remains untouched
- efficient in adjustments to large numbers of photos
- photographer friendly with easy and accessible tools such as 'red-eye', crop, heal and clone.
- powerful with its histogram and tone curve adjustments
- a little slow on older PCs

***Lightroom* Is Not**

- Photoshop CS
- a selective editing/creative tool
- suitable for the 'digital artist'

In summary, I think *Lightroom* will handle very efficiently 80-90% of what most of us digital 'photographers' will want to do but we will not be able to let go of Photoshop completely (especially the creative folks). A 30-day trial is free to download - certainly worth a play! For an intro price of \$199 before April 30 (\$299 thereafter), it is not a bad buy. You can download, watch demos and find out more at:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshoplightroom/>
<http://www.photoshouser.com/lightroom/index.html>

March 22 – Jim Bougioukos

The March 22 meeting at Stony Brook was one of my favorite types, an Image Study. It was hosted by Ray Guillette. We reviewed prints, digital images, and slides. We didn't have any raffles this evening, but there was an announcement that really got the members excited. This year's NECCC event in Amherst, Mass, will have a limited number of AIR-CONDITIONED dorm rooms available, on a first come, first serve basis. These

seemed to be highly regarded, and the sign up sheet for the group registration filled up quickly.

The images that were critiqued were all well done and interesting. There was one technique mentioned, that was touched upon in a number of photographs that I found particularly interesting. The technique of framing your composition so there is room or space around objects in the foreground allowing you to move your attention smoothly to the background or center of attention. This topic has come up before, but a series of images this night really highlighted the effect.

Capping off the evening was the traditional Norfolk Dunkin Donuts Raid. The coffee was hot, the donuts called to us, and interesting conversation was had by all who attended.

March 29 – Larry Levesque

Unlike two weeks ago when Shiv "volunteered" my daughter Julie with this task, the night was calm, comfortable, and dry. Like two weeks ago, Shiv "volunteered" me; so, here I am trying to capture the essence of the evening with a few words.

While the administrative tasks (call for officer nominations and introductions) were in motion, the candy basket was being passed around. After numerous weeks of hard candy, Julie and I dug to the bottom and located the Hersheys, Peanut Butter Cups, Rolos, and Kit Kats . . . all gone!

The fierce head-to-head battle then began with Kent Crosby, a previous SBCC member, judging. He first judged the Black & White Prints, mentioning that this was "by far the best group of B&Ws" he's judged this year . . . of many judgments. Next was Class B General Slides. No 15's, many 14's; I'm finding it harder and harder to think and write at the same time. Some nice pictures though. In the Altered Reality arena, a new member captured first place! Congratulations Ann! With the Class B Nature Digitals we, or at least Kent, struggled with knowing the difference between an aquarium and the ocean depths (we all know Pam's deep sea work). Here, no 15's although tons of blue ribbons were passed out for the 14's. Great shots! In the all-star Class A Nature Digital competition, the entries were topnotch. As consecutive 15's were being awarded, I focused on the picture photos, while Julie captured photographer names just to keep up. What a father/daughter team!

Nice outing to all you contestants. Julie and I will someday compete. Now that we're done with these reporting duties, we'll finally have time to take some pictures. -- The End!

2007 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING THEME</u>
5/03/07-Library 5/10/07	Fine Art and Commercial Photography, Lou Jones Competition #9: AA slides (General & Nature), B&W prints, Altered Reality, Digital Nature
5/17/07 5/24/07	Business Meeting & Select Images of the Year PSA Approved 2006 Suncoast Virtual Salon and the 2006 Tropical Image Exposition & PSA Nature Digital Imaging Exhibition, Richard Shirley
5/31/07	Workshop -- Hands on Portraiture and Lighting
6/07/07 6/14/07-Library	Infrared and Black & White, Ken Wiedemann Annual Awards Banquet - Digital Slide Shows

April 5, 2007 – Billi Manning

The 8th competition of the year was held with Mike Goodwin of the Gateway Camera Club as the judge. Mike provided constructive criticism with his scores that serve as points of learning for all.

Everyone was reminded of the upcoming NECC Conference in Amherst in July. The membership numbers continue to climb; soon there will be balcony seating on the roof.

April 12, 2007 – Denise Maclachlan

MultiScreen Selection: As the two MultiScreen competition dates were approaching quickly, it was time to select our Club's images for those competitions. With both slide and digital Multi-Screen competitions this year – there were 24 topics times two to vote on! Members submitted their images in the different categories. We then viewed each category's entries and voted for the image that "best fits" the topic. It's a fun evening – we're the judges!

4/19/07 – Linda Barnes

Andre Bourque's "Cruizn'USA"

Stony Brook Camera Club was bursting at the seams. As Jim Jones stated "it looked like church on Easter". All those who came out to see Andre's visual & audio presentation were treated to an artistic experience that touched the senses and moved the soul. Andre's opening sequence portraying images of abandonment were both beautifully dream-like and strikingly real at the same time. It was a thought-provoking and soul-stirring beginning to a show that would promise to take us through a gamut of emotions, and Andre seamlessly moved us from one feeling to the next! It was hard to sit still to the beat of classic rock and

roll paralleling images of classic cars and reflective chrome, as most of us reflected on the "good old days". Each segment of Andre's presentation was equally impressive, each adding its own flavor, keeping us both entertained and inspired. The use of transparent overlapping video during the Route 66 segment was artistically energetic and technically superb! Last but not least, Andre's images of the natural beauty of our country, both out west and here in New England, were spectacular. Moody images of Zion with stormy skies and breathtaking waterfalls to video of the rugged terrain on Mt. Katahdin, from sea to shining sea, Andre does the majestic beauty of our great land justice. Thank you Andre for sharing your artistic gift with us!!!

4/26/07 – Glenn Browning

With Ray Guillette deep in the Smokey Mountains gathering more images for us to view, Mike O'Connor was the moderator for Image Study. A disappointing number of slides (5) was combined into one round of viewing. In the digital category, there were about 40 slides per round for study. Stony Brook demonstrated why the club is well renowned for its images in this evening's presentation. There were many types of images presented- portrait, landscape, wildlife, birds, macro etc. Questions from the makers ranged from "How can I make this better?" to "Is there a way to improve the composition?" to "Is this image good for competition?" The night provided another excellent learning opportunity. A nice added touch was the number of new members who contributed images for study. It is obvious these new members are talented photographers and have come to the club to learn more.

MULTISCREEN 2007-2008

All competition photographs must be taken May 1, 2007, or later.

DIGITAL

Animals	Elderly	Lucky	Tangled
Black & White	Emotion	Mysterious	Teeth
Blue	Fashion	Numbers	Texture
Broken	Friends	Scary	The End
Child Under 12	Lace	Storm	Weathered
Creative	Liquid	Speed	Wrecked

SLIDES

Broken	Failure	Peaceful	Square(s)
Celebration	Glowing	Pets & Their People	Stormy
City Lights	Graffiti	Relaxing	Teeth
Cracked	Hat(s)	Rustic New England	The End
Crowd	Lace	Scary	Wall
Downtown	Orange	Skimpy	Wildlife



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A PSA Award-Winning Newsletter

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