

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

by **Barbara Bovat**



Greetings to all of you! I hope you are enjoying the beauty of springtime!

I write this message following three events which involved Capital-Champlain. The first was the Photo Northeast Convention, the second was the all-day seminar with Jim Chamberlain, and the most recent was our May meeting and program featuring Terry Geerds. Your membership in PPSNYS and Capital-Champlain opens the door for you to attend these events at a reduced cost. These were all excellent educational opportunities and, if you did not attend, you missed out on some really great information.

Your officers work very hard to find instructors who can keep us on the cutting edge of our industry at a time when everyone on earth seems to call themselves a "photographer". This effort takes time and costs money – your dues money. I know that schedules are often overloaded with family and business obligations. We all face that issue. It is however, necessary to continue your education to guarantee your existence in this industry. I encourage all of you to take the time to join us for our meetings, programs and events, not just for what you can learn from them, but for what you may be able to share with your fellow members. Don't let the topic of a program make you decide to stay away. There is something to be learned from every program. Ask anyone who goes to each and every event.

That being said, I am sure you have all received an e-mail from Mike LaRose with regard to our June Picnic on June 13 at Thatcher Park. He has given us a deadline of May 27, 2011 to decide if we will be  
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## Paulsen Photography Receives Prestigious W. J. Cowee Award

The Rensselaer County Fire Chiefs Association Annual Installation and Awards Banquet was the setting for the presentation of the W.J. Cowee Award. This award is sponsored each year by the Berlin Fire Department, in recognition of W.J. Cowee, LLC. It is presented to a business in Rensselaer County for support and assistance to fire service in the County.

Ray and Chris Paulsen, who operate Paulsen Photography in DeFreestville, were proud to be recognized as the recipients of this award for 2011. They said, "We consider it an honor to assist the dedicated men and women who serve the Town of North Greenbush as firefighters, in whatever way we can. We sincerely thank the DeFreestville Fire Department for nominating us for this award."



L to R, Bob Durivage, DFD President; Ray and Chris Paulsen; Mike Lashmet, DFD Past Chief; Keith Slupsky, DFD Captain

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participating. Please let him know if you will be attending. It will be a fun day and an opportunity to share skills with other members. Thatcher Park is beautiful and will be a great place to do some award-winning photography.

Speaking of award-winning photography, my congratulations go out to all who participated in the PNE and Northeast District image competitions. This was a whole new format and new things are always a bit intimidating. Many Capital-Champlain members walked away with high scores and awards. Kudos to all of you! I am proud to congratulate Dana Shaffer, who has met all of the requirements and is now a candidate to receive her PPA Master of Photography Degree in New Orleans in January 2012! Great job, Dana! I also wish everyone well in the upcoming PPA image competition that will be held in June.

In closing, I just want to say that Capital-Champlain is a great group. I look forward to seeing those who attend meetings each month and I do miss seeing those who do not. Please join us in June! We miss you when you're not there!

*"Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."* –Will Rogers

*Barb*

## **KUDOS to CCPPSNYS MEMBERS**

2011 marked a major change in the northeast affiliate conferences. No longer was the print competition at our regional (PNE, this year, after combining forces with New Jersey and Pennsylvania) an affiliated judging in which the prints will be sealed for PPA.

PPA's new districting awarded the affiliated judging for our district to the New England Conference (PPANE). In many regions, this would be nothing new. But for New York, this created another 'layer' of judging for our members.

Nevertheless, CCPPSNYS members shone. Seventeen prints entered by seven members were deemed "deserving of merit" and will be going on to PPA in June to receive their Merit.

- Ken Bovat – 3
- David Jeffery – 3
- Michael LaRose – 1
- Ray Paulsen – 2
- Dana Shaffer – 3
- Ed Sharp – 2
- Mark Sweeney – 3

## **CCPPSNY SPRING PICNIC at THACHER PARK**

I've never been there, but Ed grew up in Berne and he's raved about it for ...31 years??? So on Monday, June 13, I will explore all the interesting spots I've seen photos of. And I'll take a WHOLE BUNCH of my own – seeing my own vision, thinking – and shooting – outside the box, outside my comfort zone, trying something new.

Will you all join me? The park opens at 8 a.m. – the 'formal' hours of the CCPPSNY outing are 10 am – 3 pm.

The cost is minimal: \$6.00 parking and a 'dish' to share. CCPPSNY is hosting – supplying burgers & dogs, buns, and paper/plasticware. Salads, drinks (non-alcoholic), and desserts (and whatever other food-stuff you want to share) are the responsibility of the participating members.

**Please RSVP by May 27** to [Mike LaRose](mailto:Mike LaRose) or phone 518.322.8421.

If you're unfamiliar with Thacher Park, here are a couple links:

<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/128/details.aspx> or  
[http://www.localhikes.com/Hikes/Thacher\\_Park\\_0160.asp](http://www.localhikes.com/Hikes/Thacher_Park_0160.asp)

## **Calendar of Events**

**JUNE 13 – SPRING PICNIC AT THACHER PARK**

**JULY 17 – 22 – PPSNYS WORKSHOP**

**GENEVA, NY**

## **KUDOS**, *continued*

In addition, the Kodak Gallery Award was won by David Jeffery's "Need a Lift?"

Dana Shaffer earned her Gold Service Award, and Ray and Chris Paulsen each received one gold service bar from President Tom Mack.

As Barb mentioned in her Chairman's Chat, Dana has also met all requirements and will receive her PPA Master of Photography at the 2012 PPA Convention.

Check out [Convention Blues](#) to see images which earned a blue ribbon at PhotoNorthEast – the New York/New Jersey convention held at the end of March.

Congratulations to everyone!

## PPSNYS Workshop

**Still looking for something to do on your summer vacation???**

There's still time to register for the [Photo Imaging Workshop!](#) *You just missed all the discounts ☹*

**Ken Sklute** - Adding multi-media to your repertoire

**Michael Barton** - Exploring photography as an artistic medium

**Michael & Tina Timmons** - Travelling beyond image capture

**Storey Wilkins** - Story-telling a wedding

**Marty Grivjack** - Understanding Lightroom

**July 17 – 22, 2011** in Geneva, NY

**All for \$875** – which includes your class, room & board, parties, a lot of 'goodies', and an amazing opportunity to network! **How can you beat that?**

## WHAT MEMBERS ARE DOING

Bob Riccardo & Carol Donato's racing images will be on display at:

- Town of Ballston Library – May & June
- Town of Niskayuna Library – July
- Town of Guilderland Library - August

## Creating the Perfect Digital Image

Frank Dispensa

[Two 1-hour DVDs featuring all aspects of the science of photography](#)

This seminar may help you pass the PPA Certification Exam!

*Originally \$69 ~ Sale \$49 ~ Offer Ends June 23, 2011*

## LINKS OF INTEREST

**Ray Paulsen** shares [Microsoft's Photosynth](#) – “a powerful set of tools for capturing and viewing the world in 3D.” These tools offer two methods for creating “immersive 3D experiences: synths and panoramas.” What's a synth? Guess you'll have to follow the link and find out! This looks very interesting, Ray – thanks for sharing.

**Tim Shaffer** likes [LA Times' Framework](#). I don't. They didn't get a picture of my gorgeous niece graduating from USC. Just kidding – the first image in that gallery is a terrific, who'dathunk angle!

**Carol Coronios** signed up for [How-to-Geek newsletters](#) at work. Some great techie info, some good software tips, and – serendipity – several recently have focused on photography. Partly because (for those of you who haven't experienced MS Office 2010 yet) one hardly needs PhotoShop anymore, from the looks of Gates' new software. The link above is to the first of three segments for removing/replacing backgrounds.

**The Paulsens** have also discovered [Topaz Labs' free webinars](#). These sessions, which last between 30 – 45 minutes, appear to be free to everyone, but I suspect they're more useful if you have the Topaz software. Some look like they could be fun to participate in even without it. And I'm sure there's a free trial once you get hooked!

*What are some of YOUR favorites?*

## PHOTOSHOP TIP OF THE MONTH

Chris Paulsen

This is a tip to help you decide which type font looks best on your Photoshop creation. First type the text you want in any font. Commit the type to a layer. Select the type tool again then highlight the font name in the options bar. Use the up and down arrows to scroll through your list of fonts to select the one you like best.

*(editor's add: [Woody Walters' ACI Exclusive tips](#) include a number of brief tutorials on working with type and making text follow a specific graphic path – among LOTS of other topics.)*



Professional Photographers of America