

FOCUS

IT'S OUR
94TH
SEASON!

Volume 92 - No. 2

<https://spsphoto.org/>

November 2025

GETTING THE MOST AND BEST FROM YOUR iPHONE CAMERA

EVENT
NIGHT

with Rad Drew

November 19, 2025 - on Zoom

Everyone has a mobile phone camera today, but not everyone knows how to take advantage of its full power and potential. Join professional photographer, Rad A. Drew, as he shows how to get the most from your mobile phone's camera! Rad will demonstrate how you can make beautiful portraits of people and pets, stunning panoramas, and compelling long exposures of waterfalls and streams, and more. Whether you've been using a "big" camera for years, or are completely new to photography, you'll learn surprising ways to create with the camera that's always with you—your iPhone!

Note to Android Photographers: Android photographers are welcome with the understanding that Rad will be demonstrating the use of the iPhone's native camera using the iPhone 16 Pro Max. Many iPhone features can be found on Android phones, but not all.

Continued...



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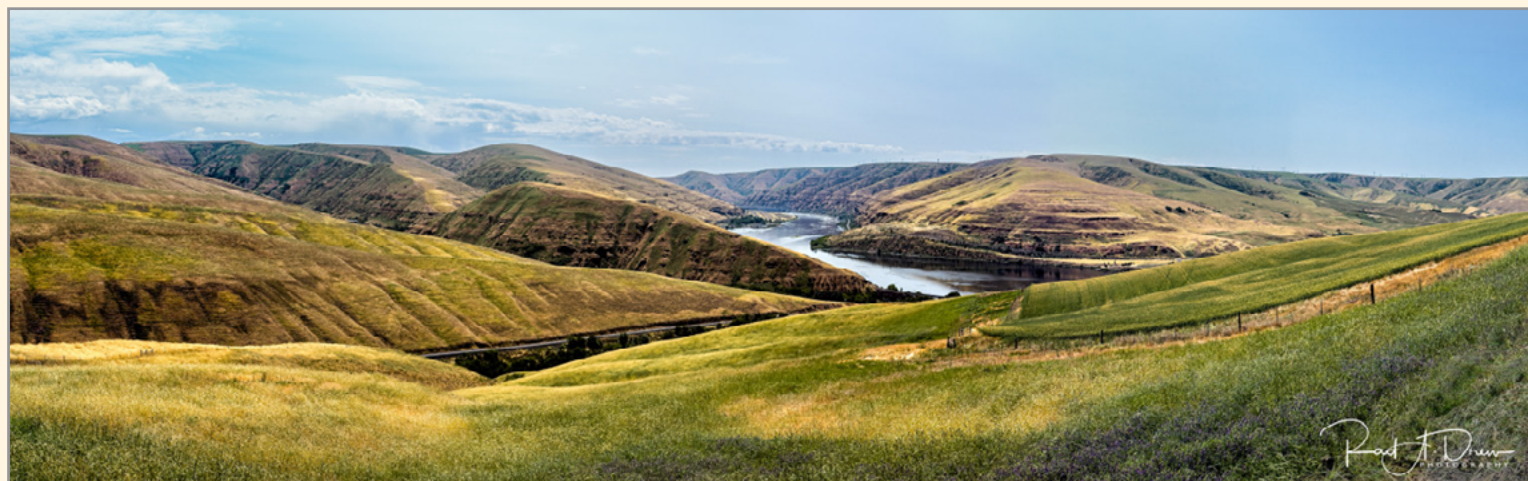
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Getting the Most and Best from Your iPhone Camera

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Getting the Most and Best from Your iPhone Camera

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About Rad Drew



Teacher, photographer, and tour leader, Rad A. Drew, creates with the iPhone, mirrorless, and infrared cameras. He is a frequent contributor to *PSA Journal*, and was listed in PSA's *Who's Who in Photography 2018*. His creative images have been recognized internation-

ally and exhibited in galleries around the world including SOHO Gallery and SOHO Arthaus in NYC, the L.A. Mobile Arts Festival, and Obscura Gallery, Melbourne, Australia. Rad is an associate editor for *PhotoPXL.com*, and writes articles for the mobile art network, *TheAppWhisperer*, *The Royal Photographic Society*, and *the PSA Journal*. He is a contributor to *The Art of iPhone Photography: Creating Great Photos* and *Art on Your iPhone*, serves as an affiliate representative for Topaz Labs, Flypaper Textures, DxO, and Luminar, and is the creator of the popular webinar series, *How I Did It!*™.



See Rad's LinkTree

(<https://linktr.ee/RadDrew>)

for links to all his resources including his
YouTube Channel and video tutorials.

Visit his website

(<https://raddrewphotography.com>)

Subscribe to his newsletter

(http://bit.ly/2QMmCYa_RAD_News).

ELEVATE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY – MASTER THE ART OF BLACK & WHITE

by Ian Plant

(Reprinted with permission. Access the original article [here](#).)



During my entire career as a professional photographer, I have always shot in color. Part of the reason was commercial—I reasoned that color photos were more likely to attract attention—and part of the reason was that, quite simply, I love color. Recently, however, I decided to build a black and white photography portfolio by digging through 20 years’ worth of raw photos in my digital archives, something that I started referring to as “Project Monochrome.”

“Project Monochrome” has been a continuing effort to dig through tens of thousands of photos to find the diamonds in the rough, the images that I had overlooked before because they just weren’t effective in color. Sometimes, I found photos that I had originally shared as color images that I decided had more impact in black and white. Most of the time, however, I discovered photos that failed in color, but that had new life breathed into them when converted to monochrome.

I believe that every photographer should try black & white. In general, artistic photos are made when you stop thinking literally about your subjects; black & white photography, by its very nature, forces us to do that. Since we see in color, B&W photography pushes images into a more abstract space, making us look at the world in a completely different way. This genre is perfect for anyone who wants to improve their general photography, composition, and digital processing skills. Regardless of what you photograph or how experienced you are, there’s undoubtedly something special that you can learn from black and white photography.

And how has Project Monochrome changed me as an artist? Well, I still love color photography, but now I equally love black and white. This is the way that I look at it: Now, I have twice as much to photograph, and twice as much that inspires me! It feels like a total creative revival. Believe me, there is nothing that advances your skills as

Elevate Your Photography

Master the Art of Black & White

(Continued from page 4)

a photographer more than finding fresh inspiration that forces you to see things in a new light.

What Makes a Good B&W Photo?

While digging through my digital archives, I had to think deeply about the following questions: *What actually makes a good B&W photo? How can I improve my B&W photography skills and take more effective monochrome photos?*

The short answer is that great B&W images have an artistic and mysterious quality to them. They thrive on contrast and mystery, and somehow stand outside of time and place. I love making B&W photos when I have moody conditions (such as fog), or harsh contrast between shadow and light.

Rather than asking such obvious questions, though, ask yourself why you want to take B&W photos. Chances are you want to tell a story that means something to you and evokes strong emo-



tions in your photos. That's a good enough reason to get into B&W photography. Again, I want to emphasize that this genre is open to photographers of all kinds. Everyone is welcome, and everyone has the potential to take good B&W photos of their own.

How Can I Improve My B&W Photos?

The great thing about B&W photography is that it doesn't require any special equipment. You can (and should) just use your color digital camera for black & white photography. The key is B&W conversion. Most photo apps and programs allow you to convert photos to black & white, but I personally use the Adobe suite of products (Lightroom or Camera RAW are perfect for most B&W editing, although sometimes I do some finishing work in Photoshop).

As I was looking through my archive to find photos for Project Monochrome, I was sur-



Elevate Your Photography

Master the Art of Black & White

(Continued from page 5)

prised to discover hundreds of photos that I had previously overlooked because they didn't look that interesting in color. When I converted them to B&W, however, everything clicked into place!

Before you start converting your photos to B&W, pay attention to tone, contrast, mood, and composition. It might seem like a lot to juggle mentally, but trust me, it gets easier with time! Here's an explanation from my Black & White Photography course:

A scene that looks incredible in color might look dull in B&W, and vice versa. What works best for color photography and for B&W isn't always the same. For example, color photography often looks best in soft or colorful light, while B&W photography goes really well with harsh light that's full of contrast. Understanding the differences between the two will help you make better B&W photos.

Here's another example from my course:

Visual elements that appear separate in color may sometimes merge in tonality when converted to B&W. As a result, some images may look good in color but not so great in B&W, and vice versa. A classic example is a red apple and a green apple side by side. In color, you can easily distinguish between the two: When you convert the photo to B&W, however, both apples end up looking a very similar shade of gray:



Keep in mind that during the processing phase, you can selectively brighten or darken individual color channels, so you can make the red apple look brighter than the green apple. This technique can be used to enhance contrast and visual separation in your B&W images:



Personally, I've found that B&W photography has expanded my range of possibilities. I'm excited to shoot more and discover more about the wonderful world of monochrome. You can learn how to take and digitally process amazing B&W photos of your own with my Black & White Photography Course. This course is filled with detailed processing tutorials, explanations, and techniques that will help you refresh your creative mind and make beautiful B&W photos that draw the viewer in.



Elevate Your Photography

Master the Art of Black & White

(Continued from page 6)

Last but not least, it is with great pleasure that I share with you some of my favorite photos from my new Monochrome portfolio.



Artist's Statement:

I can't draw, paint, or carry a tune, but I can press a button with my finger. Of course, if you want to make inspiring photographs, there's a lot more that needs to happen before that button is pressed. These days, too many photographers rely on the crutch of digital manipulation to bring magic to their images. Personally, I'm more interested in capturing the true magic of the moment, not concocting it on the computer. For me, photography is as much about the experience as it is about the final product.

Only a few images are included here. Check out Ian's Monochrome Portfolio—and more—on his website:

<https://ianplant.com>

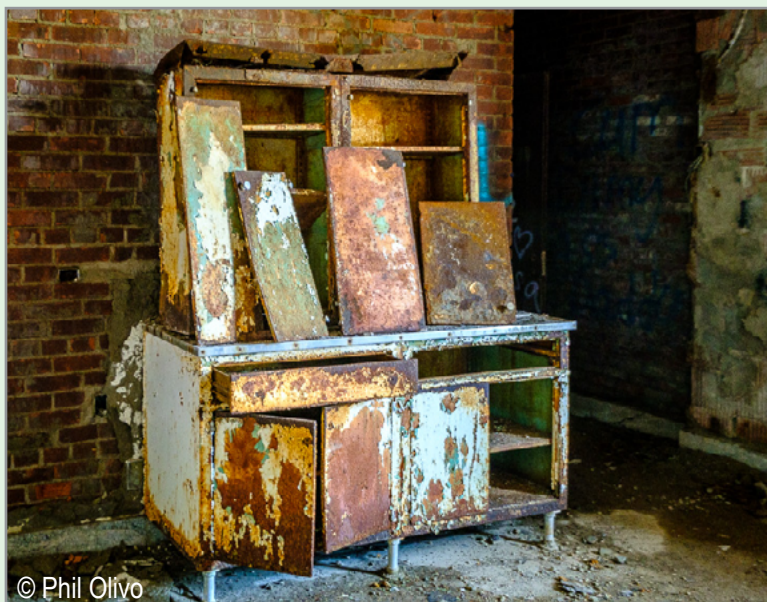
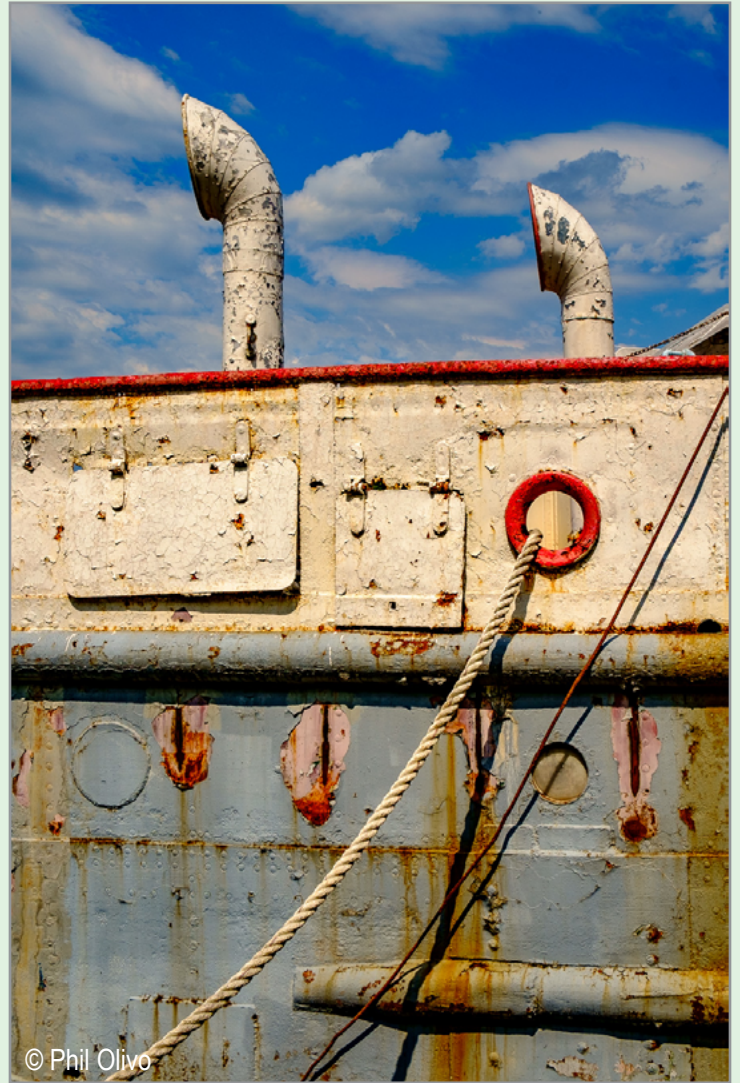
And Master the Art of Photography with Photo Masters:

<https://www.photomasters.com/>

You've met landscape photographers, street photographers, portrait and event photographers but how many claim the distinction of being called a rust photographer? We are definitely a different breed.

With beauty all around us why invest time, energy and enthusiasm to capture corrosion? We find rust to be compelling. It's more than just corrosion, it's the transformation of a subject which was once perfect to an image that is layered, fickle and compelling to view.

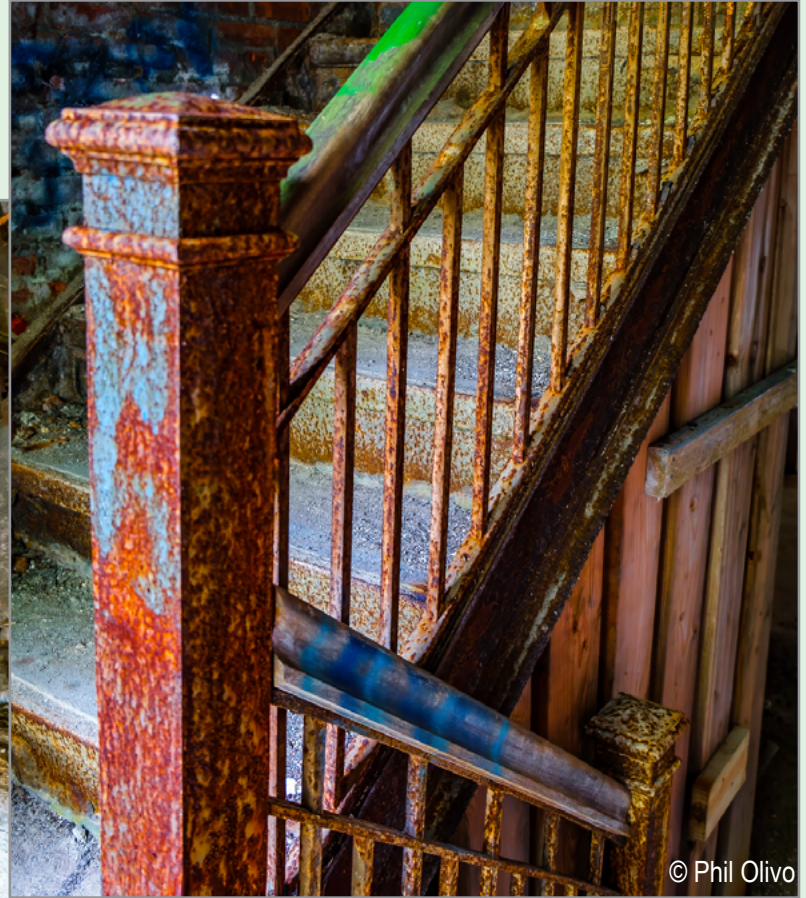
What draws us to rust? Let's start with it's flaky, gritty texture then add it's color palette of oranges, reds, browns and blue.



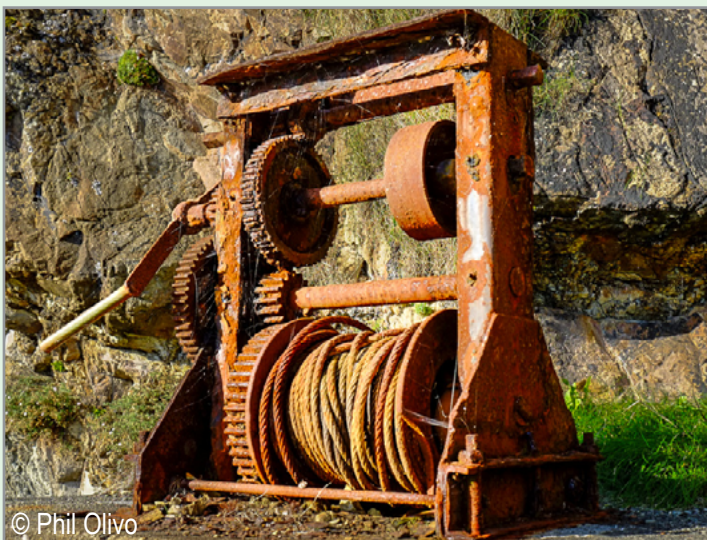
Focus On Photographing Decay and Corrosion

(Continued from page 8)

Don't forget it's compelling narrative of time, neglect, and nature reclaiming what man has made.



Although some of these images were photographed in Scotland and Ireland, you don't have to travel to far away lands to find rusty subjects. Most were captured in the Capital District. Some of my favorite places include roadsides which are ideal for abandoned vehicles, Pebbles Island, the Waterford Canal as well as nature preserves and historic areas.



Focus On Photographing Decay and Corrosion

(Continued from page 9)



© Phil Olivo



© Phil Olivo



© Phil Olivo

Be careful of abandoned buildings. Not only are you trespassing but these buildings can be dangerous. The abandoned interiors seen in this article were taken at Saratoga Homestead with a guided tour and the company of a fellow SPS member.

Equipment? You probably have what you need. These photos were taken with a 27mm fixed lens, a 50-200 telephoto lens as well as my 55-80 walk-around lens. Unless you're doing macro work and need special equipment, you should be all set.

What about composition? Just apply your basic techniques and you'll do fine. Give these tips a try to make your images stand out:

- Forget the object—focus on the surface. Zoom in on peeling paint, rivets, and flaking metal to create abstract compositions.
- Watch your focal point—rusty surfaces can trick auto focus.
- Pair rust with unexpected elements, such as a flower or clean surface to create visual tension.

Focus On Photographing Decay and Corrosion

(Continued from page 10)

A closing thought: consider rust to be your canvas and make the photos yours. Add personal touches like juxtaposing objects and post-processing to enhance color and contrast.

Remember one man's trash
is a rust photographer's treasure!

Check out Phil's website and you
will see he is definitely obsessed
with rust and decay!

<https://philolivo.myportfolio.com/>



Are you obsessed about
photographing something
that's meaningful to you?
Share it with us.

I am ALWAYS seeking
"Focus On" articles for the
newsletter.

Contact me
(Linda Tommasulo,
your newsletter editor)
directly if you have thoughts
and images to share:

newsletter@spsphoto.org.

FIRST PRINT COMPETITION OF THE 2025-2026 SEASON

Judge Evan Lauber joined us for the first print competition of the new season.
Print Chair, Joe Cotroneo, coordinated, with the assistance of Judge Chair, Neil Shapiro.

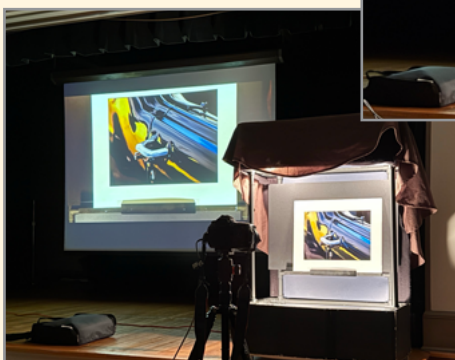
Congratulations to all who participated and committed their images to print to share with us.



Photos © Linda Tomma-



The First Place Winners



JOIN US FOR FIELD TRIPS WITH JANICE PRICHETT and the Photography Connection Meetup Group*

The Schenectady Photographic Society participates in field trips organized by the Photography Connection Meetup. It is a great opportunity for members (and non-members) to meet together at venues that offer a wide variety of photography opportunities. Recent outings included Slate Hill Lavender Farm, Boreas Pond and Capturing the Full Moon Behind Olana. Future field trips are posted on the Photography Connection Meetup Group. To sign-up for this meetup group go to:

<https://www.meetup.com/photography-connection/>

Photography field trips are also shared on the SPS Facebook page and, to members only, through the SPS group email.
Field trips are posted on an on-going basis.

**NOTE: Stay tuned for updates. For 2026, the Photography Connection Meetup Group will be transferring events directly to their Facebook page. Details will be in a future edition of the Focus.*



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

The Traveling Exhibit team is ready for the new season.

October & November

Uncommon Grounds
9 Clifton County Road - Clifton Park, NY 12065
(518) 280-2404

December:

Guiderland Public Library
Helderberg Room
2228 Western Ave. - Guiderland, NY 12084
(518) 456-2400

Uncommon Grounds is hanging. Photos are being collected now for the Guiderland Library exhibit.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please be sure your photos are ready for hanging. The November 2024 issue of the *Focus* included detailed information on the preparation of our traveling exhibits and how to properly prepare photos for hanging in these venues. Check it out here:

https://spsphoto.org/wp-content/uploads/newsletters/2024-2025/Focus_2411.pdf



Thanks go to Bert van Grondelle and his team for their continuing hard work on behalf of SPS.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Our Traveling Exhibit Team (Bert van Grondelle, Jerry Boehm and Rich Schreiberstein)—with help from Alan Wiggins and Joe Cotroneo—hanging the exhibit at Uncommon Grounds in Clifton Park.



Photos © Linda Tommasulo



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Reception at Uncommon Grounds in Clifton Park, October 23.



Photos © Linda Tommasulo



ASSIGNED TOPICS COMPETITIONS

Once again, for the upcoming season, we will have Assigned Topics for Print and Digital.
And, to give you a head start, we've announced the Assigned Topics for next season as well!

Digital images may be submitted on our website:

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/upload-projected/>.

See the following page for details on submitting entries for both Print and Digital Competitions.

Deadline for submission of digital images is midnight on Saturday (Sunday am)
before the competition date—no exceptions!

ASSIGNED TOPICS: 2025-2026 SEASON

IMPORTANT NOTE: 2025-2026 Assigned Topics must have been taken on or after May 1, 2025.

PRINT ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Doors and/or Windows**

November: **Still Life**

December: **Water**

January: **Architecture**

February: **Abstract**

March: **Landscape**

April: **Animal**

DIGITAL ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Reflections**

November: **Circles**

December: **Fall Colors**

January: **Patterns**

February: **Primary Colors**

March: **City Scenes**

April: **Shadows**

ASSIGNED TOPICS: 2026-2027 SEASON

IMPORTANT NOTE: 2026-2027 Assigned Topics must have been taken on or after June 1, 2025.

PRINT ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Composite**

November: **Symmetry**

December: **Everyday Objects**

January: **Nature**

February: **Multiple Exposure**

March: **Winter**

April: **Silhouettes**

DIGITAL ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Fruit and/or Vegetable**

November: **Barns**

December: **Standing Out**

January: **Car Details**

February: **Intentional Camera
Movement**

March: **Sunrise, Sunset and/or
Sunburst**

April: **Bridges**

PRINT AND DIGITAL COMPETITIONS

2025-2026 SEASON

For the 2025-2026 season we will again hold print competitions in person at First United Methodist Church. Digital Competitions will continue on Zoom. Both will have an Assigned Topic component.

PRINT COMPETITIONS:

With the exception of our opening meeting, Print competitions will be held on the first Wednesday of the month. As many of you know, making a print is an art in itself...choosing the size and the paper are just as important as composition.

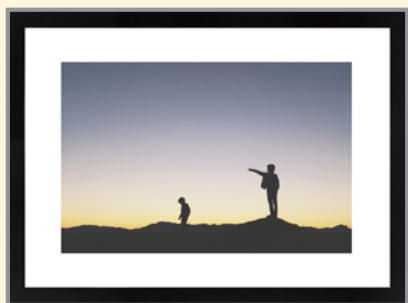
Members may submit up to **four (4)** images in our Print Competitions. Categories will include General (i.e., color), Monochrome and Assigned Topic. You may submit up to **(2) in any category**. For example, two in Monochrome and one each in Assigned Topic and General.

Prints must measure at least 5" x 7" or a maximum of 18" x 24". They can be matted and displayed on mat board, foam core or stretched canvas. Mounts must be a minimum of 8" x 10" and may not exceed 18" x 24".

Prints **MUST** include an Entry Card affixed to the back in the upper left corner. For your convenience, a copy of the Print Competition Entry Card (4-up) is included on the following page.

We hope you will consider entering prints this season. ***Check out the Print Competition Rules on our website for additional details.***

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/print/print-competition-rules/>



With new members joining every month, this page will repeat in each issue of the *Focus*.



DIGITAL COMPETITIONS:

We will be continuing our Digital Competitions on Zoom. With the exception of our opening meeting, Digital Competitions will be held on the second Wednesday of the month. As with prints, Digital Competitions will contain three categories: General (i.e., color), Monochrome and Assigned Topic. Participants may enter a total of **four (4)** images, with a maximum of **two (2) in any category**.

Digital images should be jpeg, sRGB color space and sized no more than 2400 pixels wide and no more than 1800 pixels high. Maximum file size is 10MB.

Check out our website for details on preparing your images for Digital Competition:

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/digital-image-preparation-guidelines/>

Details on Digital Competition Rules can be found here:

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/digital-image-competition-rules/>

Paid/active members will be supplied with a Zoom link a day or two prior to the meeting.

REMEMBER THAT:

Alternative processes, composites, and manipulations are allowed.

Major elements in a print must be the maker's own work and the majority of the elements must be photographic in nature.



PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARDS

You may enter a total of three (3) prints,
with a maximum of two (2) in any one category:

Assigned Topic
General/Color
Monochrome

Print sizes: Minimum 5" x 7" up to Maximum 16" x 20"

For complete rules:
[https://spsphoto.org/programs/
print/competition-rules/](https://spsphoto.org/programs/print/competition-rules/)

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARD

(Affix to upper left corner of back of print)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Month (Circle Month): _____ Year: _____

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Print Category (Select One):

☐ Assigned Topic

☐ General/Color

☐ Monochrome

PLACE:

1st 2nd

3rd 4th

5th HM _____
Entry #

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARD

(Affix to upper left corner of back of print)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Month (Circle Month): _____ Year: _____

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Print Category (Select One):

☐ Assigned Topic

☐ General/Color

☐ Monochrome

PLACE:

1st 2nd

3rd 4th

5th HM _____
Entry #

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARD

(Affix to upper left corner of back of print)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Month (Circle Month): _____ Year: _____

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Print Category (Select One):

☐ Assigned Topic

☐ General/Color

☐ Monochrome

PLACE:

1st 2nd

3rd 4th

5th HM _____
Entry #

HOW DO OUR COMPETITIONS ACTUALLY WORK?

Print Competition Rules: <https://spsphoto.org/competitions/print/print-competition-rules/>

Digital Competition Rules: <https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/digital-image-competition-rules/>

Do you wonder why your images have to be in by Saturday midnight before the competition? Well, our Digital Chair, Sean Sullivan, downloads all of the images and forwards them to Wednesday's judge. This gives the judge a lot of time to review the images, score them and provide valuable critique at our virtual meetings.

You should be aware that this is generally very different from the way other clubs handle competitions. Judges do not get the images in advance. They see them for the first time on competition night (either virtually or live), and must quickly provide a score. Sometimes they are permitted a quick "run through."

The links above detail everything you need to know about how our competitions are run, including scoring:

First Place – 10 Points
Second Place – 7 Points
Third Place – 5 Points
Fourth Place – 3 Points
Fifth Place – 2 Points
Honorable Mention – 1 Point

If the number of entries is 20 or less, first through third places will be awarded. If 21-30 entries are judged, first through fourth places will be awarded. If more than 30, first through fifth places will be awarded.

The number of honorable mentions awarded is at the discretion of the judges and may not exceed the number of places awarded.

Note that once entered, you are giving SPS permission to publish your images in our newsletter and on the website. Copyright remains with the photographer.

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRIES

For both Print and Digital, members are permitted to enter a total of four (4) images, two (2) in any one category.

Images that receive a winning place or an honorable mention may not be re-entered in any subsequent monthly Digital Image Group or Print Group competitions in perpetuity (that means forever!). This does not exclude them from any "special" competitions that may be held.

Once your images are submitted you will receive an email confirmation. This is a great opportunity

to check whether or not your images were entered in the proper month and category.

It is important that digital images be sized correctly for viewing. Specific instructions can be found on the SPS website here:

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/digital-image-preparation-guidelines/>

End of Year is handled differently. Members who participated in digital competitions during the season will receive an email with their submissions from which they can choose those to be entered. Rule links in the page heading provide details.

WHY COMPETE?

Win, lose or draw, participating in competitions gives you an opportunity to share your work with fellow SPS members. It also provides you (hopefully) with valuable input on how to make your images better and improve your photography.

And, the best part...it gets you out and shooting.

Assigned Topics especially get you photographing out of your comfort zone.

We hope to see more members participating this season.

JOIN ~~LIKE~~ US ON FACEBOOK!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/152200768242>

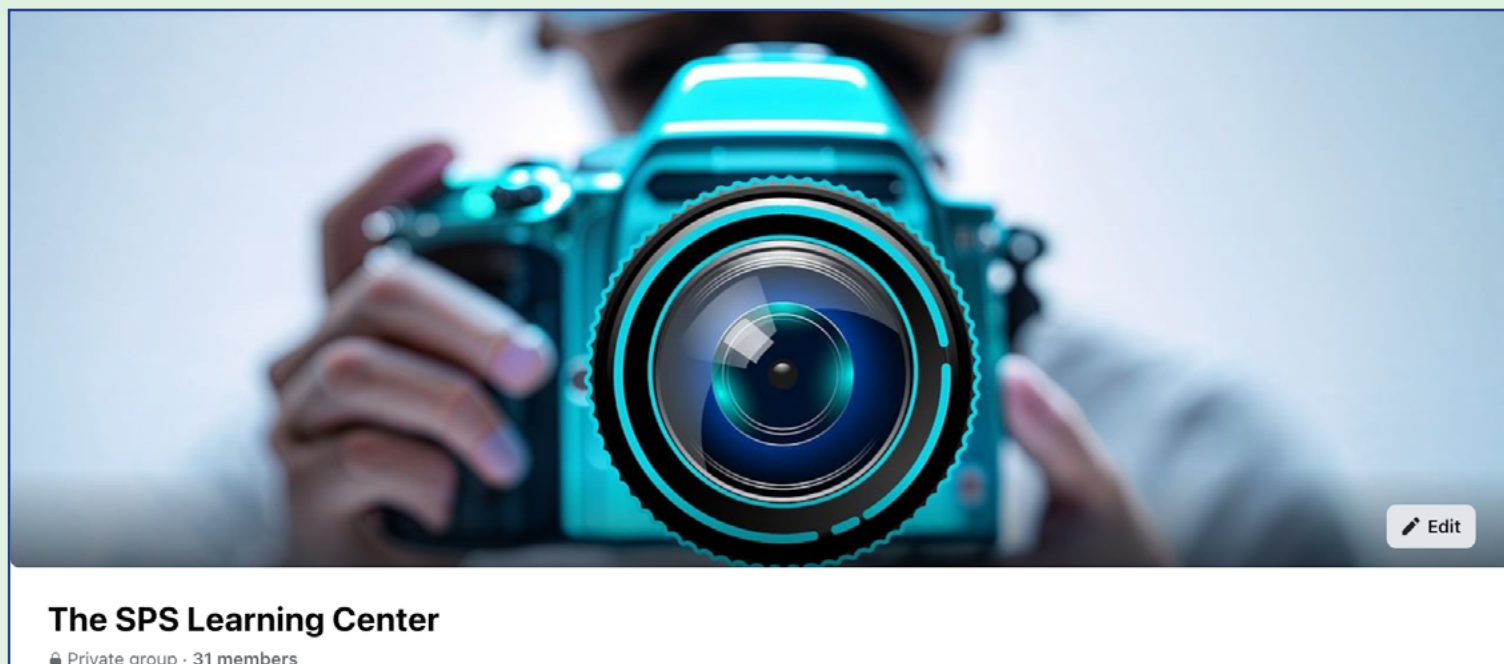
Our “regular” SPS Facebook group (now renamed to “Schenectady Photographic Society FB Group”) is open to all interested photographers. Participants must request permission to join. It’s a great forum for all things relating to photography.



<https://www.facebook.com/schenectadyphotographicsociety>

Our “community” SPS Facebook page is where we post notifications, events, etc.

OUR NEW-SPS MEMBERS ONLY-FACEBOOK GROUP “THE SPS LEARNING CENTER”

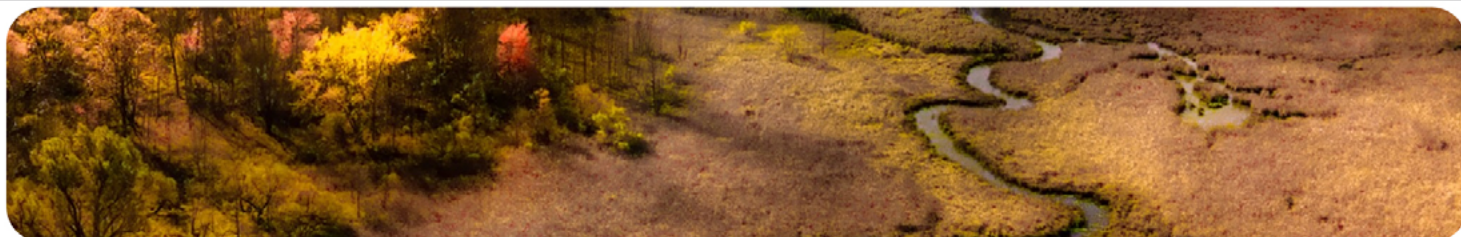


A new benefit of membership: a forum to share photography-related information, post images for critique and more.

If you haven't joined yet, now is the time!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1073846327661737>

FOLLOW US ON  YouTube



Schenectady Photographic Society

@SchenectadyPhotoSociety • 41 subscribers • 81 videos

Photoessays and other short videos from the Schenectady Photographic Society. [Feel f...more](#)

spsphoto.org

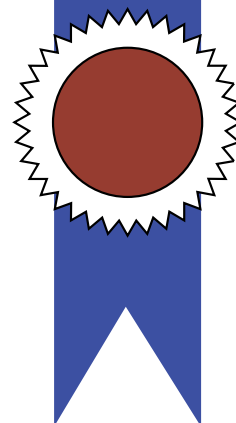
We hope to have our YouTube channel up-to-date soon,
Only SPS Members will be able to access Event Night presentations.

<https://www.youtube.com/@SchenectadyPhotoSociety/videos>

OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS
Topic: Doors and/or Windows



First Place:
"Open Here"
© Linda Tommasulo



3rd Place:
"Afternoon Break"
© Paula Keefe

OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS

Topic: Doors and/or Windows

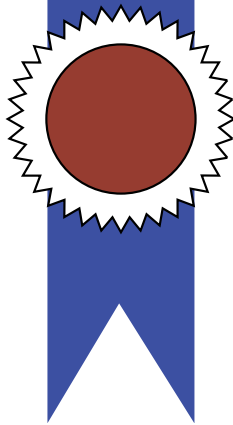


2nd Place:
"Simplicity"
© Janice Prichett

Judge: Evan Lauber has been a professional photographer for over 30 years, and has personally trained hundreds of photographers. Evan has photographed models, celebrities, and actors all over the United States and in Europe. His work has appeared on international best selling book covers, award winning CD covers, fashion magazine ads, several of his own calendars, and some of the finest web sites. Evan immerses his imagination and artistic vision with classic techniques while also developing new techniques as needed. Evans work is powerful with a refreshing distinct look, often showcasing models in a new light.

<http://www.photosbyevan.com/>

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OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS

Topic: Doors and/or Windows



SCHENECTADY STOCKADE HISTORIC DISTRICT



Honorable Mention:
"Schenectady Stockade Historic District"
© Joe Cotroneo

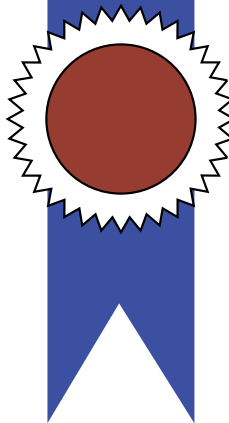


Honorable Mention:
"Ready to Ride"
© Connie Frisbee Houde



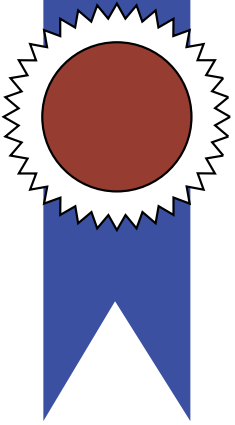
Honorable Mention:
"Troy Gasholder Building"
© Dan Steen

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OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS

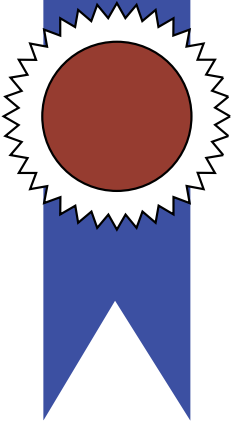
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First Place:
"Nature's Spectacle"
© Neil Shapiro

OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS

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2nd Place:
"St. Lawrence Lighthouse"
© Paula Keefe



3rd Place:
"Crack of Dawn"
© Janice Prichett

OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS

GENERAL



Honorable Mention:
"Saratoga Turn"
© Richard Long



Honorable Mention:
"Saratoga AM"
© Richard Long

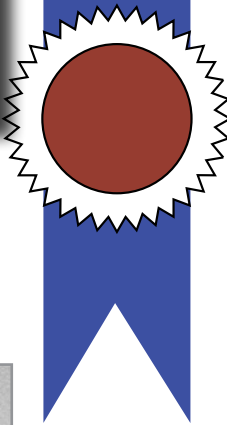


Honorable Mention:
"Approaching the Domo"
© Connie Frisbee Houde

OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS



MONOCHROME



First Place:
"Cypress Sentries"
© Connie Frisbee Houde



2nd Place:
"Aliens"
© Neil Shapiro

OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS



3rd Place:
"Skateboarder in
Washington Square Park"
© Alan Wiggins

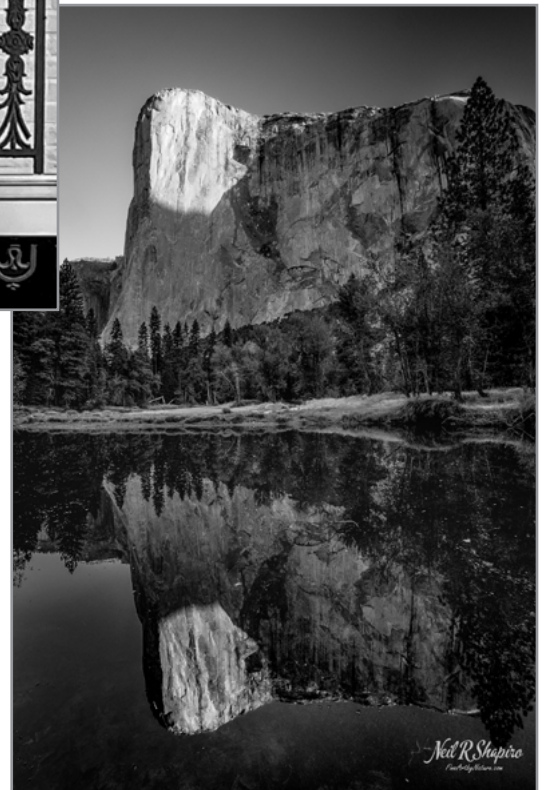
Honorable Mention:
"Iron and Shadows"
© Nancy Pfunter



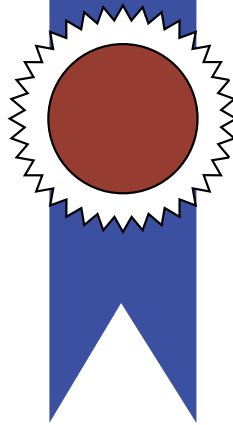
Honorable Mention:
"Rockefeller Peony"
© Linda Tommasulo



Honorable Mention:
"Good Morning
El Capitan"
© Neil Shapiro



MONOCHROME



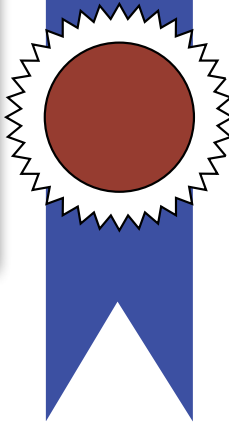
OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL

Topic: Reflections

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First Place:
"Comin' and Goin'"
© Linda Tommasulo



2nd Place:
"Echoes of Morning"
© Neil Shapiro

OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL

Topic: Reflections

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3rd Place:
"Chicago Reflections"
© Nancy Pfuntner



4th Place:
"Sunset's Mirror"
© Elena Keesee

Judge: Lisa Cuchara

Lisa and her husband, Tom, are the "Dynamic Duo" of Photography. They love any chance to take photographs and Teach/Mentor/Motivate. They relish the opportunity to inspire with their "Creativity is contagious, pass it on" philosophy and our "Don't shoot what it looks like, shoot what it feels like" approach.

Tom and Lisa are both OM SYSTEM (formerly Olympus) Ambassadors. They specialize in decorating homes with nature and UrbEx art. We enjoy taking "straight out of camera" photographs and equally enjoy creating ART from our photographs. Both allow us to capture the moment as our mind's eye sees it.

They love to teach photography and editing classes, and we lead photo tours and workshops. We offer a variety of photography classes for photographers of all levels.

<http://www.lisaandtomphotography.com/>

OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL

Topic: Reflections



Honorable Mention:
"Hot Air Balloon Reflections"
© Alan Wiggins

Honorable Mention:
"Fluid Geometry"
© Elena Keesee



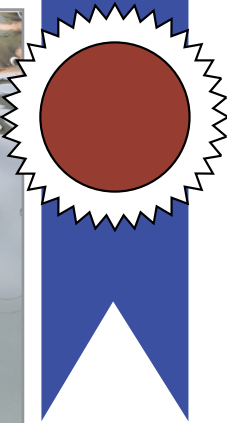
Honorable Mention:
"Manhattan"
© Linda Tommasulo



Honorable Mention:
"Carl with Camera"
© Janice Prichett



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OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL

GENERAL



First Place:
"Quilt"
© Kim Koza



2nd Place:
"Beautiful Patina"
© Bill Lanahan

OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL

GENERAL



3rd Place:
"Beneath the Pines"
© Zac Baldwin

4th Place:
"Nature's Trail Blazer"
© Linda Tommasulo



OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL

GENERAL

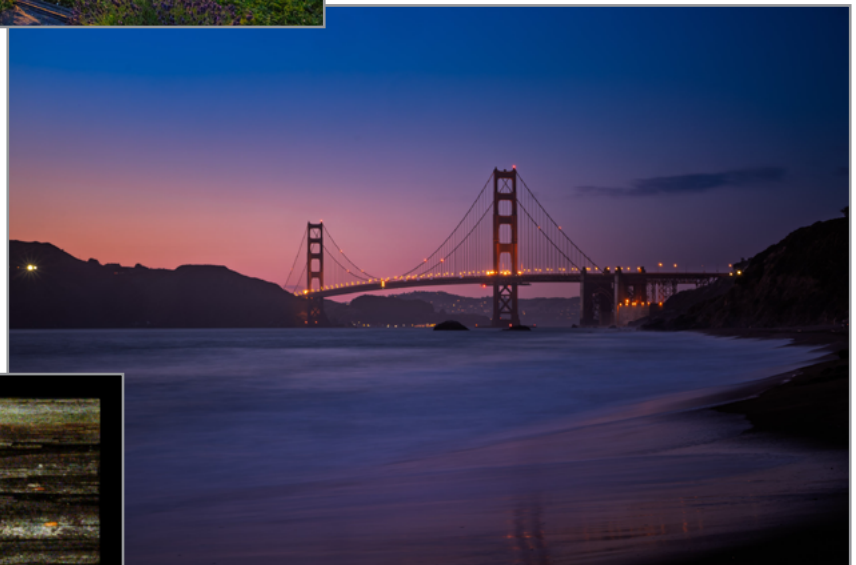


Honorable Mention:
"My Treasures"
© Sharon Silversmith



Honorable Mention:
"Lavender Starburst"
© Janice Prichett

Honorable Mention:
"Bridge Between
Daylight and Dreams"
© Neil Shapiro

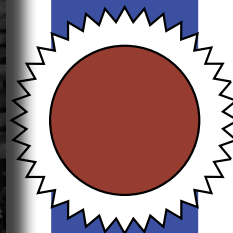


Honorable Mention:
"Autumn Leaf on Dock"
© Ron Sager

OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL



MONOCHROME



First Place:

"Throne Away From Home"

© Linda Tommasulo



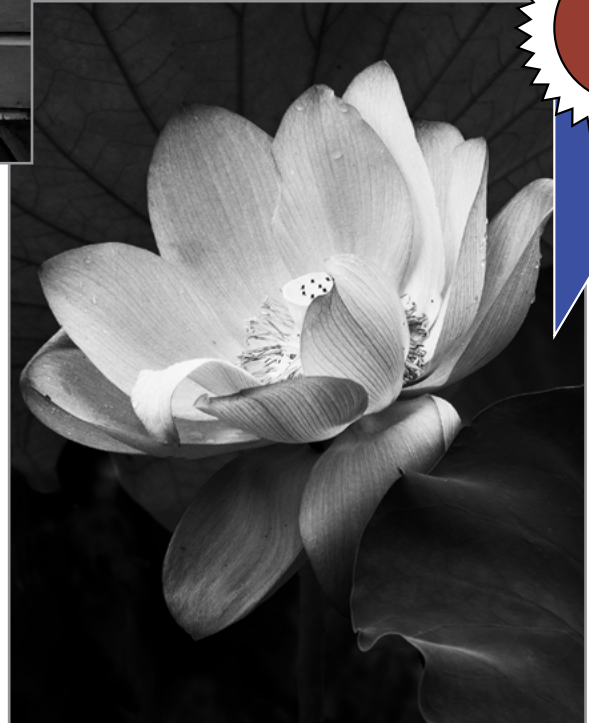
2nd Place:
"Silent Vortex"
© Neil Shapiro

OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL



3rd Place:
"It Took a Long Time to Look Like This"
© Phil Olivo

Honorable Mention:
"Lotus"
© Jina Mao

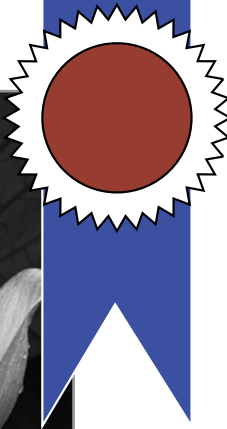


Honorable Mention:
"Receding Tide"
© Bill Lanahan

Honorable Mention:
"Reflections in Black and White"
© Sharon Silversmith



MONOCHROME



**NOT A MEMBER OF SPS YET?
JOIN (OR RENEW)YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY**



SEASON STARTED WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025.

Membership:

Individual: \$60 / Family (Same Address): \$75 / Student: \$25

**NOTE: All members will be supplied with links to meeting recordings
(unless prohibited by the presenter).**

These links SHOULD NOT be shared to non-members.

**Check out the season calendar on the last page and see what you're going to miss
if you're not a member!**

Click here to join/renew:

<https://spsphoto.org/join-the-schenectady-photographic-society/>

ABOUT THE SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



For 90+ years, the Schenectady Photographic Society has been the meeting place of photographers of all levels—from beginners to serious amateurs to professionals—with the goal of exploring and sharing their love of photography. Members throughout the Capital Region (and beyond, thanks to Zoom!) meet on Wednesday nights to engage in various competitions (digital, photo essay and more), share their vision with like-minded photographers, enjoy guest speaker presentations and other member benefits to further their knowledge, creativity and inspiration.

As part of our monthly competitions, we are challenged with an assigned topic—encouraging participants to venture out of their comfort zones. Members participating in competitions receive specific commentary and suggestions to take their images to the next level. Don't wish to compete? That's OK too. Observing competitions is always inspirational and a great learning opportunity.

With COVID behind us, we are meeting again in person (see calendar on the last page of this newsletter). And you can join us on Field Trips organized by the Photography Connection Meetup. Stay up-to-date with SPS on our website: [www/spsphoto.org](http://www.spsphoto.org).

The Schenectady Photographic Society is an enthusiastic and energetic group. Our camaraderie is infectious.

*It's not about being better than everyone else...
it's about being better than you were.*

SPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

President Alan Wiggins
president@spsphoto.org

Vice President Linda Tommasulo
vp@spsphoto.org

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treasurer@spsphoto.org

Recording Secretary Paula Keefe
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Newsletter Editor Linda Tommasulo
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Webmaster & Annual Report Editor... Sean Sullivan
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Membership Chair Open
membership@spsphoto.org

Print Group Joe Cotroneo
printchair@spsphoto.org

Digital Group..... Sean Sullivan & Alan Wiggins
digitalchair@spsphoto.org

Photo Essay OPEN

Judge Coordinator Neil Shapiro
judging@spsphoto.org

Communications..... Linda Tommasulo
& Sean Sullivan
communications@spsphoto.org

Field Trips..... [https://www.meetup.com/
photography-connection/](https://www.meetup.com/photography-connection/)

LUBA RICKET CREATIVITY COORDINATOR
Joan Heffler

TRAVELING EXHIBIT COORDINATORS
Bert van Grondelle, Jerry Boehm,
Rich Schreiberstein, M-J Adelman
travelingexhibit@spsphoto.org

REFRESHMENT COORDINATORS
Judy Breslau & John Ogden



Connect with the Schenectady Photographic Society:

Website: <https://spsphoto.org/>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/152200768242>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/schenectadyp photographic society>

Members Only Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1073846327661737>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@SchenectadyPhotoSociety/videos>



With new members joining every month,
this page will repeat in each issue of the *Focus*.

THE FOCUS NEEDS YOU! For articles, suggestions,
and member profiles (Focus on: YOU!).
Contact Linda at newsletter@spsphoto.org.

SPS 2025-2026 SEASON COMPETITION JUDGES

This is the schedule of judges for the season.
Note that, depending upon availability, this may change prior to the competition dates.

October, 2025

10/15/25**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Doors and/or Windows

JUDGE: EVAN LAUBER

<https://www.sphotosbyevan.com>

10/22/25**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Reflections

JUDGE: LISA CUCHARA

<http://www.lisaandtomphotography.com/>

November, 2025

11/5/25**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Still Life

JUDGE: FRANK RAPANT

<https://www.frankrapant.photography/>

11/12/25**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Circles

JUDGE: TOM CUCHARA

<http://www.lisaandtomphotography.com/>

December, 2025

12/3/25**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Water

JUDGE: FRED NEUDOERFFER

<https://neustudios.com/>

12/10/25**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Fall Colors

JUDGE: BUTCH MAZZUCA

<https://butchmazzuca.com/>

January, 2026

1/7/26**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Architecture

JUDGE: STEPHANIE PALAZEKE

<http://www.stephaniepalazeke.com>

1/14/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Patterns

JUDGE: CHRIS MURRAY

<https://www.chrismurrayphotography.com/>

February, 2026

2/4/26**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Abstract

JUDGE: RICHARD LOVRICH

<https://www.studiolovrich.com/>

February, 2026 (Cont'd.)

2/11/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Primary Colors

JUDGE: JOHANNA SIEGMANN

<http://www.johannasiegmann.com/>

March, 2026

3/4/26**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Landscape

JUDGE: DAVID FINGERHUT

<https://davidbfingerhut.zenfolio.com/>

3/11/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: City Scenes

JUDGE: LIESL WALSH

<https://www.lieslwalsh.com/>

3/18/26**PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION @ FUMC**

JUDGE: CINDY SCHULTZ

<https://cindyschultz.photoshelter.com/index>

April, 2026

4/8/26**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Animal

JUDGE: HANNAH ZEL

<https://www.hannahzelphotos.com/>

4/15/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Shadows

JUDGE: NIKKI McDONALD

<https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/nikolynmcdonaldphotography/shop/framed+prints>

4/22/26**LUBA RICKET CREATIVE
COMPETITION @ FUMC**

JUDGE: LAWRENCE WHITE

<https://www.lawrencewhiteartwork.com/>

May, 2026

5/6/26**PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR @ FUMC**

JUDGES: DINO PETROCELLI

<https://www.dinopetrocelliphoto.com/>

RICHARD LOVRICH

<https://www.studiolovrich.com/>

5/13/26**DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom**

JUDGES: NICK PALMIERI

<https://nicholas-palmieri.pixels.com/>

ELLEN STEIN

SPS 2025-2026 SEASON CALENDAR

For Assigned Topics, images must have been taken on or after May 1, 2025.

Deadline for submission of digital images is midnight on Saturday (Sunday am) before the competition date—no exceptions!

Meetings start at 7pm. For Zoom meetings, members will receive appropriate link to sign in via email.

This schedule is always a work in progress and is subject to change!

September , 2025

9/24/25..... OPENING DAY@ FUMC
Bring a favorite photo (print or digital)
to share and discuss

October, 2025

10/1/25..... NO MEETING (YOM KIPPUR)
10/8/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Alan Shapiro: Creative Still Life
10/15/25PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Doors and/or Windows
10/22/25DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Reflections
10/29/25 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Joe Brady - Taking Your Images From Good to Great

November, 2025

11/5/25.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Still Life
11/12/25DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Circles
11/19/25 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Rad Drew - Getting the Most & Best from your iPhone
Camera
11/26/25NO MEETING (THANKSGIVING)

December, 2025

12/3/25.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Water
12/10/25DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Fall Colors
12/17/25 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Jeff Perkins - Street Portraiture
12/24/25NO MEETING (CHRISTMAS EVE)
12/31/25 NO MEETING (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

January, 2026

1/7/26.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Architecture
1/14/26.....DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Patterns
1/21/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Ray Schneider: Intentional Composition
1/28/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Connie Frisbee Houde: Travel Photography -
Phone vs. Full Gear, Italy and Central Asia

February, 2026

2/4/26..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Abstract
2/11/26..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Primary Colors
2/18/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
M-J Adelman: Polar Bears, Arctic Wildlife &
Norway Highlights
2/25/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Hazel Meredith: Getting Creative with
Smart Photo Editor

March, 2026

3/4/26..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Landscape
3/11/26..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: City Scenes
3/18/26..... PHOTO ESSAYS @ FUMC
Constructive Critique by Cindy Schultz
3/25/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Caroline Preece: Street Photography - How to
Feel the Fear, Do it Anyway and Get Great Images

April, 2026

4/1/26..... NO MEETING (PASSOVER)
4/8/26..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Animal
4/15/26..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Shadows
4/22/26..... LUBA RICKET CREATIVE
COMPETITION @ FUMC
Judge: Lawrence White
4/29/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Butch Mazzuca: Beyond the Rule of Thirds

May, 2026

5/6/26.....PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR @ FUMC
5/13/26.... DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom

June, 2026SPS AWARDS BANQUET
Date: TBA

**HAVE A SAFE, ENJOYABLE
AND PHOTOGENIC SUMMER!**