

VIEWFINDER



Vol 49 No5

February 2010



Image of the Month

“Wondering”

© Nicola Bilic

Competition Results: Creative

Congratulations to all the winners! – All winning images can be viewed on the ECC web site

Intermediate: Entries: 50 Accepted: 50		Average: 20.1
GOLD	ELAINE FREEDMAN	Toronto Air Show
SILVER	CHRISTINE KOBIELSKI	Spooked Stump (High Park)
HM	SANDRA LAURIN	“Pairs of Pears”
HM	CLYDE ETKINS	Millennium Beam
HM	ELAINE FREEDMAN	Bug's-Eye View
HM	JUNE WEST	Portals
HM	IRENE BARTON	National Art Gallery Spider
HM	BRUCE BARTON	ROM's Crystal Ice and Blonde Fire
HM	ANDREA CHARTRAND	Tea Party

Advanced: Entries: 47 Accepted: 47		Average: 19.0
GOLD	MICHEL GAGNON	Impressions of Lucie
SILVER	TONY PAINE	Bountiful Venus of Wall Street
HM	JEAN WALKER	Study in Red II
HM	MICHEL GAGNON	Baby's got blue eyes
HM	TONY PAINE	Blooming Iris
HM	JUDY ROE	Florida Oranges Please Squeeze
HM	KENNETH HARRY	The Bermuda Triangle
HM	MICHEL GAGNON	Holy Popping Poppy
HM	JANET PATTERSON	Wintree Hill
HM	JEAN WALKER	I have hung them up
HM	JUDY ROE	JACKPOT

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Superset: Entries: 61 Accepted: 61		Average: 20.2
GOLD	NIKOLA BILIC	Wondering
SILVER	JOE VITALE	Dreaming about Flying
HM	JUDY GRIFFIN	IF THE WALLS COULD TALK
HM	JUDY PUCHER	Tale of a Town Turned Symmetrical
HM	JULIAN SALE	Figure It Out If You Can
HM	MIKE FANJOY	Some Assembly Required
HM	NIKOLA BILIC	Inflation
HM	DIANE SAWATZKY	Sketch of Jenna
HM	JUDY PUCHER	Brainstorm Meeting, Coral Style
HM	KENT WILSON	DAISY
HM	MAGGIE SALE	The X Factor
HM	MIKE FANJOY	Earth Child
HM	JOE VITALE	Reaching the Moon
HM	JULIAN SALE	Out Standing
HM	MIKE FANJOY	The Other Side
HM	NIKOLA BILIC	Overheated

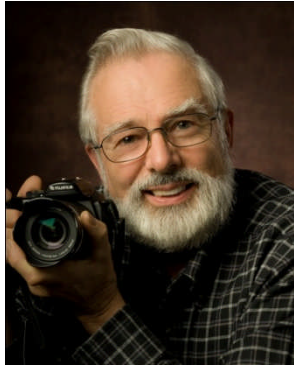
Judges: Ellen Anger Gerda Grice Wayne Johnson



Gold Intermediate "Toronto Air Show" © Elaine Freedman



Gold Advanced "Impressions of Lucie" © Michel Gagnon

MEMBERS SHOW**The U.S. West Coast***By Mike Marshall*

Mike started with a couple of short shows from previous outings – one to Rattray Marsh and the second to the Toronto Zoo. A great idea and a good way of showing new members what fun these outings can be. Then Mike shared with us a trip to

China during Christmas 2003. Mike ended with a show on the southwest coast of the USA from a trip in 2008.

Here is a sampling of comments from the survey:

- I always enjoy Mike's humour which was especially evident in the two outings shows. Great idea putting together a show about our outings - it will show new members what fun it can be. I enjoyed China (Part 1) just as much the second time around. What a fascinating country. I liked the real life street photography style of many images. They gave one a true feel for the country and it's people. I liked San Francisco images the best in Mike's last show of the Southwest Coastal USA. Although I like Jazz I thought the music was a bit loud in places. Overall I enjoyed Mike's shows, especially his off-the-wall sense of humour.
- Mike's shows are fun and his music is fun. He is a sweetie. I would make an effort to see his shows.
- It's great to see pictures from some of the outings as they show members having a great time. I loved the jazz music since it was so different from the soft ethnic moods on the travel shows. As always, Mike has an interesting way of saying things that enhanced the presentations. Well done.
- Enjoyed shows on our outings. Since I missed both, they encouraged me to visit these places myself. I found the China show a bit repetitive--many shots through keyhole arches, people on motorcycles, etc. Not sure how to correct this problem, while still maintaining the narrative

structure of the trip. Maybe something about China Then and Now. The Southwest Coast shots were quite dramatic, at least around Carmel. I liked the sequence on the pine tree with the sun setting.

- As always, Mike had us chuckling with his offbeat and entertaining commentary, that is when we weren't busy tapping our toes to his lively choice of music. Slice-of-life shots and helpful context images nicely balanced all the beautiful landscapes and floral closeups. Lots of fun, and some great images too!
- It is always great to see what the members can do and are interested in -- an important part of club activity. If I were to leave one point for Mike to consider in the future it would be that the photos went by a little too quickly to even register for long. Partly this was because there were too many, but also because some were repetitive (a sunset from several vantage points was particularly jarring because the perspective kept changing). A bit tighter editing for shows of the same length would improve their viewability. The jazz was great and people all around me were tapping their feet.
- I liked all of them. Not every shot was terrific but who cares? Kept my attention, good music, honest photos...what's not to like ?
- It was really fun and, as a newcomer, let me get to know Mike a little bit. Suggestion Mike - I would like to have let my eyes rest on the images a few more seconds. The timing between the pictures in the slide show seemed too short to me. Thanks for all your work putting together the shows.
- Always clever and humorous!

OUTING**Toronto Zoo**

See the end of Viewfinder for collage of images from this outing sent in by Gerry Sewell, Judy Roe, Carolyn Francis-Scobie and Kas Stone.

SEMINAR**Digital Camera Essentials**

By Michael Willems



Light, Composition, and Moment. That's what makes a photo. So does *Subject Definition, Getting Attention, and Picture Simplification.* And so does "*f/8 and be there*". A photo can be made, and analyzed, in many different ways.

But all of them have one requirement in common: **knowing your equipment.** And that is where many pros and aspiring pros need help.

Pro photographer Michael Willems helps people know their equipment and how best to use it. He and his partners are experienced teachers who teach photography workshops aimed at amateur photographers at venues like Henry's School of Imaging: They *love* to teach and are very good at it. They also lecture widely.

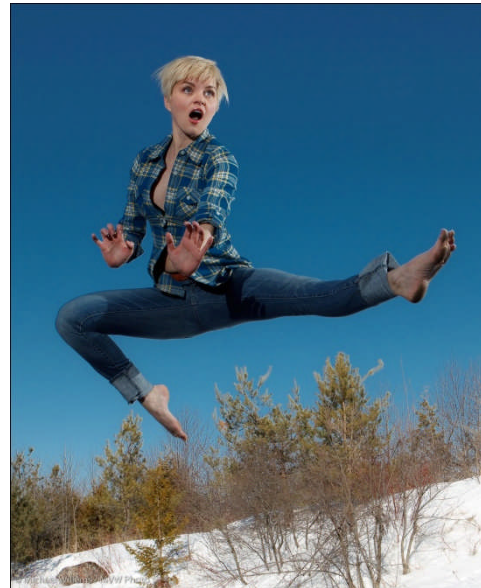
Michael is a long-time business executive and Canon shooter who has worked in 33 countries, who shoots for newspapers, who specializes in events, who is a member of David Honl's Round Table, and who wrote and teaches the popular workshops including "An Introduction to Travel Photography".

Check his various websites for further information:
<http://www.cameratraining.ca/Home.html>
www.michaelwillems.ca
<http://blog.michaelwillems.ca>
www.mvwphoto.com



Professional Photography Service
Featuring Michael Willems

© Michael Willems



© Michael Willems

Here is a sampling of comments from the survey:

- Very informative and educational - to improve for me would be fewer subjects and more depth.
- His ease of integrating the audience comments into the perfect flow of his presentation.



© Michael Willems

- Michael's presentation was an excellent introduction for people who are new to digital photography, and a great refresher for people who know (or think they know) it all already. He presented an enormous amount of material, covering key elements of focus, exposure and colour, somehow making it all seem quite simple. What's more, he did so in a lively and humorous style that made the learning experience great fun. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and will definitely investigate his more advanced workshops in flash photography.

- I would appreciate a copy of his visual relating aperture to shutter speed and the one with Sunshine in the title. Perhaps as a download
- Well done. A very good evening overall. I appreciated that he had a time table and tried to stick to it and apologized for going overtime. Not that I minded, but other presenters would do well to take a page from his book regarding time management. Best night so far this year!
I am now motivated to finally experiment with my camera and will hopefully, produce better quality images



© Michael Willems

- I would like to have notes. I wonder if they might be on his site. Great. Have him back to discuss flash techniques. Images were good, you could tell he knew the subject matter and had done this before ... more than once ...
- We need to have more presenters like this.
- Superb speaker: knowledgeable, personable, on topic, to the point, handled questions well. Have Michael back anytime - a travel photography presentation would be super.
- Michael is an excellent presenter who really connects with his audience on multiple levels. Thoroughly enjoyable and useful information and presentation.
- Bring him back!

SEMINAR

Creating an Audio Visual Show

By Stan Bain, Toronto Digital Photo Club



Stan Bain is a retired Family Physician living near Flesherton, Ontario. He became seriously interested in photography through workshops with Freeman Patterson in the 1980's and was encouraged to join the

Toronto Guild for Photographic Art where he is a Life Member. His photographs have been honoured in competitions among the Greater Toronto Camera Clubs and in national and international competitions. He has prepared an extensive selection of photo essays on his travels throughout Canada, the southern United States, Central America, Europe and Africa. as well as a book containing his photographs and poetry, printed in a limited edition. He has given seminars to judges for the GTCCC on pictorial and photo essay judging and has judged at international photo essay competitions. He is also a member of the Toronto Focal Forum where photographic prints are presented to the select membership. His prints are also on display at the Gallery de Boer in Owen Sound.

His wife Joan is an ardent birder, nourishing and identifying birds passing through the valley to and from their winter habitat. What began as "record shots" has become more of a challenge, and has inspired trips to Sanibel, the Everglades, and Trinidad, Botswana and Kenya, where we are both in our element.



© Stan Bain

Stan does not hesitate to use Photoshop to truthfully and accurately interpret the scene for the viewer to best see and understand the subject.

Photo Essays — By Stan Bain

Andy asked me to present a seminar on how I prepare my AV shows. I'm not going to go into the details of Photo Gold or Producer other than indicate where specific techniques are useful. Because there are a number of basic issues to consider other than technology. For the technology, I would highly recommend the Official Guide to Pro Show published by Photodex.

We should be asking the same question as we do before opening the shutter of our camera "why am I taking this photograph?" What am I trying to show? How do I feel about this image? How best can I communicate this to an audience?

The format you choose for a photo essay will depend on the answer to these same questions - the content of the images and the purpose of the essay - to inform or instruct, to entertain, to inspire for a cause, to convey emotion about a subject. I try to keep the purpose in mind throughout the show.

The style may be factual, allegorical, magical, using tried and true dissolves of the old multiple Kodak projection or the latest Pro Show technology.



© Stan Bain

- Let's begin with the type of AV most of us start with- images from a particular trip or to show scenes from around home mainly informative or entertaining. I was asked to do a show for Country images CC recently. The choice of music is important and if possible I prefer on single composition rather than splicing several different pieces. What was the composer trying to convey? The single composition should have variations in keeping with changes in the show. By grouping the images according to the seasons I attempted to do this.

Show Title "Country images"

- I have chosen a series of photo essays as examples, some scanned from slides taken decades ago and some taken digitally just recently. Some, like the first 2, were taken at the same site though each has a different purpose and style. The first of these, The Leaf, is allegorical, the second was inspired by Diana Krall.

Show Title "The Leaf and Cry me a river."

- My wife Joan is an ardent birder and arranged a trip to Trinidad a few years ago. I learned a lot and became a convert. This show is I hope both informative and humourous.

Show Title "Birding in Trinidad"

- I was asked by the Oshawa CC to do a show on the use of water glass. With many images that I had collected over the years I experimented using Pro Show producers motion technique combined with different dissolves.

Show Title "Waterglass."

- Again an example of same sites, seascapes for the Pacific rim and those from the Oregon coast, The romantic music and voice of Renee Fleming suggested framing the show with an image of our daughter and her husband sailing. The second show, Wind that blows from the sea, reflects the sound on the Oregon coast as a seafarer's home.

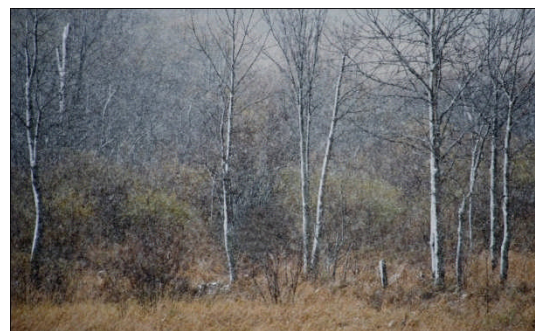
Show Title "Come Sail Away and Wind that Blows from the Sea"

- I still love the music from the Louis Prima era, and his version of That Old black Magic suggested using the early technology of Pro Show Gold as goofy entertainment.

Show Title "Old Black Magic"

- A choice between narration or script on screen. Sometimes I have found poetry expresses more of how I feel about the purpose of the essay. While I have tried to change my voice or accent for some shows, I think some may tire of hearing the same voice show after show.

Show Title "Death Valley and After the Rain"



© Stan Bain

- Years ago when my daughter lived in Saskatchewan, I borrowed her car and ambled around the back roads of the prairie trying to appreciate what the life on a prairie farm would be like. Sometime just a change in voice or dialect affects the mood of the show.

Show Title "A Prairie Farm"

9. The variety of faces in a French marketplace caught my attention. To capture some of the excitement and activity I shortened the time each image remained on the screen and used a cut dissolve.

Show Title "Market"

10. Some of you may remember the Dr. Seuss story about the Sneetches. One of our neighbours down highway 10 has an Alpaca farm where I spent a lovely summer afternoon photographing these lovely animals. Here's the Alpaca story.

Show Title "The Alpaca Story"

11. Several years ago it was raining in Whistler and the forecast for the next few days showed no change. The weather on the other side of the pacific range was much better. The road through the mountain range followed the old trail on the gold route to Lillooet in the Okanagan valley. The landscape along the way brought home some of the difficulties faced by these pioneers. Poetry with the meter of Robert Service seemed to capture some of this feeling and the allegory of reward not being gold itself was the story I wanted to tell.

Show Title "Road to Lillooet"



© Stan Bain

A sampling of comments from survey:

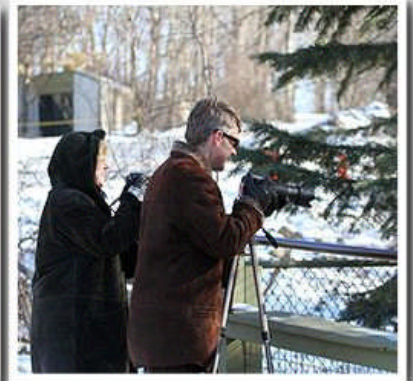
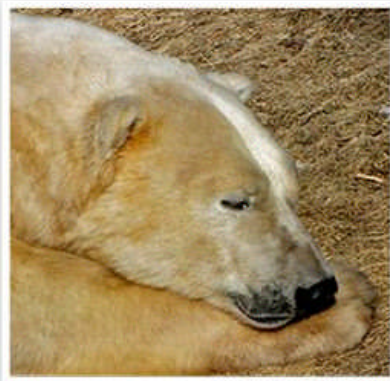
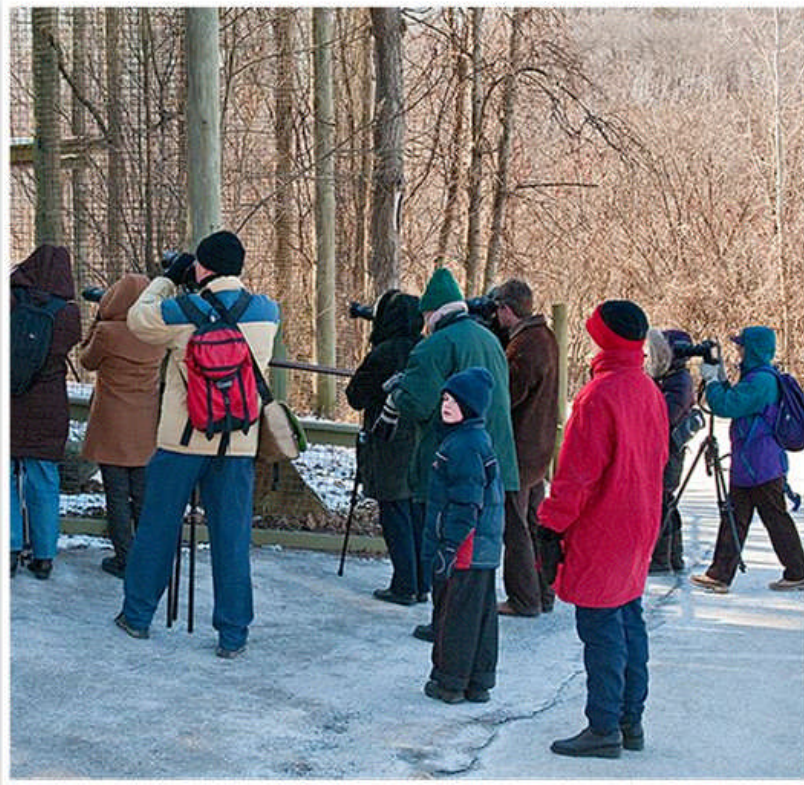
1. Hope we bring him back!!!
2. Stan's presentation may have lacked the practical How-To information that some of us were expecting, but for anyone open to Learning-by-Example, it was an education extraordinaire. Not that many of us are actually capable of creating miniature masterpieces like Stan's, with gorgeous

images, original poetry, clever commentary (including accents!), great wit, perfectly-suited music, amazing variety, and imaginative production to put it all together. But the inspiration value was enormous, and made me want to come right home and launch ProShow Gold to create my own small masterpiece. It was definitely worth braving the miserable weather to see the show!

3. I found the images excellent. I enjoyed his photo essays very much. I found that Stan Bain has a real passion for photo essays. I was able to see this passion in his work. From this presentation, I learned that it is better to talk in your show than to have written words on your images.
4. Good for a fun night out but do not expect to learn much.
5. The photo essays were fantastic. I was expecting more on the "how to" but was not disappointed as I really enjoyed the evening.
6. A very inspirational evening by a very creative photographer and gifted poet.
7. His shorts presented excellent photography with intriguing effects. It was disappointing that he gave no follow up re. techniques & process. The evening had little educational purpose.
8. Would have liked there to have been more of an explanation about the software, cost, level of difficulty etc
9. Stan is a real artist in so many ways. His photos, his poems and his recorded expression were fantastic!
10. It is always fun to have Stan Bain present at the club, as his creativity seems to know no bounds. He treats us to such a span of themes, from funny to sad, romantic moods and noble thoughts to everyday life. He gave important advice about fleshing out the idea of the show with proper music and narration or script, and keeping the images to that theme.

NEWS / TIPS / INFO

CAPA RESULTS –Individual Competition. - **"Three of a Kind"**. Congratulations to Sandra and Bob Hawkins who each received an Honourable Mention award in the competition.



Toronto Zoo Outing – February 2010