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January was a quiet and cold month in Rhode Island. So quiet, that I was able to catch up on things. In January, I dug into learning some new software. I especially enjoyed creating GIFs, which are featured throughout this newsletter. The GIFs come in handy when promoting my new commercial work, where I am making short narrative videos.

If you know anyone who works in publications, communications, web-design, etc., who may be looking for short, dramatic, story-telling videos, send them the link to my [narrative videos](#) newsletter. My specialty is concise narrative videos using ambient sound, dramatic compositions, careful use of focus, tight editing, minimal text and lots of atmosphere. If you are interested in learning more about my approach to narrative video storytelling, consider joining me for my workshop, [Narrative Video: the Eastern Shore](#) in July.

I also started playing with a new software I was introduced to last year, called [Perfectly Clear](#). It is a Lightroom plug in that looks like it will speed up my workflow greatly. When I am satisfied that I fully understand what it does (and I can explain it) I will be blogging about that. I signed on as writer and wrote my first article for a new on-line photography magazine called [The Handmade Photograph](#). I also started writing for another blog that I find worth reading from [Hunt's Photo and Video](#). I encountered the work of a peer and a great photographer, Larry Price, on [Compressor mining in the Philippines](#). It is important work on an under-reported subject.



A [profile of me](#), my work and my gear was posted on the Olympus Visionaries page. Work that I [donated for a benefit auction](#) went on exhibition in a group show: An Expansive Vision: Penland School of Crafts at the Cassilhaus, Durham, North Carolina.

RECENT BLOG ENTRIES:

[Clearly crossing a fuzzy line](#) is my attempt to define the line between the borrowing of ideas and concepts, verses actual stealing of intellectual property.

[Road trip road tips](#) lays out a few of the lessons I have learned on the art and science of traveling.

[What I love about handmade photographs](#) explores why I am interested in handmade photographs, even if I am not making them.



JANUARY PODCAST:

In the dead of the winter in New England, repeatedly watching the play of light and shadow in the room where I live and work prompted me to make this video, [Day Dreams](#).

NEWS YOU MIGHT USE:

A great little [post about the subjectivity of our perception](#) (and how it can adversely impact our post production work.)

A remarkable [free resource for training photographers](#), aimed at professional photographers and multimedia storytellers in the Majority World, which can benefit ANY photographer who takes a look at it.

Applications are open for the [second annual New York Portfolio Review](#), sponsored by the NY Times Lens Blog and the City University of New York's Graduate School of Journalism. This year's free portfolio review event will be held the weekend of April 5 and 6 in New York, and it will be an opportunity for people in the photographic community to meet, trade ideas and help each other. Hurry, because the application deadline is Monday, Feb. 10, 2014!



BRAGGING RIGHTS:

[Cindy A. Stephens](#) is a former student, a fine art photographer, a blogger and a marketing executive. She specializes in photography of main streets and back roads using unusual framing and multiple planes of perspective. Building on her two passions, she now teaches creative professionals how to build an artistic presence in a changing art world. Her series on Boston Photography Focus, [Marketing Conversations for Photographers](#), presents constructive concepts and tips on how to improve success and visibility as a photographer. She also writes for [Mosaic](#) on building influence using mobile photography.

WORKSHOPS NEWS:

My spring and summer workshops are fast approaching.

- In April, I will be teaching two shorter workshops in New Jersey including: [Intro to Photo Editing](#) and [The key to growth as a photographer? Prints on the table!](#)
- In July, I will be teaching a workshop on [Narrative Video Storytelling](#), in St. Michaels, on the beach Eastern Shore in Maryland.
- In August I will be enjoying Italy while teaching a [photo-workshop in Portico di Romagna, Italy](#), via Al Vecchio Convento.
- I will be in Maine teaching my long-time favorite class, [The Humanistic Photo Essay](#) at the Maine Media Workshops in August.
- In September, I will be teaching a workshop, [The Tools of Travel Photography](#) in Washington state at the Pacific Northwest Art School.
- In November, I will be returning to Morocco for my [MOROCCO: A Visual](#)

[Feast](#) workshop in North Africa's amazing Medina's, the Sahara desert and much more.



PLEASE consider joining me for one!

I hope you enjoyed my latest monthly newsletter. I welcome your feedback. If you know people who would be interested in getting these, updates, please encourage them to sign up.

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David H. Wells

11 South Angell Street #171

Providence, Rhode Island 02906

Our telephone: 401 261 4528

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