

# Focal Points

The Official Newsletter of the Flagpole Photography Club

Volume 2

Issue#14- February 2010



## NEXT MEETING:

March 18, 2010

## Location:

Cyrenius H. Booth Library  
Newtown, CT

Program: Scrapbooking in the  
Digital Age with Kirsten Bazuros

## Assigned Topic:

Cyrenius Booth Library

## FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We're on a roll with new members with 8 newcomers signing up in February. Flagpole welcomes:

Mark Ashbolt	Greg Deemy
Sue Bonacci	Ercole Gaudio
Peggy Clark	Bill Hull
Rhonda Cullens	Michelle Zering

This brings our total membership to nearly 50 and is an all-time high for the club. Trivia alert: Don Brooks, Flagpole co-president, reports that our membership comprises 11 different zip codes.

## GREATER LYNN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

Thirteen members of the club submitted 52

photos to this prestigious exhibition and of those, 13 were selected. The exhibition premieres on Saturday, April 10, 2010. In addition to viewing of competition images, there will also be a panel discussion—Teaching Presentation on How Images are Judged.

Tickets for the programs are \$12 for both or \$8 for the exhibit only and may be obtained at the door or in advance by contacting [s.jmosser@comcast.net](mailto:s.jmosser@comcast.net).

## FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM

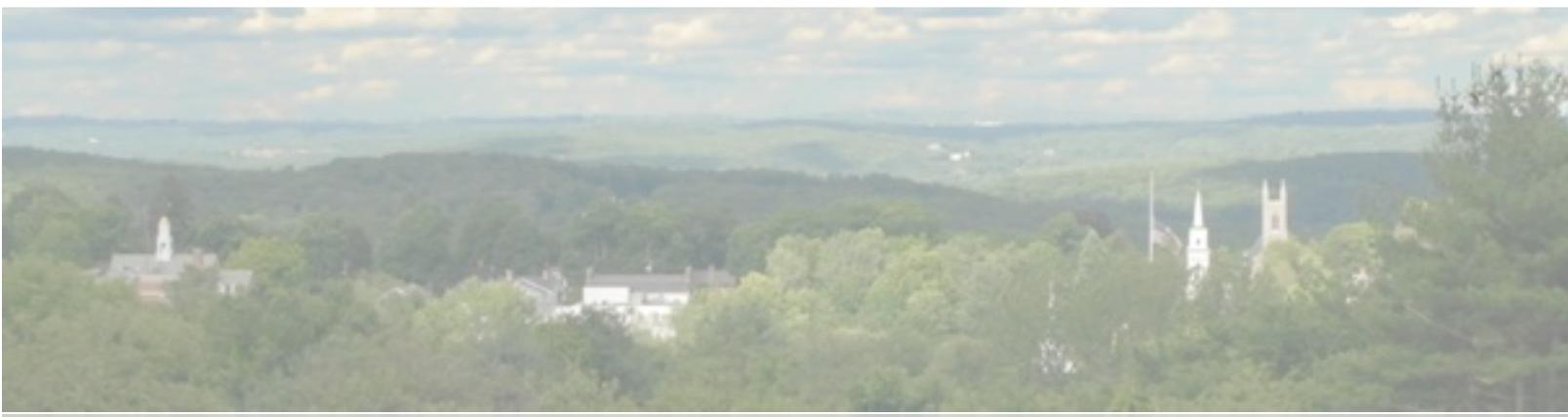
Karen Kensik from Koenig Art Emporium in Southbury demonstrated various matting techniques including single matting, double matting and triple matting with a space at last month's meeting.

## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

The Newtown Economic Development Commission website is now live at [www.newtown.org](http://www.newtown.org). The Commission approached Flagpole Photographers about providing photographs of Newtown to feature on the site and several of those photos are now on view.

## ANNUAL COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION

Time to start editing those shots from last fall that have been languishing in your computer or taking advantage of the longer spring days to get some new ones—it's almost time for Flagpole's annual print exhibition and competition which runs April 10-11 at the Booth



Library. The rules for submissions to the competition differ from regular meeting print competition as follows:

A maximum of 6 prints may be submitted—three color and three black and white.

Awards presented are as follows:

- 1) Traditional category—first, second, third place and honorable mention
- 2) Black and white category—first, second, third place and honorable mention
- 3) Digitally enhanced category—first, second, third place and honorable mention
- 4) Best in show
- 5) Dave Krieger Nature Award (best nature category print)
- 6) Jeannette Talarino Flower Award (best flower print)
- 7) Bruce Allen Open Print Award
- 8) People's Choice Award (as voted by visitors)

### **PHOTO CONNECTION WORKSHOPS**

Upcoming workshops at Photo Connection of Colchester include “Capture the Possibilities” with renowned nature photographer George Lepp on May 23, 2010 at Uconn in Storrs, CT.

Workshop participants also have the opportunity to enter a photo contest in conjunction with the workshop and have their nature images judged by George and Kathryn Lepp. Winners will be announced and projected at the seminar.

“Studio Lighting and Portraiture” with Dave Piazza is being held at Photo Connection on May 2, 2010.

A seminar with noted photographer Rick Sammon will be offered on November 14, 2010. More information may be obtained about these workshops at <http://photoconnectionoc.com>.

### **ADIRONDACK PHOTOGRAPHY INSTITUTE WORKSHOPS**

Offering various weekend workshops and enthusiastically endorsed by club member Rick Tyrseck, some of the featured workshops for 2010 include “Spring Waterfalls of the Finger Lakes”, “Springtime Wildlife Photography” and “Adirondack Waters”. More information may be obtained at <http://www.adkpi.org/beta/workshops-tours/index.html>.

### **FIRST 100 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

On Monday April 12, 2010 at 7:30 PM at the C. H. Booth Library Meeting Room, the Newtown Historical Society is sponsoring a free presentation by Connecticut historian and lecturer Robert Berthelson on the first 100 years of photography from its inception through Matthew Brady's great Civil War photographs to the origin of color photography.

### **MEMBER MACRO**

Rick Tyrseck is an enthusiastic nature photographer and color management/home-printing maven whose amazing images have won numerous competitions.

<http://photonaturalist.net/>

<http://photofocus.com/>

<http://www.thephotograph.com/>

[www.durhamtownship.com/index.html](http://www.durhamtownship.com/index.html)

**1. What inspired you to get into**

**photography?** I always “liked” photography, but never pursued it seriously until about 10 years ago. Earlier I owned cameras but never took the time to better understand photography and how to effectively use the cameras.

**2. What one piece of photographic equipment (besides your camera) can you not live**

**without?** Simply....the tripod! For a landscape photographer, it is essential. It allows me to follow best practices such as mirror lock-up and a cable release. I also found that using a tripod helped slow my photographic thought process. This is something I always need to keep in mind as I often don't take the time to consider all the possible compositions. The tripod allows me to walk away from the camera and scout out new points of view (i.e., working the scene).

**3. What is your biggest photographic**

**achievement?** Other than preparing up to 8 different prints each month for the two camera clubs I belong to, the biggest achievement was at the 2008 NECCC conference where I won an award for the best B+W Seascape print.

**4. What is your biggest photographic**

**challenge?** As I mentioned above, I need to temper my enthusiasm and slow down in order to consider numerous photographic perspectives at a chosen location.

**5. What is the most important photographic**

**lesson you have ever learned?** I believe knowing all of your camera's functions is a must. Knowing how to set up the camera's setting to capture a scene needs to be second nature. I never shoot on Auto or Program and even revert to manual when I need to capture sunrises and sunset. My camera's Live View function is the greatest technology development I have seen in many years.

**6. When you were just starting out, what was your biggest photographic “a-ha” moment -- the thing that created a major change for the better in your photography?** If I had to pick

one, reading one of John Shaw's books on the basics of nature photography finally pulled together all the elements for me: from understanding how camera meters are based on 18% gray, to obtaining focus throughout the composition. This was during the film days and I needed to learn these principles in order to shoot some slide film.

**7. What is your favorite subject to shoot and why?**

I grew up on the ocean and so anything related to the interaction of the shore and the ocean inspires me. Favorite locales are Cape Cod and Maine.

**8. Which photographer(s) inspire(s) you?**

Obviously Ansel Adams is a major influence and because of him I have found B+W in the digital world very rewarding. After that I just reference the monthly “Outdoor Photographer” magazine to be inspired by all the artists they feature.

**9. Describe the dream photographic field trip you'd love to take.**

I want to visit out West. Start with the Tetons/Yellowstone National Park and end of up at Yosemite Valley in California.

**10. What are your photographic goals/**

**resolutions for the upcoming year?** To narrow my focus. I want to capture more intimate compositions. I tend to look at scenics from a grand perspective and I want to isolate compositions with more emotional impact.

**11. In what area of photography would you like to increase your knowledge?**

Macro photography. I do not have a macro lens but I do have extension tubes.

**12. Do you prefer taking the photo or post-processing and readying the photo for print? Why?**

Actually I like both sides. Snapping the shutter is about capturing the image that you see with your eyes. Post-processing all the way through printmaking is really an extension of that. I print all my photos as I feel I am the only one that could know how the print should look.

# Competition Winners

February, 2010

Assigned Subject: Signs



1st Place Assigned  
Beggar  
Ercole Gaudio



2nd Place Assigned  
Snow at Edgewood  
Adriana Gomez



3rd Place Assigned  
Have You Eaten Here Before?  
Rick Tyrseck



1st Place Open-Color  
On a Cold Morning  
Micheline Williams



3rd Place Open-Color  
A Light Snack  
Rick Tyrseck



1st Place Open-B & W  
Ice Storm  
Bob Berthier



2nd Place Open-B & W  
Jamie  
Don Brooks



3rd Place Open-B & W  
Going Nowhere  
Donna White