



The Reflector



Delaware Photographic Society www.delawarephotographicsociety.org
Volume 61, Issue 3

April 2009

Another Perspective



Graham Willis (rt), President, Watford (England) Camera Club and Andy Robertson, VP, attended the opening of the 76th Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography. Photo by Lynn Maniscalco

Another Perspective highlights different features of our organization. This month, DPS-Exchange Coordinator and Moderator, Mark Pfeifer, describes the benefits of this online forum.

DPS-Exchange is the online user community of, and by, DPS members. Hosted by Yahoo Groups, DPS-Exchange provides a way to benefit from the experience of DPS members. Membership is open to all current DPS members and there is no cost for the service.

What kinds of messages get posted? Looking at recent activity, there have been messages about trying to decide which camera to buy, for-sale offers for a printer and a lens, announcements of

competitions, and several questions about printing. Members have used DPS-Exchange to request comments and suggestions on their images, pass on deals that they've found on gear and supplies, and announce gallery shows.

How does it work? Once you join DPS-Exchange, you'll be able to send mail to the group's e-mail address (DPS-Exchange@yahoogroups.com). Any message sent there goes out to all of the members of DPS-Exchange. If you want to comment, just reply to the message and your reply goes to all members. This may

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Annual Photo Show Competition

April 27 • 7 pm

Don't miss this opportunity to view some excitingly diverse visual presentations at the annual DPS Photo Show competition. And, for entrants, this is an opportunity to expand creativity and experimentation, to stimulate visual senses, and to employ the sound feature of a photo show, thereby increasing the emotional impact of photography.

Entry deadline: Monday, April 20. In addition to all entry form submissions, those entering digital Projected Image categories must also present their completed Photo Show CD, DVD or USB drives so that presentations can be preloaded into the club computer. More detail is provided in the Rules and Entry Form available online and at meetings. Please note that the competition will begin 30 minutes early at 7pm. See you at Photo Show time!

Calendar of Events

• **April 6**

Deadline for April 13
projected image entries
7:30pm – Instruction Night

• **April 13**

7:30pm—Projected Image

• **April 18**

10am-3pm – Swap Meet (pg. 2)

• **April 20**

7:30pm – Print Competition

• **April 25**

DVCCC, Spring Foto Fling (pg.3)

• **April 27**

7 pm – Photo Show Competition

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The Delaware Camera Club (DCC) was established January 28, 1931. DCC is a charter member of the Photographic Society of America and The Delaware Valley Council of Camera Clubs. In 2002 the name was changed to the Delaware Photographic Society (DPS) and the Society became a tax deductible educational organization.

Another Perspective

(Continued from page 1)

sound like a lot of mail, but as a relatively low-volume group DPS-Exchange messages won't fill your inbox.

DPS-Exchange members who have Yahoo IDs can also access the web features of the group. Many of the Instruction Night information sheets are available through the Files section. There is also a Photos section, where you can share photos for comment and view other

users' photos.

I'd like to invite all DPS members to give the DPS-Exchange a try. The strength of the group is in its members — more members give us more experience to draw from. Instructions on how to join can be found on the DPS Web site <http://delawarephotographicsociety.org/exchange/>. If you try it and decide that DPS-Exchange isn't for you, unsubscribing is simple.

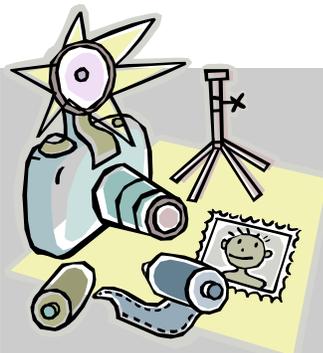
Mark Pfeifer, Coordinator/Moderator

Watford International Salon

For the seventh year, DPS has been invited to participate in the Watford International Salon of Photography organized by the Watford (England) Camera Club. Along with Watford, DPS will compete against 8 other clubs from Mainz, Germany; Adelaide, Australia; Dijon France; Nanterre, France; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Zagreb, Croatia; Novgorod, Russia; and Pesaro, Italy. It is interesting to note that we are the only club invited from the US.

The DPS has taken first place twice out of this distinguished list of competitors. Let's do it again.

Please submit 2 digital images to Bob Coffey at bobcoffey@aol.com by April 20. Note that the maximum dimensions are 1400 pixels in width and 1050 pixels in height (SXGA), which is larger than those for our monthly competition. They should be in JPEG format. A total of 10 images will be selected and sent to Watford for judging on April 30.



Swap Meet

April 18 • 10am–3pm • Free admission
Cokesbury Village, duPont Pavilion

DPS will host another popular swap meet event on April 18. Take the opportunity to sell unwanted equipment or purchase a "must have" item. Tables are free to DPS members and \$10 to non-members. To reserve a table, contact Bud Easler at 610.444.2581 / aeasler3@verizon.net or Paul Stambaugh at 302.239.5764 / prslw@comcast.net by April 15. Spread the word and invite anyone who might be interested in photographic-related equipment.

Instruction Night Schedule



Instruction Night sessions are held on the first Monday of the month, October–May in the Cokesbury duPont Pavilion at 7:30 pm.

- April 6: *Camera Handling and Point of View – Photographic Gadgets and Resources*

We only need a simple camera to take a good picture. But then we begin to wonder how to get a better picture in more difficult condi-

tions. How do I protect the camera from weather? How do I carry the camera safely? How can I steady the camera better? What can I do with this great image? A gift for someone perhaps? There are thousands of nifty things available that can help in the picture making process.

On April 6, we will cover *Camera Handling and Point of View* left over from the cancelled March meeting. Then, we will discuss a few of the many helpful photography gadgets available. A list of resources for some of the most useful things will be handed out.

Attendees are encouraged to bring, or briefly talk about, their favorite invaluable device that helps make a better picture.

- May 4: *A Photographer Who Influenced Me*

Vignettes



- Instruction Night is held the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm.

- Competition nights are held on the second and third Mondays at 7:30 pm.

- Program night is the last Monday of the month at 7:30 pm.

- Location: Cokesbury Village, DuPont Pavilion, 726 Loveville Road, Hockessin, DE 19707. Guest speaker programs are presented in the Cokesbury auditorium.

- Membership dues should be addressed to: DPS Treasurer, John Blankenbaker, P.O. Box 120, Chadds Ford, PA 19317. Dues are \$35 for individuals, \$25 for others at the same address, and half the individual for junior or nonresident members. Dues for first-year members are \$20 per person.

- *The Reflector* is published by the Delaware Photographic Society, and printed by Academy Printing. No material may be reproduced without written permission. Contribution deadline is the third Monday of the month. Send announcements or articles to Sharon Coffey at 48 Partridge Lane, Kennett Square, PA 19348 or SESCoffey@aol.com.

- DPS members are encouraged to participate in our Yahoo group, DPS-Exchange. For information, go to DPS-Exchange@yahoo.com

- Visit our Web site at:

www.delawarephotographicsociety.org

Continuing Photoshop Elements

Newark Senior Center

Although the series of Photoshop Elements help sessions at Edgemoor Center concluded at the end of March, hands-on help sessions continue to be held at 7pm on the second Tuesday of every month at the Newark Senior Center. Classes are taught by Pete Lounsbury in Room

2, 200 White Chapel Drive, Newark, DE 19713.

For class information, contact Pete at lounsburyus@comcast.net and for Center directions go to www.newarkseniorcenter.com.

Free weekly Elements classes for beginners will be offered again at Edgemoor in September.

DVCCC Spring Foto Fling –April 25

Don't miss the annual Delaware Valley Council of Camera Club's Spring Foto Fling, Saturday, April 25, from 9 am to 4pm at Maple Shade Municipal Complex, 200 Stiles Ave., Maple Shade, NJ. The all-day

event will feature guest speakers, a showing of the Delaware Valley Travel Exhibition, and much, much more. DPS members qualify for free admission. More information will be available at weekly DPS meetings.



This program is made possible, in part, by grants from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

Focus on Alistair Gillanders

I got my first camera, an Agfa Silette viewfinder 35mm, like most of us probably, from my parents. The only slight twist is that mine was originally purchased by my father on the day I was born...on the way to register my birth! I still have it and it still works...a testament to a non-electronic age. Although, I admit the springs have weakened a little over the years so it over-exposes slightly at slower shutter speeds. This "manual everything" approach meant I learned the craft using Sunny-16, mental arithmetic and gauging the focus distance by eye. It took great pictures...don't let anyone tell you that fancy equipment is a necessity.

I think this "manual" introduction was hugely valuable; I had to learn what it was all about without technology allowing me to be lazy about it. Although being a budding engineer I had the irresistible urge to know how stuff worked anyway...down to optical equations for lenses, mathematical geography for predicting sun/moon azimuth and altitude and the wonderful complexities of additive vs. subtractive color and so on. So I'm a geek...I've come to terms with it...and I haven't changed!

After one of those lulls where photography took a lower priority for a while, I finally joined the works club at the Glaxo factory in the north west of England that I worked at...and rapidly invested in the Minolta X-700 which became my constant companion for many years. Wonder of wonders a "built-in" light meter (it took a while before I was comfortable flying

without a gray card though). I owe a lot to two clubs through the years, and Glaxo was central to my photography for well over a decade (yes, DPS is the other one). I went from relative novice, to regular competitor, to making sufficient income from my hobby to pay for it, and eventually to judging for many local and regional events.



The Mansion House by Alistair Gillanders

Eventually, as technology moved on, I upgraded to a Minolta Dynax auto-focus, and for a long time I hated it. It kept focusing where I pointed it rather than where I wanted it! At this point there was another career-based lull which included my move to the USA amongst other things. When my level of business travel finally eased a bit my other passion in life (sailing) drove me to volunteer as crew on the "Tall Ship of Delaware" the Kalmar Nyckel...and they needed photographs. The rest, as they say, is history; all the old enjoyment resurfaced and I haven't stopped since.

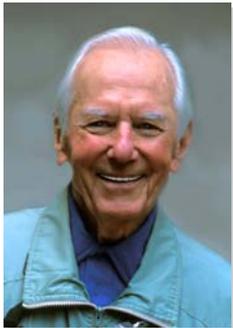
More recently, I took the plunge into digital and now use Nikon equipment. At the same time I switched from PaintShop Pro to

PhotoShop CS for post processing, which I have kept up to date, now being on CS4. The learning curve for PhotoShop is, in my view, unnecessarily high. My job involves software development and we regularly use PhotoShop as an excellent example of how NOT to design a user interface. But why fight city hall, right? And there are signs that they are starting to improve. So, I've made myself relatively expert in Photoshop, and my system now includes all the paraphernalia including a digital tablet (which is seriously cool) so I fight against spending way too much time post-processing! My own preference is for the non-obvious style of editing...however, I can certainly appreciate the skills needed to pull off many of the more "in your face" treatments too.

With DPS I have gotten back into competing in a small way, and I am really enjoying it. Throughout my photographic career I have been something of a generalist; I love to try different things, which may be why I prefer the Assigned Subject competitions. Also, getting the DVCCC medal for monochrome in last year's WIEP didn't exactly hurt my motivation. With my computing background I really should pay more attention to digital too, I suppose; I did manage an acceptance for Projected Image in this year's WIEP. But, at heart, I'm still a print maker.

Recently, I have also found myself turning my computer skills to helping the club with the WIEP database and data processing. How does the curse go..."May you live in interesting times!" ☞

Questions & Answers



*Contributed
monthly by
Erik Kissa*

For more information on photographic equipment and techniques visit me at www.psa-newmember.org, open Consultation Services, and click on Exploring Equipment and its Use.

Q: *New cameras are arriving with a high pixel count. Is there a limit to how far the megapixel race can go?*

A: We may not have reached the end of the pixel number race, but we have certainly reached the practical limit of the number of pixels a sensor can hold. The important factor is the pixel size. A pixel (photosite) converts light to a signal. The signal is amplified and converted to a digital output. The sensitivity of the pixel to light is constant, higher ISO values are achieved merely by more amplification. Unfortunately, amplification increases electronic noise as well.

A large pixel is more sensitive than a small one and needs less amplification. Consequently, a large pixel can reach high ISO values with less noise than a small pixel. If noise is the main consideration, a sensor with a small number of large pixels is the best. On the other hand, the sharpness of the photograph depends on resolution. More pixels mean more resolution. As a result, we have a tradeoff between

low noise at high ISO values and more resolution with more noise. A practical compromise is to have enough resolution for the intended application but no more.

Nikon is offering two, otherwise identical, cameras. The Nikon D3 has a 12.3 MP FX full frame (35 mm) sensor and exceptionally low noise at extremely high ISO values. The Nikon D3x has the same sensor size but has a with a 24.5 MP pixel count for a great resolution but a lower limit of usable ISO values. The choice is yours.

Q: *Which DVDs do you use for the storage of digital images?*

A: I use the Delkin Devices DVD-R Archival Gold, Scratch Armor Disc in Hard Case Valet (Pack of 10 costs \$34.95 from B&H). The storage capacity is 4.7 GB and the durability of stored files is said to exceed 100 years. If this is true, it is unlikely that the software and hardware for reading the discs will exist 100 years from now.

A CD-R is believed to be more reliable than a DVD-R ...

Optical storage is essential for archival storage because a strong electric field created by a thunderstorm can wipe out all magnetic storage on the computer and on external hard drives. A CD-R is believed to be more reliable than a DVD-R because the pits on a DVD-R are closer together than the pits on a CD-R. However, the digital files have grown to be so large that even

a 4.7 GB disc is not large enough and technology is being developed to increase the capacity of DVDs.

Q: *The zoom range of the lenses you have recommended is not long enough for me. The Nikon 70-300mm f/4-5.6 AF D zoom I have is not good optically and too short. I would like to get out to 400 mm.*

A: I agree that the 70-300mm f/4-5.6 AF D lens you have is a light weight version with mediocre optics. The Nikon 70-300mm f/4.5-5.6 VR AF lens is a much better lens. Quite sharp up to 200mm but only acceptable at 300mm. The new lens is heavier than the old one you have [25.6 oz (745 g) vs. 18.7 oz. (530 g)] and the filter size is larger (67mm. vs. 62mm).

The Nikon 80-400mm f/4.5-5.6 VR lens is quite sharp up to 135mm. The AF is slow and the distortion is high by modern standards (1.25%) at the long end. The weight is 49 ounces (slightly over 3 pounds). The tripod collar is detachable and the price of the lens is \$1370. This is the oldest VR lens and the stabilization is not as effective as in later lenses.

Sigma has a stabilized APO 120-400mm f/4.5-5.6 DG OS lens. The sharpness is very good in the 120-250mm range but decreases at the 400mm end. The weight is 60 ounces, almost four pounds. The tripod collar is removable but can serve as a grip for hand holding. The image stabilization is not quite effective as the Canon IS or the Nikon VR. The reviews are very favorable, except for the weight of the lens.

(Continued on page 6)

Questions & Answers

(Continued from page 5)

The price is \$755.

The Sigma 150-500mm f/5.0-6.3 APO HSM OS (\$879), weight 4.2 lbs, is used by wildlife photographers. The lens is sharp in the 150 to 400mm range, somewhat soft at 500mm. The March 2009 PSA Journal shows beautiful pictures taken with this lens.

I use the 70-200mm Nikon VR lens with the 1.4x tele-extender and have a constant f-number 4.0 at 280mm! This is the 420mm equivalent of 35mm film and as long as I need to go.

Q: *I have four manual focus Nikon lenses, including the 2.8/105mm Micro-Nikkor. Can manual focus lenses be used on a digital Nikon camera?*

A: Manual focus Nikon AI, AI-S, or Series E lenses can be used on digital Nikon cameras, without autofocus and, except for the pro oriented cameras, without exposure metering.

The lack of autofocus is not a serious problem. Photography existed before autofocus was invented. For static subjects, such as landscapes, macrophotography, portraits, and flowers, manual focusing is actually the preferred mode. The electronic focusing aid makes the camera work like a rangefinder camera. Sometimes manual focusing is faster than autofocus and more precise. Except for sports and fast moving subjects, autofocus is not essential.

The lack of through-the-lens exposure metering and flash control is a more serious problem. Exposure metering for manual focus lenses is

available only in the Nikon cameras with the "full frame" FX sensor and the top-of-the-line DX cameras (Nikon 300 or the discontinued D200 and D2x). The other Nikon digital SLR cameras need a handheld exposure meter. This is not the end of photography, however. The pros and the serious photographers use handheld meters. The most accurate metering is done with two readings, one for the reflected light mode and the other for incident light. This is a slower procedure than metering in the camera, but not hopelessly so. If a handheld meter is not available, the histogram of the camera can show approximately the proper exposure. An experienced photographer can make a guess and look at the histogram of the captured image. If the first exposure is off, the second exposure will be close enough for a correction in the RAW mode.

The built-in flash works only in the manual mode, which can be selected in the camera menu.

The Nikon D300 is the most convenient and capable choice for manual focus lenses. If the D300 exceeds the financial limits, a new or used Nikon D200 is a lower cost solution. The discontinued D200, built for professional use, can meter manual lenses, but, unlike the D300, does not have sensor cleaning, and the LCD screen is smaller and less bright.

A practical compromise is to buy a Nikon D90 with the 18-55mm autofocus kit lens and use manual lenses either with a handheld meter or depend on the histogram in the camera. The D90 has several features borrowed from the D300, such as the 3" LCD panel and a sensor

cleaning system. For a limited budget, the Nikon D60 is a low cost option with a pentamirror viewfinder, a 2.5" LCD panel, no depth-of-field preview, no video mode, and no Live View.

I have found that the Nikon D90 with a manual focus lens is fun to use. The very sharp Nikon 75-150mm f/3.5 was the favorite lens in fashion photography years ago. I used the lens at 150mm f/8 to take the picture, below, of a bird on a feeder covered with snow.



Using manual focus lenses on a digital camera is not like going back twenty years. The electronic rangefinder is easier to use than the microprism focusing aid of older years. The ISO values can be changed without having to switch films. A picture taken can be immediately examined on the LCD panel. Instead of having to pay for a roll of 36 exposures, the digital capture is free. Hundreds of exposures do not cost anything.

To sell the manual focus lenses on e-Bay would be a desperate move. The old lenses are worth more than their price on the used lens market.
Erik Kissa

Send questions to ekissa@aol.com

Pollinators at Work in Longwood Gardens



Bee by John Toutkaldjian

The juried exhibit, *Pollinators at Work*, is a collection of images by DPS members that emphasizes the role of honeybees, bumblebees, and other insects in the pollination of agricultural and horticultural crops. DPS member and horticulturist, Peter Lindtner, was instrumental in arranging this exhibit. Peter reminds us that the activity of honeybees represents the most beautiful marriage in nature between the world of plants and animals. The cross-pollination of flowers by bees perpetuates the continuity of plant species, and plants provide bees with nectar and

pollen for food. He reminds us that, "A picture is worth a thousand words...and these photographs truly reflect the importance of bees for nature and mankind."

Photographs will be on display from April 1 to May 29. An admission fee is not required to view the photographs in the Visitor Center. Garden hours are from 9am–6pm daily.

For additional information on Longwood Gardens events, go to www.longwoodgardens.org.

Newark Arts Alliance –Too Big to Fail?

Contributed by Jeff Smith

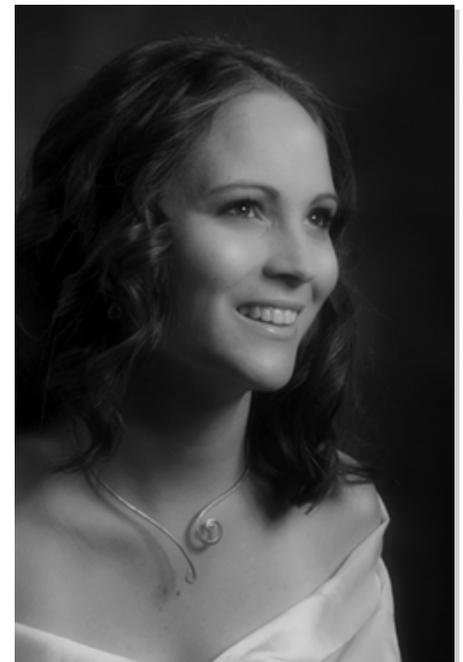
Some of you may know that, in addition to having been an officer of the DPS multiple times and serving on the board for many years, I am also a member of the board and current president of the Newark Arts Alliance.

I am pleased that, at my urging, the DPS has joined the Arts Alliance as an organizational member. I am writing here to encourage you to participate as individuals in your local arts organizations. Grant funding is being slashed, sales are sluggish, and organizations like the Arts Alliance are endangered, and desperately need your support.

In the interest of brevity, I won't attempt to list the many ways in

which the Newark Arts Alliance impacts the quality of life around Newark, and the many other organizations providing similar functions around the area. Please visit www.newarkartsalliance.org if you wish an overview. Among other benefits, members of the Alliance receive discounts from area merchants; monthly newsletters detailing area arts events, opportunities, and news; discounts on our classes and ticketed events; the opportunity to submit work for sale in our members' gallery shop; greater commissions on work sold; and most importantly to me, the opportunity to interact with wonderfully talented people.

I don't know about banks and insurance companies, but the arts are too big to fail.



Mary 1 by Pete Lounsbury
March high-scoring monochrome print

Member News

• Emily Reed had three photos, *Icy Sunrise*, *The Grand Canal*, and *Eye to Eye*, included in the Oxford (PA) Arts Alliance exhibit of photography held in March. Emily's photo, *Lums Pond*, is currently being displayed in two prestigious Delaware art exhibitions. It was also recently included in the DPS Wilmington International Exhibit of Photography. The photo is a High Dynamic Range (HDR) image which was produced by blending five "bracketed" images. Bracketed images are different exposure levels which, when combined, reveal many more colors and tones than simple photographs.

• Gayle Dolinger, Dee Langevin, Emily Reed, and Rob Tuttle received acceptances in the Biggs Shot 2009 Competition at the Biggs Museum of American Art in Dover. The exhibit runs through June 28. More information on page 12.

• One of Bob Hunt's photographs from the Pro Cycling Tour 2008 was selected as the cover photo for the race issue of *Liberty Sports Magazine*, circulation 50,000. Bob was one of 30 volunteer photographers that covered the 2008 event in Philadelphia.



Michele by Helen Gerstein
March high-scoring Projected Image

Peoples' Choice Awards



Japanese Maple by Dee Langevin

Over 500 votes were cast for this year's WIEP Peoples' Choice awards, and two DPS Gold medals were awarded to local and non-local winners. The non-local winner was Wolfgang Schweden of Germany for *New York Midtown*. Locally, Dee Langevin won with 50 votes for *Japanese Maple*, followed by Bob Coffey with 46 for *Chiaroscuro*, and Karl Leck's *Happy Frog* received 38 votes.

Japanese Maple was taken last fall at Winterthur. Dee Langevin first saw this magnificent maple on the garden tram tour, but the lighting was not ideal. She returned to the location late in the day when the sun was low in the sky and back-lighting the tree to give the golden leaves a luminous quality. The

image was shot with a Canon EOS 30D using a Sigma 18-200mm f/3.5-6.3 DC OS Lens in aperture priority mode, hand held at ISO 250, f/4, 1/40. She then used a buzz filter in PhotoShop to remove some of the distracting small details and enhance the effect of the leaves against the dark tree trunk. This photo is now hanging in the Biggs Museum in Dover as part of their Biggs Shot 2009 Exhibition (see page 12 for exhibit details).

76th WIEP

WIEP Chairman Bob Hunt described the opening of the 76th WIEP as a banner day. Everything went well, and the Projected Image show was a big hit. John Hamilton's advertising efforts paid off with a record crowd. Karl Leck's ever-popular roving print discussions helped visitors understand why some photographs scored better than other outstanding images... that's why he is the senior docent. We were honored to have Graham Willis and Andrew Robertson visiting from our sister (twin) club in Watford, England.



76th WIEP patrons admire DPS acceptances.
Photo by Bob Coffey

Exhibits

• **Possibilities of Pause: Delaware Women's Conference 2009 Juried Exhibition** at the Delaware Art Museum runs through April 19. *Lums Pond* by Emily Reed is featured in the advertising for the exhibit. The photo is a High Dynamic Range (HDR) image which was produced by blending five "bracketed" images. Bracketed images are different exposure levels which, when combined, reveal many more colors and tones than simple photographs.

The exhibition displays over 40 paintings, drawings, photographs, and sculptures created by 32 female Delawareans. It is being held in conjunction with the 25th Annual Delaware Women's Conference that recently took place in Dover and is part of the Museum's Outlooks Exhibition Series.

• DPS members will exhibit photographs at the Baby Grand Opera House, 818 N. Market St., Wilmington, April 3-30. The Opening reception will be part of the Wilmington Art Loop on Friday, April 3, 5-8 pm.

• **Biggs Shot 2009 Competition** at the Biggs Museum of American Art, Dover. The exhibit features photos of new and emerging photographers working and/or living in the mid-Atlantic region. The exhibition runs through June 28.

• *Pollinators at Work*, Longwood Gardens Visitor Center through May 29 (see page 7). For more information on Longwood Gardens events, go to www.longwoodgardens.org or call 610.388.1000.

Photo Op



Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation, Ridley Creek State Park, Media, Pa. "Where the past is your present."

April 18, French and Indian War Encampment; May 2-3, Revolutionary War Encampment. Sat, 10am - 5pm; Sun, 10am-3:30pm. Adults \$8, Children 4-12 \$6, Children under 4 free. For additional information, contact www.colonialplantation.org/ or 610.566.1725.

Photo by Bob Coffey



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The Photographic Society of America (PSA) is the largest organization of its kind in the world, bringing together amateur and professionals in all the varied fields of photography, including color slides, nature, pictorial prints, stereo (3D), electronic photography, video/motion pictures, photojournalism, travel photography, and devotees of every process in which the worldwide membership is interested. Help from experts and educational programs is available to all members. Find out more about the PSA from these websites: www.psa-photo.org and delawarephotographicsociety.org.