

# Focal Plane

Volume 67 Issue 8

April 2004

Peter's pick of the month



Della O'Malley

## Calendar for April 2004

7 Executive Committee MTG

Host : Eileen Eastham

14 NJFCC Spring Nature Slide Competition

Judges : Joseph Thomas, NJFC

Judy Helderman

Ben Venezia

21 Program (P-5) "The Power of Digital Imagery"

Florence Robin

28 Ridgewood Showcase

Chick Chakarian

## Workshops

16 Using Digital Imaging

Vinnie Kempf, George Garbeck

## FLORIDA ADVENTURE

Three AM, February 21, 2004!!! Who gets up at this ungodly hour? Marianne Badala, Marie Kelleher and I did, so we could make the seven AM plane to Fort Myers, Florida. OK. It's just one morning. Fool! Fool!! We were on our way to spend a week trying to find some of those great bird pictures. Our tour leader, John Cang who introduced us to Bob, a geologist from California, the fourth member of the tour, met us at the Fort Myers airport. Off we went to our Motel Six rooms.

John announced that the following morning we would leave the motel (after having breakfast in our rooms) at 6:30 AM. Well OK, we know the birds get up early.

Little did we realize that 6:30 AM would be the latest we would leave our motel for the rest of the tour. Five to five thirty



would be the regular "take off" time. Each day we went searching out the birds. We traveled in a van, to Sanabel, to a couple of rookeries, to Shark Valley, to Mrs. Jones's front yard (an osprey nest), to the front of a Library where the burrowing owls live—wherever, the birds were we were there rain or shine. At Mrs. Jones's we sat in portable chairs waiting for the daddy osprey to return hoping he would be flying toward us with fish dinner. Unfortunately, the wind was from the wrong direction and he

showed us his back. We went to an area where pelicans and wood storks nest. We were to go out on a boat to get close to the island they nested on, but it was too cold and the water was too choppy. We were able to get some shots on the dock. Almost every day late in the afternoon we went to an eagle's nest hoping to get a shot of the papa eagle delivering dinner to his family in great light. Unfortunately, most days sunset came before he did. One afternoon he had already fed his family before we arrived. We had success as well. We will see how well we used those opportunities in future competitions.

The great thing about traveling with John was that he knew where to find the birds

and when, because of water levels and other factors, there wouldn't be many birds in an area. He also

knew how to get to places without wasting time. How did the effort work out? Well, I have "keeper" slides of eighteen different kinds of birds. Are they all competition slides? No, but the first bird I put in got a six (I'm entering it again) and the "gator," that was sort of a bonus shot, scored an HM. The judges will decide the fate of the others. I know I had an adventure and learned a great deal while traveling with terrific people at ungodly hours.

*Alice Gunther*

## Focal Plane

*Dieter Steinmeyer*

*Editor*

*201-652-3031*

*dsteinmeyer@msn.com*

**Website - <http://www.ridgewoodcameraclub.org>**

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*P.O. Box 55*

*Ridgewood, NJ 07450*

*Copy Editor*

*Vinnie Kempf*

*Techno Editor*

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*2003-2004*

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**Ridgewood Camera Club**

We meet on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesday of the month at 8:00 pm  
The Woman's Club of Wyckoff, 176 Wyckoff Ave. Wyckoff. NJ  
Guests are always welcome at regular meetings

## Do you manipulate?

Over the years we have discussed manipulation of images. Since the beginning of photography, photos have been changing what the eye sees. When film was a glass plate dipped in a solution of chemicals and then brought into a darkroom, a photographer had the ability to alter reality. Is the use of a lens or even the use of different lens sizes a manipulation? Is film, with its wide variety of speeds, and saturations manipulation? With the use of primitive lenses an early photog can alter a foreground or background with the use of f-stops. He has manipulated what the eye and brain can process. Today cameras can do many more adjustments and compensations than ever before. I can easily say any photog who has a modern camera and knowledge of how to use all the available functions is a manipulator.

Here's a list of questions for all you. Do you use filters? Do you use different lenses? Do you use saturated films? Do you use a wide-open lens to blur a background? Do you clean up a location before you take the photograph? If you answered yes to any of these you are manipulating the image.

Any photographer who thinks cameras and computers should be different entities, I suggest you read about Ansel Adams. He designed a technique called the Zone System. Seventy years ago or so this was as radical as Photoshop is today. If Ansel Adams were alive today he would be a master not only in the darkroom but also with a computer. As for darkrooms, they are a danger to

your health and to the environment. Go to the "Second Sunday Camera Show" or the "Used Dept." at B&H. You will see they can't give enlargers away!

At club meetings I don't hear any complaints if a Kodalith processed image wins. But if an image generated from a computer wins you will here grumbling and moans. Whether that Kodalith was made in a wet darkroom or in a dry darkroom (a.k.a. a computer) the end result is the same. Most of the language used in Photoshop is derived from the wet darkroom, unsharp masking, masking, noise, dodging and burning. We simply accept manipulations that have been prevalent for years and never stop to consider them manipulations. I like to say, I collect my ideas with a camera and show them on paper. Any one who knows how to use film and all their camera functions properly can compete equally with a Photoshop user. A Photoshop user is no different than a wet darkroom photographer.

In closing, a good image regardless of its source, will win any competition. Follow basic rules of photography, read your camera manuals over and over again, get out of bed early and catch the sweet light, put the camera away when the sun is high, keep notes, have fun, learn and change.

*Jerry Fornarotto*

## From the Editor

In this issue you can read about three early rising souls and their quest for that perfect bird picture.

Jerry Fornarotto expresses his opinion about photographic manipulation.

Tibor Vari tells us about his trip to New Hampshire to capture the fall foliage. You could argue about the timeliness of this article, it's either too late or too early. This editor takes any article at any time from our members. Just remember in October that you read it in April.

The rest of this issue is scores and totals, they get quite extensive toward the end of the season.

Did you catch the phrase "End of the Season"?

Yes only two more months.

That means it's almost time for our annual dinner.

Why don't you come and join us?

*Dieter*



*Happy Easter*



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## Print Competition March 10 2004

Judge: Simon Leventhal

### Class B

#### Black and White

##### Honorable Mentions

Textures .....J. Levine  
Lifting Fog .....K. Licht  
Spray 2785 .....K. Licht  
Out of Service .....F. Lopez  
Composition of Shapes #1.....J. Levine

##### Awards

Hot Lips .....J. Levine

#### Color by Maker

##### Honorable Mentions

Warm Glow in Antelope Canton ..... F. Helfst  
Connections..... K. Licht  
Kachina Survival ..... K. Licht  
Sentry Box #2..... F. Lopez

##### Awards

Sunrise at the Totem Poles ..... F. Helfst  
Cymbals ..... K. Licht  
Dogwood in Bloom ..... F. Helfst  
Handscape ..... K. Licht  
Extinguisher ..... K. Licht

#### Trade Prints

##### Honorable Mentions

Quiet Harbor ..... C. Chakarian  
Grape Study ..... J. Mann  
Schmetterling ..... A. Gunther  
Honey Creeper ..... D. O'Malley  
Fog Bound Cove ..... C. Chakarian  
Great Blue Heron #2 ..... D. O'Malley

##### Awards

Stony Creek in Fall..... D. O'Malley  
Old Barn..... J. Mann

### Class A

#### Black and White

##### Honorable Mentions

Tiger Lilies ..... D. O'Malley  
Pelican Close-up..... D. O'Malley  
Waterford Water Lily ..... P. O'Malley  
Dragonfly in Black & White..... D. O'Malley  
Dock & Water Streets..... B. Bain  
Gull on the Wind ..... P. O'Malley

##### Awards

Three White Tulips ..... G. Garbeck  
Glass in Black & White ..... J. Mann

#### Color by Maker

##### Honorable Mentions

Tuscan Poppy Field .....J. Schilling  
Flamingo Portrait .....P. O'Malley  
Alert..... V. Kempf  
Post Impressionist Blueberry Patch.....G. Garbeck  
Still Life..... C. Fox  
Staircase..... V. Kempf  
Dry Stream Bed-Red Rock Canyon .....R. Gheno  
Sunset Palm ..... R. Gheno

##### Awards

Monarch on Black Eyed Susan ..... D. O'Malley  
Ice Daggers..... R. Gheno  
Stalking Egret ..... P. O'Malley  
Hummingbird ..... D. O'Malley  
Two Worlds..... G. Garbeck  
Orchid and Bud ..... P. O'Malley  
Swooping in for a Meal ..... D. O'Malley  
Rain in Venice..... G. Garbeck

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## Class B Prints March 2004

### BLACK & WHITE BY MAKER

K. Licht	88*
B. Ullmann	82*
J. Levine	78*
F. Lopez	50
J. Placer	23
R. Kiil	18

### Color by Maker

F. Helfst	98*
K. Licht	90*
B. Ullmann	81*
J. Levine	79*
F. Lopez	41
E. Vereb	29
J. Placer	19
B. Winston	13
D. Pierson	8

## Class A Prints March 2004

### Black & White by Maker

D. O'Malley	91*
R. Gheno	88*
G. Garbeck	87*
P. O'Malley	86*
J. Schilling	58
B. Bain	38
F. Alam	37
C. Fox	24
D. Steinmeyer	17
J. Mann	9
M. Molino	8
J. Fornarotto	7

### Color by Maker

P. O'Malley	96*
G. Garbeck	91*
R. Gheno	89*
V. Kempf	89*
D. O'Malley	89*
B. Bain	61
C. Fox	59
J. Schilling	59
J. Fornarotto	46
D. Steinmeyer	46

F. Alam	38
L. Vinecour	36
M. Molino	22
J. Mann	19
B. Winston	6

### PRINTS - TRADE

A. Chakarian	94*
D. O'Malley	90*
A. Parseghian	85*
A. Gunther	77*
M. Kelleher	77*
F. Lopez	55
J. Mann	47
D. Young	23
L. Iulo	18
L. Lembo	14
C. Laplaca-Post	12
D. Pierson	6
E. Vereb	6

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## Fall Foliage

### Kancamagus Highway, New Hampshire

By Tibor Vari

The weekend of October 10th – 12th, 2003 was near the peak of fall foliage up in New Hampshire along the Kancamagus Highway (Route 112 between Lincoln and Conway NH). It is about a 6 hour drive from Ramsey, NJ to Lincoln, NH (which is just off Interstate 93 Exit 12). Once there, you are virtually in the center of the White Mountains National Forest.

The first advice for fall foliage photography anywhere in New England is to get your hotel reservations at least 2-3 months in advance. I waited till the last week and could get no closer than 60 miles away in Concord NH (Comfort Inn, 603-226-4100). Of course, making reservations in advance can be problematic as the peak colors vary year by year. The following websites offer tremendous information to help you plot the peak colors.

#### **New Hampshire:**

[www.newhampshire.com/pages/foiliagereport.cfm](http://www.newhampshire.com/pages/foiliagereport.cfm)

#### **New York:**

[www.empire.state.ny.us/tourism/foilage/](http://www.empire.state.ny.us/tourism/foilage/)

#### **Maine:**

[www.state.me.us/doc/foilage/](http://www.state.me.us/doc/foilage/)

#### **Vermont:**

[www.1-800-vermont.com/seasons/report.asp](http://www.1-800-vermont.com/seasons/report.asp)

#### **Fall Foliage Network:**

[foliagenetwork.com/](http://foliagenetwork.com/)

#### **Kancamagus Scenic Byway:**

[www.photo.net/us/ne/foilage-kancamagus](http://www.photo.net/us/ne/foilage-kancamagus)

Driving East from Lincoln towards Conway you have the East Branch of the Pentqewasset River running parallel to the road. You will want to stop at the various pullouts and walk the short distance to the river to photograph the fast moving river. Make sure you stop at the Otter Rocks Rest Area and walk over to the river. The rocks here jut out into the river allowing you the use of a wide-angle lens for a sweeping view of the river coming right at you.

At the top of the mountain you get to the Kancamagus Pass pullout, which is a nice location for sunrise and sweeping mountain vistas. At this point the road

heads downhill and a nice stop is Lily Pond on the left (about 2.5 miles). Though I have never been lucky enough to see any moose, I have been told by locals and other photographers that Lily Pond is frequented by moose in the early morning and early evening.

Continuing further downhill from Lily Pond, the Swift River now runs parallel to the road. Once again, there are frequent pullouts from which there are great scenes to shoot. Pay particular attention to bends in the road where you can get nice S curves when taking pictures of the river.



The Lower Falls Picnic area is another good spot to stop and take pictures. Here the rocks form mini waterfalls that can be used as foreground material with the fall colors in the background. Another location worth stopping for is the Albany Bridge, which is a 120 foot long Paddleford truss bridge with added arches constructed in 1858.

Best shooting location is to cross the bridge and bear right to the parking lot.

You may want to avoid going into Conway, as the traffic can be quite heavy during the fall. It would be worth turning around and going back on Route 112 W, as the perspective will be different. On the way back to Lincoln, a nice side trip is to go North on the Bear Notch Road. There will be numerous pullouts with very nice sweeping views of the rolling mountains. Follow this route to Bartlett, which is an old railroad station town. The buildings are pretty old and make for some interesting subjects coupled with the peeling paint. The deli just at the corner of Route 302 and Bear Notch Road is excellent if hunger has kicked in. From Bartlett head west along Route 302 and make sure to stop and photograph Flume Cascade.



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is an old railroad station town. The buildings are pretty old and make for some interesting subjects coupled with the peeling paint. The deli just at the corner of Route 302 and Bear Notch Road is excellent if hunger has kicked in. From Bartlett head west along Route 302 and make sure to stop and photograph Flume Cascade. This is a very thin ribbon of a waterfall that has various levels. You can't miss this as there is a large well paved pullout. A little further is Crawford Notch and Saco Lake, which is a heavy tourist location and popular hiking trail location (Mt. Willard, Webster-Jackson, and Avalon trail heads).

Continue West to Twin Mountain and then head southwest on Route 3. This route will ultimately complete the full circle and bring you back to Lincoln. Along this route are scenic locations such as the Old Man Of the Mountain (sadly it collapsed late 2003), Franconia Notch, Lonesome Lake Trail (a difficult 1000 foot vertical hike), The Basin, Sentinel Pine



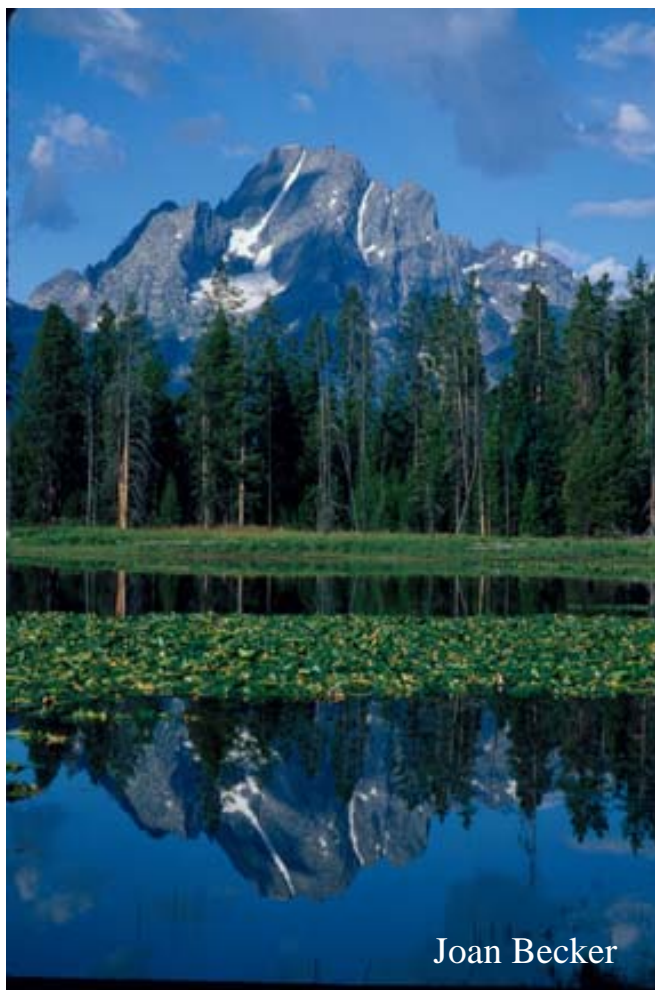
Bridge, and Flume Gorge (must pay to get in but worth the moderate hike). The amazing part of this portion of the trip is how much it reminds me of the soaring peaks of Glacier National Park.

Once in Lincoln, there are numerous dinner locations. Some recommendations are the Chowder House, Pancake House, and Tavern At The Mill.

An excellent source map to have is the Delorme New Hampshire Atlas. Along with all 50 states, these guides can be found at Campmor or Ramsey Outdoor. The maps have tremendous details such as waterfalls, covered bridges, topographic/GPS markings, and other landmarks.

So plan ahead and take the trip up to Lincoln NH and feast your eyes on some great fall photography.

## Marie's pick of the month



Joan Becker

SLIDES SLIDES SLIDES SLIDES SLIDES SLIDES SLIDES SLIDES

### Class A March 2004

	P	A	N	TOTAL
V. Kempf	93	92	97	282*
T. Vari	94	81	97	272*
J. Fornarotto	88	82	101	271*
S. Kantor	90	86	93	269*
P. O'Malley	84	87	89	260*
R. Gheno	84	82	88	254*
A. Parseghian	81	80	87	248*
A. Gunther	77	83	79	239*
D. O'Malley	82	81	76	239*
A. Simpson	78	77	84	239*
M. Kelleher	74	78	74	226*
J. Becker	77	79	63	219
D. Steinmeyer	83	75	60	218
R. Bader	73	75	68	216*
B. Bain	20	82	21	123
D. Phillip	39	27	36	102
F. Alam	57	18	0	75
L. Vincour	39	0	0	39
D. Friedman	19	0	19	38
A. Chakarian	36	0	0	36
G. Levine	18	0	17	35
T. Spector	18	0	17	35
J. Cuomo	0	0	22	22

### Class B March 2004

	P	A	N	TOTAL
C. Laplace Post	79	75	71	225*
M. Badala	74	72	70	216*
F. Lopez	58	71	52	181
L. Lembo	55	53	36	144
J. Placer	59	18	54	131
N. Marena	76	11	17	104
P. Gordon	41	18	12	71
D. Young	39			39
E. Vereb	21	6		27
J. Schilling	22			22
R. Winston	21			21
L. Bold		18		18
L. Iulo		15		15

### Nature Competition March 17, 2004 Judge: Dennis Glennon



#### General

##### Honorable Mention

Natural Arch..... R. Gheno  
 Wondrous Light- Bryce Canyon ..... T. Vari  
 Stream in Autumn ..... B. Bader

##### Awards

Survivor in harsh Environment.....T. Vari  
 White Sands .....J. Becker  
 Last Light at Cathedral Spires.....T. Vari

#### Zoological

##### Honorable Mention

Early Morning Skimming Gator.....A. Gunther  
 Pelican Head on.....J. Fornarotto  
 Heron at Anhinga Trail.....D. O'Malley  
 Silvery Wings .....P. O'Malley  
 Franklin's Gull.....S. Kantor  
 Bugling Elk #2.....V. Kempf

##### Awards

House Wren with Spider ..... J. Fornarotto  
 Snow Goose Ballet..... S. Kantor  
 The Graceful Pronghorn..... V. Kempf  
 Oyster Catcher with Worm ..... J. Fornarotto  
 Burrowing Owl ..... A. Parseghian  
 Get back with the rest of the Harem . V. Kempf



**Assigned Subject  
Reflections  
March 24, 2004  
Judge: Simon Leventhal**

**Honorable Mention**

- Cantaloupes Reflection..... C. Laplaca-Post
- Fall Colors Reflection..... T. Vari
- Reflections of Rockport #2..... R. Gheno
- Evening Reflection at Mystic ..... S. Kantor
- Madonna Church Reflection..... A. Gunther
- Reflection in Building ..... J. Becker
- Harborside Vision..... A. Parseghian
- Canadian City Reflection..... A. Gunther
- Venice Reflections..... V. Kempf
- Mt. Moran..... J. Becker
- Reflection in the Window..... S. Kantor

**Awards**

- Lamppost Reflection ..... V. Kempf
- Shore Line at Echo Lake ..... A. Simpson
- Valentine Rose Reflection ..... P. O'Malley
- Reflection in Brass ..... B. Bain

**Assigned Subject  
Action  
March 24, 2004  
Judge: Simon Leventhal**

**Honorable Mention**

- Homestretch..... D. Steinmeyer
- Motor Cross Racer..... S. Kantor
- Playful Dolphin ..... D. Steinmeyer
- Shooting the Rapids..... T. Vari
- Little Girl shooting Basketball ..... B. Bader
- Surfing Action ..... A. Parseghian
- Killer Whale ..... A. Simpson
- In the Turn #3 ..... V. Kempf
- Launched Dory ..... A. Gunther
- Take That..... L. Lembo

**Awards**

- Swooping in for a Meal..... D. O'Malley
- Snowboarder ..... P. O'Malley
- Oystercatcher cleaning Worm..... J. Fornarotto
- Sandhill Crane Ballet ..... S. Kantor
- Coming in for a Landing..... M. Kelleher
- Treacherous Waters ..... D. Steinmeyer
- Stunt Flyer..... S. Kantor
- It's going to be close ..... V. Kempf
- Sledding Siblings ..... P. O'Malley



**The Tri- Club Competition  
Will be held at 8 pm,  
Tuesday, April 20 th  
At Tri- County Camera Club in Nutley**



## ANNUAL DINNER-SAVE THE DATE

Tickets on sale at Wednesday night meetings-April & May (or by phone to Eileen Eastham 201-933-4767)

**When:** May 26, 2004-(last Wed in May)

**Place:** Doubletree Hotel (same place as last year but new owner, was the Ramada)  
180 Rte 17 S  
Mahwah, NJ 07430  
Tel 201-529-5880

**Price:** \$25.00 (open to nonmember spouses and friends)

**Details:** 6:00-9:00 cash bar  
6:00-7:00 fresh vegetable crudités, cheese crackers.

7:00 sit down dinner  
choice of Veal Medallions//Broiled Salmon w/ Dill Sauce  
Potato and mixed vegetables  
Dessert: Ice Cream Parfait  
Assorted soft drinks-pitchers on tables  
Coffee, tea and decaf coffee

**Program:** Installation of officers  
Awards to competition winners  
"Best of Ridgewood" slide show by Chick Chakarian



**Ridgewood Camera Club**

19 Smithfield Rd  
Waldwick. NJ, 07463