

THE CHARTER OAK FOCUS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHARTER OAK PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

www.charteroakphoto.com

January, 2012

Our second PROGRAM of the season will be held on Monday, January 23rd, at 7:15 in the lower level of the Elmwood Community Church, 26 Newington Rd., West Hartford, CT

Best of NECCC Prints

By Arthur Vaughn

The Best of The NECCC Print Program consists of all the Color and B&W prints selected to receive awards at the annual NECCC Conference Print Competition held on July 16, 2011 at the Amherst Campus of the University of Massachusetts. These include the winners of various medals, plus blue ribbon winners.... those prints qualifying for the medal round. The inter-club prints of the year in color and black & white are also part of this program. The judges this year were Jacob Mosser III, Wendell Phillips, and Kathy Tarantola. With a total of over 200 color and B&W prints entered, a bit more than two and one half hours were needed to arrive at the selection of images making up this program. A total of 37 prints will be shown and critiqued. As this is a "live" unrecorded presentation, attendees will have the opportunity to discuss the prints shown as the program moves along. The prints will be displayed on tables at the conclusion of the program, allowing for closer viewing, and lively discussion.

This program offers a good opportunity for folks to hear what the judges had to say about the winners, as well as visitors to the print room both before and after the competition. As with most competitions, there is a huge variety of subject matter, some printed "straight" (as the camera saw it), some definitely having received some "special treatment" in a computer, and some that simply defy description.... leaving you wondering how the makers achieved their end product. No matter what level of photographer you are, or whatever type or style of photography you enjoy, at the end of the program you should feel stimulated to get out and get photographing.

Art Vaughn has been a member of the Merrimack Valley Camera Club for 25 years, serving as club president for eight years, and print competition chairman for sixteen years. He's presently a master member (MNEC) of the New England Camera Club Council, and is currently serving as a council Vice-President in the position of Print Competition Director. He's also a member of the Massachusetts Camera Naturalists (CAMNATS), as well as the Photographic Historical Society of New England. He worked for over 31 years for AT&T, Lucent Technologies, and Bell Laboratories, retiring in the fall of 2001. Over a 25 year period he did extensive work in photomicrography for development engineering organizations at Bell Laboratories. His photographic interests and activities include color and B&W print making, stereo (3-D) photography, photomicrography, anamorphic (Cinema-scope) photography, digital restoration of antique images, lithographs, engravings, and etchings, and most recently... extreme macro photography. His favorite shooting locations are along the shores of the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia, and the Brazos River watershed area of central and west Texas.

(Thanks go out in advance to Gretchen Hein, Bob Reedy, Pam Hastings, and Tom Trask for providing refreshments at the meeting.)

January Workshop: “White Balance”
Moderator: Peter Guerard
Monday, January 9

One area of digital photography that causes some confusion is White Balance. What is White Balance and color temperature? Why is it important to my photography? These are only some of the topics that will be presented by Peter Guerard in our January workshop. Peter, who has given other workshops at Charter Oak, will discuss the history of color temperature, various methods to determine a white balance, calibrating the color bias of your camera's sensor using the X-Rite ColorChecker Passport, and the limitations and uses auto white balance (AWB). As with previous workshops, the entire PowerPoint program will be available for purchase on CD at the end of the workshop.

Please join us on Monday, January 9, as all your questions regarding white balance will be answered.

February Workshop: “Composition”
Moderator: Ben Monroe
Monday, February 13

By now, every one of us has heard the adage about how great images begin with "getting it right in the camera." An important first step in obtaining that magnificent image is to first pay attention to composition. At our February workshop, Charter Oak member Ben Monroe will discuss the many facets of what it takes to create a great composition. Topics to be discussed include: the rule of thirds, the golden ratio, static vs. dynamic images and depth of field.

As time allows, Ben will use randomly selected monthly competition images to illustrate his discussion points. This workshop promises to be informative and beneficial to both the beginning and advanced photographer. So come and join us for this workshop on "Composition."

February Program: “Mini Shows”
By Charter Oak Members
Monday, February 27

Here is a chance to showcase your favorite subject. You can teach us your favorite technique, wow us with images of your last vacation, or give the audience a chuckle with some humorous photos. It is your choice in what to present and how you want to present it. We encourage our members to participate and share their images.

Please adhere to the following guidelines. Each presenter should put together up to 50 images in a program. Each program should last no more than 10 minutes. If you tell us in advance, we can have a tape deck and speakers available should you wish to put your program to music. A digital presentation, such as ProShow, can also be accommodated to run on the club's projector.

If you elect to display prints, the Club's print box will be made available if you tell us in advance. Because of the size of the audience, make the prints BIG!

Your fellow photographers are waiting to see your images and artistry. I encourage you to present a Mini-Show and join in the fun! Sign up sheets will be available at upcoming meetings.

**A Report From Our Recent
FIELD TRIP
to the
Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy
in Litchfield**

It's always helpful to get member feedback after one of our club functions. On Saturday, October 22, a Charter Oak field trip was organized to photograph various species of waterfowl and rare birds at a conservancy in Litchfield. Twenty eight members attended and, from all reports, the day was enjoyed by all. One photographer, who shall remain nameless, took the image shown below of a couple of "Rare Birds" attempting to photograph other rare birds at Livingston Ripley. The two were later identified as C.O.P.S. members Dick Brimley and George Landis.



"Rare Birds"

Come join in the fun!!

Our 1st 2012 Field Trip at PhotoSynthesis!!

Back by popular demand: an INDOOR PHOTOSHOOT on Sunday, February 12 at PhotoSynthesis, located at 136 ½ Pine Street Manchester, CT.

We'll be there from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.
Come for the entire time, or for simply for an hour or two.

What shooting opportunities will you have?

- Black Light - Cindy Gosselin will be there to help you.
- Macro glycerin drops with reflections – This can be challenging, but Audrey and Ollie have agreed to set up their glycerin drop stand once again.
- Soft light box - John Murphy will be bringing his soft light box and we'll have flowers that you can arrange inside to photograph.
- Dogs – Gretchen has identified some interesting dogs for you to photograph
- Birds – Audrey has arranged for us to have one or two birds who will pose for us
- And maybe more..??

Last year, those who participated had a great time, shooting and learning from each other. So, don't miss this opportunity to do something different and get out of the winter doldrums.

Directions From Hartford and Points West: Take I-84 East to I-384 East (Exit 59); I-384 East to Exit 2; Left onto Wetherell St.; Left at light onto Keeney St.; Right at first light onto Hartford Rd.; Travel .6 miles, then left onto Pine St.; Travel .3 miles, then left into driveway; Second brick building on left - park and enter at front.

From Bolton and Points East: Take I-384 West to Exit 3; Left onto Charter Oak St. (changes to Hartford Rd.); Travel .6 miles, then right onto Pine St.; Travel .3 miles, then left into driveway; Second brick building on left - park and enter at front.

For additional information check out the PhotoSynthesis website at:

http://photosynthesisct.com/About_PhotoSynthesis.html

Their phone number is: 860-783-5443.

WE NEED YOU

We need as many of you as possible to act as judges for competitions. Without judges, we can't have competitions, and without competitions our mission as a club would be greatly diminished.

For the most part, we get judges for our competitions by swapping judges with other camera clubs. We need three judges for each monthly competition. Another club sends us two or three judges. In exchange, we agree to send them two or three judges. This works fine, provided we have two or three members willing to serve as judges at another club in that month. If we can't find two or three judges each month, the system falls apart.

In the past, the job of going to other clubs to judge has fallen on a few members of our club who have served repeatedly in that role. It's really not fair to them to continue to operate that way. So we need you – as many of you as possible - to act as judges alongside those who have served in the past.

The usual concerns raised by those new to judging are: 1) I don't know how to judge, or 2) it isn't fun, or 3) it takes too much time.

As to the first concern, you can learn to judge, and we can make you as comfortable as possible while you learn, by pairing you with experienced judges. The toughest part of judging is making helpful comments. While you are learning, we can give that part of the job to the more experienced judges, and you can learn by listening to their comments.

You can also learn by attending courses on judging like that offered by CAP on January 14 in Milford, <http://capinct.org/default.aspx> or by taking advantage of the online image analysis course offered by PSA, <http://psa-photo.org/> . Membership in CAP is only eight dollars a year. Membership in PSA is more – forty-five dollars a year – but it includes the excellent monthly PSA journal, as well as many other opportunities to learn about photography.

As to the second concern, “it isn't fun”, if you learn how to become comfortable with the “comment please” request, judging can become an enjoyable and rewarding experience as you develop the ability to evaluate the images of other photographers. If the judges' comments have the appropriate tone, judging is a form of teaching. And, as the saying goes, the best way to learn a subject is to teach it. As you prepare your own prints or images for the club competitions, you will begin to see your images as a judge sees them. And, as indicated above, we can insulate you from the “comment please” request until you feel comfortable responding to it. If you wish to learn more, the PSA course, in particular, focuses on responding in a helpful way to the “comment please” request.

As to the third concern, it takes too much time, we can help in two ways. We can make you the third judge for our own club competitions, which you likely would attend in any event, so there is no additional commitment of time. A modified scoring system, used successfully by some other clubs, would allow you to judge competitions in which you yourself compete. For judging competitions at other clubs, while we can't shorten the driving time (legally), we can arrange car pools, which give the additional benefit of an opportunity to get to know other members of Charter Oak as you travel and judge together.

So please help us. We need you, and judging will give you an opportunity to improve your own photography. If you are willing to help, email me at a.carey@snet.net, or speak to me at one of our meetings.

Austin Carey

NECCC Corner

By Olive Weingart, APSA, HonNEC
NECCC Representative

Once again the New England Camera Club Council invites high school students to be their guests at the annual NECCC Conference. The 67th Conference will be held at the University of Mass Campus in Amherst on July 13, 14, and 15, 2012. The Council pays the students registration fee, lodging in the Campus Center Hotel and meals taken with the speakers and officers. Please visit www.neccc.org website under "Club Services Packet" for more information on "High School Student as Conference Guest". The completed form and additional letters need to be given to me by the March Board meeting. We can only send one applicant from our club. If more than one student applies, the Board will decide whose application will be sent.

Is there anyone who would like to be considered for the "Courtesy Enrollment"? What does this mean – NECCC invites one person from their camera club who has never been to an NECCC Conference and is at least 18 years of age as of July 1, 2012 and is a member in good standing (dues paid for the current year). NECCC will pay the persons 3 day registration fee. The recipient will be responsible for their own room, meals, and transportation. Please let me know if you are interested. My deadline is Feb. 1st.

At the NECCC Conference in July, NECCC awards a number of scholarships. The applicant must have been accepted in or continuing in, a program leading to a degree in some aspect of photography in an accredited school or institute. The degree program may be either a two or four year program. Please go to the NECCC website www.neccc.org under "Club Services Packet" under "Scholarship Program and Application Form" for more information. My deadline is March 1st. Please submit all completed information by that date.

I believe that the flyers for this coming NECCC Conference will be out and on the Website sometime in March. I don't know much about who is coming to the Conference, but I am sure it will be jam packed with speakers, models, Photo-ops, various competitions and more. The cost of the 3 day Conference will be \$163. There will be a "Group Registration Discount again this year (a 10% discount). In order to be eligible for the discount we need 20 or more people to register as a group. I am starting to keep a list of people who would like to get in on the group rate. Please let me know via email omweingart@sbcglobal.net or see me at a meeting to add your name to the list.

The first NECCC Digital Interclub Competition hosted by the Quinebaug Valley Camera Club, was held on November 17, 2011. Judges for this competition were Fran Baranski, Jim Dionne, MNEC and Holly Trahan.

Charter Oak participated in the Pictorial Class A competition. The following images were submitted:

Little Scottie in the Mud	Joyce Niejako	21 Points
Yellow & Black Butterfly on Orange Lily	Paula Fink	21 Points
Corolla Beach Sunrise	Don Weston	19 Points
Three of a Kind	Audrey Weigold	19 Points

Charter Oak tied in 10th place out of 15 clubs.

Charter Oak also participated in the Nature Class A competition with the following images:

Nesting Night Heron	Laura Bryg	22 Points
Bearly Done	Jan Chambers	21 Points
Heron Crab	Richard Brimley	20 Points
Double Trouble	Pam Hastings	19 Points

Out of 13 clubs, COPS tied for 10th place.

2011 Charter Oak Membership Survey

In the November **FOCUS**, a Membership Survey was included in an attempt to gather information that will help us to better understand and serve the membership's interests and needs. The results are summarized here. Out of 101 active members (as of 12/1/11), there were only 39 responses or a 38.6% participation in the survey. Of those 39 responses, about 20% were not completely answered. This is why the item totals for some questions do not add up to 39. Also, some percentages do not add up to 100% because of rounding or the omission of minor responses. An analysis is underway.

What We Take Pictures Of: (227 responses)

Landscapes 16% Travel 13% Wildlife 13% Plants/Gardens 11% Macro 10% Birds 9% Architecture 8%

Our Photographic Knowledge: (39 responses) Beginner 4% Intermediate 62% Advanced 28%

Competition: (40 responses) Digital 55% Print 23% Don't compete 23%

Regular Meetings Attendance (39 responses) Yes 74% Sometimes 23% No 3%

Workshop Attendance (39 responses) Yes 67% Sometimes 28% No 5%

Field Trip Participation (37 responses) Yes 32% Sometimes 35% No 32%

Awards Banquet Attendance (37 responses) Yes 51% Sometimes 16% No 32%

Seminar Attendance (37 responses) Yes 49% Sometimes 27% No 24%

Camera Type (67 responses / 54 digital only) Film P&S 4% Digital P&S 27% / 33% Phone 1%
Film SLR 13% Digital SLR 54% / 67%

Camera Brand (56 responses) Nikon 45% Canon 30% Olympus 10% Sony 4%

Do You Belong to Another Camera Club? (38 responses) Yes 26% No 74%

Are You a Member of PSA? (38 responses) Yes 21% No 79%

Would You Like to Be a Mentor? (20 responses) Yes 15% No 75% Current mentor 2%

What Is Your Source for Club Information? (68 responses) FOCUS newsletter 29%, Blog 13%,
Monthly meetings 22%, Other members 12%,
COPS website 21%, Board meetings 3%

Do You Read the FOCUS Newsletter? (32 responses) Yes 88% Sometimes 6% No 6%

Do You Visit the Charter Oak Website? (35 responses) Yes 60% Sometimes 23% No 17%

Do You Link to Blog Notices? (33 responses) Yes 21% Sometimes 24% No 55%

Do You Contribute to the Forum? (33 responses) Yes 3% Sometimes 15% No 82%

What Computer Platform Do You Use? (35 responses) PC 78% Mac 22%

What Is Your Computer Knowledge? (35 responses) Beginner 2% Intermediate 69% Advanced 26%

Which Imaging Software Do You Use? (59) Photoshop 32% Elements 32% Lightroom 20% Nik Plug-Ins 7%

What Is Your Software Knowledge? (35 responses) Beginner 34% Intermediate 49% Advanced 17%

The Charter Oak MARKETPLACE

Submit to Tom (tr.trask.photo@gmail.com or Marty (marty.brown@comcast.net))

FOR SALE:

Nikon 60mm f/2.8 AFS ED Micro Nikkor lens \$400

Nikon 55-200mm f4-5.6 AFS DX VR IF ED Nikkor lens \$100

Nikon 18-105mm f3.5-5.6 AFS DX VR G ED Nikkor lens \$200

Contact Tom at : tr.trask.photo@gmail.com

Nikon F5 Camera for Sale

Nikon F5 AF body w/ Nikon BF-1 body cap

Nikon EC-E (architectural) Focusing Screen

Nikon DK-19 Eyecup

Nikon MF-28 Multi-Function Data Back

Nikon DW-31 Waist-Level Viewfinder

Nikon DW-30 6X Waist-Level Viewfinder

Nikon DA-30 AE Action Finder w/ Hood

Nikon MS-30 AA Battery Tray

Really Right Stuff F5 L-Bracket Camera Plate

10 rolls Velvia 100 – refrigerated

All mint condition - best offer for entire package.

Email Peter Guerard at peter.guerard27@comcast.net

Specified Topics

2011-2012 Competition

January	Textures
February	Portrait(s)
March	Silhouette(s)
April	Circles
May	Night-time

2011 - 2012 Digital Imaging Scoreboard				
Digital Imaging Competition Standings - YTD through November				
Name	Total Number of Images Using the Highest 2 Scoring Images	Total Points Using the Highest 2 Scoring Images	Blue Ribbons	Honorable Mention Red Ribbons
Masters				
Pam Hastings	4	101	4	
Robert Cameron	4	100	4	
Don Weston	4	99	4	
Audrey Weigold	4	94		
Jan Chambers	4	94		1
Laura Bryg	2	50	1	
Salon				
Christine Quallen	4	100	3	
Danielle D'Ermo	4	97	3	1
Nick Giosa	4	97		2
Richard Brimley	4	95	1	
Paula Fink	4	94	1	2
Olive Weingart	4	93		1
David Stewart	4	92	2	
Elaine Widmer	4	92	1	
Joyce Niejako	4	92	2	
Michael Miller	4	91		
Krys Johnson	4	91		1
Marci James	4	90		1
Debbie Staley	4	90		1
Sudhir Bhatnagar	4	87		
Frank James	4	85		
Bob Finch	2	45		1

2011-2012 Print Scoreboard					
Print Competition Standings - YTD through November					
Group	Name	Total # of Prints	Total Score	Blue	HM
Color					
	Cindy Gosselin	2	51	2	
	Gretchen Hein	2	47	1	
	John Murphy	2	47		1
	Bob Reedy	2	46		1
	Nick Giosa	2	46		1
	David Stewart	2	45		
	Norma Zackor	2	45		
	Paula Fink	2	44		1
	Jack Petersen	2	42		
	Austin Carey	1	24		1
	Pam Hastings	1	24		1
	Richard Brimley	1	23		
	John O'Boyle	1	21		
Creative					
	Cindy Gosselin	2	49	2	
	David Stewart	2	47	1	
	John Murphy	2	47		
	Pam Hastings	2	47		1
	Norma Zackor	2	46		1
	George Landis	1	22		
Monochrome					
	John Murphy	2	49	1	
	George Landis	2	47	1	1
	Bob Reedy	2	46	1	
	David Stewart	2	46	1	
	Tom Trask	2	45		2
	Gretchen Hein	2	42		
	Pam Hastings	1	23		1

THE
CHARTER OAK
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, INC.

www.charteroakphoto.com

2011-2012 SEASON

PRESIDENT: John Murphy

VICEPRESIDENT: Elaine Widmer

SECRETARY: Cindy Gosselin

TREASURER: Austin Carey

CHAIRMAN of the BOARD: Meredith Harris

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: Gert Perry

PRINT CHAIRMAN: Gretchen Hein

ELECTRONIC CHAIRMEN:

Rick Freschner, John Murphy

PSA REP: Audrey Weigold

NECCC REP: Olive Weingart

PUBLICITY: Sue DeMaio

PROGRAMS: Jan Chambers

WORKSHOPS:

Cindy Gosselin, Audrey Weigold

NEWSLETTER:

Tom Trask, Marty Brown

REGULAR MEETINGS (7:15 PM)
Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Jan. 23,
Feb. 27, Mar. 26, Apr. 23, May 14

WORKSHOPS (7:15 PM)
Sept. 19, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Jan. 9,
Feb. 13, Mar. 12, Apr. 9

COMPETITION JUDGING (7:15 PM)
Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Jan. 16, Feb. 20,
Mar. 19, Apr. 16, May 7

BOARD MEETINGS (7:00 PM)
Sept. 12, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Jan. 2,
Feb. 6, Mar. 5, Apr. 2, Apr. 30

MEETINGS

Workshop, Competition, and General Meetings are held at Elmwood Community Church, 26 Newington Road, West Hartford. CT (Conte Hall - Lower Level). Unless otherwise noted, meetings begin at 7:15 PM.

Monday, Jan. 9, 2012 Workshop
"White Balance", by Peter Guerard

Monday, Jan. 16, 2012 Competition Judging
Digital Category: 'Textures'

Monday, Jan. 23, 2012 General Meeting
"Best of NECCC Prints" by Arthur Vaughn

Monday, Feb. 6, 2012 Board Meeting
7:00 PM, Farmington Library

Monday, Feb. 13, 2012 Workshop
"Composition", by Ben Monroe

Mon., Feb. 20, 2012 Competition Judging
Digital Category: 'Portrait(s)'

Monday, Feb. 27, 2012 Program
"Mini Shows", by Charter Oak Members

Monday, Mar. 5, 2012 Board Meeting
7:00 PM, Farmington Library

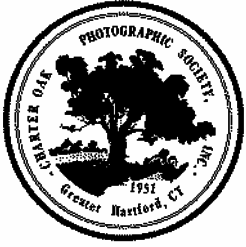
Monday, Mar. 12, 2012 Workshop
"High Dynamic Range", by John Murphy

Monday, Mar. 19, 2012 Competition Judging
Digital Category: 'Silhouette(s)'

Monday, Mar. 26, 2012 Program
"Pop-up Flash Macro Photography"
by Art Vaughn

Monday, April 2, 2012 Board Meeting
7:00 PM, Farmington Library

Monday, April 9, 2012 Workshop
"Creating Photo Books On-line"
by Gay Ayers



CHARTER OAK PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, INC.
MEMBERSHIP DUES FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 TO AUGUST 31, 2012

RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBER _____

Please print information below.

NAME: Miss/Ms/Mrs/Mr/Dr. _____ \$30 _____ Single Membership

JOINT MEMBER'S NAME _____ \$50 _____ Joint Membership*

ADDRESS: STREET _____ \$15 _____ Assoc.Membership**

CITY _____ STATE _____ Zip: _____ - _____

TELEPHONE: Home: _____ Business: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

All new and Associate Membership applications must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Please make check payable to: **CHARTER OAK PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, INC.**

Mail with completed form to the Membership Chairperson:

MS. GERT PERRY, 131 FOX RUN COURT, NEWINGTON, CT 06111-4586

Note: New Members joining after Feb. 1 pay 50% of dues for the year .

PSA Member? Yes ___ No ___

Is the Joint Member a PSA Member? Yes ___ No ___

Star Rating in PSA? Yes ___ No ___

Does the Joint Member have Star Ratings in PSA? Yes ___ No ___

Photographic Honors? _____

Photographic Honors? _____

Would you or anyone in your household be willing to assist on one of the club's committees? Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

Indicate Committee(s) preferred:

Electronic Imaging ___ Field Trips ___ Indoor Photo Shoot ___ Membership ___ Programs ___ Refreshment ___ Seminar ___ Website ___

Workshops ___ Other Please Specify _____

ADD suggestions for Programs, Workshops and/or Field Trips at bottom or on reverse side .

How did you hear about Charter Oak: Website ___ Friend ___ Current Club Member ___

Other Please Specify _____

*Joint Membership is one or more members of a household living at the same address.

** Associate Member shall be any person who, for reasons of health or prohibitive travel, is unable to attend meetings on an ongoing long term basis. An Associate Member will continue to receive announcements of Society activities, and may participate in monthly contests by mailing entries with return postage (or emailing electronic entries) to the contest chairperson. Should the Associate's situation change to where he/she is able to attend regular meetings, he/she shall transfer his/her Associate membership to that of an Active member and pay the additional, proportionate share of dues for the balance of the Society year.