

FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

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Number 9

YEAR-END PRIZE WINNERS IN THIS ISSUE



Kevin Sarsfield's print essay winner *Red's Garage*

**Kick-off meeting
Wednesday
September 20,
2006**

**Guest speaker
Shelby Adams**

Be There

My Ideas

Frank Bumbaratore, outgoing president

Another year has gone by and I am proud of what the people on this board have accomplished. They have done more in this year than most could do in two. They have formed a traveling show of images, from this society, that show the depth of its talent.

We have people planning and executing trips to photo ops. with more in the pipeline. Mentoring has been given a boost both in the conventional mentoring group and in the digital group.

We had members that went through some very trying times and the people of this board responded with genuine heart.

I have found that when you are involved with people of the caliber of this board, it's

best to try to give them what they need and stay the hell out of their way. It has been a joy and an honor to work with them. As a member of this society I know it is in very good hands for this and many years to come.

As one final thought to the many members of this society I say this; Never take the people that stand in front of the meetings or on the board for granted.

They work behind the scenes so all of us can show up at a meeting that seems to run itself. Nothing could be farther from the truth. They are giving you what no one can put a price on, their time. If you don't think that is important wait till you get to be my age!!

A special thanks to Bob Gough for, - - well, — everything!

Thank you to all of my teammates for all the hard work and for putting up with me for the last year. Give'em Hell!



One photo from
 Jeff Perkins digital photo
 essay of the year:
 From Sicily with Love

Digital File Conversion to Slides

Ken Deitcher M.D. FPSA

We all have noticed a precipitous drop in the number of competitors in our monthly slide competitions. This could be due to the increasing number of digital 'shooters'.

Digital file preparation for conversion to slide format is simple and straight forward.

The ratio of the dimensions of a slide is 2:3 or 8 X 12 for a full frame image. Many digital files are 3:4 in dimensions.

To convert your file:

1. open it in Photoshop or other imaging program, there are several free ones like **Irfan View** and **Picassa**. These can easily be accessed via Google on the Internet.
2. See if your image is such that it can be re-sized to 2:3. If not,
3. Make a new 8 X 12 blank file and fill it with black.
4. Copy your file to the blank file and paste. You may have to grab the sizing handles to fit the new dimensions.
5. Save the file, with it's name, at 100-150 ppi as a jpg image.

Go to **Slides.Com** and place your order. The cost is \$2.50 a slide. Shipping costs about \$2 for a sheet of slides. The local labs are charging about \$7.50 per slide. All these slides are of high quality.



A simple slide copying method, which I have

used in the past, entails copying your image off a CRT (cathode ray tube monitor). I have tried to use an LCD, flat screen and the color and exposures are not satisfactory.

If you opt for the 'home made' method have your camera on a tripod. Use a self timer or a cable release. Set the camera to Time Exposure at more than 1/30 sec (I prefer 1/15) in order to avoid photographing the scanning lines. Bracket your exposures +1/ 2 to +2. You do not have to color correct as the CRT is white balanced. Your slides will be passable when projected but if observed via a loupe you can see the tiny color lines of the CRT (these are not the scanning lines mentioned above).

We all hope to see more of your digital creations in slide competitions.

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A very special speaker is scheduled for the kick-off meeting

Save the date for an incredible evening

Jeff Perkins

The Schenectady Photographic Society is pleased to announce our kickoff meeting scheduled for September 20, 2006. We are most happy to have Shelby Lee Adams, a renowned photographer of life in Appalachia attend as our speaker.

Mr. Adams is a wonderful photographer, human being and has a great presentation regarding his very personal photography of the people living in rural Kentucky. The Edelman Gallery writes:

“Shelby Lee Adams was born in Hazard, a small town in eastern Kentucky. Although he grew up in the back seat of his father’s car, moving from place to place, he settled near Hot Spot, living with his grandparents while he attended high school. Trapped between the worlds of country and town kids, Adams never fit in, immersing himself in photography books and anything affiliated with the arts.

This was the mid 1960s and the Peace Corps had a great interest in the poverty sweeping the people of Appalachia. When a film crew visited his home town, Adams naturally wanted to help, taking them to his meet his grandparents and his uncle so they could film their daily lives. When the media described them as malnourished and poor, his friends and family felt betrayed. This devastated Adams, who felt he had misled the people he so dearly loved — an experience that had a profound impact on him, leading him to photograph the people of Appalachia. It wasn’t until he left Kentucky and attended the Cleveland Institute of Art that he understood the lessons he learned from the country people. Finally surrounded by artists, he experienced a complete culture shock, rejecting his Appalachian upbringing, telling people he was from Cincinnati. Embarrassed by his past, Adams stayed away from Hazard and his family, searching for a new identity. By the second year in college, Adams was exposed to the FSA photographers who were sent to the South to

document people who were living in hardship. Although initially defensive about the FSA work, Adams submerged himself in documentary books, showing them to his family on a summer visit. His uncle, a country doctor, took him on house calls to meet people similar to the ones in the books. More than twenty five years later, Shelby Lee Adams is still visiting these people, returning year after year, documenting their lives.

In his new works, Adams introduces us to families who have moved out of the remote mountain areas into trailer parks, where electricity and satellite dishes dominate the landscape. Whether photographing a father and child surrounded by their cows, a family gathering on a porch during Halloween, or an older couple posing with their dog in front of a new satellite dish, Adams’s images are so raw we want to both turn away and stare. That Adams returns to the mountains year after year is a testament to his dedication to show their challenging existence while maintaining their dignity. Although he now lives in Massachusetts, Shelby Lee Adams’s heart is forever in Appalachia.”

The kickoff meeting is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

The meeting is at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church at 603 State St in Schenectady. Parking and entrances are on Chapel Street, a one way street off Nott Terrace. There is limited parking next to the church but there is a large parking lot a short way up the hill on the right on Chapel Street.

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More Year End Winners

Above: Connie Frisbee Houde's
slide of the year
Barbershop

Right: Jane Riley's
color print of the year
Kitchen Stairs



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Year end Competition Results

Color print of the Year

1st	Jane Riley	<i>Kitchen Stairs</i>
HM	Karl Becker	<i>Painting</i>
HM	Luba Ricket	<i>Enter</i>

Monochrome print of the Year

1st	Connie F. Houde	<i>Behind the Veil</i>
HM	Bob Gough	<i>Birch Bark Rings, Yaddo</i>
HM	F. Bumbardatore	<i>Stairway</i>

Judges Joleen Roe and David Brickman

Color printmaker of the Year

1st	Jane Riley
2nd	Robert Near
3rd	Ken Deitcher

Monochrome printmaker of the Year

1st	Frank Bumbardatore
2nd	Max Tiller
3rd	Jennifer Young

Assigned printmaker of the Year

1st	Barb Lawton
2nd	Ray Henrikson
3rd	Luba Ricket

Betty Barker Award

Bob Gough and Kevin Sarsfield

Slide of the Year

1st	Connie F. Houde	<i>Barbershop</i>
HM	Ken Deitcher	<i>Weevil</i>
HM	Nick Argyros	<i>The Shadow of a Smile</i>

Judges Linda Morrell and Mark McCarty

Slidemaker of the Year

1st	Jeff Plant
2nd	Ruby Gold
3rd	Kevin Sarsfield

Assigned slidemaker of the Year

1st	Howie Johannessen
2nd	Kevin Sarsfield
3rd	Luba Ricket

Slide Photo Essay of the Year

1st	Jeff Perkins	<i>From Sicily with Love</i>
2nd	H. Johannessen	<i>Passing it on, Father to Son</i>
3rd	Connie F. Houde	<i>From a Distance</i>

Print Photo Essay of the Year

1st	Kevin Sarsfield	<i>Red's Garage</i>
2nd	Ken Deitcher	<i>Tobin in Decay</i>

Judges Dave Lloyd and Greg Yankowsky



Year End Winner
Connie Frisbee
Houde's
monochrome
print of the year
Behind the Veil

Digital Photography Tips

Hosted by certified Photoshop ACE, Jim Barthman, photoshophelp provides FREE answers to all your Photoshop questions. The goal is to build a knowledgebase of clear, concise answers to real-life Photoshop problems.

<http://photoshophelp.blogs.com/photoshophelp/2005/01/index.html>

Right click

Want a great tip?

Two words. Right-click.

That's right, many great shortcuts are just a right-click away.

Right-click in the right place and a context-sensitive menu appears. For example,

- Right-click on the Layer palette to **increase** or **decrease** the layer thumbnail size on-the-fly.
- Right-click on a **Layer** and you can Duplicate, Delete, or Rasterize it, among other things.
- Right-click a **ruler** and you can change the unit of measurement.
- Right-click a **document** and you can zoom in or out.

Right on.

Mac users: Ctrl + click replaces the right-click

Is there a way to select one color on an image, say black, and change it to another color, say red?

Try this:

Choose Image>Adjustments>Selective Color.

The Selective Color dialog box appears.

Choose Blacks from the Colors dropdown menu at the top.

Drag the Cyan slider all the way to the left to convert all the black pixels in your image to red.

- Note: You might not want ALL of your target colors to change. In these cases, a quick (even rough) selection will help your tool hone in on the area you need to change.

Fold Marks

How can I remove fold marks from a photo?

Here's a quick way to cover up bad pixels with good pixels.

Start by analyzing your photo.

Find an area that has pixels that are similar in color, tone and density (dark/light) to the area that is damaged. These are the good pixels.

Select the Rectangular Marquee tool.

Set the Feather value to 5.

Click and drag a selection over the good pixels.

Choose Edit > Copy.

Choose Edit > Paste.

A New Layer is created with a Patch of good pixels with a soft edge.

Select the Move tool.

Single click the new layer to activate it.

Click and drag the patch over the fold.

The fold mark is covered.

You may need to erase parts of your patch that don't look right or even delete the layer and start all over again. You may need to make many patches to cover up all the problems too.

If the edge of the patch doesn't blend well, try increasing the Feather to 10. This value really depends on the size and resolution of your photo. This technique will work on large areas of similarly colored pixels. Other areas with more distinct detail will require more effort and precise tools. There is no exact science to retouching. It takes a good eye and lots of practice. Good luck.

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News You Can Use

SPS members will give lectures at NECCC in July

Two of our members will be teaching at the New England Camera Club Conference in Amherst this July 14 - 16th. Jim Craner will teach Composition and Lighting in Wildlife Photography and Ken Deitcher will teach Photographing Amphibians and Reptiles.

Don Blais to have exhibit

Don Blais will have landscape and nature photographs on display at the East Greenbush Community Library for the month of August. This is the second year that he will display at the library.

Fran Driscoll having a book signing

Our speaker on May 11th, "slide of the year" competition, was Francis X. Driscoll. He is having a book of his photographs published this summer and will have a book signing on Saturday, September 2nd at the Catskill Mountain Foundation in Hunter, New York. More details can be seen on his website www.francisxdriscoll.com

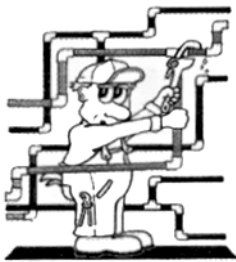
Important reminders when out-of-doors

When going outside to take photographs this summer, remember to protect yourself from ticks and bugs by wearing light colored clothing with long sleeves and long pants. And tuck your pants into your socks. Do not wear perfume or other scent and remember the bug spray and drinking water.



Australian Lumpy Tree Frog by Ken Deitcher

Ken Deitcher's "Australian Lumpy Tree Frog" has been accepted for Picture of the Day and will appear May 30, 2006 on the Home Page of kodak.com and every few minutes on the Kodak Times Square Gallery in New York City.



Frank Bumbardatore

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Summer Calendar

Wednesday, June 7	Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet
Wednesday, June 14	Joint Board meeting, outgoing and incoming boards
Wednesday, July 5	Board meeting
July 14 - 16	NECCC Amherst, MA
Wednesday, August 9	Board meeting
Wednesday, Sept 6	Board meeting
Wednesday, Sept 20	Annual kick-off meeting

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.