

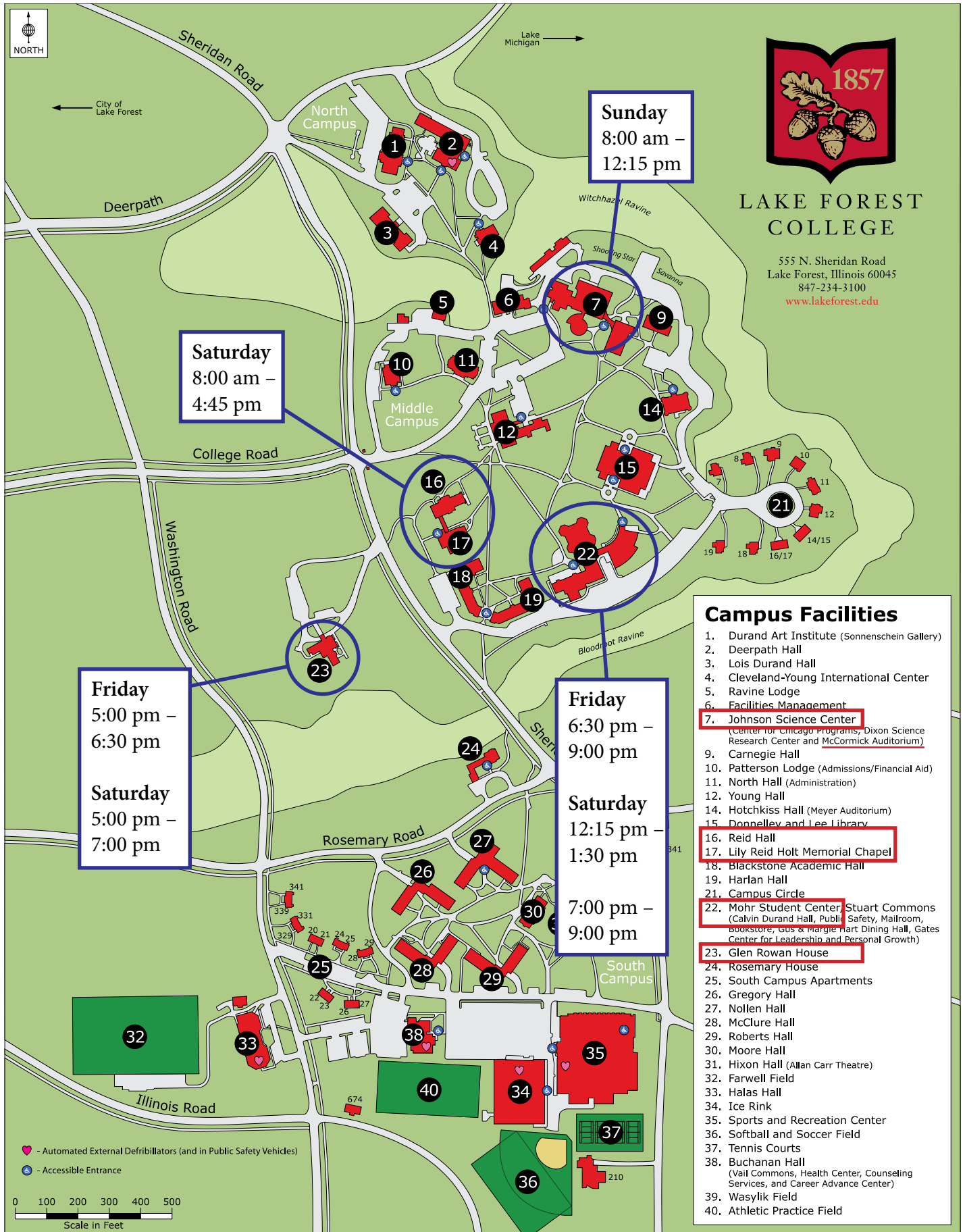
CONVERSATIONS 2019

September 13-15, 2019, on the campus of co-host Lake Forest College
The Center for Railroad Photography & Art's seventeenth annual conference



CRP&A | CENTER FOR RAILROAD
PHOTOGRAPHY & ART
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Campus Map



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Conference Patrons

Bob Alkire, John Atherton, William and Kate Botkin, Edward Burkhardt, Norman Carlson, Paul Enenbach, Mark Entrop, Bon French, Todd Halamka, Marc Hilton, Albert Louer, Jeff Mast, David Mattoon, John Mellowes, Gregory Molloy, Peter Mosse, Don Phillips, Mike Raia, Kenneth Rehor, William Schafer, Michael and Nikki Schmidt, Thomas Szczesniak, Richard Tower, J. William Wissel, anonymous

Conference Volunteers

Jennifer Anderson, Jeff Brouws, Norman Carlson, Brandon Fiume, Bon French, Todd Halamka, Nona Hill, Sharon Hill, Eric Hudson, David Kahler, Kevin P. Keefe, Hank Koshollek, Al Louer, Jeff Mast, Brian Matsumoto, Peter Mosse, Aiden Nies, Michael Schmidt, Richard Tower, Leo Weibel, Eric Williams

Front Cover:
John Free
Railroad Tramp, c.1970

Back Cover:
Oren B. Helbok
R&N 425 Peacock's Lock Bridge,
Reading, Pennsylvania 2017

Print Raffles

As in recent years at the conference, the Center has framed and matted two donated prints that you can win in raffle drawings.

The drawing for a signed print by Jim Shaughnessy will be held on Friday following dinner; and the drawing for a print by David Plowden will take place following presentations on Saturday.

Raffle Tickets

Ticket prices for each raffle are \$10 each, \$25 for three, or \$40 for five. You may purchase tickets on Friday evening for both raffles, and on Saturday morning for the Plowden raffle.

About the Raffle

Jim Shaughnessy's signed photograph, donated by Jeff Brouws, shows Canadian Pacific 4-6-2 no. 1257 and local passenger train no. 40 at Sherbrooke, Québec, in 1957. The image was included in the book *The Call of Trains: Railroad Photographs by Jim Shaughnessy*, edited by Jeff Brouws. The 11×13 silver gelatin print is matted and framed in black metal.

David Plowden's archival pigment print shows a worker climbing into the cab of Canadian Pacific locomotive no. 2412 at the Glen Engine Terminal in Montreal, Quebec, in March 1960. The image was included in Plowden's book *Requiem for Steam* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2010). The print is matted and framed in black metal.



Schedule

Friday

Glen Rowan House, no. 23 on campus map

5:00 P.M. Doors open, reception, exhibition featuring the work of Eric Williams on display
Book and print sales in the library

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

6:30 P.M. Dinner, presentation of photographs by conference attendees on repeat

7:30 P.M. Opening remarks and raffle drawing for Jim Shaughnessy print

8:00 P.M. *Lincoln and the Railroad*, play by the National Railroad Hall of Fame

8:30 P.M. Conclusion

Saturday

Reid Hall and Lily Reid Holt Memorial Chapel, nos. 16 and 17 on campus map

8:00 A.M. Doors open, pastries and drinks available, *Wood Lounge*

Presentation of photographs by conference attendees on repeat, *chapel*

8:30 A.M. Welcome, Scott Lothes, Center for Railroad Photography & Art

8:45 A.M. Jennifer Bodine, *A. Aubrey Bodine: He Did the Common Thing Uncommonly*

9:30 A.M. Gil Bennett, *A Brush With History*

10:15 A.M. Break, *Wood Lounge*

10:45 A.M. Oren and John Helbok, *Two Viewfinders... One Point of View*

11:30 A.M. Barre Fong, *Chinese Railroad Workers: Roots and Routes*

12:15 P.M. Lunch, *Mohr Student Center, no. 22 on campus map*

1:30 P.M. Adrienne Evans, Bon French & Scott Lothes, *Updates on the Center*

2:15 P.M. Al Louer and Scott Lothes, *Legacy Society*

2:30 P.M. Break, *Wood Lounge*

3:00 P.M. Ben Bachman, *Forever West: Railroads, Mythology & Photography*

3:45 P.M. John Free, *Photographing in the Southern Pacific Freight Yards in the 1970s*

4:45 P.M. Concluding remarks and raffle drawing for David Plowden print

Move to Glen Rowan House, no. 23 on campus map

5:00 P.M. Reception

A. Aubrey Bodine exhibition on display

Book and print sales in the library

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

7:00 P.M. Dinner

Sunday

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

8:00 A.M. Doors open, pastries and drinks available, *lobby*

8:30 A.M. Eric Williams, *Encounters With Art*

9:15 A.M. Conference Docents

10:00 A.M. Break, *lobby*

10:30 A.M. Ron Perisho, *A.J. Russell: The Transcontinental Railroad in 3D*

11:30 A.M. Charlie Hunter, *En Train Air – Advocacy, Art, and Adventure along the Santa Fe Trail*

12:15 P.M. Conclusion (Lunch on your own; there are many restaurants in downtown Lake Forest.)

Presenters



Ben BACHMAN, Seattle, Washington

Forever West: Railroads, Mythology & Photography, Saturday, 3:00 P.M.

Bachman was born in Philadelphia and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. He has been fascinated by railroads almost since birth but did not take up photography until the 1970s. Since 2006, shortly after getting his first digital camera, his major photographic project has been the documentation of railroads in the empty, resonant spaces of the American West, plus occasional forays into British Columbia and Alberta.



Gil BENNETT, Saratoga Springs, Utah

A Brush With History, Saturday, 9:15 A.M.

Bennett has been painting professionally since 1984. From the age of two he was an avid railfan, and he started drawing trains at the age of four. He attended the University of Utah for architecture and took oil painting classes for fun. Upon graduation he was commissioned to do thirty paintings for a company in Minnesota. He currently lives in Saratoga Springs, Utah with his wife and four sons. Gil also paints landscapes, portraits, western landscapes, and wildlife but prefers to paint his favorite subjects—trains.



Jennifer BODINE, Denton, Maryland

A. Aubrey Bodine: He Did the Common Thing Uncommonly, Saturday, 8:45 A.M.

Bodine, Esq., co-owns and operates AubreyBodine.com, selling digitally-restored A. Aubrey Bodine notecards, reprints, and original photographs. She edited and published four A. Aubrey Bodine books: *Bodine's Chesapeake Bay Country*, *Bodine's City*, *Bodine's Industry*, and *Trains: Photography of A. Aubrey Bodine*. Jennifer has been a city administrator, trial lawyer, stained-glass artist, and is currently a writer and publisher. She has a BA from the University of Maryland; Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore, Master of Arts from Washington College, and Master of Arts in Teaching from Salisbury University.



Barre FONG, San Francisco, California

Chinese Railroad Workers: Roots and Routes, Saturday, 11:30 A.M.

Fong is a fourth-generation Chinese, native San Franciscan. He was educated at the University of San Francisco and graduated in 1990. In 2009, he began filmmaking in earnest—his film *Detained at Liberty's Door*, produced with historian Connie Young Yu, is currently featured at the Angel Island Immigration Station. His current film, *Finding the Virgo* has won multiple awards and will be screened on the West Coast, London and Paris. Barre is currently producing *Celestials*, a documentary film tracing Stanford University's groundbreaking research about Chinese railroad workers.



John FREE, Los Angeles, California

Photographing in the Southern Pacific Freight Yards in the 1970s, Saturday, 3:45 P.M.

Free is a social documentary/street photographer who lives in Los Angeles. His photographic essays range from railroad tramps in California to automobile abstracts to London and Paris street life. John's work has been featured in numerous publications, including *U.S. News and World Report*, *Newsweek*, *Photographic Magazine*, *Smithsonian*, and *The Sun*. He was among the international photojournalists selected to take part in the project that resulted in the book *24 Hours in the Life of Los Angeles*. John's work has been featured in a wide range of exhibitions, including the California Science Center, Laguna Festival of Art, Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena, and the Bagier Gallery in Ojai, California.

John HELBOK, Yonkers, New York

Two Viewfinders... One Point of View, Saturday, 10:45 A.M.

An airplane enthusiast as a boy and young man, John became an eager and knowledgeable railfan when his son, Oren, showed a passion for trains as a toddler in the mid-1960s, and the two traveled throughout the eastern U.S. in search of steam. Entirely self-taught as a photographer, John put much more effort into giving prints away to railroaders than into getting anything published, but he did make regular contributions to the *Steam Directory* and *Locomotive & Railway Preservation* magazine.



Oren HELBOK, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania

Two Viewfinders... One Point of View, Saturday, 10:45 A.M.

Born in the Bronx in 1965, Oren ran away from a steam locomotive the first time he heard one, at age two, but he very quickly turned around. Oren learned the technical aspects of film photography from his father, John, and spent twenty-five years in darkrooms before raising children and then going digital. Now running a non-profit arts organization in central Pennsylvania, Oren lives closer to more active steam locomotives than he could in any other place in the U.S.



Charlie HUNTER, Bellows Falls, Vermont

En Train Air – Advocacy, Art, and Adventure along the Santa Fe Trail, Sunday, 11:30 A.M.

Hunter is a painter and rail advocate from Bellows Falls, Vermont. Since 2001 he has created more than fifty “Roots on the Rails” adventures, long-distance train journeys featuring live music on chartered rail cars, and, in 2015, worked with CRP&A to curate the exhibition *Boxcars: Railroad Imagery In Contemporary Realism* at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center in Brattleboro, Vermont. Railroads feature prominently in his paintings, notable for a stark, near-monochromatic palette, often reminiscent of photographs. His work is shown at galleries nationwide.



Ron PERISHO, Dublin, California

A.J. Russell: The Transcontinental Railroad in 3D, Sunday, 10:30 A.M.

Perisho is retiring from a career as a California Soils and Foundation Engineer and has collected photography since 1983. In the last two decades, Civil War and railroad images have been of increasing interest. Railroad images include Daguerreotypes of locomotives, and large plate and stereoviews from the Civil War, the Transcontinental Railroad, and railroading through the current time. Perisho has produced 3D image presentations so that more people can view the original Civil War and railroad stereoviews as the photographers intended.



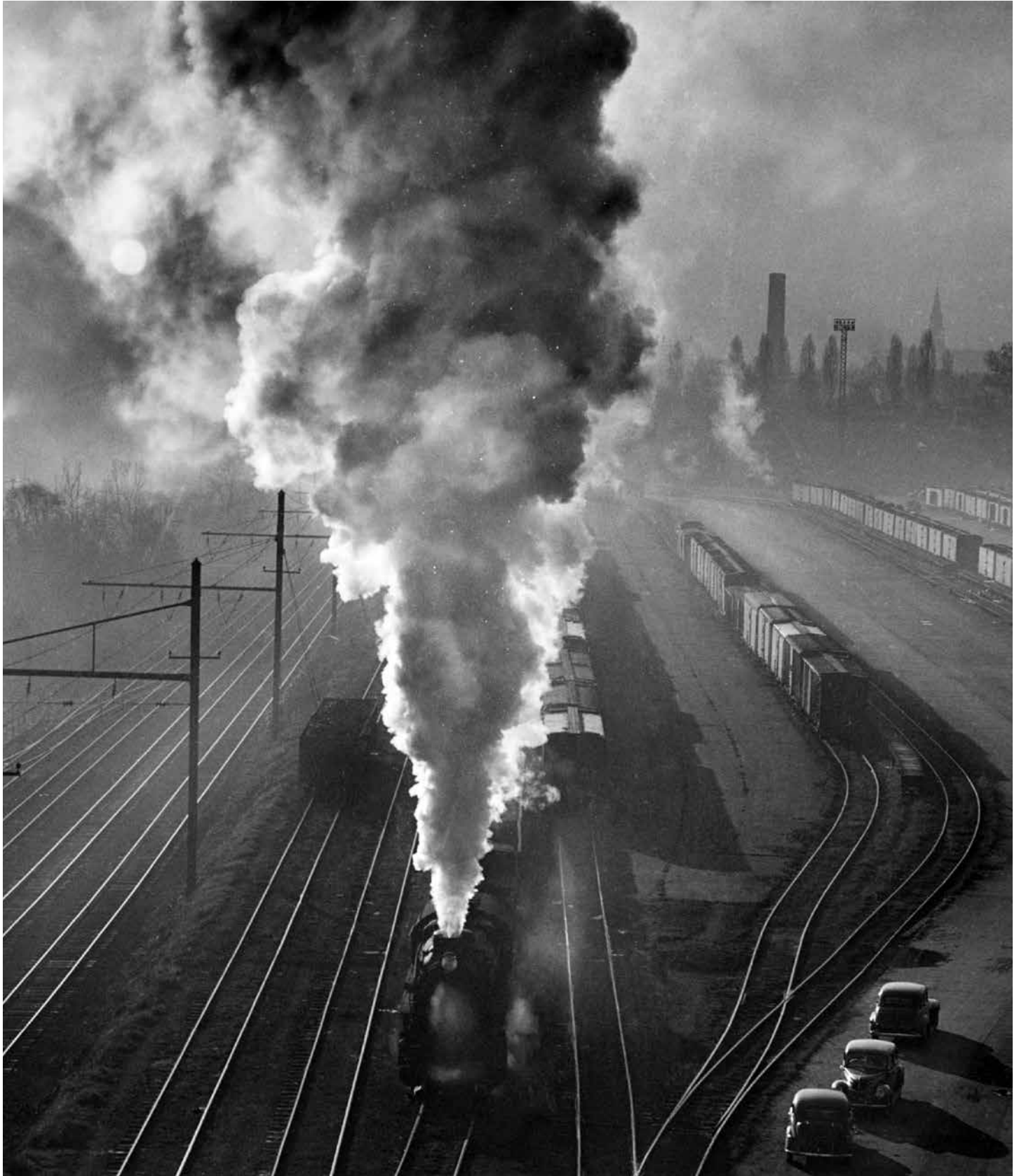
Eric WILLIAMS, Millburn, New Jersey

Encounters With Art, Sunday, 8:30 A.M.

Williams is a professional creative director with a lifelong passion for railroads. He resides alongside the former Delaware, Lackwanna & Western main line and travels by train and subway daily to his Manhattan employer. Formally trained as an industrial designer, his photography draws from his vocation and love of design, art, and narrative to create images that show the contextual landscape of the railroad. Eric’s work has been widely published, honored, and exhibited. See more at: www.ericwilliams.photography



Images from Conference Presentations



Pennsylvania Train Yard in Baltimore looking east from the 29th Street bridge, in 1949.
Photograph by Aubrey Bodine, from presentation by Jennifer Bodine



Icy Passage, 2013
Tunnel Hill, Pennsylvania
Photograph by Eric Williams





Above:
Gil Bennett
*Adirondack Color
Delaware & Hudson,
1975*
16 x 20 inches
Oil on Canvas, 2013
Atherton Collection

Right: Cangdong
facades, ancestral
temples, diaolou,
fishpond. Photograph
by Barre Fong

Left: Strasburg Rail
Road engineer Ross
Gochenaur in Cherry
Hill, Pennsylvania, in
December 2017.
Photograph by
Oren Helbok



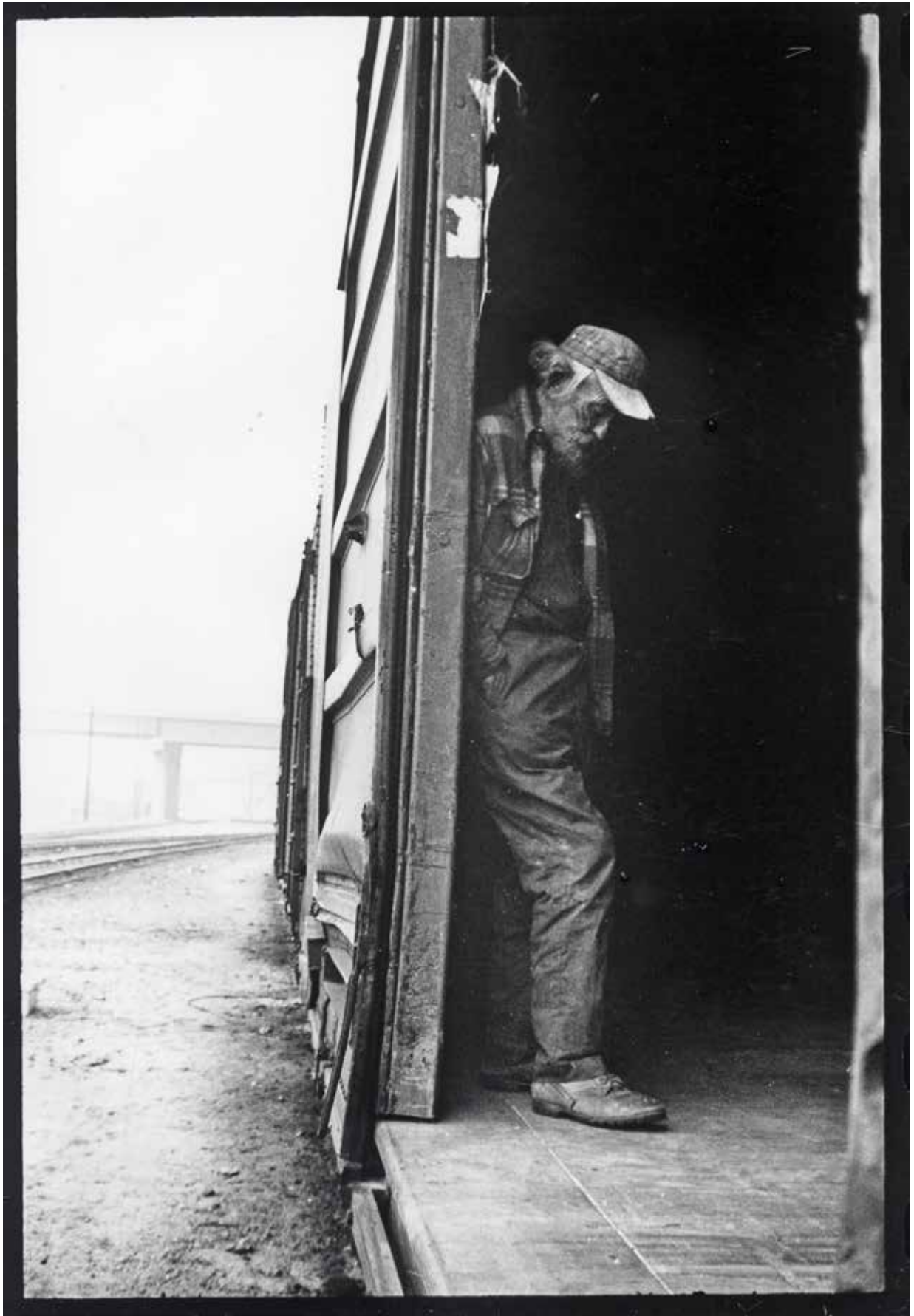


Top: Andrew J. Russell, Dale Creek Bridge [Perspective View], 1868. Oakland Museum of California, H69.459.2110. Photograph in presentation by Ron Perisho

Bottom: The crew-change point at Winslow, Arizona, BNSF Seligman/Gallup Subs. Photograph by Ben Bachman

Right: Charlie Hunter La Castenada Las Vegas, NM Oil on Panel, 2018





Tramp in boxcar, c. 1970.
Photograph by John Free

Print Program

Bear Mountain Crossings, 2015
Cortlandt, New York
Photograph by Eric Williams



About the Print Program

Begun in 2009, the Center's print program offers opportunities to collect important railroad photographs at affordable prices, while providing financial support for the Center's ongoing programs. As with other art-based nonprofits that sell prints from well-known photographers, the Center prices its photographs well below the gallery rates of San Francisco, New York, and Chicago. The selection and prices give incentives to collectors to purchase artwork they like while helping an organization they believe in.

To put the Center's offer in context, consider that fine-art photography prints

from major artists now range from \$2,000 to \$3,000 (Richard Steinheimer prints, for example), \$3,000 to \$7,500 (David Plowden), and up to half-a-million dollars for artists such as 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 \$750 to \$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 until the editions sell out. We will continue to unveil new selections in the same price range each year, featuring them also on the website. If you have suggestions for future participating photographers, please let us know.

Additional Prints Available

In addition to this year's print program selection, *Bear Mountain Crossing* by Eric Williams, from this year's print program, you may peruse and purchase past works from previous years.

Docent Program



For the past several years, the Center for Railroad Photography & Art has been offering scholarships for emerging photographers and visual artists to attend our *Conversations* conference at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Illinois. Scholarship recipients serve as docents during the conference and, new in 2019, will present their photography on its final day. We are pleased to present this year's recipients: Jennifer Anderson, Brandon Fiume, Eric Hudson, and Aiden Nies.

Gifts from the conference's many patrons provide the funds that make these scholarships possible.

Brandon Fiume's image taken in Lilly, Pennsylvania, on October 5, 2018, depicts the spectacle of a Norfolk Southern freight train in the middle of the night. The artificially lit scene leaves the front of the locomotive in darkness, and with the blur of the headlights, creates a particular, observable curiosity.



Top: Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad locomotive no. 486 paused at the station in Silverton, Colorado, in 2019. Photograph by Jennifer Anderson

Middle: Two Black Beauties. Just after 2:30 p.m. on November 23rd, 2018, the morning shift ends at The Valley Railroad in Essex, Connecticut. In between engines nos. 40 and 97, the day and night engineer have a quick chat before the night's duties begin, while the day conductor observes. Photograph by Aiden Nies

Bottom: The daily Amtrak Pennsylvania rolls under the now-retired Pennsylvania Railroad signal bridge in Tipton, Pennsylvania, in November, 2018. Photograph by Eric Hudson

Book Sales

Several titles will be available this year at the Friday and Saturday receptions in the Glen Rowan House's library, and in the lobby of the McCormick Auditorium on Sunday morning.

New this year, attendees must be checked in at registration and be wearing their nametag prior to purchasing a book.

Please note that all books are available in limited quantities and will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

The Center can accept cash, check, and credit card payments.

- *After Promontory: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Transcontinental Railroad*, edited by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art and published by Indiana University Press in 2019, **\$60.00**

- *Wallace W. Abbey: A Life in Railroad Photography*, by Kevin P. Keefe and Scott Lothes, published by Indiana University Press in 2018, **\$50.00**

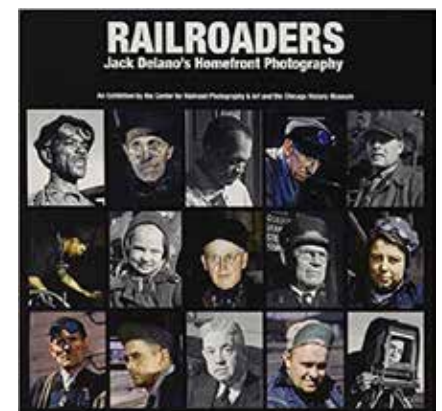
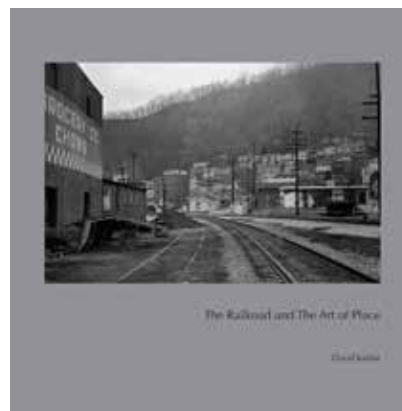
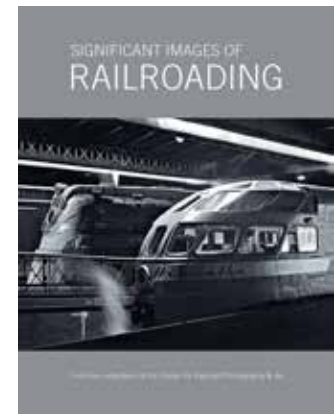
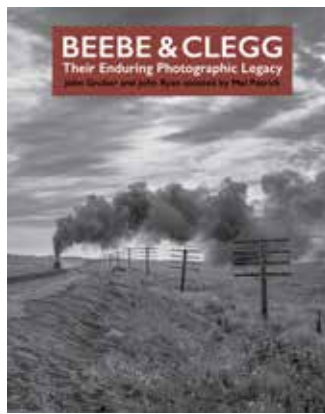
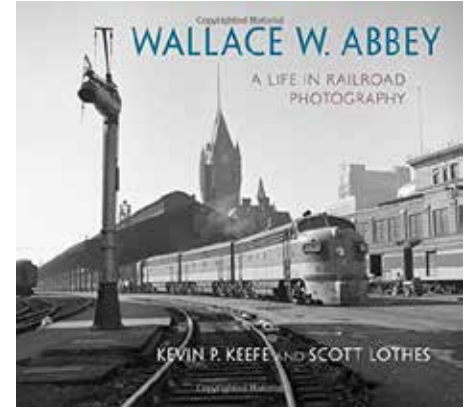
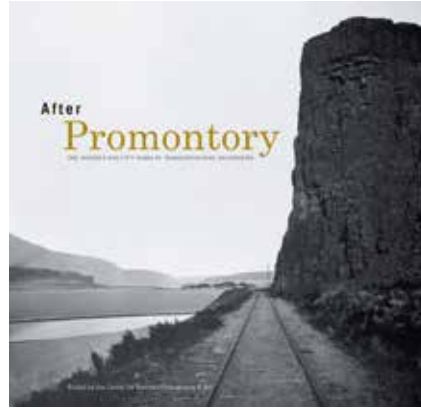
- *Beebe & Clegg: Their Enduring Photographic Legacy*, by John Gruber, John Ryan, and assisted by Mel Patrick, published by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art in 2018, **\$65.00**

- *Significant Images of Railroading*, published by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art in 2015, **\$20.00**

- *The Railroad and the Art of Place*, by David Kahler, published by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art in 2016, **\$60.00**

- *Railroaders: Jack Delano's Homefront Photography*, edited by John Gruber and published by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art in 2015, **\$50.00**

- *Trains: Photography of A. Aubrey Bodine*, by Jennifer Bodine, published by Schiffer Publishing in 2018, **\$30.00**



These books, along with prints from the print program, featuring a print by Eric Williams, will be available for sale during the receptions on Friday and Saturday from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. in the Glen Rowan House, and in McCormick Auditorium on Sunday morning. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted.

Take advantage of a special offer to purchase any two books to receive a discount on your total purchase.

Lincoln and the Railroad, National Railroad Hall of Fame



Following the opening banquet on Friday, September 13, the National Railroad Hall of Fame will present a one-man theater production called, *Lincoln and the Railroad*. The one-act original play is written and produced by Lilly Blouin of the National Railroad Hall of Fame and stars Michael Krebs of Abe Productions as Abraham Lincoln. The play runs for twenty-minutes and serves as the perfect after-dinner entertainment.

List of Attendees

Den Adler 1802 Waterford Drive Janesville, WI 53546 608-756-0023 adlerdj@sbcglobal.net	Michael Brown 320 Hawthorne Court Antioch, IL 60002 dighal@me.com	Paul Enenbach 5118 Glenwood St Duluth, MN 55804 715-347-8816 paul.enenbach@gmail.com	Jeffrey Gast 5425 Cannon Ct Apt F Terre Haute, IN 8128773762 inrdjlg@aol.com	Daniel Higgins 13942 Golden Oak Drive Homer Glen, IL 60491 708-301-7180 dghiggins@comcast.net	Kevin Keefe 2955 N. Summit Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53211 414-429-0306 kevinpkeefe51@gmail.com
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Ben Bachman & Sue Weingarten 1312 Lake Washington Blvd S Seattle, WA 98144 benbachmanii@gmail.com	David Daruszka 11427 S Longwood Dr Chicago, IL 60643 773-233-8788 ddaruszka@sbcglobal.net	Gary Faucon 676 Church Lane Riverhead, NY 11901 631-905-6634 gary.faucon@gmail.com	Todd Halamka 3914 Woodland Avenue Western Springs, IL 60558 312-925-6809 todd.halamka@gmail.com	Marc Hilton 1575 Florence Evanston, IL 60201 847-226-5911 marc.hilton@gmail.com	Natalie Kreck <i>The Center for Railroad Photography & Art</i> 313 Price Pl., Suite 13 Madison, WI 53705 608-251-5785 natalie@railphoto-art.org
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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 indicating your wish to be included.

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Gregory Molloy 634 Flagstaff Drive Cincinnati, OH 45215 gregorymolloy@yahoo.com	Ron & Kathy Perisho 11844 Dublin Blvd., Suite A Dublin, CA 94568 925-829-9858 GeoFocus@comcast.net	Darrell & Tonia Sherrod P.O. Box 2264 Kokomo, IN 46904 765-437-5035 ATSF616@netscape.net	Eric Williams 176 Millburn Ave, Apt 20 Millburn, NJ 07041 ericwill@mac.com	

All-Time Conference Presenters

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 R. Valentine
- Jim Wrinn

March 25, 2006

Marquette University

- Jeff Brouws
- Chris Burger
- Kevin P. Keefe
- Sayre Kos
- Greg McDonnell
- Gil Reid
- Michael R. 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
- 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 with Steve Barry, Alexander Benjamin Craghead, Marc Entze, Don Phillips, and Matt Van Hattem

May 16–18, 2014

Lake Forest College, Chicago History Museum

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

April 10–12, 2015

Lake Forest College

- Diane Bacha, with Ron Flanary, Don Hofshommer, Joel Jensen, Don Phillips, Jim Wrinn
- Ed Bartholomew
- Ted Benson, Dick Dorn, Dale Sanders, and Dave Stanley
- Justin Franz
- David Kahler
- J. Parker Lamb
- Jeff Mast and Michael R. 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
- Robert Joseph Belletzkic
- Victor Hand
- Matt Kierstead
- Shaun O'Boyle
- Jim Shaughnessy
- J.W. Swanberg

April 28–30, 2017

Lake Forest College

- Drayton Blackgrove
- Katherine Botkin
- Jean Bublely and James J. Reisdorff
- Alexander Benjamin Craghead
- Dan Cupper
- Nicholas Fry
- Eric E. Hirsimaki
- John P. Kelly
- Kevin P. Keefe
- Dennis Livesey
- Alan Miller
- Adam Normandin
- David Styffe
- Paul Wertico with

- David Cain and John Moulder

April 13-15, 2018

Lake Forest College

- Jim Wrinn
- McNair Evans
- John Austin
- George Hiotis
- Bill Stewart
- Robin Coombes
- Kevin P. Keefe and Scott Lothes
- Alan Furler with Victor Hand
- Robert Gould and Matt Kierstead

September 22, 2018

California State Railroad Museum

- Ted Benson and Tom Taylor
- Shirley Burman
- John Gruber and John Ryan
- Richard Koenig
- John Signor
- J. Craig Thorpe

March 29-30, 2019

Brigham Young University Museum of Art

- Alexander Craghead
- Dan Davis
- Barre Fong
- Justin Franz
- Victor Hand
- Drake Hokanson
- Christine Hult-Lewis
- Elrond Lawrence
- Ashlee Whitaker
- Additional panelists, Kevin P. Keefe and James Swensen

Next conferences:

*April 17-19, 2020
Lake Forest College*

*September 19, 2020
University of Connecticut*

Directors, Officers, and Staff



Jeff Brouws, Stanfordville, New York, brings the Center knowledge of nineteenth and twentieth 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.



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*.



Adrienne Evans (Archives Manager), Madison, Wisconsin, received a master's degree from UW-Madison's School of Library Information Studies in 2014. She worked at History Colorado for two years before coming to the Center in 2017.



T. Bondurant French (Chair), Glen Ellyn, Illinois, is the executive chairman 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 some 700 different railroads.



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.



Todd Halamka, Western Springs, Illinois, is a practicing architect and founder of Todd Halamka + Partners in downtown Chicago. His focus on railroad photography began in 2011, combining his lifelong love of trains and the outdoors with his fascination for image making.



Nona Hill (Treasurer), Madison, Wisconsin, and Clark Johnson, her husband, manage 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-Chair), Pittsboro, North Carolina, has practiced architecture for more than thirty years and has been recognized as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He is active as a consultant and advisor, and authored *The Railroad and the Art of Place*.



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, and later authored a book about it.



Natalie Krecek (Archives Assistant), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center in 2018 as an intern and was promoted to archives assistant in 2019. She received a BA degree in anthropology from North Central College in 2017. Her past work experience includes an internship at Chicago's Field Museum.



Scott Lothes (President and Executive Director), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center's staff in 2008. He is a regular contributor to *Trains*, *Railfan and Railroad*, and other railroad publications, with more than fifty bylined articles and some 500 photographs in print.



Albert O. Louer, Williamsburg, Virginia, recently retired as Director of Principal Gifts at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He worked in museums for fifty years and has research and collecting interests in the Pullman Co. and Midwestern railroads.



Peter Mosse, New York, New York, grew up in England and moved to the U.S. in 1977 to set up a precious metals trading subsidiary for the UK Rothschild banking group. He began collecting railroad paintings in 1980 and now owns more than 150 original works.



Hailey Paige (Exhibitions and Event Coordinator), Madison, Wisconsin, received a master's degree from Eastern Illinois University in Historical Administration in 2017. She has held several positions in the museum field before coming to the Center in 2017.



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.



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.



Inga Velten (Development Associate), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center in 2017 and has twenty years of experience in nonprofit fundraising and administration, with expertise in data management, prospect research, and major gift fundraising.

In Memoriam: John Gruber

John Edward Gruber, founder of the Center for Railroad Photography & Art, died on October 9, 2018, after struggling briefly with esophageal cancer. His influence on the field of railroad photography is impossible to overstate, from his own paradigm-shifting black-and-white work beginning in the 1960s to his 2018 book that reexamines the lives and photography of Lucius Beebe and Charles Clegg. Beyond his own luminous work, Gruber thoughtfully shone a spotlight on other notable photographers while also encouraging young and emerging practitioners. *Classic Trains* magazine dubbed him a “provocateur of railroad photography” in a 2014 profile by Kevin P. Keefe. There would be no Center without Gruber’s vision and tireless efforts, and all of us here stand always on his shoulders.

Born in 1936 in Chicago, Gruber soon moved with his parents to their native area, settling in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. There as a youngster he became enthralled with both railroading and journalism, especially the craft of printing. His hometown is little more than forty-five minutes from Madison, and that’s where he went to college, receiving a degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin. He was editor-in-chief of *The Daily Cardinal* student newspaper in 1957, and he went on to spend thirty-five years with the university’s publications department. He became serious about railroad photography around 1960 and was a dedicated freelancer ever since. Legendary *Trains* magazine editor David P. Morgan was an early champion of Gruber’s work, and the two eventually became close friends.

Gruber’s numerous books include the aforementioned *Beebe & Clegg: Their Enduring Photographic Legacy* with John Ryan and Mel Patrick, and the pathbreaking *Railroaders: Jack Delano’s Homefront Photography*, both published by the Center. *Beebe & Clegg* debuted in April 2018 and went into a second printing in just four months. *Railroaders* accompanied a landmark exhibition, conceived by Gruber and Jack Holzhueter and realized in partnership with the Chicago History Museum; the book received an award from the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society (R&LHS) and the exhibition drew nearly half-a-million visitors.

In 1994, the R&LHS conferred its lifetime achievement award for photography on Gruber. From 1995 to 1999, he was editor of the magazine *Vintage Rails* and later served as a contributing editor to *Classic Trains*. Gruber volunteered as an editor for both the R&LHS and for the Mid-Continent Railway Museum in North Freedom, Wisconsin. He chaired Mid-Continent’s photography and art committee, which led him to found the Center in 1997 along with Joel Skornicka and Ralph Pierce. Gruber then served as the Center’s president and the editor of its journal, *Railroad Heritage*, until 2013, and he remained on its board of directors until his death.

Under Gruber’s leadership, the Center grew to become a nationally significant arts and education nonprofit organization devoted to railroad imagery—the only such institution in the nation. The Center’s programs serve the general public as well as the substantial community of railroad photographers and artists on the North American continent and beyond.



John Gruber, 2018
Photograph by
Hank Koshollek

The Center has become the nation’s go-to repository for railroad images. This stems from an early partnership that Gruber helped forge with the Archives and Special Collections department of Lake Forest College’s Donnelley and Lee Library with the aid of Arthur Miller and later Anne Thomason. The Center’s holdings include the work of several leading photographers and artists, including Wallace W. Abbey, Donald W. Furler, Victor Hand, Ted Rose, and Jim Shaughnessy. Lake Forest College also provides space for the Center’s annual “Conversations” conference, first held in 2003, again with Miller’s assistance. It has grown from a one-day event with sixty attendees to three days and capacity crowds of 180.

In 2013, the Center’s board of directors renamed the annual awards program in Gruber’s honor. He served as a judge each year through 2017 and particularly enjoyed the opportunity to promote creative work by young and aspiring photographers.

Gruber is survived by his wife of fifty-six years, Bonnie Jean (née Barstow); sister Mary Lee Olson; sons Richard (husband of the former Bonnie Jean Evert) and Timothy; grandchildren Martin and Tamara; three step-grandchildren, Amy, Andrew, and Adam Yanke; four step-great-grandchildren; and five nephews. Gruber enjoyed sharing his love of railroading with his family. Richard is also a photographer and works for the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad, and John most recently accompanied his wife and grandchildren on a cross-country Amtrak trip in July 2018. Bonnie cataloged John’s substantial library of railroad literature and often edited his railroad manuscripts; she, too, had been a *Cardinal* editor and the two met in its offices. The Center looks forward to carrying on John’s incredible legacy and caring for his remarkable collection.

—Scott Lothes, president and executive director

Support a sustainable future
by joining the **Center's Legacy Society**

I commit _____% 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 support either _____ (note restriction) or to the Center's program(s) most in need as determined by the staff and by the trustees of the Center's Endowment.

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art is built upon the legacy of railroading. Success at our mission ensures that the valuable, and increasingly vulnerable, images in our archives are preserved, protected, and seen, for decades—and generations—to come.

A Legacy Society commitment to **the Center for Railroad Photography & Art Endowment** established through your estate can make a lasting impact on the preservation and promotion of railroad photography and art. Legacy support helps assure a source of stable future funding while costing donors nothing in their lifetimes. And, your legacy gift can be directed to support specific programs of interest, or to support all of the activities of the Center.

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. 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, and to learn more about the Center's new Legacy Society recognition program, please get in touch with Inga Velten, development associate, at: 608-251-5785 or inga@railphoto-art.org

FORM
19

CENTER FOR RAILROAD PHOTOGRAPHY & ART
To preserve and present significant images of railroading

Legacy Society Commitment No. _____

Dated: _____, 20____

<i>To:</i> CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	<i>At:</i> MADISON, WISCONSIN
---	-------------------------------

Printed Name: _____ *Signature:* _____

IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY WISHES TO HONOR THE PROFOUND IMPACT OF RAILROADING THROUGH ITS RICH VISUAL CULTURE AS PART OF MY LASTING LEGACY, I INTEND TO DESIGNATE THE CENTER FOR RAILROAD PHOTOGRAPHY & ART ENDOWMENT (EIN 47-7373395) AS A BENEFICIARY OF MY ESTATE.

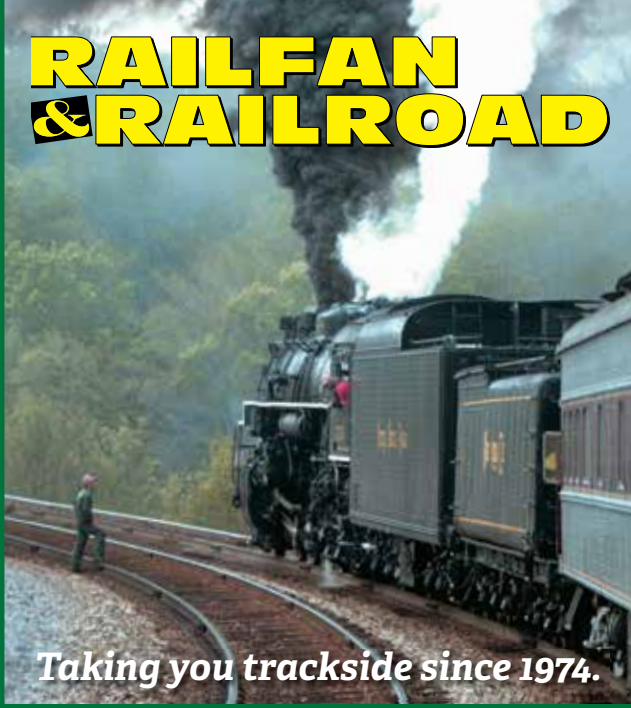
Both the issuer and the recipient shall keep a copy of this commitment

Title	Signature	Date
<i>Chairperson</i>		
<i>Executive Director</i>		

FORM
19

The Center's Legacy Society form, adapted from Form 19 train orders

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Many conference participants are R&LHS members already. We urge you to join their ranks as we explore the history of the railroad industry.

Please visit the R&LHS table and take advantage of bonus copies of *Railroad History* for those who become members at the conference. Current R&LHS members can also renew and purchase back issues.



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Tom Danneman photo

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About the Center

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art is a national nonprofit arts and education organization founded in 1997 and 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.

Efforts to preserve railroad artwork and photographs have led to the Center's amassing an archive of more than 300,000 images, including the complete works of several well-known photographers. Full processing of these collections includes housing them in archival-safe storage materials and digitizing the images as well as their captions, or metadata. The Center is actively adding to its archive and conducts these preservation activities both in house and in concert with the Archives & Special Collections of the Donnelley and Lee Library at Lake Forest College.

The Center also collaborates with partners across the country on its presentation work. Foremost is *After Promontory*, an exhibition developed for the sesquicentennial of the first transcontinental railroad completed in 1869. A photography exhibition featuring images from the 1860s to the present, the show examines the significance and lasting impact of the transcontinental railroads on the American West. The exhibition has already been featured at five venues so far and has plans to travel to six more in 2019-2021.

Accompanying the exhibition is the publication *After Promontory: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Transcontinental Railroading*. The book offers a deeper look at the circumstances, histories, and impacts of the railroad that came to connect the Midwest with the Pacific Coast. Essays by railroad historians Keith L. Bryant, H. Roger Grant, Don Hofsommer, and Maury Klein add context and depth to the book's 240 photographs. Robert D. Krebs, chairman and CEO of the BNSF Railway, wrote the foreword. Photographer Drake Hokanson, in the book's concluding essay, reflects on photographing the transcontinental railroads then and now, and what these images can teach us. The book is currently in its second printing, having sold out its first in only three months.

The Center prepares other 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 the Chicago History Museum. All told, the Center has brought some twenty unique exhibitions of significant railroad photography and art to more than 100 venues throughout the country.

Publication of *Railroad Heritage*, the Center's journal, 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 year going back to 2003, the Center hosts this conference, and all but one has 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 began offering scholarships to enable young or developing photographers and artists to attend the conference.

The Center launched a new series of regional conferences in 2016; this year's version featured a transcontinental theme and was held at the Brigham Young University Museum of Art on March 29-30. The Center looks forward to continuing this series with a second northeastern-themed conference at the University of Connecticut in Storrs on September 19, 2020.

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.

Learn more about the Center at www.railphoto-art.org, which features images from the archives and includes links to other online platforms at Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, and Instagram. Follow them to stay abreast of current events and trends in railroad photography and art as well as the Center's research and acquisitions.



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