

HORIZONEWS #4

HORIZON PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS NEWS, THOUGHTS AND IMAGES

"The real voyage of discovery is not seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes."

Marcel Proust

STUDENT PHOTOS : CLOSE-UP



Port Deposit, Maryland: Now & Then



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Squeezed between the placid Susquehanna River and a sheer one hundred foot granite cliff is the one-mile long, one-block wide town of Port Deposit. We're wary of using superlatives—why provoke an “Oh yeah, says you!” reaction?—but what the heck: We vote Port Deposit the most unusual, most diverse small town in America. It brims with colors and contrasts—architectural, natural, and human. Beautiful historic homes and not-so-beautiful modern condos, intimate gardens juxtaposed with rushing streams, a decayed swimming pool and a century-old “gas house.” On a stroll down Main Street—Port Deposit's *only* street—you'll rub elbows with newcomers and long-time locals, white collar workers and blue, urbane vacationers and leather jacketed cyclers. Plus: A railroad runs through it.

We've highlighted two photos taken during a recent Photojournalism workshop. First, **Pete Manzelli's** portrait of David Read, co-owner of Tome's Landing Marina, two huge dockside sheds that house boats small and grand. Pete placed David in front of a half-black, half-red background, drawing attention to David's natural smile and posture. Notice how the diagonal lines of boat racks add visual energy. Use of a wide-angle lens keeps the background in acceptable focus. Next, Horizon Workshop Manager **Brandon Clower** caught instructor **Frank Van Riper** with students at the Bainbridge site on the plateau above the town. This site contains the exquisite ghostly remnants of a long-defunct private school and one-time U.S. Navy training center. Brandon chose a moderate wide-angle lens so he would capture most of the building. Bainbridge will soon begin a long-term renovation...and our students will be there to record its evolution. ###

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INSTRUCTOR'S TIPS

Horizon director and instructor **Steve Gottlieb** is shooting a series of portraits of bikini-clad young ladies for *Mariner* magazine, a popular Chesapeake Bay area publication. For the picture of Lauren seen here, just as shoot time approached dark clouds moved in and a light drizzle began. For reasons of schedule and budget—hey, this is a far cry from *Sports Illustrated's* swimsuit issue—the shoot needed to proceed rain or shine. How did Steve deal with the adverse weather? 1. Kept the model in the car until the last minute so her hair wouldn't get frizzy and her make-up wouldn't run. 2. Used two small, slaved battery-powered flash, one for the model, one for the background. (Flash were held by an assistant; a light stand with a clamp to hold the second flash would work, too.) 3. Flash were placed slightly to the right and well in front of the camera. (Why placed in front? Closer to the subject meant less flash power needed, thus shortening battery recycle time.) 4. Set the camera exposure so the ambient light was about a stop below that of the flash, so the ambient served as fill. 5. Used a telephoto lens, about 120mm, and relatively large f-stop, about 5.6, to keep background leaves "soft." 5. Set the digital camera's white balance to "cloudy day" in order to warm up the flesh tones. (Alternative: tape amber gels over your flash heads.) Result: a shot with a crisp and sunny quality of light!



Tooting our Own Horn Dept.

- **Horizon Workshops** received the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce's annual award as "Outstanding New Enterprise."
- *Shutterbug* magazine's recent book review of **Steve Gottlieb's** *Washington: Portrait of a City* opined: "Gifted author and photographer Steve Gottlieb has crafted yet another inspiring book." For the entire review, find the link at the "Articles" section of our web site: www.horizonworkshops.com.
- After a brief hiatus so he could complete work on his new book (on Venice in winter), **Frank Van Riper** (Horizon's Photojournalism instructor) returns in July as photography columnist to *washingtonpost.com*. A regular contributor to the *Washington Post* (print and .com) since 1992, Frank is recognized as one of the nation's finest writers on photography. You'll find his bi-weekly musings at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/photo/?nav=globetop>.

END FRAME

Fewer than 800 residents. No traffic lights. No convenience store. Undersized mid-19th century homes sitting astride the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal. That's Chesapeake City, Horizon's headquarters. Does any other American town of this diminutive size dare label itself a "City?"

Chesapeake City is as quiet as it is small. Except on Canal Day, the last Saturday in June, when the town throws a bash and invites the world to come—for food, drink, arts, crafts, music, and a chance to be part of a crowd. And come they do, by car and by boat, 10 to 20,000 strong, all seemingly ready to pose for our cameras.

Selecting one image from among the many student photos of this event was difficult; we gave the nod to **Terry Dyroff's** shot of two cases of beer accompanied by two companions. This shot has great spontaneity



and "attitude." It includes enough background to give a sense of place. What could have made this shot "perfect"? Some flash fill for the shadows along with a faster exposure that toned down the washed-out highlights. Photoshop can't always rescue you. ###