A few words...

This is it, the last newsletter of 1999. We hope to see new volunteers and supporters as 2000 rolls around. Please speak to your NJ FCC representatives to offer whatever aid you can afford.

This month's article, "Photography as a Metaphor" was previously published in the Ridgewood Camera Club newsletter in September 1999. Please keep those submissions coming!

Results of the first two slide competitions are inside – congratulations to all participants.

As the year draws to a close, here's to a happy and healthy new year for all!

Photography as a metaphor

By George Garbeck, Ridgewood Camera Club

I sometimes question why I am compelled to take nature pictures. It’s a demanding pastime, often requiring waking up at unnatural hours and enduring terrible weather. It’s a frustrating hobby frequently resulting in failure, and an expensive one, too. It’s extremely competitive – we live in a society saturated with fabulous images, often making me wonder if I can ever add anything meaningful to the overall visual dialogue. Why should I spend my precious leisure time in its pursuit?

The answer, or at least part of it, became clear to me one autumn day two years ago. I was hiking along one of my favorite mountain trails in New York State. It was one of those clear, crisp fall days that brings all the gorgeous foliage into full saturation, all the shapes of nature into sharp focus, and an inadvertent smile to anyone lucky enough to witness it all. The path followed along side a fast-running, rocky stream gurgling loudly from the seasonal rainfall. As I rounded a bend, I saw through the pattern of shadows cast by the tall trees, a solitary figure, clad in seasonally appropriate flannel plaid, casting a fishing rod into the waters. I don’t think I had my camera with me. I’m sure if I had, I would have asked to take his picture, so ideally did he fit into the setting. We smiled and nodded, acknowledging each other’s presence, then struck up a conversation, the perfection of the day demanding it. I eventually inquired what type of fish he was after, mentioning that in the many times I had walked along this brook, I had never seen any fish in it. His answer surprised me. To his knowledge there were no fish in the stream, he replied sheepishly. But, as he swept his free hand upward to indicate the splendor of sight, sound, and smell surrounding us, he said that on such a day how could he not fish. Perhaps, as they say, “you had to be there” to understand the sense and the truth of his statement. I certainly did. And I realized that it had little to do with fishing.

Which brings me back to my original question. The answer, in large part, to why I photograph is in the act of photography itself. The process of seeking out a visual subject sharpens my awareness of my surroundings, whether it is on a crisp autumn day, in uncomfortable rain and fog, or trudging through numbing cold snow. It somehow clarifies all the senses, not just the visual. The act of seeing, really seeing, makes me not only more aware of my environment but truly makes me become a part of it, to be alive in that moment. And that increased sensitivity and immediacy, where time slows down and every sensation becomes extraordinarily vivid, seems somehow linked to some ‘grand purpose of life’, to a sense of correctness, of fulfillment, to the realization that, during that time of heightened awareness, I am fully participating in life, not just passing through it. This act of attentiveness, which we seem to possess naturally as children and seem to have etawork at as we age, becomes itself an homage to the world being perceived.

So my suggestion to others who are learning this craft of photography: Don’t become overly obsessed with the mechanics, as essential as they certainly are. Don’t get too caught up in the competitive need to create a great picture, as rewarding as that may be. Next time you are out there looking through your viewfinder, composing your shot, calculating your f-stops, analyzing the lighting, using the rule-of-thirds, creating leading lines, waiting for the wind to die down, or that cloud to move into exactly the right spot – STOP. Stand back from your camera. Take a look around. Record in your mind the sounds, smells, the feeling – the total 360-degree sense of being there. Take it all in, relish it, memorize it. Your photograph, if successful, will come close to recording the visual splendor of the moment, but it would be entirely unforgivable to lose the ineffable beauty presented to the rest of your sense and to miss that magisterial feeling of just being there. In short, enjoy it.

Thanks to Mr. Ara Chakarian, APSA for sending the article for inclusion in The Cable release.
Special Events Calendar

If you know of any upcoming events, please send your submissions in early so that your fellow photo-enthusiasts have an opportunity to participate!

Unique Photo
The following events are sponsored by Unique Photo at 11 Vreeland Rd in Florham Park. Call 973-377-5555, ext. 243 for more information and reservations.

Note: Due to a conflict, the trip to Ellis Island has been postponed until the spring.

11/17  7pm-9pm  Hasselblad Seminar

NJ Photo Forum
The NJ Photo Forum will meet on 11/17, and 12/20 at 7pm at the Watchung Arts Center. Call Michael Creem at 908-273-1572 for more information.

Nikon School
Nikon School is coming to NYC. One-day classes are scheduled for 12/11 & 12/12 in 1999, 3/11 & 3/12, and 5/20 & 5/21 in 2000. Class runs from 9am-5pm and includes lunch and the Nikon School Handbook. Cost is $99 per person. For more information or to enroll, call the Nikon School at 516-547-8666.

Photo Exhibits
The Cranford / Millburn Camera Club, is currently exhibiting photos at the Millburn Public Library. The works are on display in the library foyer, and will remain there through the end of November.

Congratulations to Sheilia Lenga and Howard Tappan of the Cranford / Millburn Camera Club for their receiving PSA awards Color Picture of the Month and B&W Picture of the Month, respectively. Their photos will be on display at PSA Headquarters in Oklahoma City, OK through the end of December.

“Carleton Watkins: The Art of Perception” is on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art through January 9th.

NJFCC Competitions
The following is the list of upcoming competitions for the 1999-2000 season. The first date listed is the date the prints/slides are due to the competition chair. The second date listed is the competition date, hosted by the noted club. Please note the change in date for the Skibneski Nature Competition.

Please see the blue NJFCC Competition Flyer for submission rules.

Print Competitions:

2nd Print (B/W, Color, Trade)  1/1  1/10  Livingston Camera Club
3rd Print (B/W, Color, Trade)  2/26  3/7  Teaneck Camera Club
Tops in NJ  5/15  5/23  Studio One

Pictorial Slide Competitions:

Tops in NJ (color slide) 11/9  11/16  South Jersey Camera Club
Photo Travel (color slide) 2/23  3/2  Essex Photo Camera Club
Annual Spring (color slide) 3/29  4/5  Plainfield Camera Club

Nature Slide Competitions:

Skibneski (nature slide) 2/1  2/10  Camera Naturalists
Restricted (nature slide) 3/16  3/23  Raritan PS
Annual Spring Inter-Club 3/30  4/6  Vineland

Please send entries to the appropriate competition chairperson by the listed deadline:

Print Competitions
Howard Royce
1916 Shadowbrook Dr.
Wall, NJ 07719
732-974-0517

Marian Boyer
27 Sand Spring Rd.
Monistown, NJ 07960
973-538-3209

Ira Finke
17 B Andrew Jackson Ct.
Monroe Township, NJ 08831
609-655-9521

Please note the change in date for the Skibneski Nature Competition.
NJFCC Competition results

NJFCC 32nd Fall Interclub, hosted by Morris Photocolor Club on October 22, 1999

Medal Winner:
Male Mallard #8
Ron Denk
Vailsburg Camera Club

Honorable Mentions:
Race for the Cup
Michael Mund
Essex Camera Club
Empire State in Holiday Colors
Olga Sarre
Essex Camera Club
All in a Row
Don Miles
Hillcrest Camera Club
Old Red
Bob Sochor
Livingston Camera Club
Friendship
Bruce Witzig
Mannahatta Camera Club
Tumbleweed #2
Marian Boyer
Morris Photocolor Club
Watercolor Roller
Marian Boyer
Morris Photocolor Club
Iris
Judy Helderman
Morris Photocolor Club
Elegance
John Matis
Morris Photocolor Club
Hoodoo Glow
Nancy O’Hare
Morris Photocolor Club
Nautilus Swirlers
Nicodemon Rinaldis
Morris Photocolor Club
Oblique Feathers
Nicodemon Rinaldis
Morris Photocolor Club
Horsedrive #1
Ann Marie Letch
Ocean County Camera Club
Schooner Sunset
Marion Wendt
Ocean County Camera Club
Bud Light
Charles Deininger
Photographic Society of South Jersey
Lighthouse Reflections
John Matteoni
Plainfield Camera Club
Sun and Shadow
David Kirkwood
Plainfield Camera Club
Nubble Light
Virginia Smith
Plainfield Camera Club
Bleeding Heart Close Up
Marian Coe
Ridgewood Camera Club
Hang Glider
Vinnie Kempf
Ridgewood Camera Club
Kayak Racer
Dieter Steinsmeyer
Ridgewood Camera Club
Snowy Egret
Phil Echo
Tri-County Camera Club
New Your New York
Jerry Fornarotto
Tri-County Camera Club
Rushing Hour
D. Philip
Tri-County Camera Club
Colorful Vessel
Dorothy Spillane
Tri-County Camera Club
Summer Vision
Dorothy Spillane
Tri-County Camera Club
Hot Wheels
Ron Denk
Vailsburg Camera Club
Mallard Family
Christine Haycock
Vailsburg Camera Club
2 Vermillion Mushrooms
Christine Haycock
Vailsburg Camera Club

NJFCC Annual Fall Nature Competition, hosted by Millstone Valley Camera Club on October 26, 1999

Medal Winner:
Green Tree Frog #2
J. Fornarotto
Tri-County Camera Club

Honorable Mentions:
Thirsty Nyack
Jerry Barrack
Ridgewood Camera Club
Leopard Portrait
Jerry Barrack
Ridgewood Camera Club
Kent Falls
Hugh Breelin
Ridgewood Camera Club
Imature Great Blue Heron
Florence Kantor
Ridgewood Camera Club
Whale of a Tail
Florence Kantor
Ridgewood Camera Club
Ready For Takeoff
A.M. Gunther
Ridgewood Camera Club
Bald Eagle
Stanley Kantor
Ridgewood Camera Club
Orangutan #2
Stanley Kantor
Ridgewood Camera Club
Columbine
Vinnie Kempf
Ridgewood Camera Club
Male Eastern Box Turtle
R. A. Simpson
Ridgewood Camera Club
Short Eared Owl
Maggie Molino
Ridgewood Camera Club
Maligne, Lake Jasper
Larry Vinecour
Ridgewood Camera Club
Bud
Linda Ohm
Ocean County Camera Club
Wis Guy
Tom Icklan
Ocean County Camera Club
Canyon Porthole
Tom Icklan
Ocean County Camera Club
Observer
Elaine Icklan
Ocean County Camera Club
The Big Yawn
John sokol
Ocean County Camera Club
Big Bird
Earle Stevens
Ocean County Camera Club
Flamingo
William Dennis
Photographic Society of South Jersey
Hoot
Bob Manners
Plainfield Camera Club
Taking a Break
Chuck Moore
Plainfield Camera Club
Osprey With Prey
David Kirkwood
Plainfield Camera Club
Evening at Mount Temple
David Kirkwood
Plainfield Camera Club
Brown Pelican
Jean Luce
Plainfield Camera Club
Westkill Falls
David Lewis
Millstone Valley Camera Club
Pointed Profile
Bobby Ericson
Millstone Valley Camera Club
Multi Colored Bird
Bob Meyers
Millstone Valley Camera Club
Lower Falls, Yellowstone
Bob Meyers
Millstone Valley Camera Club
A Rainier Cataract
D. Philip
Tri-County Camera Club
Tender Moment
Phil Echo
Essex Camera Club
Wood Frog
Olga Sarre
Essex Camera Club
Purple Avens, Seeds and Flowers
Olga Sarre
Essex Camera Club
Pelican on a High Perch
Olga Sarre
Essex Camera Club
Cobra
F. Robin
South Jersey Camera Club
Cat
F. Robin
South Jersey Camera Club
Great Horned Owlets
Roland C. Fulde
South Jersey Camera Club
NJFCC Contacts

Officers:
- President (acting): Howard Royce 732-974-0517
- Vice President: Sheila Lenga 908-687-2617
- Treasurer: Lew Schor 610-252-5321
- Secretary (acting): John Davidson 973-625-4820
- Trustee: Ray Armstrong 856-662-5465

Supporting Staff:
- Print Comp (acting): Howard Royce 732-974-0517
- Nature Slide Comp (acting): Ira Finke 609-655-9521
- Pictorial Slide Comp: Marian Boyer 973-538-3209
- The Cable Release: Barbara Svachak 732-680-0708
- Directories: John Davidson 973-625-4820

Deadline for the next edition of The Cable Release is Wed, January 12th

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month (August – May) at 8:00PM at the Watchung Arts Center.

Upcoming NJFCC Member Club Events

⇒ **Camera Naturalists:** 12/11 Annual holiday party at W. Kosci’s home, with member short programs; 1/13 Competition: Landscape, judge Klaus Dieter Schleim
⇒ **Cranford / Millburn:** 11/22 Competition: “NYC Scenes”, judge William D. Griffin; 12/13 Annual Gmelin Competition and holiday party, judge Alan Leckner; 1/10 “New World” by Catherine Roxburgh
⇒ **Essex:** 11/18 Competition: slides and all prints, judge Stanley Jacobson; 12/2 Competition: slides and small prints, judge Chuck Moore; 12/16 Holiday party, Program: Assigned Subject Competition; 1/6 Program: to be announced
⇒ **Hillcrest:** 11/22 Model night; 12/13 Competition: regular and contemporary slides, plus novice competition for beginners; 1/10 Presentation by Fegley of the Morning Call (tentative)
⇒ **Livingston:** 11/22 “Challenges – Wildlife”, by Alan Leckner; 1/10 NJFCC Inter-Club Print Competition
⇒ **Mapleshade – Moorestown:** 12/14 “Words, Music, Images: A Tableau Fantasy” plus How-to “Chasing Rainbows” by Dick DeBernardo; 1/11 “Nature Around Us” by Jim Wedge
⇒ **Morris:** 11/19 Competition: Travel, judge Dr. Christine Haycock; 12/3 Competition: Contemporary, judge Benedec Fernandez; 12/10 Program: Paris, France by Benedict Fernandez; 12/18 Program: Member short programs and holiday party; 1/7 Competition: Open pictorial, judge Carol-Ann Rogers
⇒ **Plainfield:** 11/16 Competition: PSA pictorial by class; 12/1 Program: “About Black and White Photography” by Art Carlson; 12/21 Holiday Party; 1/5 Competition: PSA pictorial by class
⇒ **South Jersey:** 11/16 NJFCC Tops of NJ contest; 12/21 Program: “Reflections” by Edward Hansbury; 12/12 Field Trip: Ellis Island / Statue of Liberty; 1/18 Program: “Canadian Rockies” by Marvin Harper
⇒ **Vineland:** 12/2 “Year End Contest”/Election of Officers; 12/16 Awards Banquet/Installation of Officers

NJFCC Member Clubs on the web

Camera Naturalists http://community.nj.com/cc/camnats bobbyjven@home.com
Cranford/Millburn Camera Club http://members.tripod.com/CameraClubcmmcameraclub@hotmail.com
Livingston Camera Club http://www.geocities.com/lccphoto lcamerac@aol.com
Monmouth Camera Club http://community.nj.com/cc/photographyclub dankwart@worldnet.att.net
Morris Photo Color: http://www.users.nac.net/jmp/mpc.htm jmp@nac.net
Raritan Photographic Society: http://www.eastbrunswick.com/rps reg@bellatlantic.net
Ridgewood Camera Club http://community.nj.com/cc/rcc alfano@ciat.njit.edu
Tri-County Camera Club: http://ciat.njit.edu/portfolio/alfano/rhomen.htm
Photographic Society of Vineland: http://www.lensgroup.com/psv/ CLelli@aol.com

If your club is on the internet, please be sure to send your webpage and email address to The Cable Release!