



The Reflector



www.delawarephotographicsociety.org • Delaware Photographic Society
PSA Award-Winning Publication

December 2006

President's Message

I'm going to make a suggestion that may seem strange, coming from the president of the Delaware Photographic Society — put down your camera. Whatever holidays you are celebrating with your friends and families should be primarily about your friends and families. Although it is certainly worthwhile to document your intertwined lives, budget the time you spend doing so. Time spent looking through a viewfinder or looking for something to photograph is primarily time spent alone, even in a room full of people. So put down the camera and attempt to actually interact with friends and family, old and new.

Being a Libra, blessed and cursed with the ability and necessity of weighing both sides of everything, I'll now advocate the opposite. Do you have good photographs of the people who are important to you? I don't just mean posed, formal portraits, but candid portraits that show who they are as seen through your eyes. I'm often struck by the very poor photographs that appear with some obituaries. It is somewhat of a cliché that new parents take endless photographs of the first child, and far fewer of any succeeding children.

I've often commented on my concern for history vis-à-vis the evolving digital technologies. I fear

that family histories in particular may suffer from the transitory nature of digital technologies. Whatever storage medium is chosen may become obsolete at some point, necessitating maintenance to preserve the materials. There is no certainty that, even if the storage medium can still be accessed, that it will not have physically deteriorated. Also, digital photographers are encouraged to discard, quite easily and immediately, photographs that do not achieve what was intended. As one of my family's dedicated documentarians, and the current historian of the

(Continued on page 3)

Annual Holiday Party

December 11 • 7:30 pm

Join us for the annual DPS holiday party and print exchange. This event has proven to be a popular addition to our December calendar, and again this year, rather than the usual monthly print competition, the evening will feature:

■ **A party** — Everyone is asked to bring a holiday treat (either snack or beverage) that will be shared.

■ **Print exchange (optional)**

Bring one of your mounted, gift-wrapped prints to exchange with one of your colleagues. Make it

one of your best, as a member will become the proud owner of your artistry.

■ **Gift exchange (optional)** — Everyone who would like to do so may exchange a new, gift-wrapped photo-related object.

This party is open to everyone in the Society, even if you do not normally participate in print competitions. Guests are welcome. For more information, contact Jeff Smith at jasmix@comcast.net.



Elfin Magic Williamsburg
© Sharon Coffey

Coming Events

- **December 4**
7:30 pm Instruction Night
- **December 11**
7:30 pm Holiday Party
- **January 1**
Digital entry deadline
- **January 8**
7:30 pm Instruction
- **January 15**
7:30 pm Slide Night
- **January 22**
7:30 pm Print Night

**DELAWARE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
2006-2007**

President — Jeff Smith

302.368.1089 / jasmix@comcast.net

First Vice President — Bob Hunt

302.764.1363 / makingcopy@aol.com

Second Vice President — Joe Bernofsky

302.478.4752 / Joebernofsky@comcast.net

Recording Secretary

Eleanor Blankenbaker

610.388.1305 / johblank@pipeline.com

Treasurer/Corp. Secretary

John Blankenbaker

610.388.1305 / johblank@pipeline.com

Education Director — Karl Leck

610.388.0298 / usesa@earthlink.net

Slide Director — June McKenney

302.368.2332 / bigstuart31@aol.com

Print Director — Ray Magnani

302.738.6953 / magnani@comcast.net

Program Director — Bob Coffey

610.388.2741 / Bobcoffey@aol.com

Reflector Editor — Sharon Coffey

610.388.2741 / SESCoffey@aol.com

Membership — Eileen Furlong

302.764.6922 / efurlong@comcast.net

Field Trips — Tom Oathout

302.836.0148 / delawarefoto@yahoo.com

Awards Committee Chair — Gus Costis

302.798.8195 / gtcostis@comcast.net

Equipment Chair — Bob McKenney

302.368.2332 / bigstuart31@aol.com

DVCCC Representative

Lynn Maniscalco

302.478.6423 / ltmphoto@juno.com

Publicity Chair — John Hamilton

302.479.0222 / deljohn@aol.com

Digital Competition — Bill Ritchie

302.239.1282 / ritchie.bill@gmail.com

DPS Webmaster — Mark Reed

302.655.1439 / mark4reed@comcast.net

www.delawarephotographicsociety.org

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.

The Mistake of Falling in Love

By Bill Talarowski



Bill, Washington D.C.

By Wm. J. Talarowski

Many of us use endless amounts of energy creating the images we bring to the club. You have to live with them for a while, scrutinized every angle, and make every change to best show all of their attributes. An air of expediency grows as the competition nears, feeling in your heart that “you have the winner”!

On the night of the competition, your chief competitors do very well with their images, darn them, but your confidence stays high because you feel, “you have the winner”! Then you hear, 6 - 7 - 6 = 19. What happened? What a dumb bunch of judges we have this month! I know my image should get a higher score than 19!

The truth of the matter is, I fell in love with my print and how it was obtained. The fact that the image was made as I clung to a

fence 400 feet over rocks with crashing waves breaking over them could not be seen or known by the judges.

For best success, you have to separate yourself from the image and the story behind it. The print gets judged on its own merits and not all the happenings behind the scene. Being a person with a vivid imagination, I find it very difficult, almost impossible, to do this. So, I have resorted to asking my wife for help. Next to keeping me fat for the past 54 years, she also possesses a keen eye for what is the best image when presented with five or six and asked to “pick one”! This generally works pretty well because she’s usually sitting in the car reading during my time spent hanging on the fence and almost falling on the rocks. She doesn’t know the whole story behind the image. To that I say, “Thank God”, because if she did find out, she would kill me for going out on the fence in the first place.

*... separate yourself
from the image and the
story behind it.*

Judges are just like the rest of us poor, mortal souls. There are good ones...bad ones...and those in between. With what they get paid for working that night, it’s a wonder it goes as well as it does.

Did I ever tell you about the time I was on this ledge and...but, I’ll save that for another article I’m working on. ☺

Instruction Night

Instruction Night sessions are generally held the first Monday of the month and are free to DPS members. Please refer to the DPS calendar for schedule changes. For more information, contact Education Director, Karl Leck at usesa@earthlink or 610.388.0298.

- December 4: *Shutter Speed, Aperture, and Focus* – Karl Leck
- January 8: *Print Mounting and How To Enter Competitions* – Karl Leck

- February 26: *Flash Photography Outside the Studio* – Bob Coffey, Bob Hunt and The Flashers
- March 5: *More Photoshop Techniques* –Karl Leck, Jane Strobach, and Friends
- April 2: *Digital Image Workflow: When To Do What*
- April 23: *You Be the Judge* – Jane Strobach, Karl Leck
- May 7: *5 Photographers Discuss their 5 Favorite Images Each* – The High Five

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

Delaware Photographic Society, I urge you to keep any photograph you have of a person, unless you know you have a better one of that person somewhere. You may not get another chance.

Reminder that there will be no competitions in December. We hope to see you at our annual holiday party on December 11.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Jeff



Bob Hunt hangs the DPS exhibit at the Captain's Deck.

Photo by Marvin Gerstein

a full service photographic store

James F. Cycyk - President

4101 North Market St. Wilmington, DE 19802 (302) 764-9400 (302) 764-9402 Fax	165 East Main St. Newark, DE 19711 (302) 453-9400 Fax (302) 453-9575
---	---

Please support our sponsor.

Vignettes



- Instruction Night is held the first Monday of the month at 7:30p.m.
- Competition nights are held on the second and third Mondays starting at 7:30 p.m.
- Program night is the last Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m.
- Location: Cokesbury Village, DuPont Pavilion, 726 Loveville Road, Hockessin, DE 19707.
- 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. The dues for first-year members are \$20 per person.
- *The Reflector* is published by the Delaware Photographic Society, September through June and printed by Academy Printing, Wilmington, Delaware. No material may be reproduced without written permission. Contribution deadline is the third Monday of the month. Send announcements and/or articles to Sharon Coffey, 48 Partridge Lane, Kennett Square, PA 19348, 610.388.2741 or SESCoffey@aol.com.
- Visit our Web site at: www.delawarephotographicsociety.org

Questions & Answers



Contributed monthly by Erik Kissa

For more information on photographic equipment and techniques visit me at:
www.psa-newmember.org/consultation_services/equipment.html

Q: *I have a Nikon D70s camera but I am a beginner in digital photography. Should I edit the images with Photoshop Elements or Nikon Capture NX software?*

A: The Photoshop Elements 5.0 editing software is easy to learn and sufficiently powerful for most photographers. If all sophisticated features of the full Photoshop are needed, the switch from the Elements to the full Photoshop is not difficult. Most of the tools are identical.

The Nikon Capture NX software is quite different. Fine alterations in Photoshop involve selections and masks. Capture NX uses control points instead. A click with the mouse places a control point on a color. The control point has four lines. The top line controls the size of the selection. Line B controls the brightness. Line C adjusts the contrast and the line S the saturation. Advanced options are available in palettes. Although Nikon Capture NX offers exceptional control of the RAW conversion, the work flow tends to be slow. Capture NX is a new intuitive concept in its developmental stage. Nikon is

still working to remove its idiosyncrasies.

Capture NX does not have the powerful creative abilities of Photoshop but can complement the Photoshop. An advanced photographer may find both editing systems useful. For a beginner, the methodology of Capture NX is not easy to learn.

Q: *During a lens change the digital camera is open for dust to enter. I would like to use a lens with a long zoom ratio to reduce the frequency of lens changes. Which lens would you recommend for my Nikon camera?*

A: Sigma and Tamron make 18-200mm f/3.5-6.3 lenses in Canon, Nikon, Pentax, and Sony (Minolta) mounts. Recently Tamron has introduced an 18-250mm lens, which has the widest zoom ratio of any DSLR camera lenses. The Sigma and Tamron lenses are compact but the dim f/6.3 makes autofocusing at the long end of the zoom difficult, if not impossible. The Nikon 18-200mm f/3.5-5.6 VR zoom lens costs almost twice as much as the Sigma or the Tamron

lens but for the higher price you will get better optics, a sturdier construction, and stabilization.

An 18-200mm lens is a very convenient travel lens but not a universal tool for a discriminating photographer. The angle of the lens is not very wide at its shortest 18mm focal length. An 18mm focal length on a digital SLR with an APS sensor is like a 28mm focal length on a 35mm film camera. Wide angle photography will need another lens with a shorter focal length. At the 200mm end of the zoom lens, the focal length is sufficient for general photography but the resolution is insufficient for critical work.

A better way to decrease the number of lens changes is to use two cameras. For wide angle photography I use a 12-24mm Nikkor on my Nikon D70. My main lens is a 24-120mm f/3.5-5.6 VR Nikkor on the Nikon D200. The 24-120mm lens was designed for a 35mm film camera. A digital camera with the APS size sensor uses only the center area of the 24-120mm lens, where the optical performance of the lens has its optimum. The resolution of the 24-120mm lens on a D200 camera is adequate for a sharp 24"x36" print.

The 120mm focal length (the 35mm film camera equivalent is 180mm) is sufficiently long for most of my photography. When I need a longer tele lens, I replace the wide angle lens with a 70-200mm f/2.8 VR HSM lens. A lens change cannot be avoided, only the frequency of lens changes can be reduced.

The real solution of the dust

(Continued on page 5)

Questions & Answers

(continued from page 4)

problem is a self cleaning sensor in the camera. The new Canon Rebel XTi has a sensor cleaning feature which can be expected to appear in other Canon DSLR cameras as well. In the highly competitive DSLR market, Nikon cannot afford to be the only major brand without a sensor cleaning feature. Eventually, all DSLR cameras will have a self cleaning sensor and lenses will be changed without having to worry about dust on the sensor.

Q: Which electronic flash should I buy for my Nikon digital camera, the SB-600 or the SB-800?

A: The SB-600 and SB-800 are both very good electronic flash units. Here are the differences:

	SB-600	SB-800
Price –	\$185	\$315
Output, GN at 35mm/ISO 100 –	98	125
Wireless flash –	remote only	remote or commander mode
Learning curve –	easy	many custom functions

Unlike the SB-600, the SB-800 flash can be operated in the AA (Auto aperture), A (Non-TTL auto), GN (Range-priority manual), and the RPT (Repeating flash) modes. I like the powerful SB-800 but use some of its functions infrequently.

Q: I have Nikon lenses. Which digital camera should I buy, the Nikon D80 or D200?

A: The Nikon D80 and the Nikon D200 are different cameras designed for different photographers. The image quality (color accuracy and low noise) of both cameras is very high and not a reason for choosing either one of the two. The main differences are in the construction and features.

The D200 is a pro-oriented camera with a metal body sealed against dust and moisture. The shutter is rated for 100,000 exposures. The rugged body of the D200 is heavier (29.3 oz) than the polycarbonate body of the D80 (21 oz). Manual focus Nikon AI-S and E lenses, as well as the PB-6 bellows, are compatible with the D200 camera in the A (Aperture-Priority) or

M (Manual) mode. The matrix, center weighted, and spot metering are operable. This feature is useful if you have manual focus macro lenses or other old lenses you are fond of.

The D80 is designed for photo enthusiasts who do not need the speed, weatherproofing, and ruggedness of a professional camera. The D80 has picture modes and in-camera post-exposure editing functions: shadow and highlight adjustment, redeye elimination, color filter effects, monochrome mode, cropping and image overlay.

The other differences are:

	D80	D200
Shutter speed, s	30-1/4000	30-1/8000
Burst rate, JPEG	2.6 fps	5 fps
Flash, sync speed, s	1/200	1/250
Start-up time, s	0.18	0.15
Shutter lag, s	0.008	0.005
Memory card	SD	CompactFlash
Price, body,	\$1000	\$1700 (1550)

The D200 feels solid like the Nikon F100 film camera popular with the pros. The Nikon D200 is for photographers who do not need the very rapid burst rate and the slightly larger resolution (12.1 MP) of the Nikon D2Xs but like the lighter weight and the lower price of the D200.

The D80 is a better value for the money. The picture modes and the in-camera editing functions can be ignored, if not needed. The D200 was in short supply but when the D80 arrived, the street price of the D200 dropped.

Send questions to ekissa@aol.com



Emergence by Jim Doyle

74th Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography

Preparations are underway for the 74th Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography (WIEP), and we hope you are preparing to participate, as an entrant and as a volunteer.

Prepare your entries now, as the January 20, 2007 closing date will sneak up quickly. Complete information and entry forms are available on the Society's Web site or at meetings. Entries may be submitted at meetings, or delivered to Irv Klair's home, where processing takes place. (Maps are available at meetings.)

Volunteers are needed for a number of tasks over the next several months. Entry processing will begin on January 3, 2007 and take place on Wednesday and Saturday mornings and early afternoons — perfect attendance is not required. As important as the work is, an added advantage is the opportunity to see all of the print and slide entries, not just the winners.

We encourage newer members to join the team. Many volunteers

will be needed on Friday, January 26 to set up for the judging on judging day, Saturday, January 27, and hanging day, February 16. Everyone enjoys the camaraderie and, of course, the photography. To volunteer, contact WIEP Chairman, Bob Hunt at 302.764.1363 or WIEP74@aol.com.

Ken Williams and John Hamilton are already at work selling advertising for the exhibition catalog. If you wish to advertise, or know of a potential advertiser, contact John at deljohn@aol.com or Ken at KRWILLIAMS1922@yahoo.com.

Back-up hosts for WIEP judges are still needed. If you would like some one-on-one time with an exhibition judge but cannot offer overnight accommodations, how about volunteering to make an airport pickup or return? For more information, contact Eileen Furlong at efurlong@comcast.net or 302.764.6922.

A buffet luncheon will be available at Cokesbury during judging on Saturday, January 27 at a cost

of \$8.50 per person. You will not be able to purchase tickets that morning, so sign up now by using the form provided below.

The Judges' Banquet will be held at the Delaware National Country Club on Saturday night January 27. Our judges will present their work, and the medal-winning slides and prints will be presented. The cash bar opens at 6:30 p.m. with buffet dinner starting at 7:15 p.m. Guests are welcome. The reservation form is provided below.

74th WIEP Schedule

- Closing date for entries:
January 20, 2007
- Judging — Cokesbury Village
Saturday, January 27, 2007
 - Judges' Banquet
January 27, 2007
 - Slide Presentations
Arsht Hall — 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
February 18 and 25, 2007

Judges' Buffet Lunch

January 27, 2007 · Cokesbury Village

Please reserve _____ places at the Judges' Buffet Lunch. Enclosed is my check for \$8.50 for each reservation.

Name(s): _____

Mail to: Bob Hunt, 30 Cragmere Road, Wilmington, DE 19809

Judges' Banquet

January 27, 2007 · Delaware National Country Club · 6:30 p.m.

Please reserve _____ places at the Judges' Buffet Banquet. Enclosed is my check for \$32 for each reservation.

Name(s): _____

Mail to: Bob Hunt, 30 Cragmere Road, Wilmington, DE 19809

Attacking the Assigned Subject

By Bob Coffey

For many years the Assigned Subject has been my favorite category as I feel that it is the best way to learn photography. It forces you to think, plan and shoot much more than the open category, which has no time or subject constraints.

I start by envisioning the best interpretation of the assigned subject and then figure out how to do it, which has often called for considerable head scratching. I've had to experiment to learn what works and what doesn't, resulting in lots of trials and errors. Digital photography has been a quantum leap forward in this aspect as one can see immediately whether or not a shot was successful.

As soon as the Assigned Subjects are announced, I memorize the subjects and keep cards in my billfold and camera bag, and photographic outings are planned

around the quest to capture images that will best meet the assignments. Often there will be opportunities to shoot several of them on the same outing. It is just a matter of concentrating on the assignments and looking for opportunities that would meet the requirements.

Once I spot a subject that has potential, I will "work" it from every angle, trying to come up with the most imaginative, creative, and interesting approach possible. This involves trying an array of tools and techniques; using different lenses, adding fill flash, shooting at large apertures for selective focus, setting slow shutter speeds for motion blur, adding a polarizing filter, or a graduated neutral density filter. I try differ-



ent perspectives such as shooting low or bringing a ladder to shoot high. If needed, I will return at a different time of day or night for better lighting.

Separate folders are set up in my computer for each month's assignment and qualifying images are moved into them during the year. Ideally, I strive to have many images to choose from when making the final selection for printing and confess that I hold off doing that until the last minute – always hoping that some photo op will pop up that is better than the images already in the file.

Finally, I rely on a "focus group" (aka my wife) in making the final selections for printing. This approach lends more objectivity and keeps me from falling too much in love with my images as Bill Talarowski has accused me of doing.

Member News

• **Ray O'Day Awards:** The annual Ray O'Day intraclub contest, sponsored by the Delaware Valley Council of Camera Clubs (DVCCC), was held on November 18 in Maple Shade NJ. DPS competed against 5 other clubs in Color Slides and Color Prints and took 1st place in both categories! DPS judged the Monochrome entries this year due to our 1st place win in that category last year.

In Slides, we were represented by *Monica Nagy, Karl Leck, Marian Sargeant, Joe Bernofsky, Bill Talarowski,* and *Tom Canby.*

In Color Prints, we were represented by *Joe Bernofsky, Marvin Gerstein, Bill Talarowski, Bob Coffey, Karl Leck,* and *Monica Nagy.*



PSA

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.psaphoto.org and
delawarephotographicsociety.org.

Available Discounts and Rebates

- **Wilmington Blueprint**, 2704 W. 3rd St., Wilmington 19805 offers a 20% discount on mount board and other art supplies to DPS members. Mention DPS when ordering. Tele: 302.652.3364.

- **American Frame** offers a 5% rebate to our organization. Mention reference #P163 when placing your order. View products at www.americanframe.com or call 1.800.537.0944 for a catalog.

Field Trip Update



Hagley with 4 models and 2 antique cars.

The next outing to the Conowingo Dam to photograph bald eagles is planned for the end of December or mid-January. Tom advises that those who want to go beforehand should wait until the week after a good rain when the floodgates are opened and fish are released – no fish, no eagles.

Tom Oathout arranged another interesting model shoot on November 18 at Goodstay and



Money

Placing an order with American Frame not only accents your artwork, it also earns money for Delaware Photographic Society.

Each quarter, American Frame sends us a check for 5% of the total amount our members purchase from them. Earn money for us while framing your latest masterpiece. Get your catalog today...

call now 1 800 537 0944 Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am-6 pm
www.americanframe.com ✓ out our on-line specials

Use reference # P163.



Needed...

When you replace your old laptop computer, please consider donating your old one to DPS. We are gradually replacing our ancient, unpredictable scoring systems with digital devices. Each new system requires a laptop computer with Windows XP. We need 4 additional laptops – 2 for the scoring devices to be purchased, 1 for the projector, and 1

for data processing. Why so many...during WIEP judging, three scoring systems are required at the same time, as well as 2 computers used for data processing.

The good news is that the DPS is a nonprofit educational organization and your donations are tax deductible. If you can help, contact Jeff at jasmix@comcast.net.

Patron's Reservation

Please include me among the Patrons of the 74th Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ payable to DPS.

Catalog should read as follows: _____

Mail to: John Blankenbaker, P.O. Box 120, Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Donations to DPS are fully tax deductible.