

Bluenose Focus

The Newsletter of the Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia
January 2015 Volume 50 Issue 1

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PSA Report: We Did Well!

A Photo Tour of Southern Africa

A Cove Less Travelled

A Visit to Ross Farm



Cover Image by Eugene Mio

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Newsletter submissions

We welcome your submissions to Bluenose Focus, and will do our best to make sure that the best submissions make it into the newsletter.

Articles prepared using any current software may be submitted. Should there be a difficulty, the Editor will get in touch.

Submitted images should be JPEG format, sRGB colour space, and high resolution.

Submissions should be e-mailed to:

georgefm41@gmail.com

The Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia

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Visit www.photoguild.ns.ca for more information



Editor's Corner

By George Mitchell

The winter of 2015 grinds on. I hope this January issue of the Bluenose Focus, packed with images of warmer times, will give you all hope that spring will come. (I write this from Ecuador, where snow is found only above 4000 meters.)

Please note in Viki's PSA report (page 6) that several of our members have recently received significant PSA awards.

I encourage you to admire Gene Mio's beautiful images of Africa in his photo essay (page 12). Gene also has the front and back covers of this issue.

Joyce Chew has a nice piece on the most recent (3rd) PGNS field trip to Cape Breton (page 19) and Nanciellen Davis has contributed information and images in an article on Ross Farm (page 23).

Finally, Pip Mitchell (my wife) has some observations on the obtuse practices of photographers on field trips (page 25).

Again, I encourage you, our members, to submit images, news items, and articles for future issues of the Bluenose Focus. You can reach me at georgefm41@gmail.com.



President's Message

By Laszlo Podor



It is almost unbelievable that the year of 2014 flew so fast. We had another busy year.

Maybe it's time to make it less busy – what do you think?

If you downloaded our iCal file with our program, your calendar was full of PGNS entries, as a matter of fact, four of them every month. The second part of this season is promising more workshops, seminars and yes, competitions as well.

This is the time to thank our volunteers for their help in running our Guild. Having a very busy year also means many of our members were helping us during our meetings. I would like to thank Joyce Chew, Dean Hirtle, Fred Greene, Mervyn Kumar-Misir, Bill Murphy, Darryl Robertson, Wayne Garland, Viki Gaul, Edie Greene, Pam Mills, George Mitchell, Hubert Boudreau, Esther Theriault, Kent Speiran, Tony Landry and Sharon Moser. Thank you - your work is really appreciated!

Thanks for Mervyn Kumar-Misir, Rob Fensome, Clarence Nowlan, Nick Honig, Tuma Young, Stephen Scott Patterson, Doug Leahy, Peter Steeper, Barry Burgess, Keith Vaughan, Nanciellen Davis, Tanya Elson, Clive Elson, Fred Greene, Gilbert van Ryckevorsel and Colin Campbell for their help in leading a field trip or for their seminars.

Our Home Evaluation Groups are well organized by Colin Campbell and as a result, we have had some successful home evaluation nights. The hosts were Hubert Boudreau, Doug Ward and Robert Watt. Thanks!

If you would like to host an evaluation night sometime in early 2015, please contact Colin.

Our Fall Show did not have the usual attendance, most likely due to the date change and conflicting events in the city. We will review the schedule for next season to avoid such conflicts. Thanks to Mervyn Kumar-Misir, Bill Murphy, Esther Theriault, Joyce Chew, Dean Hirtle, Viki Gaul, Kent Speiran, Jane Kelly and Tony Landry for their help in making this happen.

Thanks to Darryl Robertson for his continuous work on our renewed website. He has been doing a wonderful job in making it a very interesting and appealing website. He does need your help in filling the galleries with photographs from the field trips – please contact him if you need any information about the required sizes, colour, space, etc.

When all of us are resting after Christmas, George Mitchell, our Newsletter Editor is working hard on our newest issue of Bluenose Focus. And he does it while

President's Message

preparing for a four-month trip to a warmer climate. Thank you George.

This holiday season offered us a little longer time off from work – we could spend more time with our family and our loved ones. I am hoping you did have a little more time for our favourite hobby – photography. But since you had quite a few days off, hopefully you had some minutes to think about what you liked and what could be improved in our schedule. Our Executive has already started preparing for the 2015-16 program. Please send me an e-mail with your suggestions:

- Is there any seminar or workshop you would like to see in our schedule?
- Is there any seminar or workshop you can offer to present/facilitate to our members?
- Where would you like to go as part of our field trip program?
- Is there a location you know very well where you could lead our group on a field trip?
- Send us any other suggestions you might have.
- If you have not attended our meetings, please let us know why, and what can we do to change that.
- If you came to all or any of our meetings, please let us know what you liked and what would you like to have changed.

Thank you for your time in advance!
I'll be waiting for your e-mail – it will help our team tremendously in making a great program for 2015-16.

I am always amazed when visiting photographers' images of Nova Scotian scenes get highly prized in PSA or CAPA competitions. No one can photograph a scene better than locals, since locals can go back to the location almost any time when the light is perfect. A tourist cannot easily do that.

So I challenge you to keep photographing our province, and showing her beauties to our friends in other provinces and in the USA via CAPA and PSA competitions.

2015 will be another very busy year, with lots of opportunities to learn from each other, share our images with others, submit our images to competitions and bring home many more of those medals and ribbons from the CAPA and PSA interclub competitions.

I wish you and your family a Successful and Happy New Year with many photographic opportunities during 2015.

And please do not forget about those suggestions to our Executive!

Happy New Year!

PSA Report

By Viki Gaul



Five PGNS Members Receive Seven PSA Awards in 2014

You are always hearing me talk about PSA, the Photographic Society of America. The Photo Guild is a club member of PSA, and that is how we participate in the Interclub Competitions. Some of us are *individual* members of the Society as well. Altogether there are 15 Nova Scotia PSA Members... 11 of the 15 are Guild members. The individual members include Fred and Edie Greene, Terry and Doreen Carroll, Keith Vaughan, Pat Wall, Colin Campbell, Nanciellen Davis, Elio Dolente, Gary and Viki Gaul.

This year at the annual conference held in Albuquerque NM, 5 PGNS/PSA members received Awards or Distinctions. At the GUILD Christmas Party held Dec 11th at the Museum, these awards were recognized, and a photo was taken to commemorate the occasion.

‘Bragging Rights’ are much deserved and we might as well make the best of this rare opportunity.

Let’s begin with Honors’ Awards. These are presented to members who contribute valuable time and service to

PSA. Candidates need a ‘proposer’ and 2 ‘endorsers’ to apply for Honors Awards. Pat Wall and myself both received APSA Awards in 2014. The A stands for Associate and we now can use the initials APSA behind our names in photographic circles.

Terry Carroll, was awarded his APSA two years ago, and this year received his FPSA. The F means Fellow and now he is entitled to use FPSA with his name in photographic circles.

Then there are Distinction Awards. These are earned through the Star Ratings Program. Nanciellen Davis, could not join us at the conference in ABQ, but her name was read at the Opening Ceremonies as having received the PPSA Distinction. The ‘P’ stands for Proficiency. Nanciellen’s outstanding images have earned her the privilege of using PPSA with her name within photographic circles.

2014 was a big hardware year for PSA conference attendees from NS. A total surprise to me was a PSA Service Award at the opening Ceremonies. Recognized by the Photographic Society of America with a relatively new award, is Fred Greene, HonPSA, GMPSA. The Lifetime Achievement

Award. This award is presented annually to a photographer in recognition of his/her '*lifetime photographic achievements*'. Along with an Outstanding Exhibition record, Fred has held many important positions in PSA, including a 4-year term as PSA President. In honor of the Award, booklets were printed to commemorate the occasion. In the booklet you will find his list of accomplishments, several of his images, and copies of the PSA Journal Covers to his credit.

I think you'll all agree that having a fellow member of PGNS bring this prestigious award home to Nova Scotia is a huge personal photographic accomplishment. Congratulations Fred !

And for my final piece of PSA news, one more plaque was brought home from the conference this year and it is

indeed an honor and a privilege to inform you that the Club Rep of the Year (Large Club) was awarded to me, Viki Gaul... I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve the Photo Guild in this capacity.

It is a good thing I claimed 'Bragging Rights' earlier in this article because there is a lot of news to be proud of. I posted it on the FB page; asked Darryl to add it to the Website; I send it in a Google Groups announcement; and now here it is in the Club Newsletter (thanks George). I have sent the info and the photo to the Clubs and Councils Newsletter, (The Projector) and have offered it to the PSA Journal.

5 Guild Members receive 7 PSA Awards, in one year!



PSA Interclub
Print
Round 1 - 2014-15
4 Guild Members
5 Awards
and Honourable Mentions



Sunflowers
CAR-HM, Daryl Robertson



Green Fly Couple
SC-HM, George Mitchell



Dahl Sheep Horns
LM-1, Darryl Robertson

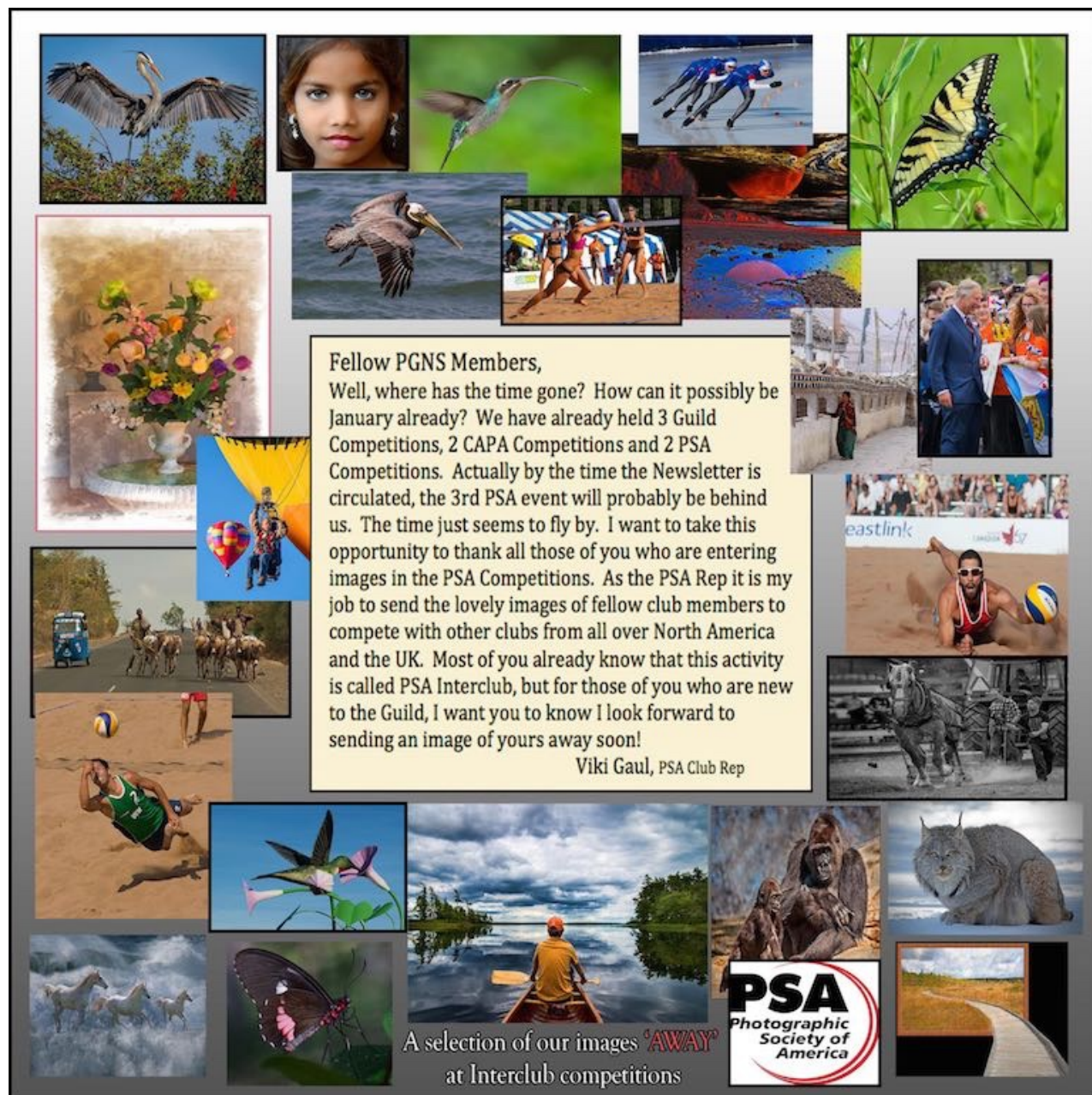


3 Flutterbies
CAR-3, Viki Gaul



Cattle Egret 1862
SC-HM, Fred Greene





Guild Christmas Party Takes on a Different Look

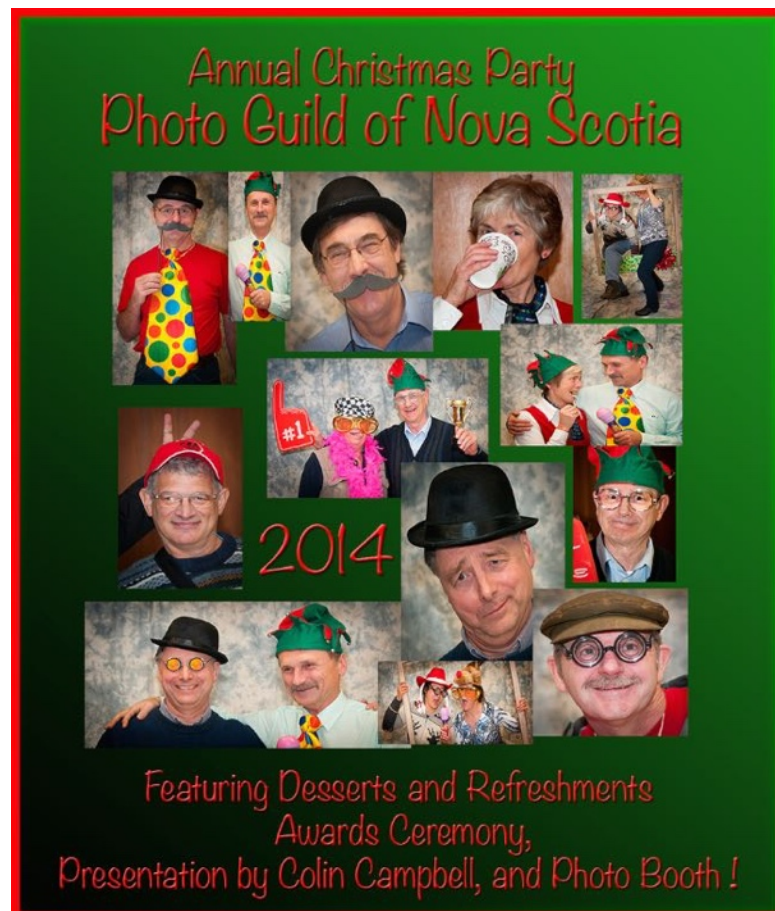
Following discussions to find something different to do for our 'Annual Christmas Party', the event was held at the Museum in our usual meeting space on the 11th of December 2014. The evening began at 7:30 with a huge assortment of *Desserts and Sweets*, with tea, coffee and other refreshments. Joyce Chew used the opportunity to do some 'CAPA returns' and Tony Landry tried very hard to empty the binder of 'Guild Honor and Merit Awards'.

Colin Campbell gave a wonderful presentation on his trip to Machu Pic-

chu, featuring images taken with travel-friendly equipment.

News of 7 PSA Awards to 5 Guild Members was reported by Viki Gaul, PSA Club Rep, followed by a 'photo op' of the recipients (see other article).

Costumes, including reindeer hats, antler, mustaches, a feather boa, and weird and wonderful glasses were brought out for a fun time in the 'PhotoBooth'. The results were outstanding! Proof was in the laughter heard out the door and down the hall. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this occasion fun and entertaining.



A Photo Tour of Southern Africa: Namaqualand, and Namibia

by Eugene Mio

Like most photographers, I have a list of places I'd like to visit in the world, as well as a list of subjects and images that I'd like to capture and explore with my camera. The wild flowers in Namaqualand, Namibia's sand dunes, and the magnificent Quiver trees have long been at the top of my list and this past August I finally managed to scratch those names off my list. They will however be long imprinted in my mind. Should this particular part of the world be on your bucket list of places to visit or photograph, I'll share some experiences and infor-



mation that may be of help and interest to you.

Due to airlines' weight restrictions as well as needing to carry camera gear on a daily shoot for many hours, serious consideration needs to be given to what gear one abso-



lutely needs, keeping in mind the type of photography one wishes to do. My first choice was the Olympus OM-D E-MI mirrorless Micro Four Thirds camera with the Olympus 12-40 mm F2.8 lens. The other camera was the Canon 7D with a light



18-250 mm 3.5-b.3 zoom lens. Total weight of the two cameras, including tripod, flash and other miscellaneous essentials was about seven (7) Kilos.

I was very happy with the Olympus. It is very light and has many features and options to



choose from. I was also very satisfied with the fast 12-40 [24-80] lens which produced tack-sharp images. The images taken with the lighter lens were not as satisfactory. I should have brought another lens. Though heavier, it would have given me higher quality results.

On this tour, our group consisted of 6 persons. Louise Tanguay, (our tour leader), our driver guide, three other photographers and myself. We had ample space in the all-terrain vehicle we used for the entire trip.

After three days of orienta-



tion in Cape Town, we visited a colourful community called Bo-Caap. Each home and residence is painted in bright, vivid, different colour. Unfortunately, the day was also bright and sunny! So shooting light and shadow became my main subject.

The next day we left early for an 8-hour drive to Kameskroon town & Kameskroon Hotel, where we remained for a 4-day photography and workshops stay. We awoke the next day to a landscape of brilliant colour. Huge patches of daisies and many flowers in different colours and hues. Surrounded by this nature's beauty, I



thought to myself “ if there is a heaven, this surely is it!” We photographed each morning, then after lunch, under Louise’s directions, we’d all compare, discuss and critique our own and each other’s work. Louise would then show her own morning’s work and encourage our evaluation of it. Her photos

were stunning in their beauty and simplicity, and spoke of the true artist in her. We learned how to interpret her intention, each of us in our own way.

After this, we journeyed toward Luderitz, Namibia. Again a long journey, but at any point of interest along the way we’d stop, stretch



our legs, and photograph. The Aus Wild Desert Horses site was an interesting spot and worth the stop.

The next day, a short drive from Luderitz took us to Kolmanskop, an abandoned community vacated in the 1930's. Diamond mine, workers had lived in these now empty homes and buildings. Wind-blown sand has now taken them over. Photographing these homes proved to be a most interesting and challenging experience. From Luderitz we then drove to Keetmanshoop through the Quiver Tree Forest. The Quiver tree is a particular tree specific to Namibia and South Africa. Not only is it special for its beauty but also for its medicinal properties. It is related to the Aloe, and is a most inspiring subject to photograph.



Continuing on, we arrived after a very long drive in Namib-Nakluft National Park basecamp. For the next two nights we slept in tents in the desert. This experience was overwhelming! To be among those vast, massive red sand dunes was awesome. The feeling of being all by oneself in such a striking, quiet, peaceful place is an experience never to be forgotten. I can only let the photographs I took there speak for themselves. The next day we drove east to a game farm. There we photographed cheetahs, leopards, giraffes, rhinos, etc.... The next morning we left for Windhoek city and flew home.

This whole tour was well organized. The accommodations were excellent. Local food and wines were highlighted and served throughout. It was also totally oriented toward photography in its technical aspects and its art.





A Cove Less Travelled

by Joyce Chew

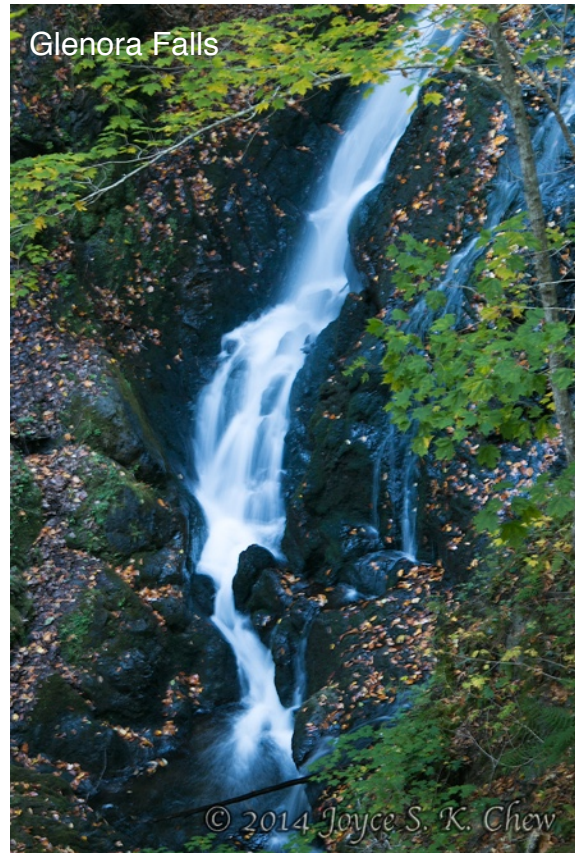
This year's group of intrepid adventurers went off the beaten path of the well-travelled Cabot Trail for our "Fall Colours" field trip. Our final destination, Meat Cove, is a remote fishing village at the northernmost tip of Cape Breton.

On Friday we left Halifax and made our way to the Farmer's Daughter in



Whycocomagh where we met up with Nick Honig, our trusty field trip leader for the third year in a row. Unfortu-

nately, due to a prior commitment, Tuma Young was unable to co-lead the



trip this year. After a brief lunch break it was off to Cheticamp by way of Mabou and through the Margaree Valley. Along the way, we were fortunate enough to be allowed access to photograph a waterfall on private property. Luckily we had brought snacks with us, because it was well after dark by the time we met up with Wayne Garland at Auberge Doucet Inn in Cheticamp and went off to supper. The price

one pays when the light is good and pictures are begging to be taken...



The next morning, we entered the Cape Breton Highlands National Park. It was hard to resist stopping at every opportunity to photograph the vibrant fall colours. The clouds and waves were a spectacular sight at Presqu'île beach. Electing to bypass the Skyline trail and



its ever-present moose, some of us stopped at the Bog trail to do macro-photography amongst the tamarack, while others went to the Benjie's Lake trail in search of moose. Then it was on to Pleasant Bay for a late lunch at the Mountain View Motel.

Before leaving the park we explored the MacIntosh Brook trail. This short (less than 2 km) trail through old growth hardwood forest was an easy leisurely walk that only takes about 45 minutes if one does not stop to photograph. Needless to say, we all stopped to take pictures of the waterfall as well as along the trail itself. Then it was back on the Cabot Trail. At Cape North, we followed the road left towards Aspy Bay and continued northwards winding our way towards Bay St. Lawrence, a tiny fishing village of



views of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Cabot Strait. Lodging was all booked up at Meat Cove and our group did not feel up to braving camping in tents in the Meat Cove Campground, so we elected to stay at the Burton Sunset Oasis Motel in Bay St. Lawrence. This turned out to be a wise choice because the winds were brisk during our stay and the temperatures were decidedly chilly.

Early Sunday morning we set off for the remote village of Meat Cove,

which was about 40 minutes drive west from Bay St. Lawrence. After Capstick, it is 8 km on gravel road along a rugged coastline and then one comes to



Meat Cove Mountain Trail Lookoff

the sheltered cove. Meat Cove has a population of about 60 people who make their living either through fishing or tourism. In addition to a couple of lodges, there is the aforementioned campground high above the cliffs of the cove. Woe betide the unwary tenter who does not securely peg down their tent as empty tents have been blown



Rock and Lichens

over the cliff by gusty winds. The Meat Cove Internet Café has internet access, public washrooms and hot food. The Café also doubles as the community centre. Along its walls are photographs

and articles on the village's history, including the tale of the devastating rain-storm of August 21, 2010 that washed out the access road between Meat Cove and the rest of Nova Scotia. Outside the Café is a map of the trail system.

There was not enough time to explore all of the trails at Meat Cove, but there are two very popular hikes that are more of a full day hike if one has the time. The Cape St. Lawrence trail is a four-hour return hike that travels through grassy fields and leads to the foundation of an old lighthouse and a new tower light. It is said that Cape St. Lawrence is a good spot to observe the



Yellow Spotted Salamander

sun rise and set. The trail also connects to the Lowland Cove trail (an additional 4 hour hike) that leads to the former fishing village of Lowland Cove.

Hector Hines of the Hines Ocean View Lodge gave Wayne Garland and I a guided trip up to the summit of the Meat Cove Mountain lookoff while Pip and George Mitchell stalwartly hiked for about an hour up the rugged Meat

Cove Mountain trail to join us. Luckily we had packed winter gear because with the wind chill it felt like -2C on top of the mountain. The lookoff has a stunning view of the ocean as well as



the valley in which the Meat Cove Brook runs. Hector then took us to Grey Mountain. This new trail was just cut this summer, and has a view of Bear Hill as well as the Cape St. Lawrence trail. Colourful lichens festoon the rocks that make up the barrens and one can encounter moose as evidenced by the remains of a dead calf. While

Wayne and I were caught in a sudden rain squall during our descent of Grey Mountain, there was enough change in elevation that Pip and George were greeted by tiny pellets of hail on top of the Meat Cove Mountain lookoff. During the downpour I spied a yellow spotted salamander sauntering across the lower portion of the Grey Mountain trail. While four of us were exploring the mountain trails, Darryl Robertson photographed the storm light on the mountains and Nick Honig spotted Northern Gannets diving into the waters of the beach at Meat Cove.

Despite our patience, the weather did not cooperate for a stunning sunset or sunrise. Before leaving Bay St. Lawrence on Thanksgiving Day, we photographed the calm reflection of the village in Deadman's Pond, and found a gravel access road that led to a view overlooking Bay St. Lawrence. We then set off to photograph the gypsum cliffs in Cape North before exiting the Cape Breton Highlands National Park and heading home, our memory cards filled with images from our adventures.

A Visit to Ross Farm

by Nanciellen Davis

The Ross Farm Museum, on Highway #12 in New Ross, offers visitors a view of past life in agricultural Nova Scotia. The Ross farm was established almost 200 years ago, and the museum opened



in 1969. The property provides many opportunities for photographers – an attractive landscape that includes Rose Bank Cottage, the original home of the Ross family; various outbuildings and workshops; gardens, fields, and domestic animals. Costumed and knowledgeable interpreters demonstrate tra-

ditional skills, such as cooperage and carpentry.



Recently the Museum was the location for the Annual Maritime Hand Mowing Championship. Hand mowing is done



with a long handled scythe (more than five feet in length) and whose blade is about two feet in length. In the main

competition, entrants attempted to mow as much grass as possible in a fixed time period. Performance is



judged on the amount of land mowed and on how cleanly it is cut. Partici-

pants included both women and men, and those of different levels of experience. In another competition the mower attempted to cut cleanly around a kitchen chair, without touching the chair or knocking over a bottle on it. The chair is rigged with an alarm system, set off when the blade of the scythe jiggles the chair. Mowing around the chair, without triggering the alarm, proved to be a difficult task!

The Museum remains open throughout the year but with a reduced schedule after October 20. Consult their website for the schedule and a listing of special events.



Field Notes on Photographers

By Pip ‘Walks-With-Photographers-But-Isn’t-A-Photographer’ Mitchell

- If there’s a bridge, somebody’s standing on it breathing and making it shake.
- If there’s a boardwalk, somebody’s standing on it breathing and making it tremble.
- If there’s sun on the object, it’s too much.
- If there’s no sun on the object, it’s too little.
- Wherever you put yourself, you’re spoiling somebody’s picture.
- A gate / barrier / no entry sign means better pictures on the other side.
- If the sky is clear, the light’s too harsh.
- If the sky is overcast, it’s spoiling the picture.
- If there are clouds: a) they move in at just the wrong moment.
- If there are clouds: b) they move out at just the wrong moment.
- If there’s somebody in the shot, they’re ruining the picture.
- If there’s nobody in the shot, there needs to be somebody in the picture for scale.
- Bridges are structures strategically located to be spurned by photographers in favour of scrambling into the water on slippery, unstable, jagged rocks.
- The more photogenic the object, the farther it is from civilisation / the more rugged the trail is / the more uncomfortable the conditions are.
- If time constraints mean you’re at the object in the morning, the light will be better in the afternoon.
- If time constraints mean you’re at the object in the afternoon, the light was better in the morning.
- If anyone should mention that breakfast time / lunchtime / dinnertime was three hours ago, the cry goes up, “Stop for food? You’ve got to be kidding! The conditions are just perfect!!!”

(No, but seriously, field trips are great fun. Thank you so much to those who organise them for letting me tag along, and I do hope you’ll continue to let me tag along in the future).

Members' Galleries

Photos by Darryl Robertson



Members' Galleries

Photos by Carol Morrison



Members' Galleries



Photos by Doug Ward



Members' Galleries



Photo by
Gilbert van Rijckvorsel





Cover Image by Eugene Mio