

DSS

COVERS VOLUME 13

Ten featured images from the covers of the newsletter of
The Detroit Stereographic Society.

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“Gecko”
by David Kuntz
Competition topic: Open [Film]

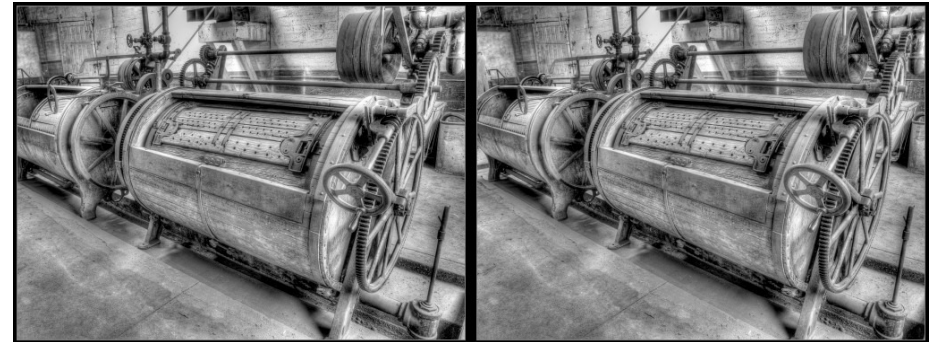


I went to Kona, Hawaii, last December on vacation. The first morning I got up and found this little fellow in my sink. Geckos have a network of very small hairlike structures on their feet that enable them to stick to surfaces, and can even hang upside down on a ceiling. However, the slick surface and steep sides of the sink seemed to be giving this gecko some difficulty, and he couldn't readily get out. Luckily, this gave me the time I needed to grab my Fuji W3, Cyclopital Macro/Close up Adapter, Metz 15 MS flash and an auxiliary closeup lens. I hastily assembled these and rushed back to the sink, and he was still there.

The pure white sink gave me an ideal background, with utterly no distractions, so that the gecko is the sole element in the composition. I purposefully shot straight down on him in order to minimize the total depth in the scene.

When viewed in a good quality stereoscope, this image creates a very powerful impression that you're actually looking down at the real object. To further enhance that, I didn't put a border around the photo as I usually do. I simply set the sink background of the photo to pure white (which it virtually was, anyway), and then also made the rest of my stereo card background white. So, the photo just blends right into the card. Then, I feathered the tail where it goes off the edge of the photo, so that the viewer wouldn't be aware of any hard edge. This reinforces the perception that the gecko is really right there. I also applied several other transformations in Photoshop, like contrast and sharpening, to punch up the photo.

“Prison Laundry”
by David Kesner
Competition topic “Black & White” (Digital)



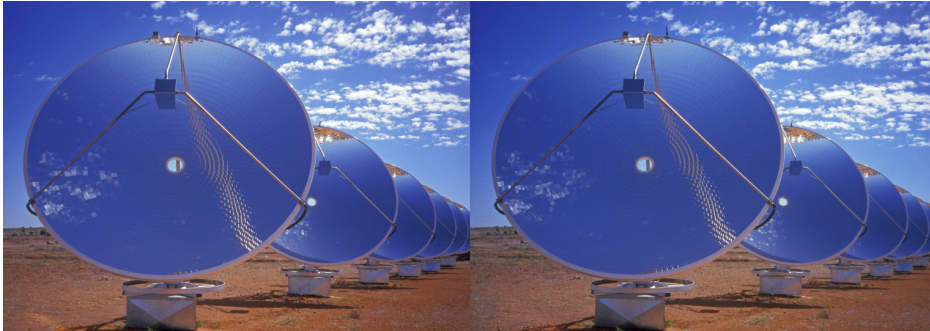
This month's cover has a great example of one kind of black and white image that would be hard to beat in our competition this month. David Kesner's "Prison Laundry" uses High Dynamic Range processing in a black & white stereo shot to create an extra impact for his image. Here's what David has to say about it:

The image was taken at the Old Idaho State Penitentiary, located in Boise, Idaho. This institution was in use from 1870 to 1973 and is now an historical museum. This image shows a portion of the laundry room, and in particular the large drum washer used for cleaning linens.

*It was taken with a Pentax K10D and Pentax DA*16-50 lens while mounted on a tripod with a Jasper Engineering slide bar. A series of five images bracketed with exposures of 1.5EV was taken for each side. This allows proper exposure of the extreme dynamic range present in the scene.*

The program Photomatix Pro was used to combine the images into an HDR (High Dynamic Range) image and also tone map it down to a low dynamic range image that could be seen on monitors or in print.

“Parabolic Solar Collectors”
by Nancy Moxom
Competition topic: “Round”



This month's photo is a fine example of our competition topic for this month - “Round”. The image was created by Nancy Moxom of the Sydney Stereo Camera Club in Australia. Here is Nancy's description:

“The photo is of an array of solar collectors that boiled water to drive a steam generator in the opal mining town of White Cliffs. I have always liked that photo which I took while all of the guys were looking at technical aspects inside the power station. By the time they came outside, the collectors had been rotated to a less attractive position.”

“Technically it [the project] was not a great success due to problems with corrosion and the fact that the electricity grid was expanded to the town soon after the small solar steam power station was up and running.”

“When the photo was taken the water tubes in the centre of each panel had been removed. Later, as a research project, high temperature photo voltaic devices were installed in the centre of each collector.”

“What is unusual about the photo is that there were clouds in the sky - White Cliffs is better known for a cloudless deep blue sky - hence this remote outback town was selected for the solar power station.”

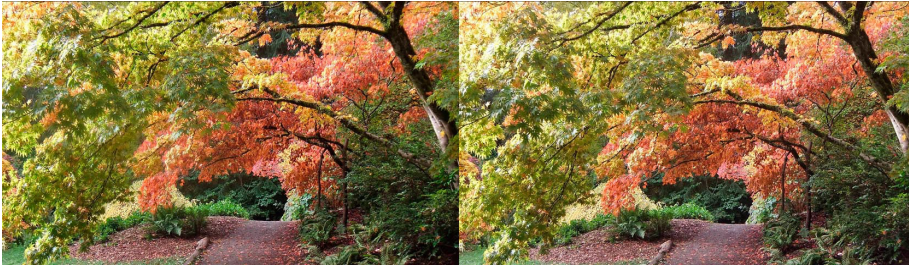
Tahquamenon in Winter
from “Michigan Magic”
Competition topic: “Pure Michigan” [Digital]



This month's front cover photo is representative of the many great images in the presentation of images from our great state called “Michigan Magic”. None of the images in this show was credited to any individual, as the program was created for the NSA by the DSS as a group. The original show was done with nearly 160 slides showing scenes all over the state, including a sound track with narration and custom music written and performed by former DSS member Bob Alexander. This show has been digitized and made into a program that has been shown at one of our recent meetings.

Our competition topic this month is “Pure Michigan”, and it will hopefully bring out more excellent views of the different seasons, activities and landmarks in Michigan that our members have captured in all of their 3-dimensional glory.

**“Arboretum #5”
by Bob Gordon
Competition topic: “Fall Colors” [Film]**



This month's cover image was taken by Rober Gordon of the Puget Sound Stereo Club and it illustrates one good example of the kind of image you are likely to see at this month's meeting, as the competition topic is “Fall Colors”. Robert gave us details about “Arboretum #5”:

This was taken in the University of Washington Arboretum which is just South of the campus in North Seattle. It was taken in October 2011 using a Fuji W3 camera. I don't remember exposure data, but it was taken on a fairly bright day.

Robert's image was one of those submitted by the PSSC in the PSA International Stereo Club Competition (ISCC) that the DSS judged at our November meeting.

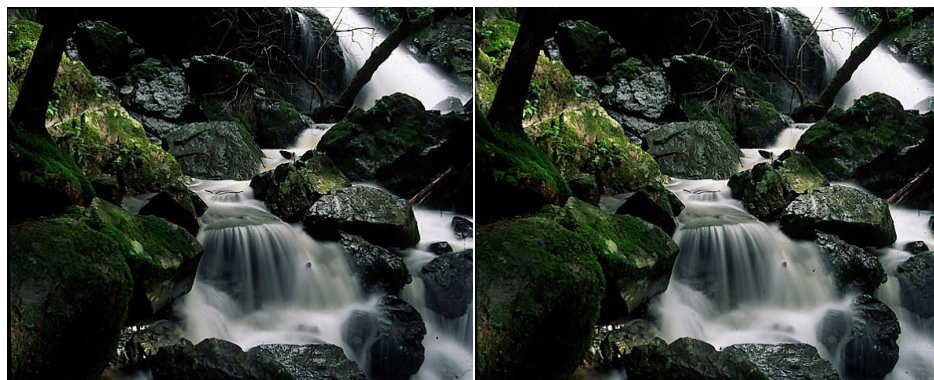
**“Hanging Out”
by Al Sieg
Competition topic: “People in Costume” (Digital)**



This month's cover image is from Al Sieg, who holds the highest ranking in the PSA “Who's Who” listings. This is a great example of this month's slide competition topic of “People in Costume”. Here are some details Al gave us about this image:

“Hanging Out” was taken in Venice during Carnival several years ago. I used my RBT camera loaded with Kodak Elite Chrome 100 film. I took many images there. I sent this one out to three exhibitions and it received 2 HM's and one acceptance. It hasn't been used since then for competition but is part of a program that I put together called “Carnivale” featuring 100 images from Venice. Part of the fun in photographing at the Carnival is getting the people to pose for you. They are very willing and many times will hand you a card with their address and ask for copies of the photos. Most of them do speak some English. I tried to send some of the people their photos.

“Catarack Falls”
by Robert Bloomberg
Competition topic: “Time Exposure” [Film]



As far as details about the image go, I'm afraid the cat ate my notes. I do recall that it was taken on a hike here in Marin County, California following a heavy rain when I knew the falls would be full and sky beautifully overcast. I believe I used my RBT X3 and something called "film" (a chemical emulsion on a plastic substrate that is sensitive to light); Fuji Velvia if memory serves me correctly. Most likely I used a shutter speed of 1/2- 1 sec @ f. 22.

In addition to the 3rd place award in the Cascade 2007 exhibition, the image also received a PSA Gold Medal in the 2008 Cordova stereo exhibition.

I asked Robert if he was still shooting film these days:

Aside from the rare shoot with my RBT macro rig, I'm pretty much all-singing, all-dancing, all-digital these days. Someone once said "the best camera is the one you have with you" so most of my images these days are shot with my iPhone 4s (cha chas for 3-D). For quality I'll use my Canon 7D (cha chas again), a pair of Panasonic LX-5 cameras (with and without the Ekeren macro box), or my Sony P200 rig. I am also looking into pairing a couple of Sony Nex 5n digital cameras.

“Pittsburgh Bridge”
by John Forshee
Competition topic: “Open” [Digital]



This month's stereo image is from our own John Forshee who was our Billy Turner “Best Premiere” Award winner last June. This season's awards will be given out next month (May) due to there being no June meeting this year. John tells us this about “Pittsburgh Bridge”:

The picture was taken with a Fuji W3. The bridge is on 7th street downtown Pittsburgh. There are three bridges in a row that are the same going over the Allegheny River. I took the picture just for the DSS "Cityscapes" competition. I Googled cityscapes and came across a picture of that bridge that I liked a lot. I do farm animal shows for a living and I was going to be working a fair 45 Miles north of Pittsburgh. On the 4th of July I drove down to Pittsburgh before the fair started to get the picture. I also was driving through Pittsburgh later that summer so I stopped again to take some more pictures with better lighting this time. I haven't entered the image in any other exhibitions or competitions.

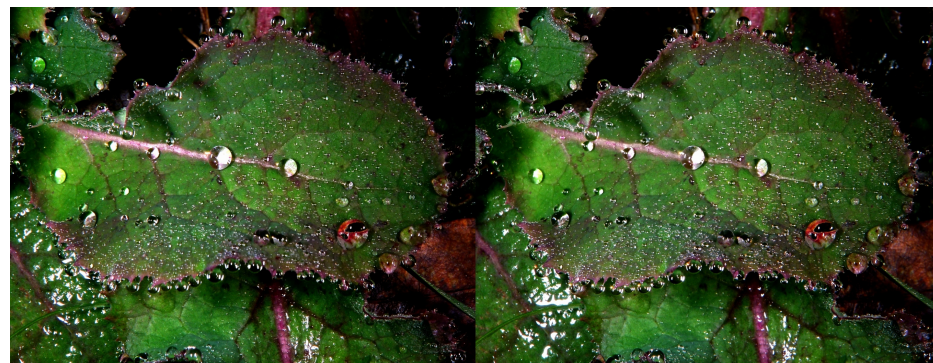
**“Night Shrine”
by Dennis Green
DSS 2011-2012 Slide of the Year**



This month's film stereo image was last year's winner in the *Image of the Year* competition as judged by another stereo club. Our meeting this month will show all of this year's award winning film images that were returned to us, and the digital images that won ribbons in our competitions this year. These fine images make a great wrap-up for the season, as well as giving attending members the chance to see images that won awards at meetings they may have missed.

This is a great meeting to bring people who might be interested in do-it-yourself 3D images, as well as friends who would enjoy seeing some of the best results of our unique hobby. There are many people out there who do not know that they can create the strikingly real images that we enjoy every month. Make plans now to share our May 8th meeting with someone new to the club.

**“Hydrophobic Plant”
by George Themelis
DSS 2011-2012 Digital Image of the Year**



This month's digital stereo image was last year's winner in the *Image of the Year* competition as judged by another stereo club. Our meeting this month will show all of this year's award winning film images that were returned to us, and the digital images that won ribbons in our competitions this year. These fine images make a great wrap-up for the season, as well as giving attending members the chance to see images that won awards at meetings they may have missed.

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This image appeared in the May 2013 newsletter, as the DSS was involved with the 2013 NSA convention in Traverse City, Michigan, so the June DSS meeting was not held.