

HORIZON NEWS #23

NEWS, THOUGHTS AND IMAGES FROM HORIZON PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

*I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake.
The great affair is to move.*
Robert Louis Stevenson, 1878

STUDENT PHOTOS: CLOSE-UP



Keith McWilliams (above and below)



When photographers talk about travel photography, you always hear the phrase “capturing a sense of place.” Whether the subject is people, landscapes, or architecture, good travel photos make you an armchair traveler who feels like you’ve actually been there.

In **Lou Jones’** Cape Cod workshop, **Keith McWilliams** hit a bulls-eye with two shots. His lighthouse photo demonstrates that even the most cliched subject can be seen with fresh eyes. Four things about this shot stand out. First, strong composition; there is a sense of perfect balance and stability. Second, everything in the frame “works;” there’s nothing extraneous or distracting. The “negative space” (i.e., space with “nothing” going on) effectively emphasizes the foggy atmosphere and draws the eye to what’s important. Third, the fog affects the background far more than the foreground, which makes the people stand out and give the picture depth and contrasting textures. Fourth, the varied and natural body language of each individual. The eye can distinguish, though mostly at a subconscious level, what looks natural and what looks posed.

When posing a person, the trick is to make it look natural. A perfect example is Keith’s fisherman. Notice the placement of the hands, the spread of the fingers, the toes pointed in different directions, the bend of the knees, the back heel off the ground, and the far-off gaze. Surely, this is a man who feels comfortable in his own boots. And speaking of boots, the clothing is such a perfect ensemble it looks like it was put together by a professional stylist. The boots stand out nicely against the red and black shirt and the hat tops things off nicely. Placing the subject against an uncluttered and neutral-colored background, as opposed to in front of the buoys, brings added attention to the man and his clothing.

QUICK TIP: NO LADDER, NO PROBLEM



It's something of a Horizon mantra: for images that have an element of surprise and freshness, avoid the normal vantage point. That's why *our* most important tool, after the camera itself, is a ladder. We suggest you get the largest ladder that fits in your vehicle and take it wherever you go. But what if you have no room in the car, or you haven't heeded our suggestion? Then improvise a ladder substitute. In **Eddie Cathell's** shot at left, he stood on the top of the bleachers to capture spectators at a little league game. Looking down on the umbrellas is more than simply an unusual vantage point; that perspective enabled Eddie to hide the faces, which would have distracted from the color and shape of the umbrellas, which is what this picture is all about.

And what, you're wondering, if you have no ladder and no bleachers are available? We've use the following to get some height: an upside down litter basket, a newspaper stand, an upside down bucket, a makeshift pile of rocks, the back of a pick-up truck, a fence post. Sometimes even a few inches can make a big difference in what you see in the viewfinder.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upcoming Workshops:** **Creative Vision: Advanced** (Ches. City Sept 5-7); **Nudes: The Female Form** (Ches. City Oct. 3-5); **Architecture** (Ches. City Oct. 4-5); **Gardens of the Brandywine Valley** (Longwood Gdns, Oct 10); **Travel-Wash. D.C.** (Oct. 10-11); **Beauty & Glamour** (Ches. City, Oct. 17-19); **Travel-Cape Cod** (Oct 17-19); **People & Portraits** (Ches. City Oct. 18-19); **Travel-Cecil County** (Ches.City, Oct. 31-Nov. 2); **Great Smoky Mountains** (Oct. 30-Nov.2); **The Canon Experience** (Ches. City Nov. 13-16); **Creative Vision** (Ches. City Nov. 8-9); **Documentary** (Ches.City Nov 7-9); **Weddings** (Ches. City Nov 13-16); **Flash Magic** (Ches. City Nov. 22-23); **Editing your Images** (Ches. City Dec. 6)
- **Horizon Director Steve Gottlieb** will give a lecture on "How to Publish Your Photo Book" at PhotoPlusExpo at the Javits Center in NYC on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 25th (Admission \$70.) PhotoPlusExpo, which runs from Oct 23-25, is the biggest photography industry show in the U.S. Entry to the huge trade show is free if you register before Oct. 3rd. See www.photoplusexpo.com
- **Note:** Recession got you down? We've responded by eliminating the Friday evening portion of several workshops, thereby lowering tuition...and there's no need to stay over on Friday evening.