

HORIZON NEWS #21

IMAGES, THOUGHTS AND NEWS FROM HORIZON PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Take me out to the ballgame, take me out with the crowd...
Jack Norworth, 1908

STUDENT PHOTOS: CLOSE-UP



Marsha Wassel

(from left) Sherman Levine, Jean Meile, Jim Wassel

When we scheduled our springtime “People and Portraits on Location” workshop months ago, we were unaware that it fell on Chesapeake City’s Little League Opening Day...and we remained oblivious until student Rhoda Levine fortunately spotted some kids just outside town dressed to play ball. Adding to our serendipity was that all the action was lit by a bright overcast sky, which made for perfect photography conditions. These adorable five, six and seven year olds struggled to figure out when to run—or throw—to first base. Our county’s leading magazine plans to run an essay of our wonderful student photos, a few of which you see here.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- >> Only 13 more days to our **Annual Summit** in Chesapeake City! Don't miss it!
- >> We've added many new Horizon offerings, from Chesapeake City, MD to Tanzania
 - Three **Joe Edelman** workshops: **Beauty & Glamour**; **The Fine Art Nude**; **Web Marketing for Visual Artists**
 - **Smoky Mountains National Park** with **Bill Campbell**
 - **Tanzania** (Feb/Mar 2009) with **Jon Cox**
 - **South Dakota Badlands & Black Hills**, with **Steve Gottlieb & Diane Shapiro**
- >> For our time and budget conscious friends, we've shortened the duration--and reduced the price--of a few workshops. Check our website for specifics.
- >> In late April, Horizon's revised website will be navigable by subject, instructor, date and location.

WHY WE LOVE IT

If someone asks why you love something, a reasonable answer could be: “I don’t know why, I just do.” Passion doesn’t need an explanation. And even if we know why, words usually fall short in explaining emotions. Still, observing the enthusiasm of our workshop students got us pondering photography’s extraordinarily broad, powerful and enduring appeal...which generated this list.

1. It’s a human impulse to express ourselves creatively. Taking photographs—we’re not talking snapshots here—helps satisfy that need. Photography is not, as some think, a mechanical act. Ask several people to photograph the same subject—and we have—and each individual’s viewpoint is different, often dramatically so.

2. We like having the freedom to choose our subjects, and to interpret them as we like. Our portraits can be idealized or gritty; nature can be viewed as serene or creating havoc, and so on.

3. Many pastimes require intensive training before you’re really “doing it.” Photography can bring pleasure from the moment you take your first camera out of its box.

4. Film photography provided *nearly* instant gratification; digital photography makes it instant.

5. Photography can be enjoyed with basic and relatively inexpensive equipment. For those who enjoy acquiring and using new “toys,” photography is paradise.

6. Photography gives us a wonderful reason to travel, explore new things, and meet new people.

7. Taking pictures can be a great conversational icebreaker...almost as good as having a dog or small child. “May I take your picture?” comes more easily than “Would you like to talk?”

8. Merely observing something is a passive act; photographing that same thing generates an interaction. Taking a picture can connect us to people, places and things in a way that “just looking” may not.

9. Taking pictures encourages us to observe things with greater intensity.

10. Pictures record our lives...where we’ve been, who we’ve met, how we (and others) once looked. Pictures are evidence of our personal histories, and they can trigger potent feelings of nostalgia.

11. The still photograph, even more than the moving image, has exceptional power to imprint itself in our brain. We appreciate the power of pictures, which makes us want to take them as well as look at them.

12. Pictures are tangible objects that can be shown (or is it shown off?) and talked about. Few of us outgrow the desire for what we called back in elementary school “show and tell.”

13. Photography imposes no age limitation. You can start very young and there’s no reason to ever stop. Even if you lack mobility, there’s a universe of creative possibilities indoors.

14. Photography can be done wherever and whenever...and whatever the weather conditions.

15. You can take pictures alone, with a companion, or in a group...and you can do it for any length of time.

16. You can be a member of the vast community of shutterbugs, from camera clubs to chat rooms.

Let us know if there’s something you think we should add to this list.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Apr. 25-27: **Travel: Wash. D.C.**; May 8-9: **Nature: Gardens of Brandywine Valley: Longwood and Winterthur**; May 9-11: **Nature: Sky Meadows, VA**; May 23: **Camera Basics**; May 23-26: **Creative Vision**; May 31 - June 1: **Nature: Gardens of NYC**; June 7-8 **Travel: Manhattan**; June 7: **Edit & Market Images**; June 13-15 **Travel: Boston**