

# Focal Points

The Official Newsletter of the Flagpole Photography Club

Volume 2  
Issue#15- March 2010



## NEXT MEETING:

April 15, 2010

## Location:

Cyrenius H. Booth Library  
Newtown, CT

Program: Creating Slide  
Presentations-Donna White

## Assigned Topic:

Nautical

Honorable mentions went to Rick Tyrseck for "Maximum Effort" and Ercole Gaudioso for "Beggar."

In the Nature Class B category, Flagpole finished fourth overall for the year. Two Honorable Mention awards in the Spring Competition yielded a third place finish: Anne Eigen for "Egret Skimming the Waters" and Ercole Gaudioso for "Gorilla".

## FLAGPOLE ANNUAL COMPETITION AND EXHIBIT RESULTS

A record-setting 102 photographs were submitted into this year's competition and the results are in:

**Judges' Best in Show:** Bob Berthier: "Gathering Storm"

**Krieger Nature Award:** Bob Berthier, "Aspen Abstract"

**Bruce Allen Open Print Award:** Jill Baimel, "I Dream of Tulips"

**Jeannette Talarino Flower Award:** Sheila Silvernail, "Lily on Black"

**Peoples' Choice Award:** Rhonda Cullens, "I've Got My Eye on You"

### Traditional Color Print:

1st Place: Bob Berthier, "Gathering Storm"

2nd Place: Ercole Gaudioso, "Barn Yard"

3rd Place: Rui DeSousa, "480"

### Honorable Mentions:

Bob Berthier, "Going to the Sun" and Anne Eigen, "Shadows of a Tree"

## NECCC RESULTS

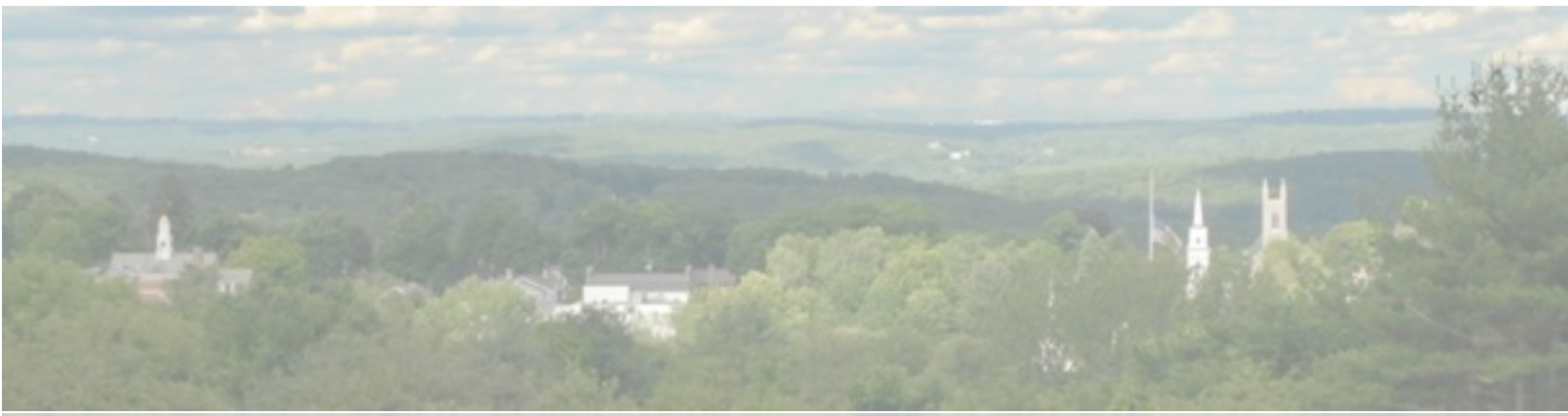
### Spring Print Competition and Year-End Standings

With nine clubs participating, Flagpole Photographers finished the season with a first place finish in the Class B Black and White category! Helping to solidify the overall winning result were Spring Competition winners Bob Berthier with a third place award for "Ice Storm" and Ercole Gaudioso with an Honorable Mention for "Beggar".

In the Color Print category, Flagpole finished the year in ninth place out of 26 total clubs. Don Brooks with "Alfalfa Harvest" and Anne Eigen with "Fellowship" both earned third place scores for their work.

### Spring Electronic Image Competition and Year-End Standings

Flagpole's showing in the the Spring 2010 Electronic Pictorial Class B competition has yielded a fifth place overall finish for the 2009-10 season.



### **Black & White Print:**

1st. Place: Don Brooks, "Jamie"

2nd. Place: Bob Berthier, "Frozen Cottonwoods"

3rd. Place: Sheila Silvernail, "Standing Steeple"

Honorable Mentions: Rick Tyrseck, "Returning to the Deep" and Mark Ashbolt, "The Hole"

### **Digitally Enhanced Print:**

1st. Place: Jill Baimel, "I Dream of Tulips"

2nd. Place: Tim Benoit, "School of Rock"

3rd. Place: Sheila Silvernail, "Country Fair Tractor"

Honorable Mentions: Ercole Gaudio, "Four Dancers" and Pat Miele, "Snowy Rush Hour"

### **REMEMBERING WARREN JOHNSON**

Friend and mentor to numerous members of Flagpole Photographers and Candlewood Camera clubs, Warren Johnson passed away on April 3, 2010.

Always positive and upbeat, even during his challenging health battles of several years, he "beat the odds" many times. His example of finding ways to live life to the fullest no matter what is a source of inspiration to us all. An outstanding photographer, Warren received many awards and shared his expertise and encouraged us in our own photographic pursuits. How fortunate we were to have known him. He will be greatly missed. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

### **GREATER LYNN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION**

Club President Don Brooks captured a Judges' Choice Gold Award in the Greater Lynn International Exhibition for his spectacular image "An Iris", which can be viewed at <http://www.greaterylynphoto.org/InternationalPhotos.html>. Flagpole members Ed Siciliano, Anne Eigen, Bob Berthier, Shawn James, Sheila Silvernail and Micheline Williams also had work accepted into the exhibition.

### **PHOTO EXPO AWARDS**

Flagpole members continue to garner awards as we had several wins in the Milford Fine Arts Council's Photo Expo held in March. Bob Berthier won Best in

Landscape for "Abstract", as well as a second place award for "Frozen Cottonwoods" in the Landscape/ Seascape category. Club member Ercole Gaudio placed second in the Creative division for his image "Barn in Snow" and Don Brooks received a second place award in Portraiture for "Robert."

### **MARCH'S PROGRAM**

Kirsten Bazuros, a Creative Memories consultant, presented a program on "Scrapbooking in the Digital Age." She demonstrated two types of software -- Memory Manager, which edits and organizes photos, and Storybook Creator Plus, which enables users to create photo books, scrapbooks, and calendars.

### **NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

Last month, we indicated that the revamped Newtown Economic Development Commission website was up and running but the link for where our members' work could be viewed was not yet available. You can view the work of members Don Brooks, Anne Eigen, Ed Siciliano, Jill Baimel, and Bob Berthier at <http://newtown.org/lh-photo-gallery.html>, as well as throughout the EDC website.

### **KOENIG FRAMEWORKS "BLOOMS" SHOW**

It's not too late to get your flower images into the Koenig Frameworks spring photography show and exhibit, which runs from April 30 through May 29. Awards will be presented for the first, second, and third place photos and Koenig will host an opening reception on Friday, April 30, 2010 from 6-9 pm. Deadline for entry is Saturday, April 17 by 5:00 pm. More details and an entry form may be obtained at [www.koenigframeworks.com](http://www.koenigframeworks.com).

### **PHOTO CONNECTION WORKSHOPS**

Photo Connection of Colchester is presenting "Capture the possibilities," a workshop featuring acclaimed nature photographer George Lepp on Sunday, May 23, 2010.

Also offered is "Studio Lighting and Portraiture" with Dave Piazza on May 2, 2010.

## BRAD STANTON'S DIGITAL ROUNDTABLES

Got a photo editing question? A camera conundrum? Brad, offering up over 30 years of photographic experience, opens his studio the 2nd. Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at 18 Finance Drive in Danbury, 203-743-4508. He and Ken Graff are on hand to field your questions and to share their knowledge of all things photography. Prior Roundtable topics include the benefit to shooting in RAW, using Adobe Camera RAW to adjust exposure in your images, and color management. Brad welcomes suggestions from members on topics for the Roundtable and invites you to email him with your ideas in advance of the meeting at [bradstantonphoto.com](mailto:bradstantonphoto.com).

### MEMBER MACRO

Anne Eigen is co-president of Flagpole Photographers and a perennial award winner in club and NECCC competitions. She winters in Florida and returns each spring to dazzle us with her spectacular images of nature.

- 1. What inspired you to get into photography?** I didn't take pictures until 7 yrs. ago. Once our first grandchild was born and digital technology had arrived, I wanted to capture every moment I could of our grandson when I was with him. Around that time I retired from my teaching career and now had time for an exciting hobby. I was in awe of all I was seeing through the lens and perspectives that I had never noticed before.
- 2. What one piece of photographic equipment (besides your camera) can you not live without?** That would be my tripod. For macro and low-light photography, it is a must. Also, I use it for family gatherings and holidays so that I can be in the picture too.
- 3. What is your biggest photographic achievement?** Two or three years ago I received a first-place award in one of the NECCC Nature competitions.
- 4. What is your biggest photographic challenge?** Situations and light change, and the camera has to be fine-tuned accordingly, which involves constant decision-making. I have been working for a good while on mastering my DSLR so I can use it intuitively and have made good progress, but am not quite 100% there.
- 5. What is the most important photographic lesson you ever learned?** Understanding exposure and depth of field. I use mostly Aperture Priority, but also Shutter Priority for action photography or panning, and when needed or desired I expose manually.

- 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?** Rules have their place but are made to be broken, so take risks. Try new things, position yourself in myriad ways, shoot into the sun..... I came to understand how safe it is to take risks with the camera, and that realization is a liberating feeling for me. There is always the delete button.
- 7. What is your favorite subject to shoot and why?** My 3 grandchildren and nature because of the strong connections. But I like doing a wide variety of photography, anything.
- 8. Which photographer(s) inspire(s) you?** When I began photography, I read and did the exercises in Freeman Patterson's book Photography and the Art of Seeing and was very inspired. I admire photographers Joyce Tenneson, Tony Sweet, Andre Gallant and Michael Khoury (both his paintings and his photography). And I see wonderful photographers constantly online and in the magazine "Rangefinder."
- 9. Describe the dream photographic field trip you'd love to take.** Everything about Paris; Gaudi's architecture in Barcelona; the people of Africa; ancient Roman architecture with dramatic shafts of light and shadow in Pompey; the photogenic beauty of Venice; a rain forest...well, sometimes dreams come true...
- 10. What are your photographic goals/resolutions for the upcoming year?** To experiment with my Lensbaby and continue to internalize the operations of my DSLR so that I don't have to think much when I shoot.
- 11. What area of photography would you like to increase your knowledge of?** Natural light is my preference, but there are times when other lighting sources are helpful. I have a speedlight and currently am studying "Lighting 101" tutorials on [strobist.com](http://strobist.com).
- 12. Do you prefer taking the photo or post-processing and readying a photo for print? Why?** Taking the photo. I do enjoy working with the digital darkroom, but the act of exploring and isolating actual moments through the lens gives me the greatest feeling.

# Competition Winners

March, 2010

Assigned Subject: The Booth Library



1st Place Assigned  
Library Bench  
Olympia Stoller



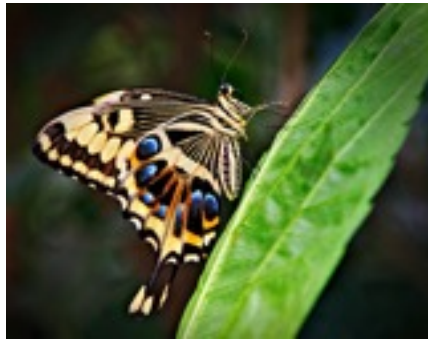
2nd Place Assigned  
Reading Buddies  
Sandy Schill



3rd Place Assigned  
In Honor of Joanne Zang  
Adriana Gomez



1st Place Open-Color  
480  
Rui De Sousa

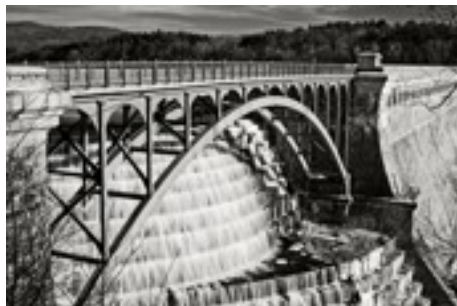


2nd Place Open-Color  
You're Cleared for Take-Off  
Rick Tyrseck

3rd Place Open-Color  
Evening Calm  
Micheline Williams



1st Place Open-B & W  
House With Tree  
Ercole Gaudio



2nd Place Open-B & W  
Croton Dam  
Rick Tyrseck



3rd Place Open-B & W  
Wrong Model  
Adrianna Gomez