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# FOCUS

Volume 86 - No. 7

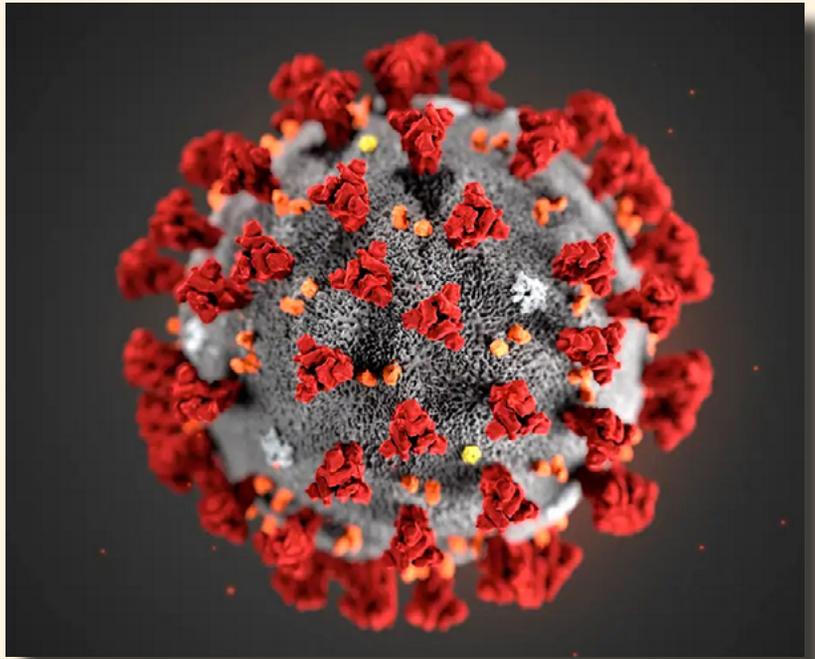
[www.spsphoto.org](http://www.spsphoto.org)

April 2020

## REMAINDER OF SPS SEASON CANCELLED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

As you all know, COVID-19 has put an untimely end to our 2019-2020 season. Sad, but necessary. What is most important right now is to keep a safe distance, wash your hands and stay healthy!

As far as competition winners for this season, point tally will end with the March competition. Depending on how things progress in the world, we hope to hold our Photo Essay and Luba Ricket Creativity Competitions before we start our new season in September, as well as print and digital image of the year. Hopefully the Annual Banquet will also be rescheduled. Right now we have not made a determination on the status of the Luba Ricket Creativity Workshop (scheduled for June 6) or the Night Photography Workshop (June 19). Time will tell. And we will keep you posted via email, Facebook and our website.



In the meantime, don't forget you are photographers. Get out with your cameras and shoot! (Keeping a safe distance.) Worst case, it will take your mind off the horrors of the world...even if just for a moment. Stay safe and well.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rich Schreiberstein

## Nobody is shooting at us

As we go through this time of worry, strain, and the unknown, I think of my father who left us almost 18 years ago. He would have been 99 on May 2, a birthday we share. I always told him I was the gift that kept on giving. Not so sure he always felt the same way.

When I think of the bad news confronting us daily, I think of his life. His mother died of scarlet fever in 1932 in the midst of the Great Depression. He was 11, the oldest of three siblings.

When he was 16, he left a tumultuous home and moved in with a childless couple in Brooklyn. That couple treated him as a son, and I always knew them as my grandparents. He graduated from high school in 1939 and worked at Lundy's Restaurant in Sheepshead Bay with his best friend, Bert Levy, until 1940 when he and Bert (my brother is named after him) joined the Army. He went into the Signal Corps, the branch my brother and I eventually served in.

After training as a lineman, he was sent to Panama. That's where he was when WWII started. He eventually was promoted to technical sergeant and stayed in Panama until 1942 when he was sent back to Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey, to attend Signal Officer Candidate School. After receiving his commission, he married my mother in September 1943 and spent a few months in Philadelphia before receiving orders to England to prepare for the European invasion.

He landed at Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, where he and his platoon fought through France, Belgium, Germany, and into Czechoslovakia. His best friend, Bert, was killed in France in November, 1944. When the war ended on May 7, 1945, my father was in Pilsen. He didn't get back to the States until November 1945. My much older brother, Bert, was born in July 1946 and I was born in May 1947. Although math was never my strong suit, I was impressed when I finally figured it out.

At the end of the war, my father, then a captain, resigned his commission and went to work for the New York Telephone Company. He went back on active duty in 1949 at his highest enlisted rank and was promoted back to captain when the Korean Conflict began. He bought a house in Levittown, New York, in 1952, ensconced my mother, brother

and me there and headed to Korea where he was a Signal company commander—a job I later held with the 9th Infantry Division. In July 1953, the truce signed, my father was sent to Japan where we joined him. I finished first and second grade in Yokohama. We eventually moved to West Germany, where my father, a career Jewish Army officer, was assigned to help rebuild and train the German Army Signal Corps.

My father retired from active duty in August 1964 as a lieutenant colonel and died in Las Vegas on August 8, 2002. My brother received his commission in the Army Signal Corps in 1968 and served two tours in Vietnam, the last as a Huey pilot. He also retired as a lieutenant colonel. I took a different route and enlisted after college graduation in 1969 before the draft got me. I got my commission through Infantry Officer Candidate school and served seven-and-a-half years on active duty, leaving the service as a captain in December 1976.

While we're all hunkered down during this evolving crisis, I think it's worthwhile to balance our present situation against what others have faced in their lives. When things appear overwhelming, I think about my father and my brother.

We're set to have an SPS board Zoom meeting on April 1 to work on our next season's program. I'll keep you posted.

Stay safe; stay separated; work on your craft.



*Rich*

# FOCUS ON

## Dow Smith

### *My Excellent Photography Journey*

Unlike some who pick up a camera at an early age, like 8, and instantly find a passion for photography, my love of photography started relatively late in life. Actually, my initial interest in taking photos beyond family snaps was in Vietnam. As a Navy public affairs officer for the “in country” Navy I would shoot stories for release or take photos with accompanying reporters and camera crews to see our operations such as the Swift boats on the coast and the River Patrol Boats (PBR) in the Mekong Delta. Being able to travel outside Saigon I learned Vietnam is a beautiful country with a fascinating culture and wonderful people. Thus, lots of photo opportunities.

Having some art training taught me something about composition and color but little about how an SLR camera worked. I would use a Navy Nikon for the news release photos and take my own camera for personal photos of the people and landscape. Fortunately, these cameras had a built-in light meter on the body, but I still screwed up my exposures. I organized a news event to show what the Seals were doing in Vietnam. Most of my photos show these dark figures repelling out of a helicopter or jumping out of a boat. A lost opportunity.

We had a photo lab as part of our office so I could develop black and white prints but had to send color slides to Kodak out of country. Interestingly when I scanned these slides decades later the Ektachrome slides were mostly ghosts but the Kodachrome were bright and in excellent resolution.



My work in Vietnam got me interested in journalism. After graduate school at the University of Missouri School of Journalism and a degree in Broadcast Journalism I set off with a wife and, ultimately, four children, on a 25-year career in local TV news. I started as a newscast producer, then newsroom manager and ultimately as a station manager. As you can imagine, there was little time for photography or room for a dark room. Finally, we decided that after moving all over the country, we needed to settle down. I asked my wife where she would like to live, and she said she wanted to go back to Albany and teaching at the Albany Academy for Girls. So, we moved back and I found a job teaching broadcast journalism at Syracuse University’s Newhouse School of Public Communications. This was a great experience even if it did mean commuting each week from our home in Delmar.

While I already knew about shooting video and video editing, at Newhouse I got interested in visual story telling. We would bring in great storytellers like NBC’s Bob Dotson and Emmy award winning reporter Boyd Huppert from Minneapolis for professional workshops and class presentations. They taught me a lot about blending words and pictures to make an emotional connection with the viewers.

*Continued...*

## FOCUS ON: Dow Smith

(Continued from page 3)

The head of the photography program was a great guy and friend. It was interesting to see his wet labs being slowly replaced by computer labs until they only had one wet lab mainly to show students how it worked in the old days. On his recommendation I bought a Nikon D80 and he allowed me to sit in on the photography courses which was invaluable.

After leaving Newhouse and the tiresome commute I started teaching at Siena and then St. Rose and joined the Schenectady Photographic Society. Joining the SPS helped further my understanding of the art and craft. The club is a great opportunity to learn from such accomplished and sharing members. With a background teaching video and storytelling, I was soon recruited by Connie to take over the photo essay contest and have been doing so ever since.

For some 25 years my primary passion was racing a 1958 Morgan Plus 4 in vintage sports car races at most of the major tracks on the East Coast. But when I hit my 70s the safest idea was to sell the car.

So, instead of racing I still enjoy the sport through photography. I cover vintage racing in the Northeast for a couple of national magazines, *Victory Lane* and *Vintage Motorsport* with photos and articles. As a long-time member of the Vintage Sports Car Club of America I shoot and write for the club publication, *Vintage Sports Car*, and provide photos for their FB page and the club website.

Also, in keeping with this combined passion I volunteer for the Saratoga Auto Museum's annual automobile auction. The photos are used for their website and a glossy auction catalog. This has given me a chance to shoot some pretty amazing and valuable cars.

My other photo interest are landscapes. I've taken workshops and tours with Carl Heilman II in the Adirondacks but have fallen in love with Scotland. There is something mysterious in the Highlands with craggy mountains and coastlines with incredible beaches devoid of people and trees. You just know these lochs and glens have stories to tell. We've taken several photo tours of Scotland and hope to do more.

I'm now trying to sharpen my knowledge of Photoshop to see if I can't take more advantage of the program although learning it totally is probably impossible. But one of the things I really love about photography is the challenge of constantly learning and improving my knowledge and skills.

All photos © Dow Smith

*Continued...*



# FOCUS ON: Dow Smith

(Continued from page 4)



© Dow C Smith



All photos © Dow Smith

# 14 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY DURING THE PANDEMIC

By Brenda Petrella

Article reprinted with permission from Outdoor Photography School Tips & Techniques - March 19, 2020

*It can be hard to stay creative during a crisis*

*Here are 14 ideas to help you keep working on your photography even when times are tough.*

We all find ourselves in creative slumps from time to time for a variety of reasons. When I've considered putting together an article on ideas of how to keep improving one's photography skills even while in a rut, I never imagined that a potential reason for that rut would be a global pandemic.

But, that's where we find ourselves today.

We've all been touched by this pandemic in one way or another. Most of us are required to stay at home to isolate, to take care of family members, to work remotely, or perhaps we've even lost our jobs. Schools, events, and establishments have been canceled for weeks, which could turn into months.

Whatever your circumstances are, making photographs or improving your skills as a photographer may seem like a distant thought.

However, doing something creative or something that moves the needle forward in your skills as a photographer can greatly help to reduce stress and anxiety.

Here are 14 ideas for how you can keep working on your photography during this (or any) difficult time. If you think anyone else would benefit from these ideas, please share this with them!

## 1. Document Your Family's Experience of COVID-19

How has your family been impacted by COVID-19? How has your community been impacted? Are your kids home from school? Are you working remotely? Are you short on food or supplies?

Think of how can you can capture your experiences and the emotions around all of the changes. What would you photograph? Who knows, per-

haps the images could become an exhibit someday. If you need some inspiration, check out this [photo series from Ashley Gilbertson](#) of the *New York Times*.

## 2. Can't Sleep? Try Night Sky Photography.

This is actually how I learned photography. I was working a high-stress job with ridiculous hours and the only time I had to learn photography was at night. I wasn't sleeping anyway, and I found that being under the stars was so calming and centering that getting a decent image was only part of the joy.

I don't recommend losing sleep if you don't have to, but if you are not sleeping anyway, this is a great way to spend the hours awake.

If you are new to night sky photography, then be sure to check out my video series on [How to Photograph the Milky Way. Part 1](#), and you can find the other two videos in the series on the [OPS Videos page](#). In the northern hemisphere, we are just entering into Milky Way season (mid-March), so it is a good time to start learning.

## 3. Build a Photography Website

If you have a growing library of images, then it may be time to showcase your work on a photography website. Go through your archive and select your favorite images for an online portfolio or gallery. The website can serve as a home for your images so you can share your art with others, or you can use it as a way of selling prints or acquiring clients.

Building a website has gotten quite simple these days with many platforms offering "drag and drop" user interfaces so that no coding is required.

*Continued...*

# 14 Ways to Improve Your Photography...

(Continued from page 6)

You've likely heard of many of these, such as Squarespace, Wix, and Weebly. There are photography specific platforms as well, such as SmugMug, Zenfolio, and Photoshelter.

If you do want to sell prints and would like to have the process streamlined, then I recommend building a site using **SmugMug**. That is the platform that I use for my **online portfolio**. What I like about SmugMug is that you can integrate your shop with a professional printer, who fulfills the orders for you.

Secondly, SmugMug integrates with Adobe Lightroom, and so you can upload your images directly from Lightroom to your portfolio on SmugMug. Lastly, your images are protected and every plan has unlimited storage.

**Click here to start your free SmugMug 14-day trial today, and save 15% on a new account.**

## 4. Backup Your Data

Do you have a solid plan for backing up your images? If not, then this is a great time to finally get one in place. The best way to make sure you don't lose your image files is to build redundancy into your system make sure that they exist in multiple locations.

A simple yet effective way to secure your images to use the **3-2-1 Backup Strategy**. To use this strategy you must have at least three copies of each image file. Two of these copies are kept locally but exist on two different platforms, and one copy exists offsite either with a cloud backup provider or a hard drive that you keep elsewhere (like at a friend's house).

Here's my version of the 3-2-1 Strategy: I have two external hard drives (from different manufacturers) connected to my editing computer. One is my "active" drive and the other is my "backup" drive. I use **Carbon Copy Cloner** (Mac only) to replicate my active drive to my backup drive once a week (or more frequently as needed). These are my two local copies. If I lose one hard drive, I have the other with the data.

For my third offsite copy, I use **Backblaze**, which is a cloud backup provider that backs up everything attached to my computer, including both my active drive and my backup drive. The backup runs continually in the background and doesn't slow down my system at all.

*I highly recommend Backblaze as your cloud backup option, and you can sign up for a 15-day free trial to give it a whirl.*

If you are confused by the differences between cloud sync, cloud backup, and cloud storage, then I encourage you to check out this **article by Backblaze** that breaks it all down.

## 5. Re-edit Images From a Year or Two Ago

Sometimes it's good to look back at older images because it reminds us of how far we've come in improving our skills as photographers. Sometimes, you can even breathe new life into those images!

Realize it or not, you've likely improved your post-processing techniques in the last year or two, and those drab images might be actually worth re-working. Maybe try switching to black and white or applying a preset. You never know what sort of treasure you may find!

## 6. Find the "Sweet Spot" of Your Lenses

You've likely heard that lenses have a sweet spot, which is the aperture that yields the best resolving power of a given lens. When possible, it's a good idea to use the sweet spot of your lens when the exposure requirements and depth of field allow for it. It's not always possible to shoot at the sweet spot aperture, and that's ok.

It's a good idea to know what your lens sweet spot is, however, so that you can make an educated decision when determining your camera settings.

You can actually find your lens' sweet spot yourself quite simply. It will take about an hour if you follow the steps below.

*Continued...*

# 14 Ways to Improve Your Photography...

(Continued from page 7)

How to find your lens' sweet spot:

1. Find a subject with a contrasting pattern (like upholstery, carpet, or even a print).
2. Put your camera on a tripod.
3. Set your camera to aperture priority mode.
4. Start at the widest aperture of your lens, set the focus point on the pattern, focus, and take the shot.
5. Then select the next aperture and without changing the focus point, refocus, and take the shot.
6. Repeat this until you've taken images at every aperture of your lens.
7. Import the images to your photo editing software.
8. View the images at 1:1 and compare sharpness between the images to find the aperture with the best sharpness at the point you set the focus point.

*Note: the depth of field will change throughout the series of images, so it is important to compare sharpness at the same focal point.*

## 7. Give Yourself a Photography Project

One way that I boost my own creativity is to give myself rules or restrictions to follow for a short period of time to see what I can create under those conditions. Another way of thinking about it is to pick a theme to follow for a week or two. Either way, the process gently forces you to look for compositions that you wouldn't likely see otherwise.

Here are 10 photo projects to try for a week or two:

1. Photograph only one subject (could be your cat, a tree, anything around your house, etc.)
2. Photograph only one color.
3. Pick your least used lens and only use that
4. Shoot black & white if you normally shoot in color (and vice versa)
5. Photograph reflections (puddles, mirrors, beverages, glass, lakes, ponds, etc.)

6. Stand in one location (could be a room in your house) for an hour and find 15 compositions
7. Only photograph using one type of light (front light, back light, side light, etc.) or at one time of day (perhaps when you normally would be commuting?)
8. Focus on finding textures or patterns
9. Pick a depth of field that you don't normally work with and only use that
10. Use long or short shutter speeds to blur or freeze motion, respectively

## 8. Study Other People's Work You Admire

Being stuck at home with access to the digital world is a great opportunity to study other people's work you admire and try to reverse-engineer why you admire it.

Here are some questions to ask yourself when trying to figure out what about the image appeals to you.

- Is it the subject matter? Such as the story, emotion or mood evoked in you – or the actual elements of the subject (mountains, moving water, the sky, etc.).
- Is it the composition? Did the photographer follow compositional "rules" or not? Think about how the subject was framed, the use of negative space, the viewpoint, etc.
- Is it the technique? What can you derive from the image about the exposure (over or under-exposed, HDR, etc.), the focal length, depth of field, how the image was post-processed, etc.
- Is it aesthetics? Use of color theory, black & white, tonal contrast, light, texture, patterns, etc.

Once you've identified a few things that you feel make the image "work", choose one aspect and try to apply it to your compositions.

Then, ask yourself – where are you falling short? How could it be improved? This exercise continues to be very helpful to me in improving my own photography.

*Continued...*

# 14 Ways to Improve Your Photography...

(Continued from page 8)

## 9. Try a Different Genre of Photography

As outdoor photographers, we may not spend a whole lot of time doing portraiture or macrophotography, but if you now find yourself stuck at home with your family and pets, you'll have more opportunities to practice portraits and seeing and using light.

Don't worry if you don't have flash or a fancy studio lighting setup. Find ways to use natural light. Practicing portraits has helped me understand how light behaves better than some other forms of photography.

Macrophotography is a perfect genre to practice because you can do it in the comfort of your home with pretty much anything you already have. If you don't have a lens that can do macro work, why not rent one? I plan to! I personally have been wanting to explore macrophotography more.

Interested in renting photography equipment? I use **BorrowLenses** for my photography rentals and highly recommend them. They recently issued a statement that they are taking extra precautions and equipment cleaning measures in light of our current situation.



## 10. Learn how to clean your camera's sensor\*

Do you know how to clean your camera's sensor? It's really not that difficult, although it is something that gives many photographers anxiety. Knowing how to do it is a good skill to have so that you don't have to send your camera in for professional cleaning and be without it.

Every time we change lenses, we introduce the possibility of dust getting into the camera body and sticking to the sensor. After a while, these dust spots can become apparent in our images and we have to spend time cloning them out, which can be a huge timesink and also can leave minor blemishes if not done properly.

If you want to learn how to clean your sensor, I recommend checking out **Nigel Danson's video** on YouTube. The process is similar to the one I use.

Here are the supplies you need to get started:

- **Rocket blower**
- **Sensor cleaning solution**
- **Sensor cleaning swabs** (pick the right size for your sensor)
- **Sensor cleaning brush**
- **Camera sensor magnifier** (optional – this is a cheap version but works fine)

*\*Editor's Note: Try this at your own risk!*

## 11. Take an Online Photography Course

Photography classes and workshops are either postponed or canceled at this point. Thankfully, we have access to platforms like YouTube that offers tons of free educational opportunities. If you are subscribed to the **Outdoor Photography School channel** – thank you!

Sometimes, however, it's valuable to invest a little more into our photo education and participate in an online course. While it's an investment of time and money, courses often elevate your learning experience more than searching for videos on YouTube.

I have enjoyed several courses at **CreativeLive** and highly recommend you check them out. They often run sales and promotions where you can get access to tons of content at a low cost. Learning a new post-processing technique or style of shooting is likely a better use of time than binge-watching favorite shows on Netflix.

*Continued...*

# 14 Ways to Improve Your Photography...

(Continued from page 9)

## 12. Do a Photo Project with Your Kids (or Elderly Relatives)

If the pandemic has forced you to stay home with your kids or elderly parents, then think of a photo project that you can do together.

For example, many schools have transitioned to online teaching for their students. How can you supplement your kids' learning experience with a photo project? Can you learn about birds, botany, space, seasonal changes, climate change, etc., through the lens of your camera? Your kids might love the extra time with you.

If you have elderly relatives that you need to care for, can you interview them? Record their stories, take images of them recalling memories, or of their hands, faces, favorite keepsakes, etc. It might be something you look back on fondly after they are gone.

## 13. Read Inspiration Books or Listen to Photography Podcasts

I know a lot of people who have a list of books or podcasts that they wished they had the time to read or catch up on. Now might be that time! No more commuting, no more after school activities, no more events or socializing.

As difficult as our current situation is, for some it is a great excuse to curl up with a good book or take a walk with your favorite podcast. If you need a little inspiration, check out my recommendations on the [OPS Resources page](#).

## 14. Stretch, Train, Prepare Your Body

Last but not least! If you are fortunate enough to be healthy during this pandemic, then be sure to stay on top of your fitness and wellness.

As outdoor photographers, we often carry heavy bags of camera gear on the trail, in a canoe, or what-have-you, and we can do simple exercises to help keep our joints in shape and happy. Instead of treating this time as unforeseen downtime, use it as get-back-in-shape time.

As I get older, I definitely have come to appreciate that doing a little "preventative maintenance" each day can make a huge difference to my comfort in the field with my gear.

And no, you don't need a gym membership! If you haven't yet checked out my recent article on [Hiking With Camera Gear](#), it lists a bunch of different exercises that you can do from the comfort of your home.

Check out [Outdoor Photography School](#).

Access this article [Here](#).

See more of Brenda's work at [brendapetrella.com](#)

### *About Brenda Petrella...*

- I'm a new mom to a happy baby girl
- I'm a wife to a very supportive partner
- I love animals (we have two rescue cows and a goofy golden retriever)
- I'd rather be outside than at my computer
- I love working with my hands and doing projects around the house
- I enjoy problem solving and finding solutions
- I've had surgeries in both of my knees, but I still love to hike
- I have a PhD in molecular biology and ran a research laboratory for a while studying molecular mechanisms of kidney cancer
- I recently left my science career to pursue a more balanced lifestyle where I spend more time doing the things I love

### *My Path to Photography:*

- I am a self-taught photographer with an insatiable desire to learn everything I can about my craft
- I pursued my passion for photography later in life after receiving my first DSLR as a gift for my 40th birthday
- I use photography as a way to connect with nature and share my experiences with the world
- My first big photography trip was to shoot the Aurora Borealis in Yukon, Canada in -30°F temperatures, and I loved every minute of it
- I am the co-founder of the Human Geography Project along with Stephen Gorman where we teach students around the globe about the connection between nature and humanity as part of the Microsoft Educator Program
- I have held several solo photography exhibits around VT and NH
- My portfolio can be viewed at [brendapetrella.com](#) where prints can be purchased
- I love helping others learn photography, especially when I can help them break through difficult concepts and achieve results!

# MARCH AT SPS



Lawrence White wowed us with "Using the Tools."



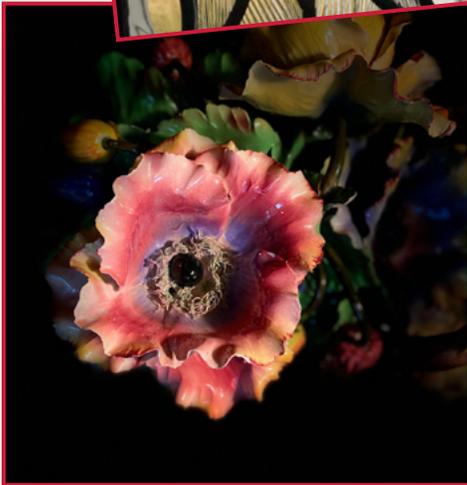
Sonya Ward took us on a tour of her hometown in Germany.



# WHAT ONE PHOTOGRAPHER DOES DURING THE PANDEMIC...

by Linda Tommasulo

Play with my new iPhone Camera!

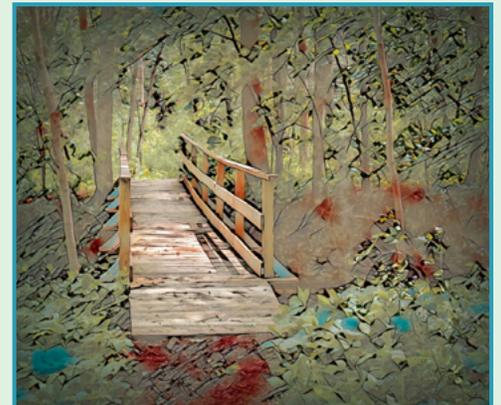
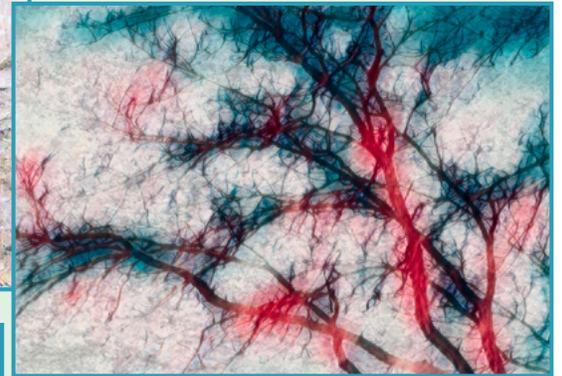
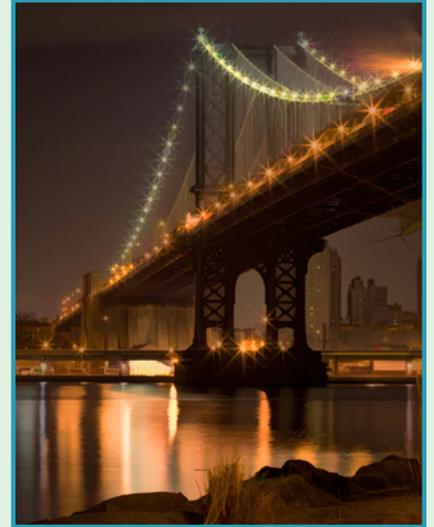
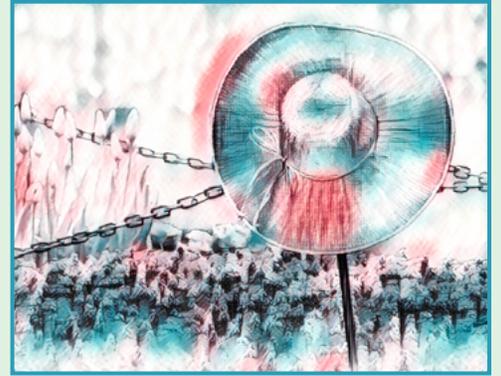
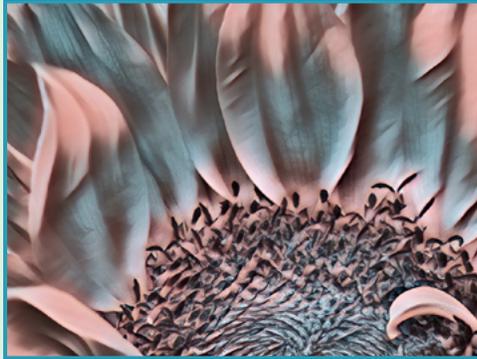
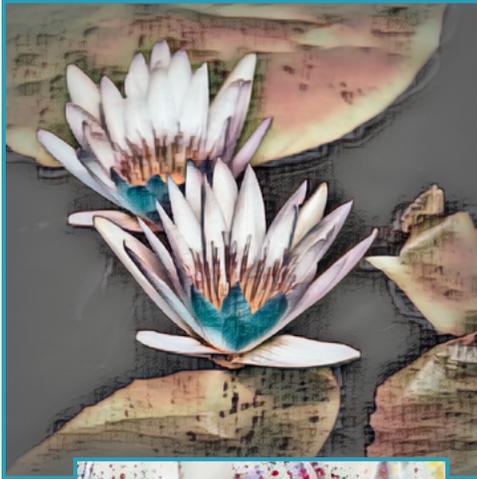


Linda A. Tommasulo  
PHOTOGRAPHY

# What One Photographer Does During The Pandemic...

(Continued from page 12)

Create Photo Art in Topaz Studio!



© Linda A. Tommasulo  
PHOTOGRAPHY

# LIVE AND LEARN

## (Germ free in the solitude of your own home.)

It's pretty ironic that we got through the winter with NO meeting cancellations....  
only to be struck down by COVID-19.

But we are all in this together!

Here are just a few of your editor's suggestions for taking the time to  
"live and learn"...from lots of free (and some relatively inexpensive)  
options to help you take your photography to the next level.

Note: These are just some of my personal favorites.

But if you Google the aspect of photography you're interested in, guaranteed you'll find a lot of options.

**Matt Kloskowski** is my go-to post-processing guru. His video tutorials are so well done—every step explained in detail. And while we are "Stuck Inside" he's offering a free tutorial pretty much every day. Check it out [here](#). (P.S. I'm pausing my work on the *Focus* to watch one right now!)

I've taken a few workshops with **Joe Brady**. He's a super guy and a very talented photographer (portrait and landscapes are his passions). His *FotoFriday* blog is very informative, and oftentimes he includes a free video tutorial. You can sign up for *FotoFriday* on his website: <https://www.joebradyphotography.com/>.

I've purchased a few lessons from **Creative Live** and have often sat in on their original video recordings, which you can attend for free. I'm hoping that I can now catch up on the lessons I have recently purchased.

Thinking of trying out some new software? Now is a great time to watch some video tutorials and sign up for a free trial. I just watched a video on **DXO's PhotoLab 2**. It was pretty interesting. Perhaps you haven't yet signed up for the **Adobe's Creative Cloud for Photographers** (Lightroom and Photoshop, etc.). Now is the time to check it out. (Just remember for your desktop and laptop computer, you want to use the "old" Lightroom Classic.)

**KelbyOne** has been a go-to for many photographers for a long time. A recent visit to their website shows discounted pricing for new subscribers. You can also access some YouTube videos from KelbyOne instructors [here](#). And some free videos authored by Scott Kelby [here](#).

I haven't used **The Great Courses**, but they do have a lot of detailed photography tutorials on a host of subjects. You can purchase individual courses or subscribe for a monthly fee. And I just came across this website delineating some free on-line courses for photographers: <https://www.adorama.com/alc/10-best-free-online-photography-courses>. Not your cup of tea? Just Goggle your topic. You'll find a plethora of options...guaranteed!

*Just remember you're not in this alone.*

*Your SPS compadres are out there, trapped in their homes just like you.  
If you're trying something new, found some cool old images you want to share,  
or reach out photographically in any way,  
use our **Facebook group page**.*

*It's there for all of us to keep in touch until the pandemic is over.*

# TRAVELING EXHIBIT

## 2019-2020 Season Schedule

For now, the balance of our traveling exhibit schedule is up to the Coronavirus Gods. We will keep you posted via email, Facebook and the website of any additional updates.

If you'd like more info about participating in future exhibits, contact the Traveling Exhibit Coordinators at:  
[travelingexhibit@spsphoto.org](mailto:travelingexhibit@spsphoto.org)

.....

### CALENDAR 2020

#### March

##### **Voorheesville Public Library**

51 School Rd., Voorheesville, NY 12186  
Mon–Thurs/9:30–6; Sat/10–5;  
Sun/10–3  
(518) 765-2791

**QUARANTINED!**

#### December

##### **Saratoga Springs Visitor's Center**

297 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
Mon–Fri/9–5; Sat/9–6; Sun/10–3  
(518) 587-3241

#### April

##### **Uncommon Grounds**

402 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
Mon–Thurs/9:30–6; Fri/6–11; Sat/6:30–11;  
Sun/9:30–10  
(518) 581-0656

**CANCELLED!**

#### May

##### **The Schenectady Trading Company**

609 Union St, Schenectady, NY 12305  
Tues–Fri/9–6; Sat/10–2  
(518) 280-3036

**CANCELLED!**

#### May & June

##### **Spectrum 8 Theatres**

290 Delaware Ave., Albany, NY 12209  
(518) 489-0005

**CANCELLED!**

#### July & August

##### **The National Bottle Museum**

76 Milton Ave., Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
Fri–Tues/10–4  
(518) 885-7589

#### September - November

##### **Mabee Farm Historic Site**

110 Main St., Rotterdam Junction, NY 12150  
Tues–Sat/11–4  
(518) 887-5073



© Linda Tommasulo

Hanging at  
Voorheesville  
Public Library



© Linda Tommasulo

MARCH  
PRINT WINNERS

GENERAL



**1st Place**  
"Rita Hayworth"  
© Nancy Pfunter



**2nd Place**  
"Oscar the Cat"  
© Alan Wiggins

# MARCH PRINT WINNERS

GENERAL



3rd Place: "Blue Morning"  
© Linda Tommasulo

**PRINT JUDGE:** David Waite

is an amateur nature and fine arts photographer who was trained in black and white photography in the early 1970's. David worked professionally and then set aside his artistic pursuits until about 2003. He enjoys the creative aspects of photography and sharing his knowledge with others of similar interests.

To view these, and other competition photos, check out our website:

[www.spsphoto.org](http://www.spsphoto.org)

Click: Competitions then  
"Print" or "Digital Image"



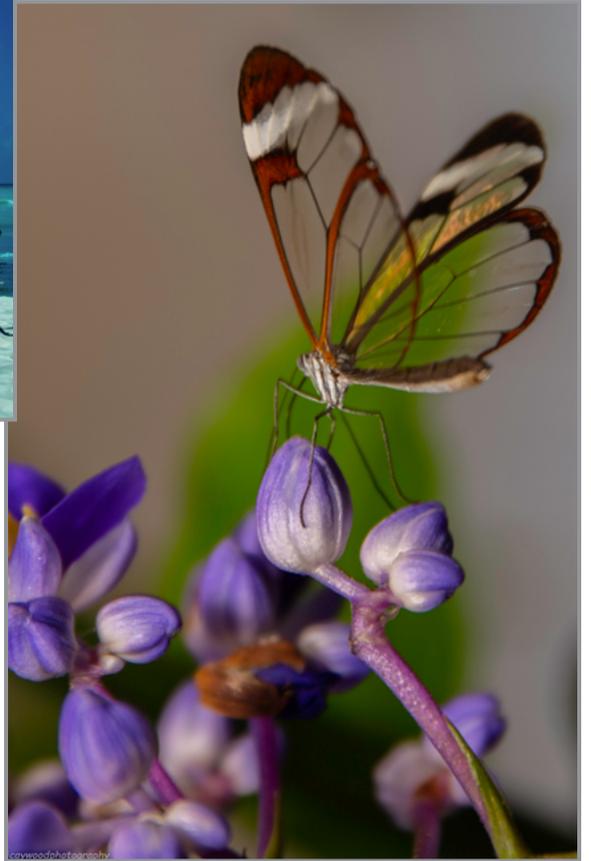
4th Place: "The Rebound"  
© Alan Wiggins

Honorable Mention

GENERAL



"Aruba Winter" © Debra Fazio



"Glass Winged Butterfly" © Jeana Caywood

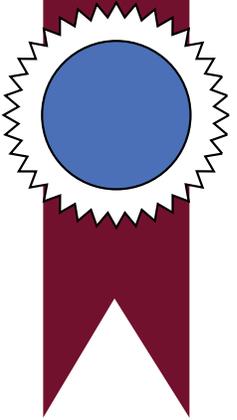


"Where I Want to Be" © Carol Bell



"Think" © Elena Keesee

MONOCHROME



MARCH  
PRINT WINNERS

**1st Place**  
"Antelope Canyon Seahorse"  
© Colleen Magai



**2nd Place: "The Lonely Lighthouse"**  
© Alan Wiggins

# MARCH PRINT WINNERS

EMORCZOM



3rd Place: "Winter Starkness"  
© Barb Lawton

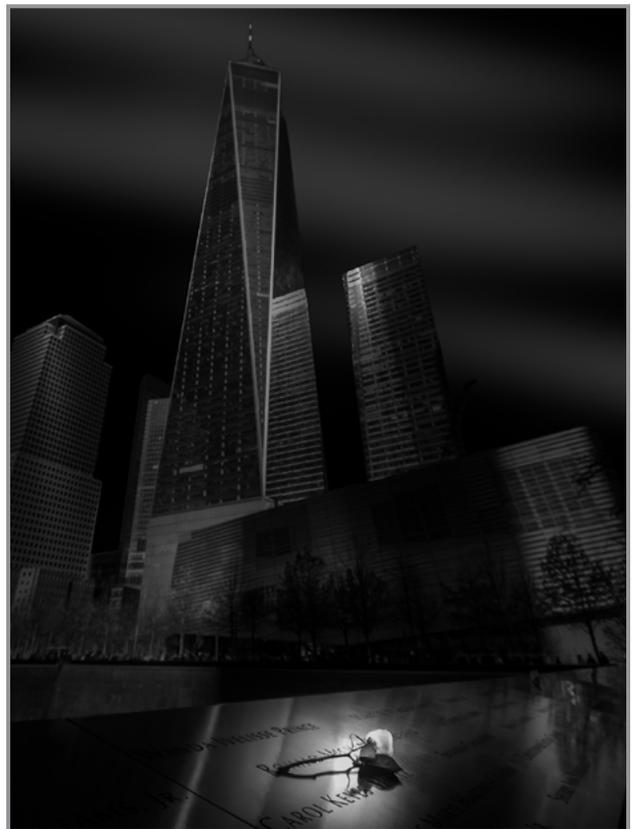
## Honorable Mention



"Reflections in Flasks"  
© Nancy Pfunter



"Panther Grouper"  
© Joe Cotroneo



"The Rose"  
© Sean Sullivan

# MARCH PRINT WINNERS

Assigned Topic: Winter Scene

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**1st Place**

“The Cabin on the Hill”

© Barb Lawton



2nd Place: “Winter Scene #1”

Sean Sullivan



3rd Place: “Finch in Snow”

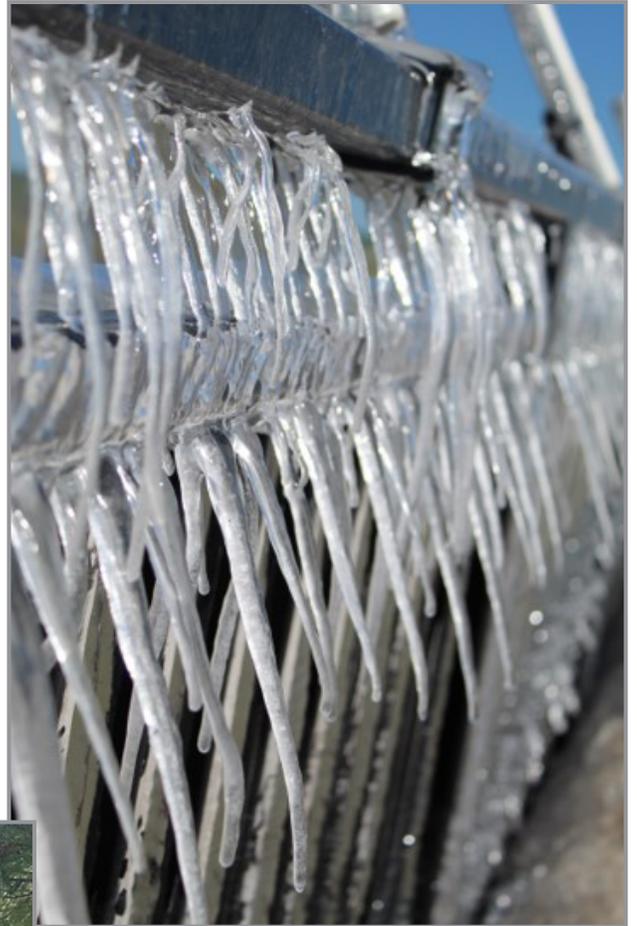
© Linda Tommasulo

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"Thatcher Moon"  
© Rich Schreiberstein

Honorable  
Mention



"Icy Railing"  
© Phil Atwood

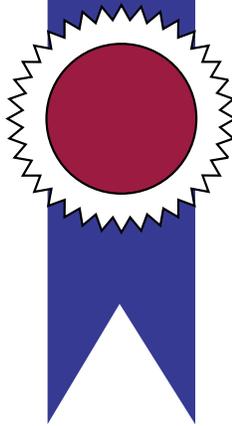


"Winter Walk at the Crossing"  
© Carol Mangano

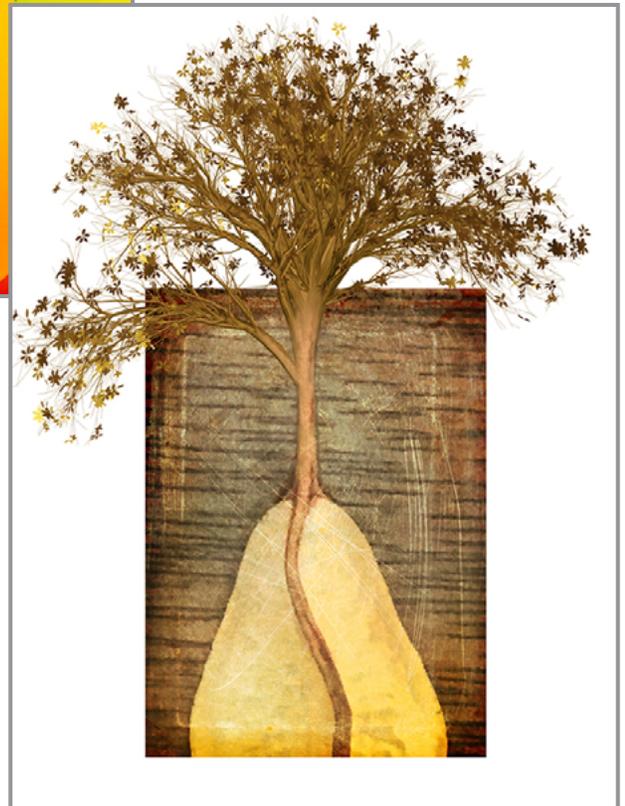
# MARCH DIGITAL WINNERS



1st Place  
"Snowy Scene"  
© Kim Koza



2nd Place  
"Rainbow Oil Drops"  
© Joe Cotroneo



3rd Place  
"Pear Root"  
© Kim Koza

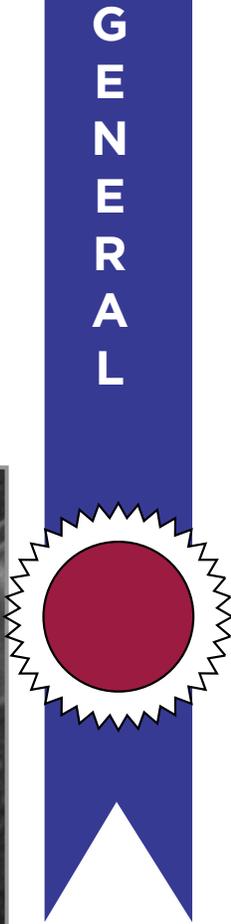
# MARCH DIGITAL WINNERS



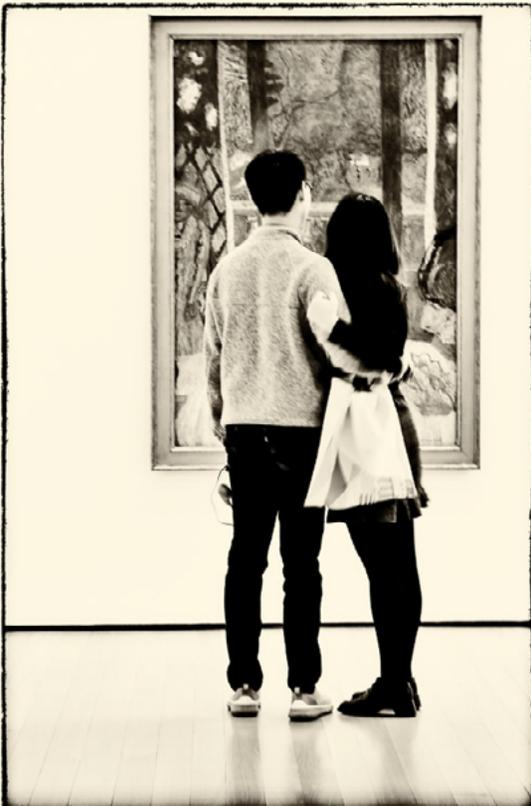
4th Place  
"Strawberries 'n Cream"  
© Colleen Magai



5th Place  
"The Escalator"  
© Nancy Pfunter



## Honorable Mention



"Art Lovers"  
© Fred Moody



"Antelope Canyon Flare"  
© Jeana Caywood

# MARCH DIGITAL WINNERS

Honorable  
Mention



“On The Carousel”  
© Nancy Pfuntner



“Frankenstein’s  
Grandmother”  
© Sean Sullivan



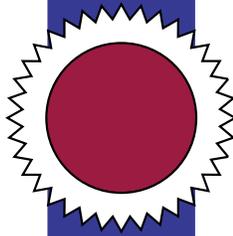
“Quintuplet Dog Walker”  
© Sean Sullivan

Assigned  
Topic:  
“Faces in Things”

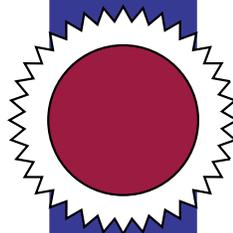
**1st Place:**  
“Let Me Out of Here”  
© Elena Keesee



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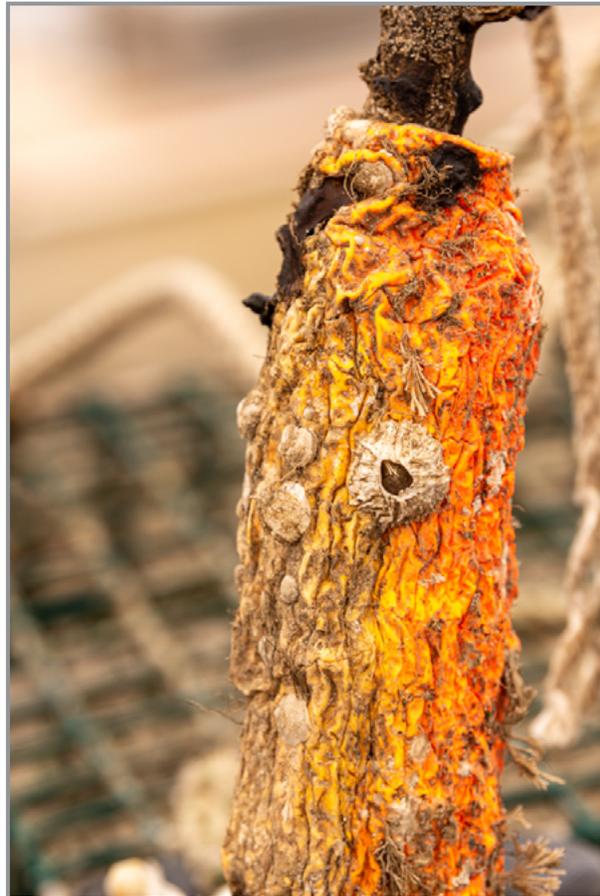
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## FEBRUARY DIGITAL WINNERS



2nd Place: "Call Me Rusty"  
© Linda Tommasulo

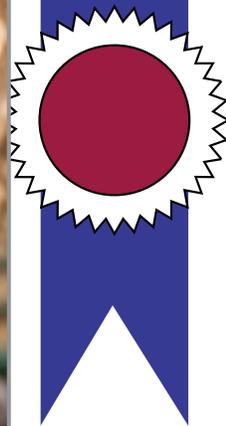


3rd Place: "Barnacle Bill"  
© Alan Wiggins



4th Place: "Ice Dragon"  
© Jeff Plant

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### **Digital Judge: Joan Heffler**

Our own **Joan Heffler** is a Saratoga Springs/Schenectady/Albany wedding, corporate, portrait and event photographer with the eye of an artist and the technical expertise of a true professional. She captures unforgettable images of bar and bat mitzvahs, corporate events, portraits, and weddings.

# MARCH DIGITAL WINNERS

## Honorable Mention



"Oh My"  
© Sean Sullivan

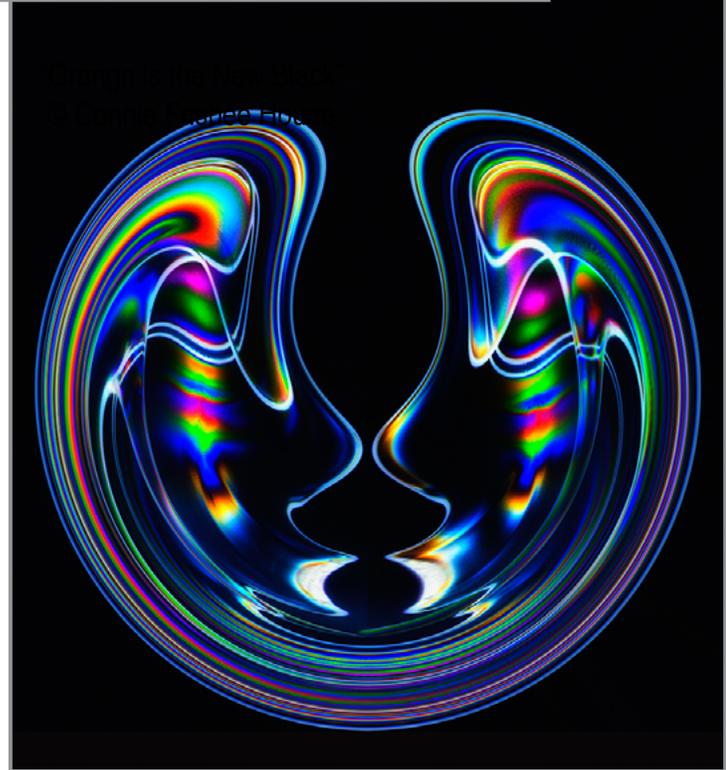
"It's All About That Face"  
© Marguerite Hill



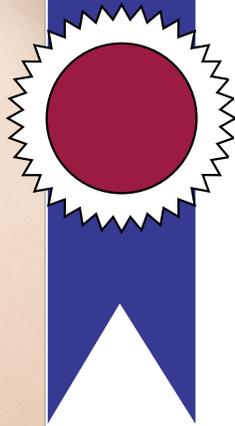
"Cabinet Man"  
© Joe Cotroneo



"The Kiss"  
© Barb Lawton



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**For Camera Club Specials...  
Ask for Alan Samiljan, at (781) 462-2383.  
His hours are usually 8:30-5:00pm,  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday.**

**Leave a message or send an email  
(asamiljan@huntsphoto.com),  
and he'll get right back to you.**



**New Camera's Alert!**  
**Canon 90D, Sony A7R4, and just  
announced to be released, Nikon D6!**

## HUNT'S APRIL SPECIALS

Hope you're doing well and staying healthy.

**Tamron** is offering some super discounts in the month of April! Here's a trio of Sony E mount full frame lenses and one for Nikon F and Canon EF mounts. Purchase any of these lenses and receive a FREE Promaster HD Digital Protection filter!

20mm f/2.8 Di III OSD (Sony E) \$299

24mm f/2.8 Di III OSD (Sony E) \$299

35mm f/2.8 Di III OSD (Sony E) \$299

SP 35mm f/1.4 Di USD (Nikon F or Canon EF) \$699

**Olympus E-M1X body**, now \$2,449.99 April 6-May 3!

**Panasonic G9** with Leica 12-60mm f/2.8-4, \$1,749.99!

Purchase any **Sirui Tripod, Monopod, Tripod Head or Gimbal Head** and receive a \$15-\$100 mail-in-rebate depending on the purchase price!

If you are interested in any of the following rumored or announced items, call me at 781-462-2383 to be added to my database or pre-order if possible, and receive official information when available.

**Fuji X-T4** \$1,699 body is available to pre-order now  
**Nikon Z8** (?) next generation pro level full frame mirrorless  
**Nikon D6** \$6,499.95 is available to pre-order now  
**M.Zuiko Digital ED 150-400mm f/4.5 TC1.25x IS PRO** lens (announced as "under development")  
**Canon EOS-1D X Mark III** DSLR Camera with CFexpress Card and Reader Bundle is available to pre-order now \$6,499.  
**Canon RF 100-500mm f/4.5-7.1L IS USM** Lens (announced as "under development")  
**Canon R5** next generation pro level full frame mirrorless (announced as "under development")

...and something else you may want to know about: Canon has continued their printer rebate program. Now through April 30, 2020 we are offering the **Canon Pixma PRO 10 printer** at \$379.99 before rebate (Canon sells it on their website for \$699.99). If you purchase the printer plus a package of 13x19x50 sheets of Canon Semi-Gloss or Luster paper, \$50, Canon will send you a \$250 mail in rebate! This is a pigment based printer and is always reviewed very well. Your final cost is \$129.99 plus the \$50 paper package after mail in rebate!

Hunt's is also offering an incredible special on the Canon Image **PROGRAF Pro-1000 17" Printer**. Purchase the printer for \$1,299.99, and receive an assortment worth \$500 of Canon paper! You then mail in for your \$300 rebate. Your final cost is \$999.99 for the printer with \$500 worth of FREE paper. Supplies definitely limited on this one. Call me now to reserve yours. Rebate runs through April 30, 2020!

Don't forget to ask me about special pricing on Monitor Calibration from **Data Color** and **Xrite**, a crucial part of the printing process! I also can arrange special pricing on Ink and paper for my printer customers.

In order to take advantage of these specials, or if you'd like a quote on anything else, please call me, Alan Samiljan, at 781-462-2383 to place your order and reference SPS. As always, UPS Ground shipping is FREE in the Lower 48. My regular hours are 8:30-5:00pm eastern, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.

Photographically yours, Alan

Don't Forget to Check out Hunt's Photo Walks, Workshops and Adventures:  
<https://edu.huntsphoto.com/>

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## *SPS members can get 10% off all their orders with Frame Destination!*

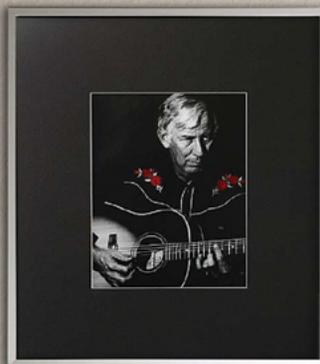
You must be a registered user of the Frame Destination website as a SPS member. (Note: The discount is not valid with other discounts, and will not work for non-members.)

To become a registered SPS member on our website follow these steps:

1. Click "Login" in the upper right of section of our site - <https://www.framedestination.com>
2. Click "Create an Account" in the middle of the page.
3. Chat or send an email to [info@framedestination.com](mailto:info@framedestination.com) saying you are a registered user and need your account set for SPS membership.

To see how easy it is to order custom frames on our website you can check out the video "How to Order a Custom Picture Frame..." in our video gallery: [framedestination.com/video-gallery](https://www.framedestination.com/video-gallery). To learn more about us you can check out our About Us Video here: <https://www.framedestination.com/about-us>

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# ABOUT THE SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



For more than 85 years, the Schenectady Photographic Society has been the meeting place of photographers of all levels—from beginners to serious amateurs to professionals—with the goal of exploring and sharing their love of photography. Members throughout the Capital Region meet primarily on Wednesday nights to engage in various competitions (print, projected, photo essay and more), enjoy member round-table discussions, guest speaker presentations and hands-on mentoring to further their knowledge, creativity and inspiration. Occasional field trips give us the opportunity to expand our photographic vision; and frequent exhibits in the local area allow us to share that vision.

In addition to our monthly print and projected competitions, we are challenged with an assigned topic—encouraging participants to venture out of their comfort zones. Members participating in competitions receive specific commentary and suggestions to take their images to the next level. Don't wish to compete? That's OK too. Observing competitions is always an inspirational and learning experience.

The Schenectady Photographic Society is an enthusiastic and energetic group. Our camaraderie is infectious. Check out our calendar on the last page (season runs from late September to mid-May) and join us! Visitors are always welcomed...especially those who have a passion for photography.

*It's not about being better  
than everyone else...  
it's about being better than you were.*

## SPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

President ..... Rich Schreiberstein

**president@spsphoto.org**

Vice President ..... Linda Tommasulo

**vp@spsphoto.org**

Treasurer and Director at Large ..... Pat McCormick

**treasurer@spsphoto.org**

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**secretary@spsphoto.org**

Newsletter Editor ..... Linda Tommasulo

**newsletter@spsphoto.org**

Webmaster & Annual Report Editor... Sean Sullivan

**webmaster@spsphoto.org**

Membership Chair: ..... Sonya Ward

**membership@spsphoto.org**

Print Group ..... Ed Fritz & Alan Wiggins

**printchair@spsphoto.org**

Digital Group..... Sean Sullivan & Joe Cotroneo

**digitalchair@spsphoto.org**

Photo Essay ..... Dow Smith

**photoessay@spsphoto.org**

Judge Coordinator ..... Jeana Caywood

**judging@spsphoto.org**

Field Trip Coordinator ..... Joe Cotroneo

**fieldtrips@spsphoto.org**

Communications ..... Dow Smith,

Linda Tommasulo & Sean Sullivan

**communications@spsphoto.org**

### **LUBA RICKET CREATIVITY COORDINATOR**

Joan Heffler

### **TRAVELING EXHIBIT COORDINATORS**

Bert van Grondelle, Jerry Boehm,  
Rich Schreiberstein and M-J Adelman

**travelingexhibit@spsphoto.org**

### **REFRESHMENT COORDINATORS**

Judy Breslau & John Ogden



### **Connect with the Schenectady Photographic Society:**

Website: **www.spsphoto.org**

Facebook Group: **https://www.facebook.com/groups/schenectadyphotographicsociety/**

Facebook Page: **https://www.facebook.com/schenectadyphotographicsociety/**

Instagram: @schenectadyphotographic

**THE FOCUS NEEDS YOU!** For articles, suggestions, and member profiles (bios/photos).

Contact Linda at **newsletter@spsphoto.org**.

# SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY 2019-2020 SEASON CALENDAR

Meetings start at 7pm and are held at the First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY.  
(Parking and entrances are on Chapel Street, a one-way street off Nott Terrace.)

***This schedule is a work in progress and is subject to change!***

## September, 2019

**9/25/19.....Opening Night**  
Print critique & member vote for best image to win \$25 Amazon Gift Card. Hosted by Rich Schreiberstein.

## October, 2019

**10/2/19..... Print Competition**  
Assigned Topic: Long Exposure (30 seconds +)  
Speaker: Connie Frisbee Houde, "Developing a Personal Photography Project"

**10/9/19.....NO MEETING**

**10/16/19.....Digital Competition**  
Assigned Topic: Shadow Art (where there is light there must be shadow...and vice versa).  
Speaker: Jim Craner, "Moonstruck"

**10/23/19.....Event Night**  
"Bring Your Bag/Camera Mentoring"

## November, 2019

**11/2/19 (Saturday)..... "Making Something out of Nothing" Workshop with Mark Sweeney.**

**11/6/19..... Print Competition**  
Assigned Topic: A Tradition (meaningful to you)  
Speaker: Dow Smith & Linda Tommasulo  
"Preparing for the Photo Essay Competition"

**11/13/19.....Digital Competition**  
Assigned Topic: Coffee (delicious and rejuvenating, and it is a work of art).  
Speaker: M-J Adelman "Iceland & Greenland"

**11/19/19 (Rain Date 11/21) "Night Photography" Workshop with Mark Bowie**

**11/20/19.....Event Night**  
Speaker: Mark Bowie, "Compelling Landscapes"

## December, 2019

**12/4/19..... Print Competition**  
Assigned Topic: Still Life (any group of objects).  
Speakers/YOU!: "Outside the Box" - Member Short Presentations (any subject)

**12/11/19..... Digital Competition**  
Assigned Topic: Top Down (Looking down is not always a bad thing).  
Speaker: Dr. Jeff Perkins, "Street Photography"

**12/18/19, 12/25/19 and 1/1/20.....NO MEETING**

## January, 2020

**1/8/20..... Print Competition**  
Assigned Topic: Macro Photography (no flowers!).  
Speaker: David Edgecomb, "Photography and the 'ions'"

**1/15/20.....Digital Competition**  
Assigned Topic: Symmetry (Bring balance and harmony to your image). Speaker: Linda Tommasulo, "Photographing Flowers"

**1/22/20.....Event Night**  
M-J Adelman, "M-J's Western Adventure"

## February, 2020

**2/5/20..... Print Competition**  
Assigned Topic: Portrait (Single person, any style).  
Speaker: Sean Sullivan, "Topaz and Artificial Intelligence"

**2/12/20.....Digital Competition**  
Assigned Topic: Irony (humorous or thought-provoking). Speaker: Ed Fritz, "Tripods"

**2/19/20.....Event Night**  
Speaker: Phil Olivo, "Adventures Along the Douro River"

## March, 2020

**3/4/20..... Print Competition**  
Assigned Topic: Winter Scene (your best winter image)  
Speaker: Lawrence White, "Using the Tools"

**3/11/20.....Digital Competition**  
Assigned Topic: Faces in Things (Look in nature, food, furniture, etc.). Speaker: Sonya Ward, "Germany"

## April, 2020

**4/1/20..... Print Competition**  
Assigned Topic: Fairs & Festivals (or a similar event).  
Speaker: Jeanne Wood, "Photo Stacking"

**4/8/20.....NO MEETING**

**4/15/20.....Digital Competition**  
Assigned Topic: (Don't go the wide and narrow...)  
Show us Your Closeups!  
Speaker: Joe Caroneo, "Macro Photography"

**???..... Photo Essay Competition**

**???..... Luba Ricket Creativity Competition**

**???..... Print of the Year**

**???..... Digital Image of the Year**

**???..... Awards Banquet**

**June 6 ....Luba Ricket Creativity Workshop**

**June 19 (Rain Date June 20).....  
"Photographing the Milky Way" Workshop  
with Matt Pollock**