

# FOCUS

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<http://spsphoto.org>

January 2015

## GUEST SPEAKER - Joe LeFevre - January 21st "Making Nature Time-Lapse Movies with your Digital Camera"

*We have all enjoyed watching those mesmerizing time-lapse videos on YouTube. The most memorable once recently was fog filling the Grand Canyon. Now, with the proper equipment, YOU TOO can create stunning time-lapse movies! On January 21st, Joe LeFevre will show you how.*

**About Joe LeFevre:** Joe LeFevre is a landscape photographer from Upstate New York with over 30 years of experience. His work has received international recognition. Recently, Joe won the "Most Inspirational Moment" category, professional division, in the international Wilderness Forever photography contest sponsored by the Smithsonian, *Nature's Best Photography*, and the Wilderness50 Coalition in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. His image entitled, "Milky Way over Second Beach" is currently on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. where it won the Peoples' Choice Award in September 2014.



© Joe LeFevre

"God Beams - Lake Ontario"

Joe's work has appeared in *Nature's Best Photography*, *Outdoor Photographer*, and *Photography Monthly* (UK) magazines, and in numerous regional publications, including *Adirondack Life* magazine and wall calendars. A popular teacher and convention speaker, Joe has captivated audiences at major photographic venues throughout the United States with his remarkable imagery and passion for teaching, including the New England Camera Club Council (NECCC) conventions at UMass Amherst, the Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs (SWMCC) convention, the Niagara Frontier Regional Camera Clubs (NFRCC) annual conventions, and the Photographic Society of America (PSA) International Conferences of Photography, where he gave one of the keynote addresses in 2011. He is a staff instructor at the Adirondack Photography Institute ([www.adkpi.org](http://www.adkpi.org)), which offers photographic workshops and tours throughout the spectacular Adirondack region of Upstate New York, and in other select locations in the northeast. Joe and his wife Linda have three grown children and live in Oswego, NY.



© Joe LeFevre

"Moss Lake Milky Way"

### **Making Time-Lapse Movies - An Introduction:**

We've all seen them: time-lapse movies of flowers opening over time or clouds racing by in a beautiful sky. Now, with the advent of digital cameras and fast home computers, we can make our own time-lapse movies. In this presentation I will show you how.

Continued...

## Making Time-Lapse Movies - Continued

“First, I will introduce you to the topic and give you a brief history of time-lapse photography. Second, I will cover pre-shooting considerations such as timing the shoot and choice of subject matter. Third, I will cover basic field techniques and camera settings.



© Joe LeFevre

*Connery Pond*

Fourth, I will cover post-processing of the images using Adobe Lightroom and show you how to make a movie using QuickTime 7 Pro. Finally, I will take you through the process of planning and executing a time-lapse movie of the Milky Way galaxy. Throughout the presentation I will show you numerous examples of my own time-lapse movies and the details of how I produced them. Join me for an informative session, which will open the door for you to explore this exciting technique.

*Joe LeFevre*



© Joe LeFevre

*East Pine Pond Moon Set*

All images were taken from  
Joe's time-lapse movies.

Check out more of Joe's fine  
work at:  
[www.joelefevrephoto.com](http://www.joelefevrephoto.com)



© Joe LeFevre

*Hurricane Ridge Fog*

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# SPLITFILM, SLITSCAN...

## Getting New Photos out of Old Gear - by Chuck Miller

~ January 7th ~



Chuck Miller is a writer and photographer who, over the past several years, has enjoyed experimenting with vintage cameras and vintage film. Whether it's shooting and developing 75-year-old film to unlock the film's secrets, or modifying a vintage camera to take new and exciting photographs, Chuck has chronicled his photographic journey in his popular *Albany Times Union* blog (<http://blog.timesunion.com/chuckmiller>).

Chuck's photographs have appeared in several gallery shows, including the Capital District Photo Regionals and Historic Albany Foundation's "BUILT" charitable art show. His camera arsenal includes both modern gear (Nikon Df, Nikon F100) and vintage equipment (AGFA Clipper Special f/6.3, Kodak Medalist II, Roliflex Automat MX, Nikon EM).

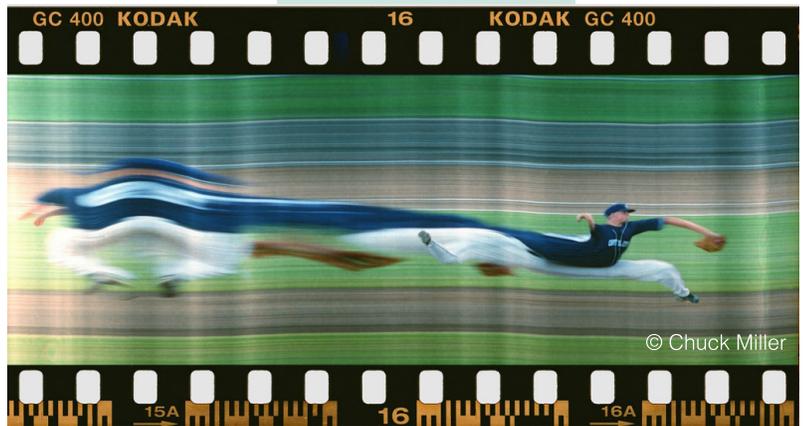
Jessica  
*Instamatic Dichotomy*



Shot with AGFA Clipper Special camera, with Kodak Instamatic film (two rolls).

© Chuck Miller

AGFA Bridge Over Ansko Lake



*The Three-Two Pitch*

Shot with Nikon EM camera, Kodak Gold 400 film.

© Chuck Miller



© Chuck Miller

Shot with AGFA Chief camera, with AGFA Vista film AND 40-year-old Ansco All-Weather Panchromatic film. -3-



© Chuck Miller

*Star Barn of Harmony Corners*

Shot with vintage Kodak Medalist II camera, using Kodak Verichrome Pan film (expiry about 35 years ago).

# PHOTOGRAPHING ABANDONED PROPERTY - IAN CREITZ

~ January 14th ~



I have been fascinated by photography since childhood, when my father would let me borrow his old Minolta so I could take pictures around our property and in the village. However, for financial reasons, as a primarily self-taught photographer, I have been limited to shooting in a sixty-or-so-mile radius from my hometown, Cambridge, New York. Though the idea of photographing distant locales excites me, I have found that there is nonetheless a wide array of interesting and highly photographable material within this relatively small radius: on the rolling hills around Cambridge can be seen numerous green and luscious farmlands, while farther away, in the cities of Albany and Troy, we find a mixture of buildings old and new, many dilapidated and crumbling, covered in graffiti. Cambridge itself is home to a few old-but-charming structures—most notable the old Mary McClellan Hospital, which I have shot extensively, both inside and out. With my work thus far, I have tried to capture the contrast between natural and man-made to show how nature will ultimately overtake our own trappings when we leave them alone: out of crumbling walls come twisting vines; from floors, plants root and spring up; all about bugs and small animals take residence wherever they can. In spite of this contrast, I hope to show how a similar beauty can be found in both my natural and architectural images. I hope you will enjoy seeing through my eyes.



*Continued...*

## MORE from Ian Creitz...



Ian's past exhibits are too numerous to mention, but here's what's on tap for January, 2015:

View Ian's work at the new Bennington Welcome Center in Bennington, Vermont. Most of these works are older pieces but none the less worth the trip to view, as well as check out this beautiful new facility. [http://www.bennington.com/?page\\_id=657](http://www.bennington.com/?page_id=657) This link will direct you to their website and more information with directions on how to get there. There is a guest book to sign, and Ian requests that you please let him know what you think. These pieces will be on display till January 6, 2015.

"Great Old Signs" is currently on display at the Small Gallery at Hubbard Hall Opera House in his home town of Cambridge, New York. Many of these signs were taken on his Route 66 road trip which he took back in April of this year with a few shots from Seattle, Washington. This show will be on display thru January 7th.



### PSA NEWS

Round Two of the PSA Nature and Photojournalism Competitions are open.  
Entries must be submitted by midnight January 5th.

Round Two of the PSA Creative Competition is open - upload photos by January 20th

**Photojournalism:** Photojournalism images shall consist of pictures or sequences with informative content and emotional impact, including human interest, documentary and spot news. The journalistic value of the photograph shall be considered over pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, photographs which misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation to alter the subject matter, or situations which are set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable in Photojournalism. Human Interest images depict a person or persons in an interactive, emotional, or unusual situation, excluding sports action.

**Nature:** This class is very strict on what comprises PSA Nature photography and the requirements have changed for 2015. Photos may be general "Nature" or "Wildlife." It is recommended that you review the eligibility requirements defined in the following link: <http://www.psa-photo.org/index.php?nature-nature-definition>.

**Creative:** The PSA definition of Creative is "Altered Reality." The image must obviously display a change in natural color, form, shape, or any combination of three.

Upload images at [spsphoto.org](http://spsphoto.org) - Enter - Competitions - PSA Interclub.  
Please check the SPS website, or contact our Interclub Competition Chair, Phil Olivo, for more information.

# Mentoring: BRING YOUR CAMERA NIGHT

~ January 28th ~

If you enjoyed the October 29th Mentoring Night of Portrait Photography, get ready for another fun-filled and educational evening on January 28th. Details are still being formulated at press time; however, here is a peek at what Mentoring Chair Dave Bennett has in store for us...

Looking to play or learn more about your camera's settings? Do you have questions about aperture settings, depth of field, shutter speed, white balance? Come ask questions and practice. Members of the Schenectady Photographic Society will be providing all types of table top still life arrangements, different lighting, portraits and action photography opportunities. Want to try using off camera flash? Come try some macro work or learn a few tricks. What about water droplets or splash photography? How about shooting under a black light? We will close the curtain on the stage to allow images in the dark or low light photography. Shoot through a 45" Ring light for some creative portrait catch lights.

This evening will be filled with still life and action photography for all levels. Camera fun and learning all at the same time. **Be ready to create!**

Make sure you bring:

camera, favorite lenses and memory cards,  
tripod, flashes and triggers, cable release, batteries  
camera & flash manuals.

Do you have something you would like to try? Dave will be looking for volunteers to help provide, set up and/or teach something to others. Please contact Dave Bennett directly if you are interested in sharing your photographic expertise with the group.



1st Place  
PRINT WINNERS  
DECEMBER



Assigned - Halloween  
"The Grim Reaper"  
© Barb Lawton

**PRINT JUDGE:** SPS Member/Photographer **Jim Craner:** "I've been a photographer for over fifty years, and so have seen a lot of milestones in the imaging industry. My personal photography is now devoted almost entirely to nature photography – with a particular emphasis on wildlife. What matters most to me is presenting a subject on both the informational and emotional levels. The decisive moment in wildlife photography is elusive, but when captured presents a beautiful creature in a dignified and enduring way."



Monochrome  
"Back Road Farm"  
© Barb Lawton



General  
"Stacked Chairs"  
© Doug Mitchell

Projected competition was canceled due to weather.  
To see all of the winners, log on to  
[www.spsphoto.org](http://www.spsphoto.org),  
click:  
"Competitions" and "Recent Winners."

# DAVID AVIGDOR EXHIBIT

“New York/Paris” at Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library thru January 4th

Monuments Pairing: Eiffel and Empire

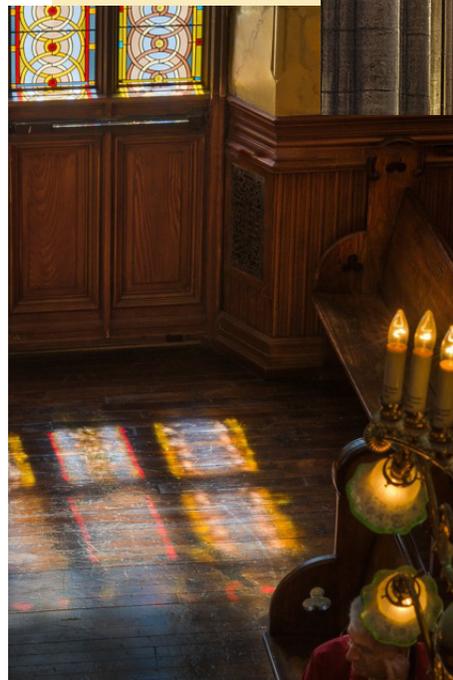
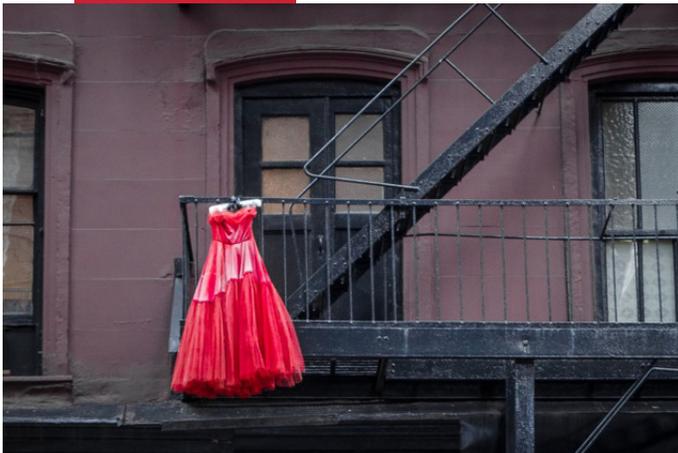
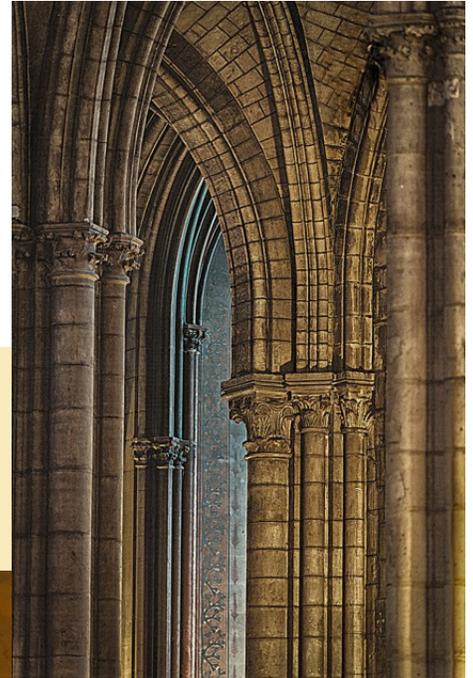
David Avigdor is pleased to share some of his 28 images (14 pairs) depicting New York and Paris now on exhibit at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library.



Funky Pairing:  
Man and  
Prom Dress



Worship Pairing:  
Arches and  
Sanctuary



Stop in to see the rest before January 4th. Library is located at 475 Moe Road in Clifton Park.

# CALL FOR ENTRIES: Merrimack Valley Camera Club Glennie Nature Salon

SPS will be participating in the Merrimack Valley Camera Club's (MVCC) 35th Annual Glennie Nature Salon digital photographic competition. This salon is open to all camera clubs and photographic associations worldwide. Last year's salon had almost 1,000 images from 85 clubs from around the world.

This is a premier, international all-nature competition known for its diversity of subjects which range from animals to botany to landscapes. **The deadline for SPS entries is January 19, 2015.** You may enter your images on the Interclub Competition page at <http://www.schenectadyphotographicsociety.com/interclub.jsp>. The image preparation guidelines are the same as our projected image competitions with the additional image size limitation of 1.0 MB. Each club may enter a total of 10 images, with no more than two from each maker. (Note: Images that have received awards in previous Glennie Salons are ineligible.)

Please note that the Salon uses the PSA definition of Nature Photography:

*Nature Photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify as to its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining a high technical quality.*

*Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals is permissible. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.*

*No techniques that add to, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photography without changing the nature story or the pictorial content are permitted. All adjustments must appear natural."*

## **Categories**

Animals • Birds • Mammals • Invertebrates • Reptiles • Amphibians  
Marine & Freshwater Life • Botany • Landscape

## **Awards**

The Glennie presents awards to both clubs and individual images.

Club awards include:

Top 5 clubs

Top 5 clubs - Diversity Award - (best score from club's top six categories - club must have entries in at least 6 categories)

Individual awards include:

Best of Show • Best Wildlife

Best of Category (see above)

Subcategory and Honor Awards depending upon number of entries.

Detailed competition rules, previous winners and additional information can be found on the Merrimack Valley Camera Club's website at <http://mvcameraclub.org>.

Entries should be submitted via the SPS Website:

Enter / Competitions / PSA Interclub

For additional information contact Phil Olivo, Interclub Competition Chair.

# “FIVE THINGS MOST WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHERS WON’T TELL YOU”

by Chris Corradino (Reprinted with Permission)



*We often see the most magnificent wildlife images and perhaps think to ourselves...what a lucky shot!*

*Well, it definitely takes more than luck to capture a wild animal or bird at the perfect moment in the perfect composition.*

*These tips from photographer and instructor, Chris Corradino will help you capture that special wildlife moment...*

than first digging through your bag. To keep a low profile, it's also preferable to turn the auto focus chirp off. The same is true with all audible notifications on your phone.

2) Luck is just the result of a lot of hard work and preparation. By using the internet as a research tool, you can greatly increase your chances of success. For example, as part of my preparation to photograph seals, I researched the tidal charts off the coast of Long Island. At low tide the water recedes to reveal large off shore rocks. These boulders are ideal for the seals to rest and warm up on. Combine this knowledge with up to the minute tweets of local wildlife sightings and you can be in the right place at the right time.

3) Wildlife is typically more active early and late in the day. Apps like the Photo Ephemeris tool provide the ability to track sunrise and sunset times. It actually illustrates the precise direction of the sun in relation to your location. They also work with the moon, allowing you to pinpoint when it will be full and where it will rise. With this information, you can predict when animals will be more visible.



4) I see a number of photographers who prepare well, do their research, and get in the right place at the right time only to miss the shot. Why? They got distracted and took their eye away from the viewfinder while their subject proceeded to do something amazing. This is most often a product of fixating on the LCD screen. While it's helpful to immediately see your results, be sure to watch the scene in front of you. By remaining present you'll be ready to capture the decisive moment.

5) Extensive travel is not a prerequisite for creating great photographs. Often there are wonderful and willing subjects right in front of you, or just a short car ride away. Maybe it's your own backyard

garden, a flower bed, or a bird feeder. Identifying this home base is an important piece of your photography puzzle. It's a no-pressure zone where you can take your time, explore creative techniques, and test new equipment. By frequenting the same place you will start to observe the subtle changes of nature, and also the weekly improvements in your overall photography skills.



**Learn more about Chris Corradino on his website:  
[www.christography.com](http://www.christography.com)**

# COMING IN FEBRUARY

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February 4th

“Getting Started as a Professional Photographer” by Brenda Rose  
~Plus~

Print Group Competition  
(Assigned Topic: Hip to be Square)

February 11th

“Adobe Mobile Apps”  
by Sean Sullivan  
~Plus~

Projected Image Competition  
(Assigned Topic: On the Fence)

February 18th - Guest Speaker

“Photo Ops: Coastal Locations in Maine”  
by Doug Mitchell

February 25th

Mentoring Night:  
“Exploring the Digital Darkroom”

DON'T FORGET YOUR VALENTINE!

## PRINT COMPETITORS... did you win 1st place?

If so, I'd like to include your photo in the Focus. So that we have the best image, please forward a digital file within two weeks of winning, sized as you would for digital competition (1024 x 768, 300 ppi) to: [focuseditor@icloud.com](mailto:focuseditor@icloud.com).

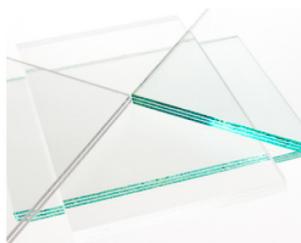
(Note: Projected Images will automatically appear, unless requested otherwise.)

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## SPS TRAVELING EXHIBIT BEGINS!

Traveling Exhibit Coordinator, Dow Smith, has booked our first location: Bethlehem Public Library! We have half the hallway so there is room for 22-25 pictures with some double hung. The photos should be in black frames, 16" x 20" maximum, with white or cream mattes. Since the photos are no longer kept by the chair, please bring your photos to the Bethlehem Library (451 Delaware Ave, **January 3rd at 11AM**). If you can't make it, you can give your photos to Dow meeting on January 7th. The traveling exhibit has always been a great way to attract new members, so we hope you will support the exhibit by displaying your work.



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**SPS IS ON FACEBOOK!**

Just type  
"Schenectady Photographic Society"  
in the search box.

### WEATHER ALERT!

Some of us **do** like snow...but it certainly wreaks havoc on our meetings!

This is just a reminder that, in the event of inclement weather PLEASE check your e-mail and the SPS website before heading out.

In the event of bad weather it is up to the Program Chair to determine if a meeting will be held. Although we hate to cancel or postpone our meetings, your safety is our main concern.

**2014-2015  
Print Assigned Topics**



- 2014  
October 1 *The Backyard*  
*Show us what's in your backyard (or your neighbor's)*
- November 5 *Technology Rules*  
*Show us how technology is important in our lives.*
- December 3 *Trick or Treat*  
*Show us how you celebrate Halloween*
- 2015  
January 7 *People Taking Photos*  
*Unique images of those "other" photographers.*
- February 4 *Hip to be Square*  
*Show us some squares, but don't get boxed in.*
- March 4 *Doors*  
*I'll take door #3. What door do you take?*
- April 8 *Shadows*  
*Don't be afraid of the noon-time sun.*
- May 6 *Print of the Year*



**2014-2015  
Projected Image\* Assigned Topics**

*\* Deadline for the Projected Image competition is Sunday at midnight prior to the competition.*

- 2014  
October 8 *Minimal*  
*Images with simple or primary forms.*
- November 12 *Coffee, Tea or...*  
*Show us your favorite beverage.*
- December 10 *Monochrome - POSTPONED/SNOW*  
*Varying tones of only one color.*
- 2015  
January 14 *Take Five*  
*Idiom's figurative meaning, or literal interpretation.*
- February 11 *On the Fence*  
*Undecided or literal meaning.*
- March 11 *"X" Marks the Spot*  
*Need some form of an "X" in the image.*
- April 15 *Out of the Blue*  
*Sudden, unexpected occurrence; or something blue.*
- May 13 *Projected Image of the Year*

**Have Something to Contribute?**

Been somewhere special, taken some great images, or just want to share some photo knowledge with club members?  
Please contact me (Linda Tommasulo) with articles, comments or suggestions:  
**focuseditor@icloud.com**  
Thank you!



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