



Hemlock Little World's Fair 2013

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Cover photograph: Matthew Gentile

Back cover: Molly Moore

Book design: Frank Cost

Special thanks to:

The Hemlock Little World's Fair

James E. McGhee Endowed Chair, RIT School of Photographic Arts &
Sciences

And to the following people who made this workshop possible:

Prof. Therese Mulligan, Prof. Michael Peres, Prof. Frank Cost, Chelsea O'
Brien, Robert Van Winkle, David Walter, Mike Dear, Lisa Deromanis, Kristy
Knowles, Sarah Ann Jump and Amy Snyder.



Introduction

This is the third year of our Introduction to Photojournalism for High School Students Workshop—a basic course in photography and photojournalism. The Workshop offers something meaningful to the students and challenges them to think about photography in a serious way. We introduce the students to the concepts behind all those “auto” buttons on their cameras, and also give them a real sense of what the photojournalistic life is like.

The question is always: Can eleven high school students, ages 13 to 17, accept that challenge despite having very little real photographic instruction before the week begins, and produce good results?

They start the week with an intense day of technical instructions—aperture, shutter speed, ISO, focus points, flash—followed by two short shooting sessions and reviews of their images. The results are tentative, amateurish—what you would expect from a group of their age and experience. The critiques are designed to be tough—there isn’t time to ponder and debate the merits of each photo. At the end of the day, Professor Frank Cost, James E. McGhee Professor of Visual Media in the School of Photographic Arts & Sciences, gives a lecture on modern book making. He also reveals the main goal of the Workshop: with a generous gift from his office, the students will produce a book of their week’s work.

Day Two covers the concepts of good photography, captions and visual story telling. The morning finishes with an assigned shooting. That assignment—arm’s length (focus your wide angle lens to the end of your fingertips, tape it down, shoot people!)—elicits a response more akin to a death sentence than a simple photo assignment. Nonetheless, they work hard, not only to execute the basic concepts, but also to make good photographs. The results are encouraging, but a couple of the students admit to being very nervous about approaching strangers. There is hope. When we look at the images, they’ve managed to fulfill the assignment in the most basic way but almost all the subjects are staring into the camera—there are no “real” photos.

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More work to do!

Day Four begins with a quick critique of their first day shoots. Some students are tentative and it shows in their photos—lots of backs of people, photos from a distance, etc. But several are beginning to get the idea. Technical problems abound. Check your cheat sheets for those technical issues!! Set your cameras before you begin looking! Look people in the eye and smile! They won't bite! No more traveling in groups of two and three—separate, get out of each other's way!

We watch as they work. It's encouraging. A couple of the students have to be "coerced" into shooting certain situations, but, at the end of the day, there's an electricity and giddiness in the vans on the way back. They survived! And in the process, they might have made some good photos, too.

Day Five is focused on the production of this book under the guidance of Frank Cost. The morning begins, however, going over the book "PhotoSynthesis," a small, quiet book that is as much about life as it is about the basics of photography. It slows everyone down a bit (some might say they're bored!) but it also gets them thinking about the photographs they've made and what to look for during the edit.

There's a rough, group edit before lunch and then the fun begins. We go through a group edit to get the initial 300 frames down to a manageable 115 and then we begin editing—as a group—each individual's selection. It is painful for some—their successes and near misses are on display for everyone to judge.

Each photographer has the final say over which images go into his or her section, and we eventually get down to the goal of four to seven frames for each. Then it's off to work with teaching assistants Autumn Parry and Matt Burkhart on captions while Cost and I begin the process of toning, placing the photos in the layout, and basic sequencing. With the first draft of the captions complete and placed under the correct photos, the students begin work on the final sequencing and page pairs.

After working quickly—and running late!—we begin the process of choosing the front and back cover photos. There are five solid choices for the cover—and each one offers a different feeling and flavor of the Fair. In the end, a general consensus is reached. It's always a great learning process for the students to see how these decisions are made.

Some of the students came to the Workshop to see what PJ is all about. Others came because they wanted to take better pictures of people. What they came away with was this book—a collection of images that are visually sophisticated, contain real moments, and capture the feelings of the people and the setting of the Hemlock Little World's Fair.

These young people follow in the great tradition of photojournalism. They end the week having taken those first difficult, tentative steps toward being photographers. They tamped down their shyness, approached complete strangers, looked them in the eye, took their pictures and then asked them their names. Whether they realize it or not, the hardest part is over. They've "done" it. They passed the test. Hopefully, this book is just the beginning for many of them.

Professor William Snyder
Program Chair, Photojournalism

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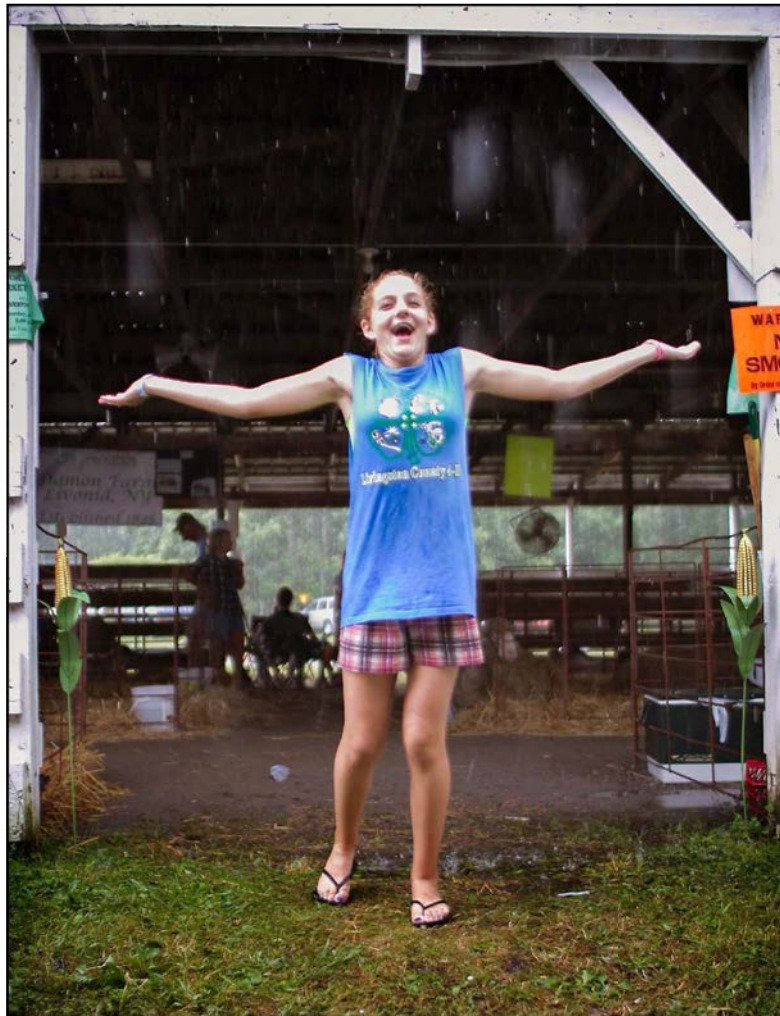
Monica Asmussen, 16, Brentwood, TN
Senior, Ravenwood High School



Ride Supervisor Eric Logan relaxes at *Water Gun Fun*, a game stall, at the Hemlock Little World's Fair in Hemlock, NY. Logan has worked at the Fair for four years, but has been in the business for thirteen years.



Bridgette Johnson, 9, and her family show cows and pigs at the Fair and have attended 19 other fairs and shows in the region.



A young Fair attendee enjoys the brief rain shower that cooled everything down for a while.



Camryn Eirick, 4, enjoys her second session on the *Motorcycle Jump* ride. "She loves it," said her mother.



Visitors enjoy a topsy-turvy thrill at the Fair.



Joseph Luckeneach, 12, takes a break from the heat. He was showing pigs with his five siblings and parents. "Heat stresses out the animals," he said. "And that stresses out everyone."

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Cat DeLaus, 16, Penfield, NY
Junior, Penfield High School



Kayd Burley plays in the sudden downpour while visiting the Fair. Kayd came to the Fair with his mom, Lisa Walworth, his two brothers, Brandon and Aiden Bloser, and his friend, Jason Pragle.



Mazi Deaton laughs as she rides the *Rockin' Tug*, a pendulum-like ride that spins around as it swings.



Mac Thomas and Ben Chaffer fight for control of a hand-held fan in the barns.



Beverly Slocum (left) and Barbara Jones chat about their recent 50-year high school reunion in the Heritage Museum. "We partied from six o'clock on Friday to six o'clock on Sunday," recalled Jones.



Martin "Marty" Johnston pops into Gate 5 admissions to say hello. When asked why he was volunteering at the event, Marty said, "Our whole goal is to keep kids off the streets."

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A view of the fairgrounds as seen from the top of *Century Wheel*.

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Francis Encarnacion, 18, Henrietta, NY
McQuaid Jesuit High School '13



Tina Destino waits to serve customers during the second afternoon of the Fair. “We’ve had a slow afternoon,” she said, “people usually come out at night.” Tina has been a concession stand worker for two years.



Adysson West, 6, tentatively pets Deputy Maria Furnal's horse during a break in the competition between local police mounted units. Dep. Furnal competed on behalf of the Monroe County Sheriff's Mounted Unit.



Ryan, 13, relaxes and tries to cool off with a fan while his brother Kyle, 11, (right) takes a quick nap in the barn. Their last names were withheld on request.



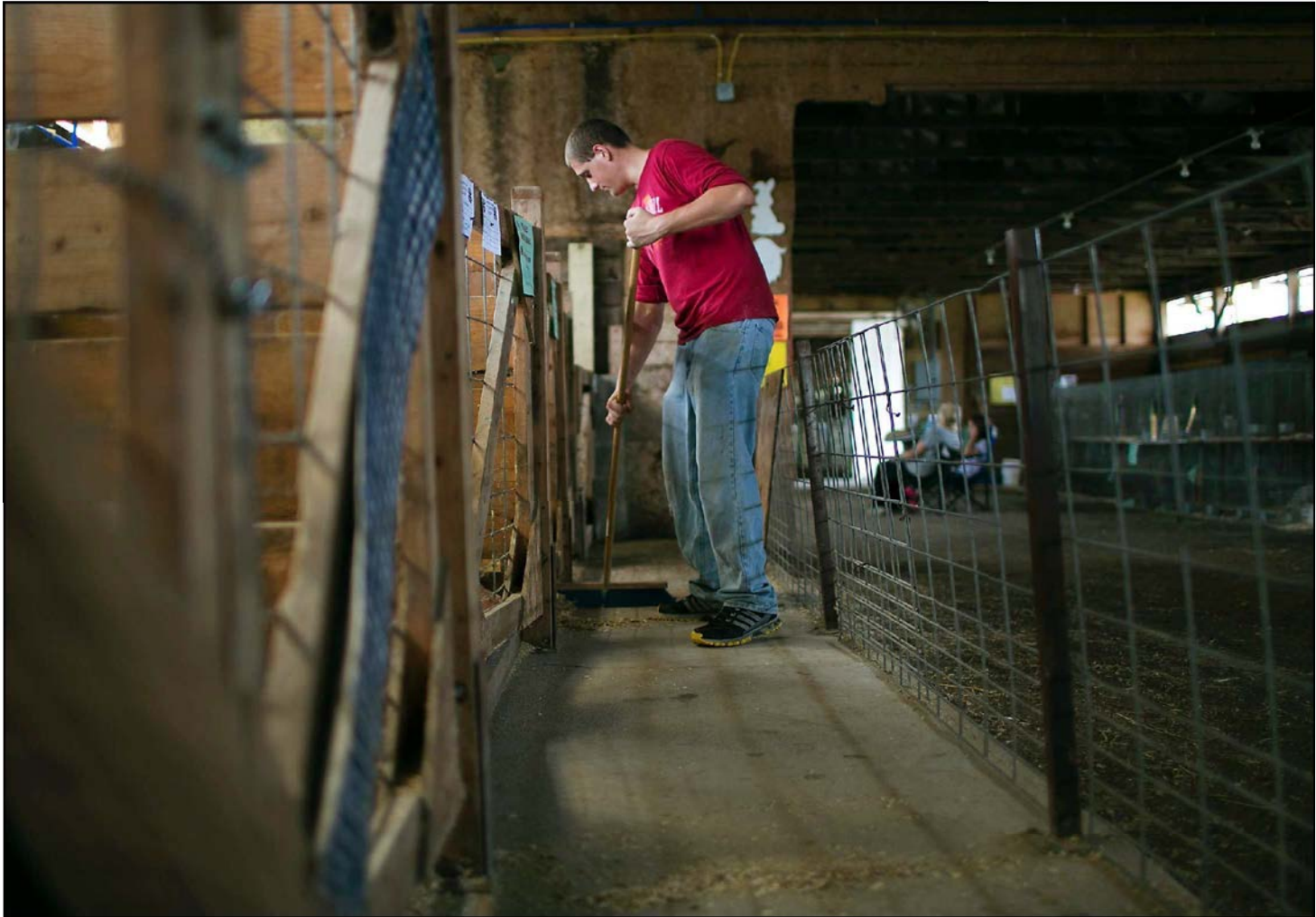
Tyler Stesi, 6, waits in his father's truck for an unexpected downpour, including hail, to pass.



Daniel Finkelstein, 13, Penfield, NY
Freshman, Home Schooled



Braydon Wright, 12, enjoys a sudden rainstorm on the third day of the Fair. Wright, from Geneseo, NY, annually shows animals at the Fair.



Jason Luckenbach, 18, tends to the pig pen area. Luckenbach, a resident of Mt. Morris, NY, said he shows his pigs at the Fair in order to spend more time with his grandparents.



Matthew Gentile, 16, Pittsford, NY
Junior, McQuaid Jesuit High School



Parking attendant Roma Emery reads a book to pass time while waiting to assist vehicles. A teacher of 27 years, she said, "If I can live a couple more years, I'll be retired as long as I've taught."



Bridgitte Johnson, 9, spends time with her cow. "I've been coming here since I was a four years old," she said about the 4-H Competition at the Fair.



August Schleede, 12, waits for a sudden rain storm to stop so he can tend to his animals.



Harper Rowe, 3, jumps in excitement as he rides the *Motorcycle Jump*.



Griff tests his marksmanship at the *Cork Gun* game. His parents didn't want to give his last name.



Derek Miller, 4, swings with all his might. He chose an inflatable hammer as his prize.



Harper Rowe, 3, takes his third trip of the day down the *Super Slide*.



Meg Lesko, 14, Old Saybrook, CT
Sophomore, Old Saybrook High School



Penni Pitstopp tries to cool down while working her shift at the dart-throwing booth. "I really need to find some AC soon," said Pitstopp.



Mckenzie Low, 11 (left), and Kaleena Andress, 12, joke with Steven Donnelly, 14, as they relax inside of the goat pen. All three raise goats to show in competitions.



Elizabeth Caiazzo, 5 (front), helps her sister Olivia Caiazzo, 7, choose a prize after Olivia won the *Roll-a-Ball* game.



Trevor Rossborough, 12, holds "Duck," who won the best of breed contest.



Sona Mendez, from Schoharie County, NY, cooks food and jokes with the customers. "I've been running this stand for five or six years with my aunt," said Mendez.



Bridgitte Johnson, 9, watches over her cows during a thunderstorm. She works on a farm with her mom and brother.



Dominic Difiore, 8, crashes into the mats after riding the mechanical bull for the first time. Difiore is from Spencerport, NY.



Emily McDonald, 16, Oswego, IL
Senior, Aurora Christian High School



Carly Lang, 8, swooned over her 1-year-old Nigerian dwarf goat named Brittney. "I'm excited [to show her], but I really don't know how to," said Carly. Lang is from Rochester, NY.



Caitlin Larosinski, 12, and Quentin Sacchitella, 12, walk down the the midway while eating a freshly made funnel cake made by one of the Fair's many vendors.



Four-year-old local, McKenzie Donohue, rode a multitude of rides as a part of her annual trip to the Fair with her Mom, Krystyna Wernle.



Ryan Tillich, a thirteen-year-old New York resident and farmer, slept in the 4H barn with his four-year-old Suffic sheep before showing in the open goat competition.



While watching the 4H open goat competition with her grandmother, four-year-old Deanna Luckenbach ate a granola bar to hold back her hunger until the end of the competition.



Molly Moore, 15, Shortsville, NY
Sophomore, Red Jacket High School



"She is a nice goat," says Carly Lang, 8, about Brittney, a Nigerian dwarf goat who showed at the Fair. Carly was visiting from Livonia.



Cyle Johnson, 3, cleans up his cow's stall with his mom and sister, Bridgitte, who also showed her cow and pig. "I won a ribbon!" said Johnson after showing his cow in a 4H show.



Ride Supervisor Eric Logan relaxes at *Water Gun Fun*, a game stall, at the Fair. Logan has worked at the Fair for four years, but has been in the business for thirteen, "I'm the guy who fixes everything," said Logan.



Aubree Dale, 1, rides the carousel with her mom and brother Michael. Even though Aubree was upset, her mother said that their family loves to come to the Fair.



Kiera Wilson, 5, eats her ice cream in an attempt to cool off from the 90-degree weather. Wilson comes to the Fair from Livonia, NY every year with her older sister, Marisa, and her mother.



Lauren Peace, 17, Morgantown, WV
Senior, University High School



Everett Schleede steps into an oversized pair of boots that belong to one of three older brothers.



Preston Hopson protests.



Taila Bezerra backs Annabelle Vannorman, 4, while riding the *Motorcycle Jump*. "I normally like the purple motorcycles," said Annabelle. This was Talia and Annabelle's second year at the Fair.



Kaedyne Wilson accompanies 16-month-old Sanora Lovett while riding the Merry-Go-Round. "We're family friends," said Wilson.



Roma Emery reads a book while waiting to direct incoming cars to designated parking spots. "I'm a volunteer parking lady! Our church schedules to work in three hour shifts, and we then use the money to fund various programs!" said Emery.



A view overlooking the Fair from on top of the *Super Slide*.



Jimmy whispers to Charlos Chincheela while taking a break from Fair activities. "We've been friends for four years," explained Charlos. Their friend Brittney Teed ignores them.



Kayd Burley seeks cover under a sign to escape a downpour for a few minutes.



Luke Reynolds, 16, Rush, NY
Junior, Rush Henrietta Sperry High School



Jim, a pizza baker at the Fair for 30 years, enjoys a cheeseburger outside of his stand. He didn't want to give his last name.



The free face painting stand was a big attraction at the Fair.



David and Grace, 6-year-old twins from Hemlock, NY, have fun with cows in the barns. They didn't want to give their last names.



Donovan Miller (left) and Jordan Purdue, both age 10, enjoy the *Super Slide*.



Andrew Sanford, 8, sprints for cover in a barn during a sudden rain storm.



After the rains passed, it was time to enjoy the Fair and take a stroll through the midway.



Ian Stewart, 14, Penfield, NY
Freshman, Penfield High School



The midway rides provided fun and excitement for those brave enough to climb aboard.

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Harper Rowe, 3, isn't quite sure about the *Motorcycle Jump* ride. Once it began, he had a great time.



Tess Bennett, 14, loses her grip on the mechanical bull after staying on for forty-one seconds.



William Snyder



Kristy Knowles



Sarah Ann Jump







