

In Focus - June 2006

A Focus on Westchester Photographic Society Dynamic Photography Group Exhibits at Larchmont Public Library June 4th-June 29th

By Jim Ormand/WAC

For many, joining a photography club can be a fun way to explore a favorite hobby. Exploring the art form while drawing from the experience of others can be a great way to learn. Not to mention the added social benefits of camaraderie along the way. But given all the demands of work and family, faithfully attending all of a club's meetings can be a challenge.

But when members of Westchester Photographic Society get together, even the meetings are events not to be missed. On an average Friday night, more than 60 members show up for the group's weekly gathering at Westchester Community College. The strong attendance is a testament to the Society's welcoming environment and corresponding mission statement "Photography with a Purpose."

The Society is the oldest, largest and, according to its members, "friendliest" camera club in Westchester. Everyone with an interest in photography, from beginning novices to professional photographers, is welcome to join. Society members work in a variety of styles including black-and-white film, color prints, slides, digital, video, and computer imaging. In keeping with its "Photography with a Purpose" motto, every meeting is centered around a lecture, workshop, field trip, special demonstration or contest.

Recognized experts are tapped to lead the lectures. Recently Glen Hall discussed "How to Photograph Sports Scenes," Vicki Dolce covered "Bird Photography," Sid Hecker examined "The Psychology of Pho-

tography," and Rich Pomerantz offered tips for "Garden Photography."

Periodic competitions are geared toward education. After hopeful members submit their best shots, a panel of experienced curators selects winners and provides a detailed critique of the various photographs. "The competitions are in good fun," says former WPS Program Chairman Martin Kantor. "But the curators' critiques afterward are a good way to train new photographers on the subtle nuances of this art form. It's all about training they eye on what to look for."

The society also organizes several exhibitions in Westchester throughout the year. The next exhibition entitled The Image Makers will be on view at the Larchmont Public Library from June 4th through June 30th.

Heading into the summer, the annual picnic at the Pepsico Sculpture gardens will mix photography with the group's second favorite pastime, dining. With parties throughout the year and informal trips to local restaurants before and after meetings, the group has acquired a second name. "Some people call us 'The Westchester Photographic and Eating Society'," jokes Kantor.

The Westchester Photographic Society welcomes new members. For more information call Martin Kantor at (914) 837-2361 or visit www.wpsphoto.org.

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Editor's note: Programs by Glen Hall and Vicki Dolce are re-scheduled for 6/30/06 and 10/6/06 respectively.

Westchester Photographic Society News

IN FOCUS

Robert A. Baron, editor
Web edition: Dick Budnik

newsletter: infocus@studiolo.org
webpage: Webmaster@WPSphoto.org

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Elinor Stecker-Orel, Harvey Augenbraun

WPS Winners of Harrison Library Solo Exhibits for 2007:
Joann Brown (April), Anastasia Tompkins (June)
Robert Baron (December)

Through MyView Finder

by Jerry Hoffman

Summer is coming on fast. Our regular competitions have ended, and when you read this in hard copy, we'll be having or have already concluded our End of Year final judging and be getting ready for our "welcome to summer" party.

What a super year it has been for our "club." The photographs our members are producing seem to be getting better and better, not only in traditional images, but also in "Open Mind" ...maybe "especially" in Open Mind. What a treat it is watching the "work" change, as many of us make the transition to Digital cameras, and also to the "digital darkroom" and "digital projection" ...and our struggle with mastering the intricacies of Photoshop. Somehow, as a group, we are doing it, and our images show it. Have you noticed how judge after judge has commented on the high quality of what they are seeing. I know, many of us take issue with one judge or another, as they announce scores that sometimes bewilder us, but when they comment on the "quality of our work," none of us will disagree!

Our annual meeting is behind us, and the new board is in place, working well together and attending to the club's business. Possibly the most important issue facing us from the beginning has been the financial one, of expenses rising and revenues on a slight decline...only slight because of the success of our 50/50 program (with kudos to our treasurer Charlie Koenig for initiating it). The net of this though is that dollars coming in are not keeping up with those going out, and we were facing an increase in the annual membership fees, for the first time in many, many years..., on the order of \$10 to \$20.

Many of you were at a recent regular Friday night meeting where we raised this concern for the first time, wanting to alert you to the problem, and to get a sense of your feelings about what we saw as the only areas with potentially great savings. These areas are (1) the printing and mailing of hard copies of our newsletter "In Focus," and (2) purchasing of Plaques and Ribbons for prize winners in our various competitions. The response from the members present was truly gratifying, with almost unanimous support for dropping

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The Westchester Photographic Society
meets 12 months a year. Our weekly meetings are on
Friday evenings at 8:00pm (excepting school holidays)
in the Technology Building (opposite parking lot 11) of
Westchester Community College, Valhalla, N.Y.
Guests are welcome.

Your Rights and Remedies When Stopped or Confronted for Photography

Updated July 2004

By Bert P. Krages II, atty

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About this Guide

Confrontations that impair the constitutional right to make images are becoming more common. To fight the abuse of your right to free expression, you need to know your rights to take photographs and the remedies available if your rights are infringed.

The General Rule

The general rule in the United States is that anyone may take photographs of whatever they want when they are in a public place or places where they have permission to take photographs. Absent a specific legal prohibition such as a statute or ordinance, you are legally entitled to take photographs. Examples of places that are traditionally considered public are streets, sidewalks, and public parks.

Property owners may legally prohibit photography on their premises but have no right to prohibit others from photographing their property from other locations. Whether you need permission from property owners to take photographs while on their premises depends on the circumstances. In most places, you may reasonably assume that taking photographs is allowed and that you do not need explicit permission. However, this is a judgment call and you should request permission when the circumstances suggest that the owner is likely to object. In any case, when a property owner tells you not to take photographs while on the premises, you are legally obligated to honor the request.

Some Exceptions to the Rule

There are some exceptions to the general rule. A significant one is that commanders of military installations can prohibit photographs of specific areas when they deem it necessary to protect national security. The U.S. Department of Energy can also prohibit photography of designated nuclear facilities although the publicly visible areas of nuclear facilities are usually not designated as such. Members of the public have a very limited scope of privacy rights when they are in public places. Basically, anyone can be photographed without their consent except when they have secluded themselves in places where they have a reasonable expectation of

privacy such as dressing rooms, restrooms, medical facilities, and inside their homes.

Permissible Subjects

Despite misconceptions to the contrary, the following subjects can almost always be photographed lawfully from public places:

- accident and fire scenes
- children
- celebrities
- bridges and other infrastructure
- residential and commercial buildings
- industrial facilities and public utilities
- transportation facilities (e.g., airports)
- Superfund sites
- criminal activities
- law enforcement officers

Who Is Likely to Violate Your Rights

Most confrontations are started by security guards and employees of organizations who fear photography. The most common reason given is security but often such persons have no articulated reason. Security is rarely a legitimate reason for restricting photography. Taking a photograph is not a terrorist act nor can a business legitimately assert that taking a photograph of a subject in public view infringes on its trade secrets.

On occasion, law enforcement officers may object to photography but most understand that people have the right to take photographs and do not interfere with photographers. They do have the right to keep you away from areas where you may impede their activities or endanger safety. However, they do not have the legal right to prohibit you from taking photographs from other locations.

They Have Limited Rights to Bother, Question, or Detain You

Although anyone has the right to approach a person in a public place and ask questions, persistent and unwanted conduct done without a legitimate purpose is a crime in many states if it causes serious annoyance. You are under no obligation to explain the purpose of your photography nor do you have to disclose your identity except in states that require so upon request by a law enforcement officer.

If the conduct goes beyond mere questioning, all states have laws that make coercion and harassment criminal offenses. The specific elements vary among the states but in general it is unlawful for anyone to instill a fear that they may injure you, damage or take your property, or falsely accuse you of a

crime just because you are taking photographs.

Private parties have very limited rights to detain you against your will and may be subject to criminal and civil charges should they attempt to do so. Although the laws in most states authorize citizen's arrests, such authority is very narrow. In general, citizen's arrests can be made only for felonies or crimes committed in the person's presence. Failure to abide by these requirements usually means that the person is liable for a tort such as false imprisonment.

They Have No Right to Confiscate Your Film

Sometimes agents acting for entities such as owners of industrial plants and shopping malls may ask you to hand over your film. Absent a court order, private parties have no right to confiscate your film. Taking your film directly or indirectly by threatening to use force or call a law enforcement agency can constitute criminal offenses such as theft and coercion. It can likewise constitute a civil tort such as conversion. Law enforcement officers may have the authority to seize film when making an arrest but otherwise must obtain a court order.

Your Legal Remedies If Harassed

If someone has threatened, intimidated, or detained you because you were taking photographs, they may be liable for crimes such as kidnapping, coercion, and theft. In such cases, you should report them to the police.

You may also have civil remedies against such persons and their employers. The torts for which you may be entitled to compensation include assault, conversion, false imprisonment, and violation of your constitutional rights.

Other Remedies If Harassed

If you are disinclined to take legal action, there are still things you can do that contribute to protecting the right to take photographs.

- (1) Call the local newspaper and see if they are interested in running a story. Many newspapers feel that civil liberties are worthy of serious coverage.
- (2) Write to or call the supervisor of the person involved, or the legal or public relations department of the entity, and complain about the event.
- (3) Make the event publicly known on an Internet forum that deals with photography or

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IN FOCUS is a member of the PSA Photo Editors Group.



WPS BULLETIN BOARD

Program Schedule: Friday Meetings

June, 2006

- 09: End of Year (EOY) competition
- 16: No meeting. US Golf Open uses our parking lot.
- 23: End Of Year Party, 7pm Science Building
- 30: Glen Hall, "Behind the Sports Scene." The public is invited. Plus a Walter Kimmel mini-session on RAW at 7:15 pm.

July, 2006

- 07: Mark Sarazan. The public is invited
- 14: No WPS meeting.
NECCC Conference in Amherst, MA.
- 21: Ask Our Experts. The public is invited.
- 28: "Still Life Photography." Plus an Albert Tang mini-session on Infrared at 7:15 pm.
- 30: Sunday, Picnic.

August, 2006

- 04: Special Competition: The public is invited.
- 06: Annual Picnic rain date.
- 11. Movie: "Ansel Adams"
- 18: Out of the Box 3. The public is invited.
- 25: Shooting Fall Foliage

September, 2006

- 01: Labor Day Weekend: No Meeting
- 08: Open House. Showcases, Refreshments.
Public invited.
- 15: Competition #1. Public is invited.
- 22: Rob Dublin: Large format printing. Public invited.
- 29: Harvey & Anastasia, "Voyage through Italy."

Please note:

The public is invited to all meetings except the Annual Members Meeting in April. Program is subject to change, for latest information check www.wpsphoto.org/Programs.html

Field Trip: Annual Museum Mile Celebration June 13, 2006 - 5:45pm

WHAT: The Annual Museum Mile Celebration. All the museums, from 82nd Street to 105th Street, are open late, and historically with free admission. Fifth avenue is closed to traffic, and the street becomes a playground. Many wonderful photo ops of singers, musicians, jugglers, etc, many in costumes, all performing on the street, weather permitting. (From 6 'till 9pm)

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: On Tuesday, June 13th, at 5:45pm, on the north/uptown side of the steps in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 82nd St. and Fifth Ave.

RAIN DATE: None, it will be held rain or shine (but street performances may be affected)! **See item at right.**

HOST FOR MAY:

Mark Freedman

+++

NEW MEMBERS:

Robert & Joyce Blumenthal

Kenneth W Dandrow

Irwin Klein

+++

THANK YOU:

Art Anderson & Cece Fabbro
for help hanging photos in the Cancer
Treatment and Wellness Center

Elinor Stecker-Orel won First Prize in Blair Howard's weekly on-line photography contest. The theme this week (5/18) was "Still Light and Shadow." Elinor's winning picture of a sconce at Caramoor may be viewed at www.blairhoward.com/contests.html.

Special Exhibition

On Photography:

A Tribute to Susan Sontag

June 6, 2006-September 4, 2006

The Howard Gilman Gallery

Metropolitan Museum of Art

A major force in New York intellectual life for over 40 years, the novelist, essayist, and critic Susan Sontag (1933–2004) was renowned for her brilliant and impassioned writing on photography. This exhibition of some 40 photographs drawn from the Metropolitan's collection pays tribute to Sontag's extraordinary contribution to the history of the medium. Nearly all the text in the exhibition is drawn from Sontag's own vividly aphoristic prose. In some cases, the photographs relate directly to her discussions of individual works or photographers, among them August Sander, Edward Weston, Diane Arbus, and Robert Mapplethorpe. In other cases, small groupings of photographs provide a visual complement to broader insights and ideas about the medium and the ways in which it has shaped our world.

[Taken from the MMA website. Note also, that this exhibition coincides with the WPS Field Trip at left. *Ed.*]

Westchester County office of Tourism Amateur Photography Contest

Due Date: Friday, August 25, 2006

For details see:

www.westchestertourism.com/Seasonal/contest.asp

Learning To See By Elinor Stecker-Orel

“Seeing” to photographers is more than just perceiving things with their eyes. This type of looking at things might better be called “creative seeing.” It’s recognizing things that have the potential for being the subject of a good photograph. Snapshooters just click away without really becoming aware of the myriad possibilities that can make outstanding pictures. But to take an effective picture, you must be aware – to “see” the possibilities for that picture.

So how do you develop this creative eye? Start right where you are as you read this. Relax your mind – don’t think about what you’re having for dinner or the tasks ahead of you at the office. Look in front of you. Observe the texture of objects. Notice – really notice – their shapes, their lines, their colors. Next, concentrate on just a small area in front of you. Then zero in on just one or two objects. Don’t be in a hurry. Now turn your chair and repeat the exercise, slowly looking at various elements.

Take a leisurely walk outdoors and try to carefully observe parts of the scene. As you look at a scene, observe the light. Really look at it. Notice its direction and color, and look at the shadows it casts. Notice its color and direction. You’ll find that light is one of the most important aspects in creating an effective photograph.

You’ll start to discover that there’s a photographic subject to be found in even a torn window screen flapping in the breeze, the breakfast coffee cup soaking in a mountain of sudsy water, or the colorful trash can on the sidewalk. Simple things can make beautiful pictures if your mind is alert to the possibilities.

Your visual sensitivity can be developed. And as this skill matures, people who look at your pictures may comment, “You have a good eye.” With your increased awareness, not only will your pictures improve, but also you’ll increase your appreciation and enjoyment of the world around you.

Editor’s note: In the above essay, Elinor Stecker-Orel shares with us a few passages from a textbook she is preparing for beginning photographers for The New York Institute of Photography on using a digital SLR. She hopes that it may be useful for some of our less experienced members. (Good for the advanced ones too.)

(Viewfinder: Continued from page 2)

the **printing** of the newsletter, and making it available “on-line” only, through our website (wpsphoto.org). There was a little less support for the idea of “dropping” plaques as awards, but the idea was still welcomed by a large majority who attended.

This issue was the major one addressed at our most recent Board meeting, on May 30th. With good give and take around the table, **here is what was decided**, to be effective at the start of the new membership year, September 1, 2006:

- 1) **The hard copy printing of "In Focus" will end with our summer 2006 edition.** It will continue to be available on our website just as now. Note that a review of our membership files shows that less than ten of our 100-plus members do not have internet access. We will prepare locally printed copies for them, so that no member will be left out. (Savings-over \$1,000/year...and significant reduction in workload by our editor, Robert Baron.)
- 2) **The mix of Ribbons and Plaques will be changed.** Plaques will continue to be awarded to first place winners in the annual and in the EOY competitions (and possibly for special awards as needed). Ribbons will be awarded to all others. (Savings estimated to be \$500-600/year.)
- 3) **The Membership fees will remain as they are.** There will be no increase for the 2006/2007 year!

Hope the summer brings you all many great photo ops. Enjoy!



END OF YEAR
PARTY
JUNE 23: 7:00 PM
SCIENCE
BUILDING
LOUNGE
Contact Janet King or
Marty Bernstein to help out.
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Current & Forthcoming Exhibits: NYC Museums

THE JEWISH MUSEUM

(www.jewishmuseum.org)
[No photographic exhibits listed]

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

(www.metmuseum.org)

On Photography: A Photographic Tribute to Susan Sontag, 6/6 – 9/4/2006, Gilman Gallery

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

(www.moma.org)

Of Interest: Douglas Gordon: Timeline 6/11—9/04/2006 (Video)

BROOKLYN MUSEUM

(www.brooklynmuseum.org)
[No photographic exhibits listed]

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY (www.icp.org)

Atta Kim 6/9 - 8/27/06

Tempo, Tempo! The Bauhaus Photomontages of Marianne Brandt 6/9 - 8/27/06

New Histories 10: Paris: Eugène Atget and Christopher Rauschenberg 6/9 - 8/27/06

Unknown Weegee 6/9—8/27/06

Ecotopia: The Second ICP Triennial of Photography and Video 9/8 - 11/26/06

MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

(www.mcny.org)

Sherril Schell: Unknown Modernist. Opened 4/12/2006.

We Skate Hardcore: Photographs from Brooklyn's South Side. Until 8/6/06

Timescapes: A multimedia portrait of New York. Including, archival photographs.

THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM

[No photographic exhibits listed]

Westchester Events

NEUBERGER MUSEUM OF ART

(www.neuberger.org)

[No photographic exhibits listed, but check out a new media show called "Where."]



HUDSON RIVER MUSEUM

(www.hrm.org)

Got Cow! Cattle in American Art (1820-2000): 6/24—9/10/2006. Includes photography.

Agricultural Works: Photographs by James Welling and Music by Will Welling. 6/24—9/20/2006

Gallery Guides

Photography galleries, NYC:

http://art-support.com/galleries_ny.htm

<http://www.photography-guide.com>

EXHIBITS & SHOWS

WPS Exhibits

Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center, Northern Westchester Hospital (Exhibit: 5/4/06-10/31/06.)

Larchmont Library,
up 6/3/06, 10am, down Sat: 7/1/06
from 9-10am (Exhibit: 6/4/06 - 6/30/06.)

New Rochelle Library
new up date 7/6/06 3-6pm, down 7/28/06
(Exhibit 7/6/06 - 7/27/06.)

(See further: wpsphoto.org/Exhibits.html, and www.studiolo.org/WPS/PR/index.htm)

WPS Member Exhibits

Elinor Stecker-Orel, "Black Satin,"
an exhibit of dramatic photographs,
June 1 - 30, the gallery at the Black Cow
Coffee Company, 51 Maple Street, Croton-
on-Hudson, NY.

Martin and Eileen Kantor will exhibit their color photographs at an exhibit called "The Art of Photography, II" at the Westhampton Free Library in Westhampton, NY. The exhibit will run from May 13th to June 30th.

Both Martin and Eileen Kantor have had photographs accepted into the juried show "Art with Intent." This is work by Westchester Seniors and is on exhibit from May 6th to June 15th at Andrus-on-Hudson Community of Elders at 185 Old Broadway, Hastings-on Hudson, NY.

Robert Baron will have two works in the exhibition "Be Seated" at the Mamaroneck Artists' Guild 2120 Boston Post Road, Larchmont. Exhibit dates: 6/28 to 7/15/06.

Deborah Lea Cohen: Photographic Imagery at the Alcove Gallery of the White Plains Library. 8/1 through 8/31/2006. For more info, call WP Library at 914-422-1400.

Sculpture Competition Winners 5/5/2006

Digital Projection	3: Dennis Thornton
1: Dick Budnik	4: Zane Kuo
2: Elinor Stecker-Orel	Prints
3: Rob Dublin	1: Albert Tang
4: Rose Ann Kimmel	2: Walter Kimmel
Slides	3: Zane Kuo
1: Dennis Thornton	4: Robert Baron
2: Zane Kuo	

(Rights: Continued from page 3)
civil rights issues.

How to Handle Confrontations

Most confrontations can be defused by being courteous and respectful. If the party becomes pushy, combative, or unreasonably hostile, consider calling the police. Above all, use good judgment and don't allow an event to escalate into violence.

In the event you are threatened with detention or asked to surrender your film, asking the following questions can help ensure that you will have the evidence to enforce your legal rights:

1. What is the person's name?
2. Who is their employer?
3. Are you free to leave?
If not, how do they intend to stop you if you decide to leave?
What legal basis do they assert for the detention?
4. Likewise, if they demand your film, what legal basis do they assert for the confiscation?

Disclaimer

This is a general education guide about the right to take photographs and is necessarily limited in scope. For more information about the laws that affect photography, I refer you to my book, *Legal Handbook for Photographers* (Amherst Media, 2002).

This guide is not intended to be legal advice nor does it create an attorney client relationship. Readers should seek the advice of a competent attorney when they need legal advice regarding a specific situation.

published by: Bert P. Krages II, Attorney at Law, 6665 S.W. Hampton Street, Suite 200, Portland, Oregon 97223
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END OF YEAR PARTY

Friday June 23 7:00 p.m. Science Building Lounge. Join us for another memorable evening. We're counting on everyone bringing their favorite foods. Bring a dish for 6: either an appetizer, main course or dessert. Reminder: there are no heating facilities. You can sign up at the meeting on 6/9. To contact Janet King, consult member directory at www.wpsphoto.org. It really helps us if we have an idea of how many are coming and what you are bringing!

Competition Winners 5/19/06 #9

Prints: Black & White	4. Zane Kuo
1: Albert Tang	4. Helen Rauch
1: Albert Tang	4. Helen Rauch
3: Art Anderson	Digital Projector: B&W
3: Jane Gordon	1. Randy Fitzgerald
Prints: Color B	2. Lorri Freedman
1: Martin Bernstein	2. Albert Tang
2. Rose Ann Kimmel	2. Dennis Thornton
3. Rose Ann Kimmel	Digital Projector: Color B
3. Carol Finley	1. Deborah Cohen
Prints: Color A + Salon	2. Jun Shihoten
1. Walter Kimmel	3. Rose Ann Kimmel
2. Zane Kuo	3. Rose Ann Kimmel
2. Mano Orel	Digital Projector: Color A
4. Robert Baron	1. Randy Fitzgerald
4. Robert Baron	2. Lorri Freedman
4. Dennis Thornton	2. Rob Dublin
4. Dennis Thornton	4. Anastasia Tompkins
4. Walter Kimmel	4. Edith Rosenstrach
4. Jane Gordon	Digital Projector: Color Salon
Prints: Open Mind	1. Bob Harper
1. Martin Bernstein	1. Dick Budnik
1. Jane Gordon	3. Elinor Stecker-Orel
3. Martin Bernstein	3. Anita Reilly
3. Jane Gordon	Digital Projector: Open Mind
Slides	1. Walter Kimmel
1. Cynthia Gewirtz	2. Lorri Freedman
1. Zane Kuo	3. Martin Bernstein
3. Dennis Thornton	3. Edith Rosenstrach
4. Mike Gersh	3. Jun Shihoten

A note on scoring: Scores are awarded as 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention (here as 4th place). Ties are resolved by awarding consecutive places and reported as the highest of the two. Thus a tie for 2nd place uses 2nd and 3rd place and appears as two instances of 2nd place. The number of ties permitted for Honorable Mention (4th place) is not limited.

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Or call toll free: (877) 809-1659

Ask for the WPS store.

Weather Notice:

If driving conditions are hazardous, meetings will be cancelled. Look for announcements of Westchester Community College (WCC) closings on the following media outlets.

WFAS 103.9 FM / 1230 AM, WHUD 100.7 FM, WCBS 880AM, TV News 12, or visit www.wfasfm.com

Members are advised to check their email for emergency weather notices from WPS.

IN FOCUS

The Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society
c/o Robert A. Baron, editor
P.O. Box 93
Larchmont, New York 10538-0093

FIRST CLASS MAIL

IMPORTANT NOTICE

With its September issue, **IN FOCUS** will
discontinue its paper edition, and will be
available only on line.

IN FOCUS is available on the web now
and henceforth at this address:

<http://wpsphoto.org/Newsletters.htm>

The next (and last) edition on paper will be the
Summer edition scheduled for August 18, 2006.

WPS members who have no computer access are urged
to contact Dick Budnik as soon as possible to arrange
alternate means of delivery.

For additional information, see "Through MyView Finder" on page two.

(In September, this page will resume listing our Sponsors.)