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Portland Photographers' Forum

Newsletter

Portland Photographers' Forum meets from 7-9 p.m. Monday, October 17, in Room 30 of the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 SW Capitol Highway, Portland. ([See Map](#))

October, 2011

President's Message

Opening the Floor for Discussion

by Pete Gomena



Showing new work has become something of a ritual at Portland Photographers' Forum meetings. We usually have time to briefly look at six or eight people's work and then move on to our guest speaker.

A few members have asked that we take more time to talk about these works more critically. We passed the suggestion around at the last PPF board meeting, and decided it's a good idea as long as we establish ground rules for discussion.

We want to create an atmosphere of informative support and education in what, for some, might be a tense situation. We hope that these sessions will prepare and encourage more members to participate in our more formal critiques. We'll give this idea a shot at our November 21 meeting.

Soliciting feedback on your work means putting your feelings aside and being receptive to someone else's perspective, perceptions and opinions. We're all emotionally attached to our photographs. They are an expression of our creative soul. Putting your work on the firing line takes guts, and you have to be ready to take criticism, good or bad. You know what your images mean to you, but how someone else reacts to it is another matter entirely. It's risky business.

Remember that reward often follows risk. The purpose of constructive criticism is to help you take your work to a higher level. We emphasize that we want to create a learning situation in which you get valuable feedback on your work.

The job of the critic, or in our more democratic model, the group providing feedback, is to praise the good aspects of the work as much as to point out its weaknesses. We owe it to the artist to acknowledge the spirit in which the work was created. He or she is expressing a mood, experience, feeling or idea that somehow resonated emotionally at one particular moment. We must respect that idea or emotional response as the starting point of our intellectual investigation into the work.

What we propose is open discussion, a "feedback session." There will be a session

leader serving as moderator in order to stimulate discussion and keep it on track and "in bounds." We will establish a set of guidelines, a suggested set of questions to consider that can be applied to any image. Opinions from the picture's author and the group will be openly solicited. You may be asked to defend your opinion. *This is when the valuable information starts to flow!*

A constructive critique ultimately leaves you with as many questions as answers. Ideally, it will stimulate a response that results in you creating another, maybe *better* image in the future. We hope to create a lively, instructional debate that educates all of us about the power and potential of our images.

To repeat, our first Feedback Session is scheduled for the November 21 meeting. We hope to make this an occasional and recurring feature of our annual meeting cycle. Bring an image or set of images you've been working on and want to talk about. We'll all try to enlighten each other a little.

This Month's Meeting

Fritz Liedtke

creative projects



AstraVelum © Fritz Liedtke

Photographer Fritz Liedtke will share his fine art work, including stories from several different projects from the past 10 years.

Fritz has been photographing people for much of his life, and his most recent bodies of work include freckles, adolescents, anorexics, coffee and cigar producers, and more.

His work has been shown and published internationally, and he balances his fine art practice with a lively commercial practice. See more of his work at www.fritzliedtke.com.

The Sunday School of Photography - On Saturday, October 15!

Autumn in the Gorge

touring the Columbia River Scenic Highway



The changing season has inspired a Portland Photographers' Forum trip to photograph the many sights along the historic Columbia River Scenic Highway.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, October 15 at the Vista House parking lot on Crown Point just east of Corbett, OR, and work our way along the highway. Take I-84 East to Exit 22 (Corbett exit), turn right onto Corbett Hill Road, go to the top of the hill and turn left onto Highway 30. Vista House and

Crown Point are just a couple of miles East.

Shepperd's Dell, Oneonta Gorge, and Latourelle, Bridal Veil, Wahkeena, Multnomah, and Horsetail falls all are easily accessible from the scenic highway. A little further along at Wahclella Falls and Eagle Creek, spawning salmon usually are visible in the streams. (The Wahclella Falls trailhead is at the Bonneville Dam exit off I-84, Eagle Creek is the first exit immediately past the dam. Wahclella falls is an easy one-mile hike, and Eagle Creek probably is the Gorge's most popular hike.)

This is a loosely organized outing, and it is free and open to the public. Participants should feel free to explore the territory at their own pace.

Annual Holiday Group Show

Cedar Hills Recreation Center

get your pictures ready!



PPF's annual Holiday Group Show at the Cedar Hills Recreation Center runs Saturday, November 5 through year's end! This is an open show for all members, and a great opportunity to show and sell your work.

Each person may hang about 3 to 5 pieces. Pictures must be framed and hung with wire hangers (no "sawtooth" hangers allowed!) Place the wire about two inches from the top of the frame and draw it as tightly as you can for best results. You are advised to use glass in framing your artwork. This is a very busy public place with many children's activities going on.

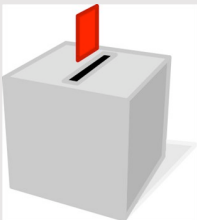
Please "[click here](#)" to let Loren Nelson know you will participate, and how many pictures you plan to hang. We will hang pictures November 5 from noon until 2:00 p.m. PPF will supply you with uniform labels for each piece. If you cannot be present to hang your work, make alternate arrangements with Loren.

Price your photographs reasonably. We usually generate a few sales, and The Cedar Hills Rec Center takes a 10% commission.

Election Reminder

Petition Deadline Approaches

it's your board of directors!



Monday, October 17, is the deadline for all petitions nominating candidates for the PPF Board of Directors. Petitions must be signed by a minimum of eight current members (10% of the membership.)

Three positions are open, including those held by incumbents Don

Nelson and Evan Schneider. Pat Kolb is retiring from the board, leaving his position uncontested. The Board of Directors has nominated Ken Hochfeld and Steve Blair as candidates.

As in the past two elections, members will be notified by e-mail when electronic voting commences on Monday, November 14. Electronic ballots will be available until 9:00 p.m. Sunday evening, November 20. Paper ballots will be available at the November 21 meeting for those unable or not wanting to vote electronically. Voting concludes at the end of the November 21 meeting.

Election results will be posted by e-mail the day after the votes have been counted. Elected members will join the Board at the December board meeting and new officers will be chosen from among the Board members.

Other News You Can Use

You can see **Don Jacobson's** work during the final weekend of Portland Open Studios. Visit him at 941 SE 55th Ave., Portland, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Don also will be participating in the 2011 Beaverton Visual Arts Showcase, November 5-13 at the Beaverton Library, 12375 SW 5th Street, Beaverton, and he will display work at the West Linn Public Library, 1595 Burns St., West Linn, in December.

Carol Isaak has a photograph in Newspace Center for Photography's 2011 juried Membership Showcase. The show runs through October 30 at Newspace, 1632 SE 10th Ave., Portland.

The **i witness gallery** features photojournalist Alan Berner's show, GONE WEST. Berner's exhibit examines the myth and reality of the American West and its effect on the American psyche. He will talk about his work at the gallery, 1028 SE Water Ave., Suite 50, from 2:00 to 3:00p.m. Saturday, November 5.

Sharon O'Keefe, owner of i witness gallery and the Northwest Center for Photography, says she's developing the gallery's 2012 and 2013 exhibition calendar and is looking for Pacific Northwest artists to show. If you are interested, submit a CD with 20 to 30 images from a single body of work, along with a biography, artist's statement and a description of the work. The exhibit committee meets monthly to review submissions. Mail your submission to: Exhibit Committee, i witness gallery, 1028 SE Water Ave, Suite 50, Portland, OR 97214.

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Portland Photographers' Forum
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