

# Focal Points

The Official Newsletter of the Flagpole Photography Club

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**NEXT MEETING:**  
May 20, 2010

**Location:**  
Cyrenius H. Booth Library  
Newtown, CT

**Program:** Portraiture with Brad Stanton

**Assigned Topic:**  
City or Town Skylines

## CALL FOR 2010-11 ASSIGNED SUBJECTS

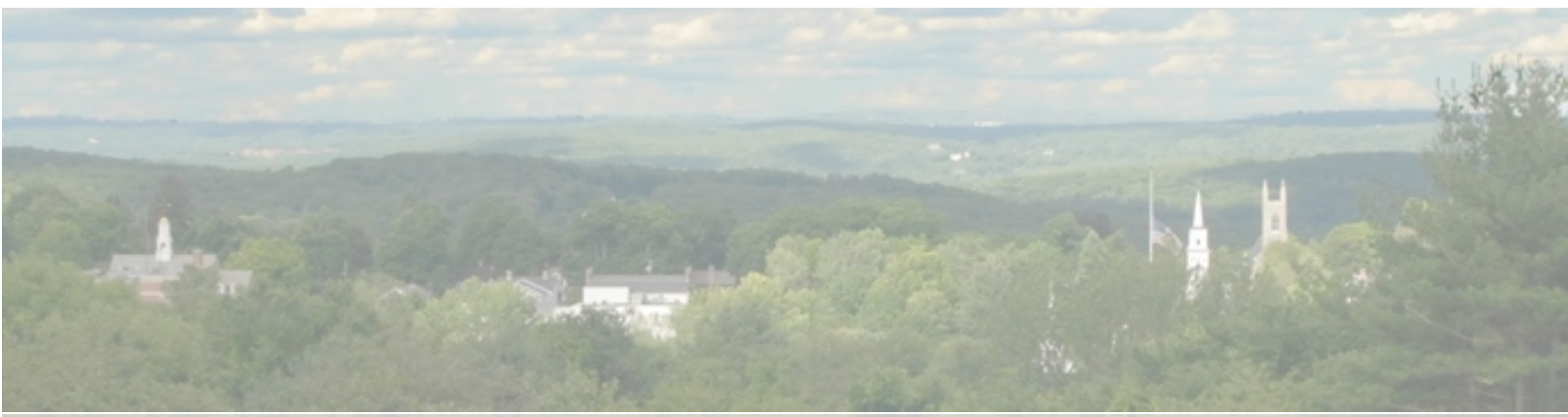
Please submit your ideas for assigned subjects for Flagpole's monthly competitions to club president Anne Eigen no later than May 20. She will compile a list incorporating all of your ideas and a committee will pick the final list for next year. The list will be distributed at the June meeting so you can take advantage of that beautiful golden summer light and get busy creating the shots that will wow us at the club competitions next season.

## NECCC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Registration is open for the NECCC Annual Conference July 16-18 at the University of Amherst in Amherst, MA. What could be better than an entire weekend dedicated to photography while bonding with your fellow photography enthusiasts?

The conference features Camera College classes on a myriad of topics, print and digital competitions, and opportunities to shoot both human models and non-human subjects. Canon and Nikon will have top-of-the-line loaner equipment available for attendees to borrow by the hour and Saturday features a Camera Clinic where conference-goers can have their cameras tested free by Precision Camera technicians.

Pre-conference events include a portfolio review and three-hour workshops with Tom and Lisa Cuchara on Lightroom and basic and intermediate Photoshop. For more information go to <http://www.neccc.org>.



## **KOENIG FRAMEWORKS “BLOOMS” AWARDS**

Three members of Flagpole Photographers won awards in Koenig's spring photography show and exhibit. Jill Baimel won third place for her image “I Dream of Tulips” while Ed Siciliano's “Misty Tulip” and Don Brooks's “Iris” garnered honorable mentions. Koenig has another show in the works for late fall.

## **APRIL'S PROGRAM: CREATING SLIDE PRESENTATIONS**

Club vice-president Donna White discussed how to create a slideshow using commonly available programs such as Windows Moviemaker and Adobe Premier Elements. Donna explained that a slideshow is simply a sequence of photos combined to make a video.

Her system involves first creating a theme for the slideshow. She then selects the photos which support the theme and the format could be anything from telling a story to just a collection of favorite shots. Finally she selects the music to accompany the photos using the following formula: number of photos x 6 seconds per photo plus 2 seconds on either side of the photo to allow for a

transition between images. Donna then presented excerpts of one of her own family slideshows which demonstrated how photos and music can merge into a seamless presentation.

## **MEMBER MACRO**

Ercole Gaudio is new to Flagpole Photographers this year but has already distinguished himself with wins in our monthly and annual competitions as well as awards in both the print and electronic NECCC interclub competitions.

### **1. What inspired you to get into photography?**

The first time I saw a slide projected up close. The presence of it, the saturated colors. Soon after I bought a Konica rangefinder and rolls of Kodachrome.

### **2. What one piece of photographic equipment (besides your camera) can you not live without?**

The instruction book that came with it -- no kidding. But other than that, a lens I bought recently seems to answer that question, at least for now. A 2.8 wide angle zoom, 17 to 35.

### **3. What is your biggest photographic achievement?**

I hope I have yet to achieve it.

**4. What is your biggest photographic challenge?**

Technically, I need to learn to use flash, need to get an interest in it, I guess. Artistically (or pretentiously) I need to analyze what makes me take a shot that includes something I see. I need to learn how to see it before the RAW image goes up on the screen. If I do, my batting average of good images will likely increase.

**5. What is the most important photographic lesson you ever learned?**

That what we see, what our cameras see, is reflected light. Simple, but easy to discard at times. Something I try to remain aware of. For me the best of it exists on a day that the sun is going in and out. Better during those times than during the early and late magic hours.

**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?**

An understanding of the Zone System. I never succeeded in emulating it, but appreciating what Adams had done helped me appreciate and understand my above statement about light and about textures and contrast.

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

People. Usually on the street, sometimes with their permission. Once in a while a stranger will bare himself or herself for a moment, and once in a longer while such a moment (decisive moment?) becomes an image, usually black and white working best.

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

Diane Arbus. Weegee. Cartier Bresson. Margaret Bourke White. Robert Frank. So many others of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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

Can't say I have one. Maybe a working ranch. But I'll have to think more about it.

**10. What are your photographic goals/resolutions for the upcoming year?**

I know I won't get rich with a camera, but being affirmed by my peers is an ongoing goal, and that relates to becoming a consistently better photographer.

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

Probably has to do with the above answer about analyzing what I see. I seem to do pretty well with black and white and feel that no matter the image, B&W makes for a rendition of a scene not trying for reality, while in effect, it more often contains a seriousness and essence of my intent than even my best color images. I have much to learn about it, but I think I'm getting there.

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

I'd like to say that shooting the photo and having to work only briefly on it, is when I feel in control. But most of my good images had a mediocre beginning, with a content of (again) something I discerned on the spot and shot from the hip.



# Competition Winners

April, 2010

Assigned Subject: Nautical



1st Place Assigned  
Trusting  
L. Adriana Gomez



2nd Place Assigned  
Small Boats, Mystic  
Ercole Gaudio



3rd Place Assigned  
Sail On  
Pat Miele



1st Place Open-Color  
I've Got My Eye on You  
Rhonda Cullens



2nd Place Open-Color  
Cuckoo Clock Tower  
Sheila Silvernail



3rd Place Open-Color  
Colorado Road  
Rui DeSousa



1st Place Open-B & W  
Playing the Blues  
Micheline Williams



2nd Place Open-B & W  
Winter Lake House  
Ercole Gaudio



3rd Place Open-B & W  
Seaside Trees  
Don Brooks