



# The Grand Canyon Photography Club

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4|APRIL 2011

## Applying the Zone System to Digital Photography *Increase Your Creative Options*

On April 12 at 7 pm at the Gmeiner Art and Cultural Center, Certified Professional Photographer Bruce Dart will present the Zone System, a step-by-step approach to getting quality pictures by visualizing images and refining exposure prior to shooting.

Developed by Ansel Adams and Fred Archer as a teaching aid while they were teaching at the Art Center School in Los Angeles in 1940, the Zone System makes it easy to capture a good digital original before you begin to process the image. The three integral aspects of the Zone System, visualization, exposure, and contrast control, are as relevant to successful digital photography as they were to the black-and-white film photography of Adams' day.

One of the goals of this system is to obtain a quality original photograph by using pre-visualization instead of just clicking the shutter and hoping for the best. When you start with a properly exposed original, software can be used to enhance an already good picture rather than to rescue a poor image. Control the exposure and contrast and then carry through with post-processing, not in the darkroom per se as Ansel did, but in the digital darkroom.

With examples from his own work, Bruce will demonstrate how the Zone System can result in quality images. He will show original prints as he first saw the scene, then an adjusted image, and then a final presentation. A few images are color; most are black and white conversions.



*Waitin' For the Train* ©Bruce Dart

Bruce Dart, a charter member of GCPC, is owner of Photos by Dart Studio in Mansfield. A member of the Professional Photographers of America (PPA) since 1979, Bruce has been a Certified Professional Photographer since 1987 and earned the Photographic Craftsman Degree from PPA in 2003. He is the only three-time recipient of the Northeast Pennsylvania Photographers Association Photographer of the Year award.

GCPC President's Message.....	2	A Photographer's Holiday .....	4	GCPC Calendar of Events .....	7
A Note About the Cover Photo .....	3	Treasurer's Report for March 2011 .....	6	April 12 Meeting At a Glance.....	8
Minutes of March 8, 2011 .....	3	Mystery Macro.....	6	Check Out These Sites.....	8



## 2011 Officers:

President: Suzan Richar

Vice President: Lee Hoar

Treasurer: Gary Thompson

Recording Secretary: Sharon Connolly

Corresponding Secretary:  
Judith Giddings

## Directors:

2010-2011: Robert Bair & David Ralph

2011-2012: Chelsea Richards &  
Mia Lisa Anderson

## Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter: Judith Giddings

Programs: Suzan Richar

Membership: Gary Thompson

Exhibits: Bruce Dart

Shows: Mia Lisa Anderson, David Ralph,  
Chelsea Richards, Robert Bair

Critiques: Nancy McCaughey

Publicity: Nancy Bickham

For more information, please contact:  
Suzan Richar

Phone: 814-435-8128

E-mail: president@gcphotoclub.org

## GCPC President's Message



©Suzan Richar

Here it is April and the weatherman is calling for more snow storms. Yes, we live in northern Pa and it always happens, but most of us are anxious to see spring.

Ken Meyer will once again take us on a wildflower walk as soon as there are dainty Spring Beauties, lovely red Trilliums and Forget-me-nots to see. Not only does Ken know where they are, but he knows all the names with his botany background. We are fortunate in our club to have so many experts in so many areas and even more so that they are willing to share their talents.

Just last month Mia Lisa presented a workshop on shooting close-up images and how to get our photos ready for critique. Then she came in another night to finish what we didn't get done due to technical difficulties. Thanks, Mia. She's also going to present a program in

May about free software that can be downloaded to improve your images.

Plans are in place for the rest of the year's programs and our member show is coming up in August, so start thinking about what you want to enter. If you need help with matting and framing let someone know and we will be glad to assist you.

Thanks to Paul Bozzo who is so willing to set up and tear down. We need more volunteers to take a turn.

Bruce has a great program planned for the April meeting.

The guest critiques are going great. Keep up the good work everyone.

Think spring.

*Suzan Richar*  
President

### **A Note About the Cover Photo:**

I was looking for an image to put us in the mood for spring, when what should arrive in my inbox but crocuses from new member Kevin Card! I hope to rotate seasonal images on the cover page. Thanks, Kev!

*Judith*



## Minutes of March 8, 2011

President Suzan Richar called the meeting to order.

New members and guests introduced themselves.

Minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved.

Suzan reported that Sarah Wagaman offered to present a workshop on the psychology of photography if members are interested. Sarah will provide more information next month.

Byron Sands will present a program on how digital cameras work for the October meeting.

Southport Historical Society (SHS) is looking for someone to present an April 10 program with history and photos of the Wellsboro area that would encourage SHS members to visit Wellsboro. If April is not convenient, they may have an opening for a June or October

program. Ken Meyer may be interested.

Ken Meyer will be hosting a wildflower walk this spring. The date will be announced depending on weather and bloom times.

Please sign up for refreshments as the sheet is passed around

All members remember that dues are now due. To participate in the August member show and to keep receiving the newsletter, you must have your dues paid by this month.

The Soldiers and Sailors Hospital is looking for spring pictures of Main Street for display. Bob Bair volunteered to take care of this.

Thomas Putman at Hamilton Gibson Warehouse would like us to change the display that is hanging. To coincide with their upcoming programs they would like 14 -16

framed portraits of older adults. Contact Bruce Dart for more information and to remove the images that are hanging now.

Due to inactivity from GCPC at Ten West Espresso, most of the hanging space has been taken up with art work from local painters and artists. Therefore, Ten West Espresso has been dropped from the club mini-show list. The two locations available for display now are The Native Bagel and the Warehouse. Please contact Bruce if you are interested in showing at the Native Bagel. The Native Bagel is booked up through May.

Suzan introduced Mia Lisa Anderson and her hands-on workshop "In My Pocket."

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Sharon Connolly  
Secretary*



©Gary Thompson



©Ken Meyer



©Ann Kamzelski



# A Photographer's Holiday

by Bruce Dart



©Bruce Dart

Getting up at 5 a.m. every day to photograph sunrises didn't exactly seem like a vacation but it was, as billed, an artist's retreat that gave all of us memory cards full of images and memories to last a long time....if not a lifetime.

Coffee or tea and cereal or a light snack were first on the agenda as we talked excitedly among ourselves about where we might head today to greet the new day. Not every sunrise is postcard perfect, of course, so we visited some spots more than once. A foggy mind operating with not enough sleep and not enough coffee had me straining to see the second hand of my watch for the long 45 second exposure the first morning by the dim light of the only light on the hotel across the street that was closed for the season at the time. Duh, the reason I brought my watch was that it had a lighted dial if I just remembered to push in the button!! Oh well, the image was not bad. Gary gave us each a small flashlight too but I didn't have that either. So much for being prepared.

Ann Kamzelski, our gracious host and tour guide, rounded us up and headed us out for each new destination. Herding photographers, if you are not aware, is much like trying to herd cats!!! We just seem to have a mind of our own.

"There's a pilot at the air strip," Ann noted on our first day, "who will take you up for a 15-20 minute ride over this area for only \$20 each if you are interested." Of course we were and while Nancy and I took the first turn, Ken got to photograph a bald eagle as it chased an osprey with a fish and made it drop it and then caught it in mid-air. I got photos of Ken and Karin on their plane ride, taking off and landing. A great start.



©Ken Meyer

We took turns at fixing the evening meal most of the days and ate out two nights. Eleven of us gathered for gourmet fare in the big dining room for a delightful repast with good friends and fellowship.



©Ken Meyer



©Sam McCaughey

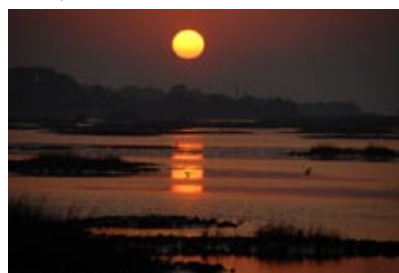


©Nancy McCaughey



©Karin Meyer

Don't forget, we are photographers. All meals were planned either just before or just after the spectacular sunsets. And we had only to grab cameras and tripods and move to the "back yard," at least for a couple of nights.



©Bruce Dart



©Nancy Dart



Ann recommended a few places to visit and we settled on Homosassa Springs one day, a nature area filled with birds, alligators, a hippo and hopefully manatees. The latter were secreted away somehow that day but there was lots of evidence they were there, especially in the gift shop. Flamingoes, storks, herons, eagles, bobcats, panthers, wolves and the list went on.



©Ken Meyer



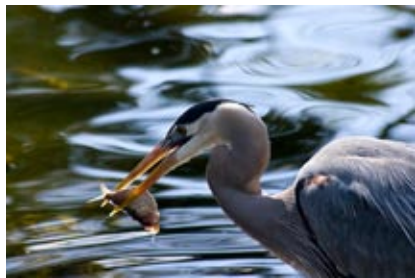
©Sam McCaughey



©Gary Thompson



©Ann Kamzelski



©Mia Lisa Anderson

Stopping at a little restaurant later, several of us even sampled alligator meat as an appetizer. Pretty tasty!



©Nancy McCaughey

A boat ride around the key on Thursday gave us close-up views of birds and salt marshes that most tourists NEVER see. Some areas were so shallow it looked like birds were

walking on water and we could only get so close without running aground. Hundreds of white pelicans, a couple of bald eagles with their prey --- scenes and birds that could not have been scripted better had we tried.

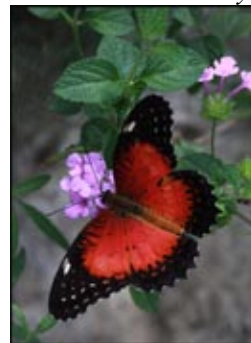
The finale was a visit to the Butterfly House at the University of Florida in Gainesville that had dozens of species, so many that we had to literally watch where we stepped lest we inadvertently step on one.



©Gary Thompson



©Karin Meyer



©Ann Kamzelski



©Nancy Dart

In the next building was the Harn Museum where we got to see black and white photos on exhibit, especially those of the famous black and white photographer Jerry Uelsmann whose composites "rewrote the book" for several decades prior to digital.



©Mia Lisa Anderson

Coming home to a foot of snow was a reality check for sure but it was closer to Spring than when we left. Punxatawny Phil said so.





### Treasurer's Report for March 2011

Beginning Balance	<b>\$2383.19</b>
Cash IN	
Dues	\$110.00
Cash OUT	\$0.00
Ending Balance	<b>\$2493.19</b>

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Gary Thompson, Treasurer*

### Dues Deadline Extended to April 12

There are 19 members who have not paid their dues for 2011. Announcements have now been made for three months, so the final deadline for payment without loss of privilege to participate in the August member show will be April 12. Suzan Richar will collect payments at the meeting. Be sure to see her before you leave or send your dues to:

Gary Thompson  
285 Owen Hollow Road  
Big Flats, NY 14814

Individual: \$20.00  
Family: \$35.00



©Gary Tyson

### Mystery Macro



Check out this month's macro and send your guesses to [wgiddings@epix.net](mailto:wgiddings@epix.net).

Last month's Mystery Macro was an image of compact discs. No one guessed the mystery.



©Judith Giddings

We are looking for people to submit their mystery macros, the more mysterious the better. To submit your mystery, email the mystery image and solution to the address above.

*Correction:* The image below, featured in the March issue was taken by Glen, rather than Chelsea, Richards.



©Glen Richards



## GCPC Calendar of Events

**Mini-solo Shows at the Native Bagel, Central Avenue, Wellsboro:** March, Suzan Richar; April, Daniel Schmitt, May, Kevin Card; June, Lillian Van Campen

**The Warehouse Theatre:** May: *We would like to feature images with aging/the elderly as subjects. Portraits would be great, but close-up photos of hands or other creative images are welcome. Please let Bruce Dart know of your photo(s) but contact the Hamilton Gibson office 724-2079 for a time to hang your print.*

**April 12, 2011:** (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: Bruce Dart, *Applying the Zone System to Digital Photography*. Theme: *In My Pocket*; Guest critique, Paul Bozzo

**May 10, 2011:** (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: Mia Lisa Anderson, *Life Beyond Photoshop*. Theme: *Showers*; Guest critique, Bruce Dart

**June 14, 2011:** (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, *Photo shoot at Ann Kamzelski's*. No critique

**July 12, 2011:** (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: Jan

Keck, *Travel Photography*. Theme: *Colorful*, or *Images from Ann's*; Guest critique, Nancy Bickham

**August 9, 2011:** (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: Nancy Schoonover, *Barns and Old Buildings*. Theme: *Ripe*; Guest Critique, Chelsea Richards

**September 13, 2011:** (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: Sharon Connolly, Subject to be announced. Theme: *Golden*; Guest critique, Sarah Wagaman

**October 11, 2011:** (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: Byron Sands, *The Science of Digital Photography*. Theme: *Crisp*; Guest critique, David Ralph

**November 8, 2011:** (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: Wolfram Jobst, *Oman - Now and Then*. Theme: *Snowy*; Guest critique, Ken Meyer

**December 13, 2011:** (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *Annual Holiday Party*. Theme: *Favorite shots*



©Roman Amarosa

Photo by 12-year-old Roman Amarosa of his teacher Mr. Marple's house in Cherry Flats.



©Dwaine Gipe

Photo by new member Dwaine Gipe of a favorite fishing spot on the Susquehanna River in late fall.



122 Whitetail Circle  
Wellsboro, PA 16901

### **April 12th Meeting At a Glance:**

Bruce Dart: *Applying the Zone System to Digital Photography*

Guest Critique by Paul Bozzo  
Theme: *In My Pocket*

Refreshments this month: Nancy Bickham

Beverages: Bruce Dart

Setup: Paul Bozzo

## Check Out These Sites

### **Understanding & Using Ansel Adams' Zone System**

Tutorial with clear illustrations of key concepts, how to place different color tones in different zones, portrait photography and the zone system, evaluating high dynamic range scenes.

<http://photo.tutsplus.com/articles/theory/understanding-using-ansel-adams-zone-system/>

### **A Visit to Ansel Adams' Home**

An inside look at the home, gallery and darkroom of Ansel Adams hosted by his son Michael.

<http://www.silberstudios.tv/videos/visit-ansel-adams-home-and-darkroom>

### **LikUSA: Peter Lik Fine Art Photography**

Whether or not you've had an opportunity to view the new show *From the Edge with Peter Lik* that airs on the Weather Channel on Thursday nights at 8 pm, you'll find the Peter Like web site worth exploring. Lik is an Australian master photographer who specializes in stunning panoramas. His fine art landscape photography captures the brilliant colors and spiritual terrain in nature.

<http://www.peterlik.com/photography>

