

FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

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Number 6

Tim Shaffer to Speak to Print Group

Ray Henrikson

Our print night speaker on Wednesday, March 2 will be Tim Shaffer. He will speak on the "Transition from Film to Digital." Tim is a professional photographer and owns The Classic Image Studio in Fort Plain, New York.

His early education in photography was at the Germain School in New York City; this was followed by seventeen years of photographic experience in the world of publishing. He opened his studio in Fort Plain in 1990 where he specializes in weddings, high school seniors, and family photography, as well as an occasional commercial assignment.

From 1973 to 74 he worked at the Ridgewood Newspapers in Ridgewood, New

Jersey as a news photographer and chief darkroom technician.

From 1975 to 1993 he worked at Lee Publications in Palatine Bridge, New York as the chief photographer and camera room technician.

His awards include the award winning print accepted to the 2003 International Loan Collection of the PPA, the 2002 Fuji Masterpiece Award, the Theme Competition PPSNY 1998, the Court of Honor 2004 and the Highest Cumulative Print Case score 2004 PPSNY.

Tim is a member of the Professional Photographers of America, the Professional

Please see Shaffer page 3

Warren Greene: Photography as Observation, Solitude, and Replenishment

Jeffrey Meyers

*Loon Dance
Photo by
Warren Greene*



Warren Greene often finds himself alone while shooting his nature subjects; he likes it that way. For Warren, the pursuit of images of wild birds and scenic landscapes is meditative,

and it replenishes his soul.

As the Director of the Fulton County Office of Probation, Warren has a stressful job. As

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Greene

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his hobby, photography offers a complete change of scenery and pace. Warren has been shooting photographs regularly since 1976. While his degree in psychology most certainly helps him in his probation work, his skills in photography have been self-taught, through what he says has been a "series of trial and error." Warren says that some photographers visualize the world with a wide angle lens; others see the world with a normal focal length; Warren sees the world in telephoto.

Perhaps this vision of the world has helped Warren create the images for which he is most recognized. He is known for his autumn scenic shots, and pictures of wild orchids in the Adirondacks. However, Warren's telephoto view of the world is most apparent in his wild bird photography. His avian images have appeared in *Birds & Blooms*, *The New York State Conservationist*, and *Adirondack Life* magazines. In fact, Warren is so prolific in his wild bird photography that he has a library of over 300 images in Vireo, the Visual Resources for Ornithology, which is a subsidiary of the Academy of Natural Sciences. In addition, Warren's images are used by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

When asked how he captures wild birds so effectively, Warren's answer was: "with a lot of patience!" His biggest challenge is locating the correct habitat

to find the birds and animals he wishes to capture on film. Warren uses a fully manual Leica, and while he loves the clarity the optics offer, he does find it difficult keeping up with those fast moving birds. Furthermore, Warren prefers slow film (Fuji Velvia 50 ASA, or more recently, 100 ASA) for its saturation.

To make his life easier, Warren will bring props with him to his photo shoots. For example, Warren will bring branches to place in a field to capture images of meadow larks, savannah sparrows, and bobolinks. These birds will often use the branches as comfortable perches while singing during the nesting season to announce their presence. Warren pre-focuses the image, and then uses a radio remote-control shutter release to snap the picture from a distance. He also uses bird feeders filled with seed to attract birds: niger seed will attract finches; and sunflower seeds will attract cardinals and blue jays. Warren places the feeders in an area with a nice background where the sun will rise in the morning. Then, he photographs the feathered visitors while hiding in a blind that he has placed at the location a few days earlier. This helps him



Green Cardinal. Photo by Warren Greene

capture the birds in a natural state because they are accustomed to their surroundings.

Talking to Warren, you realize that it is not the technical side that draws Warren to photography. Instead, it is being in nature, alone, where he can sit down and "observe the details." In fact, Warren jokes that "he would rather be outside being eaten alive by black flies than be in a basement darkroom messing around with chemicals!" Warren says that sometimes he goes on shooting journeys with his friends, but even then he soon finds himself alone, observing the details. Occasionally, this solitude may be interrupted by the ring of his cell phone, or a squawk of a walkie-talkie from his nearby photography companions notifying him of a subject he has to shoot. However, it is clear that for Warren, photography is like Yoga or Tai Chi; it provides him with the opportunity to focus on the moment, observe his surroundings, become lost in nature, and replenish his soul.


Warren doesn't prefer to focus his energy on the marketing aspects of his hobby. Indeed, when asked if he entered contests, he tells quite a tale. Gary, a friend, asked Warren to capture some images of ducks resting in a pond so that Gary could carve their likeness out of wood. Gary had arranged for Warren to shoot several ducks whose wings had been clipped, and who were resting peacefully on a pond. Every once in a while, wild ducks would visit the pond,

Please see Greene page 3

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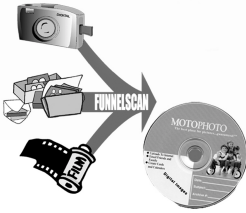
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Photos On CD



Greene

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and Warren would photograph them as well. Later, when viewing the images, Gary encouraged Warren to enter his work in a nationwide photography contest. Warren's aversion to contests was revealed when he told Gary to enter his photographs under Gary's name. Much to Warren's surprise, Gary called him in a panic when a woman phoned Gary and asked him for specifics on aperture and shutter speed. Why all the questions? His image of a male and female blue winged teal had come in second place! In fact, two of Warren's images, under Gary's name of course, made it into a calendar that the contest published.

The universe does have a way of working things out, and it continues to do so in Warren's world. While Warren prefers not to engage in entering contests, or in the marketing of his work, he has a friend whose "calling" is website design and building. Soon, Warren's friend will scan Warren's images, and then post them on two soon-to-be-launched websites: Bluebirdimages.com and Adirondacknature.com. Coincidentally, a friend of that friend has a calling in marketing, and will advertise Warren's work, and then ship the printed images when they are purchased from the websites. This allows Warren to pursue his own calling: observing and capturing beautiful images of nature, in solitude, while replenishing his soul.

Shaffer

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Photographers of New York State and the National Association of Photoshop Professionals. His work may be seen on line at www.theclassicimage.com

*Shelter from the Storm.
Photo by Tim Shaffer*



Photo Grab Bag to be held in April

Dave Lilac

The Photo Grab Bag will be held this year in April with the judging to be on Wednesday, April 20th. Entries will be accepted and materials will be given out on Print Night, Wednesday April 6th, with an entry fee of \$15.

Each entrant will be given a single roll of slide film and an assigned topic. They will be given a week to expose the film, which will be collected on Slide Night, Wednesday, April 13th. The processed slides will be returned to the entrants on Wednesday April 20th, and they will select their best images to be judged for competition. CASH prizes will be awarded to the winners!

Photo Essay meeting on March 23

Connie Frisbee Houde

Photo Essay will meet on March 23. This is our last meeting before the competition. If you will be presenting a slide essay please bring your essay for us to make sure that it will work with our equipment. If you cannot make the meeting please contact either Jim Craner or Connie Frisbee Houde to make arrangements to test the essay out before the competition. If you are still working on either your print essay or slide essay bring them as far as you have them and the group can assist and comment on your work. This is a working session for both Print and Slide essay. We look forward to working with you on this creative process.



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How to Enter and Win Photo Contests

Part II

Ken Deitcher M.D. FPSA

Where to Start

There are a limited number of competitions available to the amateur and part time professional photographer. Several photo magazines have monthly competitions such as *Petersen's Photographic* and *Popular Photography*. The lists of submissions are huge and the chance of being selected is quite rare. Don't get discouraged and keep submitting; you may get lucky.

My best advice to the aspiring contestant is to look at past winning photos in these magazines. Some major international competitions are: Nikon Photo Contest International (142 winners out of 42,000 photos submitted), Olympus Vision Age International Color Slide Photo Contest (125 winners out of over 13,000 submissions) and the Canon Photo contest. These are worldwide and judged in Japan. Both prints and slides are allowed. Look at the published yearbooks of winners to get an idea of what to submit. You don't have to use Nikon, Canon or Olympic cameras to compete.

Many photo companies have yearly contests. Tamron has a competition 3-4 times a year in which you can enter your images via e-mail or by submitting slides

or photographs. The only requirement is that you have to take the image with their lens. The winning photo receives a Tamron zoom lens.

There is a yearly competition called the Austrian Super Circuit in which you can enter a variety of categories and submit your images on slides to be judged in 4 judging competitions in Europe. There is a charge for entering but you will receive a colorful yearbook of all the accepted images. The winners have an opportunity to win Hasselblad cameras with all the lenses.

If you are a member of PSA there are hundreds of international photo salons throughout the United States, Europe, South America and Asia. Although there are no monetary awards, you have the opportunity to get medals and points toward PSA recognition. You can enter general, nature, photojournalism and photo-travel competitions with both slides and prints which are returned to you at the end of the presentations and judging.

All salons are juried. This means that to be accepted into the exhibition, a group of judges have to give your images an acceptance number of points or you do not get into the final judging stage. The final judging is on the "best of the best".

Every year the *Gazette* newspaper has a photo contest in July. The winners of the weekly contests get monetary awards and are also eligible for the finalist competition. All winners are published in the *Gazette*.

Yearly is the Photo Regional in which all area photographers can participate in a juried show. The show is either in Troy or Albany and over 1000 images are entered.

The Altamont Fair has an art competition in August in which you can submit your images to be judged with other forms of art. Winners receive ribbons.

How to Enter

Read and reread all instructions carefully. Make sure what is required: original slides, prints or duplicate slides.

Label carefully with your name, address, phone number plus an entry number if required. All competitions require a SASE - self addressed stamped envelope - for the return of your work. Some competitions will only return slides, not prints, and some request dupes only and will not return any work sent. Winning entries require original slides and negatives which will be returned within a year.

Do not enter any competition in which originals are requested and will not be returned. Competitions in which statements "all entries become property of and will not be returned or acknowledged" should not be entered. When sending your photos, pack carefully. Slides should be in transparency protectors and reinforced with heavy cardboard. Prints should be shipped between two sheets of heavy mat board. All submissions should be sent by certified first class mail, return receipt requested. This will enable you to trace your photos if lost and will show who accepted your work when delivered.

Most, if not all, bona fide competitions do not cost money to enter. Many foreign competitions request International Reply Coupons to cover return postage. These are obtained through your post office.

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February Competition Results

Prints

Color

* Jane Riley	At the Tate Gallery	1
Kim Koza	Leaf and Pear	2
Ken Deitcher	Rosenberg's Tree Frog	3
Nick Argyros	Tangled Webs to Leave	4
Kim Koza	Bird Feeding	5
Bob Warner	Beyond Repair	HM
Louie Powell	Eve	HM
Ray Henrikson	Impressions #7	HM
Jennifer Young	Dayana	HM
Ken Deitcher	Horse Guard	HM

Monochrome

** F. Bumbardatore	Smoke Stacks	1
Louie Powell	Axle	2
Jennifer Young	Christina & Kat	3
Ken Deitcher	Viaduct	HM
Kim Koza	Contrast	HM
Jennifer Young	Rage	HM

Assigned Fog and Mist

*** Jane Riley	In the Fog on the Sacandaga	1
Connie F. Houde	Classic Lake	2
Sue Gersten	Early Morn	3
Jim Gold	Misty Bridge	HM
Linda Wroble	Traffic Jam	HM
Kevin Sarsfield	Going Toward the Light	HM

Judge Leif Zurmuhlen

Program Joan Heffler / Marketing your Creativity

Winner's Notes:

*Camera: Nikon D100, shot at jpeg fine, Lens: Tamron 28-200
Settings: f/5.6 at 1/6 sec Exposure compensation: +.3 Jane wrote:
At the museum I noticed the crossing yellow green lights and the graphic lines of the escalator and liked the composition. I held the camera tight on the railing and waited for a nice grouping of people, held my breath, and squeezed the shutter. The photo was adjusted on Psp CS and printed on an Epson 1280 printer on Epson Premium Semigloss Photo Paper.

**The camera was a Canon 10 D, The lens was a Canon 28 - 135mm IS USM zoom, film was Digital, the image was hand held, the meter reading was taken from the sky then locked, recomposed and shot. Image was printed on a EPSON 2200 inkjet printer. Shot on Erie Blvd. in Schenectady, the old Alco plant.

***Camera: Nikon D100, shot at jpeg fine. Lens: Tamron 28-200
Settings: f/8 with a shutter speed of 1/500 sec. Exposure compensation: +2.0 Jane wrote: One morning in early October, my husband and I drove out to the Sacandaga Lake to do a little fishing but found the lake fogged in. Since I had my camera with me, we decided to cruise around the lake in our rowboat for a nice fog shot instead. The photo was adjusted on Psp CS and printed on an Epson 1280 printer on Epson Velvet Fine Art Paper.

Slides

General 24 Entries

Jennifer Young	Straws	1
Howie Johannessen	Untitled	2
Nick Argyros	The Shadow of Her Smile	3
Luba Ricket	Pigeon-Toed	HM
David Lilac	Near Alder Meadow Pond	HM
Jeff Plant	Weeds and Red Sun	HM

Assigned - Silhouettes 17 Entries

Ken Deitcher	Arborman	1
Connie Bush	Sunset Flower	2
Jeff Plant	Weeds and Setting Sun	3
Connie Frisbee Houde	Arc de Orr (Arch of Gold)	HM
Luba Ricket	Reaching	HM
Jean Burton	Cottonwood Trees	HM

Judge Tom Killips

Program Gina Occhiogrosso / A Gallery Director's Guide to "The Arts Center"

Winner's Notes:

*For this winner, Jennifer placed straws in a glass, set on top of a flashlight and placed in east facing window light. She used a Nikon N90 and an 18-70 lens.

**Taken at 5 Rivers with a Canon D60 camera and a 28-135mm lens. Image downloaded into computer and the left 1/2 of image copied, flipped horizontal and pasted to give a symmetrical silhouette. The image sent via e-mail to slides.com to convert digital file into a slide.



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Digital night program

On digital night, Wednesday, March 16th, Jeff Perkins and Bob Riccardo will judge and critique the restored photo done by members.

The assigned topic for the night is Use of Photoshop Filters.

Slide Night Receives Donation

Neil McGreevy, owner of McGreevy Prolab, has donated coupons for free slide development to the slide night chairpeople. According to Neil, his original coupon donation a few years ago was meant to encourage photographers to specifically enter the "assigned" category on slide night, because SPS members found that not many people were participating in that category. So, the assigned category 1st place winner used to receive 5 coupons for his/her winning efforts.

The chairpeople of the slide group, Jeff Meyers and Amy Howansky, want to "spread the wealth" a little bit more to encourage more people to enter both categories on slide night. SPS members have seen a decline in the overall number of people entering the contests on slide night. Therefore, based on the number of

coupons received from Neil, Amy and Jeff have decided to give one coupon to each 2nd place winner and each 3rd place winner from both the assigned and general categories on slide night. The 1st place winner in each category will still receive 1 roll of slide film from MotoPhoto on Western Avenue. Hopefully, this will make a total of 6 photographers happy on each slide night, and encourage everyone to enter more slides, more often!

Amy and Jeff have reviewed both the assigned and general slide contest results from 2004. They have seen a decline in the overall number of people entering on slide night, and they believe this is because many people are switching to a digital format (no offense to the digital people).

C.A.M.E.R.A. has bi-annual show and sale

On Sunday, March 6, 2005, C.A.M.E.R.A. will hold its bi-annual sale of new, used, collectable, antique cameras, lenses books, etc. at the Albany Clarion Inn, formerly the Quality Inn.

General admission: 10 am to 3 pm \$5.00
Early admission / preview from 8 am \$20.00

Take Interstate 90 to exit 4, Everett Road. Go south on Everett about 800 feet. Turn left on Watervliet Ave. Short left into hotel parking.

6th Annual Photo Retreat for Women

The 6th annual Photo Retreat for Women will be held June 10-12, 2005 at Hunter Mountain. The fee is \$255 per person. Please contact Linda Buckman, 922-7011 or linda@empireone.net asap if you have questions or would like to reserve a spot. There are only two places still available.

Thalia Cunningham will have show

J. Thalia Cunningham, M.D. will have a show *Africa - A Journey of the Soul and Spirit* - at the Capital Repertory Theatre in conjunction with the production of *The Syringa Tree*. The exhibit will run from March 11th to April 10th.

The opening reception will be Sunday, March 20th from 5 to 7 p.m. The reception is free but it is necessary to RSVP by March 13th by calling 462-4531, ext 301.

If you are interested in seeing the show, please call Capital Rep Theatre at 445-7469, There is a matinee on the day of the reception.

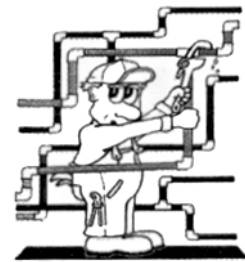
The theatre is at 111 North Pearl Street in Albany, NY.

Dr. Cunningham was an extraordinary speaker at SPS a few years ago.

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News You Can Use

Welcome to our new members. We are happy you joined us. Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

Donald Blais	Connie Bush
Austin Clarke	Carol Donato
Lori DiVeglia	Patrick Flinton
Audrey Gallant	Sheila Gardner
Paul Grasso	Gerald Haffstetter
Jolanta Jeanneney	William Lanahan
Donald Lansing	Jill Paolucci
Kenneth Pass	Dayana Young
Rob Young	Richard Zadlo

David Lilac wins Grand Prize

David Lilac won GRAND PRIZE in the *Adirondack Life* photography contest! Congratulations Dave. That is huge news.

Ruby Gold has pictures accepted

Ruby Gold had two pictures accepted in the juried show "Go Red for Women" sponsored by the American Heart Association. The exhibit is in the Martinez Gallery in Troy and will be up the month of February.

Ken Deitcher wins Gold Medal

Ken Deitcher won a Gold Medal at the 1st World of Images Circuit in Linz, Austria. The photo is of a group of tree frogs on a branch. The Circuit has contestants from all over the world competing in 36 different competitions that are judged in 4 different salons.

The winning contestants have their images published in a hard covered book distributed to all contestants. The medal winners are invited to a gala show/

presentation program at the Design Center in Linz, Austria in the fall 2005.

George Eastman House trip will be on May 14th

The trip to the George Eastman House and Museum will be on May 14th, (not May 21st as previously stated.) This will be a great trip to learn more about photography, see old cameras, tour the grounds and gardens. There will be an exhibit of Edwin Weston's work at that time. Estimated cost for admission and bus trip is 35-45 dollars, if at least 50 people sign up. Guests are welcome! Anticipate a 7 AM departure time from Albany. Contact

Jeff Perkins at his email: Jeffperkins1946@cs.com to register.

Chris Brown had honors show

Christine Brown had an honors show February 1st through the 14th at the University of New Mexico. Chris was an active member of SPS until she moved to the southwest but maintains her membership in our club.

Connie Frisbee Houde has exhibit

Connie Frisbee Houde was asked to present 20 of her photographs of Afghanistan along with 25 of Lorna Tychostup's photographs of Iraq. Saturday February 12 - Saturday March 26

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Sue Gersten has photos accepted

Sue Gersten had three photographs accepted by the Smithtown Township Arts Council for the 26th Annual Juried Photography exhibition to be held at Mills Pond House Gallery, Saturday Feb. 12 thru Friday, March 11, 2005 The Mill Pond Gallery is in St. James, NY.

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March Calendar

- Wednesday, March 2 Print group: From Film to Digital / Tim Shaffer
Assigned: Abstract
- Wednesday, March 9 Slide group: Photography as Observation, Solitude,
Replenishment / Warren Greene
Assigned: Text
- Wednesday, March 16* Digital: Judging and critiquing restored photo / Bob Riccardo
and Jeff Perkins
Assigned: Use of Photoshop filters
- Wednesday, March 23 Photo Essay Group: Putting together the
Essays / Working Session
- Wednesday, March 30 Fine Arts Group: Hand Coloring
/ Kim Koza



Meetings are at 7:30 p.m.
 *Board meetings are at 6:30 p.m.

The *Focus* is published nine times a year by the Schenectady Photographic Society. The organization meets each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. from October through May to promote and present informative programs, activities and competitions in the photographic arts for photographers throughout the Capital District. Members range from novice to expert.

Annual dues are \$30.00 for individuals and families. The *Focus* newsletter is included in the membership dues. SPS meets at the First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, New York. Parking and entrances are on Chapel Street, a one way street off Nott Terrace. Guests are welcome at all regular meetings.