

SHUTTERBUG NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Number 11, March 2013



Varied Thrush, Libby Lovis



For more information about the club, check out the website at: oceansidephotographers.ca

The aim of Oceanside Photographers is to promote learning, sharing and enjoyment of photography in a convivial atmosphere.

Contact information for all those on management is available on our website. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the editor by phone at 250-586-3323 or email me at newsletter@oceansidephotographers.ca.

Guest Speakers

March: Boomer Jerrit—Urban Landscapes.

Field Trips
March: Nanaimo Sea Wall
April: Ladysmith
May: Cumberland

(For dates and details see club website)

Please note

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, March 6th, 7 PM at the Civic Centre In the Pioneer Hall East

Assignments

March: White
April: Night
May: Motion Blur

Please Note Newsletter Submission Guidelines

500 to 600 words, if you need to say more check with Editor. Photos to be sent separately in jpg, size doesn't matter, but not too small please, landscape format works best. Written part to be done in a Word Document only, no space between paragraphs, but indent paragraphs about 5 spaces and then justify the document. No PDF files. Thanks Gail

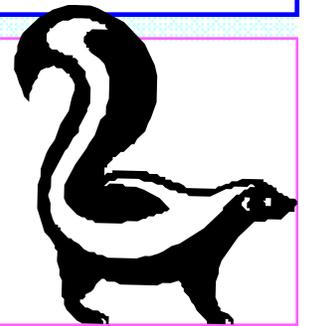
EDUCATION MEETING

**THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
AT 7PM AT QB CIVIC CENTRE.
MEETING IN THE WINDSOR ROOM.**

(Libby is always looking for ideas, suggestions, questions for the education meeting. Please contact her if you have suggestions or would like a question answered.)

Submission Deadline for the April 2013 Newsletter is March 23rd (Please read guidelines on page 2)

Due to allergies, asthma and other conditions, we request that you do not wear anything with a fragrance to the club meetings. Thank you from those who suffer!



Please remember to wear your name tag at each general meeting, education meeting and field trip. We have so many new members it would be nice to be able to put a name to the face.



Important

If you change any of your personal information, like email address etc, PLEASE let us know so that we can update our records.

From The Editor's Desk



Dave and I had the opportunity on February 2nd to see the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibit at the Royal BC Museum. We were fortunate to have seen last year's too. With 48,000 submissions, it must have been difficult to select just one hundred for the exhibit. Each photo is a gem and captures an aspect of our amazing planet. There are also graphic images of what we are doing to destroy wildlife, like cutting the fins off sharks and throwing them back into the ocean, poaching rhino horns, having tigers as pets and so on. These images are extremely disturbing, but then they are meant to be. Elephant poaching has become a huge issue, with last year being the worst on record. In Gabon alone,

11,000 elephants have been poached since 2004. Obviously this is not sustainable! One of the great things about photography is that it can bring these atrocities to the world's attention. Nat. Geo. Photographer, Paul Nicklen, who lives in Nanoose, won first for his stunning image of surfacing penguins in Antarctica. Check out the video clip below of his talk about photographing the penguins and the article from the Feb 3rd Times Colonist. Obviously to get great wildlife photos you have to put your life on the line! Photographing birds on the back yard feeder doesn't cut it!

<http://www.timescolonist.com/the-wild-life-of-victoria-s-paul-nicklen-national-geographic-photographer-1.64747>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wr4d2FfivA4>

Guidelines for the Assignments

Colour : All the assignment images should be taken within a few months of the assignment. Cropping, minor cloning, minor saturation and sharpening, contrast and brightness boosts are allowed. No running image through plug ins or any major post production work.

Black and White: Same as above. The image is best taken in colour and changed in editing soft ware to black and white. Do whatever it takes to get the very best contrasts in the image.

Digital Art: The sky is the limit on this one. No holds barred on this assignment! You can use layers, plug-ins, anything you like to enhance your image and let your creativity flow. It must be obvious.

Assignment: Musical Instruments

Colour



Black and White



Assignment: Musical Instruments

Digital Art



Colour

1st...Clifford Anderson

2nd...Ed Dunnett & Deb Kuzbik

3rd...Christine Budimir



Black and White

1st...Bill Pennings

2nd...Clifford Anderson

3rd...Ed Dunnett



Digital Art

1st...Bill Pennings

2nd...Roy Watts

3rd...Vivienne Bearder

Photographing Irises by Tim Tullis & David Blackmore

Flowers are considered one of the most photographed subjects and irises are thought by many to be the most photogenic of all. They are showy and with so many varieties that one would think that taking pictures of them would be easy. Wrong! A small group of us were welcomed by Ted Baker last June to view and photograph the irises that abound throughout his beautiful property on Salt Spring Island. Normally the best light to photograph most any subject occurs during the first couple of hours after sunup and prior to sundown. With the ferry schedule to Salt Spring Island that opportunity was not to be. We were hoping for some cloud cover (our second choice), but Mother Nature dealt us a perfect sunny day which presented us with several lighting challenges, however not all was lost as illustrated by the images included.

Equipment –

A 6 mega pixel and up digital camera (you can always shoot film) ranging from point and shoot to high end DSLR's. Today's cameras are capable of producing quality shots. It is matter of becoming familiar with the operation and features of the camera. If the camera is new to you, bring your manual along.

Spare batteries and memory cards. If you are on a shoot and a battery goes flat or you have a full or defective memory card – no images.

Tripod or monopod that is capable of allowing you to get low to shoot. If you don't have a tripod, you can use some sort of platform such as box, fence, step, rail, etc. We should strive to get the best image possible. One of the keys is to use a low ISO when you can, which often leads to a slow shutter speed, thus the need of a stable platform. Try to be smooth when depressing your shutter to reduce blur.

Polarizer filter – used to cut glare and improve saturation and it makes quite a difference under bright light conditions. It's nice to have a polarized filter but, not essential.

Close up lens or macro lens – most point and shoot cameras have a close up setting often symbolized by a flower. For DSLR users a macro lens will have a shallow depth of field which will create a desirable blurred background. It will also allow you to focus on parts of the flower.

Telephoto lens with macro – allows you to work further away from the subject which is great for capturing a shy bug on your iris and it will also blur the background.

Use your everyday lens or a wide angle lens to shoot a collection of irises or a large bed of flowers (IMG TNT 1).

Shutter release – eliminates any camera shake caused by using your manual shutter release. If your camera will not accept one or you do not have one, you can use your camera's shutter release timer.

Diffuser – defuses harsh midday light. An opaque gray or white umbrella will work.

Reflector – used to reflect extra light onto your subject. You can use silver, gold, white or a variety of colours for effect. In addition, they are great for lighting the underside of the flower.

Knee pads – will be your best friend if you are doing a lot of shooting.

Spray bottle – you may want to create a fresh rain effect on your flowers.

Techniques -

Irises can be quite a challenge to photograph. They are usually a large flower with a great deal of depth coming in wide variety of contrasting colours.

Remember that best light will give the best results. If you have a choice, remember early morning and late evenings are the magic times. Second choice for light would be an overcast or cloudy day.

We found that the bright light made shooting whites and dark blues or purples a tremendous challenge. A good idea is to take some time to get a feel for the flowers you want to capture before clicking away. Take a few test shots and closely examine the results looking for light blowouts, sharpness, depth of field, reflections and background. Check the histogram for your test shots to check brightness levels of colour tones which will help you make adjustments for the next shot.

On this extreme bright day we were working with a polarizer filter which helped control glare and reflection. Without a polarizer, reducing your exposure by $\frac{3}{4}$ to a full stop will help. This is also a good time to put a diffuser to use (hold between the light source and the flower) or if you don't have one, try creating a shadow over your subject (IMG TNT 2). If the shadow cuts too much light, a white reflector may help.

Point and shoot cameras set on close up (flower symbol) can produce good results. However, you may want to try different aperture settings to alter the depth of field for even better results. Keep in mind that: the smaller the aperture number, the larger the lens opening and the shorter the depth of field. Test a few settings to find the depth of field you like.

Photographers often shoot flowers from above. This works for irises, however, you might find the effect of getting down to the flower level will produce some exceptional shots.

The wind can cause havoc when shooting flowers. In that event, adjust your shutter speed to 1/250 second which should compensate for subject movement.

Another helpful technique is to press your shutter half way down to auto focus on your main subject and then reposition for better composition before finishing the shot. The same technique also works well if you are having exposure problems. By focusing on the brightest part of the subject, your camera will set the exposure for that area. Keeping the shutter $\frac{1}{2}$ depressed recompose and finish the shot. You will find that your image exposure is much better.

Keep your camera lens clean. Dust on your lens may cause sun flairs on your image. If you have an opportunity, bring a helper to hold diffusers and light reflectors and to help carry gear. A simple subject often produces a better photograph. Try to isolate a single blossom (IMG TNT 3) or an interesting portion of a blossom (IMG TNT 5). There are always exceptions (IMG TNT 4) such as introducing another dazzling subject to the shoot.

We want to sincerely thank Ted Baker and his family for their kindness and for showing us around their magnificent property. It was a delight to have the opportunity to visit, view and photograph. And thank you Julia for being such a wonderful model. You will always be known as the Princess of Iris.



TNT#1



TNT#3



TNT#2



TNT#4



← TNT#5
Dave Blackmore





Photos by David Blackmore

Annual Dues

It is that time of the year when annual dues are due! It would be helpful to Vivienne, our dedicated membership lady, if you can start paying her at the March or April meeting, thus avoiding the rush at the May meeting. Thank you.



OUR TRIP TO INDIA

Submitted by Paul Edelenbos

My wife and I had the pleasure of visiting India this past December. As it is such a big country, there is no point in cramming too much in, so we decided three weeks in Rajasthan would be a good start. As Indira Ghandi once said, "Set aside any prejudice and accept India for what she is".

We decided to do a circle tour starting in Delhi, Jodhpur, Ranakpur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Pushkar, Jaipur, Fatehpur Sikri, Agra, Delhi. And then on our own for three days to Ranthambore to hopefully see a tiger (no such luck) and then finish off with three days in Varanasi.

I was told this was a great India beginner trip as it was full of forts and temples. We were not disappointed. It always amazes me what mankind managed to build before having machinery and the innovations some of the palaces had to stay cool in summer and warm in winter, or a platform surrounded by water in a large courtyard so that the sound from the stage would be amplified. We saw one Jain Temple made from marble that was so incredibly carved, or a small Hindu Temple outside Varanasi with beautiful carvings. Such workmanship!

Our trip was organized through G Adventures, which basically means they have taken care of all transport and hotels, etc. This was our fifth trip with them and we highly recommend them.

As far as photography, there were endless opportunities, whether it is temples, markets, traffic or people. I came back with 2,500 photos. Yikes! Lois was startled the first time the locals asked if they could have their picture taken with her!

Fog seems to dog me, no matter where I go and this time was no exception. The Ganges was almost hidden! I was glad I brought my tripod as I got some nice night shots in India as well as in Amsterdam where we stayed for a couple of days to walk my old neighbourhood.

In conclusion, we have all heard negative things about India, but ignore them! Go with an open mind and you will enjoy the experience as the people were great and so was the food (just not for breakfast for me).

Our next job will be to start planning the next adventure!





**Wonderful Photos,
thanks Paul**

Hello from India

Submitted by Bill Pennings

We arrived in the middle of the night, 4 O'clock India time, bleary eyed and tired. It was a long, long flight. Vancouver to London (Heathrow) was nine hours; we had to rush to the other side of the airport to catch the flight to Hyderabad. Again we had to go through security as we left the secure area at the airport to go to the area where British Airways aircraft were parked. We did enter a bus specifically for moving passengers through a tunnel to the other side where we offloaded and hiked another quarter mile through corridors to security. We only had 2.5 hours between flights at Heathrow. I was watching my time with some concern as security took a long time. At long last we arrived at the gate with ten minutes to spare. There we heard that the aircraft had been delayed for one hour, it would have been nice if we had known that earlier. Eventually we boarded the aircraft and we were the only white people on board with about two hundred people from India.

We felt that we had already arrived in India. The overhead luggage carriers were full above our seat so I stuffed our carry-on luggage in the available carrier one seat further forward. This was not to the liking of another passenger who came later as he removed my luggage and replaced it with his own. My luggage ended up on an empty seat. I looked at the proceedings with utter amazement before it clicked what was happening. I got up and with little ado I told the passenger that you do not touch my luggage and replaced his with mine. I must have stumped him with my loud mouth as he backed off and found another place to store his luggage.

In the meantime the aircraft, as it was already late, had started the engines and proceeded to taxi out to the runway with half a dozen passengers still milling around in the aisles. The cabin attendants were starting to get excited as the rule is that all passengers should be seated and have their seatbelts fastened before the aircraft taxies out. With some pushing and shouting the passengers were eventually in their seats and the aircraft turned onto the runway for take-off. It was a mad house and somewhat hilarious. The flight was uneventful but the meals served were different as they were vegetarian and spicy, the way they eat in India, I liked it.

When we arrived in Hyderabad nine hours later we picked up our luggage, cleared customs and were released into the arrival place at the airport. Here we met with our family. This is where the fun began as I asked my daughter if I could drive and get used to the rules and traffic on the road as it was four in the morning. She laughed and said "Dad, you are not going to drive in India" I asked what the rules were and she said "there are no rules here". She was right as there are no rules on the road. Every one in the traffic matches himself into a chaotic flow of cars, motorbikes and tuk-tuks and a lot of buses and trucks thrown in for good measure. This madhouse seems to work as there are no accidents or not that I have seen. Pedestrians cross whenever they like and sometimes are stuck in the middle of a flow of cars and they just wait right in the middle of the road until it is clear to go on. Left turns signs, right turns signs, stop signs, zebra paths are all ignored among a cacophony of horns blowing that drive you nuts. I am glad I don't have to drive here. My daughter has a personal driver that does most of the driving for whoever needs to go somewhere.

We have been here for almost four weeks and we are slowly getting used to the new scenery and the way of living and the food. We have seen so much that is almost too hard to remember. I am making a daily memo of all the highlights and I will continue with this epistle next month for episode two of our adventure in India. On the agenda is a visit to Delhi, Taj Mahal, Jaipur and Chennai before returning to good old Parksville on March 9... See you then.



HOW TO BE A CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHER?

Lesson 1

Take your pictures with the crappiest camera you can find. Having a real russian camera from the USSR era is an asset!

Lesson 2

Use expired films and take pictures of the most boring places and moments of your life... If you still have the luxury to live like a student partying all night, sleeping all day, drinking too much and taking drugs from time to time is an asset. Always put at least one picture of a nude person in a series.

Lesson 3

Grow a beard, wear big glasses even if you have a perfect eyesight. Do not be scared to open your white shirt a little bit too much to show your vulnerable chest...

Lesson 4

Be overconfident! Do not allowed any humor in your work (except if your name is M. Parr). Always be very serious and maintain a total mystery on your next Photographic Project...



Comox Valley Camera Club
proudly presents

ImageFest 2013

... a multimedia production

Saturday, March 23rd 2013

7:30 pm

Sid Williams Theatre, Courtenay

Tickets \$13

www.sidwilliamstheatre.com



Cute corner



I'd really appreciate it if you wore pants more often...

London Drugs—10% Discount off Regular Printing

Offer applies ONLY to regular priced developing (online weekly special offers would not qualify for an additional discount)

Members are requested to bring in their membership cards and they will input the discount info into each individual's file so that future discounts will come automatically

Did You Know?

ISLAND EXPOSURES ART GALLERY WILL GIVE OCEANSIDE PHOTOGRAPHERS A 20% DISCOUNT.

Talk to Craig Carmichael at 5-183 West Island Highway,
Parksville (Beach Club)
Phone: 250-586-5225

Craig will meet all your framing needs and do spectacular canvas wraps.