

Focal Points

The Official Newsletter of the Flagpole Photography Club

Volume 4

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

May 3, 2012

Portrait Workshop 7:30 p.m.

Location:

Newtown Congregational Church

May 17, 2012: Competition

Assigned Subject:

Night Photography 7:30 p.m.

Location:

Cyrenius H. Booth Library

Color Print Awards

1st Place: Cinque Terre by Ercole Gaudio

1st Place: Wasp for Breakfast by Sandy Schill

2nd Place: The Burn Out by Jim Talarino

3rd Place: The Birds are Invading Grand Central
by Micheline Williams

Honorable Mention: Fear of the Mailman by
Maxine Higgins

Honorable Mention: Winter Reflections by Rick
Tyrseck

Black & White Print Awards

1st Place: Charleston's New Bridge by Don
Brooks

2nd Place: At Rest in Point Judith by Patty
Powers

3rd Place: Laci and Her Foal Jasper by Rhonda
Cullens

Honorable Mention: Cobra by Jim Talarino

Honorable Mention: Morning Quiet by Mark
Ashbolt

NECCC Results

Flagpole Photographers performed quite well in the NECCC print competitions this year. In the overall Color Print Competition, Flagpole finished the year in first place!

A second place award to Maxine Higgins for Fear of the Mailman and an honorable mention to Don Brooks for A Winter Scene in the Spring 2012 competition helped boost Flagpole to the top in this category.

MARCH/APRIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Flagpole Photographers Annual Members Exhibit

Flagpole held its annual Member Exhibit and Competition, which ran March 31 through April 26. A post-judging reception open to the public was held in the C H. Booth Library where the 96 images from 21 members were on display. Results are as follows:

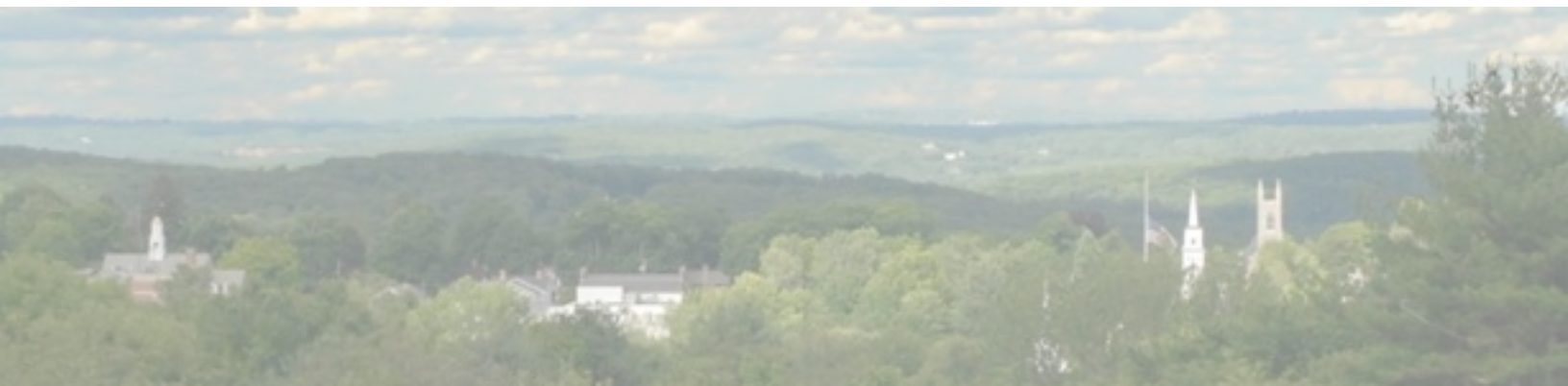
Best in Show: Red Tail Hawk by Don Brooks

Dave Kriger Nature Award: Red Tail Hawk by Don Brooks

Jeannette Talarino Flower Award: Flower in a Frying Pan by Maxine Higgins

Bruce Allen Open Print Award: Hungry Gull by Patty Powers

People's Choice Award: Chubby Cheeks by Sue Bonacci



In the overall Black and White Class A Print Competition Flagpole tied for third place, aided by a second place award to Rick Tyrseck for Bending Iron and an honorable mention to Don Brooks for Red Tail Hawk in the Spring 2012 competition.

NECCC Representative Rick Tyrseck presented honorable mention ribbons to Don Brooks for The Bromley Farm and Mark Ashbolt for Morning Quiet for their performance in the Winter 2012 Black and White Print Competition.

In the NECCC Winter 2012 Electronic Interclub Competition, Flagpole took second place in the Class B Pictorial category. For the first time in club history, Flagpole won an individual first place in the entry from Maxine Higgins, Fear of the Mailman. Sandy Schill's Contemplating also won an honorable mention in this category.

Rick Tyrseck took home an honorable mention for his image Humpback and Hitchhiker in the Winter 2012 Electronic Class B Nature category.

Other

Club president Sandy Schill announced that the library has budgeted the purchase of a book per month for the library's photography section. In addition, bookplates have been placed in books donated to the library by Flagpole members.

Members are reminded to join the Flagpole Photographers group on Facebook and check it frequently for announcements, helpful information and topics of interest.

Registration is now open for the NECCC Annual Conference to be held July 13-15 on the UMass

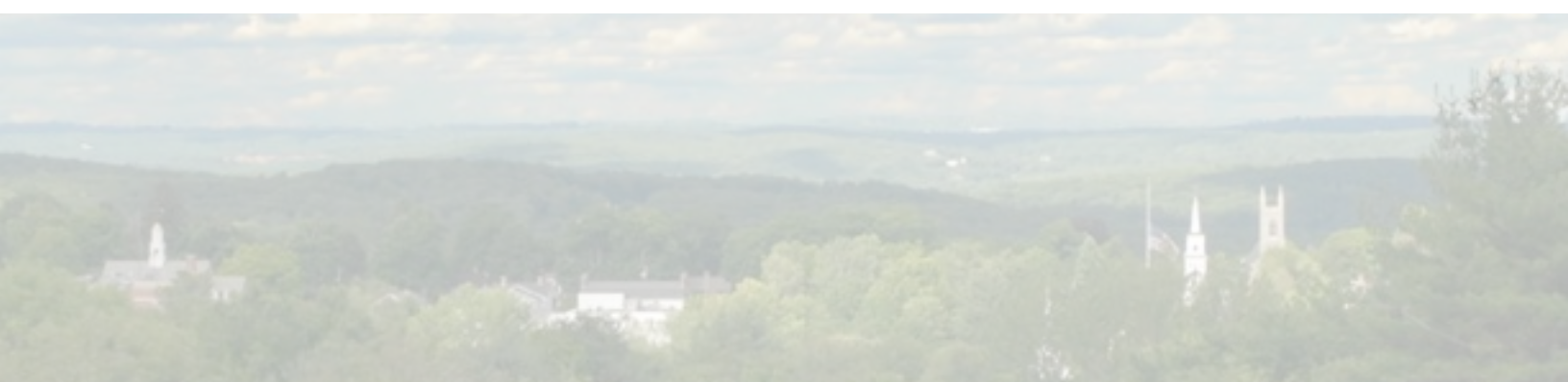
campus in Amherst. A contingent of Flagpole members always attends, and it's a great way to get to know your other club members as well as to boost your knowledge of photography through interesting and informative workshops. An online registration form may be found at NECCC.org.

HDR Workshop

A well-attended workshop on high dynamic range (HDR) photography was held April 5 at the Newtown Congregational Church. HDR can be beneficial when attempting to capture difficult exposures involving areas of heavy shadow and bright light in the same scene. Camera sensors lack the sensitivity of the human eye and are limited in the amount of image detail they can record when exposed to light. In exposing for shadow, the highlights in an image become washed out and in exposing for the brightest areas of an image, shadows become black.

HDR bridges this gap by using multiple shots of the same image through bracketing in-camera and then running the multiple exposures through HDR software in order to capture the maximum possible detail throughout the full range of light.

Popular HDR programs include Nik Software's HDR Efex Pro, Photomatix Essentials and Photomatix Pro, and Photoshop CS5. Photoshop Elements users may use the photomerge command to obtain HDR-like results. Trey Ratcliff's blog Stuck in Customs offers tutorials on HDR.



Competition Winners March 2012

Assigned Subject: MOTION



1st. Place Assigned
Running Man
Mark Ashbolt



2nd. Place Assigned
Flowing Water
Rick Tyrseck



3rd. Place Assigned
A Streaking Fullback
Patty Powers



1st. Place Open Color
Juvenile Catbird
Don Brooks



2nd. Place Open Color
Railroad Graveyard
Ercole Gaudio



3rd. Place Open Color
Haley
Sandy Schill



1st. Place B & W
A Stormy Paddle
Mark Ashbolt



2nd. Place B & W
Downy Woodpecker
Sandy Schill

3rd. Place B & W
Skyline NYC
Tyler Davis

Competition Winners April 2012

Assigned Subject: WORKING PEOPLE



1st. Place Assigned
Unloading the Day's Catch
Patty Powers



2nd. Place Assigned
Hometown's Finest
Darrell Harrington



3rd. Place Assigned
Angry Road Guard
Ercole Gaudio



1st. Place Open Color
Little Blue Heron in Flight
Don Brooks



2nd. Place Open Color
Martial Eagle
Anne Eigen



3rd. Place Open Color
Puccini Lake
Ercole Gaudio



1st. Place B & W
Rainy Street in Florence
Don Brooks



2nd. Place B & W
Masai Children
Bob Berthier



3rd. Place B & W
Johnny Home from the Battle
Ercole Gaudio