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# CONVERSATIONS ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY

April 13-15, 2012, Lake Forest College

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art's *Tenth Annual Conference*

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Center for Railroad Photography & Art  
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# Campus Map



# Schedule

## Friday, April 13

Calvin Durand Hall, Mohr Student Center, no. 22 on campus map

- 5:00 P.M. Doors open, exhibition by Bill Botkin on display
- 6:30 P.M. Dinner
- 7:30 P.M. Opening remarks
- 7:45 P.M. Railway & Locomotive Historical Society awards presentation
- 8:00 P.M. Drake Hokanson, *Since the Golden Spike*
- 9:00 P.M. Conclusion

## Saturday, April 14

McCormick Auditorium, Johnson Science Center, no. 7 on campus map

- 8:00 A.M. Doors open, pastries and drinks available
- 8:30 A.M. Welcome, Art Miller, Lake Forest College
- 8:45 A.M. Henry Posner III, *Being There: With a Camera or at Least a Phone*
- 9:45 A.M. Break
- 10:15 A.M. Tom Fawell
- 11:00 A.M. Christian Goepel, *Railroads, Transit, and Cultural Environments*
- 11:45 A.M. Lunch, Mohr Student Center, no. 22 on campus map
- 1:00 P.M. Center updates: Bon French, John Gruber, Scott Lothes
- 1:45 P.M. Chris Starnes, *RailPictures.Net: A Behind-the-Scenes Look*
- 2:30 P.M. Break
- 3:00 P.M. Bill Botkin, *Seeing Black-and-White in a Color World*
- 3:45 P.M. Shirley Burman Steinheimer, *Sierra Journeys*
- 4:30 P.M. Concluding remarks and raffle drawing

Glen Rowan House, no. 23 on campus map

- 5:00 P.M. Reception, sponsored by *Trains* and *Classic Trains*
- 7:00 P.M. Conclusion (Dinner on your own; many attendees visit The Lantern, 768 North Western Avenue, across from the Metra Station in downtown Lake Forest.)

## Sunday, April 15

McCormick Auditorium, Johnson Science Center, no. 7 on campus map

- 8:30 A.M. Doors open, pastries and drinks available
- 9:00 A.M. Clark E. Johnson and Richard J. Solomon, *Archival Railroad Photography Forever*
- 10:00 A.M. Break
- 10:15 A.M. Steve Crise, *Photographic Re-Purposing for Publishing*
- 11:15 A.M. Break
- 11:30 A.M. Joel Jensen, *Outside Influences for Railroad Photography*
- 12:30 P.M. Adjournment

Cover: Tom Fawell / Illustration

# Presenters



**Bill Botkin**, Centennial, Colorado  
Seeing Black-and-White in a Color World, Saturday, 3:00 P.M.

Botkin has been making photographs for more than fifty years, pursuing both railroad and non-railroad subjects using color and black and white media. His passion has been to document the passing of steam locomotives in action around the world, and he has also captured iconic scenes of America's contemporary railroads. In the age of digital photography and inkjet printing, he continues to shoot film and make prints in his wet darkroom. His presentation will explore some of the aspects of black-and-white photography that, in his mind, make it a more powerful medium than color, and why he still prefers shooting film and printing in a darkroom.



**Shirley Burman Steinheimer**, Sacramento, California  
Sierra Journeys, Saturday, 3:45 P.M.

Burman served in the Women Marines and is the mother of five children. In 1972, she earned a bachelor's degree in art from the University of California, Davis, and began a career as a photographer and illustrator, including work at California State Parks. She collaborated on the books *Whistle Across the Land* (1994) and *She's Been Working on the Railroad* (1997), and has created two traveling exhibits about women in railroading. She will share photographs and stories from her romance with legendary railroad photographer Richard Steinheimer—a second marriage for both of them—which began on the snow-covered slopes of California's Donner Pass.



**Steve Crise**, Pomona, California  
Rephotographic Re-purposing for Publishing, Sunday, 10:15 A.M.

Crise, a professional photographer in the Los Angeles area, will present a workshop on preparing books for Arcadia Publishing's "Then & Now" series. His book with coauthor Michael A. Patris, *Pacific Electric Railway: Then & Now*, is the first title in the series to apply the concept to a railroad. Its success has created an opportunity for additional titles by both first-time authors and seasoned professionals. Crise will talk about the concept and execution of creating a "Then & Now" book and show examples from both the *Pacific Electric Railway: Then & Now* and his second title in the series, *Mount Lowe Railway: Then & Now*.



**Tom Fawell**, West Chicago, Illinois  
Tom Fawell, Saturday, 10:15 A.M.

Fawell graduated from the Pratt Institute and his long career as a commercial artist in the Chicago area included two decades of designing advertising artwork for EMD's newest locomotives in the 1960s and 70s. He grew up in the railroad community of West Chicago, Illinois, and then as a teenager during World War II, he spent two summers doing trackwork for the Chicago & North Western. The experiences left deep impressions, which he later applied to his locomotive illustrations. Fawell will share selections from his railroad work and discuss his approach to painting, and how it can apply to photography.



**Christian Goepel**, Larkspur, California  
Railroads, Transit and Cultural Environments, Saturday 11:00 A.M.

Goepel, a native of Chicago, is a journalism graduate of San Francisco State University and a longtime transportation historian, photographer, and writer. His work derives from social documentary and street photography, including an appreciation for all people while recording changes in the cultural landscape surrounding the nation's railroads, transit, highways, and ports. He joined the railroad industry in 1999 as a train dispatcher for a regional carrier. He is currently an operations manager for a shortline, and an occasional railroad consultant, technical writer, and freelance photographer.



**Drake Hokanson**, La Crosse, Wisconsin  
Since the Golden Spike, Friday, 8:00 P.M.

Hokanson is an emeritus professor at Winona (Minnesota) State University, teaching part time and doing photography, editing, and writing. He will share his project to photograph the route of the transcontinental railroad. He is the author of two books and coauthor of a third and coeditor of a fourth, both with his wife of thirty-plus years, Carol Kratz. Perhaps best-known for his photographs, exhibition, and book on the Lincoln Highway, his other projects include prairie and river towns, agricultural fairs, the Mississippi River, grain, and the vast American Great Plains. He also has taught in Japan and Great Britain, and at the University of Iowa and Lakeland College.



**Joel Jensen**, Ely, Nevada  
Outside Inspiration for Railroad Photography, Sunday, 11:30 A.M.

Jensen is a freelance photographer who covers many aspects of the American West, including its railroads and railroad workers. He studied at Iowa State University and from 1989-2006 managed a custom photography lab in Santa Barbara, California. His photographs appear frequently in *Trains* and other publications, and two recent books showcase his work: *Railroad Noir* (Indiana University Press, 2009) and *Steam: An Enduring Legacy* (W.W. Norton, 2011). Jensen draws on a wide variety of photographers and other artists to inspire his railroad photography, and he will share some examples in his presentation.



**Clark E. Johnson**, Madison, Wisconsin  
Archival Railroad Photography Forever, Sunday, 9:00 A.M.

Johnson is a physicist specializing in magnetics especially as it relates to data storage. He spent nine years in the Central Research Laboratory of 3M Company and subsequently became an entrepreneur who founded several companies, one of which, Vertimag Systems, played a significant role in the development of perpendicular magnetic recording technology, now used in virtually all disk drives. Johnson is currently a director of Iowa Pacific Holdings, LLC, and president of its High Iron Travel subsidiary. Along with Richard Solomon, he will present a longterm solution for digital image archiving.



**Henry Posner III**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Being There, With a Camera or at Least a Phone, Saturday, 8:45 A.M.

Posner is chairman of the Railroad Development Corporation, a railway investment and management company that is unique in its focus on the developing world. Because of that, Posner has been in many situations around the world where he was the only rail photographer on the spot—or even in the country. He will share the focus of his photography, which is to document railroad operations and history in the making, thereby telling stories that might otherwise go untold. He is a Princeton graduate and holds an MBA from the Wharton School. He spent ten years at Conrail prior to RDC.



**Richard J. Solomon**, Monson, Massachusetts  
Archival Railroad Photography Forever, Sunday, 9:00 A.M.

Solomon holds ten patents and several patents-pending in electronic imaging, spectroscopy and telecommunications. He was associate director of the MIT research program on Communications Policy in the 1990s, having joined MIT in 1969 as a transportation researcher. Solomon began photographing railroads in the mid-1950s, and his photographs appear in numerous railroad books by his son, Brian Solomon. Before taking up computers, he was managing editor of a professional photography magazine in the early 1960s. Along with Clark Johnson, he will present a longterm solution for digital image archiving.



**Chris Starnes**, Gate City, Virginia  
RailPictures.Net: A Behind the Scenes Look, Saturday, 1:45 P.M.

Starnes works as a transportation planning manager for the LENOWISCO Planning District, a regional planning and economic development agency in southwest Virginia. On weekends he is a locomotive engineer on the Gulf & Ohio's Knoxville & Holston River Railroad / Three Rivers Rambler in Knoxville, Tennessee. His many photography accomplishments include having the first digital cover for *Railfan & Railroad* magazine (May 2004) and winning the grand prize in the Center's 2012 Creative Photography Awards Program. As cofounder of the popular RailPictures.Net website, he will discuss the site and its impacts on railroad photography.



Photographs by conference presenters (clockwise from above) include: Southern Pacific worker Salvador Arubcalvo eating lunch at Norden, California, Shirley Burman Steinhilber; Central Pacific Big Fill near Promontory, Utah, Drake Hokanson; Pacific Electric Railway grade near Playa Del Rey, California, Steve Crise; QJ steam locomotives on the Jitong Railway in Inner Mongolia, China, Henry Posner III; MUNI tracks and pedestrian in San Francisco, Christian Goepel.



# Raffle, Print Program

Photographer David Plowden has graciously donated a print that will be available through a raffle, “Canadian Pacific Railway Locomotive no. 2412, Montreal, Quebec, 1960” (top right). You may still purchase tickets at the door on Saturday morning, \$10 single, \$25 for three, \$40 for five. All proceeds will help fund the Center’s operations. Plowden himself will draw the winning ticket and present the print on Saturday afternoon.

Additionally, the Center is offering two limited edition prints at \$250 each: Bill Botkin’s “Rio Grande Zephyr” (bottom right) and Joel Jensen’s “Wyoming Doubleheader” (middle right). Botkin’s is a silver gelatin fiber print on 11x14 paper. Jensen’s is a 10x15 archival pigment print on 13x19 paper. Both are available in editions of ten, signed on the back in pencil by the artist.

Began in 2009, the program offers opportunities to collect important, interesting railroad photographs at an affordable price, and also provide financial support for the Center’s ongoing programs. Like other photography-based nonprofits that sell prints from well-known photographers, the Center prices its photographs well below gallery rates in San Francisco, New York, or Chicago. The selection and prices give an incentive to collectors to purchase artwork they like while helping an organization they believe in.

To put the Center’s offer in context, consider that most fine-art photography prints from major artists now range from \$2,000 to \$3,000 (Richard Steinheimer prints, for example), to \$3,000 to \$7,500 (David Plowden), and up to half-a-million dollars for blue-chip artists like Andreas Gursky. Photographs by Mel Patrick, Howard Pincus, Wayne Depperman, John Gruber, and Richard Steinheimer (again) that appeared in the *Starlight on the Rails* show at the Robert Mann Gallery in 2000 brought between \$750 and \$1,500 each. Plowden prints once sold for \$125; the asking price today regularly exceeds \$3,000.

Collecting photography is fun and rewarding. Foremost, it brings aesthetic pleasure; secondarily, it can prove a better investment than many stocks. You can see the prints themselves on display at this year’s conference, and they will be available over the next twelve months or until the editions run out. We will continue to unveil new selections in the same price range each year, featuring them also on the website. Future participating photographers might include Mel Patrick, John Gruber, or Greg McDonnell. If you have suggestions or recommendations, please let us know.

## Book Sales and Signings

Plowden will be available during Saturday’s reception for book signings, where you can purchase three of his recent titles: *Requiem for Steam*, *The End of an Era*, and *Vanishing Point*. Additional book offerings include Joel Jensen’s *Steam: An Enduring Legacy*, and both of Steve Crise’s recent “Then & Now” titles on the Pacific Electric and Mount Lowe railways. Crise and Jensen will also be available during the reception for book signings.

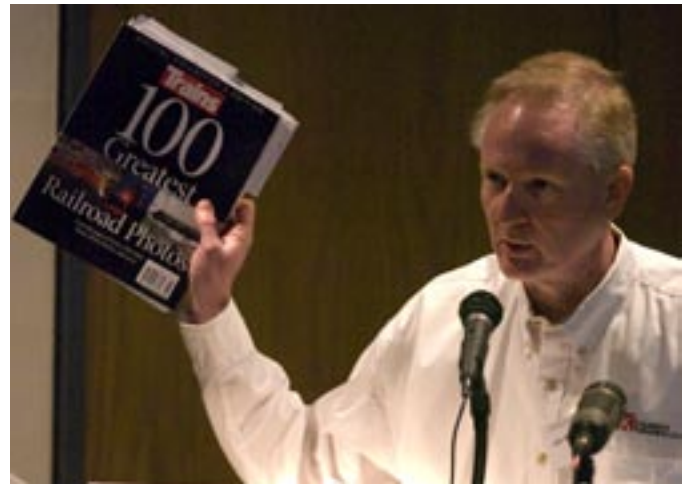
**Photographs available to conference attendees include: Canadian Pacific Railway Locomotive no. 2412, Montreal, Quebec, 1960, by David Plowden (top); Wyoming Doubleheader, by Joel Jensen (middle); and Rio Grande Zephyr, by Bill Botkin (bottom).**



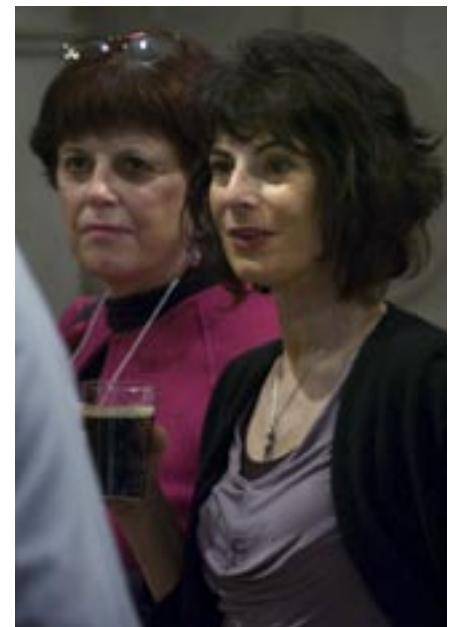
# All-Time List of Conference Presenters

1. February 22, 2003, Lake Forest College
  - John Gruber
  - Don Horn, Pullman Photographers
  - David Plowden
  - Brian Solomon
  - Matt Van Hattem, *Trains*
2. March 20, 2004, Lake Forest College
  - Mark Hemphill, *Trains*
  - Joel Jensen
  - Anne M. Lyden, J. Paul Getty Museum
  - Bill Middleton
  - Mel Patrick
  - David Plowden and John Gruber, Nearly-Forgotten Railroad Photographers
3. March 19-20, 2005, Lake Forest College
  - Shirley Burman
  - Steve Crise
  - Tom Garver, O. Winston Link
  - Robert Harr
  - Sayre Kos, Young Photographers
  - Michael Ross Valentine
  - Jim Wrinn, *Trains*
4. March 25, 2006, Marquette University
  - Jeff Brouws
  - Kevin P. Keefe, *Trains*
  - Sayre Kos, Young Photographers
  - Greg McDonnell
  - Gil Reid
  - Michael Ross Valentine
  - Bill Withuhn
5. March 24, 2007, Lake Forest College
  - Steve Barry
  - Simpson Kalisher
  - Sayre Kos, Young Photographers
  - Miško Kranjec
  - John Roskoski
  - Jim Shaughnessy
  - Walter E. Zullig, Jr., Photographers' Rights
6. April 12, 2008, Lake Forest College
  - Jeff Brouws, Organizing Your Archive
  - Victor Hand and Don Phillips
  - Don Horn, Pullman Photographers
  - Scott Lothes
  - David Plowden
  - Tony Reeve, Walker Evans
7. April 17-19, 2009, Lake Forest College
  - Mark Hemphill
  - Kevin Keefe and John Corns
  - Stuart Klipper
  - Scott Lothes, Magazine Publishing Panel
  - Kelly Lynch, Railroads and Movies
  - Kevin Scanlon
  - Don Sims
8. April 23-25, 2010, Lake Forest College
  - Frank Barry
  - Ted Benson and Tom Taylor
  - Jeff Brouws, Railroad Landscape as Archeology
  - Jim Brown
  - Ian Kennedy, Nelson-Atkins Museum
  - Linda Niemann and Joel Jensen
  - David Plowden
  - Alex Ramos
9. April 15-17, 2011, Lake Forest College
  - Lewis Ableidinger
  - Lina Bertucci
  - John Gruber
  - Olaf Haensch
  - Clark Johnson and Richard Solomon, Archiving
  - Stan Kistler
  - Joe McMillan
  - Gordon Osmundson, Photoshop
  - Karl Zimmermann
10. April 13-15, 2012, Lake Forest College
  - Bill Botkin
  - Shirley Burman Steinheimer
  - Steve Crise
  - Tom Fawell
  - Christian Goepel
  - Drake Hokanson
  - Joel Jensen
  - Clark Johnson and Richard Solomon, Digital Storage
  - Henry Posner III
  - Chris Starnes, RailPictures.Net





Past conference photographs by Hank Koshollek except where noted. Clockwise from above: John B. Corns and Kevin P. Keefe; Jim Wrinn; attendees with David Plowden, by Steve Crise; Lina Bertucci and Cindy Angelos; Stan Kistler; John Gruber and Bon French; opposite page left, Louis Capwell, Nick Benson, J. Alex Lang, and Travis Dewitz at lunch; opposite page right, Tom Taylor and Ted Benson, by Steve Crise.



# About the Center for Railroad Photography & Art

Founded in 1997, the Center for Railroad Photography & Art is a national nonprofit arts and educational organization based in Madison, Wisconsin. Its mission statement declares that the Center “preserves and presents significant images of railroading, interpreting them in print, exhibitions, and on the Internet.”

The Center conducts its preservation activities in concert with the Special Collections division of the Donnelley and Lee Library at Lake Forest College. The Library considers the Center “a partner in promoting its railroad photographic holdings,” which the Center amplifies with materials it has acquired from nationally known railroad photographers together with non-photographic works of railroad art. The letter of agreement notes “through the Center’s efforts the College library’s collections have gained recognition as a nationally significant repository of railroad photography.” The Special Collections division processes and conserves collections, often with financial support generated by the Center.

The Center conducts its programs in-house and, with the aid of numerous partners, throughout the country. Foremost is the fall 2013 exhibition at Chicago History Museum, “Faces of Chicago’s Railroad Community: Photographs by Jack Delano.” Research brings the images to life, particularly interviewing descendants and family members of the portrait subjects. The Center also mounts two or three traveling exhibitions annually related to railroad workers and to specific photographers such as David Plowden. Venues include California State Railroad Museum, Grand Central Terminal, the Grohmann Museum in Milwaukee, and the O. Winston Link Museum in Roanoke.

Publication of its journal, *Railroad Heritage*®, occurs three times annually. Each issue features historic and/or contemporary photographers and news of developments in the field. Special issues have honored workers and women in railroading and individual photographers, and have concisely explained North American railroad history and preservation.

Two Internet sites, [railphoto-art.org](http://railphoto-art.org) and [railroad-heritage.org](http://railroad-heritage.org)®, expound on the Center’s activities and provide a unique online image archive. The Center created the latter with aid from the North American Railway Foundation and has posted some 1,800 important railroad images, each described in detail. Additional online resources include an Amazon storefront, YouTube channel, Facebook page, and monthly e-columns for *Trains* magazine, drawing upon current events and trends in railroad photography and the Center’s research and acquisitions.

## Directors, Officers, Staff

John Gruber (President), Madison, Wisconsin, is founder of the Center and editor of its journal, *Railroad Heritage*. He has been a free-lance photographer and writer since 1960, and he received awards from the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society in 1994 for photography and in 2011 for an article. He is the author or co-author of six railroad books.

Scott Lothes (Executive Director), Madison, Wisconsin, became the Center’s full-time executive director

in August 2011, after serving on its staff part time since 2008. Lothes is a regular contributor to *Trains* and other publications, with 35 bylined articles and more than 300 photographs.

Jack Holzhueter (Staff), Mazomanie, Wisconsin, has served as a consultant to the Center since 2006. He spent 37 years on the editorial and research staff of the Wisconsin Historical Society and currently serves on its board of curators.

Jeff Brouws, Stanfordville, New York, brings the Center knowledge of 20th century photography and a broad background in publishing, with seven photography books to his credit. His photographs can be found in numerous collections.

T. Bondurant French, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, is the CEO of Adams Street Partners, one of the largest and oldest managers of private equity investment in the world. A lifelong rail enthusiast, Bon has photographed over 600 different railroads.

Nona Hill, Madison, Wisconsin, and Clark Johnson, her husband, operate High Iron Travel, operator of the Caritas, the most widely traveled private car in America. She helps lead multiple passenger rail advocacy groups in Wisconsin.

David Kahler (Vice-President), Pittsboro, North Carolina, has practiced architecture for more than 30 years and has been recognized by his peers as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

Kevin P. Keefe, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is vice-president-editorial and publisher for *Trains* magazine’s parent, Kalmbach Publishing. He served as editor of *Trains* from 1992 to 2000.

Albert O. Louer, Williamsburg, Virginia, is Senior Director for Major Gifts at Colonial Williamsburg. He is a graduate of Lake Forest Academy and the College of William and Mary.

Arthur H. Miller (Secretary), Lake Forest, Illinois, has been archivist and librarian for special collections at the Donnelley and Lee Library, Lake Forest College, in Illinois, since 1994. Before coming to Lake Forest in 1972, he worked at the Newberry Library in Chicago.

Michael P. Schmidt, Owosso, Michigan, is an orthopedic surgeon and a collector of railroad photographs and paintings. He is Chief of Staff at his hospital and serves on the hospital board and the advisory board of his medical school.

Joel Skornicka (Treasurer), Madison, Wisconsin, is former Vice President of the University of Wisconsin Foundation, Mayor of Madison, and Assistant Chancellor at UW-Madison.

Michael Ross Valentine, Ferndale, Michigan, is Manager, Training Product Group, Leoni Engineering Products & Services, Inc. He has had over 200 photographs published in *Trains* and other periodicals and books in the U.S. and Europe.

## With Gratitude

Conference sponsors appear on the next page and rear cover, and Canon freely lent a high-definition projector and video camera. Additionally, several members contributed their time, money, or both to help make the conference possible.

## Conference Volunteers

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