The Pandemic and Me: the First Six Months

Frank Wattenberg

The photograph above of the Brooklyn Bridge was taken on February 28, 2020. On that date the SARS-CoV-19 virus was already circulating in New York City, although the first case of COVID-19 in New York State was not identified until the following day. This was my last trip into the City for many months. Fortunately, I live in a beautiful area about 50 miles north of the City. This is my local bridge over the Hudson, the Bear Mountain Bridge, shown below

Wednesday, March 11 was to be the first day of an ICTCM presession at the Kennedy Space Center. We had planned an event like the one shown in the photograph above, taken during an earlier visit. Here a similar group is underneath a Space Shuttle in the Orbital Processing Facility. The shuttle is being prepared for its next flight.

We had spent months preparing for this event and were really excited about it.

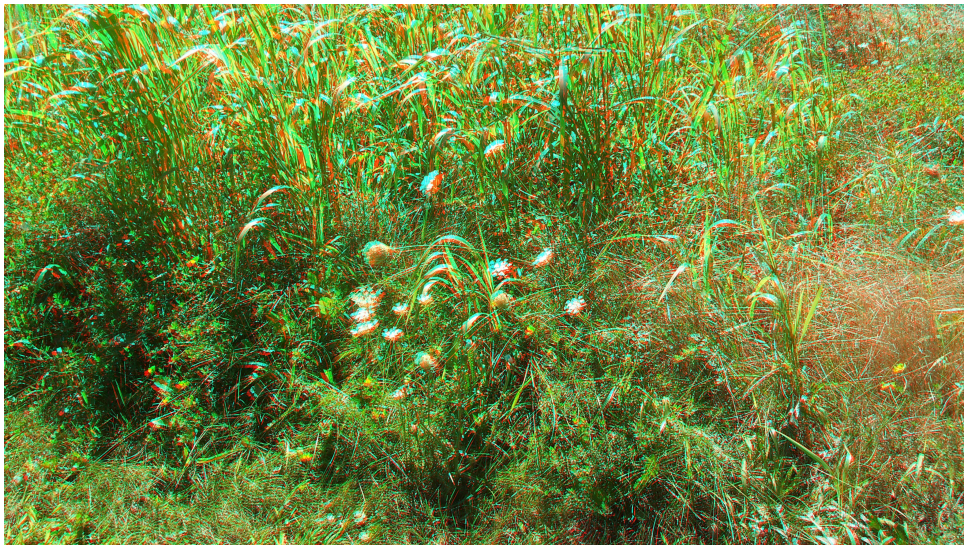
Due to COVID-19, we made the hard decision to cancel the 32nd International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics (ICTCM). But not being able to gather in person isn't stopping us from offering the great content our talented speakers had prepared via on-demand recordings — for free. These virtual sessions offer an in-depth look at the most valuable emerging technologies, teaching methods, and systems for increasing student achievement in college math and statistics.

But, as you can see above, ICTCM was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By April 2, I was working from home, teaching online with my students scattered across the country. A pause order effective at 8:00 PM Sunday, March 22 banned non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason. On the day Governor Cuomo signed the pause order there were 7,102 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state. Fortunately the daffodils were out in my neighborhood, as seen in the photograph above

The photographers I know focused their cameras around their homes and neighborhoods and took advantage of cancelled trips to dust off old lenses and projects that had been pushed aside by crowded schedules. In my case I returned to exploring 3D photography.

I took the picture below next to a curb near my house. You need the special direct-view 3D glasses and instructions included in your exhibit box to view the bigger version of this picture on the next page. You can use the anaglyph version and red-blue or red-cyan glasses instead as described later.



The photograph above is another version of the same picture, called an anaglyph. It can be viewed using the red-blue or red-cyan glasses found in your exhibit box. You may already have glasses like this.

One byproduct of limited travel was more time on the Web. I discovered the work of Colleen Woolpert http://colleenwoolpert.com who uses 3D imagery to convey a sense of history. The photograph below is a workshop she gave on making your own 3D photographs. We and our students can use photography, especially digital photography, to help us tell our stories.

By the end of May my wife and I were more than ready for our annual trip to Maine and Acadia National Park. The photograph below was taken on an earlier trip.

But, of course, travel restrictions confined us to our immediate environment. The photograph below shows some wetlands near our house. We sometimes see deer and egrets in the wetlands.

Just carrying a camera around helps me see more - in this case beautiful backlit curves that without a camera I might have just ducked under. I also had a lot of fun looking through my collection of photographs to put this gallery show together. My photograph collection is a kind of visual diary.

Make Your Own 3D Photographs

If you are interested in making your own 3D photographs all you need is the iPhone tutorial below:

https://stereoscopy.blog/2020/06/05/how-to-make-your-own-iphone-stereoviews-basic-tutorial/

or the Android tutorial below:

https://stereoscopy.blog/2020/05/29/how-to-make-your-own-smartphone-stereoviews-basic-tutorial/

and either the Android or iPhone version of the following inexpensive ($2.49 or $2.99) app

- iPhone https://apps.apple.com/us/app/i3dsteroid/id467945370
- Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=jp.suto.stereoroidpro&hl=en_US

This method works for "still lifes"– that is, for scenes in which nothing is moving. You need to make two photographs – one for the left eye and one for the right eye.