

Wantagh native awes with pix

Wantagh-native Andrew Cattani reached a photographic milestone. Earlier this month, he became a five-time winner of the Wantagh Photo Contest for his imaginative images that captured our community's splendor.

To mark the occasion, he was awarded a commemorative trophy, \$100 in Wantagh Gift Certificates and a one-year subscription to The Wantagh-Seaford Citizen. In addition, county Legislator David Denenberg presented him with a citation for his work.

"I've been into photography for as long as I can remember," recalls Andrew, who began taking the art seriously four years ago when he got his first Nikon digital SLR camera. Through the school of hard-knocks, Andrew quickly learned that one needs to know a bit about photography to capture images venturing outside the standard "auto" setting.

While he has no formal training other than a few workshops in New York City, his skilled friends have taught him a thing or two, and virtual learning experiences on the Internet helped round out his craft.

In addition to capturing images of his home town, this "big history buff" also seeks subjects of historical significance. On the charitable side,

Andrew and his girlfriend Ashley Cooney volunteer at Last Hope Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation in Wantagh. The "Picture-A-Day" project that he pioneered, features portraits of newly rescued dogs that help entice fellow animal lovers to welcome these four-legged companions into their homes.

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 winner's list. Photographers of all levels are invited to submit their photos taken in Wantagh. For more information about this free contest, you can visit the Wantagh website, www.Wantagh.LI.

About the Wantagh website:

The Wantagh website, www.Wantagh.LI, was first posted in September of 2001. The website offers fast access to neighborhood information, and its charter is to help the people and businesses of our community.



ONE FOR THE THUMB: Andrew Cattani is awarded the Five-Time Recipient Trophy, accompanied by Paul Roberts (far left) of The Wantagh-Seaford Citizen, Legislator David Denenberg (second from left), Photo Contest Coordinator Vanna Sugar (far right) and Wantagh Chamber President Denise Langweber (second from right).