

# REFLECTIONS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB

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## Tropical Awakening

I stepped onto a gangplank for the very first time this summer. I was heading to what promised to be one of the Caribbean's most picturesque islands...Bermuda. Jessica and I had planned for this trip for over a year and it was finally happening. My excitement was pretty high while carrying about 40 lbs. of camera equipment on my back. But that didn't matter ... I was heading to Bermuda.

Now first off, anyone who knows me knows that I am not a big landscape fan. Not that I don't appreciate them, I just don't have any passion for photographing them. But this was going to be different. This was a place that just screams photograph me.

Two days later we stepped out onto that same gangplank and arrived on Bermudan soil. We were instantly greeted with 87-degree temperature with 85% humidity. Carrying around all this camera equipment was not the best condition for someone who sweats very easily. But I persevered, and we bought some bus tickets to tour the island so that I could gain some inspiration. Two hours later as the bus ride came to an end I was still searching for some inspiration.

We decided to head into Hamilton; maybe we would have better luck. Nope! The area was very similar to Orange County, California, with cruise ships minus the surfers. A shopping Mecca is what we drove into. We hung around for a little bit and ultimately decided to call it a day.

The next day the weather did get cooler but unfortunately it was raining now. Trying not to be disappointed, we decided to go to the Royal Naval Dockyard -- there had to be some nice scenics there! We took a two-hour bus ride to get there. We spent about 30 minutes looking for some inspiration then caught the next bus out.

The final day in Bermuda was much of the same. It was still raining but we decided to take in some of the local caves....along with about 300 other people. Again not the best experience.

Why do I share this story? First, I like to have as many people share in our misery as possible but secondly I engaged in what many of us do every time we pick up a camera. I shot for what I believed others would like -- not necessarily what I liked.

This is not to say you shouldn't try new things. By all means, if you feel the want and desire, then try. But as soon as you know this isn't your cup of tea, move on.

Speaking in the context of the camera club, much of our shooting style over the years has been developed by what we believe a judge would like. Or we shoot pictures that we believe will score well in a competition. Some people have argued with me that this is a great way for someone to better their skills and improve their photography. We will have to agree to disagree.

I feel shooting for a judge is the same as teachers "teaching to the test". Yes, you will learn the formulas for making a good image but ultimately if you are not encouraged to look beyond the formulas, your creativity will be stifled and you will be prevented from growing as a photographer.

Upon reflection on the way back to the U.S., I was upset with myself. I could hear Fred G. Sanford uttering his famous words to me in my head, "You Big Dummy!" My passion for photography is photo-journalism not landscapes ... I don't even like landscapes. So why would I squander away this great opportunity to photograph the locals? To this day I don't know why. I know that if I could do it all over again I would do it completely different.

Here is my point to this rambling.... Life is too damn short! It is but a collection of fleeting moments that we will never get back. When it comes to photography, will you spend these moments photographing what you love and are passionate about or will you spend these moments thinking about what others will think is a good image? I can tell you though without hesitation, if I ever have to choose between photographing a landscape or some locals ... I won't ever think twice.

Jim Jones, SBCC President

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**Paul Burke**

#### COMMITTEES:

Slide/Print study	Ray Guilette
Equipment	Dan Charbonnet
Field Trips	Jim & Jessica Jones
Reflections	Denise MacLachlan
Publicity	Billie Manning
Workshops	Ken Wiedemann, Bob Sheppard, Ray Guilette, Harry Davis, Andre Bourque, Shiv Verma, Jim Jones
Refreshments	Melba Armour
Judges	John Fuller
Database	Dan Charbonnet
Nominations	Bob Doyle
Scholarship Fund	B. Manning, J. Cormier, V. Schepps, G. Browning
Digital	Bob Sheppard
Webmaster	Shiv Verma
PSA Representative	John Fuller
NECCC Representative	Ray Guilette

#### COMPETITIONS:

Color Slides	Jessica Jones
B&W Prints	Ken Wiedemann
Color Prints	Ray Guilette
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

## Meeting Notes -- September 7, 2006

The meeting took place at the new Norfolk Library, and started with a welcome by our new President, Jim Jones. He plans to emphasize community during the coming year, both within SBCC and from SBCC out to the community. Bob Sheppard explained that in support of this effort he intends to provide shows (some instructional) at various places in our communities.

Paul Burke spoke briefly about his daughter's life, and thanked the club for cards, prayers and best wishes. He also reminded all about this year's Triple-50, and encouraged people to join in to support their camera club. Glenn Browning reminded people that dues should be paid soon.

Shiv Verma introduced the main presenter for the night, Ligia Dovale-Kiamco. Ligia's show, titled "Celebrating Nature and Wildlife," included wildlife and scenery from across the country and from Newfoundland. The show was exceptionally beautiful, with every slide of excellent quality and beauty. She received a standing ovation at the end, which I suspect she will receive again when she presents her show at the annual PSA meeting next year.

Richard S Shirley

### Next Field Trip:

October 13-16 Midcoast Maine with Bob Sheppard

## Congratulations to 2005-2006 Competition Winners!!!

**Black & White Prints:** Richard Shirley-99 points, Michael Di Stefano-96 points, Beth Abbott-95 points

**Class B Color Prints:** Joan Shirley-105 points, Monica Verma-103 points, Jean Schmidt-99 points

**Class A Color Prints:** Shiv Verma-108 points, Richard Shirley-105 points, John Fuller-102 points

**Altered Reality:** Daniel Charbonnet-106 points, Ray Guilette-102 points, Robert Lehanka-99 points, Henny Smith-99 points

**Digital Open:** Dom Macadino-103 points, Richard Shirley-101 points, Monica Verma-101 points, Daniel Charbonnet-101 points, Tony Mistretta-100 points

**Digital Nature:** Shiv Verma-109 points, Richard Shirley-106 points, Joan Shirley-102 points

**Digital Creative:** Jim Barbieri-110 points, Daniel Charbonnet-106 points, Shiv Verma-104 points

**Class B Slides:** Don Plouffe-99 points, Joan Shirley-98 points, Robert Lehanka-91 points

**John Locke Award:** Donna Leonardo

**Class A General Slides:** Billi Manning-98 points, Paula Currivan-97 points, Dom Macadino-96 points

**Class A Nature Slides:** Billi Manning-98 points, Paula Currivan-93 points, Charles Call-64 points

**Class AA General Slides:** Ray Guilette-102 points, Paul Herson-101 points, Daniel Charbonnet-99 points

**Class AA Nature Slides:** John Fuller-108 points, Daniel Charbonnet-101 points, Diane Robertson-101 points, Ray Guilette-101 points

Join the SBCC forum! <http://www.stonybrookcc.com>

## Seeing at the Beach

On a beach somewhere on the coast of Rhode Island...crowded on a hot July day...the sun warms us, but not the water. The sand is bright and soft, sloping quickly to the ocean's edge. The surf is up and loud, making white frothy patterns in the turquoise water. Colors and sounds are everywhere. Brightly suited children play with a delightful energy, as constant as the surf. Above it all is a soft blue cloudless sky.

Taking in all this sensory information, it seems that photography, or any visual art, has some basic limitations. Here at the beach, the light and colors are striking, but the un-seeables take over the sensory lead after time makes the visions familiar. The cool, intermittent breeze becomes the dominant sensation. Next are sounds...people, especially children and their yelps of joy...and the roaring, persistent tumble of the waves, the base of this beach.

By creating an image, we hope to convey a sense of place, a feeling in the viewer of being there. Perhaps this all important feeling is produced as much or more by the un-seeables as by the graphics in the image. Perhaps the image is but a vessel to transport "being there" at the beach by recalling memories of cool breezes, children's joy, and crashing waves. Perhaps a photographic image communicates by making unseen associations in the mind, not the eyes, of the viewer. The image, "seen" in this light, becomes a great gift.

A graphic image has the potential to be powerful and moving, even if the ultimate understanding is found in the mind of the viewer. The photographer must not only compose and expose an image -- he must first feel something, want to communicate it, and have the skills to do just that, visually. The skills can be taught and learned.

Looking at a scene can evoke strong, unique feelings. We call this inspiration, as universal a human experience as creativity. Inspiration is a natural phenomenon; a gasp, a widening of the eyelids, a connection with something greater than ourselves. It may arise instantly, or it may take time to peel away the layers of our lives to find it.

By looking and seeing we give ourselves time to be inspired. These are basic visual skills, the foundation of our art. They are not inherited traits, but are skills we get better at the more we practice them. A photographer never stops looking. We ask ourselves questions: "What brought me here? What attracts me to

this place? Is there something else here I didn't expect to see?"

It does take time to see, at the beach or anywhere. Give yourself the gift of time. Annie Dillard wrote in her book, "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek": "Spend the day, you can't take it with you."

Ray Guillette

## PSA Digital Competition

### Nature Open

Bronze – Dan Charbonnet

Honorable Mention – John Fuller

Acceptances: Shiv Verma – 2

Dan Charbonnet – 2

### Wildlife Section

Bronze – Dan Charbonnet

Honorable Mention – Shiv Verma

Acceptances: Dan Charbonnet – 3

Shiv Verma – 2

Monica Verma – 1

Dan Charbonnet wins First PSA Digital Nature Division "Diversity Award"

Special thanks...from Dan Charbonnet...



## 2006 PSA Conference – Baltimore

Congratulations to Dan Charbonnet! He was awarded the FPSA award -- the Fellow of the Photographic Society of America award -- the highest award for service to photography and for exhibition records!



**NECCC COMPETITION WINNERS  
CONGRATULATIONS!!!**



**Into the Redwoods**  
– Judges Choice – Digital Open  
– Diane Robertson



**Gotcha – Best of Show**  
– Nature Slides – John Fuller



**Clearing the Windows**  
– Third Place – Open Slides  
– John Fuller



**Dragonfly -- Judges Choice**  
– Digital Open – Chuck Call



**Osprey with Two Fish – Best Wildlife**  
-- Digital Nature – Shiv Verma

**Honorable Mention:**



**Two Squared**  
Digital Open -- Shiv Verma



**Osprey with Catch**  
Nature Slides -- Shiv Verma



**Fading Away**  
Digital Open – Henry Smith

## 2006-2007 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING THEME</u>
9/07/06-Library	Celebrating Nature and Wildlife, Ligia Dovale-Kiamco
9/14/06	Image Study Night: What I Did this Summer (moderator Jim Jones)
9/21/06	Competition #1 (see competition schedule for categories)
9/28/06-Library	Hands-on workshop -- indoor photography (lighting setups, still life)
10/05/06	Competition #2 (see competition schedule for categories)
10/12/06	Creating Digital Slide Shows, Bob Sheppard
10/19/06-Library	Image Study (moderator Ray Guillette)
10/26/06-Library	Yellowstone, Gustav Verdeber
11/02/06	Competition #3 (see competition schedule for categories)
11/09/06	Workshop - TBD
11/16/06	How did I make this creative image
11/23/06	NO MEETING -- THANKSGIVING
11/30/06	Competition #4 (see competition schedule for categories)
12/07/06	My favorite locations workshop
12/14/06-Library	Holiday Banquet - Slide Shows
1/04/07-Library	New Members Show (Prints, Slides, & Digital)
1/11/07	See of Creativity workshop, Ray Guillette
1/18/07	Multi-Screen Preliminary, Jim Jones
1/25/07	Image Study (moderator Ray Guillette)
2/01/07	Competition #5 (see competition schedule for categories)
2/08/07-Library	Indoor lighting and portraiture, Shiv Verma and Paul Smith
2/15/07-Library	Transition, Ulrike Welsch
2/22/07	Image Study (moderator Ray Guillette)
3/01/07	Competition #6 (see competition schedule for categories)
3/08/07-Library	PSA Inter Club Competition, Dan Charbonnet
3/15/07-Library	Beautiful America, Paul Smith
3/22/07	Image Study (moderator Ray Guillette)
3/29/07	Competition #7 (see competition schedule for categories)
4/05/07	Competition #8 (see competition schedule for categories)
4/12/07	Multi-Screen Selections
4/19/07	Digital Slide Show, Andre Bourque
4/26/07	Image Study (moderator Ray Guillette)
5/03/07-Library	Fine Art and Commercial Photography, Lou Jones
5/10/07	Competition #9 (see competition schedule for categories)
5/17/07	Business Meeting & Select Images of the Year
5/24/07	PSA Approved 2006 Suncoast Virtual Salon and the 2006 Tropical Image Exposition & PSA Nature Digital Imaging Exhibition, Richard Shirley
5/31/07	RAW Conversion and Tools beyond Photoshop, Shiv Verma
6/07/07	Infrared and Black & White, Ken Wiedemann
6/14/07-Library	Annual Awards Banquet - Digital Slide Shows

## MULTISCREEN 2006-2007

All competition photographs must be taken May 1, 2006, or later.

### DIGITAL

Abandoned	Dizzy	Moonlight	Time
Architecture	Fruit	Panoramic	Train
Bird	Fuzzy	Rain	Vibrant
Bottle	Hot	Shadow	Waterfall
Crystal	In the kitchen	Splash	Wheel
Discovery	It's a small world	Sport	Window

### SLIDES

Bird(s)	Face(s)	Moonlight	Splash
Contrast	Farm Country	Muddy	Toy(s)
Crystal(s)	Fire	Old Glory	Twisted
Discovery	Friendship	Silhouette(s)	Two by Two
Dizzy	Glassware	Sleek	Uncomfortable
Environmental Portrait	Hot	Sparkle(s)	Vibrant



## STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB "REFLECTIONS"

*A PSA Award-Winning Newsletter*

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