



SNAPSHOT

Newsletter of the Hermanus Photographic Society
March 2016

President's report



Often change is perceived as threatening, and inherently we fear it. Will things be better or worse and will this be an improvement or a complete disaster?

The only way to find out is to actually take a leap of faith, cross your fingers, call on your guardian angels or whatever, and confront the situation.

The club is in a situation where change and adjustment are needed, and we will have to consider our options at the special general meeting convened

for Thursday 17 March at 7:00.

I call on all members to put a bit of thought into what they want from this club and to bring their ideas to the table. Negativity is not a solution, just an irritation.

So please put on your thinking caps. With a positive attitude we can pull this off and make our club a great experience for all. Hope to see you all there.

Thea

Special General Meeting

A special general meeting has been convened for Thursday 17 March to formally discuss the future direction of the Hermanus Photographic Society in view of its dwindling membership and of perceptions that there are too many rules and regulations.

This was announced at the monthly meeting on Wednesday 2 March by Society President Thea Erasmus.

These and other issues were initially raised in an open and lively discussion at the annual general meeting in February.

Thea welcomed three new members, André Minnaar, Daniel Reddie and Anne Mapham, to the Society.

FynArts exhibition

President Thea Erasmus announced at the March monthly meeting that the Society will participate in Hermanus FynArts from 10 to 19 June by presenting an exhibition of selected prints.

She encouraged members to start working on new prints to submit for the exhibition, which will be called "What a beautiful world". The venue will be the Herman Swart Hall in the Dutch Reformed Church.

Salon successes



Treurnicht du Toit was awarded a Certificate of Merit for his entry (left) at the Third Photographic Society of South Africa International Digital Salon.

Another 6 of his entries were also

accepted at this salon. They were among 65 acceptances at 9 salons, while Linda Kotzenberg had an acceptance at the Beachcombers salon.

'Any bird will do'

That is the title of the set subject for April. Members may interpret it as widely as they wish. (Details under "Next meeting" below.)

The set subject is linked to this month's outing to Stanford on Sunday the 13th, which will be a straightforward exercise in conventional bird photography - weather permitting. (Details under "Next outing" below.)

Also linked to the subject was a talk on bird photography given at the March meeting by Gerhard Vosloo.

He emphasized the value of a good-quality camera and lens, and suggested some settings for birds, depending on whether they are sitting or flying.



An example of good conventional bird photography - The winning entry by Melissa Groo in the 2015 bird photography contest of the US publication 'Audubon Magazine'. The image is of a Great Egret.

Here are eight more basic bird photography tips, by Steve Berardi of Photo Naturalists, posted by the New York Institute of Photography:

Photographing birds can be really frustrating. They never seem to sit still for even a second, and if you get too close, they'll just fly away.

It may also seem like you always need a longer lens.

But, luckily, there are a few things you can do to increase your chances of getting a good bird photo:

1. Photograph them in direct sunlight

Photographing birds in direct sunlight helps for two reasons: it gets you a faster shutter speed and it creates even lighting on the bird. The faster shutter will help you freeze the action of the bird (since they don't sit still for long), and the even lighting will help you avoid getting those harsh shadows that hide detail in the bird's feathers.

2. Wait patiently for them to fly to you

Birds will almost always fly away if you get too close to them, so instead wait for them to come to you. If you wait patiently long enough, then birds will often land just a few feet away from you, once they realize you're not a threat (and if you stand somewhat still).

3. Use your car as a blind

One way to mask your movement from a bird is to use a blind (hide), and your car can be perfect for that. When you're on your way to a hike or other event, keep your camera close by just in case you see a bird. Then, just roll down the window and take a few shots. Birds will rarely fly away from a car (unless of course you're about to hit them!).

4. Enable continuous shooting and take lots of shots

Since birds like to move around so much, it's helpful to take a lot of shots to ensure you photograph the bird when it is standing still in a nice pose. Make sure you enable continuous shooting on your camera, so you can rapidly shoot photos.

5. Focus on their eyes

The viewer of your photograph will first look at the eyes of the bird, so it's important to get the eyes perfectly sharp. To help you do this, set your camera's autofocus point to the center spot.

6. Avoid sudden movements

Birds are very sensitive to your movement, so to avoid scaring them away, don't make any sudden movements. Even slow and steady movements will often scare them away too, so again, the best thing to do is wait for them to fly to you.

7. Set your lens to autofocus on farther objects

Most longer lenses have a switch that controls the distance that the autofocus will search at (near or far). So, with birds, since you're photographing something far away, make sure this switch is set to focus on far objects. This will speed up your lens' autofocus and prevent it from "searching" for something to focus on, which could cost you the shot.

8. Always be ready for a shot

Sometimes the most perfect bird photo opportunities happen at the most random moments, so it's important to always be ready for a wildlife shot. When you're hiking on a trail, always keep your telephoto lens on your camera, and have everything set up for a wildlife shot (exposure, aperture, ISO). That way, if a bird just happens to land on a branch right in front of you, you'll be ready.

Audio-visuals celebrating light

Deon Kuhn introduced and showed two award-winning audio-visuals that had been entered in an international AV competition with the theme of "Light", launched by AV Makers South Africa last year.

The competition was linked to the International Year of Light 2015, a global initiative which highlighted to the citizens of the world the importance of light and optical technologies in their lives, for their futures, and for the development of society.

The two AVs that Deon chose to show was the highly commended "Light in Darkness" by Cor Lokker of the Netherlands and bronze medal winner "One Fine Day" by South African Adri van Oudheusden.

Deon will show four more of these AVs at the next two monthly meetings, which will be followed by the AV workshop planned for 12 May. Details of the workshop will be announced later.

Other matters

Cape Photographers and the PSSA invite photographers to the 18th Cape Regional Congress and 10th PSSA AV Convention from Monday evening 25 April to Friday evening 29 April.

This event is open to everybody and all types of photography. The programme will have something for every taste with opportunity for discussions, outings and socialising.

The congress fee of R2 500 per person includes meals and 2 teas per day, but excludes breakfast.

<http://pssa.co.za/congress/2016-prince-albert-congress>

Cape Town Photographic Society will have Dan Swart as speaker on "Little boxes" in the St Stephens Church Hall, Central Square, Pinelands, on 20 April at 7.00p.m. There will be no charge. Contact nicol@sportstrader.co.za to book a seat.

The Photowalkers will present Photography Chit-Chat, a free monthly meeting in Hermanus, on Wednesday 9 March (<http://thephotowalkers.com/photography-chit-chat-march/>) and again on Wednesday 13 April (<http://thephotowalkers.com/photography-chit-chat->

april/). Photography Chit-Chat is an informal evening hosted by working professional photographers.

Next meeting

Wednesday 6 April: Members may enter any three images of their choice for open judging, and one image for the set subject of "Any bird will do".

Next outing

Sunday 13 March: Birding in Stanford, including a cruise on the River Rat, a walk through the village and some time in the Appel Dam bird hide. Depart from the parking area opposite Hermanus Dutch Reformed Church at 07:00. Bring your own coffee or tea and a snack. Cost: R150,00 per member, R200 per non-member. Book with René Dewar. Limited to 12 people.

Committee

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Vacancy

All are available to assist you with your queries.

Fluit-fluit, my storie is uit.