

The New Housatonic Camera Club Newsletter

Member: New England Camera Club Council
http://www.housatoniccameraclub.org/

Editor: Ian McCunn
Webmaster: Lazlo Gyorsok

"Some days you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant"

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, January 18, 2005



7:00 PM Sharp

The Life Long Learning Center
(Wagner Building on the Left)

Noble Horizons
17 Cobble Road
Salisbury, Connecticut

This Evening's Program

Presented by:

Bill and Dorothy DeVoti

James Herriot's York- shire

Up until 4 years ago we knew very little about James Herriot's Yorkshire. We have now experienced three lengthy stays in summer and autumn in northern England, where we first learned about this transplanted Scot, and read all of the books we could find by and about Alf Wight (his real name) and the Yorkshire countryside he loved so dearly.

We have been fortunate to achieve some understanding and a great appreciation of the things that were so important to this sensitive, talented writer and most famous of all veterinarians; visited and photographed many of the places he mentions, and even some of the places (like Watersplash ... where the road takes you through a stream) that appear in the popular TV series of the 1970's (which we viewed before our last trip thanks to Netflix.)

We hope through our photographs and comments, and quotes from "Herriot's" writings, some of our enthusiasm and experiences will rub off on you. ð

Tuesday, January 18, 2005

President's Corner

A Happy New Year to one and all and take lots of photos in 2005! We have some wonderful shows coming up this month and next. The first is Bill and Dorothy DeVoti's James Herriot's Yorkshire. It should be a stunner as Bill is a stunning photographer. The second will be on Tuesday February 1 and features a Millbrook Photo Journalist, Jacques Charlas with sensational pictures from all over the world. Be sure to come. And bring your friends. All our meetings are for everyone, members and non-members who just want to see what we do or see our presentations. The more the merrier.

Rita ð

REMINDER

A Very Special Extra HCC Program

Tuesday, February 1st at 7 PM

The Taconic Learning Center at Noble Horizons
17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, CT

French born photographer, Jacques Charlas, will give a special presentation of some of his work. From his years as a photojournalist there will be a series taken in Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation in 1981 and during the civil war in El Salvador in 1982. From the Fine Art photography he will [also] show a selection from a recent exhibition of photos taken in Paris from 1990 – 1993. Then from another recent exhibition there will [also] be a story of a dying friend's last trip across the US in 2002. Jacques will conclude the evening with some current works.

Jacques Charlas is presently a resident of Millerton, New York. He has been the head of the photography program at the Millbrook Prep School for the last four years.

Ann Wilkinson ð

Publicity

Ann Wilkinson has taken over this Department. Mary Lou Estabrook and Bob have been most competent and faithful in their duties for many years. The Club thanks you both most sincerely with an extra special "thank you" from your editor. You always kept me up to date and on top of programs and events. Ian ð

Page 1

"Photo Hints and Basics #11"

By Rita W. Mathews

Now that we are in deep winter how do we take pictures of this dull gray scene? One of the first things I do when it is particularly gray is to buy a bunch of flowers and set them up on a table and do macros. If you have never done this it is a great way to work out how to take real close ups and to find out how close you can get with the lenses you have.

To start with a macro lens is necessary for most but a reverse ring on your camera which lets you reverse your lens also works as does an enlarging lens (screws on like a filter) which is no more than a magnifying glass. Also a set of lens extenders can make it very interesting. Every one has a different system and only you can work it out. Once you get a good system think of what you can do when spring and summer returns with the entire gamut of insects and flowers and leaves and berries etc. Do not forget that you will probably need some artificial lighting. Fill flash covered with some white cloth to make it soft light. One may also reflect the light available with a white, gold or silver reflector. Fold up reflectors are invaluable, inexpensive and you can carry them any place and use as required. These are called pocket bouncers or soft boxes. I have just bought a digital flash that can be set off by the flash on the camera so I can not wait to see what this will do. Good for portraits also.

Snow is also a great subject and has its own demands. However, snow tricks your camera's light meter into making snow 18% gray. Therefore (to avoid underexposure) one must open up the lens 1 to 2 stops to make the snow white. Now, you do not wish it totally white. Get some detail in it or it will look like white background paper; so play with the exposure.

Other interesting aspects of white snow: It reflects the colors of a red sunset if you can catch them. Woods are lovely, dark and deep and make interesting snow photos with black tree limbs and white snow. I am patiently waiting for a full moon and a fresh snowfall. Take a photo of the moon shining through snow covered branches of the trees.

A few things to remember when out in the cold:

If it is below freezing, the batteries have a hard time and may quit on you. Use lithium batteries for this. In fact, they are much better than the ordinary alkaline ones and also last much longer. But when they quit they do not peter out. They just stop - period! So always have extras with you.

Probably the most important thing to do after photographing in the cold is not to bring your camera into a warm house or car without first putting it in a Zip Lock bag and sealing it tightly. Then you may bring it in but do not open it until the camera has reached room temperature. If you do not do this, there will be condensation on the inside and this is death to electronics.

Finally, look for things that peep out through the snow such as red berries and leaves left over from the fall. Streams and snow make interesting subjects. Tricky stuff though; black water and white snow. Perhaps it is better to try black and white sometimes. Snow makes you look harder and if you keep practicing, by springtime you will have a whole new look on what you take.

Rita ð

Events

Tuesday, January 18, 6 to 8 PM at The Knickerbocker Club, 2 East 62nd Street, NYC. (Southeast corner at Fifth Avenue). A show by HCC member Max Ule. Invitation, coat and tie required. Cocktails served. **Contact Max Ule at (800) 223-6642.**

NOTE: This is the same night as our January meeting.

Thursday, March 17, Opening in the Taconic Learning Center room, Noble Horizons, 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, CT. A print salon by our own Housatonic Camera Club. Framed submissions from club members are due at Noble on Monday, March 14th, no later.

Bill DeVoti

Early this summer or in the fall, Carol Sadlon [owner] of the Millerton Movie House, Millerton, NY, has proposed that we organize a thematically and highly selective show.

Bill DeVoti

Maybe next year, a "a rilly big shew" (Ed Sullivan). The Oliver Wolcott Library in Litchfield, January, 2006. Maybe sooner.

Bill DeVoti

April 21 at 5:30 PM, Albany Center Galleries, 161 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12210

Telephone: (518) 462-4775

Exhibition Competition, and reception. See:

<http://www.albanycentergalleries.org/>

More tonight from:

Ann Wilkinson ð