

Bold red texts are interactive links!

FOCUS

Volume 85 - No. 1

www.spsphoto.org

September/October 2018



Opening Night - Wednesday, September 26, 2018 @ 7 pm

Join us for the first meeting of the 2018-2019 season.
Bring one favorite, matted print
(not previously entered into competition)
for critique and *a chance to win a \$25 Hunt's Gift Card.*
Bob Coppola will moderate. Refreshments will be served.
Reconnect with your fellow SPS photographers and
help us celebrate the new season.

www.spsphoto.org

To start off the season, we're asking members to bring one (1) matted favorite print to share with the group for critique and a contest. Robert Coppola will moderate the evening, but YOU are the stars of the program. Do you have an image on which you would like to receive some feedback? Or perhaps it's an old photo that's just one of your "faves." Inquiring minds want to see it! At the break, audience members will cast one vote for their favorite image. The photo with the most votes will receive a \$25 Hunt's Gift Card.

An added bonus will be reconnecting with your old SPS friends...enjoying some refreshments and getting back to sharing your passion for photography with others.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Phil Olivo

WELCOME TO THE 2018–2019 SOCIETY SEASON

Our first meeting of the new season will be on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, starting at 7pm. It will be a print critique night, hosted by Robert Coppola, to get us ready for the upcoming competition season. Please bring one matted print (not previously entered into competition) for discussion and a chance to win a \$25 Hunt's Gift Card. We are in the process of fine-tuning our calendar for the upcoming season and you can view all current scheduled meetings and events on the society's website. You'll be pleased with what has been scheduled at this time!

"There is nothing so stable as change"

Bob Dylan

Last year we implemented significant changes based on member input which centered around meeting time and frequency of meetings. We also introduced efficiency changes such as online membership renewal, banquet sign-up via PayPal as well as encouraging the online printing of print night competition cards. These changes helped move the Society forward while preserving our traditions of friendship, learning and camaraderie via a love of photography. For the 2018–2019 season we'll be implementing a few more changes that will address some equity situations in our competitions as well as move the Society towards more efficiency. We anticipate that these changes will have minor impact on our membership. Here they are:

"Rainchecks" for members asked to judge competitions

Occasionally a scheduled judge will not be available for a club competition. When that happens, we turn to an experienced member and ask them to judge. This usually happens at the last minute and, if the member planned to compete, they must withdraw their images from competition that night. Starting next season, the member judging a competition will receive a "raincheck" to enter two additional images (print or projected, depending on which competition they judged) in a future competition.

Too Many Entries

Occasionally we will have a member exceed the allowed number of entries in a club completion. Our print and projected image chairs make every effort to catch these extra entries...unfortunately, some slip through. If this situation occurs in the future, the member entering too many entries will forfeit their highest scoring entry in that competition for that night. We recognize that these situations happen very infrequently but feel we should have a procedure to address them. I have to confess that I've entered too many images in a projected image competition once before; fortunately, none of the images placed.

Elimination of PSA Competitions

Due to a lack of interest, we are not participating in the PSA competitions in the coming year. PSA competitions are a time- and labor-intensive effort and we have seen declining interest over the past few years. Members always have the option to join PSA as an individual and participate in their monthly competitions directly.

Name Tags

We will be moving towards a member-printed name tag similar to the way you are able to create print competition cards. A template will be provided on our website. This change has the advantage of allowing you to create and print a name tag once dues are paid, or immediately replace a lost or damaged tag. We will continue to supply name tag holders. You'll receive more information on this change in the coming weeks.

I realize that change isn't popular. However, these changes provide guidance and efficiency for our coming year. Questions? Please let me know.

Thanks, and looking forward to a creative and productive year!

Phil

DANCE PHOTOGRAPHY - OCTOBER 3

by Miranda Eldridge

What happens when you combine two different art forms together? If you're lucky, something special. Miranda Eldridge studied photography at SUNY Adirondack while working as a professional ballroom dancer. Naturally Miranda began to combine her passions and began photographing dancers. Photographing dancers is not something most can just pick up and start shooting. To photograph dancers you must understand the movement of the dancers, and achieve shutter speeds to capture their precision in not ideal light locations, all while not missing "the moment." Come enjoy the beautiful world of dance through the lens of my camera.



Check out Miranda's
dance photography
—and more—
on her website:
[https://mirandaleldridge.
smugmug.com/](https://mirandaleldridge.smugmug.com/)



TRANSYLVANIA - OCTOBER 10

by Fred Moody



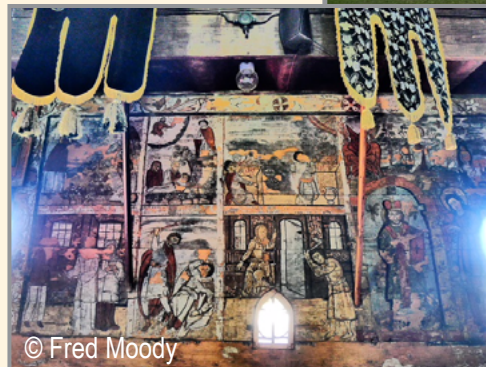
Join photographer and fellow SPS member, Fred Moody as he details the history and geography of Transylvania through his extraordinary images. Fred will also discuss his camera gear and the settings used to capture Transylvania in all its glory.

Is there really a Transylvania, you ask. Well...yes! Per Wikipedia:

Transylvania is a historical region which today is located in central Romania. Bound on the east and south by its natural borders, the Carpathian mountain range, historical Transylvania extended westward to the Apuseni Mountains. The term sometimes encompasses not only Transylvania proper, but also the historical regions of Crişana and Maramureş, and occasionally the Romanian part of Banat.

The region of Transylvania is known for the scenery of its Carpathian landscape and its rich history. It also contains major cities such as Cluj-Napoca, Braşov, Sibiu, Târgu Mureş and Bistriţa.

The Western world commonly associates Transylvania with vampires, due to the influence of Bram Stoker's novel Dracula and its many film adaptations.



SHOOTING CLOSE TO HOME - OCTOBER 17

by Jim Craner

It's an old mantra—but a true one—good images can be made anywhere. It only takes imagination, a discerning eye, reasonable technical skills, and the perseverance to make it happen.

We often overlook the great photographic opportunities that are right under our noses at home. I did for several years—but finally saw the light (pun intended). This talk will feature a slide show with music featuring images captured on our property, or in the immediate vicinity, over approximately 10 years.

After retiring in 2001, I decided to pursue wildlife photography and started traveling widely to a “bucket list” of places I had selected in the course of studying the work of photographers I admired. In addition to decent images, I thoroughly enjoyed the good times, and camaraderie of working with other photographers in the field. When my wife joined me in retirement, we acquired the large(ish!) country property where we now live, became involved in equestrian activities, as well as animal rescue. Missing the excitement of exotic locations and animal species; I put aside “serious” photography for several years. However after creating something of a wildlife habitat around our home, observing the prevailing light, atmospheric, and the backdrop of changing seasons I realized I was missing good photographic opportunities.

I recall a talk I attended many years ago given by Freeman Patterson. He remarked that most of his best images were taken in two locations – his home in Nova Scotia and a treasured haunt of his in Africa. His point was that the intimate knowledge of a location, and being ready to react quickly to exciting situations, inevitably leads to the best images. Because we spend a lot of time working on our property, I've become intimately familiar with how the light hits all parts of at various times of day, and in different seasons. I'm also aware of what subjects are likely to appear –when and where. I always keep a basic camera “kit” at the ready, and try not to let the more mundane demands of daily life distract me from trying to make good images.



© Jim Craner

In addition to the above material, I will include a very brief technical piece based on what may seem an unusual premise. That is: making good prints actually starts in the field—not at the computer. Every so often, it is good discipline to review those basic skills that impact the quality of our photographic work. One of those—for those who print their work—is to think of the print right from the outset...not as an afterthought.

Hope to see you in October.



© Jim Craner



© Jim Craner

Continued...

SHOOTING CLOSE TO HOME

Continued from page 5

Jim is not only a talented photographer,
he does beautiful archival wide-format printing.

Contact Jim at: renarc@aol.com

See his ad on page 24.



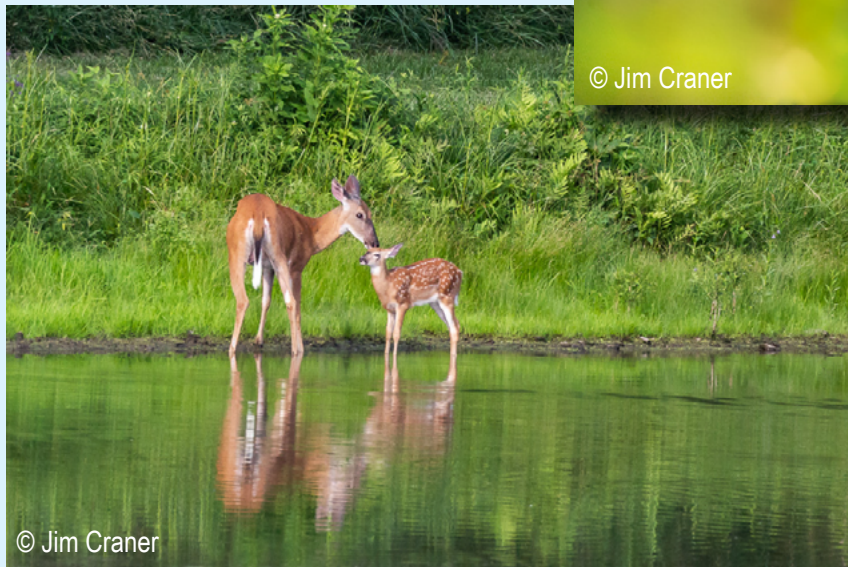
© Jim Craner



© Jim Craner



© Jim Craner



© Jim Craner

See where many of these photos were taken, more
of Jim's photos, and creations from local artisans,
at Jim & Marlene Craner's
"Phoenix Gallery."
See ad on page 23.

Visit them on *Facebook*.

**SPECIAL
EVENT!**

**~ PHOTOGRAPHING MODELS ~
A HANDS-ON PHOTO WORKSHOP
with Doug Mitchell
Saturday, November 3, 2018**

This workshop will offer an introduction and hands-on opportunity to work with studio lighting and models. Beginning with studio strobes and camera settings we'll also touch on triggering and control of lighting, general posing concepts and the basics of working with models.

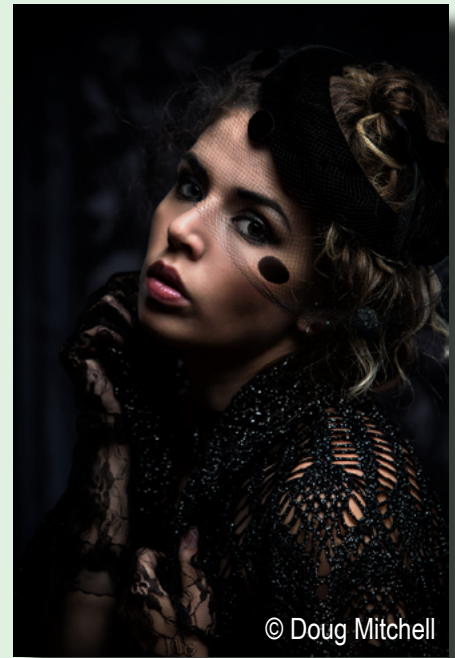
The hands-on portion of the workshop will offer the chance for attendees to work with two experienced models shooting with high and low-key studio setups. Working in groups, attendees will alternate working with each model at each set. For the second half of the session the models will change looks and once again attendees will alternate between the sets shooting new looks.

Following the shooting sessions there will be a Q&A period providing an opportunity for questions, helpful tips and feedback.

As a final wrap-up we will touch on the use of speed lights for off camera flash photography showing how they can be used similar to studio lighting for indoor and outdoor photography. This will offer a foundation and perhaps encouragement to use off camera flash as a creative tool to improve lighting and dimension while working with available light.

Doug Mitchell has been a photographer for over 25 years and has shot a variety of work including print publication, fashion, model, wedding and concert photography. He regularly shoots both studio and outdoor photography.

www.dougmitchellphotos.com
<https://www.facebook.com/dougmitchellphotos>
<https://www.facebook.com/doug.mitchell.9250>



Date: Saturday, November 3
Time: 12:00 to 4:30 pm (doors at 11:30)
SEATS FOR THIS WORKSHOP
ARE LIMITED TO 12!
Place: Regular meeting room,
First United Methodist Church
Schenectady
Donation: \$75/SPS Member
(\$95/Non-members
if space available - see below)

Due to limited space, initial registration will be open to SPS members only. (Should the number of SPS registrants be less than 12, we will open it up to non-members.)

This workshop is open to photographers of all levels though **attendees will need to know how to navigate manual camera settings and menus**. We will be working in manual mode and the ability to set ISO, exposure and aperture will be necessary. Adjustment of white balance and the capability of shooting in RAW is recommended, though not a necessity. A Hot Shoe attachment on your camera is required. (PC Sync connection may suffice.)

PAYPAL REGISTRATION ONLY OPENS ON OCTOBER 1 at 9 am.
Visit our website: www.spsphoto.org (Events) or **CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

PHOTOGRAPHING MODELS WORKSHOP

Continued from page 7



© Doug Mitchell

There will be two groups of six (6) photographers, each photographing one model. Photographers will be given a specific amount of time to shoot. Once the group has finished, they will switch and photograph the second model.

After the first session, models will change clothes and make-up and photographing will be repeated.

© Doug Mitchell



© Doug Mitchell

Light refreshments will be served.

This is your chance to see a professional portrait photographer at work– and capture some exciting images of your own.

Doug will critique members' photos on January 16.



© Doug Mitchell

Models and photographers must sign a model release. Participants must provide one high-res image of each look (no logo/signature) for each model, as well as smaller signed jpegs as desired.



© Doug Mitchell

SCOTT KELBY WORLDWIDE PHOTO WALK SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018, 9-11 AM

Led by Sean Sullivan



Sign up today to join Sean and fellow SPS members on the 2018 Scott Kelby Worldwide Photo Walk.

Meet at: The Entrance to the **Albany Rural Cemetery**, Cemetery Avenue, Albany

End at: Burger King, or your choice, for refreshments.

This year we are going to go somewhere different. The Albany Rural Cemetery in Menands, NY (also known as St. Agnes Cemetery). This is a 400 acre cemetery and as one of the most beautiful, pastoral cemeteries in the United States. Many historical American figures are buried there including Erastus Corning (and his grandson), John Van Buren (son of President Martin Van Buren), General Stephen Van Rensselaer (founder of RPI) and most notably President Chester A. Arthur (the 21st President of the United States).

We will meet at the parking lot by the St. Agnes Cemetery main building (just over the railroad tracks at the end of Cemetery Road. The cemetery is only open till 12pm on Saturday so we will be doing our walk from 9am till around 11am (or later). Afterward, we can meet at Burger King down the road in Menands (or pick somewhere else if you wish).

For more info and to register, click [here](#).

SPECIAL EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Saratoga Fantastique (Large-Format Photo Mural Prints) Exhibition
Walk-Through with Photographer Lawrence White

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15 AT 6:30 PM

Lawrence White's "Saratoga Fantastique" will be on exhibit at The Grove, 233 Lake Avenue, Saratoga Springs, through October 30. Show hours will be 9 am– 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, or by appointment.

Since the opening reception conflicts with our first meeting of the season, Lawrence has graciously scheduled a **special walk-through with the photographer just for SPS!**

JOIN US ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 15 AT 6:30 PM

"I hope my photographs help people look at Saratoga in a different way than what they might normally see, and that this interpretation allows them to absorb themselves even further into their own history. To see things differently—that's really the key of life... And that's why "Saratoga Fantastique," because it is fantastic. It's not mundane and we should be continually reminded of that..."

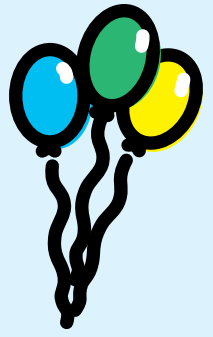
~ Lawrence White ~



Read more about Lawrence and his exhibit [here](#):

SPS 2017-2018 AWARDS BANQUET

June 6, 2018



A good time was had by all at our first Awards Banquet at **Wolf's 1-11** in Albany... as attested to by the photos taken by Rich Schreiberstein (who has become our resident *Focus* photographer).



Moderator (and fearless SPS President), Phil Olivo.

All photos
© 2018

Rich Schreiberstein



Joan Heffler awarded the winners of the Luba Ricket Creativity Competition.



Barb Lawton was one of many season award winners.



Jerry Boehm and Bert van Grondelle were awarded the Harry Michael's Service Award.



Lots of donations were received for our raffle. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Continued...

SPS Awards Banquet

(Continued from page 10)



More raffles. Did you win??

All photos © 2018, Rich Schreiberstein



Pres. and Vice Pres.



Your 2017-2018 Board of Directors:

L-R, Phil Olivo, Bob Riccardo, Pat McCormick, Linda Tommasulo, Colleen Magai, Bert van Grondelle, Jerry Boehm, Sean Sullivan, Brian Sherman. (Missing: Ferdie Bowman, Ray Henrikson, Dow Smith)

NECCC 2018

by Ellen Christiansen

On July 13–15, 2018, the New England Camera Club Council (NECCC) held their 73rd Annual Photo Conference at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA. For those not familiar with the conference, it is a multifaceted event targeting all skill levels and multiple interests. While offering a fantastic opportunity to network with your SPS friends, it also gives a chance to make new friends who share your passion for photography. The conference is also designed to inspire, educate, entertain, and so much more.

Let me tell you about some of the opportunities to learn. There were plenty of course topics to choose from. A sampling of the many topics included were nature, creativity, iPhone/SMART phone, digital photography editing software, still life, and portrait photography. Canon sponsored Darrell Gulin, Canon Explorer of Light, who presented the keynote program “VISION: Capturing Moments on all 7 Continents.” Accompanied by stunning images taken in his travels, Darrell’s verbal presentation was educational, entertaining, and inspirational.

If a change was desired from sitting in a classroom, and if we had an itchy finger yearning to push some camera buttons, the NECCC had that covered with numerous hands-on photo opportunities, interactive sessions, and demonstrations. Whether it be photographing models, people in character (Steampunk, Cosplay, Renaissance, etc.), raptors, critters, water droplets, frozen flowers, glassware, or even one of the classic cars provided by Cam Snappers Club, there always seemed to be something worthy of pointing a camera at.

Are you competitive, need inspiration, or do you just appreciate viewing the work of other artists? Opportunity was available to experience collectively the talents of other photographers. Registrants were encouraged to submit print images and digital images for photo contests.

In addition, there were shopping vendors and opportunities galore at the conference! Do you need some stuff, seek photography related advice, or



services? As in previous years, Hunts Photo & Video was there with camera equipment, accessories, and free sensor cleaning. Precision Camera offered free camera and lens testing. Are you looking to book a photography tour? Numerous vendors were available to extensively discuss your needs face to face. Want to test out some equipment before you purchase it? Multiple vendors were on-site to let registrants borrow cameras, lenses, and other equipment. Canon even extended an offer for a free large format printout of one of your images. Photographic Society of America (PSA) was there to answer questions and offer membership opportunities. Registration at the event automatically enters the participant into a chance to win some of the many great door prizes from NECCC, their sponsors, and vendors.

By listening to attendees’ feedback, event organizers do their best to ensure future conferences evolve from year to year. They strive to present new course topics, presenters, activities and much more to meet the ever-changing interests and needs of their valued participants. To learn more about NECCC, past conferences or the upcoming 2019 conference, feel free to visit their website (www.neccc.org) and like NECCC on Facebook. Please feel free to ask other SPS members about their past experiences or recommendations for future NECCC conferences.

Save the date. The NECCC 74th Annual Photo Conference is scheduled to take place on July 12–14, 2019 at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Hope to see you there!

TRAVELING EXHIBIT

JCC, Schenectady

Our exhibit at the JCC in Schenectady is up through the end of October.
For the full Traveling Exhibit schedule, see page 15.



All photos © 2018
Rich
Schreibstein



TRAVELING EXHIBIT

JCC, Schenectady, Reception

by Rich Schreiberstein

Reception at the SJCC exhibit on September 23.
The SJCC put out refreshments and was quite accommodating.
We had some visitors as well as a good representation of members engaging in a lively discussion.
Missed it? Exhibit runs through the month of October.



Schenectady JCC
2565 Balltown Road
Schenectady, NY 12309
Mon–Thurs/5:30–9:30;
Fri/5:30–6; Sat & Sun/7–6.



All photos © 2018
Rich
Schreiberstein



TRAVELING EXHIBIT

2018-2019 Season Schedule

Here are the confirmed dates (so far) for our Traveling Exhibit for the coming season. All members (Yes...you MUST be a member) are encouraged to participate. Members who have not previously participated will be given preference. Images must be framed and ready for hanging (i.e., wired). In general, there are no size restrictions (but, we ask you to be reasonable when it comes to larger prints). There are also no restrictions

as to subject matter (see exception for August/September 2019 below), frame and mat colors, canvas prints, metal prints, etc. Details on photo collection and specific exhibit dates/times will be forthcoming.

If you'd like more info, contact the Traveling Exhibit Coordinators at:
travelingexhibit@sps.org.

CALENDAR 2018

September and October

Schenectady JCC

2565 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12309
Mon–Thurs/5:30–9:30; Fri/5:30–6;
Sat & Sun/7–6.
(518) 377-8803

November

Sand Lake Town Library

8428 Miller Hill Road, Averill Park, NY 12018
Mon–Thurs/11–8; Fri/1–6; Sat/1–4; Sun/1–4.
(518) 674-5050

December

Uncommon Grounds

1235 Western Ave., Albany, NY 12203
Sun–Thurs/6–10; Fri & Sat/6–11.
(518) 581-0656

CALENDAR 2019

January

Colonie Town Library

629 Albany Shaker Rd., Loudonville, NY 12211
Mon–Thurs/9–8; Fri/9–6; Sat/9–5; Sun/1–5
(518) 458-9274

February

Bethlehem Public Library

451 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY 12054
Mon–Fri/9–9; Sat/10–5; Sun/12–5
(518) 439-9314

March/April

Niskayuna Branch

Schenectady County Public Library

2400 Nott St. E, Niskayuna, NY 12309
Mon–Wed/10–8; Thurs–Sat/10–5
(518) 386-2249

May

Saratoga Springs Public Library

49 Henry St., Saratoga Springs, NY 2866
Mon–Thurs/9–9; Fri/9–6; Sat/9–5; Sun/12–5
(518) 584-7866

June & July - Open

August/September

Irish American Heritage Museum

370 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207
NOTE: Photos here will be restricted to depictions of Irish-American Heritage.
Wed–Fri/11–4; Sat&Sun/12–4
(518) 427-1916

October/November

Guilderland Public Library

2228 Western Ave., Guilderland, NY 12084
Mon–Thurs/9:30–9; Fri/9:30–7; Sat/9:30–5;
Sun/1–5
(518) 456-2400

December **Open**



SPS WEBSITE GARNERS HONORABLE MENTION IN 2018 PSA COMPETITION (Large Club Division)



The 2018 Annual PSA Website Contest provided an opportunity for PSA Clubs and Councils to receive feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the sites as evaluated by a panel of knowledgeable judges. Award recognition was given to those sites the judges rate most successful based on criteria detailed within the score sheets under the categories listed.

Along with the categories listed below, this year the Co-Directors' intent was to give judges an opportunity to add points based on their overall website response using criteria such as: the site drew the viewer in, enticing the judge to become more familiar with the club beyond the task of reviewing the site; the site showed exemplary creativity above the expected norm, and was in that judge's opinion, an overall favorite site from those submitted (regardless of the specific points earned). Overall points will be added to the criteria scores. We feel there is merit to consider these impressions since sites vary in their individual direction, purpose and webmaster expertise, and attendees at the PSA conference have expressed interest in some attention to overall impressions. PSA realized this was covered somewhat in First Impressions, but the totality of the site (other than the overall score) has not always been considered in past years. While we understand that there may be some concern relating to possible bias from the Judges, our experience in this position has found all of our judges to be professional and unbiased.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

First impressions are everything. Research shows that a site visitor makes up his/her mind within the first 5-10 seconds whether to load a website or hit the back button. The home page is highly visible and should offer something new or original if you hope the first time or returning visitor will stick around. A good home page should convey professionalism, creativity and captivate interest while providing use of navigational links and sections to direct access throughout your website. The menu or toolbar should let the reader know what the reader can expect from your site and

be easy to understand. Overall, a good home page design should be appealing, relevant, easily understood and focus on the key points of who/what you are.

DESIGN

Overall design and appearances do matter. Good use of color, meaningful graphics that add interest to your text, high quality images and uncluttered layouts that allow visitors to focus on your message should be utilized. Your layout should be polished and professional. Minimize your use of anything that is going to cause your site to take a long time to load. Don't over complicate things.

CONTENT

Content is the substance of web pages and consists of the information that makes up each page. The body of your website should be well organized. All Information should be up to date, accurate and interest guests. State the purpose for expected users of your website. Be clear, concise and compelling while focusing on the key content of your site.

SITE EFFECTIVENESS

You should have prominent, intuitive and logical navigation that is user friendly, simple and indicates where you are on the site. It should be easy to use and pain free. Make sure to have a "home" link on your menu/toolbar. Good websites with many pages have a search tool to assist their readers while keeping other navigation tools consistent for ease of use.

PROFESSIONALISM

Professionalism speaks for itself including observing copyright laws, 3rd party acknowledgments, disclaimers, and terms and conditions of site usage.

Congratulations to Sean Sullivan for his hard work in designing and maintaining the SPS website!

SPS NEWSLETTER GARNERS 2ND PLACE AND "BEST USE OF COLOR" IN 2018 PSA COMPETITION (Large Club Division)



Two sets of three qualified judges independently review the groups' entries. The Council & Chapter's group is judged using a different worksheet than the Clubs. Awards are determined based on these ratings. The size of the newsletter, the use of color, and whether or not advertisements are used, have no bearing on the awards. Content, layout, good use of space and photos, neatness, ease in reading, simplicity, and style are of basic importance.

PSA Newsletter Contest 2018 Judge's Worksheet for Clubs

Entry No. _____ Name of Newsletter _____ Total Score _____

Overall Appearance & Presentation of Newsletter (Each category is worth up to 10 points. Maximum 30 points in this section) Score 1-10

1	Quality and Readability: Is everything well-written? Does the newsletter sustain reader interest?	
2	Design: Is it well designed? Does there appear to be a master design plan and is it followed? Is it pleasing to the eye? Is color used appropriately? Is information presented in the most readable fashion?	
3	Balance: Is there a variety of information? Is there a good balance between past and future events? Is there a good mix of long and short articles?	

Mechanical (Each category is worth up to 4 points. Maximum 20 points in this section) Score 1-4

4	Page identification: Are the pages numbered in a consistent way? Is the issue identified by issue, month, and year?	
5	Font selection: Does the choice of fonts and size make the newsletter easy to read? Are fonts appropriate for the text? Are too many fonts used?	
6	Spelling: Is it evident that the newsletter was proofread carefully? Are all words spelled correctly?	
7	Grammar: Is proper grammar used throughout the newsletter?	
8	Photos, graphics, & clip art: Are they used appropriately? Do illustrations fit the subject or are they just filler?	

Content (Each category is worth up to 8 points. Maximum 40 points in this section) Score 1-8

9	Articles: Is there substantive information included? Examples: "How-to" articles, information about speakers and/or judges, articles discussing things such as trends or ethical issues in photography, opinion articles	
10	Event publication: Is there a schedule/calendar for regular meetings? Are upcoming events appropriately highlighted? Does the newsletter encourage participation in events?	
11	Past events: Are the results of competitions or critique sessions included? Are there reports regarding past meetings or field trips?	
12	Member information: Profiles of members? Articles about members or by members.	
13	Contact information: Is an email address and/or postal address listed for the editor? Are officers and committee chairs listed? Are the club website and email address listed?	

Overall Rating of Newsletter: (Category is worth up to 10 points.) Score 1-10

14	What is your overall rating of this publication? What is the likelihood that you would select this newsletter from others lying on a table and then read it from cover to cover?	
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PSA Bonus Points: (Each category is worth up to 1 point. Maximum of 3 points in this section) Score 0-1

15	Is the current PSA Logo printed in the newsletter? Is there a link to the PSA web site?	
16	Is PSA Conference information (past or future) and/or the up-coming conference logo printed in the newsletter?	
17	Is information regarding PSA membership or PSA activities presented in the newsletter?	

Here is the worksheet the judges used for the PSA newsletter competition.

SPS received scores of 96, 97 and 99 (out of 103), garnering a Second Place and "Best Use of Color" for Large Clubs.

Editor's Note:

I do not take the credit alone. I thank everyone who has participated (and continues to participate) with articles, photos, suggestions, etc.

This is your newsletter, and the more input from you, the membership, the better.

Thank you all!

Please note that a perfect score would be 103.

Judges: Please include positive comments and suggestions for improvement on the comment sheet. This is perhaps the most important aspect of the judging.

LEAF PEEPING 2018

Whether you head north or south, the fall colors should be spectacular this year. The summer rains have provided us with lush foliage. Of course, Mother Nature always has some tricks up her sleeve (i.e. hurricanes!), but let's hope for the best and head out to capture the glory of autumn!

Catskills

Mount Utsayantha is a two-mile back trail located near Stamford, NY, and is suggested for all skill levels (and your four-legged companions too!). You'll walk along a one-mile dirt road to a granite marker for Utsayantha, the burial ground for a local Indian maiden. At the top there are multi-pole viewpoints. Not far is the Blenheim Covered Bridge and Minekill Falls.

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/new-york/mount-utsayantha>

Kaaterskill Falls in Greene County is the highest cascading waterfall in New York State. You can view the falls off Route 23A in Haines Falls. Take the 1.4 mile trail (round-trip) via I-87, Exit 21. Be sure to stay on the marked paths. Many accidents have happened to those who did not!

Just Google Kaaterskill Falls for lots of websites and additional info.

Not interested in climbing? Try **Windham Path**. This northern Catskill stroll will reward you with beautiful views and a covered bridge - plus ample parking.

<https://www.greatnortherncatskills.com/outdoors/windham-path>

Need some refreshment during your travels? Head out to Benmarl Winery in Marlboro...the oldest vineyard in America. Sip some delicious wine while enjoying the hilltop view of the Hudson River. Check out their website for wine-tasting days/times.

<http://benmarl.com/>



Adirondacks

Head north and the beautiful fall foliage will surely surround you. Trek up a little further to the **Castle Rock Trail** which overlooks **Blue Mountain Lake** and you will be rewarded for your efforts. This trail is rated "moderate" and dog-friendly (if kept on a leash).

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/new-york/castle-rock-trail>

Only a couple of hours north is the Adirondacks' **Tug Hill Region**. The area offers sites for everyone, including the 354-acre Baker Woods Preserve and the 11-mile Beach Mill Trail that will take you through a forest with creek crossings, a beaver pond and foot bridges. Located in Tug Hill State Forest, the Inman Gulf Trails include a breathtaking view of Rainbow Falls.

<https://adirondackstughill.com/things-to-do/exploring-the-great-outdoors/hiking/>

Many of us are familiar with the Old Forge Scenic Railroad, but did you know there's also one traversing Saranac Lake and Lake Placid? **The Adirondack Scenic Railroad (Saranac Lake/Lake Placid)** is a 20-mile round trip between Lake Placid Station to Saranac Lake Union Depot. You can depart as you choose...spend the day or just a few hours.

[https://www.iloveny.com/listing/adirondack-scenic-railroad-\(saranac-lake-lake-placid\)/7237/](https://www.iloveny.com/listing/adirondack-scenic-railroad-(saranac-lake-lake-placid)/7237/)

**Wherever your fall travels take you,
here's wishing you many colorful miles and great photos!**

LUBA RICKET CREATIVITY COMPETITION RESULTS

On April 18 we channeled our "inner Luba" with creative entries.
The winners, announced at the Annual Banquet, were:

FIRST PLACE



"Trapped in a Bubble"
© Barb Lawton

SECOND PLACE



"Floral Flip" / © Linda Tommasulo

HONORABLE MENTIONS

"Aging Gracefully"
© Barb Lawton



"Luba's Fruit"
© Kim Koza



"Encaustic Color Photo
with Pastel Edging"
© Dale Winsor



"A Pot of Spring"
© Linda Tommasulo

"Hanging Laundry"
© Kim Koza



Judges:
Helen Honczak
and
Pilar
Arthur-Snead

A generous \$1,000 donation from Luba's family financed the Hunt's Gift Certificates awards,
and will continue to do so for the coming years.

We hope more members will express their creativity in 2019 and beyond.

2017-2018 SEASON WINNERS
GENERAL PRINT OF THE YEAR

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Winner / "Streetrod" / © Linda Tommasulo

Honorable Mention



"Flower Fantasy in Blue & White"
© Jeff Plant

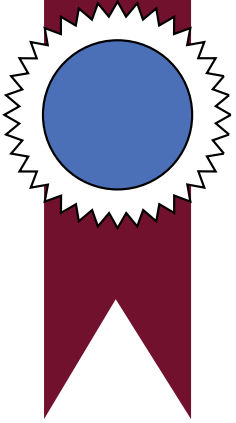


"Repurposed Leaves" / © Barb Lawton

PRINT OF THE YEAR JUDGES:
Neil Shapiro and Pilar Arthur-Snead.

2017-2018 SEASON WINNERS
MONOCHROME PRINT OF THE YEAR

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Winner
"Rain, Rain Go Away!"
© Connie Frisbee Houde

Honorable
Mention



"Footbridge Over the Seine" / © Lance Monotone



"Oculus" / © Linda Tommasulo

2017-2018 SEASON WINNERS
PROJECTED IMAGE OF THE YEAR



Winner / "Solitary" / © Kim Koza

Honorable Mention



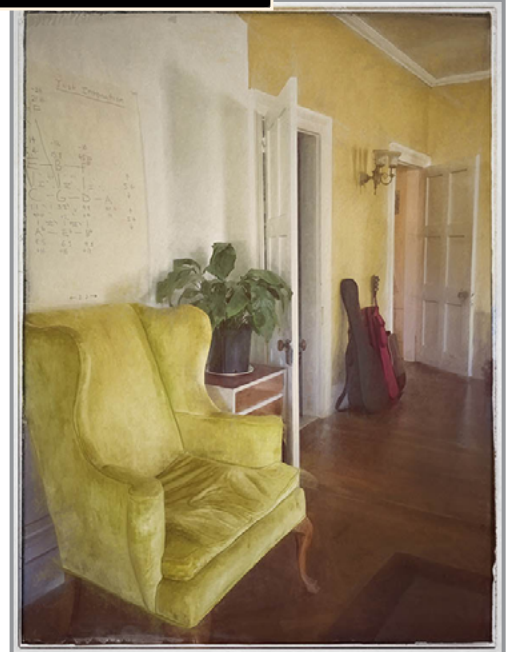
"Coming in for a Landing" / © Barb Lawton



"Skate Boarder"
© Ken Deitcher



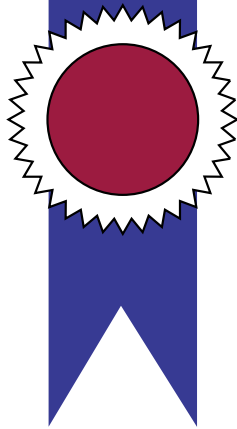
"Trios Sleepy Friends" / © Lance Monotone



"The Music Room"
© Jane Riley

PROJECTED IMAGE OF THE YEAR JUDGES: Vincent & Fran Giordano

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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!

**The Brand New Canon EOS R,
Nikon Z7/Z6, and Fuji X-T3 Are Here!**

HUNT'S OCTOBER SPECIALS

September was a BIG month for camera and lens new product announcements! Following are our October specials. These specials will be offered through October 31, 2018 unless otherwise stated. As always, UPS Ground shipping is FREE in the Lower 48 and there is no sales tax except for orders shipped to MA, RI or ME. In order to receive correct club and workshop special pricing, please call me, Alan Samiljan, at (781) 462-2383 any time you order, or send an email including your name and phone number to asamiljan@huntsphoto.com and I'll call you. Please note my hours, 8:30-5:00pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.

The Nikon D850, \$3,299.95. Supply has finally loosened up and we often have them in stock. My customers tell me it's a monster of a performer! Call 781-462-2383 to order.

New Fuji X-T3 body, \$1,499. Add the VG-XT3 battery grip, \$329, and save \$130! This is what DP Review had to say: "The X-T3 brings with it a brand new sensor, a hybrid autofocus system that looks extremely promising and video features more in-line with a Panasonic GH5 than typical enthusiast mirrorless cameras. Based on our initial impressions, the X-T3 may be the mirrorless APS-C camera to beat."

Fuji has some great lens deals through October 31. Call me for details.

The Phoenix Gallery



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Owned and operated by Jim and Marlene Craner*

Nikon's Full Frame Mirrorless Z7 and Z6 as well as Canon's EOS R Full Frame Mirrorless cameras are causing quite a stir. Both systems will use most existing lenses with an adapter, and I can tell you from personal experience, they work seamlessly! Nikon is offering a \$100 savings when the FTZ lens adapter is ordered with the camera. Call me at 781-462-2383 with any questions or to order!

Canon has also introduced two new BIG lenses, the **400mm f/2.8L IS III**, \$11,999, which is 25% lighter than the version II, and the **600mm f/4L IS III**, \$12,999, which is 20% lighter than the II! It is highly unlikely, with the weight reductions achieved in the version III, that Canon will produce a DO version, which is much more expensive to manufacture, so order your III now!

www.43rumors.com is reporting that **Panasonic will be announcing two full frame mirrorless cameras on Sept 25th.** They have reported several possible specs and features none of which have been confirmed by Panasonic. If you would like to receive more information as it becomes official please let me know. 781-462-2383.

Canon has continued their printer rebate program through October 31, 2018. Hunt's is offering the Canon Pixma PRO 10 printer at \$379.99 before rebate (Canon sells it on their website for \$699.99). Canon will then 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 after mail in rebate! That includes the printer, 100 sheets 13x19" paper and a FULL set of ink! And don't forget to ask me about special pricing on Monitor Calibration from Data Color and X-rite, a crucial part of the printing process!

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 \$699.94 of 17x22" and 13x19" Canon paper! You then send in your \$300 mail-in rebate. Your final cost is \$999.99 for the printer and \$699.94 worth of paper. Supplies definitely limited on this one. Call me now to reserve yours. Rebate runs through October 31, 2018!

For the latest Used Gear, click [here](#). Contact me for special pricing and packages for anything not listed here. Looking forward to hearing from you!

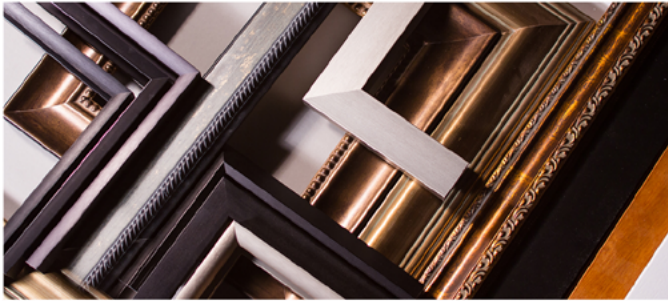
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You must be a registered user of the Frame Destination website as a SPS member, then you may use promo code "SPSONLY" when you place an order to receive the discount. (Note: The promo code is not valid with other promo codes, and will not work for 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. Send an email to 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.



DUES ARE DUE



As the saying goes, "you have to pay to play"! All kidding aside, SPS relies on your dues to pay the rent, insurance, speakers, etc., etc. The Schenectady Photographic Society would not exist without our paying members. And you must be a member to compete and participate in our numerous traveling exhibits.

Dues:

Individual/\$55 - Family/\$65 - Student/\$20

Easiest way to pay is on the SPS website under "Join Us." Click [here](#) to access the registration page. Be sure to complete all required fields. PayPal is simple to use, you can use your credit card - or you can bring a check to the next meeting and give it to our treasurer, Pat McCormick.

Any questions or problems, you can reach Pat via email at:

treasurer@spsphoto.org.

ABOUT THE SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

by Linda Tommasulo



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 2017-2018

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president@spsphoto.org

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vp@spsphoto.org

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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

2018-2019 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, 2018

9/26/18..... *Opening Night*

Print critique & member vote for best image. Hosted by Bob Coppola

October, 2018

10/3/18..... *Print Competition*

Assigned Topic: Leading Lines (one of the basic elements of photography). Speaker: Miranda Eldridge, Dance Photography.

10/10/17..... *Projected Competition*

Assigned Topic: Hobby (someone enjoying a hobby - other than photography). Speaker: Fred Moody, "Transylvania"

10/17/18..... *Mentoring/Speaker Night*

Speaker: Jim Craner, "Shooting Close to Home"

November, 2018

11/3/18 (Sat.) *Photographing Models Workshop with Doug Mitchell*. SPS Members only. Space is limited!

11/7/18..... *Print Competition*

Assigned Topic: Faceless Self Portrait (Your favorite selfie without showing your face.) Speaker: Robert Near, "PPA"

11/14/18..... *Projected Competition*

Assigned Topic: Digital Madness (It's taken over our lives—show us how.) Roundtable: "Full Frame Mirrorless Madness" hosted by Bob Coppola.

11/28/18..... *Mentoring/Speaker Night*

"Photo Essay Inspiration Night" hosted by Dow Smith

December, 2018

12/5/18..... *Print Competition*

Assigned Topic: Post Card Photos (Everyone maligns post card images...show your best tonight.) Speaker: Connie Frisbee Houde, "Old/New Image Overlays"

12/12/18..... *Projected Competition*

Assigned Topic: Money (show us money in an imaginative way.) Speaker: John Ogden, "IR Camera Conversion"

12/18/17 and 1/2/19..... *NO MEETING*

January, 2019

1/9/19..... *Print Competition*

Assigned Topic: Clichés (Show us your favorite.) Speaker: David Edgecomb, "What Your Camera Can Tell You About You."

1/16/19..... *Projected Competition*

Assigned Topic: Orange...is the New Black (Images where orange is the dominate color.) Speaker: Doug Mitchell, Portrait Workshop Review/Critique.

1/23/18..... *Mentoring/Speaker Night*

Creativity Night hosted by Joan Heffler. Inspiration to enter the Luba Ricket Creativity Competition

February, 2019

2/6/19..... *Print Competition*

Assigned Topic: Flowers Past Their Prime (The beauty of flowers that no one would buy.) Speaker: Tracey Buyce, "Equestrian Photography."

2/13/19..... *Projected Competition*

Assigned Topic: Photojournalism. Speaker: Claudia Jakubowski, "Instagram."

2/20/19..... *Mentoring/Speaker Night*

Lawrence White, Program TBA

March, 2019

3/2/19 (Saturday)..... *Compositing Workshop with Jim Christensen*

3/6/19..... *Print Competition*

Assigned Topic: Textures (rough or smooth - but no overlays). Print Judging in the Main Room.

3/13/19..... *Projected Competition*

Assigned Topic: "L is for?" - subject must start with L.) Speaker: Lance Monotone, "Monochrome Processing"

3/20/19..... *Photo Essay Competition*

April, 2019

4/3/19..... *Print Competition*

Assigned Topic: Patterns (another basic element of composition). Speaker: M-J Adelman, "South Dakota"

4/10/19..... *Projected Competition*

Assigned Topic: Bicycle Parts (not the whole bike). Speaker: Phil Olivo, "Northern Ireland Travelogue"

4/17/19..... *NO MEETING*

4/24/19..... *Luba Ricket Creativity Competition*

Speaker: Linda Tommasulo, "Creating Artistic Back-grounds with Topaz"

May, 2019

5/1/19..... *Print of the Year*

Members' "Lightning Fast Editing" Demonstration I

5/8/19..... *Projected Image of the Year*

Members' "Lightning Fast Editing" Demonstration II

June, 5, 2019..... *Awards Banquet*