

# Merrick Maverick marvels Wantagh

Wantagh in July was record breaking, but we are not talking about the sizzling temperatures. David Lepelstat, one of Merrick's premier photographers, became the first to achieve the 10-time award level for the Wantagh photo contest!

While Wantagh is not home for this Merrick maverick, his insightful photos have captured Wantagh's beauty in ground-breaking style since his first win in March 2009.

To mark this special occasion, David was congratulated by state Senator Charles J. Fuschillo Jr. in a private meeting accompanied by David's son Daniel and Vanna Sugar of Wantagh dot LI.

At the meeting, David was awarded a solid-granite Ten-Time Recipient Trophy, a \$100 gift certificate to Berger Brothers, and a \$100 Wantagh gift certificate. Senator Fuschillo also presented him with a citation for his stunning work.

David prefers to photograph nature and man-made structures from an abstract point of view. To foster a surreal quality, David captures the full tonal range of light in a scene, often combining multiple images shot at varying exposures.

He is most active during the "magic hour" before sunset, frequently using a tripod for long exposures. Having used film up until 2007, David now embraces the digital format exclusively.

In addition to Wantagh.LI, his work was also featured in Newsday's Explore LI, and in the 2010 and 2011 Town of Hempstead calendars.

Another highlight of David's photographic pursuit was meeting Ansel Adams during a weeklong course at the Owens Valley Photography Workshop in 1979. David has taken photographs throughout the United States and Bermuda, but especially enjoys shooting locally.

Since September 2002, the Wantagh website has sponsored this free photography competition, providing all with an opportunity to submit their photos taken in Wantagh. Winning photographers receive an official signed certificate and a Wantagh gift which gets better with each win.

The winning photo and the photographer's name are posted on the homepage for the winning month, and are posted permanently in the winners' list.

Photographers of all levels are invited to submit their photos taken in Wantagh. For more information about this free contest, please visit the Wantagh website, [www.Wantagh.LI](http://www.Wantagh.LI).



**TEN TIMES THE CHARM:** David Lepelstat receives the Ten-Time Recipient Trophy from Vanna Sugar (left), Wantagh dot LI Photo Contest coordinator, while state Senator Charles Fuschillo Jr. (right) presents David with a Citation.