

FOCUS

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<http://spsphoto.org>

October 2015

CUBA - A PHOTOGRAPHER'S DELIGHT

by our own M-J Adelman - October 21



M-J first traveled to eastern Cuba in 2012 and was drawn back by the Cuban culture and people in 2015. With the desire to learn more about Cuba before it changes forever, she is returning in February 2016 – this time to the western part of the island.

She says, "The warmth of the people, the color of their music and the incredible artistic talent continues to draw me to Cuba. To see

the photographs create by Cuban photographers is worth the trip alone. They are so talented and often use photography as a means to speak out and address wrongs that they see."

M-J will introduce you to "her" Cuba and give you an idea of the visual potential of this heretofore forbidden country.

She will "encourage you to visit as soon as you can – before the inherent changes are made once Cuba is open to U.S. people and corporations..before there is a MacDonald's, and Starbucks on every corner, the cars are replaced by newer models and their unique culture becomes simply a tourist attraction, not a way of life!"

See more of M-J's work:
aleopics.com
(aLeoPics Travel Photography)



SPS "CREATIVITY PANEL" - October 7

Brian Sherman • Connie Frisbee Houde • Marianne Rahn-Erickson

Want to know how some of our more creative members do their magic? Join us on October 7th when the "Creativity Panel" will share some of their secrets to success. The photos here, by Brian Sherman, will serve as an enticement!



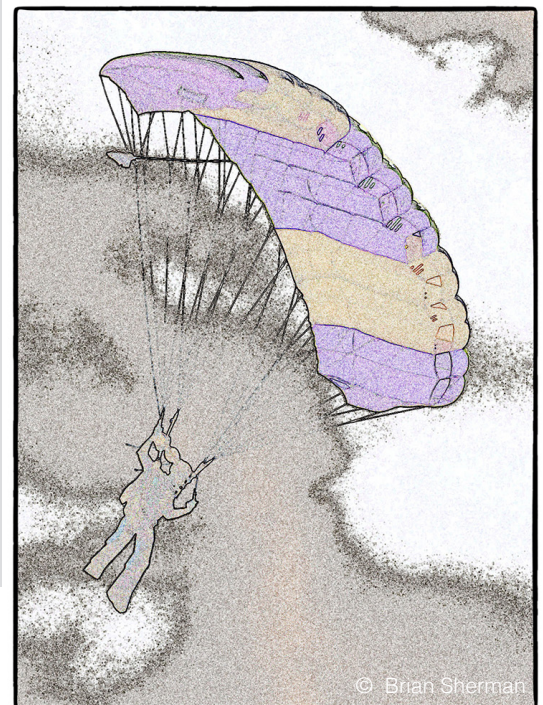
Paul Smith's Interpretive Center



SUNY Center in Albany shot from atop the Corning Tower



Six Pence English Pub in Savannah



Scotia Parachutist

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‘WISDOM OF THE WINNERS’ - October 14

Robert Coppola • Sean Sullivan • Rebekah Sokol

Join us on October 14th to gain some insight into last season's
Projected Imagemakers of the Year:

Robert Coppola (General), Sean Sullivan (Assigned) and

Rebekah Sokol (Projected Image of the Year).

It takes more than perseverance to end up on top!



*Rebekah won
Projected Image of the Year
with this photo:
“Postern - Gate to the Past.”*

“BRING YOUR CAMERA” Mentoring Night - October 28

Last season's "Bring Your Camera Night" was a huge success...so Dave Bennett, our Mentoring Chair, is doing it again!

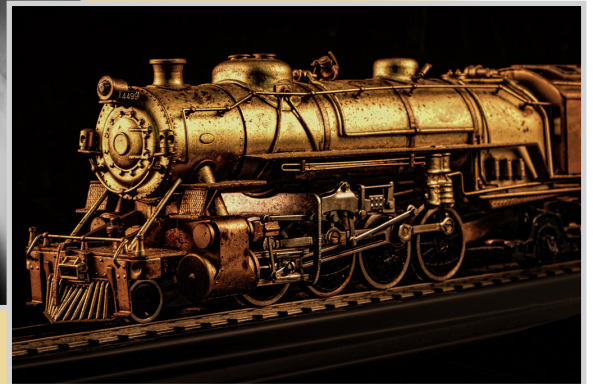
If you have a special lens/equipment, or set-up that you would like to share, contact Dave directly at Studio_50@ymail.com.
If not, just bring you camera and have some fun!



Check out some of Dave's photos from the first "Bring Your Camera Night."



All photos this page
© Dave Bennett



"BRING YOUR CAMERA" Mentoring Night - October 28



As you can see by John Bollentin's images from last season, a good time was had by all!



All photos this page
© John Bollentin



THE (W)RIGHT STUFF!

The Daily Gazette

Handicapped man communicates with photography

By [Kelly de la Rocha](#)



Photographer: [Patrick Dodson](#)

Robert Wright takes photographs from his wheelchair with his mother Pat Wright, left, and Direct Support Specialist Sarah Cooke at Brunswick Center Services on July 7, 2015.

CAPITAL REGION — One of Robert Wright's earliest photographs was of a roadside curb.

Robert Wright inspires us every week with his talent and tenacity. He also inspired Kelly de la Rocha of The Daily Gazette who wrote this article about Robert and his photography... (Reprinted with permission.)

His mother didn't understand it at first, and he couldn't explain it to her.

Born with holoprosencephaly, a defect that prevents the forebrain from dividing into hemispheres, Wright can't talk or walk, and has extremely limited use of his hands. The 24-year-old communicates with his lively blue eyes — and through his photographs.

A digital camera is attached to an adjustable metal arm secured to his wheelchair; he triggers the shutter with a nod of his head, depressing a button affixed to his headrest.

The image of the curb he captured symbolizes the frustration he feels about the barriers he faces, his mother, Pat, explained. That realization came to her after she looked at the photograph through her son's eyes.

"[A curb is] a jarring experience, or it's blocking him from something he wants to do," she said. "I guess that's something that always amazes me, the obvious that I miss. He continually surprises me."

Wright's love of photography was discovered in 2007 while he was attending a Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES program.

"He and an aide looked through a book of occupations, and Robert indicated he wanted to photograph animals," his mother said. "That started the search for the adaptive camera, and it went on from there."

While attending a special education program at Mohonasen High School in Rotterdam, Wright studied under photographer Rick Crowe, who helped adapt a camera so he could use it. Since then, he has graduated from a simple point-and-shoot model to a more advanced Canon Rebel T1i, and his interest has extended beyond photographing animals.

On weekdays, the Waterford resident spends time at Brunswick Center Services, a group-based day habilitation program, where his educational program revolves around photography. The center staff is working with him and his mother to create a small photography busi-

ness. He has a website, business cards are in the works, and so is a PayPal account, said Teri McGaughnea, senior coordinator of development and quality assurance at the center.

At a recent center fundraiser, a trio of Wright's photographs sold for \$250.

Wright regularly attends meetings of the Schenectady Photographic Society, and his work has received recognition in several of the group's photo competitions.

The society's members have given him tips on photo composition and helped his mom with the technical aspects of using the camera.

"Because I'm not a photographer, it has been a real journey," she said with a laugh.

The society has also been a social asset. "He's just part of the club," she explained. "Simple things, just a 'hello,' and finding out what he's been doing. There's concern when we miss meetings."

In his early days as a photographer, Wright would take picture after picture, but now he's getting more selective, his mother noted. She recalled some of his most memorable shots: a portrait of his grandfather at a Fourth of July parade; one of a boat on the Erie Canal in autumn.

"I guess more than the photos, it was the taking of the photos," she said, the memories lighting her face.

Wright's work is on display at the Brunswick Community Library and Brunswick Center Services.

His portraits of center clients brighten its lobby. His shots of pine cones, flowers and a field dotted with snow patches invite admirers to linger in the hall.

Wright goes on weekly photo shoots to places like parks, farms and historic sites. Cemeteries are a particular favorite, his mom said.

Sarah Cooke, a direct support specialist at Brunswick Center Services, often assists Wright on his shoots. She points at potential photo subjects and asks if he approves.

"He'll look up for 'yes,' or if it's not good for

him, he'll look to the side," she explained. "I'll ask him if he wants me to zoom in or out and then he'll tell me 'yes' or 'no.'"

Cooke said Wright is great to work with. "He is a ball of joy. He can make you laugh. He knows what he wants to do. It's just awesome," she said.



Last season Robert won 2nd Place in the Digital Projected Essay competition!

Robert's mom, Pat, will be presenting a program of Robert's photography at SPS on November 4th.



*For more info and photos, check out this link:
<http://www.evernote.com//AF28glsPF19D07LlIz8YPsa0XmJsV37qJK8/>*

MEMBER NEWS

COMPETITIONS HAVEN'T STARTED YET, BUT OUR MEMBERS ARE ALREADY WINNERS!



© David Avigdor



© David Avigdor



© David Avigdor

David Avigdor's image "Thrill and Fear" (top right) was selected by the Urban Street Photography Facebook Group for their "best of" gallery. His images, "Prom Dress" (top left) and "Where He Stood" (left) were exhibited at the Malta Arts Juried Show in Round Lake.



© Dan Steen

Dan Steen's photo (above) taken at Hancock Shaker Village, won 1st Place/Adult at the 2015 Altamont Fair.

Phil Olivo's "NYC Abstract" (right) won Honorable Mention at the Exposure Saratoga Annual Members' Exhibit. -8-



© Phil Olivo 2015

HERB BROWN WINS TWO FIRST PLACE RIBBONS at the Guilderland Public Library Exhibit

MEMBER
NEWS



Ribbons adorn two of Herb Brown's photos
at the Guilderland Public Library exhibit.
"The Gambler" (above) won 1st place in the
"People" category; "Flies" (left) took
1st place in the "Nature" category.

KICK-OFF WITH DAVID H. WELLS

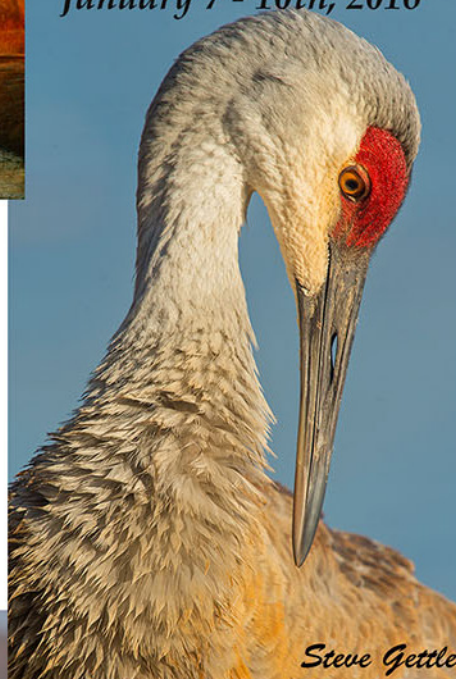


Special thanks to David H. Wells who shared his knowledge and
love of photography with us at our kick-off and travel photography
workshop.



Bosque del Apache Photography Intensive

January 7 - 10th, 2016



In-the-Field Intensives

- 3 - Morning Blast Offs
- 2 - Golden Hour Fly Ins
- 1 - Nighttime Photography
- 1 - Mid Day Photography

Classroom Seminars

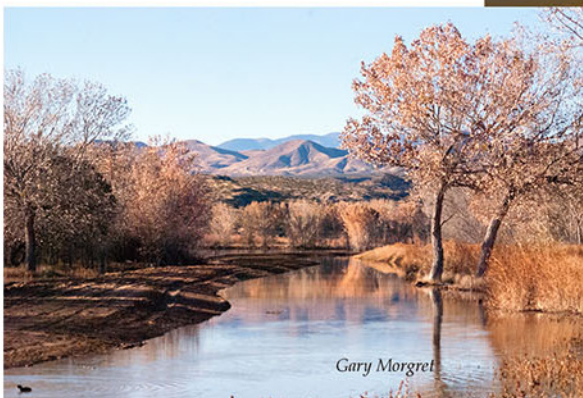
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COMING IN NOVEMBER...

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November 4
"Robert's Photography"
presented by Patricia Wright
Print Group Competition
(Assigned Topic: Nature/PSA Rules)

November 11
SPS Panel:
"Oddball Local Photo Contests"
presented by Dan Steen
Projected Image Competition
(Assigned Topic: It Ain't Over
Till It's Over)

November 18
Guest Speaker: Sarah Wigley
"Travel Photography"

November 25 - No Meeting
Happy Thanksgiving!

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DUES ARE DUE!
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To keep up with our operating costs, it has become necessary to raise dues for the 2015-2016 season. (Note: You must pay to compete.)

Individual Membership: \$45

Family Membership: \$50

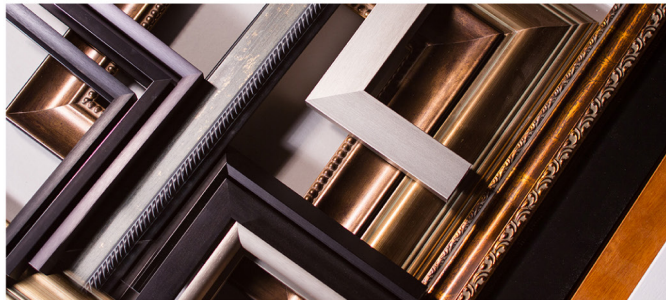
Dues may be paid at our meetings or send
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Photo Stories Wanted!

Have you been to a special place, seen a wonderful exhibit, or hanging your images on display?

Are you experimenting with some new software or plug-ins, taken some fantastic images or have some interesting shooting or post-processing techniques to share with your fellow members?

This is **your** newsletter and **your** forum to do so!

Feel free to contact me (Linda Tommasulo) with any suggestions or questions.

Send your photos, sized as you would for digital competition (1024 x 768 at 300 ppi),
and accompanying text to: **focuseditor@icloud.com**

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

Hunt's October Specials for Club Members:

Now through October 30, 2015 or until supplies run out we are offering the Canon Pixma PRO 10 printer at \$379.99 before rebate (Canon sells it on their website for \$699.99). If you purchase the printer plus a package of 13x19x50 sheets of Canon Semi-Gloss or Luster paper, \$50, Canon will send you a \$250 mail in rebate! Your final cost is \$129.99 plus the paper! Or if you prefer, you can buy the Canon Pixma PRO 100 printer at \$349.99 (\$499.99 on Canon's website), buy the paper, \$50, and receive a \$250 mail in rebate. Your final cost is \$99.99 plus the paper. You can't buy decent document printer for these prices, let alone an exhibition quality photo printer!

We also have several Induro Tripod products on promotion due to a special purchase we made:

CT313 Tripod Legs: \$299.99, reg. \$543 / CT414 Tripod Legs: \$349.99, reg. \$665 / CT404 Tripod Legs: \$349.99, reg. \$665 / CT505 Tripod Legs: \$549.99, reg. \$899 / CM24 Monopod: \$79.99, reg. \$123 / BHM2 Ballhead: \$119.99, reg. \$205.

The Induro specials are limited quantity and rainchecks cannot be issued. ORDER YOURS NOW!

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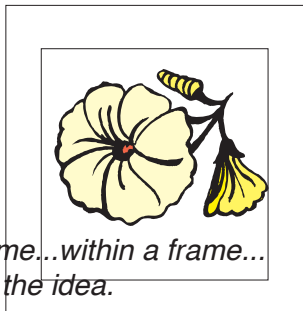
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2015-2016
Print Assigned Topics



- 2015**
October 7 **Frame in Frame**
 Show us a frame within a frame...within a frame...
 within a frame...well, you get the idea.
- November 4** **Nature - PSA Rules**
 No sign of man-made objects or presence.
- December 2** **Time**
 There is never enough. How do you visualize time?
- 2016**
January 6 **Bokeh**
 Use creative soft focus to highlight your subject.
- February 3** **Architecture**
 It's all around us, so show us some creative views.
- March 2** **Green with Envy**
 Show us the green!
- April 6** **Get Low**
 Get down and show the world from a low perspective.
- May** **Print of the Year**



2015-2016
Projected Image Assigned Topics

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

- 2015**
October 14 **I Heard That!**
 Let us hear the sound in your image.
- November 11** **Yogi said, "It Ain't Over Till It's Over."**
 Show us what he meant.
- December 9** **The Roof**
 Make a roof or roofs significant in the image.
- 2016**
January 13 **Crusty**
 Literally or figuratively.
- February 10** **The Night**
 Outdoors, indoors, lit or dark. Show us the night.
- March 9** **Barriers**
 Show us why we can't get there from here (or how we can).
- April 13** **Weather**
 Shoot it now; it will change!
- May** **Projected Image of the Year**

There are LOTS of ways to connect with the
 Schenectady Photographic Society:

Website: www.spsphoto.org

Facebook: "Schenectady Photographic Society"

Meetup:

<http://www.meetup.com/Schenectady-Photographic-Society/>



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