

HORIZON NEWS #48

IMAGES, THOUGHTS AND NEWS FROM HORIZON PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Life is full of many aisles, so why don't you change your seat?

Unknown

Student Photos Up Close

Three fine portraits of blacksmith John Ellsworth taken at a Flash Magic Workshop by members of the Coastal Camera Club in Lewes, DE. (**Joe Radcliffe**, top, **George Evancho**, lower left, **John Hoyt**, lower rt) Each shot is different, each one highly successful. Collectively, these pictures raise a familiar workshop question: how many ways are there to photograph a subject? And the obvious follow-up: which ways create the strongest images?

There are many, many variables within the photographer's control. Angle of approach. Foreground/background. Lens choice. Placing —or removing— elements in the frame. Modifying light with flash, reflector, etc. (Note: Each of these pictures combined flash and ambient.) The number of variables increases when the subject matter is a person: Body position/body language. Expression. Eye direction. Photographing the subject doing or holding something...or not. And more.

As we've pointed out in prior newsletters, too many photographers explore too few variables. Most seem in a hurry to "get the shot." They don't allow themselves enough time to think. To experiment. To play. The more you do these things, the more likely



you will consistently get results like these...and in the process you will expand your vision, push yourself to try new techniques and find satisfaction in visually exploring a single subject with intensity and depth.



The Feel of a Place

by Steve Gottlieb

Variations on a subject...continued.

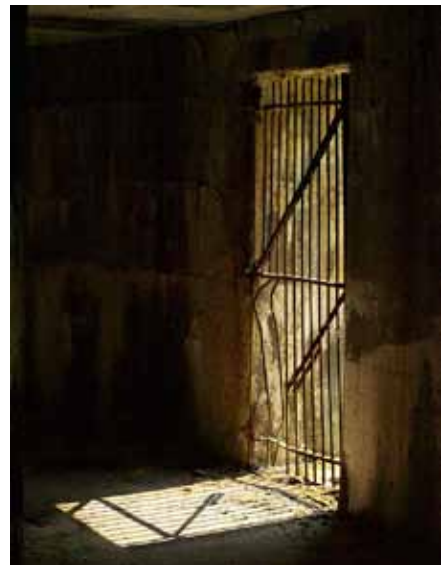
Three fine shots from the Memorial Day Weekend Creative Vision workshop. Each shot was taken at the same place (abandoned Fort Delaware, Delaware City), at the same time, with basically the same equipment. And the photographers stood within just a few feet of each other. *Viva La Difference!*

Su Bloye (top) captured the overall flavor of the fort's interior, with its long passageway, curved walls and chiaroscuro atmospherics. Tips: If you want to reveal more in the shadow areas, you could use flash, editing software, or merge multiple exposures using HDR. Brightening up shadow areas sometimes reveals distracting junk; remove, if possible, to save retouching time.

Rachel Mann (middle) photographed Su and instructor **Steve Gottlieb** in action. The shot is a tasty blend of environment and people. Notice how the photographers' body language tells you they're not posing. A few observations about lighting. Rachel has evenly balanced flash with the ambient light coming through the door. Steve's legs are brighter than Su's because they're much closer to the flash light source. To even out the light from front to back you could bounce the flash off the wall (to camera right) between Steve and Su; then the light source would be more equidistant between them.

Alan Hurwitz (bottom) focused on the "prison bars" of a fort door. The exposure perfectly captured the silhouette of the bars and their shadow. If you want to preserve deep shadows in pictures like this, you need to apply some "minus" compensation if you're in Program, Aperture or Shutter Priority...or shoot at least one stop "under" in Manual Mode. Flash fill could have been used to show details in the shadows, but that would detract from the graphic, high contrast quality of the main subject.

Taken together, these wonderful shots tell a story about a location and an experience; they capture what most travel photographers have as their prime objective: capturing a "Sense of Place."



FINAL FRAME



Horizon Director **Steve Gottlieb** spotted a rare albino deer in his backyard. By the time he extracted his camera from the bag, albino was gone. Hoping that lightning would strike in the same place, he kept his camera with 100-400 zoom by the door. Many days later, magic struck again. Steve quietly slipped outside, crawled forward behind a bush, then stood up as the deer walked into a clearing.

Having camera at the ready can yield unusual visual dividends.

Upcoming Horizon Workshops

Dec. 8: The Creative "i": Shooting with the iPhone (Karen Messick)

Jan. 19: From Click to Print (John Lauritsen)

Jan. 20: Photoshop Elements (John Lauritsen)

Jan. 26: Adobe Lightroom (John Lauritsen)

Feb. 23-24: Horizon Summit (See below)

Apr. 29 - May 5: Western Adventure (So. California & Las Vegas)

A complete 2013 Horizon schedule will be posted on our website in the next two weeks.

HORIZON GIFT CERTIFICATES: GOOD FOR ANY WORKSHOPS

>>> SAVE THE DATE <<<

HORIZON SUMMIT • FEBRUARY 23-24

U. of Delaware / Wilmington Campus

Whatever your photographic interests, you'll find a wealth of fascinating, informative classes led by an exceptional array of instructors.

www.horizonworkshops.com/summit