

# FOCUS

## HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE

by Ben Garver - December 16



Join us on Wednesday, December 16th, as Ben Garver takes us on a photographic journey through the Hancock Shaker Village.

Ben Garver has been photographing news at *The Berkshire Eagle* for two decades and photographing nature since his youth. Before living in the Berkshires, Ben lived in New Hampshire, Vermont and his native Ohio. From growing up on his father's farm, going to school at Middlebury College in Vermont to living in the Berkshires, all of Ben's intellectual pursuits have been paralleled with the pursuit of solace in nature.



The Shakers trace their beginnings to Manchester, England, in 1747. They called themselves The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing and soon became known as Shakers because of the trembling, whirling, and shaking they engaged in during ecstatic worship services. They came to America in 1774, seeking freedom to live, work and worship.

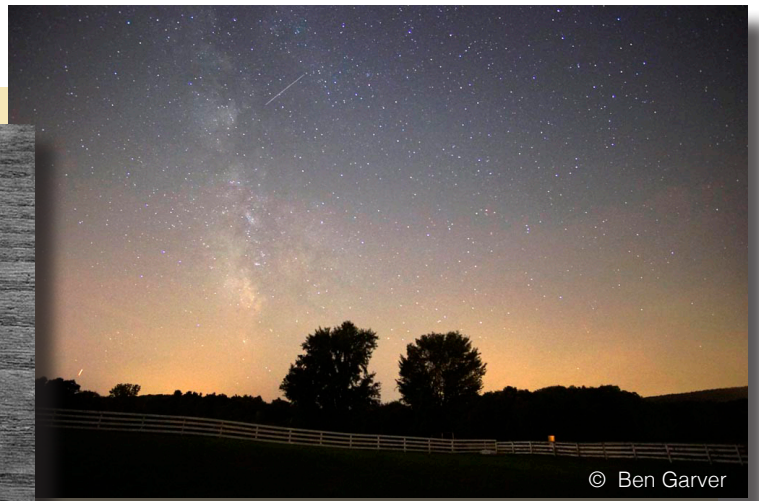
The Hancock community, the third of nineteen major Shaker villages established in New England, New York, Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana, grew under the leadership of Joseph Meacham and Lucy Wright, with land donated by converted farmers. At the peak of its success in the 1840s, the Hancock community had more than 3,000 acres and 300 members. The community gradually declined, in part due to the urban migration that followed the Industrial Revolution. By the early 1900s, only 50 members remained, most of them children. Eventually, excess land was sold and many buildings were destroyed. Concerned citizens stepped in to preserve the Village in the 1960s.

Today, the 750-acre Hancock Shaker Village operates as a living-history museum open to the public with 20 authentic Shaker buildings, costumed interpreters, rich collections of Shaker furniture and artifacts in rotating exhibits, a full schedule of activities and workshops, a mile-long hiking trail and picnic areas, a Village Store and Village Cafe, and a working farm with extensive gardens and heritage-breed livestock. Hancock Shaker Village is located on Route 20 in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, just west of the junction of Routes 20 and 41. Open every day during the season, plan to visit them in 2016 from April 16 to October 30.

*Continued...*



# Ben Garver - Hancock Shaker Village Cont'd.



**Find out more about HSV at:  
[hancockshakervillage.org](http://hancockshakervillage.org).**



©Schenectady Photographic Society and its contributors. The contents of this newsletter are copyrighted. No material herein may be reproduced in any manner without the written permission of the Editor or the material's specific contributor. The *Focus* is published ten times a year by the Schenectady Photographic Society. SPS promotes and presents informative programs, activities and competitions in the photographic arts for photographers throughout the Capital District. Over 100 members, ranging from novice to expert, share the theory, application and fun of photography at Society meetings. We meet Wednesdays at 7:30 pm from October through May at the First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY. (Parking and entrances are on Chapel Street, a one-way street off Nott Terrace.) The Schenectady Photographic Society is a member of the Photographic Society of America. Visitors and guests are always welcomed. For more information on our Club and the current season calendar check out our website: [spsphoto.org](http://spsphoto.org).



# ARGENTINA - December 2

Presented by Joan Heffler

“I’ve traveled far and wide across the world and when I had an opportunity to travel to Argentina with one of my ballroom dance friends, I put my dancing shoes on and away we went. Buenos Aires, Iquazu Falls, and Mendoza were our three stops in this most vast and colorful country. Marvel at the tango tango of Buenos Aires. Be prepared to be awed from the Falls in Iquazu spanning two countries. And enjoy the Malbec from Mendoza. This 20 minutes musical video presentation will have you booking a flight to Argentina!”

*Joan Heffler*



**See more of Joan Heffler’s “Pictures with Personality” at [www.joanhefflerphotography.com](http://www.joanhefflerphotography.com)**

---

## FREQUENCY SEPARATION FOR PORTRAIT RETOUCHING

### December 9 - Presented by Sean Sullivan

Sean will be giving a demonstration of Frequency Separation Technique...virtually a process of decomposing image data into spatial frequencies (in this case tone and color) in order to edit image details in the different frequencies independently. There can be any number of frequencies in each image, and each frequency will contain certain information (based on the size of the details). Many other techniques used to fix skin problems can make for an unnatural look to the image (i.e., the porcelain skin look). Using this technique, you can edit the tone or color of the skin or texture independently thus preserving the natural look and feel of the model. He will be providing links to more details, videos and Photoshop Actions during his discussion. A must see for you portrait photographers!



# PSA INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

The new season of PSA Interclub Competitions is well under way. There are five (5) categories in total, with four competitions coming up in December and January:

**Deadline for December:**  
**PSA PID - December 20**

**Deadlines for January:**  
**PSA Nature - January 5**  
**PSA Photojournalism - January 5**  
**PSA PID Creative - January 20**

The Photographic Society of America, of which the Schenectady Photographic Society is a club member, sponsors a number of interclub competitions and SPS participates in many of them. Details about specific competitions will be announced at society meetings regarding our participation in a competition, the open entry periods, deadlines for submission, submission guidelines.



You may also find more information regarding the individual competitions on the PSA website:

**[www.psa-photo.org](http://www.psa-photo.org)**

Images can be uploaded on the SPS website ([www.spsphoto.org](http://www.spsphoto.org)).

Click on Competitions – PSA Interclub.

More information and a copy of the Guidelines and Procedures for the Projected Image Division can be found at The PSA Projected Image Competition website. The comparison chart listing all of the Interclub Competitions can be found at:

<https://www.psa-photo.org/index.php?interclub-comparison-chart>

Best of Luck! Contact our new PSA Interclub Competition Coordinator, Sean Sullivan, if you have any questions: [sullise@gmail.com](mailto:sullise@gmail.com).

---

## WE HAVE A WINNER!



**CONGRATULATIONS TO CONNIE FRISBEE HOUDE**  
for her perfect score of 15 and placing third in the November PSA Travel Competition.  
Her image is titled, "Bags of Charcoal."

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Dan Steen was kind enough to share some of the images he took at last month's meeting (November 11th),



*Jeff Plant shared some of his wonderful flower macro slides. Yes, slides...remember those? We're all going out to buy pinwheels now!*

*Projected judge, Evan Lauber*



*Sean Sullivan and Bob Coppola.*

## GREETINGS FROM NORTH CAROLINA (Via Bob Riccardo)

*I had breakfast with Frank Bumbardatore on the 23rd in North Carolina. He is very happy and is enjoying his new life and best of all, he said, instead of being ten hours from his grandchildren, he is now only 5 minutes away. He said to say hello to all and wishes everyone Happy Holidays.*



Please support our advertisers and sponsors...

## COMING IN JANUARY...

January 6

“Macro Insect Photography”  
presented by Jeff Perkins  
Print Group Competition  
(Assigned Topic: Bokeh)

January 13

“Photography as Art”  
presented by Robert Coppola  
Projected Image Competition  
(Assigned Topic: Crusty)

January 20

Guest Speaker:  
Connie Frisbee Houde  
“Jajja’s Kids”

January 27

Photo Essay Competition  
Overview

### THE FOCUS WANTS YOU!

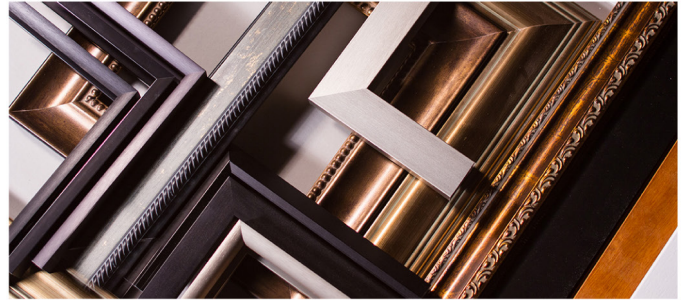
Have you been to a special place, seen a wonderful exhibit, or hanging your images on display? Are you experimenting with some new software or plug-ins, taken some fantastic images or have some interesting shooting or post-processing techniques to share with your fellow members? The *Focus* wants YOU! Send your photos, sized as you would for digital competition (1024 x 768 at 300 ppi), and accompanying text to: [focuseditor@icloud.com](mailto:focuseditor@icloud.com)

[www.FrameDestination.com](http://www.FrameDestination.com)

972-479-1188

# FRAME DESTINATION

Your art's in  
the right place.™



- Wood & Metal Frames
- Mat Board
- Mount Board
- Acrylic & Glass
- Clear Bags for Matted Prints
- Tape/Tissue
- Stretcher Bars & Floater Frames
- Photo Corners



## WHERE ARE THE WINNING IMAGES?

Sorry to say the November winning images were not available at “press time.”

Rest assured they will be included in a future edition of the *Focus*.

Let us take this opportunity to wish everyone a joyous, safe and “photogenic” holiday season. Wishing you all good health and happiness in the New Year!



Please support our advertisers and sponsors...

## Vitamins, Minerals & Herbal Medications

Best quality for your health with DaVinci Labs through Dr. Jeff Perkins

[www.albanypreventdoc.com](http://www.albanypreventdoc.com)

## Digital Imaging Services by Jim Craner

- Large Format Archival Inkjet Printing
- High Resolution Scanning
- Photoshop and Lightroom Tutoring
- Color Management Consulting
- Print Mounting, Matting and Framing

65 Bentley Drive • Troy, New York 12182  
518 235-2754 or 518 526-2253  
E-mail: [renarc@aol.com](mailto:renarc@aol.com)

PHOTO & VIDEO  
**Hunt's** EST. 1989



   **Blog**  
[wbhunt.com/blog](http://wbhunt.com/blog)

*Hunt's Photo specializes in various digital imaging products. We offer competitive everyday pricing and free ground shipping in the lower 48 states.*

[www.huntsphoto.com](http://www.huntsphoto.com)

**Call for Price Quotes and Specials**  
**800-924-8682**

*What differentiates Hunt's Photo from our competitors is the personal service we offer and our tireless effort to build long lasting relationships with the customer.*



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



### WEATHER ALERT!

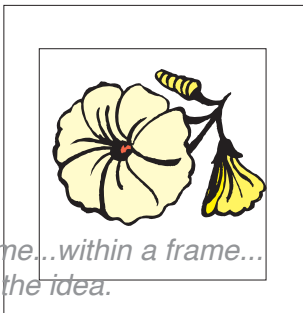
Some of us **do** like snow...but it certainly wreaks havoc on our meetings!

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.



**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](http://www.spsphoto.org)  
**Facebook:** "Schenectady Photographic Society"  
**Meetup:**  
<http://www.meetup.com/Schenectady-Photographic-Society/>



FOUNDED 1931

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016**

- President and Treasurer .....Pat McCormick  
[patrickmccormick\\_59@verizon.net](mailto:patrickmccormick_59@verizon.net)
- Vice President and  
 Print Group Co-Chair .....Rebekah Sokol  
[rebekah.b.sokol@gmail.com](mailto:rebekah.b.sokol@gmail.com)
- Corresponding Secretary ..... Bob Riccardo  
[bobric10@verizon.net](mailto:bobric10@verizon.net)
- Recording Secretary ..... Colleen Magai  
[csm\\_pa@yahoo.com](mailto:csm_pa@yahoo.com)
- Directors at Large .....Kim Koza  
[kkoza@silhouetteimages.com](mailto:kkoza@silhouetteimages.com)  
 and .....Connie Frisbee Houde  
[globalphotographer@me.com](mailto:globalphotographer@me.com)
- Webmaster .....Bob Gough  
[rcgough@gmail.com](mailto:rcgough@gmail.com)
- Newsletter Editor .....Linda Tommasulo  
[focuseditor@icloud.com](mailto:focuseditor@icloud.com)
- Annual Report Editor, Print Group Co-Chair  
 and Inter-Club Coordinator ..... Sean Sullivan  
[sullise@gmail.com](mailto:sullise@gmail.com)
- Projected Image Co-Chairs ..... Dan Steen  
[dmsteen@gmail.com](mailto:dmsteen@gmail.com)  
 and ..... Jeff Plant  
 (no e-mail address)
- Mentoring Group Chair ..... Dave Bennett  
[studio\\_50@ymail.com](mailto:studio_50@ymail.com)
- Membership Chair, Photo Essay Group Chair  
 Traveling Exhibit Coordinator and  
 Publicity .....Dow Smith  
[dowsmith323@gmail.com](mailto:dowsmith323@gmail.com)
- Judge Coordinator Chairs ..... Ron Ginsburg  
[lginsbu1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lginsbu1@nycap.rr.com)  
 and .....Robert Coppola  
[b\\_coppola64@yahoo.com](mailto:b_coppola64@yahoo.com)
- Smart Phone Competition Chair... Jeff Perkins  
[Perkster46@yahoo.com](mailto:Perkster46@yahoo.com)

**REFRESHMENT COORDINATORS**

- Judy Breslau ..... [jbreslau@verizon.net](mailto:jbreslau@verizon.net)  
 John Ogden ..... [johnogden@verizon.net](mailto:johnogden@verizon.net)