

# SIERRA PHOTO | NYC

New York City Sierra Club Photography Committee Newsletter

May/June 2007 Issue

Vol. 30, No. 5

## Meetings

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

Optional dinner after each meeting. The restaurant will be announced at the meeting

## May

May 30, 2007—6:30 PM

**Guest speaker:**  
**Don Riepe**

***Iceland and Florida:  
From Glaciers to Gators***

Environmentalist and photographer Don Riepe has traveled to both Iceland and the Everglades many times over the last few years, captivated by the startling photographic contrasts of the two lands. Iceland offers great opportunities for great open landscapes, myriad waterfalls, glaciers, volcanic formations and sea birds. Florida—and particularly the Everglades—offers close and personal photography of wildlife.

Don has been photographing wildlife and natural history subjects for over 25 years and recently retired from the National Park Service where he worked as a park ranger and manager of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, one of the premier birding destinations. Currently he works for the American Littoral Society as the Jamaica Bay Guardian



Iceland Puffin © Don Riepe

and director of the Northeast Chapter. His photographs have been published in many newsletters and magazines including *Audubon*, *Scientific American*, *The Conservationist* and *The New York Times*. An avid birder and environmentalist, he leads many workshops and serves on the boards of NYC Sierra Club & NYC Audubon.

## June

June 27, 2007—Doors open at 6:00 PM

**Members Night  
& Summer Solstice  
Celebration**



Come join us for some refreshments as we toast the 2006-2007 season of exciting photographic programs and help us plan to make 2007-2008 even better. Get to know new and long-time members and volunteer to work with the Board on one of the sub-committees.

Members may present up to 6 slides in either film or digital format. Please arrive by 6:15 PM to load your slides into trays or your digital images into the computer.

### Preparing a Digital Image for Projection

1. Start with a high resolution original image. Make sure your monitor is calibrated to some known color space (sRGB, Adobe RGB (1998), etc.). Use your favorite imaging program (Photoshop, Elements, Picture Window Pro, etc.) to prepare your original electronic image to look good on your monitor.
2. Create a duplicate of your original image (In Photoshop, click on Image>Duplicate). Close your original image for safekeeping and use the copy for the following steps.
3. If your image is in 16 bit mode (16 bits per color channel), change it to 8 bits (In Photoshop, click Image>Mode>Convert to 8 Bits/Channel).
4. Resize the image (In Photoshop, click Image>Image Size). Make sure that the "Resample Image" and the "Constrain Proportions" boxes are checked. Set the Resolution to 72 pixels per inch. Resize the image by typing 1,024 for the Pixel Dimensions Width for a horizontal image OR use 768 for the Pixel Dimensions Height if the image is a vertical. Make sure that the width does not exceed 1,024 pixels AND that the height does not exceed 768 pixels. Then click OK.
5. Convert the image to sRGB color space (In Photoshop, click Image>Mode>Convert to Profile).
6. Make any corrections at this point (color correction, cropping, dust removal, etc.).
7. Sharpen the image at this stage. For Photoshop's Unsharp Mask filter, I suggest:  
Amount = 150%, Radius = 0.4 and Threshold = 2.
8. Save your image as a jpeg/in the .jpg format using the "Save As" command. Type in a new file name for the image using the following format:  
LastNameFirstInitial\_01.jpg  
For example, I would type in the filename: PineC\_01.jpg (Number the images in the order you want them displayed.)  
Choose a moderate level of compression for the jpeg, typically 6-9 in Photoshop to keep the total compressed file size below 1 Megabyte.  
Save the image to the desktop or into a folder you've created for projected images.
9. Burn the image to a CD and bring it to the meeting.

Prepared by Chuck Pine for Sierra Club Photo Committee ©2006

## Member Activities

**Thelma Fellows, Chuck and Helen Pine, Carole DeBeer, Eileen Duranko, Marilyn Fish Glynn, Ruth Gitto, Jerry Harowitz, Edna Kronberg and Natalie Manzino** have images in a Park West Camera Club group show entitled, *A Walk Up Broadway: From the Battery to Baker Field*, on display for the month of May, 2007 at the offices of the Manhattan Borough President, Scott Stringer. The MBPO is located on the 19th floor of the Municipal Building, 1 Centre Street, at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge and City Hall Park, at the east end of Chambers Street. Photo ID is required for entry into the building. The exhibit may be viewed Monday through Fridays, between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM. All are welcome to the reception on Tuesday, May 15th from 6:00-7:30 PM. Refreshments will be served.

**Jacqui Bonavito** has three photographs in the *Voices for the Marsh 2007* photography exhibit that celebrates the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh. The annual exhibit, sponsored by the Friends for the Marsh began at Ellarslie, the Trenton City Museum in March. It will be on display at the Bordentown Public Library, 18 East Union Street, Bordentown, NJ until May 23 (during regular library hours). The exhibit then moves to the Department of Environmental Protection, 7th floor gallery, 401 East State Street, Trenton NJ from May 26-June 15, 2007.

**Charles Dexter** will conduct an introductory photography workshop for the Greenbrook Sanctuary on Sunday, June 17. The day long program will include a morning slide presentation at the Palisades Interstate Park Headquarters near Alpine, NJ and an afternoon photography field trip to Harriman State Park. Workshop is for Greenbrook Sanctuary members only. Openings are limited. For more information, contact: Nancy Slowick, director, 201-784-0484.

May 29, 2007: **Jesus Salillas** presents *French Polynesia—Paradise Islands, Reefs, Whales* for Tuesday Evening Hour, 49 Fulton Street, NY, NY. Presentations begin 6:30 pm in the dining room. The Tuesday Evening Hour fundraising dinner party will be held afterwards. Reservations for the dinner are required before May 22. Call 212-385-3650 for further information.

**Please send your Member Activity submissions by September 1 for the September/October 2007 issue (which will include activities from mid-September to mid-October) to: JacquiOutdoors@aol.com**

**In the activity information include your name, a brief description and/or title of the event, the location, hours and contact information. (An attached Word document with this information is preferred.)**

**As usual, there will be no Photo Committee meetings in July or August. We begin a new season with Members Night, Wednesday, September 26, 2007.**

## Summer 2007 Outings

**Date:** Sunday, May 20, 2007

**Location:** Pine Barrens region of NJ

**Leader:** Jacqui Bonavito, e-mail address: JacquiOutdoors@aol.com Please e-mail leader for outing information by Saturday, May 19, or call 212-472-2388 until 9:30 PM only.

**Additional information:** This is a unique habitat with bogs and carnivorous plants. The pitcher plants are usually in bloom at this time of year. Flat sandy trails and boardwalk, possible wet walking, bring insect repellent.

**June 2, 2007 Sunset Cruise on Jamaica Bay**

**5:00 to 8:00 PM, sailing out of Speehead Bay, Brooklyn**

Join the NYC Sierra Club Photography Committee for a social event, sponsored by American Littoral Society. There will be wine and cheese and a narrated tour of the backwater marshes and views of numerous species of birds offering a photo opportunity. To reserve call Don Riepe, 718-318-9344, specify the **June 2** cruise then mail a check for \$45 to American Littoral Society, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693. (When you receive your confirmation, please check that date is for **June 2**.) You can cancel up to 3 days before the trip and get a full refund. Call Thelma Fellows at 718-460-6734 to let her know you plan to attend and for any questions (or e-mail tfellows@earthlink.net). Please arrive by 4:30 PM. Thelma will be on the dockside with a sign to help you find our group.

**Date:** Saturday, June 9, 2007 (No rain date)

**Location:** Harriman State Park, 2 or 3 locations to be determined closer to day of trip.

**Leader:** Charles Dexter, 212-315-1963

**Subject:** Mountain Laurel blooms, lakes, streams, landscapes.

**Additional information:** Short 5 to 20 minute walks from car. Stony dirt trails, Not difficult. Rain gear, hiking shoes, sunblock, bug spray, water, lunch, snacks. Long day, NYC start -11:00 AM, shoot from 12:45 PM until 7 or 7:30 PM (for late light), dinner at restaurant afterwards. Return to NYC: 10:30 or 11 PM. Car drivers greatly appreciated

**Date:** Sunday, June 17, 2007

**Location:** D & R Canal State Park - Bordentown Bluffs / Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh, Bordentown, NJ

**Subject:** We will see upland forest with *Rhododendron maxima* and *Kalmia latifolia* thickets, and *Aesculus flava*, *Lonicera sempervivens*, and *Magnolia tripetala*. Bring lunch and beverage. Expect some hilliness, mostly dry, but wet walking possible.

**Additional information:** Meet at 10:00 AM at the parking lot at Mastoris Diner, which is located in Bordentown at the junction of Rt. 130 and Rt. 206.

**Leader:** Mary Leck, 732-821-8310; leck@rider.edu

**Note:** This is a Torrey Botanical Society walk of 1-2 miles that is being co-listed with the Photography Committee. The walk should be at a slow pace, but will not be a typical photo outing where we only remain in one area.

**Date:** Saturday, June 23, 2007

**Location:** The Great Swamp in Chatham Township, NJ and lunch (bring your own) at the Loantaka Brook Reservation picnic grounds in the Township of Morris not far from the Swamp

**Leader:** Corinna Chifari, 212-983-9096 until 10:00 PM

**Additional information:** The Swamp is not a difficult hike (trails may be slippery & muddy) and Loantaka has a picturesque duck pond, a brook and horse farms close by, paths are paved and easy to hike. Car drivers greatly appreciated.

**Date:** Sunday, July 8, 2006

**Location:** High Point State Park or Wawayanda State Park.

**Leader:** Jacqui Bonavito, e-mail address: JacquiOutdoors@aol.com Please e-mail leader for outing information by Saturday, July 7, or call 212-472-2388 until 9:30 pm only.

**Subject:** Rhododendron blossoms

**Date:** Saturday, August 4, 2007

**Location:** Rockaway Beach, NYC

**Leader:** Chuck Pine, call 212-932-7665 or e-mail (bohpin@aol.com) for all the details

**Date:** Sunday, September 9, 2007

**Location:** Meadow wildflowers in NY or NJ, possibly NJ Skylands Botanical Gardens or Marshlands Conservancy in Rye, NY

**Leader:** Jacqui Bonavito, e-mail address: JacquiOutdoors@aol.com Please e-mail leader for outing information by Saturday, September 8, or call 212-472-2388 until 9:30 pm only.

## Remembering Kay

For many years, until her death in 2004, Kay Blumberg was the "elder stateswoman" of our group, delighting us with her slide shows of nature with an amusing urban twist. Her witty comments accompanying her shows were legendary. Many of us did not know that her observation skills had been honed by years of world travel, camera in hand. Her extensive body of work—bound books of black and white photos she printed herself—now rests in the archives of the New York Public Library.

As a tribute to Kay, Jacqui Bonavito arranged for a small group of our members to view her work at the library last March. We were joined by her niece and nephew, Joan and Joseph Briller.

The range of Kay's work was extraordinary. We poured over street scenes, candid portraits, architecture and nature images, from Paris to Ethiopia. There were surprises: a book of pure abstractions, and one devoted solely to a kitten! We left the library moved and inspired by Kay's world-embracing vision.  
—Judy Rosenblatt

## Request for Digital Images

We are asking members to submit 3-6 digital files of your best nature-related images, for a portfolio disc that we will submit to various venues for consideration for exhibitions of our work. We are particularly looking for nature in Central Park photos for a specific show we have in mind. But do submit what you consider your best work. Please follow the instructions for "Preparing a Digital Image for Projection" (from previous newsletters) for size and format (72 dpi sRGB, 1024 pixels wide for horizontal image or 768 pixels high for vertical image, labeled LastNameFirstInitial\_01.jpg and LastNameFirstInitial\_02.jpg). Please e-mail the files to Corinna Chifari at corinna926@rcn.com Any questions please e-mail or call Corinna at (212) 983-9096.

## Sierra Club Photography Committee Board Members

**Chair:** Thelma Fellows (Sierra Liaison)

**Members of the executive board:**

**Jacqui Bonavito** (Field Trip Coordinator, Newsletter),

**Corinna Chifari** (Sierra Web Liaison, Newsletter),

**Rosalie Frost** (Program Coordinator),

**Helen Pine** (Membership),

**Chuck Pine** (Emcee),

**Daphne Prior** (Program Coordinator),

**Bob Smith** (Finance)

**Membership:**

Helen Pine, e-mail: sierraphotony@aol.com

**Newsletter:**

Design/Layout: Jacqui Bonavito,

e-mail: JacquiOutdoors@aol.com

Editor: Corinna Chifari

**Website:** <http://newyork.sierrclub.org/nyc/meetdate.html>

# Member Spotlight

## Charles Dexter

Charles Dexter's work is inspired by the photographic traditions of the Sierra Club. He joined the New York City Sierra Club Photography Committee in 1992. His photography is constantly enriched by his association with many of its members and the influence of their work. He has exhibited in many NYC Sierra Club Photography Committee Group shows, most recently, Colors of the Season at the Empire State Building. He is a past Chairman of the group.

"When I attended my first Sierra Club Photography Committee meeting in November, 1992, Bob Smith chaired the meeting, Charlie Ridgeway ran the slide projector and John Smith maintained the attendance clipboard. The following meeting was a member's night. I saw something I never could have imagined in New York City: over 300 slides amassed by a room full of people devoted to photographing nature. The main topic of discussion was "Hand of Man" versus "No hand of Man" and the running joke was "Foot of Woman." I couldn't believe there was a whole group of people devoted to this!"

"Before I joined the group, I photographed landscapes and nature but I was shooting alone. There was no one to share and compare images with. My first encounter with the group was a field trip to Fahnestock State Park led by Jacqui Bonavito. Imagine an outing of eight or nine people, everyone with a camera and five of them actually brought a tripod. I hadn't. This was new to me..."

Charles developed a love for high places, wilderness, and photography on the Palisades cliffs of New Jersey. He continually returned to the same mile and a half stretch of the Palisades to photograph the changing light and foliage on the unchanging rock formations throughout the four seasons. His photographic passion expanded to include high peaks and wild places when he took a ten-day Outward Bound course in Colorado's Gore Mountain range.

"I've learned more about photographing nature in my first few years with the Sierra Club Photo Committee than I did in 14 years of shooting alone. The Photography Committee gave me so much enjoyment. Along with meeting Linda Calvet (the Love of my life), I've met many committee photographers who would become long time friends and I have learned so much from them. The shared experiences, the meetings, the field trips, the group exhibits and, of course, the great photography that our group has created over the years has been positively thrilling!"

With his camera, Charles pursues his love for the intimate and grand landscapes in the Hudson Highlands, the Delaware Water Gap region, and the Catskill Mountains. He also photographs with equal passion the rugged mountain vistas, canyons, waterfalls and wild flowers of Colorado. He explores the qualities of light, form and texture found in those regions. With telephoto and macro lenses, he explores abstract scenes and patterns found in nature.

"Even though I try to isolate and simplify scenes of nature into shapes, color and design, I still want the viewer to feel the wonder and power of the natural landscape outside of the frame."



Sangre de Cristo Mts. Colorado © Charles Dexter

Charles Dexter's solo photography exhibits have been displayed at Berkeley College in Manhattan and The Greenbrook Sanctuary in Tenafly, NJ. His images were published in *Audubon Magazine* and by the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club. His work is also featured on album covers for *Sonoton Production Library Music CDs*. He photographed dance performance groups such as *Serena Mideast Dance Theater* and *Multi-Gravitational Aero Dance Group*.

Charles has a background as a filmmaker and sound editor. He works freelance as a production music selector for corporate videos. He has worked with producers and ad agencies to score prerecorded library music and sounds to television commercials, radio spots, broadcast TV shows as well as corporate, motivational and educational programs. Charles has a BFA from Pratt Institute where he studied filmmaking and cinematography. He created three 30-minute 16mm documentary films. One of them, *Ascend the Bells*, is about climbing the Maroon Bell Peaks in Colorado.

## A Note on Field Trips

The weather has certainly been unpredictable for the past few seasons! The last two autumns have been warmer, greener, and less colorful. We had a cooler than usual Spring causing a late start for the plants.

This created a need to improvise with the Spring outings. The cherry blossoms, normally in full bloom by mid April had only buds. After scouting Branch Brook Park the day before his outing, Charles determined that his April 14 cherry blossom outing should be changed to the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens.

In turn, my Harriman outing scheduled for April 22 was changed to Branch Brook Park. This warm, sunny day found the trees in full bloom and probably at their peak. Plans for field trips must be made in advance based on past experience with bloom times and fall foliage, but the weather doesn't always cooperate!

This summer I plan to look into an overnight field trip for the fall. If anyone can recommend a favorite place or accommodation, no more than a two-hour from Manhattan, please send me an e-mail with the information. Also, please let me know if you are interested in leading a field trip for the NYC Photo Committee.

— Jacqui Bonavito, e-mail: [JacquiOutdoors@aol.com](mailto:JacquiOutdoors@aol.com)