

# FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 77

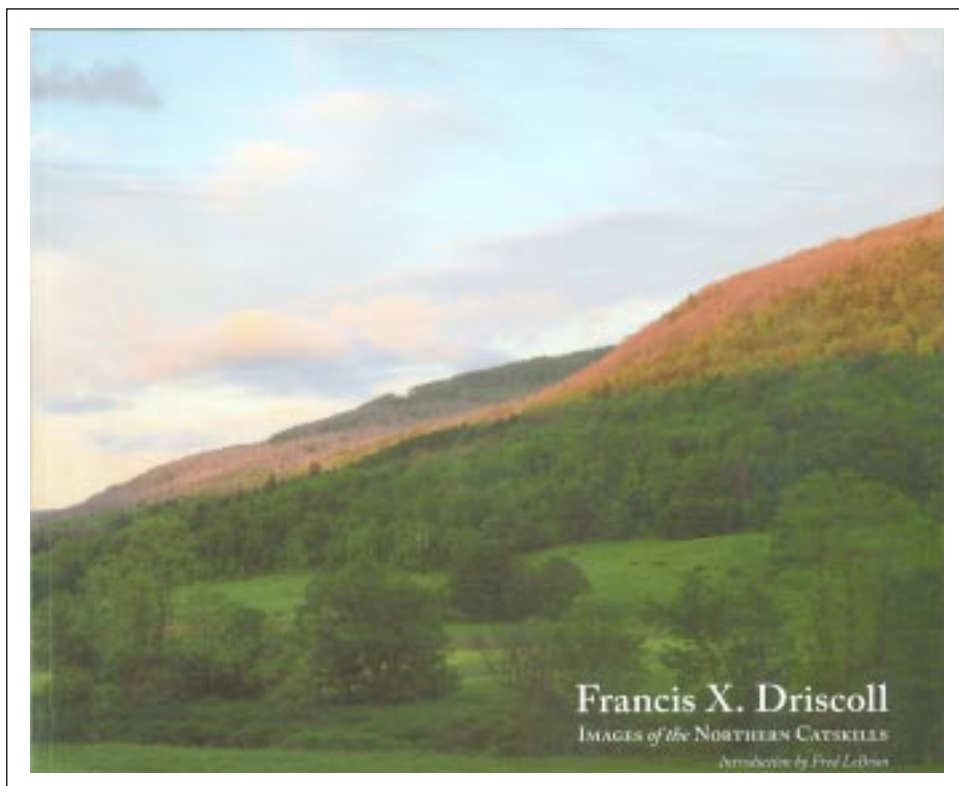
March 2008

Number 6

## March Print Night Speaker – Francis X Driscoll

“Images of the Northern  
Catskills”

*Robert Near*



Living in the Hudson River valley at the foothills of the Catskill Mountains I was

drawn to these mountains from the photographic works of Francis X Driscoll.

*please see Driscoll page 2*

## PSA International Digital Salons and Circuits

Ken Deitcher M.D. FPSA  
4\* Nature, 3\* Eid

On Wednesday March 19 Ken Deitcher will present accepted images in several PSA domestic and foreign salons. The images were sent by the top photographers in the world to compete for point scores, not money.

The cumulative scores of multiple salon acceptances go toward ratings called ‘Stars’ given by PSA.

In most salons, images are submitted digitally and paid for on-line via credit card. There are over 75 salons conducted yearly in categories such as” General Color, Nature, Photojournalism, Creative, Monochrome and individual topics like humor, figure studies, water, etc.

Come see what the ‘best of the best’ are doing in photography. You will be given an impetus to go out and improve on your photographic vision.

## Driscoll

*continued from page 1*

It was in the Catskill Mountains that I first meet Francis while shooting one of my favorite locations, Diamond Notch Falls. It was on that day that I hiked into Diamond Notch to find another photographer already there shooting the falls, this other photographer was Francis. I consider myself lucky to call Francis my friend and his work continues to inspire me to get out and explore to wonderful beauty of the Catskill Mountains.

I think every photographer has dreamed to have a book published of their images and Francis has seen this dream through to reality. In the fall of 2006, Francis's book, *Images of the Northern Catskills*, was released. Francis will present wonderful images of the Catskills along with the process of what it takes to bring a book to life. The book takes you through the four seasons in mountains with a wonderful collection of images that conveys his love for this region and will leave you wanting to discover this area on your own. The Catskill Mountain has been the subject of great artists such as the Hudson River School of Painters and Francis's images continue to reveal this treasure as seen through his lens.

### *Francis X Driscoll Bio*

*Francis X. Driscoll, born and raised in the Bronx, New York, is a self-taught photographer. His admiration and love of the "Mountain Top" were the inspiring motives for his pursuit of photography as a hobby. Fran jokes that his photography "is a hobby gotten out of hand." Francis is always on vigil for an elusive shot in our*

*ever changing mountains. One of the rewards he has as a photographer is sharing the beauty of nature, as he perceives it, with others. Ultimately, Driscoll's images perfectly convey the beauty of the astonishing place known as the Catskill Mountains.*

*Winning numerous local photography awards such as the Hunter Promotion Association, the Windham Chamber of Commerce, and the Twilight Park Artist Association has helped to spread word of his talent. Francis has shown his work at the Greene County Council of the Arts Gallery, the Catskill Mountain Foundation, the Pratt Museum and Columbia Memorial Hospital as well as other exhibits. Many of his images have been published regionally and nationally in magazines, textbooks and travel guides. His work is also part of several corporate collections. Fran conducts workshops, photography hikes and speaking engagements for adults and children.*

Please join us on March 5<sup>th</sup> for what should prove to be a very interesting presentation on the ins and outs of producing a photographic book which will be available for purchase during that night.

Photo on page 1:

*Images of the Northern Catskills* book cover

© Francis X Driscoll

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*Foundry Demolition (180 degree panoramic) ©Robert Near*

## March Digital Night – Digital Panoramic Imaging

*Robert Near*

During my life I have always been drawn to those long skinny panoramic images. With today's digital cameras and software packages we have the tools to produce great panoramic images by stitching multiple images together. There are two phases to producing a digital panoramic image: the shooting of the image and the processing of the image. I will demonstrate my camera setup for shooting multi-row panoramic images and how to handle objects in the foreground. Then we will go through the actual digital work flow within the digital darkroom.

As software and technology change, I find my technique and

work flow changes as well. A year ago when asked to do this presentation, I had one method using Autopano Pro software and today I am using Photoshop CS3 more often. I will demonstrate both methods with two of my panoramic images; one image will be a multiple row panoramic and the second will be a single row panoramic image in which I used PhotoMatix software to increase dynamic range prior to stitching.

In today's world the only limit to stitched photos is the limit of your hard drive space and CPUs horse power. Please join me on March 19<sup>th</sup> when I reveal some of my panoramic secrets.

## N. Sukumar will present program at PSA conference

N. Sukumar will be doing a program at the PSA conference in Portland, Oregon entitled "Yatra Trails of the Indian Himalayas." The conference runs from August 31 to September 6, 2008.

The Indian Himalayas are traversed by a network of ancient pilgrim (Yatra) trails passing through some of the most breathtaking mountainscapes. Since the establishment of paved motorable roads linking the most important pilgrim spots, many of these ancient trails have been forsaken by the pilgrim hordes and are now frequented only by local villagers, wandering ascetics (sadhus) and the occasional hiker. This program (first presented at the Schenectady Photographic Society on March 12, 2003) recounts and illustrates my adventures on several hiking trips in different regions of the Indian Himalayas over the course of several years.

*Photo right: All in a day's commute. Crossing the raging Sutlej in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh, India. © N. Sukumar*



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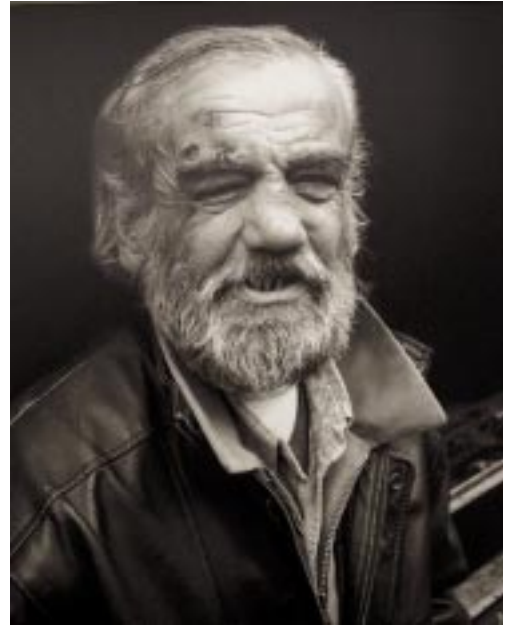
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## February print competition winners



Left: 3rd place  
monochrome print  
Louie Powell  
*Valley View  
Chapel*



Right: 2nd place  
monochrome print  
Jeff Perkins  
*The Old Vet*



Left: 2nd place  
assigned print  
Robert Near  
*Floral Detail*



Right: 2nd place color  
print Kevin Sarsfield  
*Zinnia 08*

Below left: 3rd place  
assigned print Colleen  
Magai *Butterfly*



Right: 3rd  
place color  
print David  
Jeffrey  
*Abandoned*



# February Competition Results

## Prints

### Color 22 Entries

* Faustin Baron	Indifference	1
Kevin Sarsfield	Zinnia 08	2
David Jeffrey	Abandoned	3
Christine Ostling	Olive Branch	4
Max Tiller	The Villa	HM

### Monochrome 21 Entries

** Kevin Sarsfield	Shadows of Themselves	1
Jeff Perkins	The Old Vet	2
Louie Powell	Valley View Chapel	3
Bob Gough	Under the Boardwalk	4
Harvey Gurien	Fire Escape	HM

### Assigned Up Close 18 Entries

*** Luba Ricket	Artists Brush	1
Robert Near	Floral Detail	2
Colleen Magai	Butterfly	3
Luba Ricket	Curled Cord	HM

**Judge:** Robert O'Neil

**Program:** Karisa Centanni / Photo Projects

### Winner's Notes:

\*Faustin Baron took this photo close to 30 years ago and printed at that time as a Cibachrome when he still had a darkroom. It was shot with Kodachrome, hand held, indoors at the Schenectady Armory, at a youth soccer competition, between games. All natural light, no flash with a Nikon F3 and a wide angle lens, most likely wide open.

Photo below: *Indifference* © Faustin Baron



\*\*Luba writes: Taken with my Olympus P&S on macro at f2.8, 1/13 sec with -.7EV with the camera sitting on a table. Taken with window & overhead room light. Taped to the back of the table was a digital image I painted with the brush. I worked this idea for many takes ... so many that my camera got tired of focusing in macro ...

The digital projection group meeting was cancelled because of the ice storm. The images will be judged at the March 12th meeting, along with the slides that will be entered that night.

\*\*Well, in marked contrast to my comments last month, I have to concede that my little digi cam came through for me. I was waiting in line for the grand-opening of a local golf emporium and there were at least 150 people in front of me. (Amazing what 2 free golf balls will do to Americans). It was early April, the sun was receding in the West, and the shadows were evident everywhere. I turned the corner (now - only 25 in front of me), and looked not at the crowd - but at the wall behind them. Sony DSC-T1 in my pocket, as always. ISO 100, f3.5, 1/320th of a second and the color "image" was captured. Some judicious cropping, conversion to B&W, contrast boosting and a levels adjustment created the final print. Ain't digital wonderful????

Photo below: *Shadows of Themselves* © Kevin Sarsfield



Photo  
*Artists Brush*  
© Luba Ricket



# Entries Needed for the Glennie Competition

by Jim Craner

## The Schenectady Photographic Society is entering the 28<sup>th</sup> annual George W. Glennie Memorial Nature Competition.

Sponsored by the Merrimack Valley Camera Club (MVCC), the Glennie competition and exhibition was created to honor George Glennie, the founder and first chairman of the MVCC Nature Group. The competition is open to all clubs in the New England Camera Club Council (NECCC) and other clubs in selected PSA Regions. The SPS has been invited to participate.

The Glennie is 'club' competition, although individual photographers are recognized for winning work. A club may submit ten (10) images with no more than two (2) images from the same photographer. Awards will be presented to those clubs receiving the 4 highest scores. Awards to individual photographers will include Best of Show, Best Animal, Best Bird, Best Botany, Best Insect or Arachnid, Best Landscape Best Seascape. The judges reserve the right to sub-divide some categories depending on entry levels. A number of individual Honor Awards will also be presented based on the level of submissions in each category.

Interested photographers should review information about the Glennie Competition at the MVCC's website at [www.mvccameraclub.org](http://www.mvccameraclub.org). You can also reach the MVCC site from the SPS site. Starting at our home page, follow the link for '2007-2008 Competitions', at the bottom of the next page follow the link '28<sup>th</sup> annual George W. Glennie Nature Exhibition'.

All images must be submitted digitally. The subject matter of the Glennie is exclusively nature which includes the following subcategories - animal, bird, botany, insect, landscape and seascape. The PSA rules governing digital nature submissions are in effect for the Glennie.

*'No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged, combined, or changed in any way that affects the integrity of the image content. No manipulation or modification is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration to the original color of the scene. No special effects filters can be added or applied, and any sharpening must appear natural.'*

The following statement – defining a 'nature' image also appears on the MVCC site.

*'Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well informed person will be able to identify the subject material*

*and to certify as to its honest presentation. The storytelling value of a photograph MUST be weighed more than the pictorial 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 on wild animals is acceptable. 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.'*

For the Glennie competition, images of zoo or game farm animals are eligible provided that no artificial habitat is apparent in the final image.

Here is the timeline the SPS has established leading to our club entry into the Glennie competition.

March 10	Deadline for SPS members to submit entries online (see below).
March 13	Selection of 10 entries for the Glennie Competition.
March 22	Deadline for submissions at the MVCC
March 26	Judging at the MVCC

To submit an image for the Glennie Competition, you must do so online at the SPS site. From our home page follow the link for '2007-2008 Competitions'; at the bottom of the next page, below the 'Interclub Competitions' banner follow the link 'Online Submission now OPEN' and follow the instructions (NOTE: select 'Nature InterClub' for the category).

If an image you submit is selected as one of the SPS entries for the Glennie competition, you may need to submit your digital file again using a specific file naming convention. Also the MVCC technical requirements for digital submissions are slightly different than ours.

Please consider submitting an image from this competition. Placing well in this very prestigious competition would give our club substantial 'bragging rights', and might position us for entry as a club into other similar competitions.





# News You Can Use

## Burt Klinger had exhibit

SPS member Burt Klinger had three monochrome pieces accepted to the (juried) Erotic Art Show at the Tivoli Artists Coop in Tivoli, NY. The show ran from February 1st to the 24th.

## Diane Reiner has exhibit

During March and April, Diane Reiner will have a display of photographs from Uganda at McGreevy ProLab. The images are of Ugandans within in their everyday surroundings, and were taken during a month-long visit Diane made to Uganda,

in East Africa, at the end of 2006. McGreevy's is located at 376 Broadway, Albany and is open Monday to Thursday from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, and Friday from 8:30 to 5.



*Girls Playing*  
©Diane Reiner



*Plum Island* © Max Tiller

## Max Tiller to have new exhibit

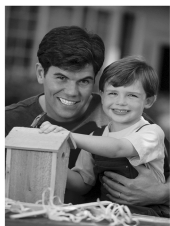
A photography exhibit featuring the work of Max Tiller will kick off with a reception at the Robert and Dorothy Ludwig Jewish Community Center, 2365 Balltown Road, Niskayuna, on Thursday, March 6th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. His most recent photos, *Seeing Red*, will be featured. The black and white and color photos, shot digitally using infrared filtering and printed on an Inkjet printer, will remain on display through April 2008.



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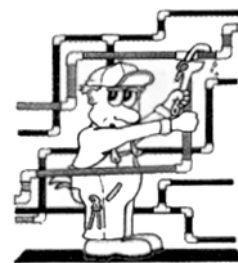
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## March Calendar

Wed., March 5

Print group: Images of the Northern Catskills / Francis X. Driscoll

Assigned: Architectural detail

Wed., March 12

Projected Imaging group: PSA Salons / Ken Deitcher

Assigned: Waterfall, streams, etc (must have been taken on slide film)

Wed., March 19\*

Digital group: Panoramic Imaging/Robert Near

Wed., March 26

Mentoring group:

Meetings are at 7:30 pm

\*Board Meetings are at 6:30 pm



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 Dis-

trict. Members range from novice to expert. Annual dues are \$40.00 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.