

# SIERRA PHOTO | NYC

New York City Sierra Club Photography Committee Newsletter

January/February 2012 Issue

Vol. 35, No. 3

## Meetings

St. Paul the Apostle • 405 West 59th St. • 2nd floor • New York, NY  
(1½ blocks west of Columbus Circle, between 9th and 10th Avenues)

Suggested donation \$5.00 • Optional dinner after each meeting.  
The restaurant will be announced at the meeting.

## January

Wednesday, January 25, 2012—6:30 PM  
Doors open at 6:00 PM

### Nelson Rodriguez *Awakenings*

*Awakenings* is an audiovisual digital show, consisting of assorted nature and wildlife images, created by members of the New York Image Group formed by Nelson Rodriguez.

Nelson's earliest photographic influence came from his father, who was a photographer while serving in the US Army at the end of the Korean Conflict. Nelson's photographic vision has been inspired by the works of such great photographers as Eugene Smith, Edward Steichen, Gordon Parks, and Ansel Adams. Through the Boy Scouts he was exposed to the

beauty and adventure of the great outdoors. Both his love of art and nature have shaped his photographic vision.

He remembers, at the age of nine, discovering the hiding place for his father's 35mm Contax film camera. After being scolded, he boldly insisted that his father teach him how to use the camera. This was the beginning of a passion that has never left him.

In 2008, Nelson formed the New York Image Group, a group that nurtures the soul and heightens the awareness of photographers to the beauty around us. He is currently retired, after proudly serving as a member of the NYPD for nearly 31 years. He devotes his time as President of the New York Image Group and as a digital photography instructor and lecturer. Nelson shares a joyful life with his wife, Anne, and his two daughters.

In keeping with his philosophy, Nelson's efforts are now directed toward producing audiovisual shows for cancer patients and healthcare providers in our local hospitals.



Iris © William Mena-Diaz



Two Cores Sunflower © Barbara E. Leven

## February

Wednesday, February 29, 2012—6:30 PM  
Doors open at 6:00 PM

### Barbara E. Leven *Enchanted Earth*

Barbara E. Leven will give a talk featuring images from her ongoing series *Enchanted Earth*. Nature, in particular botanicals, has

been a major theme in Leven's work from 2005 to the present. She has photographed almost all of the public botanical gardens in NYC, as well as some wilder places, armed with a Nikon camera and macro lenses she captures the changing life cycles of the plants and flowers in their relationship to weather and the environment. Leven will discuss her techniques for getting "up close and personal" with macro photography and some of the ways she enhances her imagery in Photoshop.

Through the viewfinder ordinary subjects are transformed into distinctive images. She captures a moment, an emotional response, an instant of being that will vanish in a heartbeat and preserves a tiny strand of the vast web of existence.

She has now been in photography for over 30 years as a fine art, editorial and

advertising photographer. Throughout that time, she exhibited widely, both nationally and internationally. Barbara has had both solo and group exhibitions, in such venues as the Nikon House, NYC, the New York Academy of Arts at Sotheby's, NYC and the Louis K. Meisel Gallery, NYC. Her current solo exhibit at the Queens Botanical Garden, NYC runs through January 31, 2012.

Her work is represented in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cincinnati Art Museum and important private collections.

In 2011, she received a First Place—Outstanding Achievement Award in Nature from the Photography Masters Cup and has received several Honorable Mention Awards in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 from the Pilsner-Urquell International Photography Awards.

## Member Activities

**Tuesday Evening Hour** presentations by Sierra Club Photography Committee Members: 49 Fulton Street, NY, NY.

Presentations begin at 6:00 pm in the dining room (**Note: New start time**).

Website:

[www.tuesdayeveninghour.com/](http://www.tuesdayeveninghour.com/)

January 24: **Charles Dexter** presents *Waterfalls East and West: Colorado to the Hudson Valley*

January 31: **Linda Calvet** presents *Hunterdon County: A Lovely Corner of New Jersey*

March 6: **Tom Wismuller** presents *The Dutch Influence in the Spirit of America*

March: 13: **Lee Backer** presents *Beyond Stonehenge: Rock Stars of the Neolithic Era*

March 20: **Vlassios Pyrpyris** presents *The Islands of Greece*

Please send your Member Activities or field trip submissions by March 1 for the March/April 2012 issue (which will include activities from mid-Mar to mid-May) to **Corinna Chifari** at [cchifari@nyc.rr.com](mailto:cchifari@nyc.rr.com). In the activity information include your name, a brief description and/or title of the event, the location, hours and contact information

### Members of the Sierra Club Photography Committee Executive Board

**John Wazeter:** Chair, Sierra Club Liaison & Program Coordinator

**Charles Dexter:** Outings Leader/Projectionist

**Trudy Fritschi:** Membership Coordinator

**Sid Georgiou:** Recorder & Membership Coordinator

**Claudia Perko:** Membership Coordinator

**Claudia Schellenberg:** Treasurer

**Stephanie Schmidt:** Director of Exhibits

**Tom Wismuller:** Nominee

#### Off-Board Members

**E-mail Communication Coordinator:** Helen Pine, e-mail: [sierraphotonyc@aol.com](mailto:sierraphotonyc@aol.com)

**Newsletter Design/Layout:** Jacqui Bonavito

**Newsletter Mailing:** Penny Smith

**Committee Historian:** Jacqui Bonavito

**Newsletter Editor:** Corinna Chifari, e-mail: [cchifari@nyc.rr.com](mailto:cchifari@nyc.rr.com)

## Winter 2012 Outings

**Date:** Saturday, January 21, 2012

**Location:** Central Park, NYC

**Meet:** West 103 Street walk-in entrance

**Photograph:** Hopefully snowy woods, fields, icy bog and pond

**Hike:** Long stroll through the park. Possibly slippery paths. Blizzard could be great!

**Additional information:** Plan for long afternoon in cold weather and wind.

Wear warm layers, boots, hat and gloves.

Bring lunch, snacks and water.

**NYC start:** 11:00 am shoot until dark, approx. 5:10 pm. Dinner somewhere afterwards.

**Leader:** Charles Dexter, 212-315-1963, call until 10:30 pm

**Date:** Saturday, February 4, 2012

**Location:** Stony Brook in Harriman State Park, NY

**Photograph:** Winter landscape and macros, hopefully with snow and ice, maybe mud and rushing water in the stream

**Hike:** Along Stony Brook, rocky, possibly slippery trails. Blizzard cancels.

**Additional information:** Plan for long day in cold weather and wind. Wear warm layers, boots, hat and gloves. Bring lunch, snacks and water.

**NYC start:** 9:00 am shoot until dark, approx. 5:20 pm. Dinner afterwards.

**NYC Return:** 9 30 pm

**Leader:** Charles Dexter, 212-315-1963, call until 10:30 pm

**Date:** Saturday, February 25, 2012

**Location:** Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay, Long Island

**Photograph:** Large colorful camellia blossoms and various greenhouse flowers including orchids. Tripod and close up lenses are helpful.

**Additional information:** Plan for both damp cool and warm steamy greenhouse environments after coming inside from a cold day. Bring lunch, snacks and water.

**NYC start:** 8:45 am long day shoot, dinner in Oyster Bay afterwards

**NYC Return:** 8:30 or 9 pm

**Leader:** Charles Dexter, 212-315-1963, call until 10:30 pm

**Date:** March 17, 2012

**Location:** Delaware Water Gap region in NJ and/or PA

**Photograph:** Waterfalls, hopefully with snow & ice!

**Hike:** Short but possibly slippery trails and stones. Blizzard cancels.

**Additional information:** Plan for full day of cold weather. Wear hiking boots, layered clothing, wool hat, gloves, rain gear. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Dinner in diner afterwards. Blizzard postpones or cancels.

**NYC start:** 9:30 am

**NYC Return:** 10 pm

**Leader:** Charles Dexter, 212-315-1963, call until 10:30 pm

## From the Chair

The current slate of Board members will be submitted to the membership for election at the January 25th meeting. The nominees include Charles Dexter, Trudi Fritschi, Sid Georgiou, Claudia Perko, Claudia Schellenberg, Stephanie Schmidt, John Wazeter and Tom Wismuller. Board members assume responsibilities when the Board convenes in February. Board members are elected for one-year terms and can serve for four consecutive years.

Rave reviews continue to accumulate for the *Moments in Nature* show. The comments of visitors as described in the guestbook make for inspirational reading, heartfelt reaffirmation of the goals and purposes of the SCPC and a tribute to the teamwork that produced Calumet II. A printed summary of these comments will be available at the January 25th meeting.

Come to our January meeting to hear Nelson Rodriguez discuss the healing powers of nature photography; On February 29th, Barbara Leven shares some macro photography perspectives and some examples of her lovely floral work.

—John Wazeter, Chair

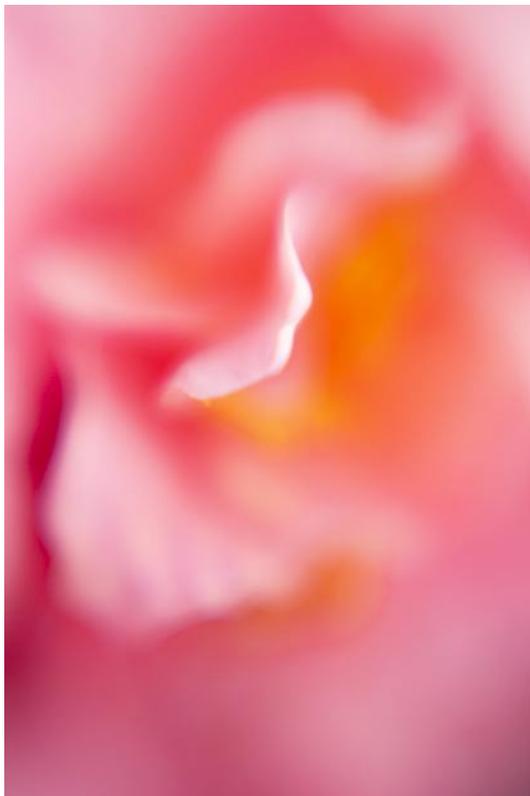
## Moments in Nature Exhibit at the Calumet Photo Gallery

The New York City Sierra Club Photography Committee welcomed over 300 attendees to the opening night reception of our exhibit on Wednesday, November 30, and received numerous positive comments in our exhibit guestbook about the images presented: "*Sensational images,*" "*Mother Nature at her best,*" "*A tribute to nature and teamwork*" were just a few of the rave comments about our largest exhibit to date.

Over 120 images were displayed at the Calumet Gallery by 52 photographers showing their creative interpretations of *Moments in Nature*, and in the true spirit of the Sierra Club, they promoted the preservation and conservation of these natural treasures for generations to come. The exhibit was juried and curated by Anastasia Tompkins, an award-winning photographer and competition judge. The images were grouped by subject as well as by color, from brooding black and white, reminiscent of the great nature photographers of the past, to a wildlife wall inhabited by bears, birds and insects, to the brilliant colors of desert skies and stunning floral colors.

The exhibit also honored the memory of a longtime member of the committee and board, Del Owens, a dedicated conservationist, who hiked the mountains of the West and photographed many rare and not often visited spots.

Congratulations to the Exhibit Committee, the Calumet staff and all the volunteers who made this exhibit the success that it was.



Corinna Chifari—*Tiffany Camellia*



Susan Hoehn—*Poppies at River's Edge*

## Images Sold at the *Moments in Nature* Exhibit:



Bill Frick—*Coastal Fog*



Bill Frick—*North Coast*