

FOCUS

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<http://spsphoto.org>

February 2016

The Willard Suitcase Project - Update - February 17

Jon Crispin

In the mid-to-late 1800's, Dr. Sylvester D. Willard, the Surgeon General of New York, had discovered that those with mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, epilepsy, and even alco-



holism suffered in torturous conditions in county-based almshouses. Though New York had already forged the path to state-run institutionalization when the Utica Lunatic Asylum was opened in 1843, when Willard discovered the inhumane treatments throughout his research, he proposed a bill that indicated a need for opening a second asylum. President Lincoln signed this bill just six days prior to being assassinated. If the timing of Lincoln's death and the signing of the bill doesn't seem awfully close, you might be amazed to learn that Dr. Willard himself died of typhoid fever just two weeks prior to Lincoln's passing! The bill that Willard

penned which led to this second institution would be his legacy and, therefore, was named in his memory. Construction of The Willard Asylum for the Chronic Insane was to begin immediately on a 440 acre parcel that lay dormant in the Finger Lakes.

In 1869, Mary Rote, arrived as Patient #1, and only months later she was one of 250 patients who arrived with a suitcase packed with all of the possession they thought they would need for their time inside. Most patients never left, with the average stay at the hospital peaking at around 30 years. When patients died, they were buried in nameless graves across the street from the asylum. Their suitcases were locked away in an attic and forgotten - until 1995 when an employee of the mental hospital discovered 400 suitcases dating from 1910 to 1960.



© Jon Crispin

Continued...

Willard Suitcase Project (Cont'd.)

Photographer, Jon Crispin, has been cataloging the suitcases and opened a window into the lives and minds of these patients who were deemed unfit for society. Per Jon, "Even as a kid I was trying to get into places that I shouldn't go." Fortunately, in the 1980's he was given permission to document the abandoned asylums in New York State, and raised funds in Kickstarter to do so.

Although many of the suitcases were empty, others provided a provocative and personal view of the former lives of their owners.

On February 17th, Jon will give us an update on the status of this project - and some insight on what it has been like to undertake such an important and touching assignment.

For more info:

www.willardsuitcases.com

<http://joncrispinposts.com/tag/willard-suitcases/>

Google "Willard Suitcases" for more interesting articles.



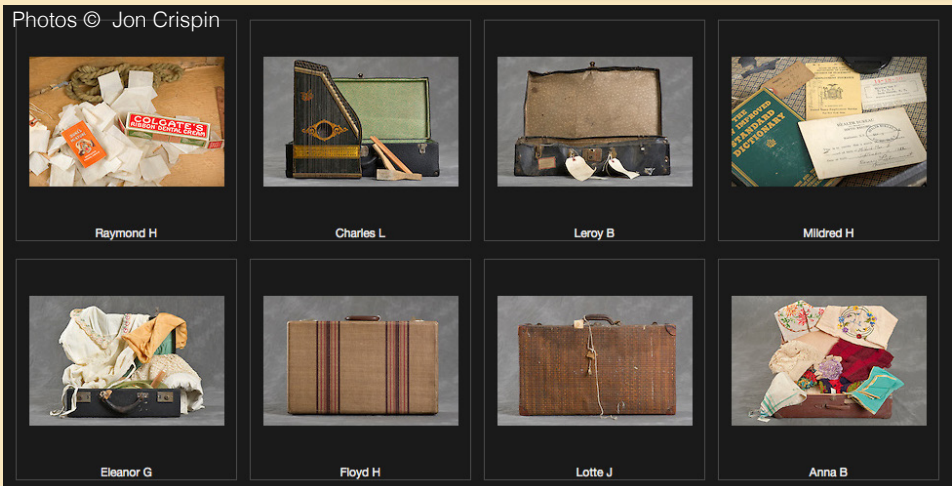
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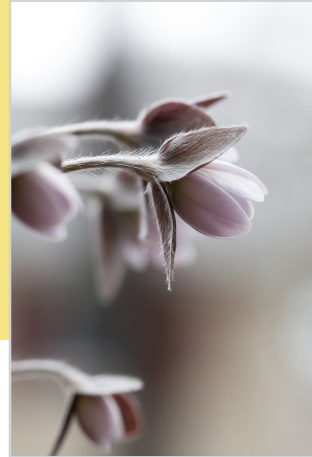
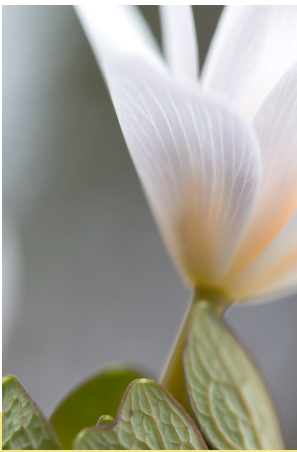


Photos © Jon Crispin



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The Story Behind the Shot - February 3



"Tapped Out"
(It Ain't Over Till It's Over
1st Place - November
Projected/Assigned)
© Linda Tommasulo

Top: Sanguinaria Mist
Bottom: Hepatica Mist
(HM Print/General - December)
© Jennifer Wilkerson

Ever wonder how or why an image came to be?
Do you enjoy seeing a really special photo on competition night and question the "story behind the shot"? Well, a few of your fellow members will entertain you with their stories behind the shot.
Here are a few examples...



"Rebel Rowser"
2nd Place/Monochrome - January
© Brian Sherman

"Oddball Local Photo Contests" - February 10 Presented by Dan Steen



© Dan Steen

Due to a projection problem, Dan's talk from November was postponed to February. Thankfully, Jeff Plant stepped in and wowed us with his slide show.

Dan will talk about some of the more unusual local competitions. We think mainly of our own competitions and other local art venues, such as the Photo Center of the Capital District show. He will talk about other opportunities, building on his experience last year at the Altamont Fair competition. In addition, Dan will elaborate on the reasons one might seek out other "oddball local photo contests," and some things to watch for when you do.

Dan's image, *Wagon of Peace*, took 5th place at the 2015 Altamont Fair, and won an Honorable Mention at our SPS competition.



Animal Portraits - February 24

Mentoring Program Presented by Dave Bennett

Come learn about doing animal portraits!
We will have a variety of our furry friends on hand to practice on.
Make sure you bring: camera, favorite lenses, memory cards, tripod (optional),
flashes and triggers (optional), cable release (optional), batteries.



Details are still being ironed out at press time, but Dave Bennett, our Mentoring Chair, never disappoints. (As these images from prior Mentoring sessions illustrate.)



PSA Interclub Competitions



We already had winners in the Interclub PSA competitions for this season. (Way to go, Connie and Kim!) Why not try your luck? Here are the deadlines for February and March:

Deadlines for February:

PSA Travel - February 5

PSA PID - February 18

Deadlines for March:

PSA Photojournalism - March 5

PSA PID Creative - March 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.

There are competition subjects for just about everyone...from photojournalism, to creative, to nature, to travel and just plain "anything"!

We make it easy for you, just upload your submissions on the SPS website:

www.spsphoto.org

Click on Competitions –
PSA Interclub

A committee of club members reviews and selects the images for final submission to PSA. 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>

Contact our PSA Interclub Competition Coordinator, Sean Sullivan, if you have any questions:
sullise@gmail.com.

Linda Tommasulo - Giving Back Capital District Humane Association

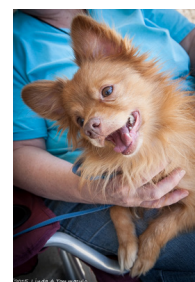
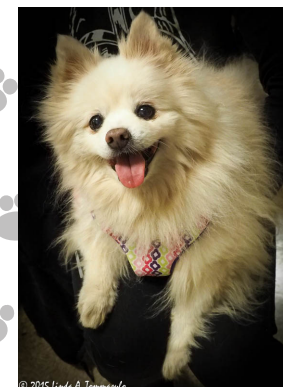
After I was settled into my new home in Guilderland, and being recently retired, I wanted to find some volunteer work that perhaps would utilize my photography skills. Of course, combining them with my love of dogs, would be the icing on the cake. I perused some websites and landed on cdha.net—the website for the Capital District Humane Association (www.cdha.net). As I looked for photos of dogs for adoption, I noted that many of them were annotated. “Photo Coming,” so I sent them an e-mail. The reply indicated their volunteer photographer was a professional and, oftentimes, couldn’t make the assignment dates. So my offer to assist was gratefully accepted.

Since all of the dogs are fostered, and there is no “shelter,” photos are taken at the Pet Adoption Clinics held at PetSmart in Latham the first and second Saturdays of the month; and the PetSmart in Clifton Park on the fourth Saturday. Needless to say, the conditions are quite challenging. The dogs are usually photographed at their first Adoption Clinic—packed into a corner of PetSmart (or out in front of the store) with anywhere from 10-30 pups seeking their forever homes. My first assignment was probably as daunting an experience for me as it was for the dogs! But, with persistence, my skills have improved. My new Olympus OM-D, E-M1 is making things a bit easier—and will be even better when I get to learn all the nuances of this incredible micro-four-thirds, mirrorless camera.

Sometimes there’s only one new dog, other times as many as ten or twelve. I do all of my adjustments in Lightroom, and try to get about five good photos for each dog (which go on the website). I have learned that opening up the shadows shows the love in their eyes even more.

Most importantly, for the past three years I have been a small part of the effort to help these beautiful dogs find their forever homes. A recent e-mail from Jennifer Politis, founder of CDHA said, “Your pictures make all the difference. Romeo recently found his home because they fell in love with his photo.”

P.S. Last December I ended up adopting a wonderful dog myself, Shyla, whom many of you have met. Of course, it wasn’t planned...but, how could I resist? She picked me!



What's The "Glennie"?



Overview: The Merrimack Valley Camera Club (MVCC) will host and conduct the 36th annual George W. Glennie Nature Salon on Saturday, March 12, 2016. Judging will be held at the Greater Lynn Photographic Association located at 564 Boston St, Lynn, Massachusetts. Judging will commence at 9:00 AM and continue until finished in the afternoon. The public is welcome to attend the judging.

This is a premier, international all-nature club competition of digital images known for its diversity of subjects which range from animals to botany to landscapes. In the animal categories, birds and mammals are usually well represented, but each year about a third of the entries are invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians or marine & freshwater life.

Rules: The Glennie is a club competition, with no individual entries allowed. Each participating organization may submit 10 images, with no more than 2 by each maker. Images that have received awards in previous Glennie Salons are ineligible.

Categories:

Animals (consists of the following categories)

- a. Birds
- b. Invertebrates - Insects, Mollusks (snails etc.), Arachnids, Annelids (worms), Crustaceans
- c. Reptiles
- d. Amphibians
- e. Mammals
- f. Marine and Freshwater Life - Fish, Marine Crustaceans/Mammals, Starfish, Corals etc.

Botany

Landscape

Club awards include:

Top 5 Clubs Total Score (based upon aggregate score) and Top 5 Clubs Diversity Award - based upon aggregate score from a club's top scoring images from six different categories.

Individual image awards include:

Best of Show, Best Wildlife, Best of Category (see above)

Some categories may be further sub-divided, depending on the number of entries in that category. A number of individual Honor Awards will also be presented based on the level of submissions in each category/sub-category.

Image Preparation: Each digital image may have a maximum width of 1024 pixels and a maximum height of 768 pixels. The image must be submitted in JPEG (.jpg) format, and the size is limited to no more than 1 Megabyte (MB). It is suggested that the image resolution be no greater than 100 pixels per inch (ppi) and that the color space be sRGB.

Unlike previous years there is no special file naming convention required. Each image should be titled. Titles should be 50 characters or less including only characters a-z, A-Z, 0-9, space and #/.

To Enter: SPS members can enter on the SPS Website: www.spsphoto.org. Click: Enter / Competitions / PSA Interclub. Deadline is February 20, 2016.

NOTE: Judging will be guided by the recently revised PSA definition of "Nature." For more detailed information, click on the MVCC website: <http://www.mvccameraclub.org/competitions/interclub/glennie/>.



2016 Photography Regional

Your entries should be in for the 2016 Photography Regional hosted this year by the Fulton Street Gallery.
Juror this year is Dan Burkholder.

***Initial Salon Show will hang from January 29 to February 12
at the Fulton Street Gallery and the PhotoCenter in Troy.
Salon Show reception is on January 29 at Troy Night Out.***

***Work not chosen for the Select Show must be picked up on February 13 to 15.
Select Show will hang at the Fulton Street Gallery from February 20 to April 2.
Select Show reception is at the FSG on February 26 at Troy Night Out.
Dan Burkholder will speak on March 25 at the FSG on Troy Night Out.***

The Fulton Street Gallery is located at 408 Fulton Street in Troy. Phone: (518) 331-0217.
PhotoCenter is located at 404 River Street in Troy. Phone: 518-273-0100.
Additional info: www.fultonstgallery.org and www.photocentertroy.org.

It's Not Too Soon to Think About Your Photo Essay(s)!

The Photo Essay Competition is not until April 27th - however, these projects do take some planning.

Hopefully you were there for Connie Frisbee Houde and Dow Smith's excellent overview presentation last month.

If not, check out the definitions and rules below, and feel free to reach out to Connie, Dow or other fellow Club members for assistance in preparing your print, projected or book essay.

Just remember...your project should be FUN!

Do a subject that is meaningful to you.

Win or not, you will still have a wonderful keepsake to enjoy for many years to come.



*Luba Ricket's
winning entry: 2015
Photo Essay
Print*

SPS Photo Essay Definition and Competition Rules:

Definition:

The Photo Essay competition comprises three categories: print essay, projected essay and book essay.

Print essays are a collection of prints displayed in some fashion. Most typically they will be mounted on a board, but any method of presenting a collection of prints that can be physically managed by the entrant is allowable.

Projected essays are a collection of images that will be projected, not necessarily accompanied by a soundtrack. Presentation must be in a format that is compatible with the projection equipment available on the night of the competition and submitted at least the week prior to the photo essay competition.

Book essays are a collection of images assembled into a bound book such as are available on line from Shutterfly, Snapfish, Blurb and others or from a commercial business.

Rules:

1. One entry per person per category [print, projected, book].
2. Maximum length of a projected essay is 8 minutes. Suggested and preferred length is 3 to 5 minutes.
3. Participants are encouraged to use only their own images. Other images may be used only if they are vital to the narrative quality of the essay. Any images not made by the participant must be credited. No more than 10% of the total images may be non-participant images.
4. It is the participant's responsibility to know the rules. A submission outside of these guidelines will not be accepted.
5. Digital projected essays must be submitted no later than one meeting before the final competition night (April 20th) in order to ensure compatibility with the club's software.

1st Place
JANUARY WINNERS
PRINT



1st Place General
“Flirting in the Bleachers”
© Barb Lawton

1st Place Assigned
(Topic: Bokeh)
“Happy New Year”
© Dave Bennett



1st Place Monochrome
“Wind Circles”
© Dan Steen

PRINT JUDGE: Photographer and fellow SPS member, **David Avigdor**, graciously agreed to step in at the last minute to judge the January Print Competition. Thank you, David!

ADDITIONAL JANUARY WINNERS
Print/Monochrome



2nd Place Monochrome
“Rebel Rowser”
© Brian Sherman

3rd Place Monochrome
“Old Time Shavings”
© Sean Sullivan



*For Print winners, to include the best image in the Focus,
e-mail a digital file (1024 x 768 max at 300 ppi)
to: focuseditor@icloud.com.*

ADDITIONAL JANUARY WINNERS

Print/Assigned



2nd Place Assigned
"Fern"
© Jennifer Wilkerson



3rd Place Assigned
"Bubbly"
© Luba Ricket

ADDITIONAL JANUARY WINNERS

Print/General



2nd Place General
"Winter Gaze"
© Dave Bennett



3rd Place General
"Barnstable Light"
© Dow Smith

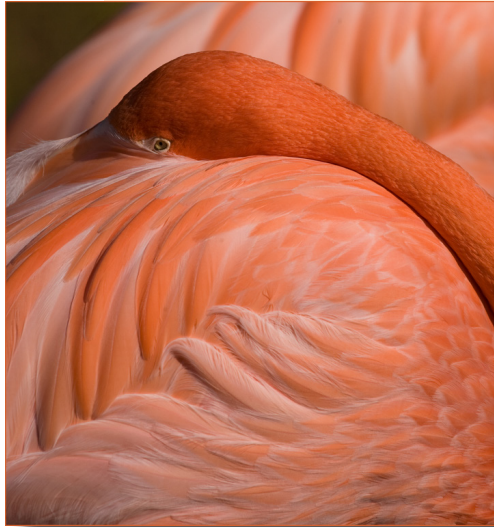
Print winning images are photographed on competition night for the website. However, you can upload a clean digital file by logging on to spsphoto.org and click:

Enter / Groups / Print.

At the bottom of the screen is the notation:

To upload a digital version of your winning print, click [here](#).

1st Place
JANUARY WINNERS
PROJECTED



1st Place General
"Flamingo Siesta"
© Linda Tommasulo

1st Place Assigned
(Topic: "Crusty")
"Crusty Rye Bread"
© Barb Lawton



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.

ADDITIONAL JANUARY WINNERS
Projected/Assigned



4th Place Assigned
"Close Up Crusty
Crumbs"
© Kim Koza



3rd Place Assigned
"Emma Doesn't Eat Crust"
© Dow Smith



2nd Place Assigned
"Bread Alone"
© Robert Coppola



5th Place Assigned
"Crusty Croissant"
© Luba Ricket

ADDITIONAL
JANUARY WINNERS
Projected/General



2nd Place General
"Flower Fantasy 1"
© Jeff Plant

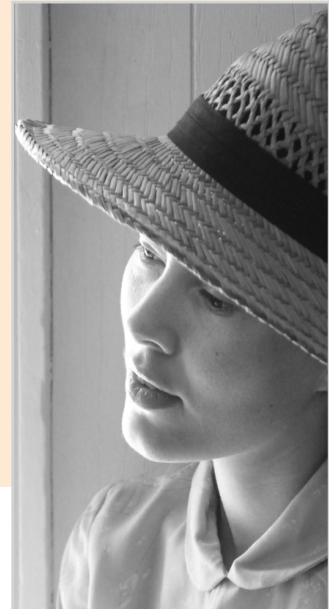
3rd Place General
"Determined"
© Dave Bennett



4th Place General
"Lovely Light 2"
© Kim Koza



5th Place General
"Sunny"
© Luba Ricket



To see all present and past winning images (including Honorable Mentions), log on to www.spsphoto.org, click: Enter / Competitions / Recent Winners / Past Winners.

Joan Heffler Gets Published

Not all wedding photos are "stand-up-and-smile" images—as attested to by Joan Heffler's beautiful rendition of this wedding dress waiting for its bride.

This wonderful image was published in the *January Bridal Guide* for *Capital Region Living Magazine*.

Congrats, Joan...well-deserved!



COMING IN MARCH...

March 2

"Member Technique Showcase"
Print Image Competition
(Assigned Topic: Green with Envy)

March 9

"Where to Post Your Photos"
Projected Image Competition
(Assigned Topic: Barriers)

March 16

Guest Speaker:
Jim Christensen
"Arcadia National Park and the
Bold Coast of Maine"

March 23 - No Meeting

March 30 - Mentoring
SmartPhone Competition
with Dan Burkholder

HAVE YOU "GIVEN BACK"?

Have you used your photographic skills to give back to a cause or organization? If so, we want to share your story—and inspire others to do the same.

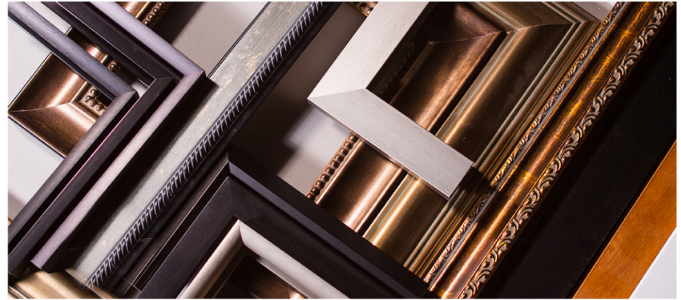
Send your photos, sized as you would for digital competition (1024 x 768 at 300 ppi), and accompanying text to: ***focuseditor@icloud.com***.



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WEATHER ALERT!

Yes...it may snow eventually!

And if it does, PLEASE check your e-mail
and the SPS website before heading out to our meetings.

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

Call for Entries - 13th Annual Nature Art Exhibit

Artists are invited to apply for consideration to a juried show at the Emma Treadwell Thatcher Nature Center. Images may be e-mailed, or snail-mailed by February 15th. Accepted artwork must be dropped off from February 25–28. The exhibit will be on display from March 5–25, 2015, from 9 am–5pm, Tuesday thru Sunday. Reception is Saturday, March 5, from 1–4 pm.

There is a \$15 hanging fee per person, proceeds of which will benefit programs offered at Thatcher Nature Center and Thatcher Park.

For more details, click: <http://www.friendsofthacherpark.org>
and scroll down to "13th Annual Nature Art Exhibit."

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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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