

EXPOSURES

Springfield Photographic Society



"Zabriskie Sunrise" by Joe Kruzel

Joe Kruzel's 'Zabriskie Sunrise' captures Image of the Year award

"Zabriskie Sunrise" by Joe Kruzel was awarded the Richard A. Novak Image of the Year prize at the Springfield Photographic Society's end-of-year celebration last month at the Agawam Library. The voting was done by members who had submitted exhibition entries during the year. "Last Rose of Autumn" by Kevin Fay received the Print of the Year award. See page 2 for his photo. The list of winners is on page 3. The images begin on page 4.



Joe Kruzel at the end-of-year awards presentation last month. (Dave Roback photo)

Print of the Year

Kevin Fay's "Last Rose of Autumn" garnered the award for Print of the Year.



End-of-year awards for 2025-2026

Richard A. Novak Image of the Year

“Zabriskie Sunrise,” Joe Kruzal

SPS Best Print of the Year – “Last Rose of Autumn,” Kevin Fay

PRINT DIVISION

Artistic

Sylvia Pyzocha Award for Best Artistic Print – “Look at Me,” Eileen Donelan

2nd place – “Textures of Spring,” Rosemary Polletta

3rd place – “Vase and Flowers,” Peter Fazekas

Best Color

Les Campbell Award for Best Color Print – “Pink Lotus,” Rosemary Polletta

2nd place – “Kestral Rehab,” Peter Fazekas

3rd place – “Dancing Bears,” Kevin Fay

Best Black & White

Ken Cook Award for Best Black & White Print – “Glacier National Park,” Joe Kruzal

2nd place – “Berlin French Cathedral,” Kevin Fay

3rd place – “Church in the Sea,” Eileen Donelan

DIGITAL DIVISION

Artistic

Jim Theres Award for Best Artistic Digital Image – “Edison Light Armour Yard,” Dave Roback

2nd place – “Twisty Swing Ride,” Darlene Anderson

3rd place (tie) – “Furling Sails,” Fred LeBlanc

3rd place – “In the Moment,” Mark Kula

Black & White

Paul Deegan Award for Best Black & White Digital Image – “Nap Time in Church,” Dave Roback

2nd place – “68 Years Ago,” Gwen McNierney

3rd place – “Homeless Trio,” Jim Gillen

General

Dick Simmons Award for Best General Digital Image – “Fastball,” Dave Roback

2nd place – “Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi,” Amy Dane

3rd place – “Block Out for the Rebound,” Kevin Fay

Nature

Harry Ahern Award for Best Nature Digital Image – 1st place (tie) – “Ouch, That Hurts,” Kevin Fay

2nd place – “Hey You, Yeah You,” Mark Kula

3rd place – “Peace,” Tom Gajda

CUMULATIVE SCORE AWARDS

PRINT DIVISION

Top 10 Prints from All Categories

1st place – 297 points – Kevin Fay

2nd place – 295 points – Eileen Donelan

3rd place – 289 points – Rosemary Polletta

DIGITAL DIVISION

Artistic

1st place – 202 points – Fred LeBlanc

2nd place – 198 points – Barbara Krawczyk

3rd place – 197 points – Joe Kruzal

Black & White

1st place – 194 points – Fred LaBlanc

2nd place – 193 points – Richard Harper

3rd place – 191 points – Kevin Fay

General

1st place – 203 points – Kevin Fay

2nd place – 199 points – Guenther Schubert

3rd place (tie) – 197 points – Frank Rucki

3rd place (tie) – 197 points – Joe Kruzal

3rd place (tie) – 197 points – Mark Kula

Nature

1st place – 203 points – Mark Kula

2nd place – 200 points – Kevin Fay

3rd place – 194 points – Barbara Krawczyk

Challenge

1st place – 195 points – Gwen McNierney

2nd place – 192 points – Kevin Fay

3rd place – 191 points – Dave Roback

End-of-year awards for 2025-2026

Prize-winning print entries – Artistic



The best Artistic prints: clockwise from above left, "Look at Me" by Eileen Donelan, 1st place; "Textures of Spring" by Rosemary Polletta, 2nd place; and "Vase and Flowers" by Peter Fazekas, 3rd place.



Prize-winning print entries – Black & White



The best Black & White prints: Clockwise from top, "Glacier National Park" by Joe Kruzel, 1st place; "Berlin French Cathedral" by Kevin Fay, 2nd place; and "Church in the Sea" by Eileen Donelan, 3rd place.



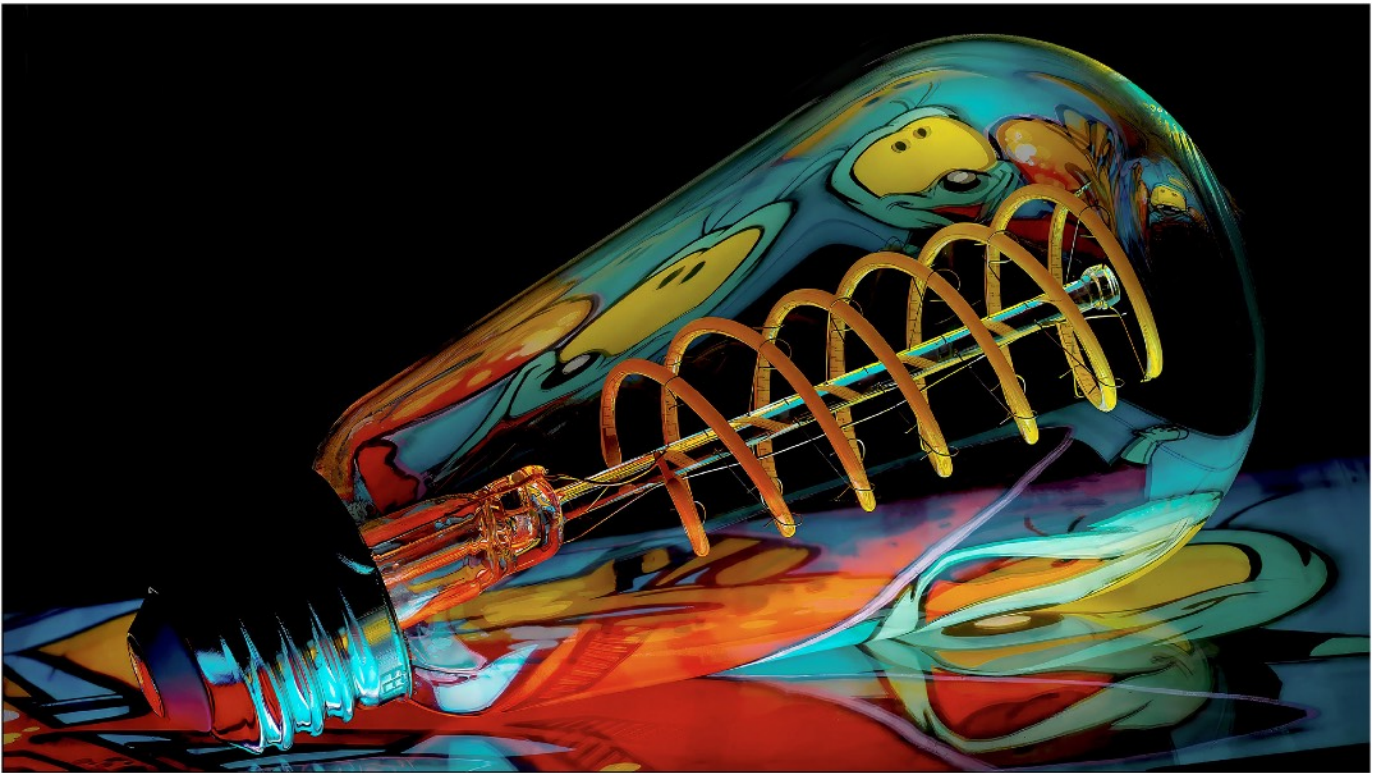
Prize-winning print entries – Color



The winners in Color prints: Clockwise from top, "Pink Lotus" by Rosemary Polletta, 1st place; "Kestrel Rehab" by Peter Fazekas, 2nd place; and "Dancing Bears" by Kevin Fay, 3rd place.



Prize-winning digital entries – Artistic



The best of the Digital Artistic category are, from top, "Edison Light Armour Yard" by Dave Roback, 1st place, and "Twisty Swing Ride" by Darlene Anderson, 2nd place.





Tied for 3rd place in Digital Artistic are, top to bottom, "Furling Sails" by Fred LeBlanc and "In the Moment" by Mark Kula.



Prize-winning digital entries – Black & White



Topping the entries in Digital Black & White are, clockwise from left, "Nap Time in Church" by Dave Roback, 1st place; "68 Years Ago" by Gwen McNierney, 2nd place; and "Homeless Trio" by Jim Gillen, 3rd place.



Prize-winning digital entries – General



The top three in Digital General are, top to bottom, “Fastball” by Dave Roback, 1st place; “Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi” by Amy Dane, 2nd place; and “Block Out for the Rebound” by Kevin Fay, 3rd place.



Prize-winning digital entries – Nature



Topping the charts in Digital Nature are: clockwise from above, “Ouch, That Hurts” by Kevin Fay, 1st place; “Hey You, Yeah You” by Mark Kula, 2nd place; and “Peace” by Tom Gajda, 3rd place.



SPS photographers cover Muscular Sclerosis walk in Longmeadow



Tom Gajda, Larry Sanchez and Kevin Fay, right photo, discuss the fundraiser walk for Muscular Dystrophy in Longmeadow last month. Also shooting were Megan Weiss, Gwen McNierney, Al LaFleche, Steve Ehrler and Jim Gillen.



Clockwise from top, organizers address walkers, a Bay Path College graduate, an East Longmeadow firefighter and her family, and two Support Squad walkers. Photos by Jim Gillen and Larry Sanchez.



Exhibition results for May images

Judges: Kevin Fay, Richard Harper, Barbara Krawczyk and Too Stratton.

Prints

Artistic

Rosemary Polletta	Embracing	29	HA
Peter Fazekas	Branching Out	28	HA
Eileen Donelan	Look at Me	28	HA
Kevin Fay	Yellow Dahlia	27	HA

Black & White

Rosemary Polletta	Supported	28	HA
Joe Kruzal	Goldmine Brook	27	HA
Eileen Donelan	Ranunculus	27	HA

Color

Eileen Donelan	An Orchid's Tear	30	HA
Kevin Fay	Morning Has Broken	30	HA
Peter Fazekas	Red Wolf	28	HA
Rosemary Polletta	Upstairs Downstairs	26	HM

Digital

Artistic

Darlene Anderson	Orange Blossoms	30	HA
Amy Dane	Castle Wall	28	HA
Fred LeBlanc	Downwind	28	HA
Frank Rucki	Vintage Packard	28	HA
Gwen McNierney	Bike Race	27	HA
Barbara Krawczyk	Forks and Shadows	27	HA
Peter Fazekas	Owlsh	27	HA
Rosemary Polletta	Sun-kissed	26	HM
Eileen Donelan	Too Tired	26	HM
Dave Roback	Dewey Evans Foul Tip	25	
Kevin Fay	Hana Reiner's Suitcase	25	
Richard Harper	Twisted Sister	25	
Megan Weiss	Up in the Clouds	25	
Al LaFleche	Nightmare	24	
Lee Plankey	Red Dragon	23	
Tom Gajda	Untitled	23	

Black & White

Dave Roback	Nap Time in Church	30	HA
Richard Harper	1995 Chrysler Atlantic	28	HA
Fred LeBlanc	Apple Pie	28	HA
Darlene Anderson	New Spring Life	28	HA
Amy Dane	Jeddah's Old Town	26	HM
Mark Kula	Smile and Say Bacon	26	HM
Jim Gillen	A Break in the Clouds	25	
Kevin Fay	Boston One Congress Tower	25	
Frank Rucki	66	24	
Eileen Donelan	Dreaming	24	
Tom Gajda	Early Riser, Bonnet Shore	24	
Tracy DeMarco	A Gentle Soul	23	
Barbara Krawczyk	Carpet Salesman	23	

Gwen McNierney Hartford Streets 23

Challenge

Gwen McNierney	Crooked Gravestone	29	HA
Barbara Krawczyk	Crooked Yellow Foxtails	28	HA
Frank Rucki	Fixer Upper	28	HA
Larry Sanchez	Off-Kilter Mushroom	28	HA
Megan Weiss	A Favorite Tree	26	HM
Amy Dane	Waiting Hand and Foot	26	HM
Dave Taupier	A Crooked House	25	
Richard Harper	About Ready to Collapse	25	
Dave Roback	The 47th	25	
Tom Gajda	9 11 Crooked	24	
Mark Kula	A Crooked Perch	24	
Jim Gillen	A Crooked Smile	24	
Rosemary Polletta	Scattered and Bent	24	
Kevin Fay	Boston Jenga Building	23	
Al LaFleche	Dry Lightning	23	
Tracy DeMarco	Still Standing	23	

General

Amy Dane	Temple Rituals	29	HA
Guenther Schubert	Bumble Bee #6	28	HA
Peter Fazekas	Butterfly on Flower	28	HA
Dave Roback	Fastball	28	HA
Frank Rucki	Floral With Vase	28	HA
Joe Kruzal	Daybreak	27	HA
Barbara Krawczyk	Dirt's a Flying	27	HA
Larry Sanchez	November Moon	27	HA
Richard Harper	Siberian Tiger	27	HA
Kevin Fay	Summer on Munn Road	27	HA
Megan Weiss	Vision In Pink	27	HA
Mark Kula	Fun at Faneuil Hall	26	HM
Eileen Donelan	Volcano Queen	26	HM
Tom Gajda	American Beauty	25	
Bill Jutte	So Very Close	25	
Lee Plankey	Building Art	24	
Tracy DeMarco	Crimson Threads	24	
Fred LeBlanc	Farm Gate	24	
Gwen McNierney	Nest Building	24	
Al LaFleche	Paucatuck Brook	24	
Darlene Anderson	Morning Paddleboarders	23	
Jim Gillen	Old Sturbridge Sheep	23	

Nature

Mark Kula	Heron Scores a Meal	29	HA
Peter Fazekas	Eagle Portrait	28	HA
Richard Harper	Gathering Nectar	27	HA
Kevin Fay	Vermont Catbird	27	HA
Larry Sanchez	Curvy Heron	26	HM
Joe Kruzal	Morning Drink	26	HM
Gwen McNierney	Tom Turkey	25	

(Continued on page 14)

Exhibition results for May images

(Continued from page 13)

Jim Gillen	White Pelican	25	Al LaFleche	Rocking the Whitewater	24
Barbara Krawczyk	GBH Hunting	24	Eileen Donelan	Hoping for a Quabbin Mate	23
Tom Gajda	Iguana, Half Moon Bay	24	Lee Plankey	Quabbin	23



Left to right, Cindy Gosselin, Gert Perry and Steve Potashner of the Charter Oak Camera Club in Connecticut judge print entries for the annual print-of-the-year competition. (Dave Roback photo)_

Print exhibition images for May



Among the best print entries in the May exhibition are, clockwise from top, "Morning Has Broken" by Kevin Fay, "Branching Out" by Peter Fazekas, "Look at Me" by Eileen Donelan and "Yellow Dahlia" also by Kevin Fay.



More colorful entries, clockwise from right, "An Orchid's Tear" by Eileen Donelan, "Red Wolf" by Peter Fazekas, "Upstairs Downstairs" and "Embracing," both by Rosemary Polletta.



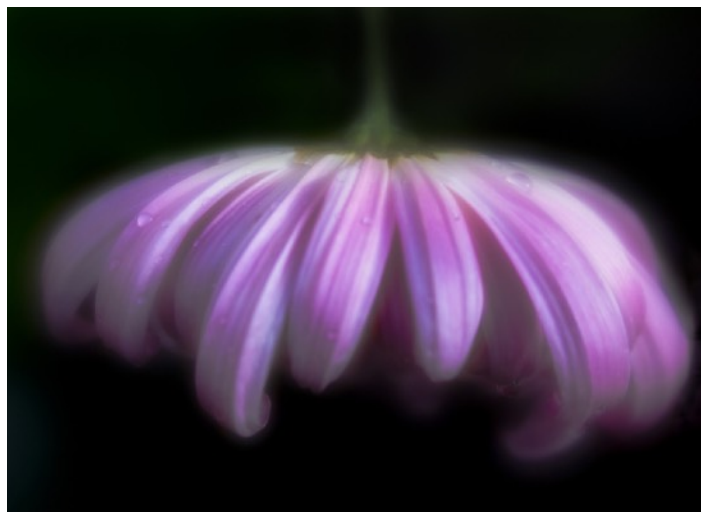
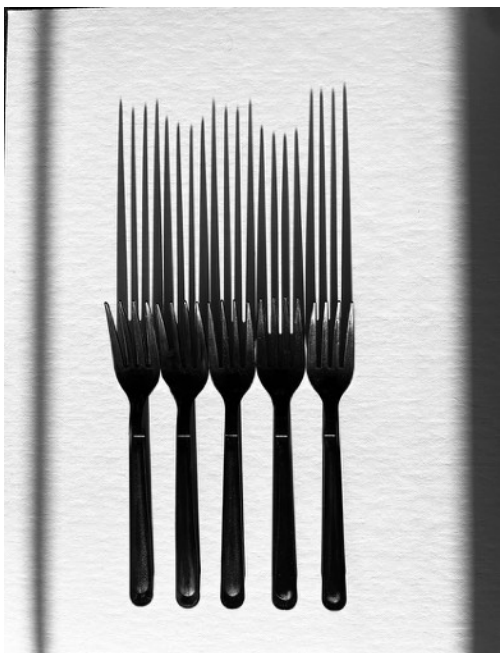


The Black & Whites: clockwise from left, "Goldmine Brook" by Joe Kruzel, "Supported" by Rosemary Polletta and "Ranunculus" by Eileen Donelan.



Digital exhibition images for May

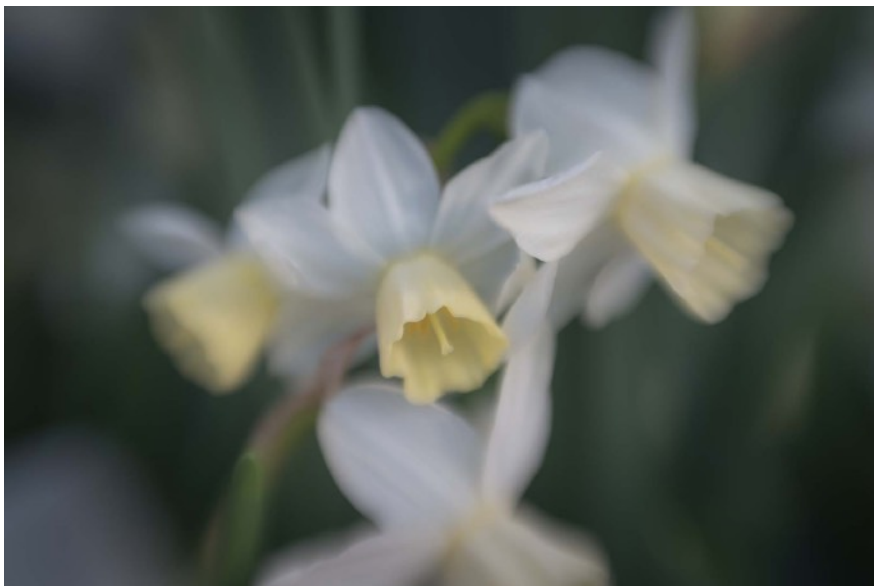
Artistic



The best Artistic Digital entries include, clockwise from top, "Orange Blossoms" by Darlene Anderson, "Too Tired" by Eileen Donelan and "Forks and Shadows" by Barbara Krawczyk.



Clockwise from left, "Castle Wall" by Amy Dane, "Owlish" by Peter Fazekas and "Sun-kissed" by Rosemary Polletta.





Clockwise from top, "Downwind" by Fred LeBlanc, "Bike Race" by Gwen McNierney and "Vintage Packard" by Frank Rucki.

Black & White



Several great entries in the Digital Black & White category. Clockwise from top, "Nap Time in Church" by Dave Roback, "Smile and Say Bacon" by Mark Kula and "Jeddah's Old Town" by Amy Dane.





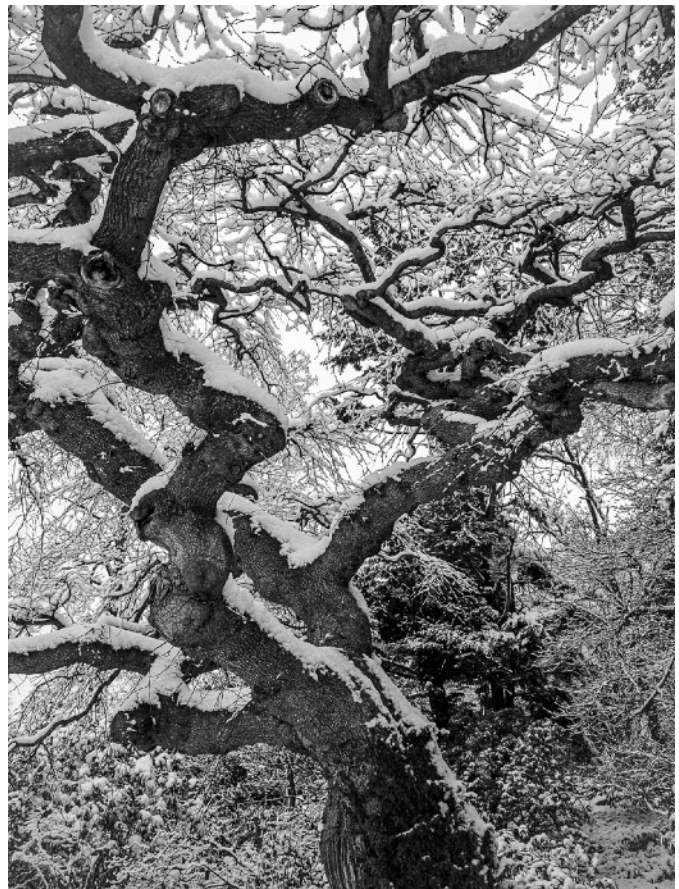
Clockwise from left, "Apple Pie" by Fred LeBlanc, "New Spring Life" by Darlene Anderson and "1995 Chrysler Atlantic" by Richard Harper.



Challenge: Crooked



Leading off the best of the Crooked Challenge topic are, clockwise from left, "Crooked Gravestone" by Gwen McNierney, "A Favorite Tree" by Megan Weiss and "Waiting Hand and Foot" by Amy Dane.





Clockwise from top, "Fixer Upper" by Frank Rucki, "Crooked Yellow Foxtails" by Barbara Krawczyk and "Off-Kilter Mushroom" by Larry Sanchez.

General



Sparkling entries in the Digital General category in May. Clockwise from top, "Temple Rituals" by Amy Dane, "Siberian Tiger" by Richard Harper and "November Moon" by Larry Sanchez.



Clockwise from left, "Bumble Bee #6" by Guenther Schubert, "Vision in Pink" by Megan Weiss, "Fun at Faneuil Hall" by Mark Kula and "Floral with Vase" by Frank Rucki.





Top to bottom, "Fastball" by Dave Roback, "Dirt's a Flying" by Barbara Krawczyk and "Summer on Munn Road" by Kevin Fay.





Clockwise from top, "Daybreak" by Joe Kruzel, "Volcano Queen" by Eileen Donelan and "Butterfly on Flower" by Peter Fazekas.

Nature



Birds, a bee and a moose highlight the Digital Nature entries for May. Clockwise from top, "Heron Scores a Meal" by Mark Kula, "Vermont Catbird" by Kevin Fay and "Eagle Portrait" by Peter Fazekas.



Clockwise from top, "Morning Drink" by Joe Kruzel, "Gathering Nectar" by Richard Harper and "Curvy Heron" by Larry Sanchez.

Club announces challenge topics for 2026-27

The Board of Directors has selected the challenge topics for next year. The list appears on page 14. Here are some tips on how to accomplish each challenge.

September

B&W Minimalism. An image devoid of any color, with the subjects extremely pared-down, usually more stark with a lack of grey tones. Elements should be strong enough to be capable of carrying the entire photo. Make use of lines, contrasts and composition.

October

Shallow Depth of Field. Only your primary subject is in focus, while the foreground and background are softly blurred. Some methods to create a shallow depth of field include using a low F stop (wide aperture), having a shorter distance between the camera and the subject or using a telephoto lens to compress the image.

November

Unique Forest Park. We have seen lots of beautiful lotus pictures from Forest Park, and our share of ducks as well. But it might be fun if each of us goes there to find his/her own unique perspective in this common photo venue. The idea will be to slow down, look and see what others might not ... and capture an image in a way that others might not.

December

Leading Lines. This site explains it well. <https://digital-photography-school.com/how-to-use-leading-lines-for-better-compositions/>

January

Mystery Topic. We will draw a topic out of a hat at the December exhibition. You must submit a new image taken before the January due date. No taking images from your archives!

February

Textures. The image must contain some type of texture; the material where the texture is obvious is your choice.

March

Ask a Stranger to Pose. The goal of this exercise is to improve our ability to obtain the people pictures that many of us want, but might be too timid to get. If we can break the ice and find a few words that connect with a potential model, we might greatly expand our photo libraries of people pictures. This challenge excludes pictures of street performers or anyone on a stage, pictures taken from a distance, pictures of people already posing for friends, or getting a picture of someone without first getting at least a tacit approval. To support you in the exercise, Kevin Fay will lead at least one trip, probably to Boston so we can work together to find people who will pose for us. Perhaps we can work in teams and see what each team can come up with. We might bring along the club lighting, which will enhance our shots, and also make people realize this is a special event. We can offer to send them a copy of their picture. Lots of possibilities. When we are done, we can go out to dinner in the North End.

April

People in Motion. Examples are people running, walking, jumping, biking, swimming, horseback riding, motorcycling, flying, and sports where motion is key.

May

Shadows. A scene or composition where the central theme is a shadow or shadows.

Challenges 2026-2027

September: B&W Minimalism

October: Shallow Depth of Field

November: Unique Forest Park

December: Leading Lines

January: Mystery Topic (to be chosen at December meeting)

February: Textures

March: Ask a Stranger to Pose

April: People in Motion

May: Shadows

Welcome aboard

The welcome mat is out for John and Tami Bresnahan of Longmeadow who joined the Springfield Photographic Society recently.

Two members plan return trip to Ricketts Glen waterfalls

Larry Sanchez and Joe Kruzel are planning another Fall trip to Ricketts Glen State Park in Pennsylvania. The park features stunning waterfalls that are amazing to photograph against the autumn foliage.

- Dates: Monday, Oct. 12 (Columbus Day) – Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026
- Lodging: Larry and Joe plan to stay at the [Wandell Inn](#), but there are several other great inns and bed-and-breakfasts in the area if you choose to join.

Also in the planning stages are several other trips. Larry is interested in organizing another end-of-season trip for May 2027 and wants to hear from you about where we should go next. Some ideas on the table include:

- Acadia National Park
- Cape Cod
- New York City
- Philadelphia

Other trips are being planned and will be announced via email soon.

We want your input! If you have a preference for one of these destinations, have other location ideas, or would like to help plan the trip, please contact Larry at slsanchez@comcast.net.



Delaware Falls in Ricketts Glen State Park in Pennsylvania. (Larry Sanchez photo)

**SPRINGFIELD PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2026-2027**

89th Year

Part I

NAME _____

SPOUSE/PARTNER 1st NAME _____

FAMILY NAMES (family membership) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE (home) _____ (cell) _____

EMAIL _____

Add my email to private page on club website for member questions?

YES NO

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Membership Fees

Individual **\$40**

Family **\$55**

High School Student **Free**
(Copy of student ID required)

Additional Donation (Voluntary):

\$10

Other Donation \$ _____

I prefer to pay my dues at the historic rate:

Individual **\$35**

Family **\$50**

PSA MEMBER? Yes No

Part II

Springfield Photographic Society Field Trip Release Form

I (we), the undersigned, understand that the Springfield Photographic Society requires participants to share responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others during field trips. We hereby acknowledge that as participants in field trips we may be exposed to risks, including but not limited to, vehicular travel over land and water, foot travel over difficult terrain, and unexpected weather conditions. We may also encounter hazardous plants, wildlife, and/or insects. In the event of injury, we understand that we may face delays in reaching professional medical help. We fully accept these risks and agree to hold the Springfield Photographic Society, its officers, directors, volunteers, and agents free from any and all liability for injuries and/or loss which we may incur, directly or indirectly, while on a trip.

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Printed Name</i>	<i>In Case of Emergency (Provide a name and phone number)</i>

Please make your check payable to ***Springfield Photographic Society***
 Mail to SPS Treasurer ***Dee Nacewicz, 21 Warren St., Agawam, MA 01001***
(or bring them to the next meeting)

Club president presents end-of-year slideshow and awards



Clockwise from above, club President Kevin Fay presents the award-winning 2026 photos at the annual meeting last month; Nancy Cunningham, Mark Kula, Megan Weiss and Frank Rucki applaud the winners; and Al LaFleche and Bill Jutte share some information. (Dave Roback photos)

SPS Officers and Directors

Elected positions

President	Kevin Fay
Vice President (Prints)	Joe Kruzal
Vice President (Digital)	Larry Sanchez
Treasurer	Sharren Zetterholm
Secretary	Barbara Krawczyk
Directors	Jim Gillen, Richard Harper, Mark Kula, Dave Roback

Appointed positions

Judge Coordinator/Exhibition Standards	Barbara Krawczyk
NECCC Representative	Larry Sanchez
Newsletter Editor	Jim Gillen
Social Media	Dave Roback
Program Coordinator	Joe Kruzal
Website Administrator	Mark Kula
Membership Chair	Open
Statistician	Open

EXPOSURES

Exposures is the monthly newsletter of the Springfield Photographic Society. SPS is affiliated with the Photographic Society of America and the New England Camera Club Council. Society exhibition meetings are held at the Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing, 807 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, at 6:30 p.m. See Calendar for the schedule. Program nights usually are conducted at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The SPS website is <https://springfield-ps.com>. President Kevin Fay can be reached at kevin.fay44@gmail.com



Member