

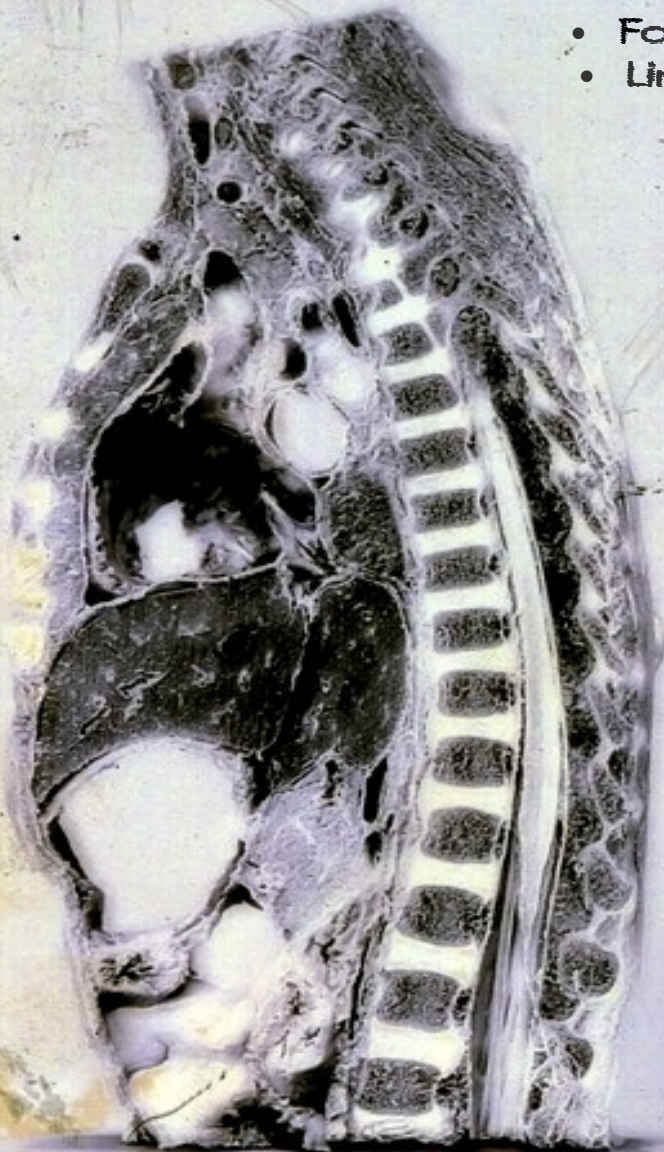


# F o c a l P o i n t

January 2009

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- Notes from the Field
  - Collector Corner
  - Camera School
- Focal Point Fillers
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# F o c a l P o i n t

**FROM YOUR EDITOR:** If you got past the cover page but are still a bit queasy about anatomy, you might want to skip this month's 'Collector's Corner', a new ongoing [?] column beginning on page five. But if you're interested in the history of photography and its usage, this article's for you.

If you have a particular photography related collecting interest let us hear from you. Your story and pics will be published in your Focal Point's Collector's Corner.

Information about the camera school will be found below. Spread the word – it's a great experience.

Check out Gary Faulkner's award winning photo

Thanks to Jim Eichelman, Gary Faulkner, Karen Dillon and Lewis Katz for their contributions this month.

## BCC Gets Out



Thanks to Jim Eichelman for this different but fabulous twist on a holiday lights pic





# F o c a l P o i n t

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

By Lewis Katz

**A** brave and intrepid crew of about 10 members did not let the 5 degree temperature stop them from our annual shoot of the "skim ice" along the banks of the Susquehanna. Although we were expecting the water level to be high we were excited upon arriving at our destination to find some of the ice present. Although not as spectacular as on previous outings we began to shoot as we became accustomed to the conditions. Unfortunately within about 10 to 15 minutes there was a water release and within minutes our ice has vanished beneath the river water. Although indescribable the sound of the ice sheets cracking is reason enough to venture out in the extreme cold.

Our next destination was a frozen "pond" located uphill from the mill. The "pond" turned out to be a small patch of meadow that had been covered with water and froze to a level of 3 or 4 inches thick. It did not take long for the macro lenses to be taken out and soon we were all finding interesting shots of vegetation etc. frozen right below the surface of the ice or laying on top of it.



Due to the thickness of the ice it was quite easy to walk on it to find your favorite image.

Our last stop was the confluence of Deer Creek and the Susquehanna. Upon walking to



the shore of Deer Creek my sharp eyes immediately observed a fascinating phenomenon called hoar frost which is frozen water vapor that collects on leaves, branches etc. as it rises from the surface of the water. Although our stomachs were growling we did spend about 15 to 20 minutes capturing this hoar frost. A caravan then headed to the Waffle House for a well deserved hearty breakfast.



# F o c a l P o i n t

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

**Future field shoots** – or camera runs as they were called by club members in the past – will include:

**February 7** – a shoot at the Gunpowder River. This will be an excellent opportunity to capture some winter reflections as well as icy, rushing water as it cascades through rock formations.

**March 7** – a day trip to Longwood Gardens for the Orchid Show.

**May 2** – a day trip to Shenks Ferry Preserve in Lancaster County. As Ian Plant indicated Shenks Ferry is one of the finest areas on the East Coast for early spring wildflower displays.

More details about all of the above outings will be available shortly. We are still considering a weekend (3 day/2night) spring trip which we usually do in May.

Destination suggestions will be gladly accepted via email to me at [basskatz@comcast.net](mailto:basskatz@comcast.net). Destinations should be within a 4 hour driving radius of the Baltimore area.

We have decided that our fall trip will be to the Adirondacks which may be reached by car – it is approximately an 8 hour drive – or via a quick Southwest flight to Albany and then a 2 hour drive via rental car. Details in regards to dates, accommodations etc. should be available within the next month or so.

In closing do not let the cold weather stop you from getting out and shooting. Hopefully we will have a bit of snow soon which just makes everything seem magical!





# F o c a l P o i n t

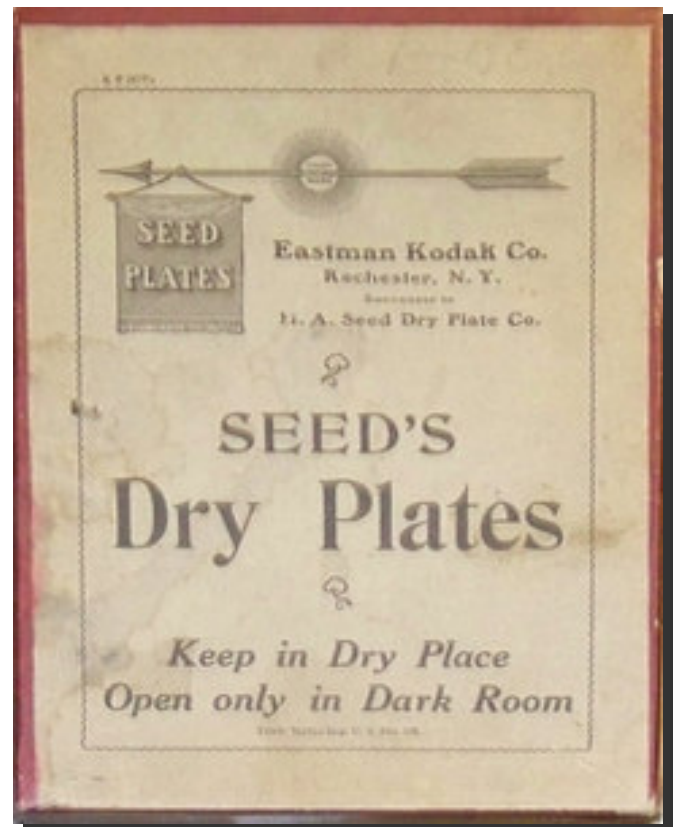
## Collector Corner

### Eastman's Gelatine Dry Plates

By Steve Dembo

In July 1879, in London, England, George Eastman patented a machine that could coat large numbers of glass plates evenly and efficiently, producing a higher quality dry plate. With the invention of the dry plate process the photographer no longer needed to bring along a tent and chemicals because the glass plates were already sensitized and could be developed later. Now the photographer only needed to take the camera, tripod, and box of glass plates.

The Eastman Kodak company sold sensitized glass plates under the original name of the *Dry Plate Company*. More than a dozen other companies selling sensitized dry plates included M. A., Seed, Carbutt, Cramer, and Agfa. In order to have a large share of the market Eastman bought out his competitors.



[Info from EastmanHouse.org, the web site of the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film <http://www.eastmanhouse.org/>] and [http://education.eastmanhouse.org/discover/kits/picture\\_detail.php?id=7&page=5](http://education.eastmanhouse.org/discover/kits/picture_detail.php?id=7&page=5)

The images on the next few pages are a sampling of the scans from a set of approximately twenty glass plate images of human anatomical sections. I received these from an antiques dealer years ago. [ed]





# F o c a l P o i n t

## Collector Corner (cont.)

Straight scan of the glass negative



Converted to positive image in PhotoShop



Actual size is slightly  
under 5x7 inches



# F o c a l P o i n t

## Collector Corner (cont.)



The image at left is a straight scan of a glass negative. the scan above was converted, via PhotoShop, to a positive image





# F o c a l P o i n t

## Camera School For 2009

**D**ates have been set for Baltimore Camera Club's 2009 annual Camera School. This annual event presents a unique opportunity to expand your photographic knowledge, post-processing skills and field techniques. Please join us on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 2009 for classroom instruction and on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 2009 for the Field Shoot. The Saturday sessions will be held at Mt. Washington United Methodist Church, 5800 Cottonworth Avenue in historic Mount Washington, located just off Falls Road.

The Saturday morning sessions will discuss composition, decisions one makes shooting in the field, exposure (including ISO, aperture and shutter speed), lens selection and effective use of camera settings. The afternoon will be devoted to Photoshop. There will be several groups at different skill levels. You will be sure to fit into the sessions from beginner to expert and learn the latest in image processing techniques. Lunch will be provided on Saturday and be accompanied by an informal discussion on how to use your camera and, time permitting a photo critique.

The Sunday session will be devoted to a hands-on location shoot with our experts. Learn how to make more compelling images and get the most from your camera and lenses. The location for Sunday's session will be determined at a later date and have an alternate site for inclement weather.

The sessions can be attended individually or as a package with a discount. If you are not a member, join now for more savings.

Here are some comments from last year's participants discussing their learning experiences:

- The sessions helped me look at subjects more closely and with a different perspective.
- In the "Seeing" session, I learned more detail about metering and exposure compensation.
- I was inspired to go out, practice what I learned and have fun.
- Now I can take my camera off automatic and programmed modes.
- I learned how to see and observe an environment that I want to photograph.
- For macro photography you want to be parallel to the subject and watch the background for distractions.

Finally when we asked "Would you recommend someone to attend a future BCC Camera School event?" To a person, the answer was a resounding YES!!!. Do not miss this once a year opportunity. The registration page is on the next page and the Baltimore Camera Club website. Hope to see you there.

**Jim Eichelman**





Five  
Possible  
Options

## Camera School

**Saturday April 25, 2009**

8:30 AM – 1:30 and/or 12:30 – 5:30 PM

- ◉ **The Art of Seeing -Includes Composition and Shooting Decisions in the Field**
- ◉ **Exposure, Photography Basics and Effectively Using Your Camera**
- ◉ **Lunch/Chat (box lunch provided)**
- ◉ **Photoshop Image Processing - 3 Skill Levels - Beginner to Expert**

## Field Shoot

**Sunday April 26, 2009**

7:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Join our field experts at a local site and learn how to shoot in the field, create powerful images and get the most from your camera and lenses.**

## Camera Seminars Saturday and Field Workshop Sunday

The Baltimore Camera Club is proud to offer this exciting opportunity to expand your photographic knowledge and offer some great in-the-field techniques for creating and improving your image making. Hands-on how to better use your camera during Sunday's field shoot.

# Camera School

Get the Most Out of Your  
Digital and Film Cameras  
**AM Session**

**AND  
OR**

Photoshop  
Beginners to Expert  
**PM Session**

**AND / OR**

# Field Shoot

**Classroom Location:**

**Mt. Washington United Methodist Church**

5800 Cottonworth Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209

Just off of Falls Road | Free Parking | Details on Web site

**Field Workshop Location: To be determined (with indoor location for inclement weather)**



BALTIMORE CAMERA CLUB

www.baltimorecameraclub.org 410-337-2939

**Space limited. Sign up now to reserve your place by mailing your check to:**

Mr. M. Boardman  
6217 Northwood Drive  
Baltimore MD 21212

Make checks payable to:  
The Baltimore Camera Club

Return this form with your payment:

### Baltimore Camera Club 2009 • AM and PM Camera Seminars and Field Workshop

Check off Options for N (Non-Member) or M (Member) and enter total below.

Memberships purchased now are reduced for the balance of 2009 year ending August 2009, Optional with Camera school sign up.

<input type="checkbox"/> N - \$20.00	Baltimore Camera Club Membership for current non-members with any following choices (Optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> N - \$45.00 <input type="checkbox"/> M - \$35.00	AM Camera School, Saturday 8:30-1:30
<input type="checkbox"/> N - \$120.00 <input type="checkbox"/> M - \$100.00	All Three Sessions - AM and PM Camera School, Saturday, and Field Shoot, Sunday	<input type="checkbox"/> N - \$45.00 <input type="checkbox"/> M - \$35.00	PM Camera School, Saturday 12:30-5:30
<input type="checkbox"/> N - \$75.00 <input type="checkbox"/> M - \$65.00	AM and PM Camera School, Saturday	<input type="checkbox"/> N - \$45.00 <input type="checkbox"/> M - \$35.00	Field Shoot, Sunday

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_



# F o c a l P o i n t

## Focal Point Fillers

### Rule of Thumb The Sunny f/16 "Rule"

By Karen Dillon

Learning to shoot in manual mode seems mysteriously complicated to many photographers. But having a place to start can get you easily on your way to experimenting without learning complicated calculations.

In camera-work we have three basic variables to control: aperture, shutter speed and ISO. The Sunny f/16 Rule says, simply, if it's sunny and you set the lens aperture to f/16 then your shutter speed should be 1/ISO for an average exposure. For example, you've loaded ISO 200 film (or set your digital ISO at 200) to shoot a picnic in the park. In manual mode, set your aperture to f/16 and your shutter speed to 1/200<sup>th</sup> of second. The picnickers enjoying their crab cakes and corn on a grassy lawn in bright sunlight (an average scene) should be acceptably exposed. This works at any ISO when you set the shutter speed as close as possible to the "film speed"—at ISO 100 use 1/100 second, at ISO 400 use 1/400 second (or 1/125 and 1/500 second if using a film or other camera that can not match the ISO exactly).

But what if it's cloudy? Using Sunny f/16 as a starting point you know that cloudiness takes away light so the camera needs to collect more light to get a good exposure. You'll change one of your three variables: aperture, shutter speed or ISO. You can open your lens to let in more light by changing your aperture to f/8 or f/5.6 and so on. Or you can leave your aperture at f/16 and slow your shutter speed by a stop or two to 1/100 or 1/60 of a second.

Or, if you're shooting digital, you can change your ISO to a higher speed such as 400 or 800. (You can also change more than one variable at a time but I suggest learning by changing only one setting at a time to start.)

And what if my camera club drags me out to shoot ice on the Susquehanna? If ISO 100, at f/16 and 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a second will give you an average exposure of an average scene in bright daylight, what will happen in brighter light at those settings? Ice, snow and sand reflect nearly all the light that hits them, that's why they appear white to our eyes. Using the Sunny f/16 rule as a starting point you can make adjustments to limit the amount of light hitting the film or camera sensor by decreasing your aperture (to f/64 for example) or increasing the shutter speed (1/400, 1/1000, etc.). Experiment by shooting a bright scene using Sunny f/16 then vary the settings to keep the snow white without overexposing and losing detail. For comparison, also try shooting a the scene on fully automatic, letting the camera meter and choose the exposure and see what happens.

Once you know the Sunny f/16 "Rule" you have a place to start experimenting with manual exposure. With digital cameras you can immediately check your results using your histogram and experiment with different settings on location. Through experimentation you may come to better understand your camera and begin to intuitively read the light around you.

1.4 2.0 2.8 4 5.6 8 11 16 32 64 128





# F o c a l P o i n t

## Toot Your Own Horn Dept.

By Gary Faulkner

Although it's not like me to "toot" my own horn I am happy to report that I exhibited at the First Annual Exhibit of The National Arts Program for Johns Hopkins Medicine, November 5 – December 31, 2008.



This image (Below) won the Bodine Award for Best B&W a few years ago at the End of Year Competition.

Thanks for listening!  
Gary Faulkner







# F o c a l P o i n t

## WEB Links of Interest

(This section will list links to web sites that may be of interest to *Focal Point* readers. Feel free to submit your favorites [ed])

Thanks to Gordon for sending the link to this really neat site. "Found this site while looking for lens hoods. It is free to download templates to make paper hoods".

<http://www.lenshoods.co.uk/>

From Karen M: "Here are some cool blog links we can add for folks to check out, follow these professional photographers in their field.

<http://www.johnpaulcaponigro.com/wordpress/>

<http://josephrossbachphoto.wordpress.com/>

[http://web.me.com/tonysweetphoto/tonysweet\\_blog/Blog/Blog.html](http://web.me.com/tonysweetphoto/tonysweet_blog/Blog/Blog.html)

Here is the link to *Digital Camera Magazine* – a very useful, well produced publication from Great Britain. It can be found at local book stores but, it is expensive. Each issue's CD of tutorials however, may make it worth the price:

<http://poty2008.dcmag.co.uk/3913562627364105497/the-magazine.html>

Here is National Geographic's "Your Shot" link. Go ahead and upload a photo. It might get recognized by *National Geographic Magazine* (one of mine did [ed])

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/your-shot/your-shot>

Ian Plant, the guest speaker at our Jan 15, has a great new web site. He shares it with several other amazing photographers and previous club presenters:

<http://mountaintrailphoto.com/>

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**That's it for this month. Thanks to all who contributed!**