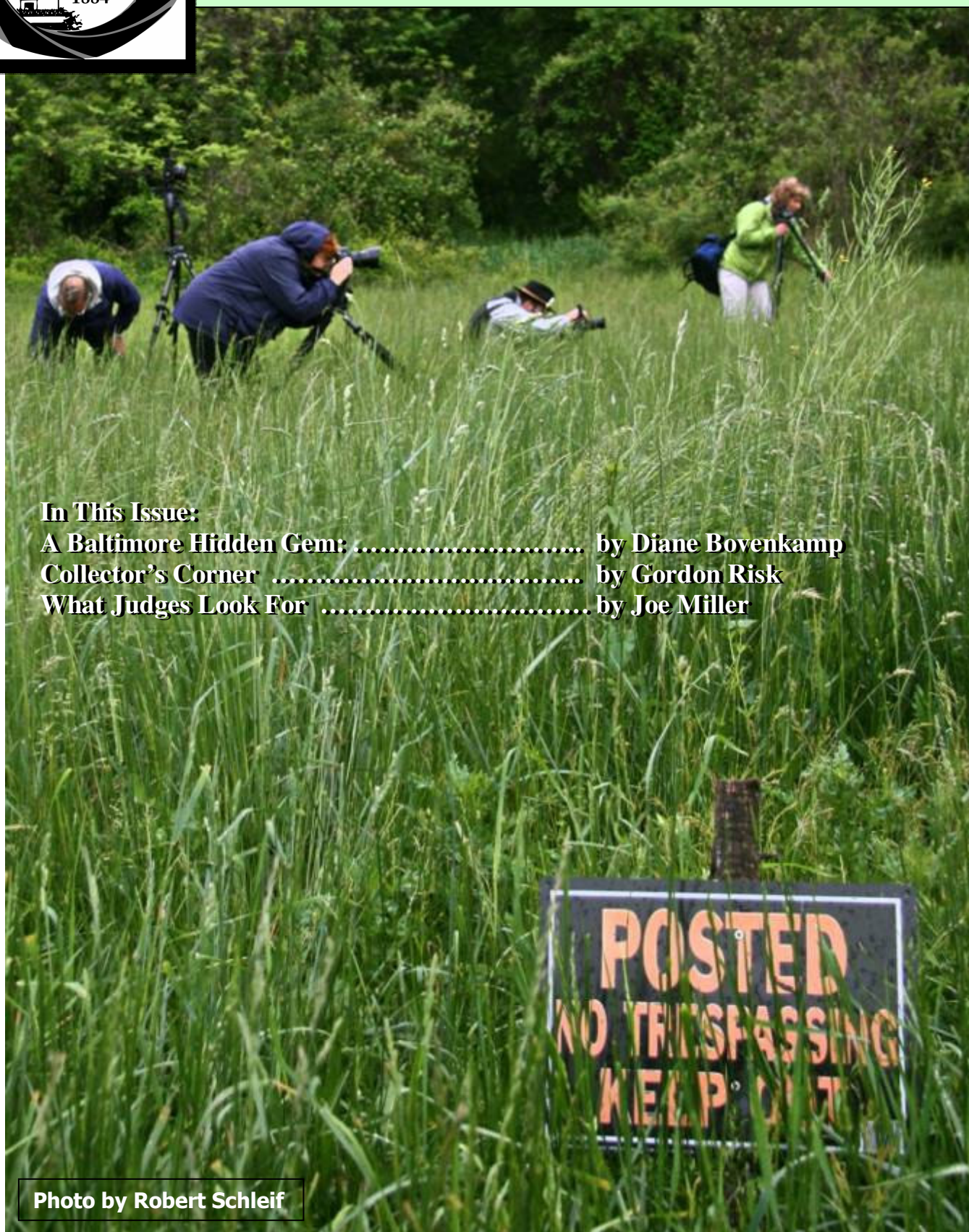




F o c a l P o i n t

November/December 2009



In This Issue:

A Baltimore Hidden Gem: by Diane Bovenkamp

Collector's Corner by Gordon Risk

What Judges Look For by Joe Miller

Photo by Robert Schleif



F o c a l P o i n t

FROM YOUR EDITOR:

Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays to all. Due to a variety of reasons this issue of your Focal Point will be a combined November and December / Holiday issue.

It's been a very interesting and productive year. Such great photos by our members made it extremely

difficult for competition judges to choose winners – the images were *that* good! Our members also won many awards and accolades outside the club setting, even being published in national magazines. Congratulations to everybody.

Remember: Please contribute articles and pictures!

Thanks to Robert Schleif, Diane Bovenkamp, Gordon Risk and Joe Miller for their contributions this month.

BCC Gets Out





F o c a l P o i n t

Hidden Gems

Look for Baltimore's Hidden Gems: Green Mount Cemetery

As the saying goes, "familiarity breeds contempt"...or at least breeds the tendency to overlook great parks, historical sites and local events that were already "under your nose." There are many hidden gems in the Baltimore area, including the subject of this impromptu member photo shoot.

For six years, I've been looking out of my downtown Baltimore apartment window and have wondered about the rather large cemetery that loomed in the distance. After a discussion with another Baltimore Camera Club member, I discovered that it's Green Mount Cemetery, one of the earliest rural or garden cemeteries in the United States (officially dedicated on July 13, 1839)! Many people buried there have had a large impact on the nation's history, including generals from the Civil War, A. Aubrey Bodine, Enoch Pratt, Johns Hopkins, Henry Walters, John Wilkes Booth, Allen Dulles, Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte, and others. Visit their website for more information:

<http://www.greenmountcemetery.com/index.html>



by Diane Bovenkamp

So, last Thursday, six BCC members decided to go to Green Mount, under cover of a foggy sky. Below is a 7 a.m. view of the cemetery and surrounding neighborhood from my apartment window. By the time the cemetery opened at 8 a.m. the fog had dissipated, but we were still lucky that it was a gloomy day, so that no harsh shadows would complicate our creativity.

The marble, bronze and stone statues and headstones lent themselves to monochrome compositions, whereas the remaining yellow- and red-leaved trees interspersed amongst the cemetery enhanced color shots. The following is a selection of photos from this visit.



Arthur Ransome, by Karen Dillon



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Hidden Gems (Cont.)



Karen Dillon Pauses to
Admire the Leaves in
Their Splendor
by Diane Bovenkamp

Jeffrey Wolk at Work
by Diane Bovenkamp





F o c a l P o i n t

Hidden Gems (Cont.)



Maria Drumm and Her Model, by Diane Bovenkamp

by Jeffrey Wolk



Eternal, by Diane Bovenkamp





F o c a l P o i n t

Hidden Gems (Cont.)



Mourning Bronze, by Karen Dillon



Taken Too Soon, by Diane Bovenkamp



F o c a l P o i n t

Hidden Gems (Cont.)

So, pretend like you're a tourist in your own neighborhood, go out and discover more of the "hidden gems" in the Baltimore area. I look forward to seeing your photos at future competitions and program member nights.



Framed Mourning, by Diane Bovenkamp



Voigtlander Ad from 1955 Popular Photography



F o c a l P o i n t

Collector's Corner (Cont.)



Superb 1933. Twin lens reflex. Film travels horizontally. Small prism reflects shutter speed settings for easy reading. Automatic parallax correction by swiveling finder lens.

Brilliant 1938. Twin lens reflex with gear coupled viewing and taking lens for focusing. Full-body-length opening cover for filter and extinction meter.



Prominent 1951. 35mm rangefinder camera for interchangeable lenses. Syncro-Compur leaf shutter. Ultron 50mm f/2 lens.

Vitessa "L" 1954. Unique 35mm camera with folding front "barn door" lens covers. The long plunger extending from the top cover winds the film and cocks the shutter. 50mm f/2 Ultron.

Bessa "R" 1997. Cosina made 35mm rangefinder. Manual shutter with built in exposure meter. Leica M39 screw mount. This model shows 21mm f/4 Color-Skopar lens with its own viewfinder mounted on top.



F o c a l P o i n t

A Frank Discussion

A Frank Discussion From Joseph Miller: Camera Club Competitions – What Judges Look For.

On October 29th, Joseph Miller gave BCC members a detailed and often humorous description of what Camera Club Competition Judges look for in an entry's "picture space," so that we can improve our photography and continue to earn honors for our work. Joseph has kindly provided us a copy of his presentation (reprinted following this introduction).

Joseph opened his presentation with a list of 26 reasons why judges eliminate photos from consideration for advancement. To narrow the entries to a manageable collection, judges first consider what is wrong with the image before they consider what is right. Joseph likened this to a demolition derby – the last image standing gets a prize. His list speaks for itself, but let me share a few of his humorous comments: "Violating the rule of thirds is like violating the Ten Commandments"; "Obviously DaVinci was not a member of a good camera club—the background in the Mona Lisa is distracting, especially the highlights that attract the eye"; "Use any color matte you want as long as it's white."; and "Use a print that fits the matte...A good print in a bad matte is like wearing a tuxedo with tennis shoes."

by Diane Bovenkamp

Joseph stated that Judges have four "Cs" concerning choices in Camera Club Competitions, and they can be summarized in the following equation: Craftsmanship + Composition + Creativity = Communication. In particular, the communication within the picture space has to be free-standing – judges don't care about what you had to do to take the photo, what memories that you have personally associated with the picture-taking event or what equipment was used.

Please continue to read Joseph Miller's full presentation below, but let me extract what I think are important lessons: Competitions are learning experiences; You should enter competitions primarily to share your work with others; If you don't win an award with one judge, enter your photo for consideration with another judge; and Aim to create photographs that you are proud of and that are felt rather than just seen. So, if you haven't yet entered a competition, now you have all of the information and inspiration that you need to start sharing your work with the Club! I look forward to seeing your masterpieces.

Mr. Miller's Comments follow:



F o c a l P o i n t

A Frank Discussion (Cont.)

Reasons Given by Judges To Eliminate Images

By Joseph Miller

No subject, no center of interest.

Subject not moving/looking into picture.

It needs a person.

No catch light in the eye(s).

Horizon in the center or not level.

Subject in center. Violates rule of thirds.

Leading line(s) lead to nowhere.

Building(s) falling over.

I have seen better sunrises, sunsets, etc.

There are more interesting images in this competition.

Light not good. Wrong time of day.

Not enough color, too much color, color not accurate.

Doesn't meet the theme.

Too busy/too dull. No wow factor.

Not in focus. Foreground not sharp.

Picture is over/under exposed.

Distracting background.

There is/are hot spot(s).

It's a snapshot image or it's a post card image or it's a calendar image.

Tonal range exceeds capability of film/sensor.

Even number of objects.

I don't know what it is.

I like/don't like dogs, cats, orange, etc.

Placement/Separation/Spacing.

Total presentation, including matting.

That's art. OUT!



F o c a l P o i n t

Kudos

Congratulations to the following members on their recent awards!

Maria Drumm and Diane Bovenkamp, had photos that received awards and honorable mention in the 2009 Mid-Atlantic Chapter of PSA competition that occurred on Saturday, Nov. 7th.

Jane McManus recently placed in the 2009 Annual Dorchester County Photography Show. Her entry entitled "Orange Mushrooms" placed 2nd among 100 entries. The show is held each year during the month of November in the Dorchester Center of the Arts.





F o c a l P o i n t

The Baltimore Camera Club Presents

The Baltimore Camera Club Presents a Photography Seminar by Brenda Tharp . .The *Art* in Photography. The *Art* in Photography . Seeing and Creating the Expressive Image

Photographers want to create images that have impact . whether it's to win awards, be remembered, or purely for the personal satisfaction of having created an artistic photograph. In this inspirational and information-packed one day seminar, Brenda will discuss the elements that can make a picture more expressive, and how to incorporate them in any image you are creating. Topics of this full day seminar will include:

Seeing the potential in a scene · Working with available light · Creating visual depth ·
Composing for impact · Capturing the moment · Incorporating motion · Beyond the postcard:
apply artistic interpretations using in-camera & in-computer techniques · Managing workflow
& digital files at home and on the road · Equipment essentials: what's in the bag and why.

Date and Location

Saturday March 6, 2010 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Kelley Hall on the Goucher College Campus, Towson, MD www.goucher.edu

Registration and Ticket Prices

Seminar Fee is \$80 in Advance (14 days prior), \$90 at the Door

. Make check payable to Baltimore Camera Club

. Mail to Baltimore Camera Club to the attention of Mr. Michael Boardman, 6217 Northwood Drive, Baltimore, MD 21212

. Tickets will be confirmed via e-mail with a confirmation number needed at the door.

About Brenda Tharp

Brenda is a nationally known photographer who specializes in both nature and the outdoors, and travel photography. She wrote and photographed *Creative Nature and Outdoor Photography* (2003), with a revision due out in March 2010. Brenda has written for Outdoor Photographer Magazine, Apogee.com, PhotoMigrations.com, and TakeGreatPictures.com., and she conducts international workshops and leads photography tours on her own and for various organizations (including BetterPhoto.com). Her photographs are in several private collections across the country and are widely used in books, calendars, greeting cards, and ads. She has been published in a wide variety of national magazines dealing in nature and travel photography, and her stock photographs are represented by Danita Delimont and Getty. For more information, visit her website, www.brendatharp.com.





F o c a l P o i n t

The Baltimore Camera Club Presents

The *Art* in Photography . Seeing and Creating the Expressive Image

March 6, 2010

Goucher College; Towson, MD (www.goucher.edu)

Registration Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

e-mail: _____

Telephone & Alternate Telephone : _____

Please mail checks to:
The Baltimore Camera Club
C/O Michael Boardman
6217 Northwood Drive
Baltimore, Maryland 21212-2802



Restaurants Near Goucher College:

http://www.mytravelguide.com/restaurants/near-66854105-United_States_Maryland_Baltimore_Goucher_College_restaurants.html

Hotels Near Goucher College:

<http://www.hotels-rates.com/hotels/locations/Baltimore/MD/usa/986/#trafficLogID=566610030&visited=true>