



# Housatonic Images

## From the President – Jane Rossman

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Thanks to all who sent in their HCC surveys. Fred Orkin is busy summarizing the responses and will be sharing the results with the executive committee and membership shortly. Watch for details in a future newsletter. If, for some reason, you have not sent in your survey, it's never too late. We are always interested in your opinions. Lazlo has also been busy working on

our club website, revising much of the outdated information. The history section still needs some additions, but you will find that the other sections are now much more up to date. Please take a look at [www.housatoniccameraclub.com](http://www.housatoniccameraclub.com), and share any thoughts or ideas for improvements by using the Contact link. Last, but surely not least, mark your calen-

dar and plan to attend our next membership meeting on April 20. Along with PSA judging and discussion, the meeting will feature Bill Devoti's long awaited and much heralded program about a special horse race in Italy. Those who have already seen the show say that this is one not to be missed!

## The Palio in Siena; Italy's Most Brutal Horse Race

William DeVoti is a teacher, poet, traveler, former president of the Housatonic Camera Club, and a resident of Sheffield, Mass. Although he now works exclusively with digital cameras, the photos in this show are all projected from original 35mm slides.

Since The Middle Ages in Sienna, Italy, on July 2 and August 16 the beautiful medieval piazza known as The Campo becomes the scene of a bareback horserace that is probably the most brutal horse race in the world! It is not uncommon for at least one horse to be destroyed in each race, and several riders badly injured; some have lost their lives. Several days before the race, The Campo is cleared of tables, chairs, and merchandise stands, the circumference is lined with wooden bleachers, and a narrow dirt track is packed on top of the cobblestones. The 17 contrade, or districts, of the city enter a lottery to decide which ten of them will be allowed to compete, and compete they do! Secret deals, bribes, and even trickery

feeds the festering ancient feuds between these groups. Alliances are formed and broken once again, not so much to win, but to keep one's enemies from winning - a disgrace to be borne at least until the next race, perhaps a year away. The chosen participants are assigned horses and jockeys by lottery, and the horses - at least-are locked away and guarded until the day of the race. Medieval costumes are resurrected and the fiestas and parades in each district begin, culminating on the day of the race in one grand parade after each of the horses has been duly blessed inside each district church. The hand painted silk palio or banner containing an obligatory image of the Virgin Mary leads the grand parade, for this will be the winner's prize, to hang permanently in the district's museum. An old saying goes, "Mary is on the banner and money is under the table." Jockeys have disappeared and horses have turned mysteriously ill at the last moment as the tension mounts.

Every creator  
painfully  
experiences  
the chasm  
between his  
inner vision  
and its ultimate  
expression.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

## Member Profile - John Atchley

I was born in Chicago, Illinois but moved with my family to Lakeville when I was seven. After early education in area schools I went to Marlboro College, making photography my major. I had done almost no camera work prior to my senior year, but quickly fell in love with it, enough so that I went on to a brand new photography program at the Yale Art and Architecture School of Design. There I went from 35mm, to 2 1/4, to 4x5 photography. After spending two intense years in the darkroom I was ready to see some daylight. I also needed to make money, and taking pictures of rocks and trees was not going to cut it, so I became a carpenter. Fast forward 30 years of carpentry and general contracting in Vermont and Boston, and a slipped disc that moved me back to Lakeville, marriage, two sons, and continuing in the building business with a constant side interest in design. I became heavily involved in working with computers for design and accounting in my job, and got completely hooked on digital imaging programs. At about the time that I got my first digital camera (Canon G1); the builder I was working with wanted better photographic records of the work he was doing. So that began a huge outpouring of cash towards equipment. Yes, I am an equipment freak! The more I photographed for work, the more my old interest in photography as an art began to awaken. I have been through (all Canons) a G1, G3, S70, S90, 30D, 50D, and now a 5D MK II, and have slowly begun to replace all of my lenses with high quality glass.

I do the majority of my work in Photoshop and Lightroom, with the addition of many plug-ins. I consider these digital darkrooms to be superior to anything I used when I was in the "wet" darkroom, and would never go back. When I was at Yale I was working with 4x5 view cameras, trying to get everything as sharp and detailed as possible. That has been my focus (pun intended) for most of my career. Suddenly this Fall, inspired by hours spent looking at photography online, I made a huge leap

into the abstract. It has been a very freeing experience, looking for patterns and shapes rather than fine details, and I had some photos printed on canvas, which I thought was appropriate for the subject matter. Clearly it is not for everyone, and I would not expect it to be. I had known of the camera club by word of mouth, and know Lazlo through contracting, so when I heard word of the upcoming show, I decided it was time to take another leap of faith, join the club, and put my work out there for all to see. It has been an interesting experience, so far. I knew when I presented my latest work that it would be very different from what most of the club's photographers are doing, and I think that the discussions that have arisen because of it will be very valuable to all involved. I look forward to the future of photography.

I have traveled very little, but am going to India in April to visit my eldest son, 25, who is there on a Fulbright Scholarship; my younger son, 23, works for the Natural Resources Defense Council in DC, and is going to India with me. I hope to come back with many award-winning photos. I would like to go everywhere, but really, really want to see an active volcano. Iceland is at the top of my list. My wife, Linda Sloane is a teacher at Lee Kellogg in Falls Village. I love the outdoors, with snowshoeing a favorite and hiking next; I love photography, graphic design, bicycling, and laying on my old fashioned porch in the summertime reading. I spend a fair portion of my life taking care of my 91 year old mother who has Alzheimers disease. I like all types of professional photography, but am very drawn to strange, montage type photos as done by the likes of Maggie Taylor. And for anyone that thinks I only do weird photography, please visit my web site to see that I can be normal. [www.atchleydesign.com](http://www.atchleydesign.com)

## REMINDER—Last PSA Entries Due

We have one last PSA Competition for the year. We will be judging entries at the April 20th meeting, which means that Rita needs you to send them to her by the 15th to [explomat44@yahoo.com](mailto:explomat44@yahoo.com). There has been a few reminders sent by e-mail already, so if you haven't already done so, you still have time.

# PSA March 2010 Competition Results



John Atchley "Milkweed" 10 pts



Bert Schmitz "Lily Close Up" 10 pts



Lazlo Gyorsok "Healing" 10 pts



Judy Becker "Agave Species" 9 pts



Gisele Doyle "Ferns" 9 pts



Birgitt Pajarola "Lake Dal Kashmir" 9

## Club Meeting Schedule 2009–2010

<b>April 20</b>	<b>Bill DeVoti</b>	"The Siena (Italy) Palio, Winning a Horse Race No Matter How!" PSA—digital
<b>May 18</b>	Joe Meehan	"Time and Motion in Photography"
<b>June 15</b>	Dinner Member Showcase <i>Club Challenge – Children, Shadows, Reflections</i>	

Don't forget to bring your images on a CD or DVD and give to Gisele Doyle. They will be shown when time permits at our regular meetings.

Also, your "Member Showcase" slide-show should be no more than 10 minutes long.



North American Nature Photography Association  
**2010 Road Show**  
www.nanpa.org

May 21-23  
Los Angeles, CA  
June 11-13  
Princeton, NJ  
September 24-26  
Houston, TX

The NANPA Road Show is coming to your area in May. This will be a special weekend full of classroom-style photography education experiences that are unparalleled.

2010 NANPA Road Show June 11-13, 2010  
Princeton, New Jersey

Online registration is now open. [www.nanpa.org](http://www.nanpa.org)

## Competitions, Challenges and Salons

PSA, NECCC and Club Challenge entry rules and directions have been sent out to everyone via e-mail, as there is too much information to be included in the newsletter.

Please check the club website at [www.housatoniccameraclub.org](http://www.housatoniccameraclub.org) or contact Gisele Doyle at [Alwaysdrawing@yahoo.com](mailto:Alwaysdrawing@yahoo.com) if you did not receive them or have any questions on preparing and submitting your entries.

All Digital entries for both NECCC and PSA need to be titled, re-sized, and e-mailed to Rita Mathews at [explo-mat44@yahoo.com](mailto:explo-mat44@yahoo.com) at least 3 days before the meeting they are due—see schedule.

All print entries for NECCC need to be properly labeled (contact Judy at [judy-becker40@att.net](mailto:judy-becker40@att.net) with questions) and brought to Judy Becker at the meeting they are due—see schedule.

All digital entries for the Club Challenges need to be titled, re-sized and e-mailed to Gisele Doyle at [Alwaysdrawing@yahoo.com](mailto:Alwaysdrawing@yahoo.com) at least 2 days before the meeting they are due—see schedule.

For any questions regarding participation and/or preparation for the scheduled salon shows, please contact our Salon Committee Chair, Bill DeVoti at [abundancehill@verizon.net](mailto:abundancehill@verizon.net)

## Housatonic Camera Club

Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from September–May

At 7:00 pm in

The Lifelong Learning Center  
(Wagner Building)

**Noble Horizons**

17 Cobble Road  
Salisbury, CT 06068



### WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[www.Housatoniccameraclub.org](http://www.Housatoniccameraclub.org)

### CONTACT

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**PRESIDENT:** Jane Rossman

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Randy McKee

**CORRESPONDENT SECRETARY:**

**TREASURER:** Judy Becker

**MEMBERSHIP:** Judy Becker

**PUBLICITY:** Ann Wilkinson

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Gisele Doyle, Fred Orkin

**WEBMASTER:** Lazlo Gyorsok

**HISTORIAN:** Ian McCunn

**LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES:**

PSA & NECCC Digital—Rita Mathews

NECCC Prints—Judy Becker, Patricia Decker

**SALON COMMITTEE:**

Bill DeVoti, ch., Brian Wilcox, Ann Wilkinson,  
Lazlo Gyorsok, Rita Mathews, Patricia Decker

**PROGRAM:** Gisele Doyle, ch., Fred Orkin

**REFRESHMENTS/HOSPITALITY:** Ann Wilkinson

## HOUSATONIC CAMERA CLUB

### Membership Enrollment 2009–2010

I wish to enroll as a member for one year. Attached is the membership fee of \$25.00, and \$10.00 for each additional family member.

Please hand or mail this form to the Treasurer, Judy Becker  
432 Undermountain Road Salisbury, CT 06068-1101 [judybecker40@att.net](mailto:judybecker40@att.net) 860-435-2263

PLEASE PRINT ONLY ... AND CLEARLY!

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS(ES): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

WE WILL SEND YOU OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS, SCHEDULES, AND CLUB INFO.