

THE GRAND CANYON PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1 | JANUARY 2010

Inspiration for the New Year

Join the Grand Canyon Photography Club for an evening of inspiration as they present *Chased by the Light: a Photographic Journey with Jim Brandenburg*. The program begins at 7 p.m. on January 12, 2010 at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro, PA.

The DVD describes how one of the world's greatest nature photographers immersed himself in a Zen-like exploration of his craft and the untamed landscape of the rugged north woods of Minnesota. For 90 days Brandenburg took only a single picture each day - one click of the shutter. The stunning images resulted in a National Geographic cover story as well as the best selling book by the same name.



The documentary follows Jim as he revisits locations of the most memorable photographs in the project. On-camera, Jim reveals the stories behind the decisions to press the shutter at particular moments.

Undertaken at the pinnacle of Brandenburg's career, it was a project motivated by his need to renew his creativity and reconnect with natural settings that had been the primary sources of his inspiration.

Here's a quote from Brandenburg's book, *Chased by the Light*:

"I sensed there would be lessons learned. There were, but not always those I had imagined. Some

were merely lessons remembered, recapturing things I had forgotten, such as remaining open to chance, and that, in nature, not all beauty is giant in scale."



In This Issue:

Inspiration for the New Year	1
GCPC President's Message	2
Minutes of December 8, 2009	3
Mystery Macro.....	3
The Solitude of Winter	4
Treasurer's Report for December 2009.....	6
2010 Club Dues Are Now Being Accepted.....	6
GCPC Calendar of Events	7
Check Out These Sites:.....	8

2010 Officers:

President: Suzan Richar

Vice President: Lee Hoar

Treasurer: Gary Thompson

Recording Secretary: Sharon Connolly

Corresponding Secretary:
Judith Giddings

Directors:

2009-2010: Paul Bozzo & Tim Madigan

2010-2011: Bob Bair & David Ralph

Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter: Mia Lisa Anderson

Programs: Suzan Richar

Membership: Gary Thompson

Exhibits: Bruce Dart

Shows: Wolfram Jobst

Special Events: Open

Critiques: Nancy McCaughey

Publicity: Nancy Bickham

For more information, please contact:

Suzan Richar

Phone: 814-435-8128

E-mail: suzan_richar@hotmail.com

GCPC President's Message

I hope you had a great holiday season taking photos of family and friends and that some of you received some new equipment.

I stepped up late to assume the Presidency and I am a rather new member, so I will need lots of assistance and guidance. I welcome suggestions and criticisms from all of you. Next year we need to start planning the programs much earlier. Also the 10th anniversary of the club starting will be January 2011 and we need to plan something really big to celebrate. What are your ideas?

We had a short board meeting after the December meeting and will have another in January. We have programs and critique topics for January and February. We have made contacts for other months. We want to schedule more outings and Ann has agreed to have us at her home again in June. We will post the schedule as soon as it is finalized.

I am looking forward to an exciting year with all of you.

Suzan Richar
President



Newest Member Max Johnson

Minutes of December 8, 2009

Co-president Tina Tolins called the meeting to order. Tina spoke briefly about the last two years. She has seen a great improvement in everyone's level of photography, including her own, and has had a wonderful time. Ann and the rest of the officers have been great to work with.

Suzan Richar will be passing out a few sign-up sheets. Please add your input to the sheet for critique and program ideas and sign up if you can help with refreshments and/or set up for the meetings.

Gary Thompson is continuing as treasurer. Please give your dues to him. Dues should be paid by the first of the year. The sooner you can get them in, the better. Unpaid former members will not receive the newsletter via e-mail.

Wolfram Jobst commended Ann and Tina for the job they have done as co-presidents.

Ken Meyer was given his ribbon for the Viewer's Choice award he won at

the August exhibit.

Ann presented the slideshow of member favorite images. Twenty-one people submitted photos.

2010 Planning Meeting

A brief meeting was held for officers and anyone else who wanted to attend.

Several ideas were discussed in an attempt to set up programs and critiques for the year. They included:

- A talk by Wayne Palmer about all the buttons on your digital camera.
- Photoshop Elements and/or Photoshop. If members have specific things they would like to learn, e.g. cloning, masking, etc., they can let Judith Giddings know.
- How to Shoot Christmas Lights.

Outings were discussed briefly. We talked about doing the June outing at Ann's or another location. Member feedback would be appreciated.

Bob Bair agreed to take the projector and speakers home with him after each meeting. If he is running late to a meeting someone can stop by and pick it up at his house.

January's program will be a DVD to be determined.

Mia Anderson has a short program on Elements of Design that she is willing to show for February. A possible idea for the other half of the program is Image storage and organization. Mia is willing to go over her procedures.

The critiques for January and February were set:

January— Windows
February—Bokeh

*Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Connolly
Recording Secretary*

Mystery Macro

Last month's Mystery Macro (image below, left) is a chandelier (full image below, right). David Ralph and Maggie Holmes correctly guessed the mystery. Check out this month's macro and send your guesses to MiaLisa57@epix.net.

I invite you to send me your macros (the more mysterious the better) for publication using the format for the digital critique.



©Ann Kamzelski

The Solitude of Winter

article and photos by Andy Long, taken from www.apogee.com

For me, winter holds a special feeling—maybe because I grew up in Florida and never saw snow and didn't have to deal with the potential problems that come with it. A trip to capture the simple yet complex images that winter offers is exciting for me. It's a chance to become part of the scene. When doing landscape photography—and, for me, that primarily means intimate landscapes rather than the large vistas, I like to take time to soak-in the surroundings, to become part of the whole. In winter, blending-in seems easier to do.

The essence of the beauty more than makes up for whatever is lost as far as color in this monochromatic season. A drive across a stretch of road that in summer seemed tedious becomes an adventure into a whole new world as snow covers the ground and highlights the trees whose dark trunks contrast nicely against the white.



There's something about an old barn that has seen better days when it's surrounded by snow. A feeling of solitude and isolation is easy to create in a photo when there's just one strong element situated in a field of white. Many emotions besides solitude and isolation can be evoked by the setting—such as serenity and calmness. It's easy to become one with the surroundings.

Although a trip to shoot landscapes during the summer might be ruined when rain makes an appearance, falling snow can contribute to the overall mood of a setting. Capturing it can add another nice element, especially if you're able to catch it falling in front of a barn or a group of trees. While the contours of the field are lost, the sense of atmosphere is enhanced. In fact, a fresh accumulation of several inches of snow built up on trees, fences, and the ground makes heading out all the more enjoyable.



When you revisit an area in the winter that you knew best in other seasons, you may discover images you didn't think twice about at other times of the year. For example, a clump of vegetation that you'd never look at in summer or fall may become a very pretty picture when it's sneaking up through the snow, isolated from its surroundings.

Sometimes you're taken aback by what you see. In fall, I've stood on the back of my vehicle to gain a different perspective of a fence as it works its way toward a group of aspen trees. In winter, a walk up a snow bank puts me above the same fence that now has snow piled up to the top rail of the four I've seen at other times. In fact, it's very easy to get lost in a setting on a sunny day when mounds of snow cast shadows over an area. The contrast and details can be extremely beautiful. It's easy to be surprised when you realize you've just spent nearly forty-five minutes shooting in one spot, especially when you know you could spend another hour there working on more images—this time of the trees and their shadows.



Macro photography is a subject that doesn't receive as much attention in winter as it should. A very cold night can create wonderfully detailed ice crystals or frost. Just as when you're shooting flowers during the summer months, you have to be part

contortionist to get in a good position for the shots. Unfortunately, now you're crawling around through the snow. But the end result is worth all of the effort—even beyond the reward of getting lost in the peacefulness of the setting. If you have the affinity for macro work, you know that you could spend a couple of hours shooting in order to get a wide variety of compositions.

The detail that can be found in a single ice crystal or group of crystals is stunning to see through a macro lens. And, with the proper equipment, creating extremely tight shots using a 1.4 teleconverter, 25mm extension tube, and a macro lens allows for very tight shots that emphasize the detail. Backlighting brings out even more of the intricacies.



Nothing says winter like fresh powder snow and a crisp blue sky. They contrast nicely, as well as being very complimentary in color. The richness of the sky can be brought out even more with a polarizer filter, but you have to be careful at higher elevations because cranking up the intensity to its fullest can darken the sky too much, and your scene will look unnatural.



Some winter settings can be otherworldly in appearance. Arctic Alaska is unlike any other place I've experienced. The winter beauty is beyond description. People who've seen it in both seasons say there's no comparison; it's much nicer in winter with everything shrouded in snow than in the summer with browns and greens filling the landscape. Even a gravel pit can be pretty when snow is piled up on the large rocks that are waiting to be crushed into road gravel.

During a recent workshop, while on our furthest journey north, to about 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle, I asked the workshop members for a one-word description of the setting. Their choices included "incredible," "awesome," "wow," "stunning," "amazing," "stark," and "beautiful." It's very easy to just stand, look 360 degrees around you, and feel absolutely insignificant within the vastness of your surroundings while feeling awed to be a part of the whole.

The details, patterns, and textures that can be brought out in photos of snow can't be matched at other times of the year. An area with rolling mounds can provide an almost endless array of compositions. Using lines and shadows helps show off the softness of this sometimes-harsh season. The magic could be the purity or it could be the freshness. Whatever it is, there's something about a winter scene that can inspire a creative eye to find all the hidden grandeur. I find a restfulness that permits me to relax and get away from all that comes with a busy life. Disappearing into a sea of white is an escape that also offers plenty of pushes of the shutter button.





©Sharon Connolly

Treasurer's Report for December 2009

Beginning Balance	\$4,388.15
Cash IN	
Dues	\$55.00
Entry fees	\$00.00
	\$00.00
Cash OUT	
Web Site fees	\$127.35
	\$00.00
Ending Balance	\$4315.80

*Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Thompson, Treasurer*

REFRESHMENTS
THIS MONTH:

MIA ANDERSON
YVONNE LLOYD

2010 Club Dues Are Now Being Accepted

Please bring your cash or check (payable to GCPC) to the January meeting or send your dues to the GCPC Treasurer:

Gary Thompson
285 Owen Hollow Road
Big Flats, NY 14814

Individual: \$20.00
Family: \$35.00



©Mia Lisa Anderson



GCPC Calendar of Events

Now: Kelle Johnson, Mini-Solo Show, The Native Bagel, Central Avenue, Wellsboro.

Now: Wolfram Jobst, Mini-Solo Show, Ten West Espresso Company, 23 N. Main Street, Mansfield. *There are openings for 2010 at both The Native Bagel and Ten West Espresso. If you are interested in showing your work at either place, please contact Bruce Dart.*

January 12, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: A DVD presentation-*Chased by the Light: A Photographic Journey with Jim Brandenburg*. Theme: *Windows*.

February 9, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *Organization & Design* presented by Mia Lisa Anderson. Theme: *Bokeh*

March 9, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *TBA*. Theme: *TBA*

April 13, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *TBA*. Theme: *TBA*

May 11, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meet-

ing of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *TBA*. Theme: *TBA*

June 8, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *TBA*. Theme: *TBA*

July 13, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *TBA*. Theme: *TBA*

August 10, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *TBA*. Theme: *TBA*

September 14, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *TBA*. Theme: *TBA*

October 12, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *TBA*. Theme: *TBA*

November 9, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *TBA*. Theme: *TBA*

December 14, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *TBA*. Theme: *TBA*



60 West Avenue
Wellsboro, PA 16901

JANUARY 12TH
MEETING:

A DVD PRESENTATION

**CHASED BY THE LIGHT:
A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY
WITH JIM BRANDENBERG**

CRITIQUE THEME:

WINDOWS

Check Out These Sites:

UK photographer Les Forrester

<http://www.faceonimages.co.uk/>

Photographer Steve McCurry

<http://www.stevemccurry.com/main.php>

Click on the "blog" link on Jeff Revell's site:

<http://revellphotography.com>

Geared toward the pro, this site still has information for everyone:

<http://www.digitalphotopro.com>

