

# FOCUS

## GUEST SPEAKER - Doug Mitchell - February 18th "Photo Opportunities - Coastal Locations in Maine"

***We are pleased to have our own Doug Mitchell tell us about his travels to Coastal Maine. Start the car...time for a road trip!***

**About Doug Mitchell:** Many of you know Doug as a member of SPS. He also photographs events, weddings, portraiture, and landscapes, and has been an active photographer for over 25 years. As a studio and contributing photographer for Art & Ink Enterprises he had numerous content and cover photos published nationally and internationally throughout the 1990's. Doug has had work displayed in numerous exhibits and shows and continues to shoot studio, wedding, location and fine art photography.

Check out his website: [www.dougmitchellphotos.com](http://www.dougmitchellphotos.com).



Photo excursions can be fun to plan and a good way to expand your photo skills and portfolio. It's also an opportunity to visit and explore places you haven't been to before. Whether you plan a simple day trip, a long weekend, or a mini vacation you'll gain experience using your equipment and get a variety of new photos for your portfolio.

Advance planning and preparation for your trip will help optimize your travel and get the most out of your shooting time. This can easily be done through research and referring to informational resources like magazine articles, books and the Internet. These are great sources to turn to for information, tips, photo ideas, and logistical details, and will aid in organizing and planning for a successful trip.

Maine has 65 historical lighthouses and 230 miles of coastline (3,500 miles of tidal coastline), so scenic opportunities are abundant. February's presentation will feature images of four well known lighthouses and will also include local and shoreline photos from the Mount Desert Island and Schoodic Point areas.

*Continued...*



## Photo Ops - Coastal Maine (Cont'd.)



1st Place  
ASSIGNED PROJECTED  
DECEMBER\*

### **PROJECTED JUDGE: Emma Dodge Hanson**

After studying photography at Skidmore, Emma worked for a private fashion studio in London and then went on to study portraiture at Maine Photographic Workshops. A respected and talented photographer and author, Emma's work has appeared in many publications including *Oprah*, *USA Today*, *Photo District News*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *Modern Bride*. Her credits are too numerous to mention! Check out her website: [emmadodgehanson.com](http://emmadodgehanson.com).



Assigned - Monochrome  
"Clash of the Titans" - © Bill Lanahan

\*Projected assigned topic competition was postponed due to weather. Images were judged by the January Projected Judge. To see all of the winners, log on to [www.spsphoto.org](http://www.spsphoto.org), click: "Competitions" and "Recent Winners."

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1st Place  
PRINT WINNERS  
JANUARY



Assigned - People Taking Photos  
"Oh My God"  
© Steve Schoenberg

Monochrome  
"White Tulip"  
© Linda Wroble



General  
"Bates Place"  
© Linda Wroble

General  
"Portland Head Light"  
© Doug Mitchell



**PRINT JUDGE:**  
**Jon Covey**  
Photographic services for special occasions, events, portraits children, and families in New York and New England. He specializes in modern colorful photography, with an emphasis on personal attention. Check out his Facebook page: "Celtic Moon Photography"

1st Place  
PROJECTED WINNERS  
JANUARY



General - Take Five  
"Taking More than Five at the Blue Lagoon"  
© Luba Ricket

# GETTING STARTED AS A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER

~ February 4th ~

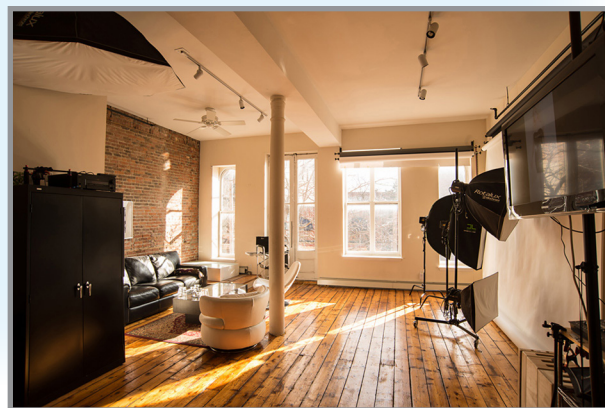


**About our Presenters:** Upstate Photographers was formed in 2006 when Paul Grupp, working as a staff photographer for the NY State Senate, asked Brenda Rose if she was interested in joining him in opening a full-time professional studio. Now located in Troy NY, their well-equipped 2000 sq ft loft-style Upstate Photographers studio does about 50% of their business in weddings, and the rest in a diverse portfolio ranging from headshots for entertainers and professionals, boudoir/bpix for brides to be, and fashion photography for small boutiques, concert photography and promo pix

for working musicians, and commercial photography for restaurants, bars, the medical industry and real estate. Paul explains, "In our area, we opened our studio space just as many other professionals were closing theirs. We feel that having our own shooting space, located in a city rich with possibilities for location work gives us a real edge over our competitors. Because we're always set up, ready to go, we can profitably do small jobs like headshots that would be more difficult if you don't have a studio. And I think in general, but especially for wedding meetings, having our own dedicated space is vital."

**Why Photography?** Paul says, "All my life I dreamed of becoming a professional photographer some day. In high school, while the other kids were playing football, I was in the library studying the work of some of my favorites: Yousef Karsh, Edward Steichen, Irving Penn, Richard Avedon, and a young lady named Annie Leibovitz. In my mid-40s, I got a chance to leave my marketing job in the corporate world and open a studio, and I jumped on it. I never thought I'd shoot weddings, but while I was working as staff photographer for the NY State Senate, somebody talking me into attending a Joe Buissink wedding photography seminar. His work was so powerful, so honest -- I literally sat there in the auditorium and cried. He taught me that you can approach weddings with artistic integrity - do what you do, and do it well, and people will come. I tried it, and fell in love with the wedding business. Then when I met Brenda eight years ago, there was never any question -- she came into the business and the rest is history!" We are fiercely competitive with each other, always encouraging each other to do our very best.

**What's Our Secret to Success?** We think a key element to our success over the years has been our diversity. We know that if we had JUST shot weddings, we'd be struggling with burnout. But because we do so many different types of work, it's always fresh and interesting. It also greatly extends our marketing reach -- shoot a concert with thousands of attendees who come to your website or Facebook page to see the pix, and a small but significant percentage of those people will end up calling you when it's time for wedding photography, a headshot, or some bpix.



*Continued...*



## Getting Started - Cont'd...

### About Our Presentation:

How to Become a Professional Photographer and Survive the Experience!

Paul Grupp has had the opportunity to start out or start over as a professional photographer several times - 1st in San Diego, then working for the NY State Senate, then starting a home studio in Voorheesville with partner Brenda Rose, and finally opening a full-time dedicated studio in Troy NY. Along the way, Paul and Brenda have had the opportunity to make a fair number of mistakes, accumulate a bumper crop of life lessons, and ultimately, enjoy modest success. Through their experiences, you will learn how to realistically assess your own strengths and weaknesses as a potential “pro-to-be,” learn what it takes to differentiate yourself from the pack, and hopefully, decide that being “just” an amateur photographer isn’t such a bad thing! Brenda swears she’s joking when she says that, but she will also give you a unique perspective on exactly how difficult this profession is to break into, and what it takes to keep it fresh, exciting, and profitable every day.



Would you like to learn more about Paul and Brenda before their presentation?

Check out their websites:

<http://upstatephotographers.com>, and <http://518bpix.com> .



## PSA NEWS

### Enter Our Interclub Competitions!!

Round Two of the PSA Travel and Round Three of PSA PID are open. Entries must be submitted by midnight February 5th and 18th respectively.

**Travel:** A Photo Travel image must “express the feeling of a time and place, portray a land, its people, or a culture in its natural state, and has no geographical limitations.” Ultra close-ups which lose their identity, studio-type model shots, or photographic manipulations that misrepresent the true situation or alter the content of the image are unacceptable in Photo Travel competition. No pictorial elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. No manipulation or modification is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, sharpening, and restoration of original color to the scene. Any adjustments must appear natural.

**PID (Projected Image Division):** Here is an opportunity to enter your favorite images - no restrictions! The prints may be in color or monochrome. Our club may enter up to six (6) images from six different makers. Sizing, as with all entries, is the same as the SPS digital projection: 1024 x 768 pixels.

Upload images at [spsphoto.org](http://spsphoto.org) - Enter - Competitions - PSA Interclub.

Please check the SPS website, or contact our Interclub Competition Chair, Phil Olivo, for more information.



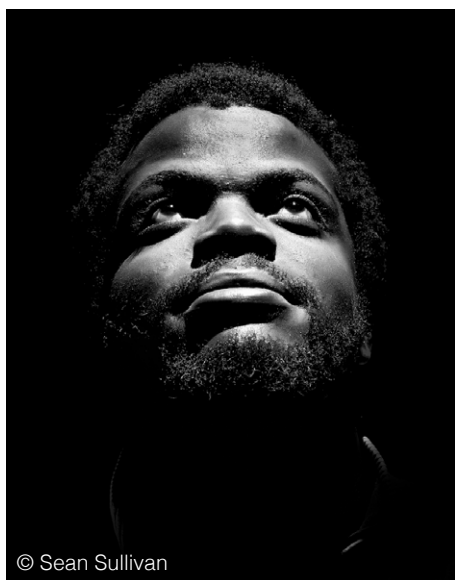
# MANAGING YOUR LIGHTROOM CATALOG ON YOUR iPad - Sean Sullivan ~ February 11th ~

*While Sean's interest in photography dates back to his youth (early 70's), he regained his passion for photography about 10 years ago when he purchased his first DSLR, a Nikon D70. Since then he has grown and learned (and continues to learn) about all aspects of the art. He loves to try new techniques and tools and enjoys being a member of SPS. Sean loves portrait and event photography, as well as artistic fine art imagery.*



Here's a Synopsis of Sean's Presentation: In today's busy world it's not always easy to keep up with managing your Lightroom catalog. Digital photography tends to make some of us photographers shutter click crazy producing sometimes several hundred images in a short time. How does one keep up with managing, pruning,

rating and sharing all those photos without spending hours in front of your PC? Wouldn't it be nice if you could manage them while on the go? Waiting at the doctors office? During lunch at work? At the beach? Waiting at the shoe store while your significant other tries on those 15 pairs of shoes? Well, I'm going to demonstrate some iPad/iPhone apps that will allow you to do just that. There are several free applications that directly interface with Lightroom and Photoshop that allow you to manage your catalog and do minor editing (or even not so minor) of your images without the need to be at your desk for hours.



© Sean Sullivan

*Sean's Image was a finalist at Viewbug.com in the "Portraits in Black And White" Photo Contest.*

## Mentoring: EXPLORING THE DIGITAL DARKROOM ~ February 25th ~



© Robert Woll

Arrangements are still being set up at press time, but I am sure Mentoring Chair, Dave Bennett will have a great program in store for us in February. If it's anything like last month's successful "Bring Your Camera" night, it is sure to be informative and fun.

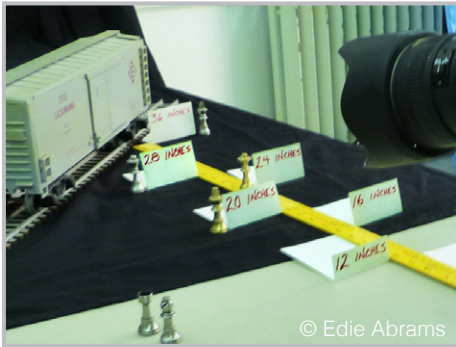
Dave will have us exploring the digital darkroom, tentatively including tips from fellow SPS photographers on Photoshop, Photoshop Elements, Topaz plug-ins, and more. If you enjoy tweaking and even manipulating with your images on the computer, you are sure to enjoy the evening at SPS on February 25th.

And check out some of the images we garnered in January on the following pages...



# SPS MEMBERS BROUGHT THEIR CAMERAS

- Mentoring Night Photos - January 28th -



© Edie Abrams

Something for everyone...



© Luba Ricket



© Edie Abrams



© Edie Abrams



© Edie Abrams



© Edie Abrams



© Edie Abrams



© Edie Abrams

See some of the fun images we captured on the following page!



© Ron Ginsburg



© Edie Abrams



# SPS MEMBERS BROUGHT THEIR CAMERAS

- Mentoring Night Images -



© Marguerite Hill



© Robert Woll



© Robert Woll



© Robert Woll



© Robert Woll



© Robert Woll



© Linda Tommasulo



© Edie Abrams



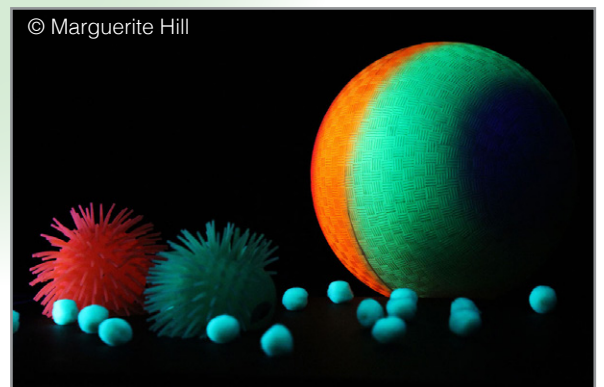
© Robert Woll



© Edie Abrams



© Linda Tommasulo



© Marguerite Hill



## More Mentoring Night Images...

"I would like to thank everyone that helped make this evening a success. Ron brought his winning water basin and pitcher. He also picked up the lemons, limes and ran out to buy some food coloring because I brought icing instead. Luba's mylar was pretty cool to see and "thank you" for your poem. Sean's water droplets helped show others how to set it up. Pat's macro set up was informative. Linda for letting people play with her "LensBaby" and the lovely tulip display. John's brass engine looked great in the light tent. Dale for bringing the flowers. Bob, thanks for the additional lights and stands on the water drop, I'm sure I was out of bulbs by that point. Special thanks to Jeff for so diligently standing by my light cubes and teaching others about white balance. I was glad that I did not need to, and without your help it would have just sat there.

"Much appreciation to John Bollentin. First for covering my daily routine while I over indulge my creative construction of photographic tools and exhibits. For the many hours of loading, unloading, setting up, taking down, re-loading and again unloading everything.

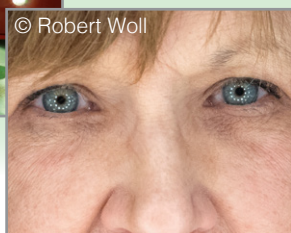
"Finally to my lovely wife for putting up with and allowing me to indulge."



© Linda Tommasulo



© Edie Abrams

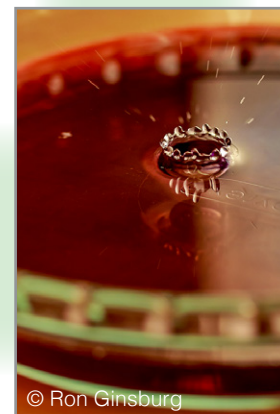


© Robert Woll

Dave



© Linda Tommasulo

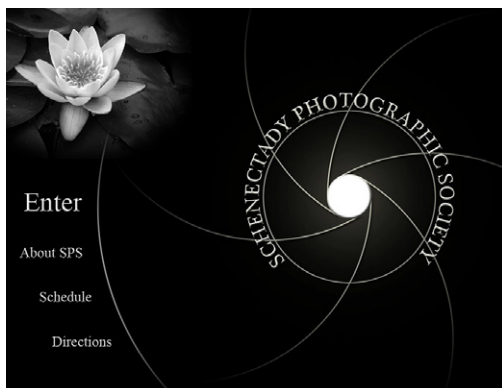


© Ron Ginsburg

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## PSA CLUB, COUNCIL & CHAPTER WEBSITE CONTEST - by Julie Palyswiat



The entry dates for the Photographic Society of America (PSA) 2015 Website Contest have been changed this year to January 15th to March 15th. Any PSA-member club, council/federation, or Chapter may enter the competition. There are two Entry Groups: Group A (organizations with 75 or more members) or Group B (organizations with 74 or fewer members).

Entering this contest is a great learning opportunity for webmasters, plus there will be awards given to organizations for first, second, and third place

for each group. The PSA Website Contest is under the direction of Jean Roberts and Dick Sprott. If there are any questions, Jean and Dick's email address can be found at the link below.

**Website contest information:** <http://www.psa-photo.org/index.php?clubs-councils/web-site-contest>

The 2014 PSA Website Contest Results with links to the winning organization's website may be found at this website:  
<http://www.psa-photo.org/index.php?2014-club-website-contest>

The Website Contest Categories and Criteria may be found at this website:  
[http://www.psa-photo.org/useruploads/files/clubs\\_and\\_councils/2014-website-contest-categories-and-criteria.pdf](http://www.psa-photo.org/useruploads/files/clubs_and_councils/2014-website-contest-categories-and-criteria.pdf)

The entry form may be found at this website:  
<http://www.psa-photo.org/index.php?website-contest-entry-form-3>



# COMING IN MARCH

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March 4th  
"Helping Animals through Photography"  
by Tracy Buycie  
~Plus~

Print Group Competition  
(Assigned Topic: Doors)

March 11th  
"Copyright 101"  
by David Avigdor  
~Plus~

Projected Image Competition  
(Assigned Topic: X Marks the Spot)

March 18th - Guest Speaker  
"Dance Photography"  
by Lawrence White

March 25th  
Mentoring Night:  
"Smart Phone Photography"  
by Jeff Perkins  
Plus iPhone Competition

## WEATHER ALERT!

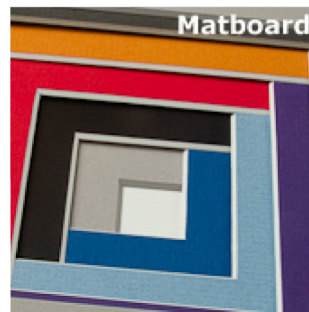
Some of us **do** like snow...but it certainly wrecks havoc on our meetings!

This is just a reminder that, in the event of inclement weather PLEASE check your e-mail and the SPS website before heading out.

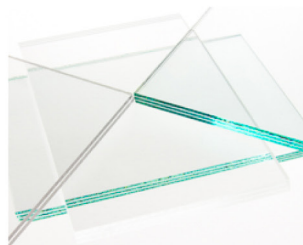
In the event of bad weather it is up to the Program Chair to determine if a meeting will be held. Although we hate to cancel or postpone our meetings, your safety is our main concern.

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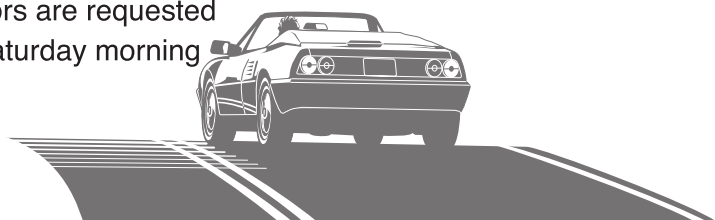
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## SPS TRAVELING EXHIBIT NOW IN ALBANY!

Our traveling exhibit has traveled once more. We are now at the William K. Sanford Town Library in Albany, located at 629 Albany Shaker Road. If you're in the area, stop by and take a look!

This exhibit will be hanging until Friday, February 27th. Exhibitors are requested to retrieve their photos on that date, at 2PM, or the following Saturday morning at the latest.

Next stop: Clifton Park. Wish to participate in the next traveling exhibit? If so, see Dow Smith, Exhibit Chair.



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**SPS IS ON FACEBOOK!** Just type "Schenectady Photographic Society" in the search box.

## SPECIALS FROM HUNT'S PHOTO FOR SPS MEMBERS

It's not a photograph until you print it! The Canon Pixma PRO 10 Printer is on a huge mail in rebate through 2/28/2015. This is a fabulous value! We sell the printer for \$449.99 (\$699.99 on Canon's web site). If you buy the printer and one package of Canon 13x19", 50 sheets paper (\$50) luster or semi-gloss, Canon will send you a \$250 AMEX gift card rebate. You own the printer for \$199.99 plus the cost of the paper! The Pixma PRO 10 is WiFi and uses 10 color cartridges. It does an exemplary job on both black & white and color prints. And it comes with a FULL set of inks (not a starter set). As an added special for anyone who purchases the Pixma PRO from me, I can sell them a complete set of ink refills for \$124.99, (usually \$134.99). If the printer is purchased, I can also offer a bundle with Adobe Lightroom 5 for just \$29.99, a \$149.99 value!

In order to produce good and consistent quality prints and not waste a lot of ink and paper, you should be calibrating your monitor. Calibration is not difficult or expensive. I can offer your members the ColorMunki Display Calibration Device from X-rite for \$159 (regularly \$169.00).

**In order to take advantage of any of these specials please call Alan at 781-662-8822, or email him at [alansamhunts@gmail.com](mailto:alansamhunts@gmail.com) and ask for the "Camera Group Specials."**



**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!



FOUNDED 1931

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