

Focus

The Raritan Photographic Society

This month the *Journal's* occasional article entitled **Focus**, which features a member or member club, turns to the The Raritan Photographic Society.

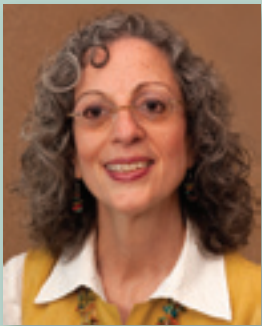
Elena McTighe,
APSA
Publications
Vice President

Founded in 1929 and still going strong, the Raritan Photographic Society (RPS) is the oldest photo club in New Jersey. They are promoted on their Web site as “a group of neighbors who meet on a regular basis to learn how to take better pictures and to appreciate the fine art of photography... Celebrating our 81st year, we are a member of the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs and the Photographic Society of America. (PSA)”

The 72-member club meets twice a month from September to May. Print and digital competitions are held monthly, and next season will have themes, for instance leading lines, shooting at the golden hour and Minimalism (simple compositions), and the other monthly meeting date is reserved for lectures, instructional programs or activities such as studio night. This year the club added a series of Member Forums where advanced members share their knowledge and experience with newer members. In addition to the regular club meeting RPS also holds hands-on workshops:

Shooting in Camera Raw vs. JPG, How to Control Natural Lighting and Shooting Techniques and Styles. New members were taught how to use their cameras. The club frequently conducts field trips: five in this past season to areas such as the Audubon Park to shoot dragonflies or the Eastern State Penitentiary in Pennsylvania. Meetings are held at two high schools or a library in the East and North Brunswick towns of New Jersey. Annual dues are \$45 for one person or \$75 for a family.

In May the club presented a program featuring *Digital WOW!* by noted nature photographer, author, and Canon® Explorer of Light, **George Lepp**. George discussed some of the exciting new imaging options that are redefining the field of photography: including how to shoot macro and landscape photos with unlimited depth of field, high ISO images with low noise, *gigaramas*, and panoramas, along with demonstrating new software. Canon, the Raritan Photographic



Pat Steo
PSA Representative



RPS volunteers J Verni, Pat Steo, Cheryl Solomon, and Arthur Honig

Photos © Bob Perrine



George Lepp speaking



Bob Schwanke, curator of Art Way Gallery at Princeton Alliance Church; Neil Persh, RPS President; Kathryn Lepp; George Lepp; and Ginny Santora, RPS Program Chair.

Society, and the Art Way Gallery, where the program was held, cosponsored the presentation. The cost was a very reasonable \$10. In a previous year, RPS co-sponsored another Canon Explorer of Light photographer, Seth Resnick.

For community service, Club President **Neil Persh** tells us that “Every year RPS is a co-sponsor along with the East Brunswick Parks & Recreation department in running a township-wide adult and school age Shutterbug print competition, and as a club we annually show our work at Art Way Gallery and every two years at the East Brunswick Public Library.”

Pat Steo is the PSA club rep and she states, “As a relatively new member I have gained much insight and knowledge of photography by being a member of RPS.” To learn more about the Raritan Photographic Society visit their Web site at <http://www.raritanphoto.com> . ■



Attendees enjoying refreshments prior to the event.



Waiting for George to begin his presentation.