



The Reflector



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

October 2006

President's Message

As my name and addresses have been published in connection with our organization for some eight years or more, I receive a steady stream of announcements, commercial messages, that someone somewhere thinks will appeal to our membership. If I receive them in physical form, I'll usually put them out on a table at meetings, where other members often place magazines, catalogs or other detritus to pass on. I may also put the information in a file on the DPS Yahoo! group web site.

Although I would assume the majority of our members have web access, I'm somewhat surprised that only about one-fourth of our membership has joined our Yahoo! group, the DPS-Exchange. In addition to its being the place to check

into the information I receive on such things as photo contests or competitions, workshops or photo excursions, or, occasionally, commercial products or services, group members may post questions for other group members to address, post images for others to critique, and generally share information related to photography in another medium. This allows conversations



*Film is Dead by Steve Furlong
This is Steve's interpretation of the
September assigned subject – Junk.*

entirely at the convenience of all parties that no one is compelled to endure if they are not interested in the topic. If the DPS membership more widely joined the Yahoo! group, I hope that eventually we could dispense with many of the announcements that start each of our meetings.

Membership in DPS-Exchange is restricted to DPS members. There are two main ways to join DPS-Exchange. One requires a Yahoo! ID, and the other does not. Yahoo! ID requires establishing a screen name and a password. It is faster to sign up without a Yahoo! ID, but the benefit of subscribing with one

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October Speaker —Suchat Pederson

October 30 • 7:30 p.m.

Suchat Pederson, Deputy Director of Photography at the *Wilmington News Journal*, will present a very interesting program, "Freelance Photojournalism". He will discuss what the newspaper looks for in a freelance photographer, including all aspects of photography; background, lighting, framing, shooting sports, general news and other topics related to being a freelance photographer. Suchat will also dis-

cuss daily photo assignments, equipment, how photos are transmitted from location, and photographic multimedia presentations.

If possible, join us at 6p.m. for Dinner with the Speaker in a private Cokesbury dining room.

Reservations must be made in advance to Robert Coffey at 610.388.2741/bobcoffey@aol.com. Dinner cost is \$15, all inclusive. The check should be payable to DPS. Sorry, no walk-ins. Limit 30.

Coming Events

- **October 2**
7:30pm Instruction Night (pg. 3)
Digital entry deadline
- **October 9**
7:30 p.m. Slide/digital competitions
- **October 16**
7:30 p.m. Print competition
- **October 23**
7:30 p.m. Photo Essay Workshop
- **October 30**
6 p.m. Dinner with speaker,
Suchat Pederson
7:30 p.m. Program
Cokesbury Auditorium

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2006-2007

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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.

Thought Process of Recording Your Images

By Wm. J. Talarowski

I have been asked the question, "What is your thought process when taking your images?" First, I've been making images for 51 years, and my thought process is so automatic by now I really had to think about it. First, and foremost, of course, does the image have interest to encourage others to look and study the image that you have brought into the world? Does it have strong **composition and balance** which tells the story of what you saw and recorded? Does this composition read **left to right** as we all do when reading a simple sentence? Does it have **interest and impact** to hold the attention of the viewer? Is it **framed** in a manner to direct the viewer to the main elements of the scene? Are there **strong lines and patterns** to help accentuate the chosen center of interest?

The second element that must be considered is **lighting**. You may have the strongest, most perfect image, but if the story is not advertised and sold by good lighting, then you're wasting your time. Moody images in particular depend on this element within the work.

The third element is **angle of view**. Dare to bend over once in a while, even with your sore back and aching knees, or even better, just lie down! A very low angle will

tell you a totally different story of the image than one taken while standing. Move left or right to play up the main subject without having objects intruding into the center of interest. Be sure to cut out extraneous elements within the viewing area, and be sure to remember the golden rule, "less is more than enough."

Finally, **which lens and F-stop** are you going to use? If you are a long distance from your subject, your best selection would be a telephoto lens. If, however, you have a large amount of sky that is to be included into the image,



Hay Barn at Sunset #2 © Wm. J Talarowski

then a shorter, more normal lens would be your best bet. If you shoot from a low angle with detail in the immediate foreground, a wider focal length with a small F-stop would be best.

I have said nothing about the use of a tripod. This is where I break the ranks! Using a tripod will insure a higher number of sharp images, but for me, it is a big pain in my neck, and elsewhere, too. When using long lenses, time exposures, recording subjects in motion to show blurred motion, or insufficient light, you have to use one. But the Good Lord has given me the ability to make an exposure hand held down to 1/15th of a second while maintaining reasonable sharpness, so I choose not to use a tripod most of the time. ☺

PSA Conference News

Karl Leck wins the Smith Award... again! At the 2006 convention of the Photographic Society of America,



the Photojournalism Division announced that Karl Leck was the winner of the Smith Award for Photojournalist of the Year. The winning image was "My Body" taken at a women's rights march in Washington, DC. The prestigious Smith Award, named for the late Fel-

lows of PSA, Charlotte and Dorothy Smith of Spokane, honors the photojournalism image chosen best by a panel of 3 qualified judges. An image must first win a medal in a PSA sanctioned print, slide or digital exhibition in the previous year to be considered.

Karl's print won a DPS bronze medal in the 2005 WIEP to qualify for the Smith Award competition. While photographing the marchers as they passed the White House, Karl saw a young woman whose back was painted "My Body My Choice". The woman climbed onto a wall to take a picture of the White House. Karl ran to line up the woman and the background. Serendipitously another sign saying "Who decides?" also appeared in the background. As soon as the woman got her picture, she climbed down and the fleeting image that Karl captured was gone. The woman's back, the sign, and the White House visually

show the reason for the protest march. Photojournalism is the use of a well composed image to tell a story.

This is Karl's second Smith Award. He also won in 1992 for a B&W photo of a horse and rider rolling on the ground after a fall. He is the third photographer to win the award twice since its inception in 1972. Lynn Maniscalco won the Smith Award in 2002. She chaired the Photojournalism Division from 1990 to 1994.

Lynn Troy Maniscalco was this year's recipient of PSA's most prestigious service award, the Victor Scales Memorial Award. Initiated in 1962 in memory of a member who provided extensive service to PSA through the many positions he held, it is presented annually to a PSA member in recognition of valuable contributions to the society over an extended period of time.

Sharon Coffey was honored as editor of *The Reflector*, the second place newsletter among all those from large clubs. The DPS Web site, designed by **Steve Furlong**, was recognized as second among those of all PSA clubs and councils in PSA.

Lynn Maniscalco also presented a program entitled "Finding Photojournalism," to explain what subject matter is suitable for PJ competitions and to give suggestions on how and where to access it.

DPS was well represented by Dianne Carnegie, Steve and Eileen Furlong, Erik Kissa, Marvin and Helen Gerstein, Dave and Judy Hutton, Karl Leck, Monica Nagy, Lynn Maniscalco, Herb Sargeant, Jane Strobach, and Tom Tauber.

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

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

I have agreed to work as a photographic equipment and techniques consultant for new members of PSA. My collection of the questions and answers on the website has nine chapters:

- Cameras • Lenses • Accessories
- Editing and Storage • Scanners
- Printers • Projectors • Film
- Photographic Techniques

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

My e-mail address for questions has remained the same: ekissa@aol.com.

Q: Which polarizer should I buy for my digital camera?

A: A polarizer is one of the two filters needed for a digital camera. A graduated neutral gray filter is the other one. A polarizer blocks light reflected from a nonmetallic surface, makes the colors more saturated, and the sky bluer. I use a polarizer most of the time.

All polarizers are not created equal. Modern autofocus SLR cameras need a circular polarizer. A linear polarizer can interfere with autofocusing and exposure metering. A polarizer, like any other filter, is a component of the optical system and must be absolutely planar to avoid distortions. A filter adds more glass surfaces to the optical system and must be coated to reduce reflections. The first antireflection coating is the most effective. Additional layers decrease reflections further but they decrease effectiveness and increase the price. A good multicoated 77mm polarizer costs more than an inexpensive lens! The multicoated surface is delicate and should not be rubbed when cleaning the filter.

The color of the polarizer must be a neutral gray. A tint of the gray color means a tint of all images. Some photographers using film combined a polarizer with a warming filter. This meant adding two more glass surfaces to the optical system. As a remedy, the "warm polarizers" have the warming color (81A) included in the filter. A warming polarizer is not needed for digital cameras because photofilters are available in the Photoshop CS2 and the Elements 4.0 (Not in the Filters section, but under Adjustments!).

The mechanical durability of the polarizer is important as well. The higher priced polarizers have brass rings.

Q: What is the present status of CD durability?

A: The quality of CD-R disks has been improved and some manufacturers now claim a hundred year life time. Obviously, these claims cannot be verified but are questionable when failures occur.

A deterioration of the CD disk can be caused by mechanical mishandling of the disk, as an example by scratching or bending the disk, or by changes in the dye layer of the disk which make the disk unreadable.

A CD-R disk is made up of several layers. When the disk is recorded, a laser beam burns pits into the dye layer under a smooth reflective surface of either aluminum or gold. When the recording is read with a much weaker laser beam, the pits are nonreflective, unlike the unaffected smooth areas between the pits. Storage stability means that the pits and the areas between the pits have to be permanent and should not change when the disk is stored or read. The dye should not degrade or diffuse and the demarcation of the pits should remain sharp. The phthalocyanine dyes are more stable than the azo dyes used in the inexpensive disks. The storage stability of the disks depends on the reflective surface of the disk as well. Gold is the most inert metal. The latest Gold CD-R disks are coated with a scratch resistant layer.

Although the quality of CD-R disks has been improved, the old questions of software and hardware remain. It is possible that CD-s recorded today may not be readable in the future.

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2006-2007 Instruction Night

Two Instruction Night sessions are scheduled for October!!!

- **October 2: Lenses: Which ones to use for your subject** — Karl Leck & Friends With Big Lenses

Gone are the days when a good camera came with just one fixed focal length lens that gave about the same view as our eye. Now even inexpensive point-and-shoot cameras have zoom lenses, sometimes with a range of 10:1 or more plus macro. Creative photographers are now looking for the perfect lens for their particular image idea. Focal lengths from 8 mm to 800 mm are available off the store shelf (in New York anyway!).

We will look at various kinds of photography and the best lens for the task. What should I take on a 15-mile hike or a Colorado climb? How about for a 3-week trip covering 20 places? What lens will make me look important (the lens as a fashion statement!) at my son's football game or at the local bird sanctuary? What lens did Karl use for the flying butterfly? What is the 'secret' macro lens and why? What's the difference between a

'pro' lens and the others? Answers to these questions and other fascinating pieces of lens lore will come out that night as Karl Leck and some nice friends with strange lenses do a show-and-tell.

- **October 23: Creating a Photo Essay** — Jane Strobach and Karl Leck

This will be a special instruction night on creating a photo essay. Karl and Jane are both previous winners of DPS photo essay competitions. They will discuss the methods of telling a story or imparting knowledge using the photo essay where the pictures are of primary importance but can be supported by special effects, layout, and audio.

Do you have a lot of 'nice' images that may not be good enough for acceptance in WIEP? They may be great candidates for a photo essay if they can be grouped to tell a story.

Karl and Jane will lead you through the steps of creating photo essays from the simple 10 image show to the use of ProShow Gold software to create a full audio-visual digital presentation. Years ago complex slide shows used sev-

eral projectors, multi-track tape recorder, dissolve unit, and many slide trays. Today the show is assembled in the computer so that only a digital projector and a DVD player or laptop computer are needed to screen it. Good shows can be easier and more creative than ever. Watch the creation of a short show from scratch that night.

- November 6: *Getting the Maximum from your Digital Camera* — DPS Experts
- 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 & The Flashers
- March 5: *More Photoshop Techniques* — Karl Leck, Jane Strobach, & 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

Field Trip • September 30 • Gibraltar Gardens

Note change of location for the September 30 field trip... We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at **Gibraltar Gardens** located at the corner of Pennsylvania and Greenhill Avenues in Wilmington. The garden entrance is on Greenhill Avenue. Tom Oathout has arranged for 4-7 models, a motorcycle, and a rare, award-winning antique DuPont automobile for us to photograph.

The Gibraltar gardens were designed by landscape architect Marian Coffin between 1916 and 1923. They consist of a series of garden "rooms," each with a unique character and purpose. Handforged iron gates and railings and a collection of statuary, urns, and fountains complete the design. www.preservationde.org/gibraltar/gardens/garden_history.htm

The models will be joining us at no charge, but please be advised that everyone must be willing to provide a minimum of two 8"x10" prints or a CD per model. Also, the owner of the antique car and motorcycle will provide these props in exchange for photographs. For information, contact Tom at 302.836.0148 or delawarefoto@yahoo.com.

Member News

- **Danny Schweers** won the Walls of Brandywine Creek photography contest with his image, *Plant a Tree*. **Mark Reed** took third place with his image, *Stone Wall Close-up*. Danny also got an honorable mention for his image, *Something There Is*. The photos will be on display at the Nature Center in the near future.
- **Mark Reed** also won Best of Show at the Williamsburg Community Farm Show (Pennsylvania).

Please extend a warm welcome to our new members:

Peg Baseden — Wilmington, DE
 Irene Baron — Wilmington, DE
 Margaret Burman — Newark, DE
 John Davis — Middletown, DE
 Miki Honda Fujiki — Newark, DE
 Diana Leitch — Hockessin, DE
 Mac Rayne — Kennett Square, PA
 Stephane Stewart — Landenberg, PA
 Harvey Walls — Newark, DE

We wish to express our sincere condolences to the family of long-time member **Val Luedeke**. Val was a former Club president and valued contributor for over 50 years. He was awarded the distinction of Honorary Member in 2006.

DPS Celebrates 75th Anniversary

The Delaware Photographic Society celebrated its 75th anniversary on September 25 with a program presented at the annual potluck supper. Many past presidents, honored guests and honorary members were able to join in the festivities. Honorary membership plaques were presented to Bob Pyle, Ed and Peg Bramble, and posthumously to Val Luedeke. Herb Sargeant compiled a digital review of DCC/DPS members having a great time socializing, learning, sharing, and taking memorable photographs. A 75th commemorative booklet and anniversary patch were created to mark the occasion.

The booklets document the 75-year history of our Society, and the anniversary patches may be sewn

on vests or camera bags — to proudly display. If you missed the party, but would like to have your free copy of the booklet and commemorative patch, these items will be available to members at October meetings.



Extra booklets and patches may be purchased for \$2 each by contacting Sharon Coffey at 610.388.2741 / SESCoffey@aol.com.

President's Message

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is that you will have a selection of options on receiving messages ranging from receiving each individual message as it is posted, to receiving no notice of messages. To subscribe without a Yahoo! ID, send an e-mail to DPS-Exchange-subscribe@yahoo.com.

The subject and context of the message do not matter, but should include your name if who you are is not clear from your email address. Yahoo will reply with a confirmation e-mail. Reply to the message as the message requests. To subscribe with a Yahoo! ID, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/>. Sign in with your existing Yahoo! ID if you already have one from another group, or click on the Sign Up link and register for a Yahoo! ID following the instructions. In the Find a Group box, enter "DPS-Exchange" and click on Search. Find **DPS-Exchange** in the list of groups and click on the link. Follow the links for joining the group.

Either way, your request will be sent to the list administrators and you will receive a welcome e-mail as soon as your membership is approved. The Yahoo! group provides me the opportunity to pass on in a rather benign way most of the information sent to me, and releases me from having to decide what should, or should not be, mass-emailed and/or announced at meetings. All that is needed is for those who think there might be some information they might like to see, or might enjoy another opportunity to interact with our members join the Yahoo! group.

Jeff

Mt. Cuba Program for Photographers

Mt. Cuba Center Continuing Education Program

Mt. Cuba Center (MCC) has initiated a Continuing Education Program that might be of interest to DPS members. Of special significance is the meeting on Saturday, October 28, 2006: "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words", 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at MCC: a "free stroll" open house for artists and photographers. Find that perfect shot or paint your own masterpiece in a spectacular setting at the height of autumn garden color.

Pre-Registration required with fee of \$35 which includes lunch. Contact the MCC website at www.mtcubacenter.org or call 302.489.0237 for more information and to register.

Other programs offered throughout the late summer and fall include "Made in the Shade", "Butterflies in Your Garden", "Ferns", "Native Plants of Autumn Interest" and many others. Early registration advised – class sizes strictly limited.

October Photo Op

Fair Hill International, Fair Hill Maryland, **October 19-22**

This three-day event offers an array of photo ops from horse shots, dressage, driving events, a country shop, food, and beautiful scenery.

www.fairhillinternational.com

Exhibit Opportunity

The Helen Graham Cancer Center at Christiana Hospital, is looking for local artists to exhibit work in the lobby and/or the library. Space is available for only 5 items, no larger than 16"x20". Subject matter should be meditative, reflective, and calming. Each exhibitor will have their work up for one month and may offer their pieces for sale. If you would like to participate, contact Dave Hutton at dgh36@mac.com or 302.731.4815.

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.



Mushroom Queen by Karl Leck
Digital competition – Altered Reality Category

Questions & Answers

(continued from page 4)

Q: A graph in the Reflector (2006 September) shows the density as a function of log exposure. What is the meaning of density?

A: The density means the darkness (the opposite of brightness) of the negative film or a color slide. The density of a negative film increases with increasing exposure and forms an S-shaped curve when plotted against the log of exposure. The medium section of the curve is approximately a straight line. When the exposure exceeds the straight portion of the curve, the sensitivity of the film falls off. The response of the film to an increasing exposure does not end

abruptly at the level of overexposure but continues with a decreasing sensitivity. As a result, the highlights are not easily washed out but are recorded. The curved ends of the S-curve, the toe and the shoulder, function as a buffer for under and over exposure, thus preventing blocked shadows and blown highlights.

When a color slide film is processed, the density of the film is reversed. Therefore the density of the processed color slide decreases with increasing exposure. In other words, the S-curve with the rounded ends of a negative film is flipped horizontally but the buffering effect remains

Unlike film, the response of a digital sensor to light ends abruptly at an excessive exposure.

Q: Does the Nikon D200 camera have a short battery life?

A: How long the charge of a battery lasts depends on the use of the camera. A frequent viewing of the large LCD screen and firing the built-in flash drain the battery power. However, a charge of the same Li-ion battery, EN-EL3e, can produce at least twice as many images in the Nikon D70 camera.

The Nikon D200 camera needs an EN-EL3e spare battery or the MB-D200 grip which holds two EN-EL3e batteries or six AA size alkaline, NiMH, or lithium batteries.

Send questions to ekissa@aol.com

LENS SALE

Nikon 80-200mm F/2.8 lens with hood and case, mint condition, \$400.

Tripod foot is detachable for handheld shooting. On a digital camera the equivalent focal length is 120-300mm at f2.8!

The favorite lens of professionals for portrait, sport, and outdoor photography.

Contact Erik Kissa at ekissa@aol.com or 302.478.6737.