

FOCUS

Volume 81 - No. 3

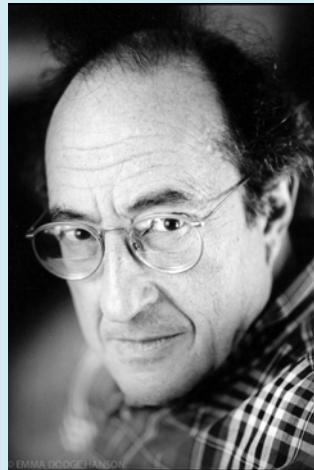
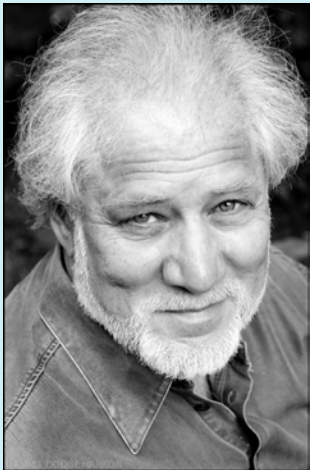
<http://spsphoto.org>

November 2014

“CAPTURING THE FACES THAT TELL THE STORY” Emma Dodge Hanson is Guest Speaker for November

**Join us on November 19th for renowned photographer,
Emma Dodge Hanson.**

Emma Dodge Hanson spend her childhood summers on Nantucket watching her grandmother, Phoebe Dunn, photograph children for her classic series of Random House books. After concentrating in photography at Skidmore College, Emma worked for a private fashion studio in London, then went on to study portraiture at the Maine Photographic Workshops. Whether photographing a Nobel Laureate in Literature, a pop icon like Sheryl Crow, or a destination wedding in Vermont, New York City or Nantucket, Emma brings to her work a singular perspective and casual grace that is both fresh and candid.



Emma's first book of photographs, *SOLO*, was published by Bantam Doubleday Dell and includes portraits of Sheryl Crow, Jewel, Sarah McLachlan and many other musicians. *SOLO* received critical acclaim from magazines ranging from *Billboard* to *Rolling Stone* and *People*. Her second book, *Faces of Layla*, brings to light the lives of orphaned children in Ethiopia's Layla House. Her work has appeared in many publications including, *Oprah*, *USA Today*, *Photo District News*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Her wedding photography is featured in *Condé Nast's Modern Bride*,

Modern Bride's "Best Of" issue, *Well Wed* and other magazines and books. A non-profit activist and world traveler, Emma lives in Saratoga Springs with her husband and two children.

For more images and information, please check out Emma's website at: www.emmadodgehanson.com.

*Emma will critique your "faces that tell the story."
Bring in your 8x10 black & white "author image" on November 19th.
See page 5 of the October Focus for details.*



CONCERT PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM (JT) GILBERT

~ November 5th ~

Jim 'JT' Gilbert has been a photographer on and off for most of his life, remembering hours spent in the darkroom and the smell of the stop bath. After concentrating on landscapes and portraits, Jim turned his focus to music photography. In doing so, Jim has become known as one of the top concert photographers on the scene. Music photography made a lot of sense as he has been an avid concert goer for over 20 years. Jim has been fortunate enough to photograph hundreds of artists including legends such as BB King, Charlie Daniels, Pete Seegar, and recently Judas Priest. His work covers all genres of music and every size venue.

Jim is currently the Managing Editor/Photo Editor for *UpstateLive*, the largest online music magazine in New York, outside the NYC. He is a natural storyteller and loves to talk; his imagery with the camera is mirrored in his words. His goal is to put the reader in the front row of the concert and let them experience the sights and sounds as if they were right there. For those lucky enough to go to the event, Jim's words and images put you back in that place and time and immortalize those incredible memories that they can cherish forever.



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MORE FROM JIM GILBERT...



Check out Jim's fine work at:
www.JTGphoto.com
www.UpstateLive.com



SPS MEMBERS "WALK THE WALK"

Here are a few images from the Scott Kelby PhotoWalk on October 11th, led by our own Sean Sullivan.



© Jeff Perkins

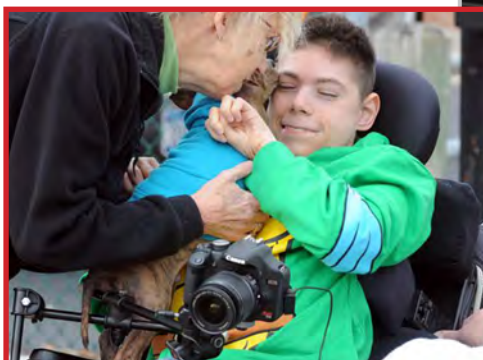


Photo by Michael P. Farrell
Times Union



© Bob Coppola

Robert Wright gets a visit with Keeper a rescue puppy held by Linda Keeley at the Dog House Adoption booth during the Upper Union Street 2014 Harvest Fest & Art Show on Saturday Oct. 11, 2014 in Schenectady, N.Y.

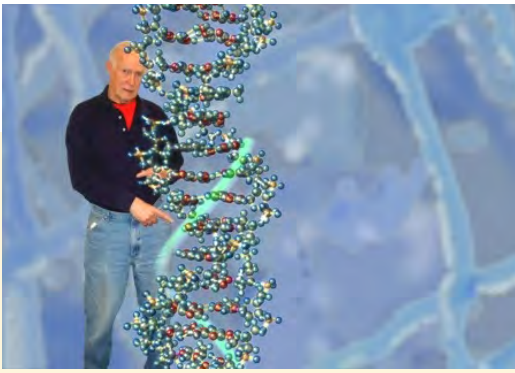


© Dan Steen



© Ron Ginsburg

"CELL LANDSCAPES" BY DON COOPER ~November 12th~



Don Cooper returned to art after a long design career to visually express his experiences as a community

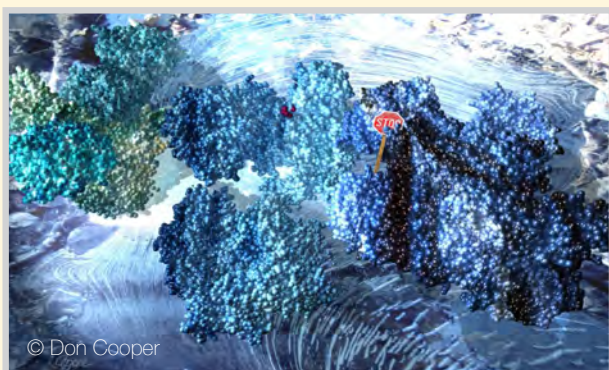
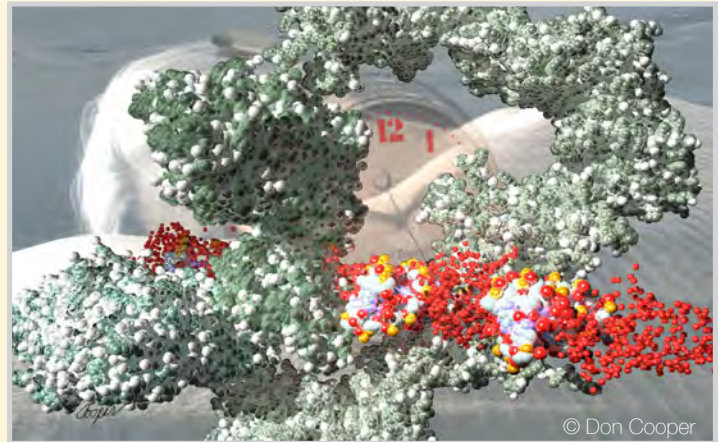
hospice volunteer. He now creates themed illustrations that tell a story, the traditional role for visual art. His recently completed theme is "Sayings Visualized," depicting quotes by notable figures from antiquity to modern times. And his newest series is "Cell Landscapes," where Cooper created imaginary views inside a cell.

Cooper uses the latest computer software to create his digital illustrations. He has a BFA in Industrial Design from the California College of Arts and was employed as an Industrial Design Consultant with General Electric in Schenectady prior to starting his own business.

He was a founder and principal of Design Matrix, Inc., in Amsterdam, NY. Established in 1976, Design Matrix offered services in industrial design, model making and digital animation to Fortune 500 companies. Cooper retired in early 2011. He now volunteers for hospice, tutors GED students, and enjoys using his design skills to create emotional art that tells a story. He is married with two sons and three grandchildren.

Cooper has shown in juried shows at the Saratoga Arts in Saratoga Springs, NY; the Arkell Museum in Canajoharie, NY; the Arnot Museum in Elmira, NY; the South Shore Art Center in Cohasset, MA; and the New Jersey Art Guild in Rahway, NJ. He participates in the Niche Gallery in Saratoga, NY, and had a solo show at the Marie Louise Trichet Gallery of Wisdom House in Litchfield, CT.

We are pleased that Don Cooper is sharing his Cell Landscapes with us.
Check out his work at www.designmatrixmodels.com.



LIVE INSECT MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY

by Jeff Perkins



If you like an adventure and you want to go to the jungle, all you have to do is go to a weeded lot in your neighborhood, or a nature preserve especially with ponds and you will find all kinds of insects that you can photograph. It

really is exciting and very much like going on a safari hunt but without killing anything.

There are number of factors to consider when doing this type of photography and I will try to review the most important ones. I do not intend for this to be a comprehensive article about macro photography because there is so much information available on the Internet that is quite easy to research.

I simply want to share my experience and what has worked best for me so far. Also realize that equipment, technique are always in evolution and what I say at the time of writing this article might have changed months from now.

MY CURRENT EQUIPMENT: camera is a Canon EOS M, EOS M-FD lens adapter, Canon FD Bellows, 100 and 200 mm macro lens, Canon 90 EX speed light with dedicated cable, adjustable Camera-flash bracket

EQUIPMENT: for flying insects, particularly ones that can sting you a digital SLR camera with a dedicated macro lens of at least 100 mm is advisable. You want to put some distance between the front of your lens, more importantly your face hands and body from the insect. Generally a 100 mm macro lens will put about 5 inches between the front of your lens and the subject. The 200 mm macro lens will put about 12-14 inches between the lens and your subject. You really do not want to disturb it as it will fly away and furthermore if it is a stinging insect you are at risk of getting a sting!

Another advantage is using a live view LCD viewfinder found on many modern digital SLR cameras.



© Jeff Perkins

It also helps to get a hold of an inexpensive hood loupe to cover the viewfinder to shut out ambient light

so that you can compose clearly. These plastic viewfinders also have a magnifying glass element which helps to confirm if you are in focus.

Generally most 100 mm or greater macro lenses will give you 1:1-life-size images which are necessary to bring out detail. There are some very dedicated macro lenses that go to 1:5 magnification which are fantastic for bringing out the details of insects face and so forth. They tend to be very expensive and difficult for many people to use. They do take a lot of practice.

Beside the camera and the lens, often a dedicated flash to the camera that has fast recycling time with lithium batteries is necessary. To stop motion of the insect you need to have a bit of flash which can be adjusted to mix with the ambient light so that you do not have a



flash dominated photograph. Also a quality flash can fire rapidly with the shutter firing in burst mode. This helps you get better photographs with the insects flying around in particular to try to capture the insects flying off of a flower or a blade of grass.

The flash should be diffused however. I made a diffuser for my Canon EX 90 flash with a cut out piece of the plastic milk carton and taping it in the place. It works great.

A good Strobframe bracket as shown in the photograph of my equipment is essential for mounting the flash off the camera and pointing it toward the area where the lens will focus.

CAMERA SETTINGS: when you photograph close up like this you have a very narrow depth of field that may only be 1-3 mm. Therefore most macro photographers including myself find that setting the f-stop between F11 and F-22 depending on the width of the subject, the orientation of the insect and the available light is essential to get as much of the insect, especially the important parts such as the head and the antenna in focus. I set the shutter

LIVE INSECT MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY - Continued...

at 1/200 of a second and adjust the ISO of the camera between 800-3200 depending on the type of light that I am in. Generally the f-stop remains fixed at F11, the shutter at 1/200th of a second and therefore the adjustable third value is the ISO.

Also the flash should not be dominant. If most of your light comes from the flash the insect looks quite artificial and the background goes black. So therefore I set the flash setting down by several stops usually in the range of 1/8 down to 1/16 output to help stop action and again complement the ambient light.

FOCUSING: Sometimes autofocusing is very difficult this close up. Some cameras can do it well, for example the Canon 7D with the Canon 100 mm 2.8 lens apparently does a great job autofocusing close-up. Most of the time however macro photographers use manual focus. This is done by setting the lens at its macro focal point and slowly moving in and out with your body while you're holding the camera stable until the insect comes into focus. Using burst mode will help you get a sharp shot as you slowly move in and out. This actually isn't very hard to do if your vision is halfway decent. Again by using the live viewfinder on the back of the camera it makes the job much easier.

TRIPOD: Ideally a tripod would be wonderful to use but I find with these moving insects extremely difficult and cumbersome. You need to have a macro slide rail to allow the camera to be adjusted to achieve focus. I don't use one and I have learned to handhold my equipment, keep my hands very steady and control my breathing to fire a shot with minimal camera movement. At the exposure settings with flash above blurred images have not occurred.

BACKGROUND: You want to compose your shot so that the background is free of clutter. As I said, I have found that even at F11 or F-16, if the background is some distance from the insect, it goes into a nice soft blur complementing the photograph. One of the problems in using a point-and-shoot camera is that because of the lens, sensor arrangement everything is in focus and the background will compete with the insect you are trying to define.

Furthermore the light that you're in is really important. I have found photographing in harsh sunlight produces harsh photographs. I try to go out on softly overcast days when the sky acts like a giant soft box.

INSECTS BEHAVIOR: after a while you become familiar with the behavior of flying insects, I have learned to approach them slowly and avoid any rapid movements with stinging insects and to date I have not been stung. Also, early-morning when there is dew is a great time to

go out and photograph the insects in the spring and early fall. Cooler temperatures slows down their metabolism and they tend to hold still much longer.

IMPORTANT OPTIONS: If you cannot afford the 100 mm-200 mm dedicated macro lens-prime lenses of course, consider a good quality close up filter. These diopters have magnification from 2+ to higher and are reasonable substitutes if one learns how to use them. Canon makes two lenses (the 250 and 500 D) and Raynox makes a decent close-up filter as well. Other options are extension tubes which will increase magnification. Another option is a Bellows device. I use an old Canon FD Bellows currently which adds a fair amount of weight but really creates tremendous magnification. Fortunately I was gifted this from two of our wonderful SPS members.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT HEALTH TIP: Make sure you use Deepwoods off to keep ticks away. Check your skin and have a family member help check your skin afterwards to make sure you have no ticks attaching!





PSA NEWS

by Phil Olivo

The new season of PSA Interclub Competitions has begun. Round One for Nature is closed; however, you have until **October 20th** to enter your images in the Projected Image Division.

Key items to be taken into consideration as you consider submitting an entry:

- Subject matter is unrestricted.
- Each club may enter up to 6 images per competition from 6 different makers.
- Once an image has been entered into the Interclub PID Competition, it is ineligible for re-entry in this competition
- Qualifications for Images. Each image must have the following maximum size:

Horizontal images will be no more than 1024 pixels wide or 768 pixels tall.

Vertical images will be no more than 768 pixels tall.

- Save the file in jpeg format only. (There are no file size restrictions.)
- sRGB color space is recommended for optimum results.

Images can be uploaded on the SPS website (www.spsphoto.org).

Click on Competitions – PSA Interclub.

Deadlines for November:

PID Creative - November 20th

PSA Travel - November 5th

PSA Photojournalism - November 5th

More information and a copy of the Guidelines / Procedures for the Projected Image Division can be found at The PSA Projected Image Competition website.

Best of Luck! Let me know if you have any questions!

\$
DUES ARE DUE!
\$

Dues (\$40 for Individuals, \$45 for Family; and \$20 for Students) must be paid in order to compete. Please submit your dues and membership application at one of the September meetings, or mail to:

Pat McCormick, SPS Treasurer
930 Delamont Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12307

MORE INSIGHT FROM THE “CREATIVITY PANEL”

by Luba Rickett

Short Circuited Brain

While speaking on the panel, in front of so many people, my brain short circuited and I lost the main message I wanted to share. The meat of my encouraging words were to be:

Work the subject till your heart sings

In the case of the “Red Shoes” I went thru a few rolls of disappointing film. I moved those piles of red shoes all around the house and yard in all sorts of compositions. Those attempts resulted in blah snapshots... until I placed only one petite pair in the window of the toy house in an unconventional presentation, that happened to have lovely shaded natural light.

I listened to my heart ... and worked the subject

I listened to my heart ... and kept it simple

I listened to my heart ... and found the appropriate light

I listened to my heart ... and I was giddy happy and

I will always encourage you to work the assigned topics. They are the catalyst, the impetus, the Photo 101 course (that cost nothing) for you to get the creative juices flowing and make your heart sing.



© Luba Rickett



SPS IS ON FACEBOOK!

Just type
“Schenectady Photographic Society”
in the search box.

1st Place
PRINT WINNERS
OCTOBER



General
"The Round Tower"- © Drue Sokol

PRINT JUDGE: Photographer **Chris DeMarco** received her BFA from Rochester Institute of Technology and her MFA from Pratt Institute. She has served as an adjunct professor for College of Saint Rose, Saint Anne Institute, and Russell Sage College.



Monochrome:
"Cubed Abstraction"
© Rebekah Sokol



Assigned - The Backyard
Marianne Rahn Erickson
"Labor Shortage"



General
"Moon Over Taos"- © Ken Deitcher

PROJECTED JUDGE: After 30 years conducting research in the Education Department, **Nick Argyros** retired to establish a unique PhotoCenter with an exhibition gallery, museum, library, and Dr. Nick's Photo Emporium. Nick has been an SPS past secretary, group chair and president.

1st Place
PROJECTED WINNERS
OCTOBER



Assigned /Minimal
"Lincoln Continental Hood Ornament"
© Dow Smith

Due to space constraints, and since all of the winning images are available on the website, only First Place will be featured in the *Focus*. To see all of the winners, log on to www.spsphoto.org, click "Competitions" and "Recent Winners."

MEMBER NEWS

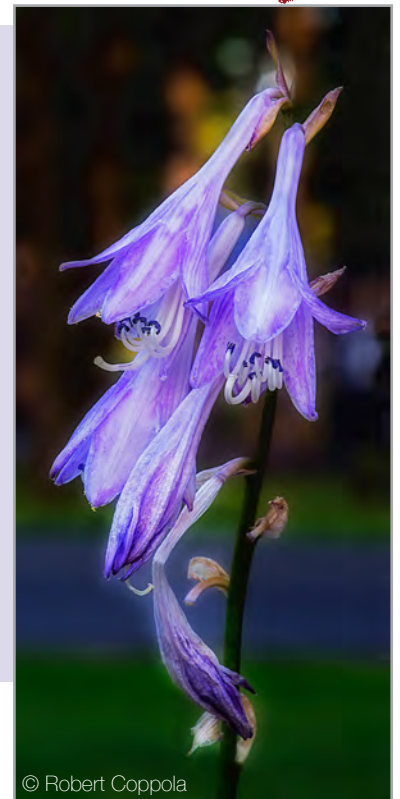
BOB COPPOLA'S "FLOWERS"



Robert Coppola
flowers - 15 photographs
October 1-31, 2014
Clifton Park Library

Georgia O'Keeffe once observed: "If you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for the moment." The photographs I chose for this exhibit are a reflection of my world and I want to share that world with others. My pictures are studies in form and color that attempt to depict the detail, energy and spirit of these flowers.

Bob's images are on display at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library
475 More Road
Phone: (518) 371-8622.



© Robert Coppola



© Robert Coppola

Check out David Avigdor's photo exhibit at the Saratoga Springs Public Library thru November 30th.

"CALENDAR GIRL" LINDA WROBLE

This past summer, Linda won first and second place in the black and white photo competition at the Altamont Fair; and a first and third in color competitions. She also won first place in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor competition and her photo "Schuylerville Waterways" will appear in the 2015 Calendar. The announcement was in the October 3rd *Gazette*. Linda also received a letter of recognition from former Mayor Brian Stratton, Director of the NYS Canal Corporation. (See photo below, left.) In addition, she won first place in the Florida State Charlotte Harbor National Estuary competition for her photo "Cypress and Epiphytes" (below, right). It will appear in the 2015 Calendar.



© Linda Wroble



© Linda Wroble

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COMING IN DECEMBER

December 3rd
"Member Technique
Showcase"
~Plus~

Print Group Competition
(Assigned Topic: Trick or Treat)

December 10th
Peter Bowden
"Old Cameras and
Petroglyphs"
~Plus~

Projected Image Competition
(Assigned Topic: Monochrome)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TO ALL!

PRINT COMPETITORS... did you win 1st place?

If so, I'd like to include your photo in the *Focus*. So that we have the best image, please forward a digital file within two weeks of winning, sized as you would for digital competition (1024 x 768, 300 ppi) to: focuseditor@icloud.com.

(Note: Projected Images will automatically appear, unless requested otherwise.)

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SPS Traveling Exhibit Will be On the Road in 2015

Dow Smith, along with volunteering to take on the club's publicity, will be our new Exhibit Chair. He will be coordinating a traveling exhibition of members' work that will begin in January of 2015. Photos should be sized 16" x 20" (horizontal or vertical), with white or black mats and black frames.

More details will follow in future editions of the *Focus*.

Start thinking now about the photos you'd like to display.

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**2014-2015
Print Assigned Topics**



- 2014**
October 1 *The Backyard*
Show us what's in your backyard (or your neighbor's).
- November 5** *Technology Rules*
Show us how technology is important in our lives.
- December 3** *Trick or Treat*
Show us how you celebrate Halloween
- 2015**
January 7 *People Taking Photos*
Unique images of those "other" photographers.
- February 4** *Hip to be Square*
Show us some squares, but don't get boxed in.
- March 4** *Doors*
I'll take door #3. What door do you take?
- April 8** *Shadows*
Don't be afraid of the noon-time sun.
- May 6** *Print of the Year*



**2014-2015
Projected Image* Assigned Topics**

** Deadline for the Projected Image competition is Sunday at midnight prior to the competition.*

- 2014**
October 8 *Minimal*
Images with simple or primary forms.
- November 12** *Coffee, Tea or...*
Show us your favorite beverage.
- December 10** *Monochrome*
Varying tones of only one color.
- 2015**
January 14 *Take Five*
Idiom's figurative meaning, or literal interpretation.
- February 11** *On the Fence*
Undecided or literal meaning.
- March 11** *"X" Marks the Spot*
Need some form of an "X" in the image.
- April 15** *Out of the Blue*
Sudden, unexpected occurrence; or something blue.
- May 13** *Projected Image of the Year*

Have Something to Contribute?

Been somewhere special, taken some great images, or just want to share some photo knowledge with club members?
 Please contact me (Linda Tommasulo) with articles, comments or suggestions:
focuseditor@icloud.com
 Thank you!



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