



The Reflector



www.delawarephotographicsociety.org

Delaware Photographic Society

November 2003

PSA Award Winning Publication

President's Thoughts

About a year ago the Delaware Photographic Society received its exemption letter informing us that the DPS is recognized as a public charity under Internal Revenue Service code, Section 501(c)(3). This change from our previous code cost us over \$2,600 in legal fees, etc., and countless hours of time by DPS members.

Now the question is: what are we going to do with our new tax status? The first and easiest comes from Bill Drennen's obituary: "In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to ...or to the Delaware Photographic Society...." Memorial gifts can now be listed as tax deductions

Last season we formed the Exploratory Committee and the Development Committee to explore ways to get grants for DPS and what to do with them. In many ways these two committees must work together, as you cannot apply for a grant without explaining why you wanted it. Thus, it would be more effective if these two committees were combined.

In its only meeting, the Exploratory Committee presented a number of ideas for improving the DPS, namely: improving the quality of speaker programs, distributing *The Reflector* electroni-



Sandals © Elisabeth Bard

cally, purchasing and using a digital projector, introducing electronic competitions (think Photo Essay), and developing member exhibitions such as the one at Longwood Gardens and two current proposals. We are actually accomplishing these objectives, but it is coming out of the operating budget and the savings account in the case of the capital expenditure for the projector.

There are other needs we have not been able to handle that grants would have made possible. Serving refreshments at the opening of the Longwood Gardens exhibit was far beyond our budget. Our meeting location could certainly be improved, as the current space and time restrictions are excessively shortening meetings and offer no option of a proposed digital instruction laboratory. While it conceivably would not be required, a significant grant might allow us to greatly improve our

(Continued on page 4)

November Speaker

Sal DiMarco

Photojournalism, It Beats Working For a Living

November 24 • 7:30 p.m.

Cokesbury Auditorium

Sal DiMarco, an internationally known photojournalist, has won over 150 awards for his photos that have appeared in most of the world's leading magazines. He is a contributing photographer to *Time* and a contract photographer for the international photo agency, Black Star. He is a member of the White House News Photographers Association, and the National Press Photographers Association. He hails from Philadelphia and has graciously accepted our invitation to speak. Check his web site for complete and impressive credentials: <http://members.fcc.net/sal.dimarcojr/bio/index.html>.

If possible, join us for Dinner with the Speaker at 6 p.m. at Cokesbury. **RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE** to Bob Coffey at bobcoffey@aol.com or 610-388-2741. Sorry, no walk ins. Dinner cost is \$14, all inclusive, check payable to DPS.

Location: Cokesbury Village is located at 726 Loveville Road, Hockessin, Delaware 19707.

Focus on ... *Brett Breeding*

Three months after graduating from high school, I began to realize a childhood dream by beginning a career illustrating comic books. After more than twenty years, and a highly successful career drawing characters that included Superman and Spider-Man, an injury caused me to pursue other fields. Having spent my working life doing something I loved, I knew I would have to find something I felt just as passionate about. Enter photography.

I received my first camera about age eight, a simple Kodak instamatic camera, but it was enough to get me hooked on photography. My main subjects were animals, though candid shots of people at family gatherings also made for lots of fun, especially those family members who did *not* want their pictures taken. I enjoyed the challenge of capturing the moment that was not easily obtained.



SweetHearts © Brett Breeding

My pursuit of illustrating comics led me to take every art related course offered in school, which often overlapped with photography. I continued to study and compete in state and national photography contests in high school, requiring me to learn all aspects of the art form. I quickly discovered how much I disliked working in a darkroom and processing film, viewing them as obstacles to what I really enjoyed about making photographs; capturing the image and working with the prints. Eventually, my distaste for darkroom work and the increasing costs for processing film soon pushed photography back to an occasional hobby.

Though I moved on to my comics career shortly after high school, I never lost sight of my secondary childhood dream, sparked by that first Kodak camera; being a wild-

life photographer. In the years that followed, the vast majority of my travel was planned around wildlife rich destinations, like the Galapagos Islands, Alaska and Hawaii, and my camera was always at my side.

Then in 1997, my experience with Macintosh computers and the recent birth of my twins, led me to purchase my first digital camera, a Kodak DC120. Digital was the way for me, eliminating the barrier that film processing and the darkroom posed for me, allowing me to concentrate on capturing and printing better images. My passion for taking pictures rekindled, and several digital cameras later, I am officially pursuing photography as a second career, with an emphasis on wildlife and nature. I currently shoot with Nikon's D1x and D100 cameras, along with a wide range of Nikon professional lenses. I process all of my images using Apple computers, making my own prints on my Epson 2200 ink-jet printer.

Though I work in the digital format, I view the computer as a "digital darkroom," and continue to believe in and work using only traditional darkroom techniques to process my images. I strongly believe that a photographic image should represent the subject as it existed at the moment of capture, avoiding the temptation offered by digital imaging to manipulate and composite images, creating images that no longer represent photography but instead enter the realm of graphic arts. When you see one of my images, you can rest assured that what you are seeing is what I saw in the viewfinder at the moment I squeezed the shutter. ☺

Instruction Night 2003-2004

Instruction Night sessions are held the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church. Classes are designed to help members at various levels of expertise and are free to DPS members.

- **November 3: *How to Succeed in Photo Competitions*** - Herb Sargeant will provide hints on how to improve your submissions to enhance your chances of winning any photo contest you may wish to enter. (These pointers are also applicable even though you're not entering contests.) What to look for when you're in the field taking pictures. How to decide which are your most competitive images. What judges might like or dislike. How to improve the images you have. How to organize your submissions. Herb will show examples of attributes that winning images must have: leading lines, scale, story-telling, decisive moments, great lighting, simplicity, color harmony and color conflict, and he'll show "before" and "after" examples of how to very easily improve your existing slides and prints.
- December 1: *Exposure, Focus and Photography Basics* - Ray Magnani
- January 5: *Print and Slide Mounting* - Karl Leck
- February 2: *Fill Flash, Real & Virtual* - Karl Leck
- March 1: *Basic Image Repair In Photoshop* - Karl Leck & Co.
- April 5: *Color Adjustment via the Computer* - Karl Leck & Co.
- May 3: *100 Years of Experience* - The expert Photo Panel answers your questions.

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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, at 7:30 p.m. Check schedule for time and location.
- Location: most DPS meetings are held at the First Unitarian Church, 730 Halstead Road, Wilmington, DE 19803. Some programs are presented at Cokesbury Village, 726 Loveville Road, Hockessin, DE 19707.
- Membership dues should be addressed to: DPS Club Treasurer, Tom Hallenbeck, 621 Sandys Parish Rd, Landenberg, PA 19350. Dues are \$35 for individuals, \$25 for others at the same address; first time members \$20 the first year, and \$15 for students.
- *The Reflector* is a monthly publication of the DPS. Contribution deadline is the third Monday of the month. Send announcements and/or articles to 48 Partridge Lane, Kennett Square, PA 19348, 610.388.2741 or SESCoffey@aol.com.
- Visit our website at: www.delawarephotographicsociety.org

Questions & Answers

Contributed monthly by Erik Kissa

Digital Shutter Release Delay

Q: Will the long delay between clicking of the shutter release and the moment of actual picture taking by digital cameras be eventually eliminated?

A: The shutter-release lag time has been reduced considerably for higher end digital cameras. The top of the line professional digital cameras respond as quickly as the SLR film cameras. The shutter release lag of the upper end digital cameras with a built-in lens is almost instantaneous. However, most compact point-and-shoot digital cameras still have a considerable shutter-release lag time, too long for some uses. In all fairness, the point-and-shoot film cameras have a noticeable lag time as well, caused mainly by a slow autofocus response.

The digital cameras have another annoying feature. Unlike film cameras, digital cameras have a battery saving "sleep" mode and require time, from one to several seconds, to become operational when the camera is turned on. The camera can be kept active by tickling the shutter release or holding it half way down.

Film Identification

Q: My film is marked RH255 on perforation. Is the film Fuji Provia 400F or Sensia 400?

A: The film marked RH255 is Sensia 400.

Q: I have heard that the nature of film is unimportant when the film is scanned in order to make digital prints or slides. Is this true?

A: No, this is not true at all. The granularity of the film will show in the scan. Some upper end scanners have software (Digital GEM) to minimize the effect of grain. Some films require different scanning conditions. The differences in color rendition are not equalized by digital processing.

Q: What is the Depth-of-field?

A: Not everything is rendered sharp on the film. The depth-of-field is the apparently sharp area between its farthest edge and its nearest edge to the camera. The depth-of-field is illusory, in reality only one point or plane can be in sharp focus. When the light rays are not in sharp focus, they form a circle on the film plane. However, if the circle is extremely small on the film, the circle appears to be a point. The depth-of-field scales and tables assume that circles which are smaller than the circle of confusion are perceptually seen as a point. The depth-of-field depends on the arbitrary size (usually 0.025 or 0.03mm on a 35mm frame) of the circle of confusion and the aperture (The meaning of the word "aperture" is here the size of the opening in the diaphragm of the lens, not the f number).

The effect of the focal length on the depth-of-field is a controversial

subject. The focal length of a lens is related to the magnification ratio of the subject and to the aperture as well. Under certain conditions it is possible to show that a longer focal length lens has a narrower depth-of-field. If a wide angle lens and a tele lens are compared at the same f number, it seems that the wide angle lens has a wider depth-of-field. However, the increase in depth-of-field is not caused by the shorter focal length. If both lenses have the same f number, the wide angle lens has a smaller aperture than a lens with a longer focal length (The aperture is the focal length divided by the f number). If both lenses have the same aperture size, the focal length has no effect on the depth-of-field.

Erik Kissa

Send questions to ekissa@aol.com

President's Thoughts

(Continued from page 1)

location. Would anyone care to have our own building, as a couple of other clubs have?

Therefore, at the next Board of Directors meeting, I will propose that the two committees be combined. For this to be a success we will need volunteers to serve on the committee. If you would like to help, please contact me at DGHut36@aol.com or 302-731-4815.

Dave

Climbing Your Mountain

Contributed by Wm. J. Talarowski



In the beginning, what I thought I needed to make a living was the pure knowledge of "how to take a picture". What film to use, f stops, shutter speeds, how to arrive at a correct exposure, use of lenses for different effects, composition, or in short, the "basics of photography." I also found the result of this knowledge produced images that filled an editorial need but did little for my interpretive or creative satisfaction. To put it bluntly, they were filled with information but they had no soul. It was necessary for me to go beyond the safe ground of basic photography found in books and learned on the job and dare myself to push the boundaries and climb my mountain of the unknown.

Webster's definition of photography reads, "the action of light to create an image." The accepted modern version from those in the field is, "painting with light." Light is not only necessary to see our subject but its moods as well. It is not until you understand the properties and moods of light that you will exhibit any deep meaning in your images. Proper lighting will allow you to not only absorb its

visual impact, but also its hidden and psychological messages as well. This is uncharted territory for most of us but, when successful, can reward you with a joy of your work.

As with lighting, composition must be taken into consideration. Mass to the right, rule of thirds, center of interest, and tonal values are all-important factors in obtaining a meaningful image, but not at the cost of being a slave to these standards. To follow the tried and true is always safe but at what cost. Learn these standards well, take their message to heart, then begin your climb up your personal mountain. Often times you will fail, but when there is success, it is so sweet.

To make things go smoother it is wise to concentrate on a subject that has a particular interest to you. Landscapes, pictorials, nature, and still life are but a few. These familiar surroundings allow you to concentrate more on other aspects of the image where you have less knowledge. It also raises the odds of your having a more successful conclusion of your efforts. Strive to present your image in a different way rather than the tried and true way to acceptance. There is nothing worse than an image, that has many stories to tell, continuously being presented in the same manner.

The masters who went before us also should be studied to shorten your journey. Each, in their own way, had something to say. It is this combined knowledge of all the masters that will hasten your journey to the top of your mountain and to more meaningful images. ☺

Camera Insurance...

...don't leave home without it!

Contributed by Bob Coffey

In case you have not already done so, make sure that your precious camera equipment is properly insured. The normal homeowner's policy will cover theft, but usually with a substantial deductible. Add a personal property rider with an itemized list of all of your equipment to your homeowner's insurance policy and you will have full coverage for the replacement cost. Be sure to include all filters and miscellaneous small items as well. Keep the list current by notifying your insurance company each time you add or delete items. I keep a spreadsheet in my computer with the model and serial number, date of purchase and price paid for every item I own. Review it each year to make certain that the prices shown on your rider are sufficient to cover replacement. The insurance will only cover the price initially paid plus the accumulated inflation rate and that might not be sufficient.

While eating dinner with my daughter at a restaurant in Miami last month, someone broke into my rental car and stole all of our camera equipment, including two Nikon digital bodies, several lenses and a Gitzo tripod, from the trunk. The combined value was over \$7,000. Fortunately, almost all of my equipment had been listed on my homeowner's rider, so it is being replaced. The added annual cost of the insurance rider is a pittance by comparison and the peace of mind is priceless. ☺

Field Trip Grounds for Sculpture

Field Trip Chair: Valentina Donor
Place: Ground for Sculpture, 18 Fairgrounds Rd. Hamilton, NJ 08619 (Take Rte. 295, Exit 63B, Trenton)
Date: Saturday, November 8, 03
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Admission: \$8, Seniors \$7

We will meet at the Grounds for Sculpture in the Domestic Arts Building at 10: 00 A.M. That building will be directly in front of you after you make the first right into the parking lot past the Admission Booth.

This 25+ acre park is located on the Old New Jersey Fairgrounds. The sculpture park was created ten years ago by sculptor, Stewart Johnson, one of the members of the Johnson & Johnson family. He turned this property into a wonderful park with interesting sculptures, plants, lakes and waterfalls. He is a man with a sense of humor which can be seen in his work. The grounds also house a very interesting 4 star restaurant, which is very photographic and expensive. There is a café in the Domestic Arts Bldg. where you can buy lunch and something to drink at a reasonable price. There are also two buildings which house changing exhibits and a large studio building where the artists work. Hopefully, we will have a chance to go through it.

Come out and join me as we go on another adventure looking for wonderful shots!

PNC Bank Calendar

2005 PNC Calendar

The PNC Bank has commissioned DPS members to provide images for their 2005 calendar. PNC pays the photographer \$135 each for the 12 accepted entries, and \$200 for the cover. All images must be taken in Delaware, and must be horizontal. PNC is primarily seeking outstanding scenic images of festivals and activities may be accepted. A model release must be submitted for all recognizable persons. PNC is especially interested in receiving photos from all three Delaware counties, taken at all times of the year.

Slides or prints may be submitted. Print size must be 5" x 7" or 8" x 12". All submissions must include the photographer's name and Social Security number, and the location of the photograph. Slides are to be in 20-slide clear plastic sheets.

The number of images submitted by each photographer is unlimited. You may submit a couple of images, or a couple of hundred images. If you have similar images

of a scene, submit them all, and let PNC choose. In the past couple of years, the number of submissions has declined. If they get too low, PNC will look elsewhere, and it behooves us to submit a large number of superb images. Every DPS member should plan to enter.

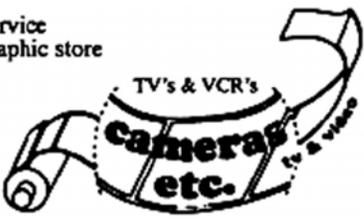
DPS members should submit their 2005 entries to Herb Sargeant. The submission date will be in June or July, 2004; the exact date will be printed in *The Reflector* at a later date. PNC will return all images in November, 04.

Herb G. Sargeant; PNC contact
hmsargeant@aol.com

2004 PNC Calendar

Congratulations to the following DPS members for their acceptances in the 2004 PNC Calendar: **Bob Coffey, Vince Jankowski, Erik Kissa, Monica Nagy, Herb Sargeant, and Bill Talarowski.**

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County Fair in Motion © Jeff Smith



Bison in Fog © Steve Berkowitz

COMING EVENTS

- **November 3**
7:30 p.m. Instruction
How to Succeed in Photo Competitions
- **November 8**
10 a.m. Grounds for
Sculpure (page 6)
- **November 10**
7:30 p.m. Slide Night
- **November 17**
7:30 p.m. Print Night
- **November 22**
DVCCC Ray O'Day Club vs.
Club Competition, Maple
Shade, NJ
- **November 24**
Program Night
6 p.m. Dinner with Speaker
RSVP 610-388-2741
7:30 p.m. Sal DiMarco
Cokesbury Village (page 1)
- **December 1**
7:30 p.m. Instruction
*Exposure, Focus and
Photography Basics*
- **December 8**
7:30 p.m. Slide Night
- **December 15**
7:30 p.m. Holiday Party &
Print Exchange
- **January 5**
7:30 p.m. Instruction
- **January 12**
7:30 p.m. Slide Night
- **January 19**
7:30 p.m. Print Night
- **January 24**
71st WIEP Judging
Banquet
- **January 26**
7:30 p.m. Program Night



Change your DPS home page shortcut to:
www.delawarephotographicsociety.org. The old site
 will not be kept active after the end of 2003.