

FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 77

April 2008

Number 7

April Print Night Speaker – Bill DeLanney

Robert Near

Over the past year we have had many talented photographers present programs during print night. When you look around the room there is a sea of talented photographers that are SPS members. I looked at this body of talent when I was coming up with speakers for the year and I thought of Bill DeLanney, whose work I truly admire but we don't see that much of at competition.

As a photographer in today's world, it is very easy to get tangled up in the latest and greatest technology or the greatest numbers of pixels and lose connection with the art. Bill has stripped himself of that baggage by getting back to the very basics by using pinhole cameras, a technology dating back to the mid 1800's. The pinhole camera strips all the

Altamont Trees © Bill Delaney



baggage away, no view finder, no batteries or bag full of lenses and the results from pinhole photography can be truly wonderful as we will

Please see Delaney page 6

Adirondack Flowers are topic of April 9th meeting

Jeff Plant

Our speaker for the Projected Image Group for April 9, 2008 will be Maryde King. Ms. King will give a slide presentation on the wild flowers of the Adirondacks, focusing on the native species. She also has a separate program on the non-native flowers of the Adirondacks.

Ms. King developed an interest in flowers and their nomenclature from her mother while growing up in Washington State. She became an avid hiker in the Cascades before moving to New York in the 1960's.

Ms. King transferred her love of flowers and mountains to the Adirondacks, and learned photography from her husband, Larry King. She commenced a long-term project of photographing Adirondack flowers on 35 mm. slides. Ms. King has presented her programs on the Adirondacks to a number of garden

clubs, senior associations, and participated in the Adirondack Discovery Program, wherein she gave presentations on Adirondack nature to a number of communities in that region. Ms. King finds great delight in the patterns and details of nature revealed by Marco photography.

She worked for over 30 years as a librarian at the GE Research Center on River Road in Niskayuna. Ms King and her husband have developed a number of slide and motion picture programs on various aspects of the natural world for presentation to interested organizations.

As many of our members spend time photographing our beloved Adirondacks, I am sure there will be considerable interest in discovering just what flowers have been appearing in our mountain photos.

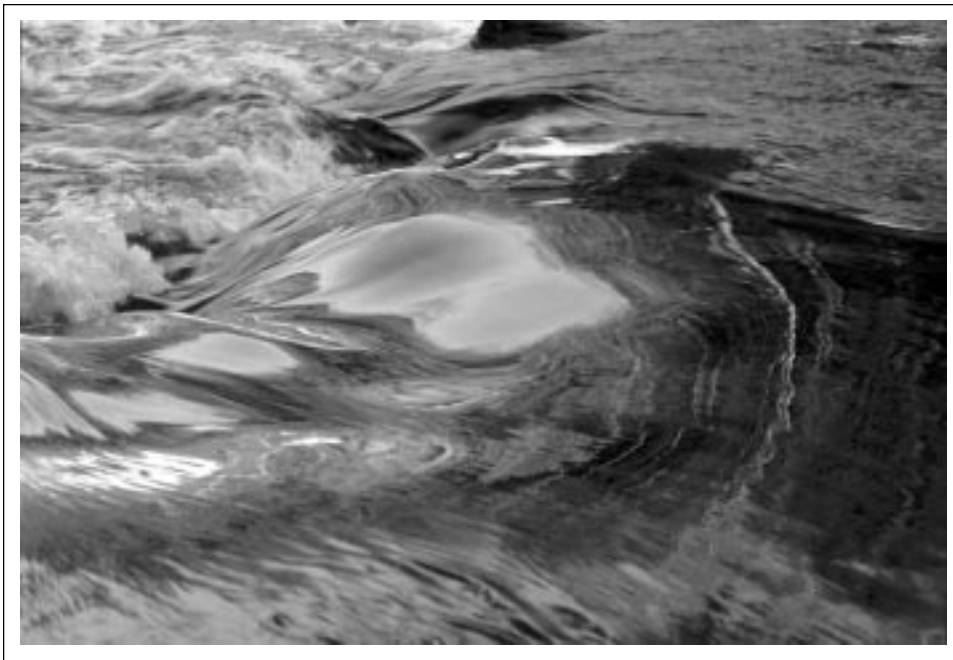


Photo © Steve Schmidt

Ripples in Still Water

N. Sukumar

On April 30, the Fine Arts Group will feature Steve Schmidt's nature photography in a program entitled "Ripples in Still Water." Steve comes to us from Amherst, MA, and works in 35mm transparency film. He has exhibited at several group and solo shows and been published in *Sierra*, *Earth Magazine* and *Natural New England*. Here is Steve's statement:

"I began doing creative photography while a student at the University of Massachusetts about 40 years ago. As photography editor of the college newspaper, I produced traditional photojournalism. However, on weekends, I enjoyed

going out into the countryside and photographing the beautiful natural scenery in the surrounding area. The newspaper's editors started running these photographs on the front of Monday's paper to establish a mood.

Ever since, I have continued my photographic exploration of the natural world, with a special emphasis on the effects of light on water. Light, reflected off the surface of water, creates a myriad of changing images. Still water yields a realistic, mirror-like picture, but seconds later a ripple appears, magically transforming the surface into an impressionistic scene. As the ripples interact, they produce a kaleidoscope of shapes and colors.


A different type of image results from rushing rivers. With the water moving faster than the eye (or shutter), reflections become an abstract blend of color and form.

I am fascinated by seeing something very large in something small, and fascinated by natural patterns that repeat on larger and larger scales: the crest of a ripple, the crest of a wave, the crest of a mountain. Eliot Porter certainly has influenced me with his sense of pattern and scale. I hope, in turn, to communicate some of my own insight to viewers—and some of my process as well. I wish to slow the viewer down enough to see what can be found in the tiny and mundane details surrounding us. People often see my photographs as images of beauty and joy, yet I believe viewers also come to a better understanding of the complex world around us, as well as how we perceive this world: not through technology, but through our own minds and eyes.

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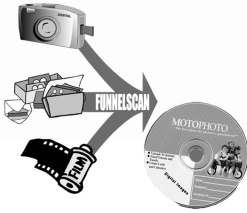
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Photos On CD



Inspired by Monet, I return to the same locations at different times of day and in different seasons. My creative process takes on a meditative approach. I may not see anything at first glance; instead I wait, often for many hours, for just the right combination of water, air, wind, and light—and for the openness of vision to see it. Then I can capture abstract patterns, landscapes, whole worlds even, in a photographic exposure of less than a second's duration."

Annual Banquet

June 4th

Save the date



Original Biskin family photo



Biskin family photo after restoration

The Deconstruction of a Photo-Restoration

Jeff Perkins has been a member of SPS for over 12 years and among other interests, truly enjoys the restoration of old photographs. His techniques involve the Photoshop Darkroom and attention to meticulous detail and patience. Books and an On-Line course with Katrin Eismann were his teachers. Jeff says "It is truly satisfying to restore and fix an old photo. The smile on the client's face make it all worthwhile!"

Jeff is also the Mentoring Co-Chair and has been a former Chair of the Digital Group. Field trips led by Jeff include Magic Wings (the butterfly conservatory), Fall shoot at the Plotterkill Preserve and last years Boston field trip. Currently he shoots with a Maxxum 7D DSLR, a Canon G9, a Casio Z750 and a Sony F828 for infrared landscape photography.

With good fortune, Jeff has won a number of awards in SPS and his image *Morning Light at the Basilica* was chosen as the Medium Format Photograph of the year in 2000 by *Popular Photography* magazine.

His best advice to aspiring photographers is to learn basic techniques but shoot from your heart. Photographs that capture beauty or conflict that emotionally move you and other viewers are the goals.

Please join Jeff Perkins at the April 16th meeting of the Digital Group.

Mail Order Hours: Mon-Thurs 8AM-7PM
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March competition winners



1st place assigned print ©Robert Near *X*



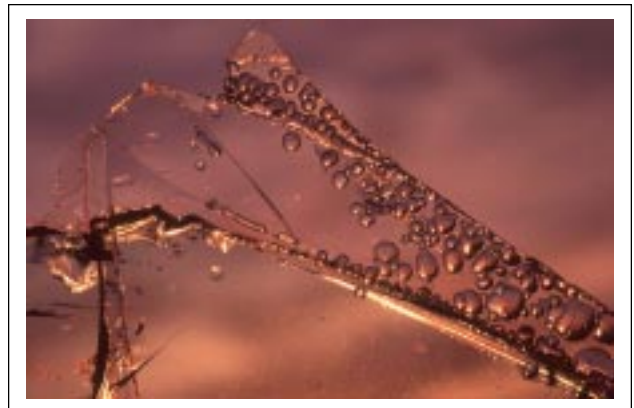
1st place assigned slide ©Robert Near
Falling Water



1st place color print © David Jeffery
Myrtle Beach



1st place mono-
chrome print
©David Jeffery
Vacancy



1st place general
slide © Jeff Plant
Sky Bridge

1st place general projected digital image ©Budhaditaya Deb *Point Pleasant*



1st place assigned projected digital image
© Jeff Perkins *BlueJunker*



March Competition Results

Print

Color 37 Entries

* David Jeffery	Myrtle Beach	1
Harvey Gurien	Claw	2
Harvey Gurien	Mercer Street Facade	3
Bob Warner	Ready for the Compost	4
Ray Hull	Stop: Dead End	5
Ron Herndon	Desert Big Horns	HM
Saul Aronson	Through the Looking Glass	HM
Connie Bush	Morning at the Lake	HM

Monochrome 21 Entries

** David Jeffery	Vacancy	1
Faustin Baron	Nate	2
Ray Henrikson	The Ethereal Dancer	3
Robert Near	Tahawus Glost Town	HM
Sue Gersten	Catch Me	HM

Assigned Architectural Detail 26 Entries

*** Robert Near	"X"	1
Colleen Magai	Philee Red Church Door	2
Connie Bush	69 Phila	3
Rebekah Sokol	Glory and Windows	4
David Jeffery	Mesa Verde	HM

Judge Mark McCarty

Program Francis X. Driscoll / Images of the Northern Catskills

Winner's Notes:

*Myrtle Beach was taken with a Canon 5D and a Tamron 24-135 lens on a tripod at Myrtle Beach. It was five exposures at dusk to create the HDR image and was tonemapped with PhotoMatix.

**Vacancy was taken with a Canon 5D and a Tamron 24-135 lens handheld in Greene County.

***Robert took this photo at the Olana Historic Site with his Nikon D200, a nikon 60mm macro lens at ISO 100 on a tripod. He processed it in Photoshop CS3 to give the image the Orton effect (slide sandwich.)



Schenectady Photographic Society
is a member of the
Photographic Society of America

Projected images group

Slides

General 17 Entries

* Jeff Plant	Sky Bridge	1
Karl Becker	Beauty	2
Ken Deitcher	Spectators	3
Robert Near	Creature	4
Robert Near	Autumn	HM

Assigned Moving Water 12 Entries

** Robert Near	Falling Water	1
Luba Ricket	Splish Splash	2
Luba Ricket	Draining	3
Kevin Sarsfield	Tired Trio	HM

Judge Stephanie White

Winner's Notes:

*Jeff used a small piece of fractured safety glass mounted on a snowbank and shot against the setting sun. He used a Nikon F100, a Tamron 90 macro lens and Velvia 100 film

**This was a waterfall at Platte Clove with a long exposure (apprx 5 seconds) blurring the water. Bob used a neutral density filter on his Nikon F4, a 200 mm lens and Velvia 100 film on a tripod.

Projected Digital Images- February entries - cancelled due to storm

General

Budhaditaya Deb	Point Pleasant	1
Bill Lanahan	Lacy Silhouettes	2
Max Tiller	Grass Plum Island	3
Robert Near	Clearing Storm	4
Jack Hurley	Trees & Stream	5
H. Johannessen	Cape May Light	HM

Assigned Metallica

* Jeff Perkins	Blue Junker	1
Suzy Herndon	Chain	2
Robert Near	Detroit Metal	3
Tom Miller	2 Inch Nails	4
Ken Deitcher	Rusty Motor	HM

Judge Stephanie White

Program Ken Deitcher / PSA International photo competitions

Winner's Notes:

*Jeff Perkin's photo Junker was taken with a Mamiya 645 camera, a 135 lens and Ektachrome 200 film. He shot a colorfully corroded auto in a junk yard.

Photo Essay Competition

April 23, 2008

Connie Houde and Jim Craner

Photo Essay Competition night is always an enjoyable evening as club members unveil their completed work. Here is a thumbnail review of the 'rules' – to paraphrase one of my favorite lines from the movie *Pirates of the Caribbean*; “we like to think of them more as guidelines.”

If projecting your essay, the length should be kept under about 8 minutes. In all cases, the images should be predominantly the original work of the author. A relatively small percent of the total number of images can be from another source (e.g. public domain, family photo album, another photographer) can be included for story-line continuity. If any such images are used, credit should be given at the end of the show.

We have had print essays in nearly every format conceivable – mounted on a flat board, bound into an album, strung like beads, printed on unusual media, and presented in 3-D. Be creative.

In the past few years, the majority of projected essays have been presented using digital software and equipment. As a result, the club's analog equipment would need some 'dusting off' and testing. If you want to use the analog equipment (projectors and dissolve unit) please contact either Connie or Jim for access to it.

If presenting digitally, you are responsible for bringing your essay in a presentation-ready format, or on compatible media. The Club's projector will be available as will a Windows XP™ notebook computer. Please do not assume the presence of any special software on the computer – contact Jim if you need to know what is loaded. It is strongly recommended that you bring your projection-ready essay on a CD. Avoid the use of 'thumb drives' and DVDs. Technical support will only be provided for the operation of the equipment. Sorry, we can not provide last-minute help with the setup of your essay. If you own a laptop computer, it is also strongly recommended that you use your own equipment with which you are more familiar. Naturally, we will assist with the connection of your computer to the projector, but you are expected to operate your computer to output the image to the projector.

Last year's judge emphasized the need to remember the 'story telling' dimension of a photo essay – good to know!

If you have any questions, please contact Jim or Connie as soon as possible.

DeLanney

continued from page 1

see with Bill's images. Bill has been using pinhole and plastic cameras for the past five years and has found the magic connection of photography. The quote below of Bill's sums this up.

For me, I can say “more with less”. I think there is also a photographic power in stripping everything away. And sometimes by getting rid of the baggage you end up revealing more of what is your “true vision.”

I think once you see Bill's work you will agree he has found the connection with his subjects and his true vision. Bill has shown his work in many galleries including the BMG Gallery in Woodstock and has won numerous awards for his work.

Please join us on April 2nd for what should prove to be a very interesting presentation from fellow SPS member Bill DeLanney. Bill has also graciously let me know that he will be donating a Merlin Paint Can Pinhole Camera which will be a door prize that night.



SPS members at the NECCC convention in 2007.

See page 7 for more details

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Grab Bag competition April 30th

It's that time again for you digital-graphers to pull out your old film cameras and feed a roll of slide film into that starving body and capture images for the Grab Bag competition. Your camera will be happy; and being so, will make sure that it does its part to make your images winners. The competition will be held this year on April 30, 2008. A roll of film and the topic for this year's competition will be available for the moderate cost of \$15 on April 2 and April 9. The undeveloped roll must be returned to Howie Johannessen no later than April 16, 2008. The film will be processed and on the night of competition the slides will be returned to those who are competing. Five slides are to be chosen and submitted for judging. Please bring a light box with you on the night of competition for viewing and selecting your five slides.

Harvey Mendelson has exhibit

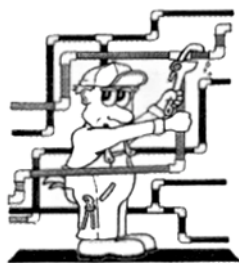
An exhibit of photographs by Harvey Mendelson is on view at the Niskayuna Public Library, 2400 Nott Street East, Niskayuna, through April 24th. The exhibit, located in the library's meeting room, can be seen from 10:00am to 8:30pm Monday through Thursday and from 10:00am to 5:00pm Friday and Saturday. Information may be obtained by calling Harvey at 399-0615.

Sue Gersten has photo accepted

Sue Gersten has been accepted into the 2008 *Momentum: Images of Dance* juried international dance photography

exhibition. Her image entitled *JUMP* was one of the 42 selected.

The contest drew the largest number of entries in its history. Images came from 25 states, and 6 countries. This exhibit will take place at the Ethel Walker School Art Gallery, Simsbury, Conn, in the fall of 2008. She has received a



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certificate of recognition and a possible cash prize.

The top photos will be available for viewing on April 1, 2008 at www.movingmoments.org.

Annual Banquet will be June 4th

The SPS Annual Meeting and Banquet is scheduled for June 4th at the Normanside Country Club in Delmar. The event will feature a cocktail hour, buffet dinner, Chinese auction, installation of new officers, and awards. This is always a great fun event so plan to come.

The Normanside Country Club is the site of the next hanging of the SPS Traveling exhibit. It will coincide with our banquet.

More detailed information will appear in the May *Focus* and in weekly meetings during May.

Questions? Contact Ray Henrikson, 439-4308 or rhenriks@nycap.rr.com

Women's retreat will be in October

Please join us the first week-end in October in the beautiful Catskill Mountains. The retreat will be at the Catskill Mountain Lodge. Please check out their website. The fall colors are said to be "at mid peak" at that time. Prices start at around \$100.00 per person, depending on how many attend. I am reserving a house on the property but for those who wish to have their own private space, there are hotel and motel rooms available. If you haven't joined us before, please consider it this time. The location and inexpensive cost make it an ideal week-end. For further information, please call Colleen Magi @ 922-8000

NECCC July 11-13

The annual New England Camera Club Council Conference will be held July 11 - 13 at the Univ of Mass in Amherst, Mass. Last year, 20 SPS members attended. It is a great week-end, lots of lectures and photographic ops plus pre-conference workshops and loaner equipment provided by Canon and Nikon. More than 1100 photographers from all over the New England, New York and New Jersey areas participate. This year, the Saturday night featured speaker will be George Lepp. SPS member Jim Craner will be giving one of the seminars at this summer's conference.

For information, prices, and an application, go to www.NECCC.org



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April Calendar

Wed., April 2	Print group: Pin Hole photography / Bill DeLanney Assigned: Age
Wed., April 9	Projected Imaging group: Flowers of the Adirondacks / Mary de King Digital projection Assigned: Sunrise - Sunset
Wed., April 16*	Digital group: Restoring old photos / Jeff Perkins
Wed., April 23	Photo Essay group: Annual Competition
Wed., April 30	Fine Arts group: Ripples in Still Water / Steve Schmidt Grab Bag competition

Meetings are at 7:30pm
 *Board meetings are at 6:30pm



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 \$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.