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LAST FRAME

January 2005

St. Albert Photo Club's Monthly Newsletter

Bubbling Over Flower Photography

On January 12, a bitterly cold evening, a surprising number of members of the St. Albert Photo Club came to view Mufty Mathewson's "Flowers Under Water" presentation.

Her interest in this subject matter began years ago when her mother gave her a globe-shaped vase with its flowers submerged in water.

She began to take notice of the effect light had on the flowers in the vase and began photographing these flowers. She especially admired the effect the accompanying air bubbles had on the surface of the flowers' petals.

Two "dissolve" slide shows demonstrated some of her favourite images, one show being comprised of horizontal images and the other being vertical images.

Container Choices

When using a tall, cylindrical vase, it is best to shoot vertically down onto the flowers to minimize edge distortion caused by the curvature of the glass.

Valley Tools for \$12.95.

To prevent your flowers from floating to the top of the container, place the cut stem of your chosen flower(s) into a "frog". This item weights down

Be wary of reflections in the glass from objects in your immediate environment.

Regular tap water can be used to fill your container, but if you use the nozzle from a kitchen sink, more bubbles will result due to the increased amount of air molecules.

In addition, the longer the flowers are immersed in water, the more bubbles will form.

Bubbles will eventually adhere to the inside edge of your glass.

To remove them, take a knife and slip it down the inside edge to dislodge those bubbles.

Backgrounds

Different coloured backgrounds will create a different look to your images.

Try to incorporate backgrounds of a complementary colour to the primary colour of your flowers.

Colourful t-shirts and sweatshirts work well.



A globe-shaped vase is a better container to use and Mufty highly recommended this style, available from Lee

flowers and prevents your flowers from rising to the top. In a pinch, a piece of gum also works well.

FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER Field Trip	FEBRUARY COMPETITION Train Tracks	TECH TIPS None	MARCH GUEST SPEAKER Critique	MARCH COMPETITION Fog and/or mist
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If you choose to use studio lights to illuminate your flowers, they are best utilized by back-lighting your flowers.

Camera Technique

It is best to use a macro lens, with the lens set to minimum focus at maximum aperture (f/22 or f/32).

When your flowers are in focus, rotate your vase and you should find a multitude of compositions.

If you own star filters, this may be a good time to use them. Four-point star filters are better than eight-point star filters as the latter often makes an image look too busy.

Flower Selection

Tulips and roses look great because they are waxy in nature.

Lilies are also highly rec-



ommended.

Finer flowers, such as daffodils are not the greatest as they become opaque after a couple of

days.

On a cold winter day or a rainy summer afternoon, and requiring a minimum of camera equipment, one

can spend several hours creating a variety of compositions by referring to the above suggestions and techniques.



Mufty Mathewson, left, and images she has taken over the years.



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