

FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

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2010 Kick-off meeting to feature David Middleton on Wed. Sept. 22nd



© David Middleton

Schenectady Photographic Society will kick-off the 2010-2011 year by featuring Photographer David Middleton. The event is free of charge and open to the public. David Middleton is a full-time professional outdoor photographer and writer. During his 25-year career, he has photographed for and written ten books. His first, *Ancient Forests*, was published in 1992 and was followed by *The Nature of America* – which he created, co-directed, wrote and contributed photographs for – was the largest nature photography book project ever undertaken. His recent books include *The Nature of Vermont*, *A Photographer's Guide to Vermont*, *A Photographer's Guide to the Maine Coast* and *A Photographers Guide to the Oregon Coast*.

Middleton is a Contributing Editor of *Outdoor Photographer Magazine*, a Nikon Legend Behind the Lens, and the Executive Director of the Photographers Alliance Workshops Company. Middleton now lives on a former dairy farm in southwestern Vermont, not

far from the farm featured in his book: *Quite a Sightly Place: A Family Dairy in Vermont*.

David is an enthusiastic teacher. He has led more than 150 nature/photography tours and 200 photography workshops across the country. Visit his Website at www.davidmiddletonphoto.com

David will be presenting a behind the scenes look at his most recent book project – *Quite a Slightly Place* – the story of a traditional New England farm. David will explain how he found this remarkable farm and how the book project evolved from a few calendar pictures to a book full of stories and images. Along the way he might even share a story or three about the farm. Most importantly, David will show the great benefits of concentrating your photography on one theme, to get your best pictures and find images that are unique and compelling.

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President's Welcome

On behalf of the Schenectady Photographic Society's Board I would like to welcome you all to the SPS 2010-2011 year of sharing our love for photography. This year we are continuing the new format that was adopted last year.

The first Wednesday of the month is print night, when the monthly print competition is held, along with a short topic presentation during the judging of the prints. The second Wednesday of the month is projected image night, when we hold the digital projected image competition and, as on print night, feature a short program during the judging of the images. The third Wednesday of each month is the speaker night, dedicated to a full-length presentation by our featured speaker. And rounding out the month we have the fourth Wednesday of the month as mentoring and fine arts night. With digital taking over the photography world we are incorporating the digital nights in the mentoring nights.

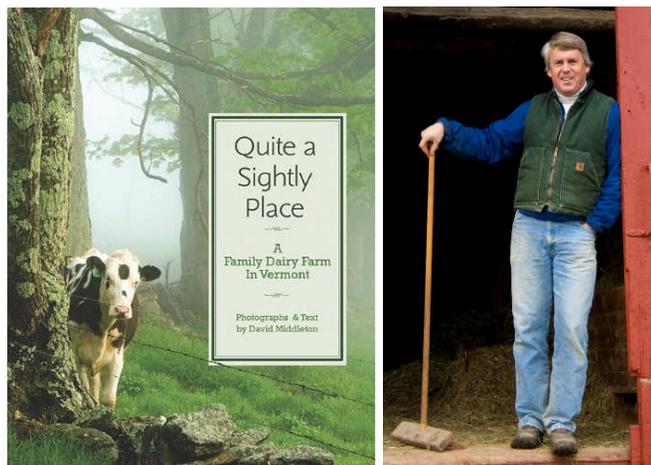
I think you will find a full slate of interesting speakers along with short programs that will expand your photographic interests. SPS is a great group of people who share our love for photography and are more than willing to share this knowledge to help you grow in this rapidly changing world of photography. Please remember if you have a question or if there is a program, field trip etc. you would like to see, please let me or any of the board members know so that we can try to accommodate it in a future meeting.

From the personal side I never thought of myself as presidential material but here I am the SPS President for 2010-2011. I am relatively new to the SPS group, first joining the board as Print Chair a few years ago and SPS has been a great place helping me to learn and further my photographic knowledge; so it is time I give back. It is my goal to have a great year and a place for photographers to come and learn from each other and have a few good laughs. I am backed by a wonderful group of dedicated board members who are helping to mold and grow SPS. And in closing I ask everyone to consider taking the next step in helping to mold SPS: please consider getting involved by joining the board or in helping with a position; this is the best way to help mold and make improvements to SPS.

— Robert Near

Kick-off speaker David Middleton

[continued from page 1]



Plan on attending the Schenectady Photographic Society's Kick-off meeting Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at 7:00 pm, where David Middleton will get your photographic juices flowing.

Schenectady Photographic Society's Kick-off meeting is being held this year at the First United Methodist Church at 603 State St. in Schenectady, NY. Parking and entrance are at the rear of the building off Chapel St., a short one-way street off Nott Terrace. Visit our redesigned website

<http://www.schenectadyphotographicsociety.com/> for additional information and directions.





Acclaimed foot model and FOCUS Editor Sukumar poses for photographers at NECCC

If you have any interesting photos of club events or activities, share them with us on our Flickr page:

www.flickr.com/groups/schenectadyphotographic/society

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Member News: Robert Gough won the Best of Show at the 2010 Kelby Photo Walk in Central Park, Schenectady, with this "Black Eyed Susan." Camera: Nikon D70s; Lens: 50mm 1.8; Exp: 1/2000 @ f/1.8



New Members Night – Sept. 29th

The Wednesday after the SPS Kick-off meeting, on Wednesday September 29th we will have the new members meeting. If you are new to the Schenectady Photographic Society, please mark your calendars and plan on attending this meeting. This meeting is dedicated to explaining how the competitions are run and going over the rules of competition, along with information on mentoring and field trips, etc... For returning members this meeting is for you as well: the print and projected image chairs have made changes to the rules of competition for this upcoming year and they will go over these, so will be up to date with the latest info.

So mark your calendars and plan on attending the September 29th New Members meeting; for returning members it is a good test to see if you remember your way to SPS!

Member News [contd]

A **Different Reality** featuring photographs by Sukumar continues through Sept. 24th, 2010 at McGreevy Prolab, 376 Broadway, Albany. **Reception during Albany First Friday Sept. 3rd from 5 - 8 PM.** Please stop by with family and friends to enjoy the exhibit and refreshments!

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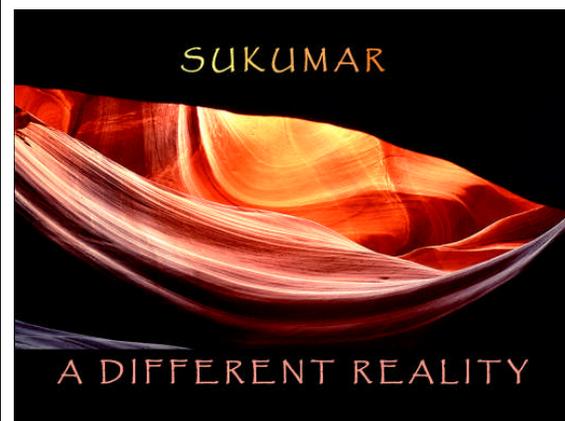
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 Fri 8:30am-5:00pm

The Photo Center's 4th Annual Members Show runs through September 12th, 2010 at 404 River Street, Troy. **Opening Reception: Friday August 27th**, from 5 – 9 pm (coinciding with Troy Night Out) <http://www.photocentertroy.org/>

The SPS Traveling Exhibit will be on view at the Schenectady Adult Center during September.

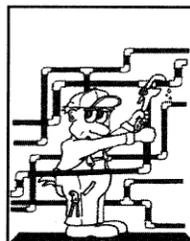
Canon Powershot G11*Jonathan Lawton**Hunts Photo & Video*

The Canon Powershot G series has long been regarded as the ideal compact camera for photography enthusiasts who desire the image quality and versatility of a SLR but without the added size and weight. The Canon Powershot G11 is the successor of the G10. Although the two look very similar in physical appearance and share a few core specifications, both cameras feature the same image stabilized 5x zoom lens, RAW image capture, optical viewfinder, external hot shoe, and full manual exposure control. Canon specifically set out with the G11 to improve the camera's low light sensitivity and overall image quality.



Even though the new G11 shares the same 1/1.7" size sensor as its predecessor, its resolution has been reduced from 14.7 megapixels to 10 megapixels. This enables the G11 to produce cleaner images and reduces digital noise commonly exhibited when shooting in low-light situations at higher ISO's. The G11 also features an expanded ISO range topping out at 3200 ISO, which is a full stop higher than the previous model's.

Just like the previous G series cameras, the new G11 is built exceptionally well. The sturdy, all metal body is well balanced and is fitted with a rubberized handgrip.

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On the top of the camera, in addition to the power and shutter buttons, there are three manual dials to control mode selection, ISO and exposure compensation. These are very handy and allow you to quickly change critical settings. Another nice improvement can be found on the rear of the camera. With the addition of a fully articulating 2.8-inch rear LCD screen, Canon has re-introduced a much-appreciated feature absent since the G6. The adjustable screen allows you to easily frame your photo in low or high angle situations, which can make it much easier to get creative with your composition.

The G11 offers an impressive range of features and includes manual controls that are typically unavailable in the point and shoot market. The improved low light performance coupled with the versatile LCD screen make the G11 a very attractive option for someone looking for a full featured compact camera. The G11 kit currently sells for \$479 and includes a rechargeable lithium battery, charger, neck strap, USB/AV cables and the Canon Digital Camera Solutions software.

Jon Lawton is a sales associate at Hunt's Photo and Video in Melrose, MA. If you have any questions on the Canon G11 or any other photo related topic, feel free to contact him at jlawton@wbhunt.com or at the store at 1-800-221-1830. Jon is a 2003 graduate from the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he studied photojournalism. He operates a photography business, specializing in wedding and portrait photography. www.jonathanlawton.com

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Member photo album:

www.flickr.com/groups/schenectadyphotographicsociety



SPS on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=152200768242>

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September Calendar

Wednesday, September 1: Board meeting

Wednesday, September 22: **Kick-Off speaker**

David Middleton: Quite a Sightly Place

Wednesday, September 29: **New members' orientation**

The *Focus* is published ten 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. **If you change your email or mailing address, let Bob Riccardo know at briccardo@verizon.net**