

THE GRAND CANYON PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

NEWSLETTER
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Bird Photography Topic for April

On April 13th the Grand Canyon Photography Club and the Tiadaghton Audubon Society will feature a presentation by Gary Tyson on photographing birds and how to obtain art-quality photographs of them. The presentation is open to the public and will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Gmeiner Art and Cultural Center at 134 Main Street next to the Green Free Library in Wellsboro.

Gary is a life-long bird watcher and bird photographer. He is the web master of the Tiadaghton Audubon Society's website, and a winner in national and international photo contests. His photographs have appeared in the *Sun-Gazette*, *Wellsboro Gazette*, and *Mountain Home News*, *Pennsylvania Birds*, and *Wild Bird Magazine*. The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology regularly uses his photographs in its online publications and e-mail newsletters, and he has also donated photographs to other environmental and outdoor-oriented organizations.



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Since most of his photographs are "digiscoped," Gary will start out his presentation with a short discussion about digiscoping and then go on to more general techniques for obtaining high-quality bird photographs. He will explain how to set up bird feeders to get better and more natural photographs, techniques for getting photographs of birds "in the field," techniques for photographing flying birds, and places to go locally where a photographer has a very good chance of coming home with a quality photo. In the course of his presentation, he will try to

explain how he solves some of the problems intrinsic to bird photography such as getting close to a timid subject and dealing with difficult lighting conditions and cluttered backgrounds, etc. The emphasis in the program will be on technique, since Gary believes photographers all too often try to solve their photographic problems by buying more equipment rather than by improving their skills.



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GCPC President's Message

What a wonderful and exciting year this is for the photo club. So much is happening, including the special all day workshop with Tony Sweet in August. Have you reserved your spot? On April 14th we will advertise to the public and other clubs. Don't be disappointed. This is a great opportunity.

Then there is the spring photo walk, the insect shoot at Ann's, the dark skies program, and the regional photo exhibit in August. Isn't it nice it will be hung when Tony Sweet will be here, and he can see the work of area photographers?

Last month we had Wayne Palmer. The program was over the heads of some of us novices. We had quite a crowd, including about 25 guests. I believe we picked up a few new members. To help out the Photoshop beginners like myself, Ken Meyer held a Photoshop Elements 8 workshop. It was well attended. Thanks to Ken for doing such an excellent job. There are plans for other workshops in the future. We need to spread the word to get some of the guests back.

The critique went well with lots of positive ideas from Nancy and Sam McCaughey. Thank you both.

This month we will enjoy sharing our meeting with the Audubon Society and see Gary Tyson's bird photos.

Can't wait to see what everyone's inspiration for buttons was. I love the diversity we get on a subject.

Ann Kamzelski will be back from the south in May to do a program on Macro Flower Photography.

Keep shooting,

Suzan Richar
President



©Suzan Richar

Minutes of March 9, 2010

President Suzan Richar called the meeting to order.

Due to the number of guests attending the meeting, they were not asked to stand and introduce themselves individually. Ken Meyer suggested the guests stand as a group so the members could see them and introduce themselves over the break.

Suzan quickly read a letter from Jean Dewitz of the Gmeiner thanking the club for the generous \$350.00 donation. Jean also wanted to send special thanks to Nancy McCaughey for her help in choosing a neutral paint color that will enhance the display. \$300 went towards the cost of painting the interior of the Gmeiner and \$50 is going towards a cash prize for the juried show in August.

The program for night skies has been set for July. Curt Weinhold will be speaking at the regular meeting on July 13th. He will discuss the equipment needed for the night shoot. The workshop at Cherry Springs will be on Friday July 16th. There will be a \$10.00 per person

charge for the workshop.

The program for Tony Sweet's visit is set. The charge for the workshop will be \$50.00 for members and \$100 for non-members. Members need to have their dues up to date to receive the discount. It is suggested that members who plan to attend have their payment in by the April club meeting prior to opening the event to the public.

Next month's program will be bird photography by club and Audubon society member Gary Tyson. This will be a joint meeting with the Audubon Society.

Ken mentioned that anyone planning to attend his workshop on Adobe Elements 8 to be held Tuesday, March 16th, should send an image that they would like to work on. Also bring a laptop if you have one.

Suzan introduced Wayne Palmer and his talk "What Are All Those Buttons For?"

Wayne had a couple of notes to pass along. The Susquehanna Valley Shutterbugs' annual show will be coming up the first Friday in May.

Please get your images together if you plan to enter. Wayne will also be doing a presentation, "Prepping Your Images for Photo Shows" for the Susquehanna Valley Shutterbugs on Monday, March 22nd. The Susquehanna Valley Shutterbugs meet the fourth Monday of the month.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Connolly
Recording Secretary*



©Ken Meyer

Mystery Macro

Last month's Mystery Macro (image below, left) is a shell (full image below, right). Gary Thompson 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.



©Mia Lisa Anderson



News and Notes

When preparing your photos for display or critique, give thought to devising your own "Pre flight checklist."

Your list is made up of a few things you look for when deciding what you are going to do to create a "readable photograph." These steps clarify the subject. In preparing photographs for critiques, a good concept to use is from Vincent Versace, noted portrait photographer. This concept is based on research showing where the human eye goes first when trying to make sense of the world:

- The eye first goes to the lightest light then to the darkest dark... this can be used to make your subject known to the viewer.
- Next, it goes to the highest contrast then seeks areas of less contrast.
- Third, the eye goes to highest sharpness then moves to less sharp edges or textures.
- And last, the viewer's eye travels to colors of intense saturation then to less saturated colors.

Exposure controls on your camera allow you to make decisions about light. Contrast is determined by the intensity of the light itself. Cloudy days have less contrast; a sunny day at noon has the most contrast. Focus and depth of field determine sharpness. Digital cameras have settings that select vivid red or play up other colors such as greens. The photographer can choose the one that he/she likes or that fits the subject. Photoshop and Elements 8 allow further ways to enhance or lessen light, contrast, sharpness, and saturation.

No matter what equipment you use, whether you're a snapshotter or techogeek, family chronicler or wildlife photographer, you have a great deal of control over how your image will look. It's a good idea to do as much in camera as possible, but other options are available to improve a photograph so don't be afraid to use them.

Wayne Palmer is willing to teach a Photoshop CS4 course at the local Penn College campus if there is enough interest. At least one member has contacted him regarding this. already The cost would be \$225 and includes a book. The course would be four classes, three hours each. If you are interested, send an e-mail to newsletter@gcphoto.org by April 25th.

A spring wildflower walk will be led by Ken Meyer at some point in late April or early May. Watch for e-mail and newsletter announcements.



"All photographs are accurate. None of them is the truth."- Richard Avedon

Black and White in Photoshop

article taken from <http://www.blackandwhitedigital.com/Convert/index.html>

Converting to Black and White

A color photograph can have over 16 million different colors. A grayscale image has only 256 shades of gray. You must translate those colors to grayscale in a way that gives aesthetically pleasing results. Fortunately there is more than one way to do a conversion. If one method doesn't work on a particular photograph there are others that you can try.

Selecting a Conversion Method

All conversion methods work by taking the colors in a photograph and converting them to shades of gray. However, your choice of conversion method will affect the look of your final image. Different conversion methods can lead to very different results. There are two categories of conversion methods.

Luminosity Based conversion methods assign a shade of gray based only on the color's brightness or luminosity. This is similar to the way black and white film captures only the scene's brightness. Generally, Luminosity methods work best for photographs with high contrast.

Color Altering conversion methods alter the colors in your photograph before converting it to grayscale. By doing this, color altering methods translate color contrast into luminosity contrast. Color altering methods work great on images with high color contrast. Color Altering methods also allow you to simulate filter effects and film response.

Luminosity Methods	Color Altering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straight Desaturation • Gradient Map • Lab Lightness • Straight Grayscale Mode • Gorman-Holbert 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Mixer • Hue/Saturation

Destructive vs Non-Destructive Conversion Methods

Destructive conversion methods convert the image by destroying the color information. Once destroyed the color information cannot be recovered. For example, the Straight Grayscale method converts the image by changing the color mode from RGB to grayscale. If you change the mode back to RGB the image is still in black

and white. Even though the mode is RGB the color is not recovered. Non-destructive methods convert the image by adding new layers to the existing image. The color information is not destroyed and can be used in later processing. Use non-destructive methods for selective conversions, stacking conversions, or if you plan on selectively coloring your photo.

	Destructive	Non Destructive
Luminosity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab Lightness • Straight Grayscale Mode • Gorman-Holbert 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straight Desaturation • Gradient Map
Color Altering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layered Channel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Mixer • Hue/Saturation

The Best Method

The question invariably comes up: "What is the best method for black and white conversion?"

There is no such thing as one best method that works for all images. Your choice of conversion method will depend on the nature of your color image and the result you want. Don't stick with one conversion method all the time. Use the method that gives the best result for your photograph. Knowing when to use Luminosity or Color Altering methods will greatly improve your chances of success.

Also, don't assume that complex methods are better than simpler methods. Don't use a complex method when a simpler method will do. Conversely, don't take shortcuts and use a simple method when a more complex method is required. With some experience you'll get a feel for which method works best for which types of image.

Having said all that, black and white conversion is an artistic rather than a mechanical process. Don't be afraid to experiment. The results may surprise you.



©Ann Kamzelski

REFRESHMENTS
THIS MONTH:

PAUL BOZZO
KELLE JOHNSON
SUZAN RICHAR



©Ann Kamzelski

Treasurer's Report for March 2010

Beginning Balance	\$4,419.98
Cash IN	
Dues	\$220.00
	\$00.00
	\$00.00
Cash OUT	
Projector Screen	\$221.80
	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$4,418.18

*Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Thompson, Treasurer*



©Mia Lisa Anderson



GCPC Calendar of Events

Now: Suzan Richar, Mini-Solo Show, The Native Bagel, Central Avenue, Wellsboro. (Suzan's paintings will also be on display.)

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.*

Now through May 7, 2010: Debb Vandelinder has a show of dramatic photographs done on a flatbed scanner at Exhibit A Gallery at 41 East Market Street in Corning.

April 13, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *Bird Photography* presented by Gary Tyson. Theme: *Buttons*.

May 11, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *Macro Flower Photography* presented by Ann Kamzelski. Theme: *Things with Wings*.

June 8, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *Photoshoot at Ann Kamzelski's*. Theme: *No Critique*.

July 13, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *Night Sky* presented by Curt Weinhold. Theme:

Photos from the Photoshoot at Ann's.

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

August 7, 2010: Special program and workshop with Tony Sweet, Gmeiner Center., **9a.m. to 12 p.m., 1 p.m to 4 p.m. with an additional program from 7p.m. to 9 p.m.** Further details will be announced at a later date.

August 10, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: A group discussion on the Regional Photography Exhibit. Theme: *Night Shots*.

September 14, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *Alaskan Adventure* presented by Tina Tolins. Theme: *Hot*.

October 12, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *Architectural Photography* presented by Gary Thompson. Theme: *Past its Prime*.

November 9, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *How Far Have We Come?* presented by Sam & Nancy McCaughey. Theme: *Fall Foliage*.

December 14, 2010: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center: *Holiday Party*. Theme: *No Critique*.

"Sometimes I do get to places just when God's ready to have somebody click the shutter." - Ansel Adams



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60 West Avenue
Wellsboro, PA 16901

APRIL 13TH
MEETING:

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

PRESENTED BY
GARY TYSON

CRITIQUE THEME:

BUTTONS

Check Out These Sites:

Vincent Munier spends a lot of time out in the cold. Fantastic compositions.

<http://www.vincentmunier.com/>

For inspiration along the line of images that combine a variety of elements but are created with a scanner and computer.

<http://www.debbvandelinder>

Natasha Lawrence knows more than most people about buttons.

http://www.ehow.com/about_5040888_types-sewing-buttons.html

