# SIERRA PHOTO NYC

New York City Sierra Club Photography Committee Newsletter

May/June 2011 Issue Vol. 34, No. 5

# 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.

# May

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

# Joseph Rossbach— The Wild Landscape

In this presentation, Joe will show a wide selection of some of his most famous and inspirational images from the wild coast of Maine to the deep canyons of the southwest. He will explore the philosophy, creative vision and techniques used to bring his vision into focus. Joe will offer the group the opportunity to ask questions about techniques and locations at the end of the lecture.

Joseph Rossbach is a full-time professional nature and landscape photographer, author, guide and workshop instructor. His work has appeared in a number of books and calendars, as well as national and regional magazines. Joseph's fine art prints have appeared in national collections, galleries, personal collections and one-man shows. He is also the co-author and photographer of 50 Amazing Things You Must See or Do in the Greater Washington D.C. Area and The Ultimate Guide to Digital Nature Photography.

For an in-depth look at Joe's work, information on photo tours and workshops, eBooks and free instructional articles and videos, please visit http://www.josephrossbach.com/index.html; http://www.naturephotographers.net/onlinecourses.



 ${\it Roaring River reflections} \,\, @ \,\, {\rm Joseph \,Rossbach}$  Autumn reflections on the Roaring River, Adirondack Mountain Preserve, New York

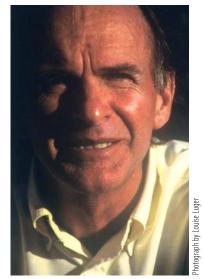
# June

Tuesday, June 28—6:30 PM (REMINDER: THIS MEETING IS A TUESDAY) Doors open at 6:00 PM

## Members' Night: Remembering Del Owens

The New York Sierra Club Photography Committee lost a valued long-time member and a dear friend in Del Owens. He died this spring in his sleep, having lived a life filled with adventure, photography, travel, music, and good cheer for his many friends.

The June 28th meeting will celebrate our fond memories of Del. The evening will include a short members' night of nature photographs,



**Del Owens** October 9, 1940–March 21, 2011

a brief sharing of memories by those who knew him and a photo presentation set to music, of Del's own evocative slides, depicting nature's wild mountain landscapes that he loved so much.

Please bring up to three photos per person. The theme of the evening is *Mountains*, *Hills*, *Deserts and Valleys* (eastern, western or beyond the USA is fine!). Del enjoyed this theme very much. If, instead, you have photos that you would like to show of Del alone, or with a group, we would enjoy seeing them.

Those members who knew Del are invited to share a memory of him with us at the meeting. Since our time in the meeting room is limited, we ask you to be brief—no more than two minutes per person. Please prepare your thoughts in advance, outlining them on an index card before the meeting. Those who would like to participate are requested to contact Charles Dexter at 212-315-1963 by June 22 so we will have an idea of how many people want to participate.

### Member Activities

**Lee Backer** has three photos in an exhibit, An Intimate Look at Trees, at Soho Photo, 15 White St., NY. The exhibit runs through June 4. Hours: Wednesday–Sunday, 1:00-6:00 pm.; website: www.sohophoto.com.

**Linda Calvet**—A photo she took on a SCPC field trip is featured on the cover of the 2011 — Century of Life datebook, published by SGI-USA, a Buddhist organization. This calendar has won numerous national and international awards from the Calendar Marketing Association, including their Best Scenic/Other Photography—Gold Award.

**Corinna Chifari**—Four of her images will be in a show entitled, Nature: Fur, Flora, Feathers at the Rockaway Artists Alliance at sTudio 6 Gallery in Fort Tilden. The exhibit runs from May 21-June 26, opening reception is May 22, 12:00-4:00 pm.

#### Park West Camera Club Exhibit—

It's My New York—at the Office of the Manhattan Borough President, on the 19th floor of the Municipal Building, 1 Centre St., NY. Opening reception: Friday, June 3, 5:30-8:00 pm. Exhibit runs for the month of June, Mon-Fri, 9:30 am-4:30 pm. All SCPC members are invited to attend. Please note that photo ID is required to enter this building.

Claudia Schellenberg—Her image of Rome was published in the New York Times Sunday Travel Section, April 24, 2011 issue.

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

John Wazeter: Chair, Sierra Club Liaison &

**Program Coordinator** 

Trudy Fritschi: Membership Coordinator Joan Lappin: Membership Coordinator **Del Owens:** Program Coordinator

Sid Georgiou: Recorder & Membership Coordinator

Claudia Perko: Membership Coordinator Claudia Schellenberg: Treasurer Stephanie Schmidt: Director of Exhibits &

Sierra Club Liaison

#### **Off-Board Members**

**Helen Pine:** E-mail Communication Coordinator: sierraphotonyc@aol.com

**Charles Dexter:** Outings Leader/Projectionist Newsletter Design/Layout: Jacqui Bonavito **Newsletter Mailing:** Penny Smith

Committee Historian: Jacqui Bonavito Newsletter Editor: Corinna Chifari, e-mail: cchifari@nyc.rr.com

## Summer 2011 Outings

Date: Saturday, May 21

**Location:** Hunterdon County; one or two

of these locations to be chosen:

Ken Lockwood Gorge, Teetertown Ravine, Black River Preserve, Schooley Mountain,

or Hacklebarney State Park, NJ

**Photograph:** wildflowers, spring foliage, rushing river, and perhaps a waterfall **Hike:** short hikes totaling 1 to 3 miles along stream, or in a meadow or woods **Additional information:** full day, bring

hiking boots, rain jacket, sunblock, bug

spray, food and water.

**NYC start:** 10:00 am, be ready for full day of shooting, dinner afterwards in the area

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

Leader: Charles Dexter, 212-315-1963,

call until 10:30 pm

Date: Saturday, June 4

**Location:** Bowman's Hill Wildflower

Preserve, New Hope, PA

Photograph: wildflowers, mountain laurel,

wild irises, creeks and bridges

NYC start: 8:30 am, plan for a long day;

dinner in the area

**Additional information:** full day, bring hiking boots, rain jacket, sunblock, definitely bug spray (deer tick area), food and water. Trails are easy and well marked. Entrance fee is \$5 for adults: \$3 for seniors over 62. This includes a one-hour naturalist-quided tour of the current blooming wildflowers at 2:00 pm.

Leader: Corinna Chifari, 917-664-7906,

e-mail: cchifari@nyc.rr.com.

**Date:** Saturday, June 25

**Location:** Bushkill Falls Private Park, Bushkill, PA; Delaware Water Gap region. **Photograph:** A waterfall wonderland in the woods, rock chasms, wood side

streams. 8 or 9 falls

**Hike:** Many steep narrow wooden walkways; choice of trails 1/2 to 2 1/2 miles

through woods, some are steep.

Additional information: Plan for a full day of shooting; bring rain jackets, sunblock, bug spray, food and drink. Admission to Park: \$11 per person; hot dog style lunch concession stand in park

NYC start: Noon; 1:30 pm lunch in park on arrival; diner or pizza: along PA Route 209.

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

Leader: Charles Dexter, 212-315-1963,

call until 10:30 pm

### From the Chair

As time and Photo Committee activities march on, I'm more and more aware of the skills, talents and ethical sensibility that Del Owens left as a special legacy to us. From a practical viewpoint, he was a great facilitator and an asset for programming. Most of all, however, he lent a strong moral tone to our meetings and to our organization. He wasn't shy about reminding us of the goals of the Sierra Club, and what the implications of those goals were from an operational and programming standpoint. In many respects, Del was our conscience and he's bequeathed an uplifting vision. Our thanks to Chair Charles Dexter, and his fellow Committee members, Miriam Balmuth, Louise Luger and Sid Georgiou for creating a meaningful celebration of the life of Del Owens for our Members' Night on Tuesday, June 28.

On another note, Canadian photographer Stephen Patterson wowed us with his original work on April 27. We'll have a chance to see some special NYC and Botanical Garden photos Steve took during his visit here, after he posts them on his website (www.stephenpatterson.com) by the end of May. Finally, nature photographer Joseph Rossbach (www.josephrossbach.com), now the official blogger for Outdoor Photographer, will be with us on May 25.

Have a wonderful, photo-filled summer and as you shoot, keep thinking of how those images will look in our upcoming "Moments in Nature" exhibit.

—John Wazeter, Chair

## **Upcoming Exhibit at Calumet Gallery**

Prospectus and entry form for the Sierra Club Photo Committee's second annual show at Calumet Gallery, entitled Moments in Nature, will be available at the May and June membership meetings. The forms will also be sent out via e-mail by May 25.

Opening reception is Wednesday, November 30 and the show will run until Wednesday, December 28. Current Sierra Club members may submit a minimum of three and maximum of six photographic images, accompanied by an entry fee of \$25. Acceptance of one image is guaranteed.

# Remembering Del Owens

October 9, 1940-March 21, 2011



Del Owens was a life member of the Sierra Club. His inspiring photography was an outgrowth of his extensive trekking in the backcountry across the peaks of the Rocky Mountains and the Northeast, as well as the desert country of the Southwest. Since the late 1980s, he was an active member of the New York City Sierra Club Photography Committee. He served on the Committee's Executive Board and edited the group's newsletter for much of that time. Over a period of 50 years, Del climbed, trekked, backpacked, and explored the Rocky Mountains throughout the entire Continental Divide.

Del was born on October 9, 1940 in Leesville, Louisiana, to David Everett and Dona (Cooley) Owens. He was the youngest of three brothers and a sister. He grew up in Simpson, Louisiana, located in the northern part of the state. It was a town so small that the postmaster could deliver mail to everyone who lived there without the benefit of street addresses or PO boxes. There, in this small-town environment, Del learned the joys of southern cooking!



After graduating from high school in 1958, he studied languages at McNeese State University, Northwestern University, and LSU. He focused on Russian during the time of the Cold War. He not only continued to study Russian but he taught it at Wyoming State University in Laramie. It was also in Wyoming

where his love of the western mountains took root. He scheduled all his teaching days for the middle of the week so that he could plan four-day weekends to do the important things in life: trekking and climbing!

He moved east to pursue his teaching career at Brown University in Providence, RI. There, his language skills caught the attention of the FBI which recruited him to work as a Russian translator in New York City. From his new home, and for the rest of his life, he continued to make frequent trips to the west to explore his beloved mountains.

Del climbed countless peaks. Early in his life, he trekked through Nepal to the Mt. Everest base camp at 17,590 ft above sea level. The list of mountain ranges in the US that he knew better than many locals reads like a mystical incantation: *The Wind Rivers, Big Horns, Tetons, Absarokas, Elks, San Juans, San Miguels, Sangre de Cristo, Las Platas, Sawatch, Uintas, Wasatch, Superstitions, Sawtooth, Bitterroots, Adirondacks, Catskills,* and many more!

His personal knowledge of this vast terrain was encyclopedic. He contributed articles describing climbing routes and experiences to *SUMMIT*, a mountaineering-hiking magazine. He compared climbing route notes



with well-known climbing guide authors, Robert Ormes (*Guide to the Colorado Mountains*) and Finis Mitchell (*Wind River Trails*) in his correspondence. He never really stopped climbing and exploring. As recently as September 2010 he climbed the 13,553-foot Pettingell Peak, west of Denver, Colorado.

Del exhibited photos and was a sought-after slide show presenter for NYCSC Photography Committee, the NYC Audubon photo group, the Appalachian Mountain Club and Tuesday Evening Hour. To him, a perfect nature photograph was one "absent of the hand of man."

We will miss his friendship, humor, good cheer, and the awe-inspiring mountain photography which reflected his love of nature and his reverence for the wilderness.

To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.

—Thomas Campbell, "Hallowed Ground," Scottish poet (1777–1844)

## Memorial Service for Del Owens

FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES whom Del worked with at the FBI, are sponsoring a memorial for him, Monday, May 23, 4 pm, at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, 7 West 55 St. Members from the NYC Sierra Club, who knew Del, are invited to attend. At the service, remembrances will be offered and music he loved will be played. Afterward, a reception with coffee, tea and snacks will be held at the church. As one of his friends said: "The sweeter the better in Del's memory!"



Poppies, Arizona © Del Owens



SnakeRange, Arizona © Del Owens



Wyoming Alpine © Del Owens



Big Sandy Rainbow, Wyoming © Del Owens



Yellowstone, Two Elks © Del Owens