



The Reflector



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

June 2006

President's Message

Another year of the many complex activities of the Delaware Photographic Society comes to a successful conclusion. I am awed and grateful for the scope of our organization, given that it is all managed completely by volunteers, and I thank all of you for your hard work.

This year saw the initiation of monthly digital competitions. We established a new and exciting means for members to interact, the Yahoo! group DPS-Exchange. We purchased a new scoring system, and a video camera to enhance the experience of our print competitions. We judged the an-

nual PSA Interclub Travel Competition. We competed successfully in the annual DVCCC Ray O'Day, winning first place in monochrome prints and third in slides. We won the Watford (England) International Digital Competition. We held a large and impressive members' print exhibit. We made progress in recruiting and evaluating competition judges. All this in addition to the full schedule of regular activities, and, of course, the Wilmington International Exhibition. It is unlikely that the eight men who met 75 years ago could have envisioned what we have become.

My congratulations to those

named herein, the annual winners of our several competitions, and especially to those whom the Awards Committee has chosen to recognize for their service to our organization. To those of you whose work may go unrecognized, my sincere thanks as well.

Please feel free to let me know your thoughts on ways in which we might continue to improve and grow. I look forward to seeing you at our annual picnic, July 30, to be graciously hosted again by Rich and Dianne Carnegie, and, come September, back at Cokesbury.

Jeff

Annual Picnic

Sunday, July 30 • 3–8 p.m.

The Annual DPS Picnic will be held at the home of Dianne and Rich Carnegie in Elkton, Md. Meat and drinks will be provided, but please bring a salad or dessert to serve 6.

If you have attended a DPS picnic *chez* Carnegie, you know that this promises to be a great day with delicious food, camaraderie, and plenty of photo ops. The property contains a picturesque creek, stone ruins, and plenty of wildlife. Rich might be persuaded to give us a tour in the back of his wagon. Bring your cameras!

For information AND to RSVP, contact Dianne at 410.398.2397 or dicarnegie@msn.com.

Directions from Wilmington:

- Take I-95 South to the Elkton exit (Rte. 279)
- Go to Rte. 213 – turn right at the light
- Go approximately 4 miles to Childs Rd. and turn left
- Go past Mt. Aviat academy
- Turn into 2nd driveway on the right (big white mail box)
- Go past 2 houses on the lane and continue up the drive to the large green house on the hill



Determined © Karl Leck
2006 Color Print-of-the-Year

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2005-2006**

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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.

2006 Service Awards

The 2005-2006 Awards Committee is pleased to present Service Awards and Special Commendations to the following members who took on the responsibility of managing, or helping to manage our Society's operations and functions, which demanded their time, energy, and expertise. We are also pleased to recognize two of our younger members.

Gus Costis, Chairman

Dave Hutton

Herb Sargeant

Special Commendations:

Monica Nagy

Bob McKenney

Bill Ritchie

Ken Williams

Special Recognition:

Jacob Pivonka

Marissa DiPietrapaul

Gold Service Medal:

Dave Hutton

Digital Photographers Needed

The Delaware Center for Horticulture is seeking volunteer digital photographers to document their annual City Gardens Contest in Wilmington on the mornings of Saturday, July 9 and Saturday, August 12. A calendar will be pro-

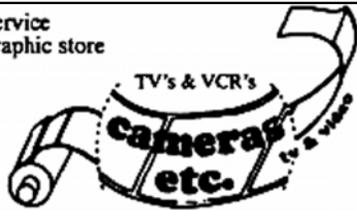
duced featuring some of the photos, and will give credit to the photographers. Anyone interested contact Marcia Stephenson, Special Events Coordinator for the Center, 302.658.6262, ext. 29.

Team Effort

Many thanks to our members who have enthusiastically supported *The Reflector* with articles, photographs, and time. As a result, our newsletter

continues to be an award-winning team effort. Next year, think about sharing your own adventures, photographs, tips, and bios with our readers.

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James F. Cycyk - President

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our
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Conferences

By Bob Coffey

• Horizon Summit Update

The first Photography Summit organized by Horizon Creative Workshops early last month was well attended and a lot of fun for all involved. Steve Gottlieb and his staff organized a well-balanced agenda of 18 sessions taught by 11 outstanding instructors. It was really an Amherst-type experience that is nicer and closer – right here in our own back yard.

Steve opened his workshop and gallery in Chesapeake City, Md. two years ago with the intent of providing photographic workshops to amateur photographers of all levels.

Chesapeake City is a delightful area to browse and shoot. The locals are friendly to photographers, the food is good and the accommodations in charming Bed and Breakfasts are most convenient. Having all this with an ever growing menu of appealing courses in such close proximity makes for an attractive and rewarding photographic learning experience for DPS members.

• New England Camera Club Council (NECCC) 61st Annual Photographic Conference Amherst, Mass. July 14-16

This annual event is a bargain in instruction, shooting and inspiration. For only \$110 you get a three-day smorgasbord of seminars, workshops, photo ops and competitions. This year, Andre Galant will be the featured Saturday night speaker. In addition to print and slide competitions, digital image competition is being introduced. For entry rules, check the Web site at www.neccc.org. Bring your camera to shoot models and award-winning clowns, and pick up supplies (for an excellent price) at the vendors' booths in the trade show.

Cafeteria meals and dormitory rooms for two nights on campus are \$120, for a total cost of only \$230. I've always returned with outstanding tips or techniques that were well worth this modest investment. For a registration form, write to P.O. Box 2544, Springfield, MA 01101 or check online at www.neccc.org.

Thanks For a Job Well Done

After four years of building the DPS website into a top-notch window to the world, Steve Furlong is passing the baton to another runner. New member, Mark Reed, has agreed to take over this position. We greatly appreciate all the effort, energy and enthusiasm that Steve brought to the table. It attracted many new members.

Welcome, Mark. We look forward to working with you.

Next year, volunteers are needed for a variety of positions, including the nominating committee. If you feel that you can help, contact me at 610.388.2741 or bobcoffey@aol.com.

Bob Coffey
Nomination Chair

Vignettes



- Instruction Night is held the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.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. 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
Send questions to ekissa@aol.com

Q: *I like to read the Q/A section and would like to know, how did you learn to write so well?*

A: I learned in an Estonian high school more English grammar and read more English literature than my sons learned in a Wilmington high school. As a young Du Pont chemist with the literary background, I wrote my first research report and gave it proudly to my Division Head. He took the report, weighed it on his hand and gave it back to me with two words: "Too heavy."

This is how I learned to write.

Q: *Does the print size affect the depth of field?*

A: Yes and no. A depth-of-field does not exist, it is an optical illusion. Only one point can be truly sharp. The out-of-focus point forms a circle. When a circle is viewed from long distance, the circle appears to be a dot. If a print is made larger, more detail can be seen and a dot on a small print may now appear as a circle. This means the depth-of-field of the image on the print has been decreased. However, if the larger print is viewed from a proportionally larger distance, the print size does not change the depth-of-field. Some judges like to "sniff" the print and upset the normal depth-of-field relationship.

Q: *How to protect data in the computer?*

A: An absolutely safe storage system does not exist. All storage devices deteriorate

gradually and may fail completely but for different reasons. All magnetic storage devices are sensitive to a strong electric field, which fortunately does not affect optical storage devices. Both the power line and the phone line should have a surge protector. Unfortunately, a strong electric field created by a lightning strike near the house can wipe out all of the magnetic information, the data on a hard disk and on a memory card. The optical information on CDs and DVDs can survive the electronic onslaught but may eventually become unreadable for unrelated reasons. Consequently, the images should be saved on a magnetic as well as on an optical device.

The data on the hard disk are usually protected in the computer by another hard drive which mirrors the data on the main drive. The principal of the strategy is that if one hard drive fails, the other one will save the data. However, if the operating system fails, the data on both drives become inaccessible. Hence, it is better to use an external hard drive which can be connected to another computer.

The gold Delkin and MAM-A CDs contain phthalocyanine dyes which are more stable than the azo dyes on cheaper CDs. Some Delkin gold CDs are made scratch resistant as well. So far, they have been durable.

A DVD can hold six or seven times more information than a CD and is therefore an attractive storage medium. A DVD records the information with smaller pits packed closer together and is

therefore more vulnerable to physical damage than a CD. Another problem is the readability of DVDs. Several systems exist already and it is not known where the future will go. I have recorded my images on MAM-A gold DVD-R disks using a multisystem DVD burner on my new computer. I can read the DVDs on my new computer but not on my other computer three years old. This brings up the main problem of digital storage — will the data be accessible in the future?

Monochrome silver prints of my ancestors are over a hundred years old and have not faded noticeably. It seems that black-and white silver based prints and Kodachrome slides are the only proven archival storage media.

Q: *May I have your advice for buying a digital projector?*

A: Which digital projector is the best for you depends on the intended use of the projector. For home use, a digital projector is not needed if the computer has a monitor with a 20" or larger screen. Viewing images on a computer screen is so convenient, no projector and screen to set up, that buying a projector makes little sense.

A projector is needed for showing digital images to a larger group of people. The useful features of the projector depend on the size of the room and the screen, as well as the ambient light in the room.

Aspect ratio. Even the best digital projector is not a true replacement of a slide projector.

(Continued on page 5)

Questions & Answers

(Continued from page 4)

The photographic images require a projector with a square field to accommodate vertical and horizontal orientation. Digital projectors are designed for PowerPoint presentations and not for photography. The aspect ratio 4:3 of digital projectors is too narrow for vertical images. Consequently, the projected vertical images (512x768 pixels) are smaller than the horizontal images (1024x683 pixels) and have only 56% of the area of horizontal images.

Brightness. The brightness of the projector is expressed with ANSI lumens. A high lumen rating means that the screen is brighter and the projector can be used in semi-darkened rooms. If the room is small and dark, a brightness rating of 2000 lumens is adequate. If the room is large and not completely darkened, a brightness of 3000 lumens is needed. If the brightness of the projector is excessive, the projector can be used in the low power mode. The reduced brightness extends the life of the lamp. Consequently, it is better to have an excess of lumens than to have less brightness than needed. The only limitation is the cost — at the present time the price of a projector is about one dollar per lumen but the price is coming down.

Resolution. The standard resolution is XGA, which has 1024x768 pixels. The SXGA resolution of 1280x1024 pixels is slightly higher and the SXGA+ resolution is 1400x1050 pixels. The SVGA resolution (800x600 pixels) of inexpensive projectors

is inadequate for photographic projection.

Projection technology. A color image is projected by using one of three different technologies. The LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) technology passes the light through three LCD panels, a red, green, and a blue. The advantages are superior color fidelity and light efficiency. The DLP (Digital Light Processing) technology uses small mirrors to reflect light through a rotating color wheel. The DLP projectors have a high contrast ratio and can reduce the size of the projector. The new LCOS (Liquid Crystals On Silicon) technology uses liquid crystals on reflective chips, instead of mirrors. The advantage is a high resolution (1400x1050 pixels). It is difficult to say which technology is the best because they have different advantages. The projection technology is still a developing field and improvements can be expected.

Contrast. The contrast ratio expresses the range of tonal values from pure black to pure white. A high contrast ratio indicates that the projector can deliver a saturated black and a detailed tonal range. A projector with the LCD or LCOS technology has a contrast ratio of 400:1 or less, whereas a DLP technology has a contrast ratio of 1000:1 or even above 2000:1. As a reference, a typical CRT monitor of a computer has a contrast ratio of about 1:700.

Lens. A high quality lens reduces flare and ghosting. Most of the projectors have a 1.6x or a 1.7x zoom lens which simplifies the positioning of the projector.

Keystone correction. Because the projector is usually positioned close to the screen, a correction of the keystone distortion is essential. Some projectors have automatic keystone correction.

Color control. The color correction is needed for adjusting the projected color to the color of the screen.

Lamp. This expensive part (about \$200 to 400) of the projector can last a long time when treated with care. The lifetime is usually rated between 1000 and 3000 hours. The deterioration of the lamp is gradual before total failure. The projector loses brightness when the lamp ages. The lifetime is expressed with the number of hours the lamp can be used before the brightness of the lamp has decreased to 50% of its original brightness. This means that a 3000 lumen projector will be a 1500 lumen projector at the end of the lamp life.

Size and weight. The size and weight are not essential, especially in comparison to a slide projector. Small projectors are convenient to carry but some lack sufficient ventilation and run hot.

Price. Even the best digital projectors do not match the color fidelity, resolution, and tonal range of a projected slide. A higher price of the digital projector means usually a better performance. However, buying an expensive projector may not be a good investment because the projector may be obsolete in a year or two.

Erik Kissa

An Unlikely Story by John Toutkaldjian

There I was, flat on my back, staring up at the ceiling. A huge machine encased my leg and was ever so gently flexing it – up and down, up and down, an ice pack covering my knee. This went on for two hours, twice a day. Boring! It was February and I was recently out of the OR where, for the second time, I became *the bi-ionic man*.

A day later, I was on another floor in the rehab section. Three hours a day in rehab, two times two hours on the flex machine;



needles, medication – would it ever end? *“Please Dear, on your next visit, bring my camera in.”*

It’s a 3mp Casio, with a 3x zoom and a 2” LCD screen. You know, your common pocket point-and-shoot – small, light weight, easy to use. To amuse myself, I shot a bunch of stuff not knowing what would become of the pictures. A few days later, I remembered the DPS slide show competition to be held in April and the thought occurred to me that maybe I’d do a slide show. Of course, everyone would be interested in my procedure and trials. Wouldn’t they?

At home, with plenty of time, but not much will, initially, I captured the pictures using my Lexar card reader. Would you believe I only kept 28 images? Between rehab visits and icing at home, I im-

ported the pictures into Elements 4.0. Quite a few pictures needed to be enhanced or improved. I corrected color, brightness, sharpened, straightened some of the pictures; Elements has some nice tools. Meantime, I was struggling with how to put this thing together in a manner that would be entertaining. I really dug deep looking for a theme. After all, what could be more boring than a visit to a hospital? Could I make it funny, I thought? What category would I enter? How long can I make it? Should I do a narrative? Include Music?

Andy Rooney became my inspiration. I’ll do a spoof in the Rooney manner! Using Elements’ slide show feature, I began putting the pictures in order, changing them time and again as the narrative ran through my head. I would need music to help set the mood and, with a narrative, would have to enter Class IV. I didn’t worry about time, because experience had taught me a long time ago that if you go more than twelve minutes, people go to sleep.

After writing a script, and reading it against the slide show time and again, I thought it needed a “kicker” at the end. My son suggested getting his thirteen year old daughter to pose with her legs exposed and insert this as the last shot to show how well my knee had healed. But she wouldn’t do it. My own granddaughter! I had to find a plan B. Knowing that the audience would be photographers, most of whom

were familiar with Photoshop, I conceived the end shot. I wondered if they would “get it.”

I auditioned music with my Sony CD player and after making some selections, used a software program on my computer, Audio-grabber, to rip the music. I recorded my voice onto the hard drive with Sound Forge 4.5, re-recording and re-recording until I liked it. I used this audio program to do a mix as well. (While recording, I got a lot of “pops” from words with P’s so I resorted to a trick from the past. I wrapped a small piece of air conditioning foam around the head of the mic and secured it with a rubber band. The foam is porous enough to allow the voice to get through, yet buffers explosive sounds, like “P’s”.)

I imported the mixed track into



Clone tool magic

Elements and adjusted some of the picture lengths and transition lengths. I even went back to Sound Forge and inserted silence between some of the sentences to get it to fit just right. This also required adjusting the music and

changing the levels, of course.

It was done. It ran 2:37 minutes. I had used twenty hospital pictures plus a couple from other shoots. I put it on a flash drive instead of a CD or DVD because I couldn’t figure out how to save it to a format that my Nero software would find compatible. I called it *“John’s Excellent Winter Vacation”* and hoped no one would go to sleep when I screened it. ☺

Member News

DPS Members Qualify for 2006 PSA Who's Who

Each year, PSA tabulates lists of members that receive at least 5% of total possible acceptances of the year's exhibitions. This year, three DPS members qualified for the Who's Who lists: **Erik Kissa**, **Lynn Maniscalco** and **Herb Sargeant**.

Eric qualified in both the Color Slide and Photo Travel categories. In Color Slides, Eric received 57 acceptances in the 33 exhibitions that he entered. This year, PSA sanctioned 139 Color Slide exhibitions worldwide. (DPS's WIEP was one of these exhibitions.) In Photo Travel, Eric entered 4 of the 54 Travel exhibitions, and received 12 acceptances. Lynn entered 9 of the 11 Stereo Print exhibitions and won 15 acceptances. Herb entered 6 of the 24 Photo Travel exhibitions and received 17 acceptances.

Foto Fling Results

DPS members brought home over one-third of the medals awarded in the competition at the annual Photo Fling on April 29 in Maple Shade, NJ. **Marvin Gerstein** was awarded the Silver in Color Prints, while **Roland Fulde** won the Gold there as well as in Monochrome. **Lynn Maniscalco** took the Gold in Creative Slides, the Silver in General Slides, and the Bronze in PJ. **Monica Nagy** was awarded Gold medals in Print Set, Slide Sequence and PJ, and Bronze medals in Nature Slides and Commercial Prints. Also, in the showing of the DVCCC Photo Travel Circuit's Brandywine Exhibition, **Peter Lindtner** got special mention for his three acceptances.

Watford International Results

DPS took first place in this year's

Watford International Digital Competition. Congratulations to **Steve Berkowitz**, **Gus Costis**, **Patsy Costis**, **John Hamilton**, **Nancy Everds**, and **Karl Leck** for their award winning entries. DPS competed against nine other clubs from Argentina, France, Germany, Italy, Scandinavia, Czechoslovakia, and England.

A memorial service honoring the life of **Barbara Saad** will be held at the Delaware Art Museum on Sunday, June 25, at 4 p.m.

Doug Crawford

Our sincere condolences to the family of Doug Crawford who died May 18, 2006. Doug joined the Delaware Camera Club in 1966 and served as both President and WIEP Chairman during his 40-year association with our Society.

Digital Image of the Year

Gus Costis – Moon Over Windmills

Honorable Mention Awards:

Steve Berkowitz – Denali from Wonder Lake

Karl Leck – Peace Is Priceless

Rebecca Lang – Welcome Home

Patsy Costis –Taj Under Water

Joanne Moretti – Different View Mt Rushmore

John Hamilton – Hummer

Joe Bernofsky – 192 9273 SC

Louisa Emerick – Foxhound Show

Tom Tauber – Bolivian Oldtimer

George Eichner – Sprint



Moon Over Windmills by Gus Costis
2006 Digital-Image-of-the-Year

Monochrome and Color Print-of-the-Year



POTY judges, Joe Hoddinot, Ron Soliman, and Dennis Jacobs make their decision for the top color print.

Color Print-of-the-Year

Karl Leck – Determined

Honorable Mention:

Tom Canby – July at Brooke Falls

Bob Coffey – Pine Creek Gorge

Nancy Everds – Heron with Fish

Bob Hunt – From Tower Bridge

Karl Leck – Agra Palace

Peter Lindtner – Bleeding Heart

Jane Strobach – Dewy Grass Hopper

Bill Talarowski – Tied Up for the Season

Tom Tauber – Veteran #3

Rob Tuttle – HooDoos

Mono Print-of-the-Year

Bill Talarowski – Frozen Solid

Honorable Mention:

Bob Coffey – Old Steam Engine

Frank DiPietrapaul – Philly Elephant

Ray Firmani – Winter Crossing

Steve Furlong – Keeping the Beat

Marvin Gerstein – Natural Light

Karl Leck – Sawblades

Marty Reed – Sepia Rose

Charlie Shambelan – Bombay Hook...

Jane Strobach – Green Eyes

Bill Talarowski – Mid Winter Under Moonlight

Slide-of-the-Year

Slide-of-the-Year

Tom Canby – At Sunrise, Kauai

Honorable Mention Awards:

Tom Canby – July at Brooks Falls

Gus Costis – Moon Over Athens

Doug Donor – Where to Tiptoe

John Hamilton – Sedona, Arizona

Karl Leck – Handsome Jumper

Peter Lindtner – Mexican Dancers#1

Monica Nagy – Paris Street

Herb Sargeant – Mono Crystals

Marian Sargeant – Gathering Storm

Charles Shambelan – Mountains

Around Alberta Lake



At Sunset, Kauai by Tom Canby
2006 Slide-of-the-Year

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 world-wide 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.

Membership Renewal

DPS membership renewal and dues notices will be mailed in early July for the new Society year starting July 1. Notices will be sent electronically, except to members who either do not have e-mail, or have previously re-

quested to receive notices by postal mail. A reminder notice will be sent in early August to those who have not renewed their memberships. Postal mail will be used exclusively for this second notice. We ask your help in keeping our

postage expenses down by responding promptly to our first mailing and sending your dues payment. If you have any questions, contact DPS Treasurer, John Blankenbaker at 610.388.1305 or johblank@pipeline.com.