

'With a Click of the Shutter'
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As a photographer and a sailor, I was especially delighted when PDC Susan Ryan, JN invited me to offer a Photo Workshop this past August to the enthusiastic Young Mariners taking part in her summer program at the Greenwich Boys and Girls Club.

Spread over two sessions, the first began with an indoor class designed to help these eager 11- and 12-year olds expand their awareness of how photographers think about a subject before they even click the shutters on those cameras so conveniently included in these Young Mariners cell phones. As they gathered around my computer screen, they learned the pros and cons of horizontal vs. vertical formats, close-ups vs. distant views, the value of foreground images in landscape images, and landmarks to identify a location. Then I encouraged them to be creative with what they photographed.

With these concepts in mind, cameras in hand and a beautiful scene before us, the air was electric with excitement as we all walked over to Grass Island. As their instructor, it was deeply gratifying to watch these enthusiastic Young Mariners set out on their own, focus on their chosen images, share their results, and throughout, demonstrate that they had absorbed the concepts introduced to them. Indeed, one enthusiast who claimed his cell phone was waterproof (!) was knee-deep in the water focusing on close-ups of the rippling water. Others looked for details in sand formations, shells washed ashore, as well as the harbor's spectacular views. A pair of clamshells became an angel in the mind of one young mariner – creativity indeed!

To conclude the workshop, Susan asked these Young Mariners to hone their discriminating eyes by selecting and sending her their best images for the final session of the workshop on August 12. On that rewarding day, the joy and pride of these Young Mariners was palpable: from holding the personal copies of their own prints that Susan had prepared, to gathering around my computer to share the results of everyone's creative efforts at Grass island, the air was filled with high fives, big smiles, and a round of applause for everyone.

Most touching of all was to witness these students proudly turn their prints into greeting cards. Inscribed on the back of each were the words '*Greenwich Harbor, Photographed by a Young Mariner.*'

It was a perfect ending to an impressive experience that clearly proved the power of a camera in advancing the mission of the Young Mariners Program: helping children develop respect for themselves and their environment.

It was an honor to help make it happen.

Postscript from Susan Ryan

Membership: While the main purpose of this summer program is to help the young sailors, the instructors involved enjoy their experience. Offering a variety of activities to the boating community helps the squadron attract new members and maintain the enthusiasm of members such as Lily.

If you would like to help with next year's program in Greenwich, or if you are from another squadron and would like ideas on how to involve children in boating, please email us: GreenwichSquadron@gmail.com

