

Focal Points

The Official Newsletter of the Flagpole Photography Club

Volume 3

Issue#19- September, 2010



NEXT MEETING:
October 21, 2010

Location:
Cyrenius H. Booth Library
Newtown, CT

Program: John Voket
Photojournalism

Assigned Topic:
Best of Summer

Bob & Linda Rogers of Sandy Hook
Mike Toll of Newtown
Darrell Harrington of Newtown
Lora Warnick of Newtown
Gregory Tumminio of Oxford
Val Balsi of Sandy Hook
Anne Marie Sholtes of Brookfield
Mark Ashbolt of Newtown
Paul Brickmeier of Bethel

NEWTOWN AND BEYOND PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

The big buzz for our September meeting was preparation for the launch of the largest exhibit of members' work in the club's history. Newtown and Beyond, a collaboration of Flagpole Photographers and the Town of Newtown/Office of First Selectman Pat Llodra represents the culmination of months of work by co-chairwomen Rhonda Cullens and Win Brickmeier.

The exhibit, which at press time is now a reality, runs from October 17 through November 12 in the Newtown Municipal Center on the campus of Fairfield Hills. The exhibit may be viewed during regular business hours Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

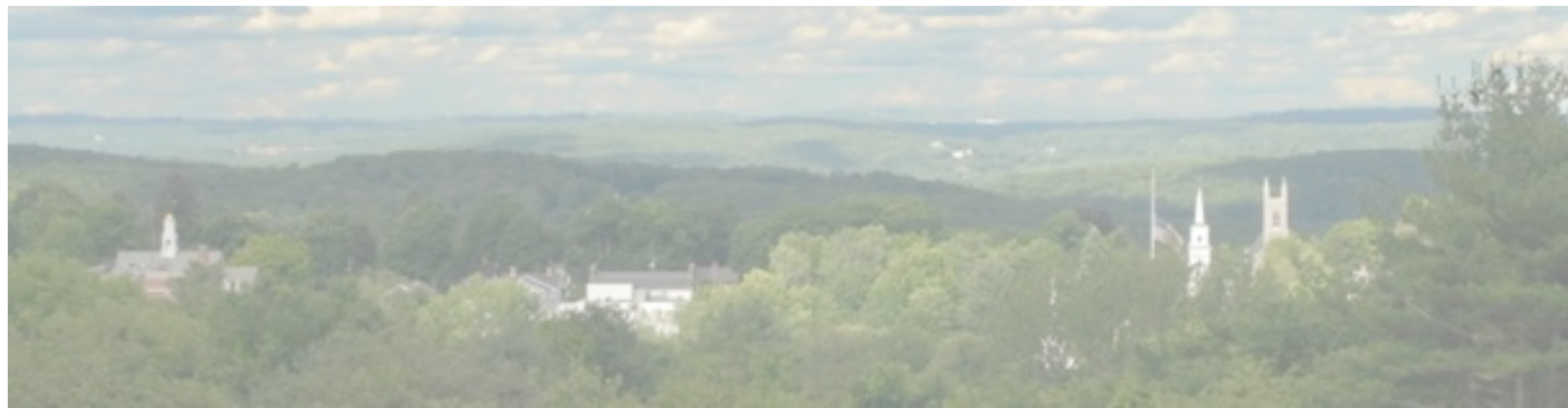
A total of 209 photographs by 28 members are on display in the art gallery inspired space of the new Municipal Center. The show features photographs with a Newtown theme as well as favorites of club members.

SEPTEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

A packed agenda ushered in the new Flagpole Photographers' season. Members voted to increase the club membership fee that had remained unchanged at \$20/year for the club's 25-year history. New fees are \$25 per person or \$45 for a family membership payable at the first meeting in September. Dues are prorated for those joining at or after the March meeting to \$20 for an individual and \$35 for a family membership. Students may join the club at no charge. Members are urged to pay their annual dues promptly as after October the membership roster will be pared to include only "paid up" members.

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Our first meeting boasted a heavy turnout and resulted in several new members including:



An opening reception coordinated by Town Clerk Debbie Aurelia was held on October 17 featuring live music from classical guitarist Peter Obre and autumn florals from Hollandia Nursery. A refreshment table featured sweet treats from Andrea's Bakery and Big Y as well as offerings from Flagpole members. A big thank you goes out to our club members who volunteered at the event. Food volunteers were Mark Ashbolt, Sue Bonacci, Win Brickmeier, Don Brooks, Barry Connally, Rhonda Cullens, Anne Eigen, Darrell Harrington and Jim Talarino. Set up volunteers included Mark Ashbolt, Bob Berthier, Sue Bonacci, Win Brickmeier, Don Brooks, Rhonda Cullens, Anne Eigen, Pat Miele, Bob Rogers, Sandy Schill, Anne Marie Sholtes and Donna White.

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Club vice-president Donna White offered a presentation of potential field trips. Field trip possibilities included Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory in Deerfield, MA as well as other opportunities closer to home such as Roxbury Land Trust Preserves, Huntington and Southford Falls State Park, Aspetuck Land Trust/Trout Brook Valley and Saugatuck Reservoir Trails. The potential to gain entry into some of the abandoned buildings at Fairfield Hills was also mentioned as a possibility.

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A perennial shortage of nature images for the NECCC Electronic Competition led to a call for members to submit 1-3 of their best images for consideration for the fall competition. Even if not selected for the fall competition, members' images may still be chosen for the 2011 winter or spring competitions.

Specs for sizing digital image files per NECCC: Photographs will be projected using a projector having 1024 pixels in the horizontal direction and 768 pixels in the vertical direction. Pictures must fit within those dimensions. Therefore, images must be no more than 768 pixels tall and no more than 1024 pixels wide. It is suggested (though not a requirement) that entries be saved with the proper amount of compression so that the files do not exceed 350kb. Save your image as a jpeg with a quality of between 7 and 9. A jpeg quality of 8 is usually sufficient. It is strongly suggested that all photographs be converted to the sRGB color space. If anyone has difficulty with sizing images, you can send it to Anne Eigen or Rick Tyrseck at the original size saved as a jpeg for resizing to NECCC specifications.

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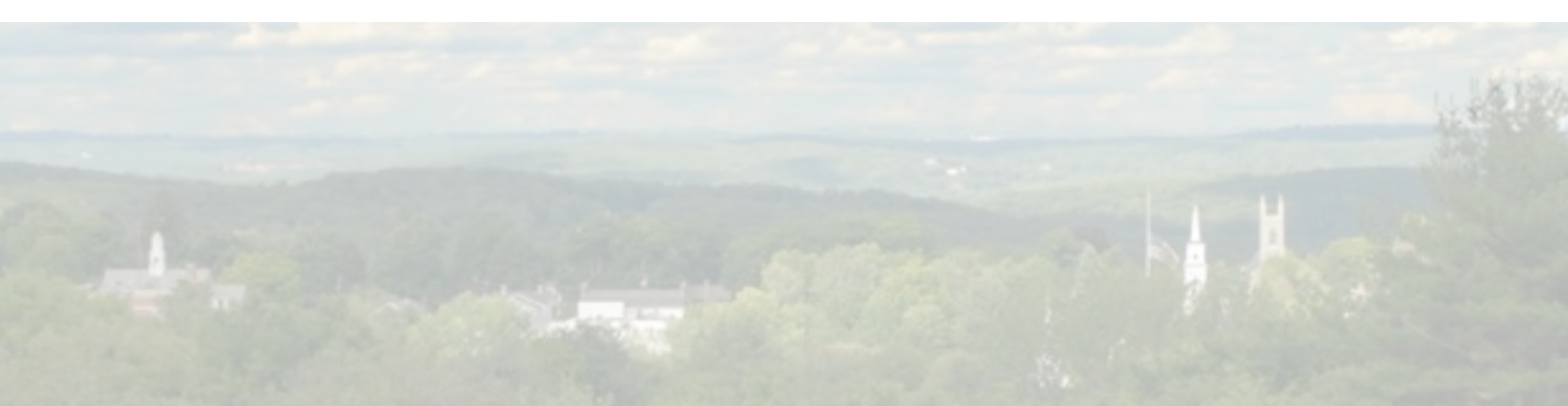
Club co-president Don Brooks announced that the club has joined the Photographic Society of America (PSA), a worldwide organization which, according to their website, offers individual and group members a wide variety of benefits. A monthly magazine, photo and digital competitions, study groups and how-to programs and an annual conference are only some of the features of membership. For more information check it out at <http://www.psa-photo.org/>.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 28-30 **PDN PhotoPlus Expo** in New York City offers exhibits, products and seminars. For more information visit [http:// www.photoplus expo.com/](http://www.photoplus expo.com/).

November 6-20 **Koenig Frameworks** in Newtown begins receiving submissions for their Winter Photography Show "Scapes" held from December 3-24. Submissions can be of any landscape, seascape or cityscape. For more information go to <http://www.koenigframeworks.com/> or call (203) 270-1887.



CreativeLIVE <http://creativelive.com/> bills itself as a live, worldwide creative classroom. It features free live webinars-- high quality presentations featuring prominent photographers like Art Wolfe, David duChemin, Zack Arias and Jasmine Star. Upcoming webinars include:

- November 5 Photoshop Elements 9
- A 6-hour workshop starting at 1 p.m. eastern time.

November 19-21 A 3-day live presentation on **Children's Portrait Photography** with Tamara Lackey.

November 14 PhotoConnection of Colchester is sponsoring **Exploring High Dynamic Range Photography with Rick Sammon** at the Bishop Center at the University of Connecticut from 1-4 p.m. For more information visit http://photoconnectionoc.com/rick_sammon_hdr_2010.html.

FLAGPOLE PHOTO FAVORITES

Flagpole Photo Favorites is the new series introduced at the September meeting. It's the forum for those photos that may not be technically perfect, or that didn't do well in the monthly competition. It's the home for those photos that you keep coming back to because they resonate with you in some way. Each month we'll be showcasing one member's photo and asking them to tell us why it's special to them. Our September Photo Favorite is by Win Brickmeier, and here is what she says about her photo:

"This is one of several photos I took of the rose at The Salt Box antique shop on the corner of P.T. Barnum Square in Bethel after a torrent of rain. I printed several but most were either too large or too small, so I chose the one attached. I hadn't even noticed the yellow flower in the background. I realized after the judges pointed it out that I could have eliminated it.



I mostly take photos to make other people happy. So I have attached a post card of the same photo I made for Ollie, owner of The Salt Box. He does not have an easy life and the photos I take for him always bring a great smile to his face. Even though I am often frustrated by my failings, the joy I hope I bring to others keeps me going." Win Brickmeier



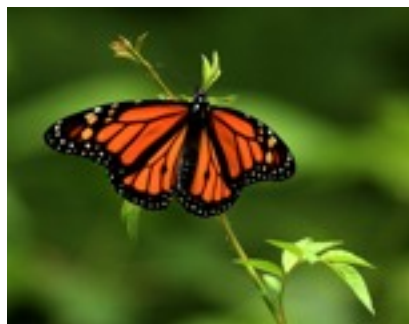
Competition Winners

September, 2010

Assigned Subject: Nature



1st Place Assigned
This Way Mom
Robert Berthier



2nd Place Assigned
King of the Butterflies
Sandy Schill



3rd Place Assigned
Adirondack Monarch
Sue Bonacci



1st Place Open
Male Cardinal in Snow
Robert Berthier



2nd Place Open
Don't Mess With Me
Sandy Schill



3rd Place Open
Riverscape
Sheila Silvernail



1st Place B&W
After the Harvest
Rick Tyrseck



2nd Place B&W
Grand Central
Ercole Gaudio



3rd Place B&W
Alleyway Bike
Benay Yaffe