

# FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

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May 2011

Number 9

## Some Kind of Photography

by Melinda McDaniel

Photographs appear to me in pieces. When I attempt to consider a singular image that I have seen on a given day, I am left with a mix of visual information that amounts to static. I am interested in quieting and containing this static. I dissect photographs to extract their important parts. These are remixed and reorganized into works that conceptually describe the abundance of imagery in the world, or for purely aesthetic reasons.

I believe that photographic images are constructed the same way that buildings are built. Time, light, and forms are structured within a space with honest precision. I apply this thinking to my work. My photographs and photographic processes are abstracted to explore the dimensionality of images that extend off of the wall and into the viewing space. When delicately combined with other materials, like wood, thread, pins and vellum, image is both seen and unseen.

I came to this way of thinking about photographic images fairly early in my artistic pursuits, but have only now begun to refine this through physical pieces. During my talk I will present images of my work to show the progression and exploration that maintains the balance between my ideas about images and sculptural forms.



**Bio:** Melinda McDaniel received a B.F.A. in Studio Art from Florida State University, Tallahassee, and an M.F.A. in Photography from Ohio State University, Columbus. Her work has been exhibited in a solo exhibition at Carrie Haddad Photographs in Hudson, NY, as well as group exhibitions at The Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, the University at Albany Art Museum, the Opalka Gallery at Russell Sage College, and The Arts

Center of the Capital Region in Troy, NY.

*[continued overleaf]*

## May-June Calendar

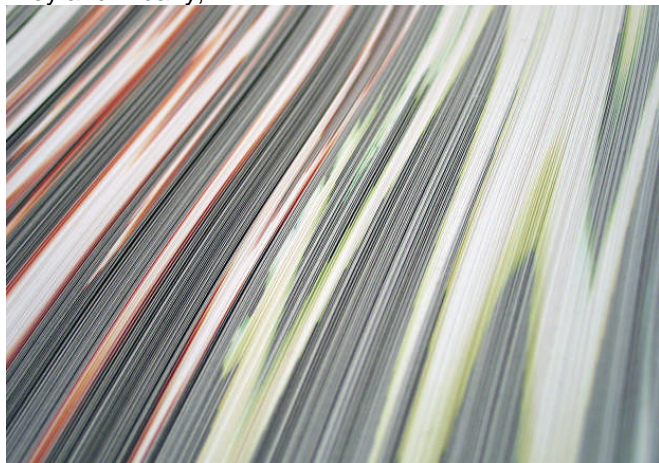
Date	Competition	Program
<b>Wed. May 4</b>	Print of the Year— Bring any one color and one monochrome print from 2010-2011 competitions with original entry label on the back.	Rob Near: Perfect Exposure Histogram Jim Craner: Reader's Digest Assignment
<b>Wed. May 11</b>	Projected Image of the Year	Melinda McDaniel: <b>Some Kind of Photography</b>
<b>Wed. June 8</b>	<b>Annual meeting &amp; awards banquet</b> River Stone Manor, Scotia, NY	
<b>Wed. June 15</b>	Board meeting @ 6:30pm	
<b>Sat. June 25</b>	Rob Near – <b>Lightroom Boot Camp</b>	



Melinda McDaniel [continued from page 1]



In 2007, McDaniel participated in a residency at the Vermont Studio Center; she was awarded a Strategic Opportunity Stipend from the New York Foundation for the Arts in 2008 and in 2009. Her work has been published in the catalogue for "SNAP!" curated by Rachel Seligman for the Mandeville Gallery at Union College; "Unruled," curated by Mark Harris for the Kathryn Markel Fine Arts Gallery in New York; and in the "Made in Ohio/Diverse Sources" catalogue, curated by Annegreth Nill for the Riffe Gallery in Columbus, Ohio. Melinda is currently making art and teaching in Troy and Albany, NY.





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Schenectady Photographic Society's meetings are held 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. Additional information and directions on our website <http://www.schenectadyphotographicsociety.com/>

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**Critique and assistance in helping SPS  
members compete in competitions**

*by Ken Deitcher FPSA*

I have been a member of SPS for over 40 years, and due to severe arthritis, I am limited in my ability to actively go on field trips and photograph events. I am offering my services to **all** SPS members. This is a free contribution by me. I can assist with choosing the correct image, composition, use of Photoshop, etc and in resizing for internet competitions. I will be able to do this on the internet or by phone. Call me at 489-7678 or write [kendeitch@aol.com](mailto:kendeitch@aol.com).

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# Schenectady Photographic Society Annual Banquet

Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM

River Stone Manor\*

1437 Amsterdam Road  
Glenville, NY 12302

\*Easily accessible from NYS Thruway exit 26



The banquet this year offers a unique opportunity to photograph the grounds and the renovated historic home located on the River Stone property prior to the banquet!

Participate in our Chinese Auction to win a Membership to The Center for Photography at Woodstock, The Photo Center or one of a number of McGreevy ProLab Gift Certificates!

\$30 per person

Banquet tickets are available.... 3 dinners to choose from.... Tickets available till June 1<sup>st</sup>!

*We have some great raffle items available! Thanks to*

Neil McGreevy — McGreevy ProLab

Nick Argyros — The Photography Center of the Capital District  
The Center for Photography at Woodstock

Tickets or Questions? Kim Koza 393-2943

[kkoza@silhouetteimages.com](mailto:kkoza@silhouetteimages.com)

Directions: <http://www.riverstonemanor.com/contact.html>

**Nikon Coolpix P7000**

*Jonathan Lawton  
Hunts Photo & Video*



For Nikon, the P-Series designation is reserved for their highest quality and most technically advanced compact digital cameras. The Nikon P7000 is the flagship of the Coolpix camera lineup and was specifically designed to satisfy the needs of the serious amateur and professional alike. By combining the features of an SLR with the form factor of a point and shoot, Nikon has created quite an impressive pocket camera.

The Nikon P7000 replaces the year and a half old P6000. Typically new models are released with subtle upgrades and minor improvements over their predecessors, however the P7000 breaks that trend as pretty much the entire camera was redesigned from the ground up. The overall shape of the camera changed and is now made of metal, while the key control switches are now located in areas where your hands naturally grip the body. The camera still features a large format 1/1.7" CCD sensor. However, in order to increase low-light sensitivity, the resolution was reduced to a reasonable 10.1 megapixels. A noteworthy improvement was made to the camera's lens. The P7000 now sports an image-stabilized 7.1x optical zoom (28-300mm 35mm equivalent) This versatile lens distinguishes the P7000 with the longest zoom lens in its class. On the back of the camera, the 921,000 dot LCD screen grew to 3 inches allowing easy image composition and playback. Fortunately Nikon has also included an adjustable optical viewfinder that is rather helpful when shooting outdoors.

One attribute that sets the P7000 apart from nearly every other compact camera is the ability to shoot in full manual mode. Being able to select the aperture and shutter speed combination you want allows much greater creative control. In addition to the standard JPEG picture file, the P7000 also supports the uncompressed RAW image format. ISO settings can also be selected manually and range from ISO100-

6400. Other notable upgrades include 720p HD video mode with stereo sound as well as a built-in virtual horizon that helps ensure your photos are level. Operating the P7000 is very straightforward. You can quickly adjust important settings like ISO, white balance, picture quality, exposure compensation, and the shooting mode with just the thumb wheels on the top of the camera.

With its compact size and impressive feature-set, the P7000 has definitely earned its place at the top of Nikon's Coolpix lineup. If you are interested in a travel friendly compact camera but still crave the creative control of SLR, the P7000 is a great alternative. The P7000 kit includes: one rechargeable Li-Ion batter, charger, USB and AV cable, neck strap, and the Nikon software suite CD-ROM. The P700 currently sells for \$449.95.

*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](mailto: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](http://www.jonathanlawton.com)*

### Jim Craner's program rescheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>

In July 2010 Jim received an offer from Country, a Reader's Digest Association publication, to do location photography for an article featuring the Harbour house Inn - a Berkshire area B&B. He sought out the assignment after hearing from the Inn's owner, a longtime friend and former colleague, that her place was to be featured in the fall 2010 issue. [See the Feb.2011 FOCUS for Jim's article]

When doing an assignment like this you are not shooting to achieve your vision of how the layout should look, but rather to be sure the art director can achieve his/her vision for the article. Naturally, you have to deliver all the required shots, and art directors like to have multiple options for each situation. Beyond that, bringing back something different is always appreciated. Above all, delivering high quality work, on time, leaves a good impression, which may lead to additional opportunities. In this short program, Jim will share more details about this assignment including:

- the required shot list,
- contract terms, including image rights,
- a representative sampling of the shots submitted,
- a few of the technical challenges, and
- the final layout of the article.



© Jim Craner



## April Print Competition Winners



**Utensils** (*1<sup>st</sup> place Assigned, above*) by **Connie Frisbee Houde**.

**Jack Hurley** photographed **Confining Circles** (*2<sup>nd</sup> place Assigned, below*) at JJ Moran Medium Security Prison, in Cranston, RI, on an overcast morning, with a Canon 7D and Canon 17-85 mm. lens @ F/22, 1/1000 sec. ISO: 400. Processed in Adobe Lightroom.



**Ken Deitcher** photographed **Tenor Sax** (*3<sup>rd</sup> place Assigned, below*) with a Canon 50D and Canon 28-135 mm. lens @ F/8, 1/125 sec. ISO: 400. Processed in Photoshop; printed on metallic paper.



**Ron Ginsburg** photographed this **Orchid** (*1<sup>st</sup> place Color*) with a Canon 5D Mark II and EF 100 mm. f/2.8 macro USM lens on a tripod @ F/8, 1/30 sec. ISO: 3200, at the Orchid Society of America in Florida. **Ron** also bagged *2<sup>nd</sup> place in Color* for **The Green Hand** (*below*) shot with a Canon Rebel Xsi and EF-S18-55 mm. f/3.5-5.6 IS lens @ F/10, 1/200 sec. ISO: 200, at Downtown Del Ray Beach, FL. Both images printed on Epson R2400 Enhanced Matte Paper.

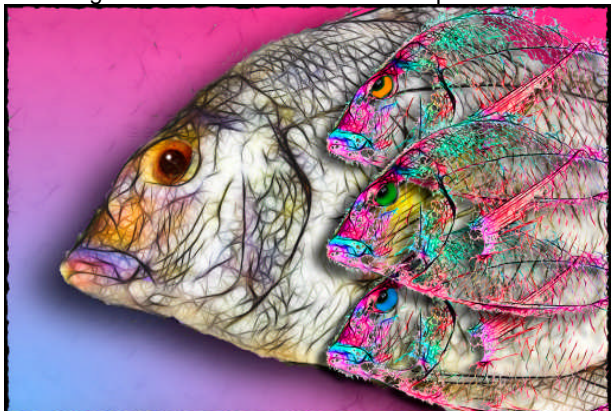




## April Projected Competition Winners



**Jeff Perkins** shot **Willow and Fog** (*1<sup>st</sup> place General, above*) with the iPhone 4 and its 5 MP sensor. Driving around in the fog a few weeks ago, on the way to the office, he spotted this weeping willow in a frozen, brackish pond, backlit by fog. He composed and took a shot of the willow, then "developed" it to his artistic liking in Photoforge. A frame was added in PS Express Mobile.



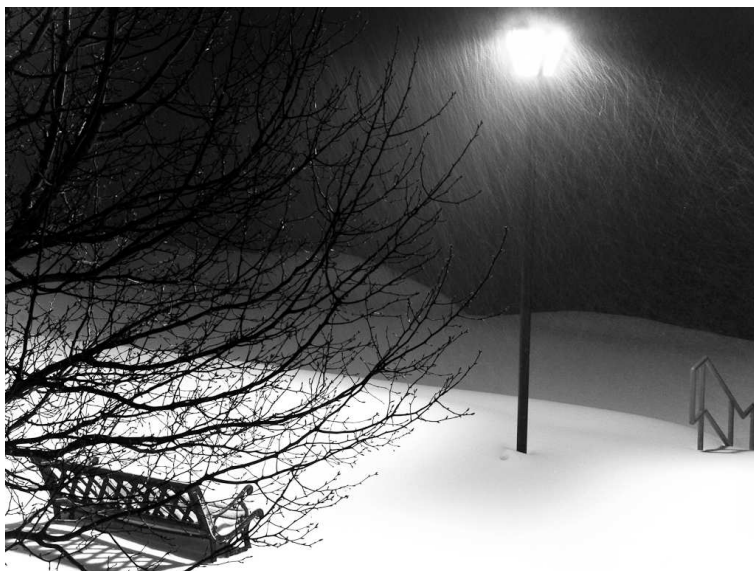
**Pisces** (*2<sup>nd</sup> place General, above*) is by **Ken Deitcher**.



**Its Almost Time** (*3<sup>rd</sup> place Assigned, above*) says **Doug Mitchell**. **Jane Riley** fell in love with that huge old tree, **Life and Death** (*3<sup>rd</sup> place General, at right*) with its impressive protruding roots. The symbolism hit her immediately...of the aged roots that were still living...and the tombstones representing death in the background. Photographed a rainy morning at a cemetery outside Canajoharie with a Nikon D300, Nikon 18-200 mm. lens and circular polarizer @ F/20, 1.6 sec. ISO: 200, on a tripod. She used Nik Silver Efex 2 to convert to B&W.



**Rain** (*1<sup>st</sup> place Assigned, above*) was captured by **Max Tiller** at a street fair in afternoon sunlight with a SONY A300 and 18-70 mm. lens @ F/11, 1/200 sec. ISO: 200. Sepia toned.



**Winter Nights** (*2<sup>nd</sup> place Assigned, above*) is by **Sean Sullivan**.





## April Print Competition Winners *[Continued from page 6]*



**Rob Near** photographed **Devins Mills by Streetlight** (1<sup>st</sup> place Monochrome, above).

**Connie Frisbee Houde** photographed **Kitchen, Herat, Afghanistan** (2<sup>nd</sup> place Monochrome, left).

**N. Sukumar** constructed the photo mosaic **I'm Still Using Them** (2<sup>nd</sup> place print photo essay, at right) from hundreds of images taken at rallies in Albany using AndreaMosaic™.



**Bernie Mattus** photographed **Miss Match** (3<sup>rd</sup> place Monochrome, above).

**Marianne With Doll** is by **Linda Wroble** (2<sup>nd</sup> place Color, at right).



### Inter-Club competition News

Glennie Memorial Nature Salon Results: **Congratulations** to **Jim Craner** for a **Merit Award** in the Large Carni/Omnivores category for **Gotcha Now** (at left) and to **David Jeffery** for a **Merit Award** in the Waterscape category for **Forest Morning**. Nature's true beauty and power were captured by talented photographers, representing 97 clubs from six countries on four continents, who submitted a total of 959 images for competition. The formal judging took place in Lynn, Massachusetts on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011; scoring for images was based on a 30 point scale.

**Congratulations** also to **Award Winners Doug Mitchell** for **Grandma's Boots** and to **Ken Deitcher** for **Hope** in the EID March Inter-Club competition!







## Tulip in the Rain

by Jeff Perkins



Those photographers who stay indoors during rain are really missing an opportunity for outdoor image making. There are plastic bags and designed waterproof camera covers to protect your equipment as well as rain gear for you. I took this image in Albany's Washington Park during moderate rainfall. The technique used for this was a DSLR Maxxum 7D with a Minolta 2.8 70-200 lens, ISO 800, F2.8, and Tv of 1/300 sec. Shot in RAW/JPEG with WB set to Cloudy +1.

There are many ways to shoot flowers and unless you are creative, seeking great light and experiment with composition, depth of field, and so forth, you risk your flower photos looking like those of everyone else. To get this narrow DOF, a SLR is required. Compact Point and Shoot cameras can't accomplish this. I chose f2.8 for a shallow depth of field to throw the competing leaf background out of focus. The image was "developed" in Topaz Adjust to create a little more contrast and definition.

[Adapted & excerpted from Jeff's blog at [morninglightimages.blogspot.com](http://morninglightimages.blogspot.com)] (This column covers interesting posts from blogs by our members and friends).

## Lightroom Boot Camp on June 25<sup>th</sup>

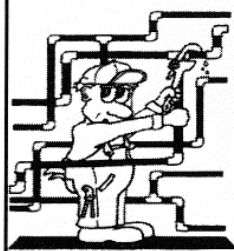
On June 25<sup>th</sup> Rob Near will be conducting a Lightroom training session to pick up on Lightroom from the point we left off earlier this year. Rob Near presented an overview – training session during the SPS 2010-2011 year and on June 25<sup>th</sup> he will take you further into the world of Lightroom. This training program will run on Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 603 State St. in Schenectady, and the cost for this event will be \$30.00 for current SPS members and \$70.00 for non SPS members. The fee for training will be collected the day of the training and 100 percent of this fee goes to SPS organization.

Rob will be focusing on Lightroom 3 with majority of the time spent on the Library and Develop modules of Lightroom, with time allowing Rob will also go thru Print and Web output modules. It is advised if you have a laptop to bring this along with Lightroom loaded. If you are a Lightroom user or think you maybe in the near future please mark your calendar for this SPS training event.

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### The SPS Traveling Exhibit

The exhibit is scheduled to appear next in September at the Shenendehowa Adult Community Center in Clifton Park. Please contact Ray Henrikson, the exhibit coordinator, with suggestions for possible venues.



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**April Print Competition Results**

<b>Assigned Topic: Round and Round We Go</b>		
1	Connie Frisbee Houde	Utensils
2	Jack Hurley	Confining Circles
3	Ken Deitcher	Tenor Sax
4	Doug Mitchell	Blue Marble
5	Bernie Mattus	Playground Slide
HM	Dale Winsor	Circles and Shadows
HM	Harvey Gurien	The Juggler
HM	Julie Palyswiat	Study of Oil In Water #1
HM	Sean Sullivan	Multiplicity
<b>Color</b>		
1	Ron Ginsburg	Orchid
2	Ron Ginsburg	The Green Hand
3	Linda Wroble	Marianne With Doll
4	Bob Warner	Squash Blossom
5	Jeffrey Altman	Crime Scene
HM	Barb Lawton	Altamont Fields
HM	Doug Mitchell	Wine Glasses
HM	Jim Miller	Angel Oak
HM	Ken Deitcher	The Beach
HM	Rob Near	Devils Kitchen Falls
<b>Monochrome</b>		
1	Rob Near	Devins Mills by Streetlight
2	Connie Frisbee Houde	Kitchen, Herat, Afghanistan
3	Bernie Mattus	Miss Match
HM	Bob Riccardo	Almost Home
HM	Karl Becker	Florida Palm
HM	Max Tiller	Holy Name Sister
HM	Sean Sullivan	Little Firefighters

**April Projected Competition Results**

<b>Assigned Topic: Weather</b>		
1	Max Tiller	Rain
2	Sean Sullivan	Winter Nights
3	Doug Mitchell	Its Almost Time
HM	Heidi Ricks	High Atlas Rainbow
HM	Doug Mitchell	Dead of Winter
HM	Barb Lawton	Lets Bet On The Mudders
<b>General</b>		
1	Jeff Perkins	Willow and Fog
2	Ken Deitcher	Pisces
3	Jane Riley	Life and Death
4	Rob Near	Break Out
5	Linda Wroble	Mariannes Doll
HM	Sean Sullivan	Pennie Drops
HM	Luba Ricket	Contorted Capitol
HM	Linda Wroble	Serenity
HM	Jane Riley	Church at Cades Cove
HM	Heidi Ricks	Sand Mandala

**Photo Essay of the Year Competition Results**

<b>Print essay</b>		
1	Ray Koloski	Winter Gives Up
2	N. Sukumar	I'm Still Using Them
3	Robert Wright	Crawmer's Dog Agility
<b>Photo Book</b>		
1	Luba Ricket	Flippin' Flower and Fly
2	Connie Frisbee Houde	The Forgotten: Images from Afghanistan and New Orleans
3	Rob Near	Oakwood Cemetery
<b>Projected Essay</b>		
1	N. Sukumar	Patterns of India
2	Doug Mitchell	Falling Icons
3	Heidi Ricks	Sheldon

Judges: Mary Alice Molgard  
Michael Farrell



**Luba Ricket** constructed her photo book **Flippin' Flower and Fly** from a single image (shown above).





**2011-2012 Print Assigned topics**October:

**Chocolat** - images of anything pertaining to chocolate...chocolate candy, chocolate cake, chocolate ice cream, white chocolate, dark chocolate, or any other type of chocolate.

November:

**American Graffiti** - shoot an image where graffiti plays a prominent role.

December:

**It's A Wonderful Life** - images depicting life's little joys, moments of happiness, celebrations of life, or just plain contentment.

January:

**The Sound of Music** - an image depicting some aspect of musical talent or focus (instruments, people, musical groups, etc.).

February:

**A Christmas Story** - share a holiday season story with us...

March:

**A Touch of Class** - Back to basics, shoot a classic portrait of someone or something.

April:

**Giant** - Think BIG....find something that is oddly oversized, but be sure to put it into perspective to show its size.

**2011-2012 Projected Assigned topics**October:

**Faceless Portraits** - portrait where the face is not shown (silhouette, body part, etc.).

November:

**Feathers** - tickle us with feather images.

December:

**Alphabet A-Z** - find letters in signs or natural objects that take the shape of a letter of the alphabet.

January:

**KISS (Keep it Simple St\_\_\_d)** - Zen of sparse elegance.

February:

**Wind** - illustrate movement.

March:

**Peace/Serenity** - grant us your feeling of peace/serenity.

April:

**Portrait of a Tree** - show the personality of a tree.

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