



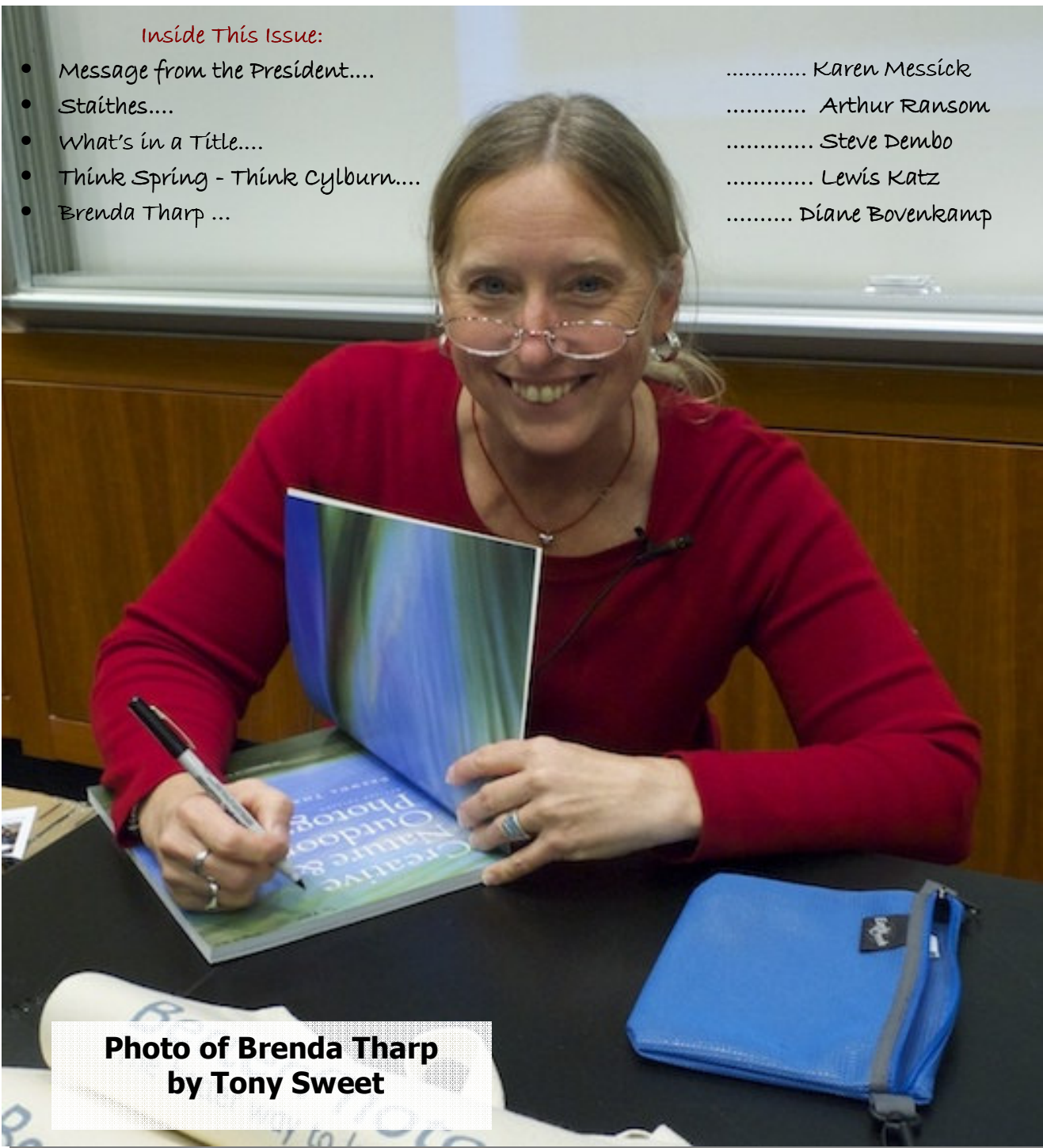
F o c a l P o i n t

April 2010

Inside This Issue:

- Message from the President....
- Staithes....
- What's in a Title....
- Think Spring - Think Cylburn....
- Brenda Tharp ...

..... Karen Messick
..... Arthur Ransom
..... Steve Dembo
..... Lewis Katz
..... Diane Bovenkamp



**Photo of Brenda Tharp
by Tony Sweet**



F o c a l P o i n t

FROM YOUR EDITOR:

If you didn't attend the Brenda Tharp Seminar, your loss! If you did attend I'm sure you'll agree it was inspiring. And Brenda's work is impressive. Included in this issue is a brief report by Dianne Bovenkamp and some photos but, you really had to be there. Get Brenda's book.

Also herein Arthur Ransom goes to visit family and brings back his typically awesome shots. Lewis Katz reports on the re-opening of Cylburn Park and Karen Messick delivers her *State of the Club* message. Your editor raises a question about titles. Plus more stuff. Welcome Spring !!!!!

Thanks to Arthur Ransom, Karen Messick, Tony Sweet, Diane Bovenkamp and Lewis Katz for their contributions this issue

BCC Gets Out



Gary Gets Out

Photo by Steve Dembo



F o c a l P o i n t

A Message from Your President

The BCC Is awesome!

Wow! Where do I start to talk about this year?I could just write another article on making images and share a few, but I really want to say, as we get close to the end of our competition year, what a year we are having!

We are topping 130 members with the last address list Michael has issued!

We have had many great member presentations as well as professional presenters.

We have had field mentor events and member shoots.

We have traveled to the beautiful Adirondacks in fall and have a late spring trip planned to Charlottesville, Virginia near the Shenandoah Valley.

We have just finished hosting Brenda Tharp for a one-day seminar, with great success! (We had 80 interested photographers attend, from as far away as Massachusetts, as well as three professional workshop photographers: Tony Sweet, John Barclay and Ed Heaton) We are getting prepared to put on our member-supported Camera School 2010.

We have had several mini-camera schools presented by volunteer members.

We continue to raise the bar in member photography with every contest. The images have been truly outstanding this year!

We are approaching the time where we select our board members for the coming year of September 2010-August 2011.

I sincerely want to thank our current board members for all their hard work and dedication to making the BCC the BEST!

I also want to thank all the volunteer members that have contributed substantial time, Bob Hansen, for greeting members and guests as they come in the door every week, Jim Eichelman for organizing and promoting our camera school events, Steve Dembo for producing the Focal Point as scheduled all year, Paul McKeown for

updating the website with all our changes and images, Don Vetter for Slide uploads to the Image Event site, Russell DeRose for keeping the contest records for all our members, Jeff Wolk for managing the Digital image contests and uploading the digital winners to the Image Event Site, Frank Bien for uploading the print images to the Image Event Site, John Davis for organizing the end of the year awards dinner, Gary Faulkner for organizing the Brenda Tharp event, Lewis Katz for organizing trips, Gordon Risk nominations committeeand the many other members who assist each week with club logistics of set up and take down.

The following members hold the board positions we need to fill for the upcoming year at this time:

Current Board Members:

President: Karen Messick
Vice President Programs: Steve Harman
Competition Chair: Karen Dillon
Secretary: Diane Bovenkamp
Treasurer: Michael Boardman
Member at Large: Rebecca Rothey
Member at Large: Carl Lancaster

We encourage members to throw their hat in the ring for nomination to a board position!

If you would like to serve on the Board of Directors in a certain capacity or as a member at large, for the Camera Club, please notify Gordon Risk: fullneg.gpr@verizon.net

Elections will be held as we progress toward the end of year. We always look for new ideas and new members to add their valuable ideas and input into the functions of the club!

Thank you for allowing me to serve the best camera club in the country!!!!!! For the last four years, or more???

I encourage your volunteerism!

Karen Messick
President Baltimore Camera Club



F o c a l P o i n t

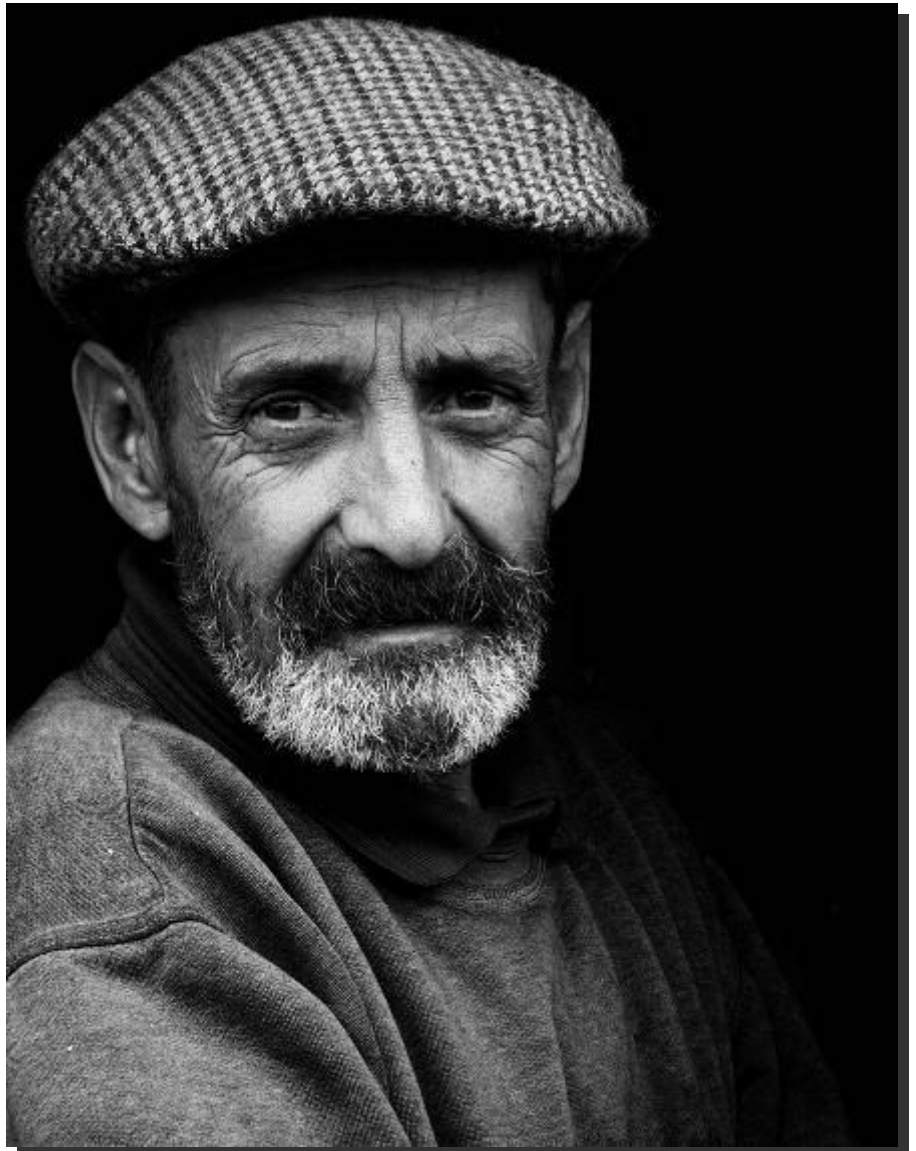
Staithes – A Living Fishing Village

Staithes – A Living Fishing Village

by Arthur Ransom

With names like Laverick and Pearson the God fearing inhabitants of Staithes, or “Stears” in the local dialect, can trace their ancestry back for many generations, with many still living in the same two up, two down cottages that form the haphazard layout of narrow, winding streets. Suspicious of outsiders and steeped in tradition and lore, their personalities are as rugged and abrupt as the cleft in the massive sea cliffs in which their village lies. The valley provides protection from the brutal North Sea that constantly batters the north east coast of England and also provides a safe harbor for the fishing industry that is its heritage. Fishing remains a way of life. My grandmother was born here and my uncle still lives here, maintaining a small fishing “cobble”, the style of boat suited to use in the unforgiving north sea.

www.aransomephoto.com





F o c a l P o i n t

Staithes – A Living Fishing Village





F o c a l P o i n t

Staithes – A Living Fishing Village





F o c a l P o i n t

Photography in Fiction

"Oh, he has his faults, too," said Mr. Wilson. "Never was such a fellow for photography. Snapping away with a camera when he ought to be improving his mind, and then diving down into the cellar like a rabbit into its hole to develop his pictures. That is his main fault, but on the whole he's a good worker. There's no vice in him."

Mr. Jabez Wilson to Sherlock Holmes in

The Red-Headed League

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



F o c a l P o i n t

What's in a Title



The Invisible Homeless Man



F o c a l P o i n t

What's in a Title (cont.)

The photograph above is titled ***The Invisible Homeless Man***. And it may take a second or two to discover why. There he is on the top right steps of the church. So what makes him invisible? Look at the people around him – those sitting on the steps or talking on the curb, even the man peering out of the church door. Several are taking a break from shoveling snow, a few are having a conversation but, they are all oblivious to the homeless man. To them he is “invisible”. Thus the title of this photograph.



Without a title would a viewer still “get it”? Is the photographer’s intent, the story recognizable? How does one choose a title? Is a title important? There has been debate about use of titles in competition. Some judges seem not to like them or find them misleading (?) and/or confusing. Perhaps this may be a good topic for the club’s forum.

What do you think?



F o c a l P o i n t

Brenda Tharp



Brenda Tharp signs her book
Photo by Karen Messick

Brenda Tharp – The Art In Photography

by Diane Bovenkamp

Brenda Tharp gave a splendid day-long workshop on Saturday, March 6th at Goucher College to 80 enthusiastic attendees. Brenda opened by defining the overarching goal of photography – “To create the most aesthetically-pleasing picture that you can, using all the tools that you have available.” She then clarified this statement with two paraphrased quotes from prominent photographers, Ernst Haas and Ansel Adams. Haas said that it’s the “photographer’s creativity and not equipment that makes the photos” and Adams said that “there is nothing more useless than a sharp photo of a fuzzy concept.” This set the stage for a catalogue of useful tips to help the attendees achieve these goals.



F o c a l P o i n t

Brenda Tharp

In a nutshell, the following are the messages emphasized by Brenda, giving not only examples from her own work, but also giving instructions on how to technically achieve similar results:

1. Use the Most Appropriate Light for the Subject
2. Use Design Elements (lines, shape and form, pattern and rhythm, texture)
3. Add Depth To Your Pictures (selective focus, near/far relationship, leading lines, frames)
4. Master the Art of Composition (proportion, balance, everything in the frame counts)
5. Include Motion and Moments for Impact (freeze action, moving water, reflection)
6. Play! Experiment with In-Camera and Computer-Aided Artistic Interpretations

She concluded by advising that every photographer should have a camera at all times to keep the creative juices flowing and technical abilities sharp and to be prepared for capturing important moments. The Baltimore Camera Club was fortunate to have secured Brenda Tharp for this year's workshop. For more information, visit www.BrendaTharpPhotography.com.



Seminar participants
Photo by Tony Sweet



F o c a l P o i n t

Think Spring – Think Cylburn

THINK SPRING - THINK CYLBURN

by Lewis Katz

Cylburn Arboretum is once again open after completing their new education center. The current hours are from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm daily - these will most likely be extended after the grand opening of the Vollmer Center on May 1st. For those who have never visited Cylburn it is a 200 acres oasis in northern Baltimore City located at the intersection of the JFK and Northern - the exact street address is 4915 Greenspring Avenue. Within the next week or so the early spring wildflowers will begin to bloom along the trails and the trees will begin to bud. I have included two images taken during early spring of 2008 and 2009.



Magnolia Blossom



F o c a l P o i n t

Think Spring – Think Cylburn



Cylburn March



F o c a l P o i n t

Classified

Epson printer for sale!

I have an Epson Stylus R1800 printer for sale - this is an excellent printer for those members eager to begin to learn the art of printing and to start entering our print competitions without having your work done commercially. It takes paper as large as 19" X 13" and as small as 4 X 6 snapshots. It uses 7 archival ink cartridges plus a gloss optimizer. It only takes 2 different black cartridges so this is a far better printer for color work than for black and white. All of the color work of mine that you have seen at the club came from this printer. I am asking 150.00 which includes the ink cartridges, delivery and set up at your house, installation and a brief lesson.

Please contact Lewis at 410-542-5719 or at basskatz@comcast.net.