



# Photographers' Formulary

## Al Weber and David Vestal Return to Formulary

*World Class Instructors to Offer "Traditional Photography at its Best"*



*"Un Viejo Duerme"*  
Fr. Bill Martin ©2006

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### BILL MARTIN, A MAN OF MANY SEASONS

As a lecturer with the State Department, then as an Episcopal priest, a scholar and writer, octogenarian Bill Martin continues to renew himself. A longtime resident of El Paso, Texas, he understands the saying, "Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun." That's why, for health reasons, Bill and his wife walk four miles each day, before dawn and before the brutal summer sun comes up over their home in El Paso, Texas. By the time the sun peaks over the horizon, Bill and his wife, Joan, are well into the second section of the El Paso Times.

But the heat hasn't kept Bill from roaming the great American Southwest, or the mountain states of the Republic of Mexico in search of striking images.

If you live in Texas you know about the Big Bend in the Rio Grande. Bill writes, "When I finally quit shooting Kodachrome, I discovered light and what it means to seeing. This, I think was especially true for me in the Big Bend of Texas. In the eponymous national park, all eyes eventually look toward the crown jewel of the area, the Chisos Mountains.

*This great igneous outcrop centers on a huge basin, the west side of which is split open like a broken cup, one side cut away by a huge "V", otherwise it would be a vast mountain lake."*

Given to long walks in the city of El Paso, and long hikes in Big Bend National Park, Bill finds opportunities missed by most of us. Here, Bill describes Santa Elena, the spot at which the Rio Grande rushes out of the mountains into a vast and forbidding desert. "Santa Elena [marks the Rio Grande's exit from the vast Mesa de Anguilla, the



*"Santa Elena in January"*  
Silver Gelatin print ©2006 Fr. Bill Martin

*first of three riotous runs, forming the border between Mexico and the US. The towering walls of Santa Elena, not unlike the Chisos, dominate its western portion of the park, and in its solitude provides one of the best, and least known, nesting sanctuaries west of the Mississippi. This fact necessitates its being closed to the public each mid-winter and spring.*



*"South Rim of the Chisos"*  
Silver Gelatin print by Fr. Bill Martin ©2006

*The silence of the burning light holds all together in an etched beauty."*

Bill found photography during the final days of World War II in the window of a small shop near Manila, P.I.. Well protected by a worn leather case, the already old Argus C-3 was pressed into service for many more years before Bill replaced it with a Contax-2, which he still owns and uses. Though he owns a stable of cameras of various formats, his camera of choice remains the Contax-2.

He lived for a number of years in Brazil, and has traveled back and forth across Mexico, ranging as far south as the border with Guatemala.

It was on one of his trips to the mountain state of Zacatecas, Mexico that Bill awakened at dawn to the clatter of hooves on clay street tiles below, as his "Donkeys at Dawn" came into view and a father and daughter made their way to market in the long shadows of the morning light.

Bill prints on Kentmere variable contrast RC paper, which he fixes with **TF-4** from the Photographers' Formulary. He says the **TF-4** cuts processing time in half, "saving hours in per print time," and helping him reach prints with a look that pleases him on a paper he likes.



*"Donkeys at Dawn"*  
Silver Gelatin print ©2006 Fr. Bill Martin

Film used in the faithful Contax-2 was a slow, hi-res copy film by Dupont, which Bill processed each night in Willi Beutler's Neofin-blau. If he used his Hasselblad, it was often handheld, and carried the slowest speed film he could use without a tripod. That film was processed in a 2-bath D-23/Borax.

If you would like to read the full text of Bill's monograph which accompanied these images, [click here](#). . . It's an interesting read.

## Vestal and Weber Ride Again! "Traditional Photography at its Best"



Photo by Al Weber, All Rights Reserved

Three years ago David Vestal and Al Weber came to the Photographers' Formulary for the first time. It must have suited them, because they returned in 2005, and they are coming back in 2006.

To study with these two world class photographers and teachers is no small privilege. They know their stuff. No fluff, just non-stop teaching from sun-up to sundown, and all the personal attention you ask for.

David and Al don't agree on everything. They do agree to disagree, however, and that gives a mix to their presentations seldom found in photography workshops anywhere.

If you are interested in traditional black and white photography taught by two men who *really* know their stuff, then this is the workshop for you.

Scheduled for June 25-30, **Traditional Photography at its Best** promises to be another fast moving, action packed workshop for anyone interested in a concentrated dose of photographic education. Watch Al in this short video from Silver Conference.

### Traditional Photography at its Best

Cost: \$825.00

June 25-30 with David Vestal and Al Weber

### NEXT MONTH: BILL JAY, PROFESSOR, PHOTOGRAPHER, PHILOSOPHER

Each of us finds our profession, or our profession finds us, in a different way. For Bill Jay, professor emeritus of the History of 19th Century Photography at Arizona State University, Tempe, the path was filled with serendipity. Next month we hope to bring you the story of the editor of *Creative Camera* in the 1960's, and later the founder of *Album* in the 1970's. Beaumont Newhall described *Album* as the finest journal of photography he had ever read.

### APRIL SHOWERS NEWSLETTER SPECIALS

You have us puzzled and scratching our heads. When we published the **online specials**



"Ducks in the Haze"  
Silver Gelatin print  
by Fr. Bill Martin ©2006

in the March newsletter, we thought there would be a rush to the computer to grab some of the goodies. A twenty dollar, **you got that right, \$20.00, dry**

**Cyanotype kit free when you buy any size print frame** is nothing to sneeze at. **25% off DiXactol** as our "**Welcome Back Special**" isn't looking a gift horse in the mouth, and **50% off a 1 lb box of Benzotriazole** is a downright steal! So we are wondering, what did we miss in the telling of this story?

To give more of you a chance at these remarkable specials, we are going to continue them through the month of April. Call us with

### COUPON #3/31/06

anytime before the end of April, and get the same good deal. We need to move the Benzotriazole because we were overstocked by the chemistry supplier. Our loss is your gain.

### Contact Print

**Frames:** buy one and get a Cyanotype kit **free!**



**Cyanotype Kit regular price: \$19.95**

**Special offer: with Coupon #3/31/06 FORMULARY**

**CYANOTYPE 07-0090 Free with**

**the purchase of a contact print frame, any size, from our entry level 8x10", to our largest, 20x24".**

**Contact Print Frame Model Numbers: 07-2000 07-2005 07-2010 07-2020**



"Narrowes, Guanajuato"  
Silver Gelatin print  
by Fr. Bill Martin ©2006

**Silver Conference Gleams with Success**

Calumet and Ilford Photo dazzled the Black and White photographic community with the first **Silver Conference** in Pasadena, California on March 3-5, 2006.

With a lineup of world class B/W photographers as speakers, the conference captured the imagination of an audience attentive to every word, fueling creative juices. To read more about this remarkable event, visit the **Ilford** or **Calumet** websites. To watch a **7:40 minute exclusive interview with Steven Brierley**, Director of Sales, **press here. . .**



**DiXactol and DiXactol Ultra** by Barry Thornton are back in stock. Grab this **Welcome Back Special** now!

**25% off** the regular price.

**Model Numbers: 01-5030; 01-5035**

**Regular Price: \$19.95**

**Special Price: \$15.00 with Coupon #3/31/06**

Their mistake, your good luck. Our supplier sent us a double shipment of **Benzotriazole**, which is used to prevent fogged paper. This is brand new, fresh chemistry. We don't want to pay return fees and shipping, and we don't need two shipments, so Bud says, "Move it!" **Save a cool 50%** on the 100 gm or the 1 lb. sizes.



**Benzotriazole (Anti-fog #1) 100 gr.**

**Model Number: 10-0250-2**

**Regular Price: \$16.95**

**Special Price: \$8.50 with Coupon #3/31/06**

**Benzotriazole (Anti-fog #1) - 1 lb.**

**Model Number: 10-0250-3**

**Regular Price: \$65.00**

**Special Price: \$32.50 with Coupon #3/31/06**

### AZO-LIKE PAPER READY SOON

**Michael A. Smith** and **Paula Chamlee** are master photographers. Their paper of choice has been Kodak's Azo, a contact printing paper. Kodak won't be making



any more Azo, so Michael and Paula are going to make their own, and are only months away from introducing their exciting new product. To learn what is happening with their new Azo-like paper, **press here** to watch a video interview with **Paula**, and **press here** to watch **Michael**. To watch the videos, download **QuickTime here. . .**, or **RealPlayer here. . .**



"Dawn, San Miguel de Allende"  
Silver Gelatin print  
by Fr. Bill Martin ©2006

**IF YOU SHOULD DECIDE YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER, JUST SEND AN EMAIL TO [FORMULARY@BLACKFOOT.NET](mailto:FORMULARY@BLACKFOOT.NET) OR CALL 800-922-5255, AND YOUR NAME WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE MAILING LIST.**

**2006 WORKSHOP  
SCHEDULE UPDATE**

Here's the workshop schedule as of March 15, 2006. Make your reservation now, and join us in Montana this summer!

**June 11-16 2006** *Carbon, Kallitype, Van Dyke, and Palladium* - Sandy King

*Seeing and Making Fine B&W Prints* - Les McLean

**June 18-23** *Emulsion Making and Coating* Ron Mowrey

*Digital Painting Workshop for Photographers* - Tim O'Neill

**June 25-30** *Traditional Photography at its Best* - David Vestal and Al Weber

*Cyanotype/Artists' Book* - Laura Blacklow

*Traditional Enlarged Negatives* - Agnes Weesies

**July 2-7** *Seeing Planning and Printing the Fine Photograph* - **Bruce Barnbaum**

*Wet Plate: Mammoth Plate Outdoor Photography* - Luther Gerlach

**July 9-14** *Teaching Teachers or Students the Fine Art of Digital Negatives*- Dan Burkholder

*Large Format Negatives* - Andy Eads

**July 16-21** *The Art of Bromoil and Bromoil Transfer*- David Lewis

*Polaroid Transfers, Photoshop/Digital Printing* - Kathleen Carr

**July 23-28** *The Art of Collodion* - Will Dunniway

*Gum Platinum Printing* - Kerik Kouklis

**July 30- August 4** *Daguerreotype: A Contemporary Approach* - Jerry Spagnoli  
*The Allure of Albumen* - Zoe Zimmerman

**Aug 6-11 2006** *The Beauty of the Traditional Platinum Print* - Dick Arentz  
*The Contemplative Landscape/Glacier National Park Field Trip* George DeWolfe

**August 13-18** *Precision Digital Negatives & the Platinum/Palladium Print for the Beginner* - Dick Arentz & Mark Nelson

**August 20-25** *Precision Digital Negatives & the Platinum/Palladium Print for the Advanced Printer* - Dick Arentz & Mark Nelson

**Aug 27-Sept 1** *Personal Vision; Portfolio Workshop* - Kate and Geir Jordahl

*The Awesome Technique of Semi-stand Development* - Steve Sherman