

REFLECTIONS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB
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February / March 2009

The Happy Mad Scientist *By Glenn Browning*

An image of a mad scientist includes a rather deranged looking person in a dark, underground laboratory working on some experimentation that can only bode ill for the world. The mad scientist is stalking around in the lab, mixing ingredients for the first time, resulting in a Frankenstein like monster, a potent to change personalities or a new drink to change his color to green while adding hulking muscles.

If, however, you make the scientist a happy person, the result from the laboratory may very well be like the dawning of a new day. In the past couple of years, I have been like the happy mad scientist, trying some new ingredients for the first time with the intention of producing images that are enjoyable to me and many others.

I have watched some of my fellow club members show their experiments and I have joined that club of happy mad scientists who are pushing the boundaries of "normal" images and doing their best to craft happy Frankensteins. It is hard work and success is limited, much more so than when I photograph a waterfall or landscape or animal. The scientist may have something in mind when the experiment begins, or may change the experimental method part way through the task, or may follow through to the end, only to find failure.

But, the scientist may also find success in areas that were not expected. Most people know the scientist who discovered the post-it note was actually looking for a strong glue; making a cake of Ivory soap that floated was also accidental. I have also had unexpected results and I have been very pleased with some of those results – my accidental successes.

I have tried zooming the lens for the motion effect, moving the camera to create blurs and unusual color patterns and using unusual angles. Like most members of the club, I have also been highly impressed by the images of Ray Guillette. In the fall of

08, Ray started the "Celluloid Crazies" – people who wanted to use slide film in a creative way. And, the experiments began. Ray provided the inspiration and the techniques to change ordinary slides into "Mad Scientist Experiments."

I was intrigued by the results Ray has always achieved and now that I had some of the techniques, I entered my lab and began mixing ingredients following formulas and playing with my own formulas. I can say some of the experiments have resulted in images I will show to other people – not all of the experiments, just a few. I also used some of the ingredients incorrectly, and I was forced to experiment in ways my mentor probably did not. Luckily, some of those images can be shown as well.

I also shoot digital images and have Photoshop and Lightroom as tools I can use to experiment in the digital arena. However, I have not found success there yet. That is not true for many members of SBCC. Any creative competition evening shows our club is full of "Happy Mad Scientists."

For me, and for the "Celluloid Crazies", and for the digital wizards, experimentation in the lab of the "Mad Scientist" does result in a lot of happiness. If you haven't moved into the lab and started experiments, you are missing out on a lot self satisfaction. Go for the one of a kind image, do things with your film and RAW images you never thought of doing. Don't be afraid to don the lab coat and experiment with your film or your digital camera and the tools that come with both. It is a great feeling to feel deranged and yet please yourself and others with your experimental results.

Use the remainder of this year to try at least one new thing. Try something with your camera, find a totally new subject, like portraits, do something in post-processing (slides or digital), embark on experimenting with a digital show for the end of the year, or, become a published author. Other members of the club have done it. It is now your turn to join the "Happy Mad Scientist Club."

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Rosemarie Marsh rosemariemarsh@verizon.net	Vice-President
Brenda Cleveland candobox@comcast.net	Secretary
Donald Plouffe zeldarose99@verizon.net	Treasurer
Shiv Verma James Jones	Past Presidents

COMMITTEES:

Slide/Print study	Ray Guillette, Bob Doyle
Equipment	Dan Charbonnet
Field Trips	Philip Giordano
Reflections	Denise MacLachlan, Carol Adiletto
Workshops	Ken Wiedemann, Bob Sheppard, Ray Guillette, Harry Davis, Jim Jones, Andre Bourque, Shiv Verma
Refreshments	Melba Armour, Linda Massey, Robert Lehanka
Judges	John Fuller
Database	Dan Charbonnet
Nominations	Bob Doyle
Scholarship Fund	Billi Manning, Joe Cormier, Vicki Schepps, Glenn Browning
Digital	Shiv Verma, Tony Mistretta
Webmaster	Rob DeRobertis
Website	Ann Bertulli, Phil Giordano, Ray Gingras, Joe Kennedy, Chuck Noel, Randy Ranaudo
Publicity	Vicki Schepps, Denise Duhamel
Communications	Paul Burke
Program	Rosemarie Marsh, Carol Adiletto, Paul Burke, Anne Crawford, Ed Gooltz, Chuck Noel, Robert DeRobertis, Vicki Schepps, Bob Yankee
Mentoring	Chuck Call
Competition	Mike DiStefano, Dan Charbonnet, Ray Guillette
PSA Rep.	John Fuller
NECCC Rep.	Ray Guillette

COMPETITIONS:

Color Slides	Jessica Jones
B&W Prints	Bob Doyle
Color Prints	Ray Guillette
Digital	Shiv Verma, Tony Mistretta
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 the Wrentham Senior Center, 400 Taunton Street, Wrentham. Mailing address: Stony Brook Camera Club, P.O. Box 20, Wrentham, MA 02093-0020

DUES: Individuals: \$50.00, Families: \$75.00, and \$25.00 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, Wrentham, 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.

Spring Training 2009

By Coach Gary W. Stanley

Baseball season is just around the corner and the boys of summer are somewhere warmer than where we are, and are working hard to get in shape before the start of this new season. They call it "*Spring Training*."

Now whether you are a baseball fan or not, you may be surprised to learn just how much photography and baseball have in common. Okay Gary, you've come up with some crazy notions before, but baseball? Talk about comparing apples and oranges here, how about apples and submarines. You're right. On the surface they have nothing in common, but just bear with me for a minute.

While the actual game of baseball and the capturing of an image in photography are very different, the steps taken to get there are very much the same. Consider this: like baseball, we do most of our photography when the weather is warm. That's from about April until sometime in late October. After that we all disappear presumably to hibernate with the bears.

Yes, I know there are quite a few of us who photograph through the winter. Many of us, however, do a lot less photography when the winter winds begin to howl and the temperatures start to drop. Consider this: baseball players are professionals, right? What do they do after their long winters nap? They hop on a plane and head south for - you guessed it - "*Spring Training*." Why do you suppose they need spring training? Because they're a little rusty, and they need to get back in to shape *Before* the regular season starts.

This is beginning to make sense now, isn't it? Your camera has been in the closet for a while. You're not sure if the batteries are any good. Did I wipe down my tripod after that rainstorm last fall? Remember that one leg was loose, did I tighten it? Oh, you know, I meant to get that lens serviced before spring. Boy, I've got a new digital camera that I got with my tax refund and haven't really put it through its paces yet. Oh yeah; I probably should read the manual too...well at least glance at it!

Well, that's what "*Spring Training*" is for! It's almost March, and it won't be long before spring is here, the flowers start blooming, the trees get their leaves back, and the wildlife start having their young. How many more reasons do we need to get back into shape?

Here are some *Training Tips* for doing just that, starting with your photographic equipment and ending up with your own mental and physical photographic conditioning.

The Tripod: Check and make sure all the nuts and bolts are snug, that the legs and leg locks all work properly. Wipe them clean with a clean slightly damp cloth to remove any dirt. Now check the head to make sure it is working properly. Wipe it off in the same manner. Avoid using any lubricants, as most manufacturers don't recommend it. I have done so on a few of my less expensive heads and then wiped them down very thoroughly, but that was in desperation. You don't want the head slipping when you have an expensive camera mounted on it.

Your Camera Bag: Get rid of any junk that doesn't belong in there, like candy wrappers, used lens cleaning tissue, old batteries that you no longer remember if they are good or not. Also, go through the bag and do a quick inventory of your lenses, filters, batteries and so forth to make sure you haven't misplaced anything. If your batteries need replacing or recharging, do that before you head out to shoot (in other words, while you're thinking of it).

Your Lenses: Wipe all the outside surfaces (other than the optics) with a clean dry lint-free cloth. Be sure to extend the lens barrel and the focusing ring so as to get to all of the exposed parts. Use 'canned air' or a 'Hurricane' blower to blow off all dust on the surface of both front and rear lens elements. Make sure if you are using the canned air that the can is held upright at all times when using it. Don't shake it either. You're trying to avoid any of the propellants from getting on the surface of your lenses, and keeping an easy cleaning job from becoming a nightmare. Don't use any cleaning liquids unless you have something more on the lens such as fingerprints or smudges. Then only apply a small drop to a lens tissue, and carefully clean the surface. There are also special cleaning cloths made just for lens cleaning and do it without any liquids.

Your Camera: Hopefully, you use your camera often enough that the need to remove your batteries to prevent damage, is not an issue. On older film cameras batteries have been known to leak, allowing acid (corrosion) to ruin your electrical system. So if you're not going to use the camera for a while, take the batteries out. I haven't heard of any issues with today's digital cameras other than an occasional battery recall. May it's because we up-grade to a new camera every five months or so! ☺

Use your hand blower to clean any dust from around the body of your camera. Then use a soft cloth to wipe down the body. Leave a lens on when you do this so you don't accidentally damage a mirror or sensor on the inside of the camera.

Often you'll look through the viewfinder and see a speck of dirt or dust and panic thinking that this will show up on your pictures. Usually this dust is on the mirror so it will not show up when you take a picture as the mirror will rise out of the way during exposure. If your mirror is dirty remember; the mirror is prone to scratching and is very delicate, so if you're not familiar with doing this yourself, you may want to let a service tech clean it for you.

The same thing is also a good idea if you are shooting digital and have dirt on your sensor. Yes I used to clean my own, and if you feel comfortable doing so, fine, but please, be very careful, one slip can be quite expensive. Many of the new digital cameras have the ability to self clean the sensor, and quite frankly, I don't hear as many folks complaining about it like we did when digital SLRs first came on the scene. I'd rather clean a speck or two off the image with the clone stamp than risk damaging a sensor by cleaning it myself!

Also be aware that the contacts or pins around the outside of the lens mount of an automatic or auto-focus camera can also be affected by corrosion.

Remember, they transfer information from the lens to the camera. I carefully clean these contacts using ammonia on a Q-tip. Keep in mind, that if you have electronic problems with your camera, and it is under warranty, think it through before performing any service that might void your warranty.

How About You?: Most of the time, my equipment is the least of my problems, it's the creative rustiness, lack of physical exercise and my need to get out of the office that makes this part of my "Spring Training" program most important. Sometimes a trip south to Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge in Florida to do a little bird photography will take care of that. It allows me to get out and do some healthy walking, get used to carrying my camera equipment again, and I find this kind of "Spring Training" to be just the ticket to get us back in shape.

Even if you don't have the time or money to take a trip, why not start a daily routine of walking, or go to a local park, zoo, or your nearest stretch of wilderness (city or country), to get some good exercise and practice time photographing before the season gets in to full swing.

Spring Training Exercises: As you begin your warm-up, exercise your brain with these thoughts: Have I reviewed my camera settings so that

everything is ready to go? Do I need to review my camera manual? Were there any issues last year that I want to improve on this year? For example: How am I doing with exposures? Am I selecting the right focal length lens for the shot I want? Do I need to improve my creativity by trying different compositions? Do I always focus accurately or get

the best depth of field for my shots? Have I tried any new creative techniques that might make my shots more interesting? Remember last year I wanted to pay more attention to lighting! Last year I also had a lot of distracting elements in my compositions so I need to pay attention to that.

This is the kind of mental exercise that I do in a situation like this. I find that it keeps me creatively and mentally sharp no matter the subject. Also don't be afraid to spend some time reviewing some of your favorite books or magazine articles. Have you missed going to your camera club because of the weather? This can also help you to stimulate you photographically.

At some point you'll thank me (the coach) for making you show up on time, getting you in shape, and helping you to be mentally prepared. In the end when you hit that first photographic homerun you'll say: "I owe it all to my coach and 'Spring Training.'"



**Group Registration Discount
For NECCC Conference
by Vicki Schepps**

Stony Brook Members attending the 64th Annual Photographic Conference on July 10 - 12, 2009, at UMass, Amherst, can participate in a money-saving Group Discount. I will be collecting applications and checks from club members until April 10, 2009. Applications are available at www.neccc.org and can be given to me at club meetings or other arrangements can be made by contacting me by email at VSCHEPPS@aol.com.

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**To Stony Brook Camera Club
Members and Friends...**

I wanted to THANK you all for your WELL WISHES and HELP you have given to me after my fall. "Didn't I look cute when I came home?" I had cracked ribs, a collapsed lung, hematoma (I was knocked out before I hit the ground) and of course the broken wrist. Later I went back into the hospital for blood clots in my lungs (couldn't breath too well). I believe the cast will be off in April.

Enough of that: I was so bored I grew a beard. I still need a haircut and of course I am looking for a job. Physically I am much better. I take walks for exercise (1 to 3 miles) with my camera. I can't wait to go to work. The Club is the bright part of my week...

THANK YOU ALL!!!

ROBERT (Lehanka)



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Meeting Minutes...by our members

January 29 – Image Study Night

Ray Guillette hosted our fourth image study night.

February 5 – Competition

Sarah Musumei of the Merrimack Valley Camera Club judged our sixth competition of the year consisting of Digital Creative, A&B Slide General, Slide Creative, and B&W Prints.

February 12 – Kathy Seraphin

SBCC was lucky to hear the tales of Arthur Pollack, Boston Herald photojournalist. Arthur told SBCC members how his first camera was a Brownie and as

a teenager he took a course on how to develop film and from this point he was "hooked".

At the University of Wisconsin he was in the midst of many political movements, and thrived at photographing many rallies addressing such hot topics as abortion and anti-war. He moved on to his tenured position at the Boston Herald, where he learned photos can NOT be subtle for newspapers. He often had to jockey for the better position amongst a throng of photographers at popular events. He learned minor assignments can be best, and it often takes sitting and waiting for the peak moment. He mentions how his finger is on the shutter every minute. Often many successful pictures were "happy accidents".

He was at the NASA Challenger explosion and his photos showed the faces of the Christa McAuliffe family, as they witnessed the tragic accident. His photos were often the photos behind the story.

He sadly commented on the decrease in the photographic staff at newspapers. However, it does allow for any photographer to send images to the newspaper. He advises to send an image immediately, in a jpeg format, if one is able to witness a newsworthy event. It will become public property.

It was a great night to see some great photojournalism, and hear first hand from a Boston newspaper legend.

February 19 – Henny Smith

Creating a Blurb book was a great program for all those who wonder what to do with all the images they've accumulated on their computers. Bob Sheppard showed us just how easy it is to download and navigate the program. There are many templates to choose from for the cover and pages. The process is a simple dragging and dropping of images into the templates, with controls for sizing of images and color of pages. Bob also showed the books he has produced...a great way to record family events for display or gift-giving! Ken Wiedemann spoke about creating a book of his older film prints by photographing them with his digital camera. He also mentioned a book his wife created of favorite family recipes. Bob Yankee spoke about his latest Cape book which included text. Karl West showed his book on the seasons and Pam Medeiros talked about her book on underwater photography. So if creating a slide show with music is too daunting a task, Bob says...try a blurb book!

February 26 – Image Study Night

Ray Guillette hosted our fifth image study night.

March 5 – Competition

Rick and Kathy Savage from the Greater Lynn Photographic Association judged our seventh competition of the year, alternating the categories of A&B Digital General, B Slide General, and A&B Color Prints.

March 12 – Margo Lemieux

Who knew a photograph could be naked?

On Thursday, March 12, the club was treated to a lively presentation on “How to Sell Your Work” by GiGi Desaulniers, owner of GiGi’s Specialty Art & Gifts in Woonsocket, and a new venture, Global Village Art School & L’Ecole des Beaux Arts.

According to GiGi, a “dressed” photograph in her gallery is one that is matted and framed.

GiGi, an artist, writer, and picture framer, spoke on presenting and marketing photographs. Her gallery sells the work of about 75 artists and artisans, including SBCC member Chuck Noel. She told the audience that Chuck reminded her of someone who composes music. “His photos are filled with story,” she said.

She brought in examples of presentation methods – both “undressed” and “dressed.” Her undressed example consisted of display boards with snapshots of people from her home village in India, where she runs a nonprofit. The boards were meant to be handled to provide an intimate experience for the audience. “The pictures tell a story,” she said. “I invite people to hold them.” On the other end of the scale, she showed an antique Indian print, meticulously framed and sealed with museum quality materials to protect it.

“A bad frame job devalues the photograph,” she said. Another good presentation option is mounted, matted, and protected by a see-through envelope. “This will sell before something in a frame,” she said, showing the examples she brought. Buyers seem to prefer to pick their own frame. She had advice for do-it-yourself framers. Do not tape the four sides. Rather hinge-mount on the top. Use acid-free tape. Attach photo to back board, not the mat. Regular glass is fine. Don’t use Plexiglas.

She also discussed where and how to sign a photograph, pricing strategies, and targeting a

market. “Do your research,” she said. Local photos sell. Keep your prices consistent.

Her talk gave us great insight into the option and strategies of gallery representation. GiGi’s Specialty Art & Gifts is located at 68 South Main Street, Woonsocket, RI. She said she is looking for a teacher of photography for her school.

March 19 – Vicky Elliott

I want to thank our members who presented the three wonderful treats for our eyes, minds, and souls. Ken Wiedemann presented a show of Mandellas that was not only beautiful, but with a twist (pardon the pun) that was so interesting. Ken named the Mandellas so when they came up, you could search the image and see what Ken used for a subject in his image. Then, if that wasn’t enough, Ken showed us the city of Prague up close and personal. Ken showed us details of the architecture of the buildings. What a beautiful city. Thank you, Ken, for taking us there.

Bob Yankee took us to Cape Cod. Bob loves to photograph the Cape and it shows in his images. I can only hope one day to be able to capture the Cape as wonderfully as Bob does. The waves, sand, surf, scenics, sunsets, sunrises – are all a pleasure to behold when photographed by Bob. We are so fortunate to have Bob share his images with us.

Then last, but not least, Ray Guillette, took us home. By that I mean Ray has a wonderful way to express his feeling of the importance of family, and home through photography. Ray’s images were very heartwarming, and let us into a personal side of his own life. We all share these feelings of love and caring, but Ray has a way to bring it to the forefront of our minds. I couldn’t wait to go to my nice, cozy HOME that night.

March 26 – Image Study Night

Ray Guillette hosted our sixth image study night.

2008-2009 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

4/02/09	Competition	A&B Digital General, Digital Creative, A&B Slide General, Slide Creative
4/09/09		Multiscreen Selection
4/16/09	All SBCC Members	Voice of the Photographer
4/23/09	All SBCC Members	Image Study Night (moderator Ray Guillette)
4/30/09	Ron Rosenstock, National Geographic Photographer	TBA
5/07/09	Competition	A&B Digital Nature, A&B Slide Nature, B&W Prints
5/14/09	Robert Rosenthal, Professor of Economics, Stonehill College	Travel Photography
5/21/09	All SBCC Members	Annual Business Meeting/Image of the Year
5/28/09	All SBCC Members	Image Study Night (moderator Ray Guillette)
6/04/09	TBA	Lighting Tutorial
6/11/09		Lighting Workshop (aka members tailgate party)
6/18/09	All SBCC Members	Awards Dinner and Members’ Show

MULTISCREEN 2008-2009

All competition photographs must be taken May 1, 2008, or later.

Digital

Apples	Dancing	Glass	Rock(s)	Trains
Bad	Down home	Happy	Shadow	Upside down
Bell(s)	Fire	Ice	Shore bird	View from below
Bright light	Food	Musical Instrument	Silhouette(s)	Waterfall(s)
Construction	Fun	Purple	Slice	

Slides

Abandoned	Feather(s)	Lighthouse(s)	Seascape	Tree(s)
Bell(s)	Framed	Moss	Shell(s)	Upside down
Butterfly(ies)	Glass	Patriotic	Silhouette(s)	Waterfall(s)
Chair(s)	Goosey	Reflection(s)	Spiral	Wave(s)
Curve(s)	Hand(s)	Rock(s)	Sweet(s)	



STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB "REFLECTIONS"

A PSA Award-Winning Newsletter

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