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# CONVERSATIONS NORTHEAST

A conference about railroad photography and art in the northeastern United States

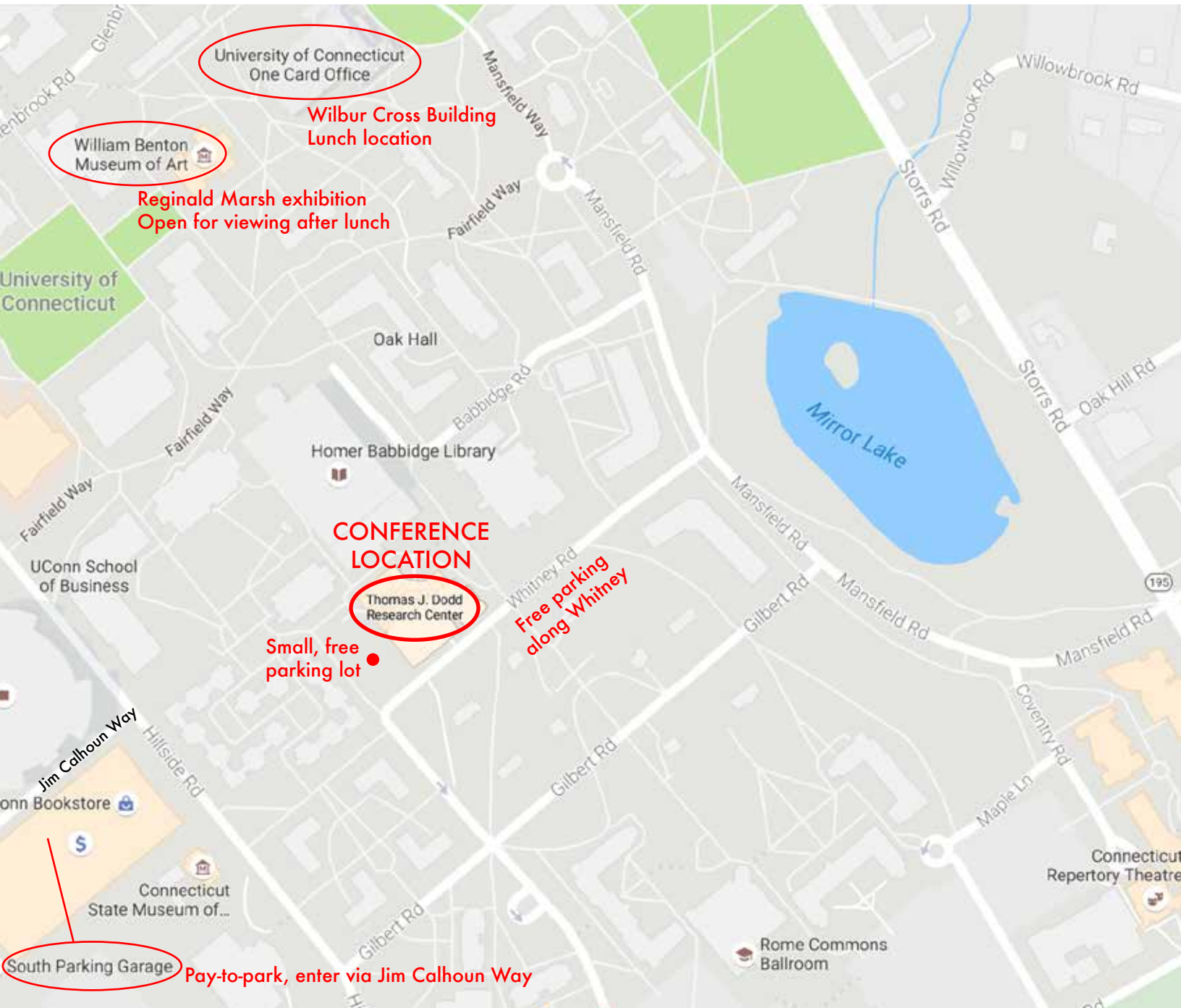
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October 29, 2016, Storrs, Connecticut  
Co-hosted by Archives & Special Collections  
of the University of Connecticut Library and the

**CRP&A** | CENTER FOR RAILROAD  
PHOTOGRAPHY & ART  
313 Price Place, Suite 13, Madison, Wisconsin, 53705-3262  
608-251-5785 | [info@railphoto-art.org](mailto:info@railphoto-art.org) | [www.railphoto-art.org](http://www.railphoto-art.org)

# Campus Map



# Schedule

- 8:00 A.M. Doors open, pastries and drinks available
- 9:00 A.M. Welcome, Laura Smith, Archives & Special Collections, University of Connecticut Libraries, and Scott Lothes, Center for Railroad Photography & Art
- 9:30 A.M. Victor Hand, *How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Diesel*
- 10:15 A.M. Break  
Archives & Special Collections reading room open for visitors (food not allowed)
- 10:45 A.M. Shaun O'Boyle, *Railside Landscapes*
- 11:30 A.M. J.W. Swanberg, *Northeast and Beyond*
- 12:15 P.M. Lunch, *North Reading Room, Wilbur Cross Building*  
During lunch, the William Benton Museum of Art will be open for visitors, featuring:  
*Steaming Ahead: Reginald Marsh Watercolors of Locomotives*
- 1:30 P.M. Bob Belletzkic, *In Search of Benton and Drake: An Amazing Odyssey in Railroad Station Photography*
- 2:15 P.M. Mark Aldrich, *Railroad Political Cartoons*
- 3:00 P.M. Break  
Gallery talk by Bob Belletzkic in the lounge  
Archives & Special Collections reading room open for visitors (food not allowed)
- 3:30 P.M. Matt Kierstead, *Stations by Michael Flanagan*
- 4:15 P.M. Jim Shaughnessy, *The Call of Trains*
- 5:00 P.M. Concluding remarks
- 5:15 P.M. Reception
- 5:45 P.M. Gallery talk by Laura Smith in Dodd Research Center Gallery (food allowed)
- 7:15 P.M. Conclusion (Dinner on your own)

## Conference Patrons

Robert Arnold, Bon French, Peter J.C. Mosse, Tom Nanos

## Conference Planning Committee

Jeff Brouws, Kristin Eshelman, Scott Lothes, Laura Smith

## Front Cover

Erie Lackawanna E units lead a passenger train through fall foliage at Pond Eddy, Pennsylvania, on October 11, 1964. Photograph by Victor Hand

## Rear Cover

Rail bridge in fog, Holyoke, Massachusetts. Photograph by Shaun O'Boyle

# Presenters



**Mark ALDRICH, Northampton, Massachusetts**

*Railroad Political Cartoons*, 2:15 P.M.

Aldrich is Emeritus Professor of Economics at Smith College, and he has served as a senior economist at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. He maintains a website devoted to railroad political cartoons and is the author of *Death Rode the Rails: American Railroad Accidents and Safety, 1828–1965*. His *Back on Track: American Railroad Safety, 1965–2015* is forthcoming.



**Bob BELLETZKIE, Prospect, Connecticut**

*In Search of Benton and Drake: An Amazing Odyssey in Railroad Station Photography*, 1:30 P.M.

Belletzkie is a retired academic reference librarian with a strong interest in railroads and their history and preservation. In 2008, he launched his [www.TylerCityStation.info](http://www.TylerCityStation.info) website as an authoritative online resource about Connecticut railroads and station history. He has worked on several significant collections about railroad and transportation history, and he co-curated the exhibition here about Benton and Drake.



**Victor HAND, Bar Harbor, Maine**

*How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Diesel*, 9:30 A.M.

Hand was born in New York City in 1942 and spent most of his career as a consultant in the transportation industry. He worked on such railroad watersheds as the dismantling of the Milwaukee Road and both the creation and the breakup of Conrail. A globe-trotting railroad photography, he has been widely published in *Trains* and other magazines, and his books include *The Love of Trains* (1974) and *Steam Odyssey* (2013).



**Matt KIERSTEAD, Beacon, New York**

*Stations by Michael Flanagan*, 3:30 P.M.

Kierstead is an industrial historian and photographer who grew up in eastern Massachusetts near the Boston & Albany Railroad main line. He has a B.A. in art history and an M.A. in public history with a focus in industrial archeology. He has extensive professional experience in researching and documenting historic engineering and transportation infrastructure, and enjoys working with a 4x5 camera.



**Shaun O'BOYLE, Dalton, Massachusetts**

*Railside Landscapes*, 10:45 A.M.

O'Boyle works as an architectural designer and photographer at Hill Engineers Architects, Planners in Dalton, Massachusetts. He received his B.F.A. in Architecture & Industrial Design from Parsons School of Design in 1987. His book *Modern Ruins: Portraits of Place in the MidAtlantic Region* was published by Penn State University Press in 2010. See more of his photographs at: [new.oboylephoto.com](http://new.oboylephoto.com)



**Jim SHAUGHNESSY, Troy, New York**

*The Call of Trains*, 4:15 P.M.

Shaughnessy began photographing steam locomotives in his hometown of Troy, New York, in 1946. He pursued steam across North America, documented the transition to diesel power, and to this day continues to faithfully and poignantly record the changing fortunes of railroading in the Northeast. His seventy-year career has made a major contribution to the aesthetic development of railroad photography.



**J.W. "Jack" SWANBERG, Guilford, Connecticut**

*Northeast and Beyond*, Sunday, 11:30 A.M.

Swanberg was born in 1939, grew up in Connecticut, and graduated from Trinity College in 1961. He served four years' active duty in the U.S. Navy and twenty-five years in the Naval Reserve, retiring in 1991 with the rank of Captain. In 1966 he joined the New York Central Railroad and moved through supervisory positions with Penn Central, Conrail, and Metro-North, where he retired as lead trainmaster in 2000.

# Images from Conference Presentations



Guilford Transportation's daily southbound freight train crosses Willey Brook Bridge in New Hampshire's White Mountains on March 30, 1983. This line was the Maine Central's Mountain Division over Crawford Notch, which Guilford purchased in 1981. Photograph by Victor Hand

# STATIONS

AN IMAGINED JOURNEY



MICHAEL FLANAGAN

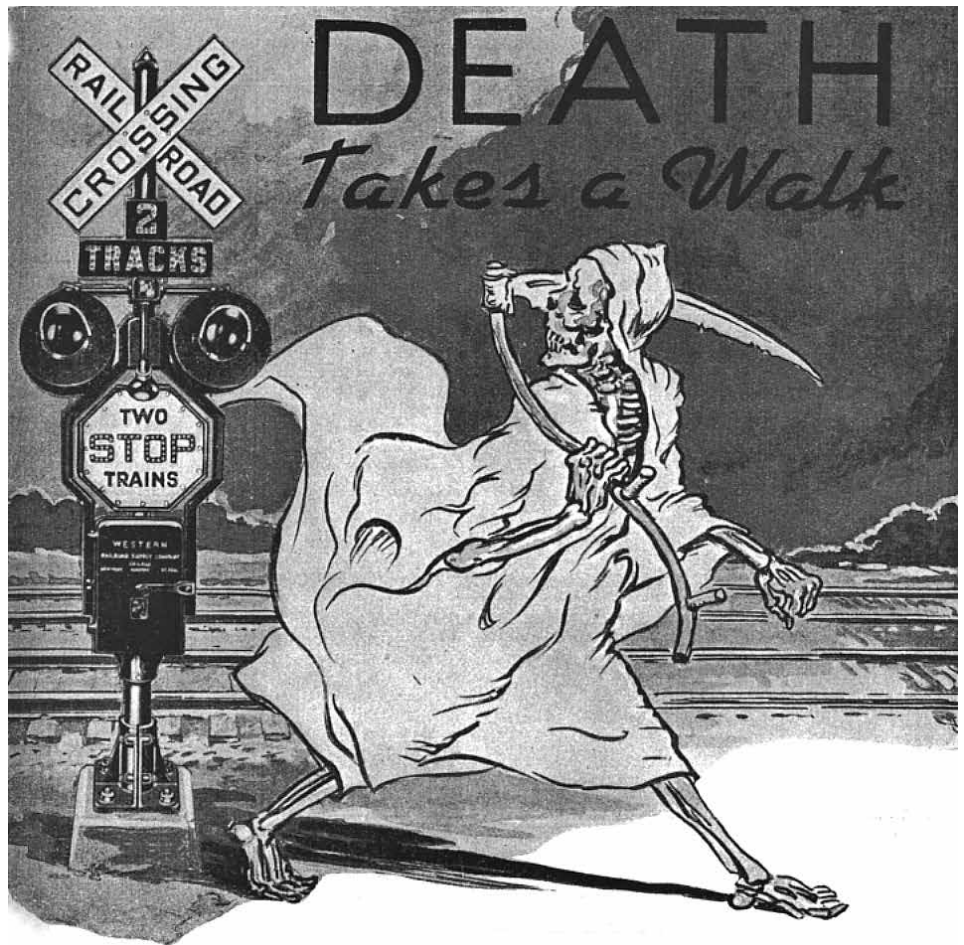
The cover of Michael Flanagan's *Stations* features his painting *Chalybeate Springs*, based on a Charles Rotkin photograph from the Central Railroad of New Jersey in High Bridge, New Jersey, that appeared in a 1972 *Fortune* magazine essay on eastern U.S. railroads. In his presentation, Matt Kierstead examines Flanagan's multi-layered exploration of the railroad landscape.

A trio of New Haven GE U25B locomotives moves slowly across the majestic Poughkeepsie (New York) Bridge, 212 feet above the Hudson River, with a westbound freight train bound for Maybrook, New York, on July 13, 1967. The bridge closed after a fire in 1974, reopening in 2009 to pedestrians as the Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park. Photograph by J.W. Swanberg, Archives & Special Collections, University of Connecticut Library



East Portal of the Hoosac Tunnel, Florida, Massachusetts.  
Photograph by Shaun O'Boyle





Right: Political cartoon from the July 1936 issue of *Railway Signaling* magazine, collection of Mark Aldrich.

Below: Huntington Avenue Depot on the Boston & Albany Railroad in Boston, Massachusetts, circa 1920. Photograph by Lewis H. Benton, Archives & Special Collections, University of Connecticut Library

Opposite: Canadian Pacific freight train with double-headed 2-8-2 steam locomotives meets a horsedrawn wagon in Cookshire, Quebec, on February 11, 1956. Just a dozen or so miles from the U.S. border, Cookshire is on Canadian Pacific's main line to the Maritimes that ran all the way across Maine.





# List of Attendees

Create list

*Note: The list of attendees is partial as it is an opt-in list. To be included next time, be sure to check the appropriate box on your registration form or send an email to [info@railphoto-art.org](mailto:info@railphoto-art.org) indicating your wish to be included.*

# All-Time Conference Presenters

*Next conference:  
April 28–30, 2017  
Lake Forest College*

February 22, 2003  
Lake Forest College

- John Gruber
- Don Horn
- David Plowden
- Brian Solomon
- Matt Van Hattem

March 20, 2004  
Lake Forest College

- Mark Hemphill
- Joel Jensen
- Anne M. Lyden
- Bill Middleton
- Mel Patrick
- David Plowden and John Gruber

March 19–20, 2005  
Lake Forest College

- Shirley Burman
- Steve Crise
- Tom Garver
- Robert Harr
- Sayre Kos
- Michael Ross Valentine
- Jim Wrinn

March 25, 2006  
Marquette University

- Jeff Brouws
- Chris Burger
- Kevin P. Keefe
- Sayre Kos
- Greg McDonnell
- Gil Reid
- Michael Ross Valentine

March 24, 2007  
Lake Forest College

- Steve Barry
- Simpson Kalisher
- Sayre Kos
- Miško Kranjec
- John Roskoski
- Jim Shaughnessy
- Walter E. Zullig Jr.

April 12, 2008  
Lake Forest College

- Jeff Brouws
- Victor Hand and Don Phillips
- Don Horn
- Scott Lothes
- David Plowden
- Tony Reevy

April 17–19, 2009  
Lake Forest College

- Mark Hemphill
- Kevin P. Keefe and John B. Corns
- Stuart Klipper
- Scott Lothes, panel with Steve Barry, Mike Schafer, and Matt Van Hattem
- Kelly Lynch
- Kevin Scanlon
- Don Sims

April 23–25, 2010  
Lake Forest College

- Frank Barry
- Ted Benson and Tom Taylor
- Jeff Brouws
- Jim Brown
- Ian Kennedy
- Linda Niemann and Joel Jensen
- David Plowden
- Alex Ramos

April 15–17, 2011  
Lake Forest College

- Lewis Ableidinger
- Lina Bertucci
- John Gruber
- Olaf Haensch
- Clark Johnson and Richard Solomon
- Stan Kistler
- Joe McMillan
- Gordon Osmundson
- Karl Zimmermann

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
- Henry Posner III
- Chris Starnes

April 12–14, 2013  
Lake Forest College

- Wes Carr
- Pablo Delano
- Michael Froio
- Matthew Kierstead
- Cate Kratville
- Mitch Markovitz
- Tony Reevy
- Casey Thomason
- Steve VanDenburgh
- Jim Wrinn, panel discussion with Steve Barry, Alexander Craghead, Marc Entze, Don Phillips, and Matt Van Hattem

May 16–18, 2014  
Lake Forest College and the Chicago History Museum

- Jeff Brouws
- Mike Danneman and Ron Flanary
- Travis Dewitz
- John Gruber
- Victor Hand
- Kevin Keefe
- Blair Kooistra
- Kathi Kube
- Glenn Willumson

April 10–12, 2015  
Lake Forest College

- Diane Bacha, with Ron Flanary, Don Hofshommer, Joel Jensen, Don Phillips, and Jim Wrinn
- Ed Bartholomew
- Ted Benson, Dick Dorn, Dale Sanders, and Dave Stanley
- Justin Franz
- David Kahler
- J. Parker Lamb
- Jeff Mast and Mike Valentine
- Peter Mosse
- Bill Stewart
- James Swensen
- Axel Zwingenberger

April 8–10, 2016  
Lake Forest College

- Steve Barry
- Wendy Burton and Kevin P. Keefe
- Charlie Castner and Ron Flanary
- John Gruber and John Ryan
- Todd Halamka
- Ronald C. Hill
- Emily Moser
- Steve Patterson
- Tony Reevy
- John Sanderson
- Alan Shaw
- J. Craig Thorpe

October 29, 2016  
University of Connecticut

- Mark Aldrich
- Bob Belletzkic
- Victor Hand
- Matt Kierstead
- Shaun O'Boyle
- Jim Shaughnessy
- J.W. Swanberg

# Directors, Officers, Staff



**Scott Lothes** (President and Executive Director), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center's staff in 2008. He is a regular contributor to *Trains* and other railroad publications, with more than fifty bylined articles and more than 400 photographs in print.



**Nona Hill** (Treasurer), 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.



**Jordan Radke** (Archives Manager), Madison, Wisconsin, received a master's degree from UW-Madison's School of Library Information Studies in 2014. He has worked in the archives of Wisconsin Public Radio and UW's engineering department.



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



**Jeff Brouws**, Stanfordville, New York, brings the Center knowledge of 19th and 20th century photography and a broad background in publishing, with seven photography books to his credit. His photographs can be found in numerous public and private collections.



**Kevin P. Keefe**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, recently retired as vice-president-editorial for Kalmbach Publishing Co. He served as editor of *Trains* from 1992 to 2000. As a student at Michigan State, he worked on Pere Marquette steam locomotive no. 1225.



**Norman Carlson**, Lake Forest, Illinois, spent thirty-four years with Arthur Anderson where he led the transportation industry practice for eleven years. He is president of the Shore Line Interurban Historical Society and managing editor of its publication *First & Fastest*.



**Albert O. Louer**, Williamsburg, Virginia, is Director of Principal Gifts at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He has worked in museums for fifty years and has a research and collecting interest in Midwestern railroads and The Pullman Company.



**T. Bondurant French** (Chair), 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 more than 650 different railroads.



**Michael P. Schmidt** (Secretary), Owosso, Michigan, is an orthopedic surgeon and a collector of railroad photographs and paintings. He is Vice Chief of Staff, Chief of Surgery, and serves on the board of trustees of his hospital.



**H. Roger Grant**, Clemson, South Carolina, is a professor of history at Clemson and an active writer of railroad history. His dozens of books include company histories of several railroads. He is a native of Albia, Iowa, and previously taught at the University of Akron.



**Richard Tower**, San Francisco, California, has spent much of his career in the railroad industry with Southern Pacific and Amtrak, and as a consultant. With his wife Caroline, he manages the Candelaria Fund, which supports many community organizations.



**John Gruber** (Past President), Madison, Wisconsin, is the author or coauthor of seven railroad books. He received awards from the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society for photography and an article about Lucius Beebe and Charles Clegg's photography.



**Michael R. 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.

# About the Center for Railroad Photography & Art

Founded in 1997, the Center for Railroad Photography & Art is a national non-profit arts and education organization based in Madison, Wisconsin. As its mission the Center “preserves and presents significant images of railroading, interpreting them in publications, exhibitions, and on the Internet.”

The Center conducts its programs in-house and throughout the country, with the aid of numerous partners. Foremost is the recent collaboration with the Chicago History Museum on the major exhibition, *Railroaders: Jack Delano's Homefront Photography*, which was at the museum from April 4, 2014, through January 3, 2016. The Center prepared and published an accompanying 200-page catalog. They tell the stories of forty-nine Chicagoland railroad workers during World War II and serve as a prime example of the kind of work that can be created from a significant, well-preserved collection of rail photography. As museum president Gary Johnson said, “Museums with photographic archives, take heed!”

The Center also prepares traveling exhibitions about railroad workers and individual photographers such as David Plowden and O. Winston Link. Venues have included Grand Central Terminal, the California State Railroad Museum, and Milwaukee's Grohmann Museum. Support from the North American Railway Foundation (NARF) led to the long-running “Representations of Railroad Work” program. All told, the Center has brought some twenty unique exhibitions of significant railroad photography and art to more than sixty venues throughout the country.

Efforts to preserve railroad photography and artwork have led to the Center's amassing some 200,000 images, including the ten collections featured in our 2015 publication, *Significant Images of Railroading*. The Center conducts many

of its preservation activities in concert with the Archives & Special Collections of the Donnelley and Lee Library at Lake Forest College.

Publication of the Center's journal, *Railroad Heritage*, occurs quarterly. Each issue features work by historic and contemporary photographers and artists plus news of the field. Special issues have honored workers, women in railroading, and individual photographers, and have concisely explained railroad history and preservation.

Each spring going back to 2003, the Center hosts this conference, and all but one have been held on the campus of Lake Forest College. The conference provides a forum for veteran and young photographers alike—as well as artists, historians, editors, and railroaders—to mingle both socially and formally, present and discuss their work, and address photographic and artistic issues. Thanks to the generosity of several conference patrons, the Center recently began offering scholarships to enable young or developing photographers and artists to attend the conference.

The annual John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program recognizes recent work by railroad photographers in the United States and abroad. Named for the Center's principal founder, the awards program includes an exhibition at the California State Railroad Museum and publication in *Railfan & Railroad* magazine.

Our website, [www.railphoto-art.org](http://www.railphoto-art.org), expounds on the Center's activities and features images from our collections. The Center maintains many additional online resources at Facebook, Flickr, Twitter, LinkedIn, Amazon, Youtube, RailPictures.net, and at Trainsmag.com. Follow them to stay abreast of current events and trends in railroad photography and art as well as the Center's research and acquisitions.



The Center's biggest project is *Railroaders: Jack Delano's Homefront Photography*, a collaborative exhibition with the Chicago History Museum that opened in April 2014 and closed in January 2016. Its twenty-one-month was the longest-ever for a temporary exhibition at the museum. Among its record-setting 500,000 visitors were Gary Sinise, the famous actor, whose grandfather was an Indiana Harbor Belt conductor and featured extensively.

## *Support the Center's Endowment Fund*

**by making a gift through your estate**

To help secure a bright future, and to ensure longterm care for our growing collections and exhibitions, the Center has created an endowment fund. A gift to the fund, established through your estate, can make a lasting impact on the work of the Center for Railroad Photography & Art while costing you nothing during your lifetime. Leaving a legacy in our railroad heritage community is easy. Just ask your attorney or financial advisor to include the boxed language in your will, trust, insurance policy, or other beneficiary designation forms.

Your legacy gift can be directed to support any of our specific programs where you have a particular interest or to provide general support for all

of the activities of the Center. In your estate plan, it is important to use the endowment's full and exact name: "Center for Railroad Photography & Art Endowment" (EIN 47-7373395). As a 509(a)(3) nonprofit organization, gifts are tax exempt to the fullest extent permissible by law.

To ensure that your legacy will be established according to your wishes, please get in touch with Scott Lothes, president and executive director, at 608-251-5785 or [scott@railphoto-art.org](mailto:scott@railphoto-art.org). Your commitment will remain fully confidential.

In addition to estate gifts, we welcome current gifts of cash or securities to the endowment, which will be fully matched by an anonymous donor.

I give \_\_\_\_\_% and/or \$\_\_\_\_\_ of my estate to the Center for Railroad Photography & Art Endowment (EIN 47-7373395), 313 Price Place, Suite 13, Madison, Wisconsin, 53705-3262, to provide funding for \_\_\_\_\_ at the Center or the program(s) most in need as determined by the administration of the Center and its board of directors, and by the trustees of the Center's endowment fund.



**CRP & A** | CENTER FOR RAILROAD  
PHOTOGRAPHY & ART