

The Lens and Eye



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Dreams of Montana © Rich Chitty

For more winning images from the April competition, see pages 27 - 31.

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May Competition Theme: Open

Any photograph taken within the past 3 years. (Must be taken on or after May 1, 2018) As always, each member may submit no more than two images per month, including Members Showcase.

If you are competing in the **electronic** category or submitting to Members Showcase, please send your images as email attachments to nbccmdEcomp@gmail.com no later than **7:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 2.**

If you are competing in the **print** category, please send your images as email attachments to nbccmdPcomp@gmail.com no later than **7:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 9.**

Calendar

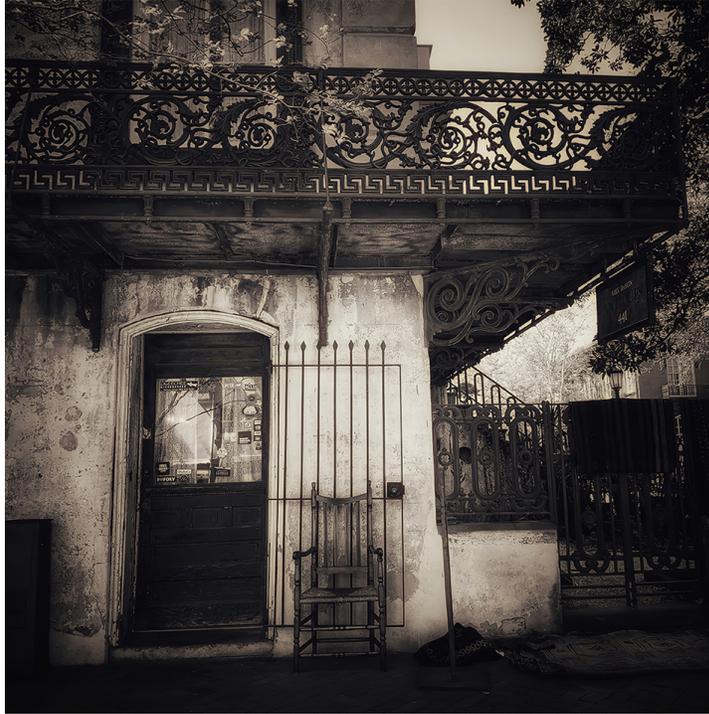
All events will be held remotely. Zoom links will be sent by GordieGram.

Events start at 7:30 p.m. unless noted.

- May 5** Competition: EIC Open
- May 12** Competition: Print Open
- May 19** Board Meeting
- May 20** Couch Safari Field Trip: Animals
- May 26** Program: Creative Vision Behind the Lens

- June 2** End-of-Year Event
Print winners, see page 8:
"No prints, no points"
- June 15** **Membership renewals due**
(see page 9)

May 5 Competition Judge: Sue Bloom



© Susan Bloom

Susan Ruddick Bloom has been an artist her entire life, starting classes at Maryland Institute College of Art at age 5. She went on to get her BFA and MFA degrees there. Her art career has taken her from courtroom illustrations for newspapers and tv...to commissions... to teaching photo workshops in the US and abroad...to 34 years of being a professor and department chair at McDaniel College.

Now retired from McDaniel, Sue keeps up a busy schedule making and exhibiting her art and sharing her techniques with others through workshops at several institutions including Common Ground, Glen Echo National Park for the Arts, and Maine Media Workshops.

Traveling is high on Sue's to-do list and she often heads up trips abroad for friends and alumni. She also teaches photo workshops at various sites throughout the US. Watch her web site (www.suebloom.com) for upcoming trips and classes.

She is the author of three books for Focal Press and is considered a pioneer in the field of digital fine art photography. She is especially known throughout the world for her creative approaches and techniques in the areas of digital collage and digital painting. Sue also writes for photo magazines in the US, Canada and Australia, and lectures throughout the mid-Atlantic.

May 12 Judge: Jill Bochicchio



amateur and professional photographic organizations.

Bochicchio Photography is located in Rockville/North Bethesda, MD. You can email Jill at bochicchiophoto@aol.com or go to her website at www.bochicchiophotography.com.

Ranked among photography's top professionals, Jill A. Bochicchio has crafted a reputation for creativity and excellence. Her awards are numerous and impressive. Among them: The Maryland Professional Photographers Association (MDPPA) named her Photographer of the Year for five consecutive years; Kodak Corporation honored her with five Gallery Awards for Photographic Excellence; and the Professional Photographers of America awarded Jill a Silver Elite Award (2016-2017). In 2021, the American Society of Photographers chose two of her images for their Museum Project, which will tour the US and Europe. She was the official photographer for the National Philharmonic Orchestra for more than 17 years. Her photographs have been exhibited at Epcot in Florida and in numerous private collections.

She was president of the MDPPA in 1988 and chairman of the board in 1989. Her articles have appeared in several photography magazines and she is a popular speaker and judge for



© Jill Bochicchio

Call for Submissions and Presenters, May 20 Virtual Field Trip: "Animals" Couch Safari



Valorbins © George Corbin

There are no date or format restrictions - portraits, color or B&W, taken anytime, are all fine. The only requirement is that they "pop!" Please share an uncommon subject, a unique perspective, or an unconventional technique.

We're looking for 10 people who will get 10 minutes each to share and discuss their photographs (assume 8-12 pics per person). The 10 minutes includes a couple minutes of audience Q&A.

This will be a virtual Zoom event, and the session will be recorded. Please contact George Corbin at grcorbin@comcast.net to request to be a presenter - first come, first served!

On May 20, I will host a "Couch Safari" with the theme, "Animals." We're looking for photographers to bring compelling, colorful, savage, or unusual animal pics to this virtual field trip.

Once our presenters are selected, we'll send them a SmugMug link to post their photos. We'll also send a Gordiegram with a Zoom link so all club members can attend the "Couch Safari field trip."

- George Corbin



May 26 Program: Creative Vision Behind the Lens

Valérie Jardin is a French photographer currently residing in the United States. She is self-taught and worked for several years as a commercial photographer. Today, Valérie is known internationally through her workshops, which can be viewed at www.valeriejardin.com.

When she is not teaching others the art of visual storytelling, Valérie is a prolific author, a speaker, and a podcast producer of the bi-weekly show, "Hit the Streets with Valérie Jardin." She is also an official X-Photographer for Fujifilm USA. She lives and breathes in pixels.

On May 26, you will get an intimate insight into Valerie's thoughts and creative process from visualization to capture as she takes you on a photo walk through a series of photographs. Why did she choose B&W over color? What aperture and why? What was the intent behind the choice of focal point? And much more....

- Tammy Trocki, Programs Chair



The photographer above, and other photos © Valérie Jardin



Splinters from the Board

It's hard to believe that it is time to prepare our club for the next program year that starts this summer. The most important part of that effort is to nominate and then elect the slate of officers. These positions include the president, the vice president, treasurer, and secretary. A nominating committee made up of Alan Sisen (chair), Kent Mason, and Jill Randall have completed their work with the following members named as the candidates for the election.

President:
Rich Chitty (2nd term)

Vice President:
Cherry Wyman (2nd term)

Treasurer:
Claudia Seelig (1st term)

Secretary:
Kathryn Mohrman (2nd term)

The election of these officers will be conducted via Zoom at our print competition meeting on May 12, following the procedures from our NBCC Constitution in Article VII - Election of Officers. During the meeting, additional nominations may be made from the floor, with the agreement of each additional nominee to serve if elected.

A GordieGram announcing the election and its candidates will be issued once the date is finalized. Be on the watch for this important announcement!

On a different topic, our club has been able to continue to provide an enriching photographic experience over the past year, even though we are not meeting in-person. By using Zoom video conferencing, we have been able to

enjoy programs, competitions, and even field trips! There may be benefits in continuing the use of Zoom even when we are able to meet in person. Your opinion on this matter is vital to our planning for the future. A survey on how you would like to use Zoom in our future club events will soon be published, so please be alert for this and provide your valued opinion.

Thanks!

- Rich Chitty, President

Year-End Awards Event on June 2

Be sure to tune in on June 2 for our annual awards event. President Rich Chitty and Competitions Chair Judy Switt will preside over the presentation of the annual competition awards. Star awards will be given to advanced photographers as they continue to accumulate points throughout the years of their membership. Awards will also be given to photographers who have accumulated the most points in the program year's monthly competitions. The first-place winners in advanced print and electronic are named Photographers of the Year.

All electronic images that have won 1st through honorable mention awards will be sent out to all members for a vote on the top 20 images. From those 20, the Top Ten Electronic Images of the Year will be computed. A special panel of in-house judges will select the Top Ten Prints of the Year, based on print quality and other factors.

ALL winning prints (1st through HM) from this program year will be collected in the church parking lot on May 16 and 17. See details on the next page.

2020-2021 Year-End Print Competition

Attention: ALL NBCC PRINT COMPETITORS

NO PRINTS - NO POINTS

If you do not turn in your prints, you will not receive points for the winning images.

We are closing in on the final "Print" Competition
Wednesday May 12 - "Open"

Let me remind you again so you have time to plan ahead!

ALL **1st, 2nd, 3rd** and **HM** "PRINTS"
that have been entered electronically
and have won **any** award this year
MUST BE PRINTED AND MOUNTED
and turned in for the Year-End Competition.

All "Prints" will be judged as "Prints"
by three highly qualified, non-competing, NBCC experts.
(Chris Hanessian, Cynthia Keith, Alan Sisen)

This is a "PRINT" Competition!

NO PRINTS - NO POINTS

If you do not turn in your prints, you will not receive points for the winning images.

If you haven't been printing your winners as this Zoom year progressed,
now is the time to get busy!

All winning prints submitted to this competition must be the exact same image as originally submitted during the Zoom competition.

The prints will **not** be judged electronically as we believe that the "art of print making" should be seen and judged in person.

I will be collecting your mounted, winning images
just like last year, outside at the church parking lot.
6810 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD

Sunday May 16, 10am-12noon

Monday May 17, 10am-12noon

Yes, you may have someone else bring your print(s)

**ALL 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention images compete for the Top Ten of the Year.
Novice, Intermediate and Advanced are all judged together.**

A surprising mix of classes often end up as winners.

It only takes one good print to win an award. It could be yours!

Judy Switt, Competition Chair

judy_switt@yahoo.com

If you have a conflict with the above pick-up date, contact me.

Membership Renewal Cycle is Here!

We are just about ready to open the doors for membership renewal for our 2021 – 2022 program year. There are some familiar things in this year's approach, and some new and/or slightly different things. Here are the highlights:

1. Membership renewal, which includes filling out the application and payment of dues, may be done starting May 15th and must be completed by June 15th.
2. Dues for the upcoming program year have been reduced for the upcoming year to \$60. This is in response to our decreased expenses as a result of COVID.
3. All renewals and payments will be done online. The link for accessing the application will be publicized through a GordieGram on or close to May 15. You will also find the link on our website [home page](#) on that date. **IMPORTANT:** The last item on the application contains a link to the club's PayPal account, which is how all dues will be paid. You do not need a PayPal account of your own to do this (you can choose pay by credit card).

- a. Active members must click the link and submit payment.
- b. Emeritus members just exit the the browser window they are in.

4. The last item also includes a link that will allow you to edit your application responses; you do not have to click it unless you want to be able to get back to your application.

If you have any problem with either the application or the payment process, please contact Toni Robinson, Membership Chair, at nbccmdmem@gmail.com for assistance.



Member News

Farewell to Two Long-Term Emeritus Members

Recently we saw the passing of two very long term and dear members of NBCC.

Jim Hawkins, who joined NBCC in 1999, passed away on March 28. Whether you knew him or not, reading his [obituary](#) clearly provides a view into the kind of person he was.

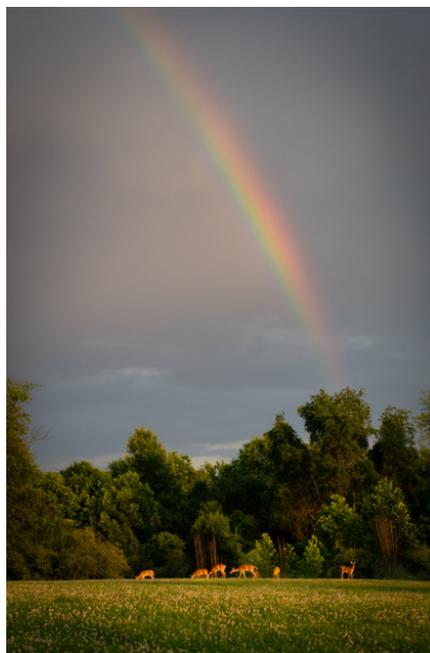
Anita van Rooy, who joined in 1991, passed away on April 4. Anita's contributions to NBCC and her larger world can be viewed in this [memorial statement](#).

We are lucky to have had them as part of our NBCC family. Condolences have been sent on behalf of the club; if you wish to have contact info for personal condolences, please let me know.

- Toni Robinson, Membership Chair
nbccmdmem@gmail.com

Member Achievements

The April 2 issue of **The NIH Record** published **Janice Solomon's** "Past Year, a Time of Learning," her article and photos of her COVID-19 experience. The publication goes out to 40,000 employees. The article was a result of the Office of NIH History's "Behind the Mask" project to document the pandemic experience of its employees. One of Janice's six published photos:



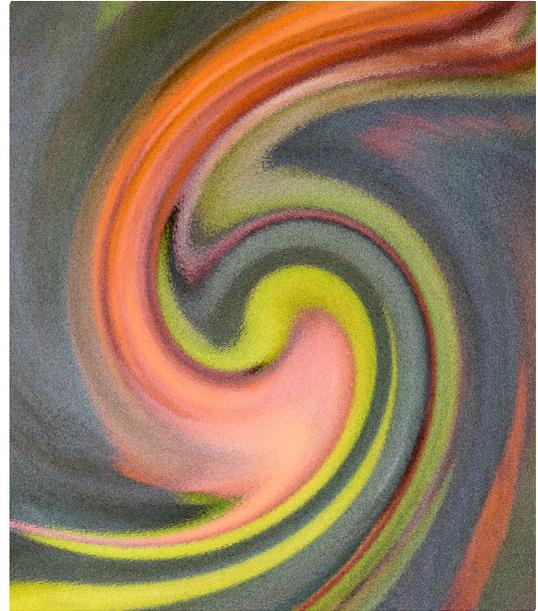
The Wall Street Journal's C&O Canal National Historic Park April 2 [feature](#), "A National Park That's Ideal for Meditative Walks," ran **Mike Mitchell's** image of kayakers on the canal as the lead photo. It was taken near the Old Angler's Inn entrance on MacArthur Boulevard, MD.



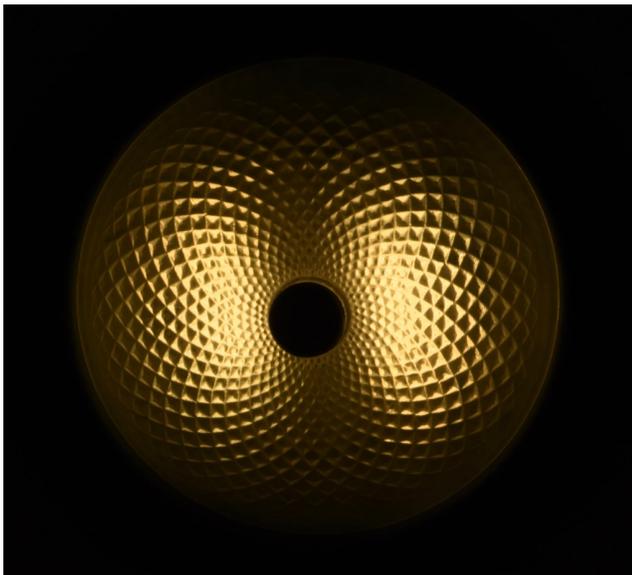
Images from **Beth Altman, Kathryn Mohrman, Jill Randell, and David Terao** were juried into the **11th Annual Joseph Miller Abstract Photography Exhibit**. The exhibit will run virtually at nvacc.org from **May 1-31**. Below are a few of their photographs accepted into the show.



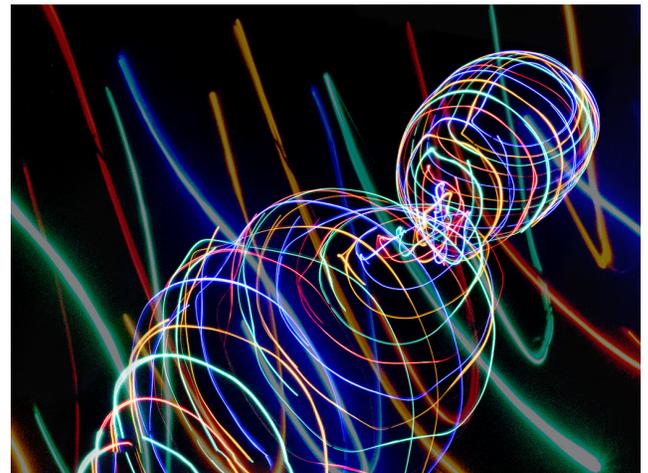
Form © David Terao



Sycamore Spin © Jill Randell

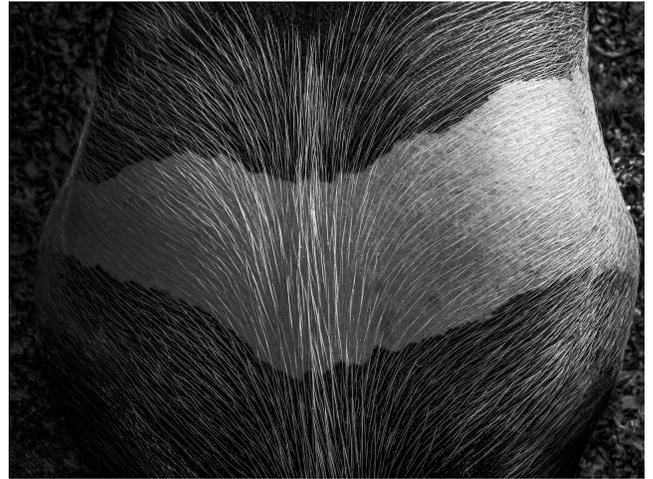
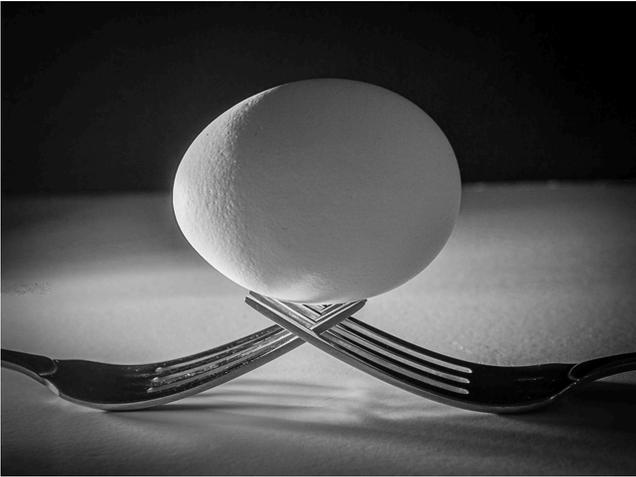


Not a Donut © Beth Altman



Primary Colors 1 © Kathryn Mohrman

Pauline Jaffe's "Mono Egg" was juried into the **88th Wilmington International Exhibition** (Click [here](#)). Her still life image won first place in NBCC's January 2021 "Black and White Open" competition (Novice EIC). She worked on the image as part of a PSA online course with Dr. Roy Killen.



Al Neyman's photo, "Back of the Hog," is one of 26 selected from a field of 582 entries for the **Maryland Federation of Art's** "Flora or Fauna" exhibit. The exhibit is at the **Calvert Marine Museum**, 14200 Solomans Island Road, Solomans, MD, through May 15. Reservations are required and can be made [here](#).

Al Neyman and **Cherry Wyman's** images were accepted into the **Maryland Federation of Art's** online "MASKulinity 2021" show, on display at the Curve Gallery [here](#) until May 31. Cherry's "Lunch Time" is below left; Al's "Smoke Mask" is at right.



Cat Simmons has two achievements of which to be proud. She graduates in May from **Savannah College of Art and Design** with an MFA in photography. Her **thesis presentation and artist talk** will be held virtually on **May 8** at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom at [this link](#). (Password: Thesis) She would be delighted for club members to attend.

Her work was featured in April in a UK publication, **Original Magazine**. (The link is [here](#).) Cat was one of 14 graduate and post-graduate photographers from across the globe whose work was included in the magazine. One of the photos from her "Objet a" project is below.



Finishing up the first year of her masters in photography degree at **Maine Media College** is **Sarah Salomon**. This semester's project is an artist's flip book using images from her "Urban Forestry" series.



Julia Malone just won first place in the photo category of the **Chevy Chase Women's Club** annual Community Art Show, which is online at <https://wccmaryland.org/awards-photography>. The same image, "Reflection," won first place in NBCC's December 2020 intermediate print competition, "Patterns Found in Nature."





Kent Mason had a number of images printed this year. Three of them appeared in the **Canaan Valley National Refuge** calendar; eight wall-size images (up to and including 8' x 12') were installed in the **West Virginia University** hospital system; and over 20 images were published in conservation organization literature including the **West Virginia chapter of The Nature Conservancy**, the **West Virginia Land Trust**, the **West Virginia Rivers Coalition**, **Friends of the Blackwater Canyon**, **Friends of Canaan Valley**, and more.

"Skeleton Men," **Kathryn Mohrman's** image from Papua New Guinea, was selected for the April exhibit at the **Art League at the Torpedo Factory**. The image placed in NBCC's "Portraits" competition and can be seen on page 29 of this issue.

Two of her images, "Skeleton Men" and her abstract on page 11, were juried into the Members Spring Show at the **Maryland Federation of Art**. Both shows are live, in-person exhibits.

Bob Mazziotta won an honorable mention in the **Washington Post Travel Photography Contest**. "This was the second time I've won an honorable mention, but this time they contacted me and interviewed me, leading me to think I might have actually won a true prize, but it didn't happen! It was taken in April 2019 in Monument Valley. My photo friends and I were racing to get to the spot before the light vanished, and we barely made it," he recalls.



Juried into the **C&O Canal 50th Anniversary Photography Contest Exhibit** were 3 of **Toni Robinson's** and 2 of **Cherry Wyman's** images. Sponsored by the Washington County Arts Council, the show will be in the gallery from May 6 through June 1, and can be seen virtually at [this link](#), starting May 8. Below is Toni's "Enlightening Conversation."



Education Committee Update

Next program year's small group offerings will be announced by GordieGram around the end of June. Enrollment is limited for most groups and those signing up first will be accepted.

If anyone with expertise in PhotoPills is interested in facilitating a small group next year, please let me know.

Again, if you have an idea for small groups or new offerings, please send me an email at nbccmdedu@gmail.com. Thanks.

- Jill Randell, Education Chair

Progress with Our Climate Change Initiative

On NBCC's program night on February 10, Bruce Davis (our primary speaker), Kent Mason, and I presented a program on "The Challenge of Climate Change." I then invited any and all members of the club to join an initiative to provide photographic services to local nonprofit and public organizations involved with climate-change-related work.

Eleven members signed up. The 12 of us initially called ourselves the "Greenies" as a tongue-in-cheek placeholder name, and eventually we became Focus on Climate (FC). FC falls under NBCC's Community Outreach umbrella.

We cast about to see if any organizations would be interested in our services and have been drinking out of a firehose since. Initially we plan to support two

very enthusiastic organizations. The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (MC DEP) has given us a long list of photographic desires involving rainscapes that deal with stormwater, while the Potomac Riverkeeper Network (PRKN) has given us a long list of desires related to water pollution. Both organizations have explained that their mission has a clear connection to climate change.

Cherry Wyman is now the team leader for the MC DEP project, and I will be the same for the PRKN project. Evelyn Jacob, Craig Carlson, and Toni Robinson will scout future high-impact opportunities. Other active members (in random order) are Debbie Menditch, Marge Bloom, Kent Mason, Maude Svensson, Bill James, Bruce Davis, and Rich Chitty. They will be loosely split across the two teams; everyone is welcome to help either or both teams. In addition, Shelley Price is expanding the community outreach section of our club's website to include Focus on Climate, which will serve as an elegant business card. I'll continue to lead FC.

Contact Cherry (cherrywyman14@gmail.com) or Roy (roy@sewallinc.com) if you want to go along with one of our elite team members on a shoot!

- Roy Sewall

Member Profile: Peter Dunner by Al Neyman



Since gifted a nondescript 35mm as a child, Peter has had the bug. In high school and college, and as soon as he could, he moved up to

the venerable Contax/Zeiss camera for film and slides. Like his father, he was interested in art, sculpture, and painting, but says, "I have no personal talent. Others in my family were painters, and my sister did fashion design."

Though he may have been gifted with the artistic gene too, thoughts of a long academic career would shape his focus early; he did undergrad and graduate work at The City University of New York. In pursuit of a doctorate in French lit, he spent a year at the Universite de Nancy, Alsace-Lorraine, and a summer in Corsica.

But the doctoral program did not end as intended. The exigencies of a 'life on his own' set him thinking. His innate pragmatic nature and the changing curricula in colleges intimated that French literature was not practical. He thought, "I wanted to help other people, but not from behind a desk," and self-realization arrived. After much preparation, a change came. "I went to New York Medical college, did an internship at Beth Israel (NY) and a residency at Cornell. I came to

Washington in 1979 for a fellowship at GWU Hospital and stayed on with Washington Radiology Associates. (As a radiologist, he did his own imaging and purposely met with all his patients.) As I like to say, I've been in this area temporarily for 40 years," he explains.

Through it all, photography was a pursuit. In the '80s, Peter became more serious. "I carried 2 Nikon cameras - one for B&W, one for color." He and his wife Judy (from Hungary) started serious travel, a lot of it. He says, "...the gear got to be excessive and Judy would say, 'the three of us would travel on vacation, together.'" Their combined skills in multiple languages helped them in travel. He centered on home life too, with two children (and now 2 grandchildren) rounding out his lifestyle.

Peter was, and is, a 'man on a mission' when it comes to caring for people. Starting in 1991, he got involved with humanitarian efforts making the first of over 30 humanitarian trips to Cuba, where he set up a Costco-sized supply store for medications like Tylenol and ibuprofen - things that Cubans could not, and still cannot, get. It became a passion



- taking groups of doctors and others with medicine and clothing, whatever they could carry, to Cuba. Then there were research trips to Eastern Europe and India to learn, and share, knowledge in the specialty of mammography. He continued until travel was restricted by the Covid pandemic.

Travel provided more photo ops, although he was 'not trying to be different to be different.' Among stories he tells was about a trip to North Korea. "I spent 11 days with a group. Photography was permitted, but we were directed to see *only* what they wanted us to see. Still, it was revealing. The staged performances were impressive, but it appeared that the children (toddlers) were forced to perform. It was valuable, though...a possible photo essay," he says.

Self-taught in photography, Peter takes online courses. Back in the day, Peter taught himself the Kodak R-4 color system at home. Some of the many prints from that time are still on his walls. When the era arrived, Peter dove into digital; another adventure and another story were born: "I got a Fuji (to adapt to Nikon lenses) and just headed out. I did not know what 'raw file' meant, until after a few days when the memory card filled. In the middle of Portugal, I had to go everywhere for the rare and costly (in those days) memory card." Which he did.

Later, he would learn that the raw file meant other problems, too. "It was not just snapping pictures any more," he says. Digital photography required Lightroom, Photoshop, and so on. Philosophically, Peter poses that "every slider alters the pure photograph. Like



Photos © Peter Dunner

in the darkroom, there was burning and dodging, but it has become complex. Intentional camera motion, changing focus, changing skies - everybody is doing it."

Peter does not sneer at gear and says, "Cell phones take excellent, incredible pictures, with increasing resolution. I am surprised someone has not made a standalone camera in a phone body. It replaces some of the heavier gear for travel. As for the future, I like the feel of the camera and its control. Not comfortable with the cell phone."

Using an Epson 3880, print making is primary for Peter. A print, he says, "is something to hold, it is physical, an end result. I do not know what to do with digital photos, and am not really interested in the EIC. I like to make note cards, and often give a box for a house gift. It's much nicer to make prints and booklets."

As for what he likes to photograph, Peter says, "When I travel, I've stopped taking those monument-memory pics. I like to focus on people and what's happening in the street." From what he's told me, I believe Peter approaches street subjects with utmost care, and, after seeing his pics, I would also say, with the eye of a print artist.



PSA News

An Overview of PSA Competitions

Does the thought of entering international photography competitions appeal to you? Would you still be interested if you knew your fellow competitors numbered in the hundreds and even thousands, many of whom are professionals? Don't bow out before giving yourself a chance. The PSA has developed an elaborate system where your photographic abilities can be recognized regardless of how formidable the opposition is. While the system involves costs, time, patience and strategies, PSA provides various forms of assistance through study groups, consultants, education, conferences and much else. The PSA website (psa-photo.org) contains a wealth of knowledge and detail with most of it opened to nonmembers. This article is confined to an outline of the competition system where I devote most of my photographic energy.

Circuits and Exhibitions

The competitions are hosted by organizations all over the world in accordance with PSA requirements and definitions. These organizations are called exhibitions or circuits. An exhibition has a single panel of judges while a circuit consists of multiple panels up to six. PSA recognizes several broad competition areas. They are Projected Images (PID), Nature (ND), Photo Travel (PTD),

Photojournalism (PJD), Pictorial Prints (PPD) and 3D. The Projected Image Division has two classes, which are Color (PIDC) and Monochrome (PIDM). The Pictorial Print Division also has two classes: Color (PPDC) and Monochrome (PPDM). At the discretion of the exhibitions, the divisions may call for themed sections such as wildlife or birds in the Nature Division, landscapes or city life for the Projected Image Division, etc. An entrant may submit up to four images into each division, class and/or section. (I once forwarded twenty images for judging, but nowadays my usual number is no more than twelve.)



Ribbon Road © Larry Mars

My Challenge

What am I hoping to achieve?

Considering myself to be no more than an average photographer, I want to see how far I can get in a league of highly creative persons. My hobby, therefore, becomes my challenge. If enough of my images are accepted for public viewing by the individual exhibitions, PSA will award me a title which I can place after my name. In this quest, I will be following the star ratings paths of the divisions and classes that I compete in. Currently they are Projected Images (color and monochrome) and Photo Travel. A sufficient combination of acceptances and new titles will lead to various Recognition of Photographic Achievement (ROPA) distinctions.

Star, Galaxies, and Diamonds

Here is a broad overview of the star ratings paths. Each division and class is composed of five stars, 10 galaxies and 10 diamonds. To reach the very first star, one needs 18 acceptances and six different titles. To reach the fifth star, you need 288 cumulative acceptances and 96 different or new titles. At this point, you can apply for a ROPA distinction of PPSA (meaning "Proficiency").

After completing the stars, you can enter the galaxies. Galaxy 1 requires 25 new titles with three acceptances, each giving you 75 more acceptances. This is true, too, of galaxies 2, 3, 4 and 5. Galaxies 6 through 10 require 50 new titles with three acceptances each (150 more acceptances per galaxy). One depressing feature is that any acceptances beyond the three needed to accompany each new title are not counted toward anything. Beyond the galaxies are diamonds, where the structure is

similar to galaxies, but the numbers are somewhat different. All of the exacting details are on the PSA website.

Other ROPA Distinctions

Other ROPAs beyond PPSA are EPSA ("Excellence"), MPSA ("Master"), MPSA2 ("Master 2") and five levels of GMPSA ("Grand Master"), ending at GMPSA/P ("Grand Master, Platinum"). If one completes all the star, galaxy and diamond levels in any division or class, he or she will have accumulated 5,163 acceptances with 1,096 different titles. Not many people have ever done this in any single division or class. (PSA awards other titles for service to the organization and portfolio distinctions.)

Not long ago, PSA established another ROPA distinction aimed at new members and others wishing to start on the long Star Ratings Paths. It is QPSA, which simply means "Qualified" and is awarded by having 54 acceptances and 18 separate titles in any combination. For example, 18 titles accepted three times each would get you to the magic number of 54, but so would one title accepted 37 times combined with 17 other titles accepted once each.



Passing by the Graffiti © Larry Mars

What to Consider When Competing

Here are some things to consider upon competing in an exhibition or circuit. They all have entry costs, and there are about 50 or more of them each month. The costs are usually a bit less if you enter fewer divisions and themed sections. Some exhibitions, however, have a single expense regardless of the number of divisions and sections you enter. I do not compete in these exhibitions. Also, I save some money by no longer competing in the Nature Division, which was always my weakest area. If I ever have a good bird or wildlife image, I would use it in Projected Images. Costs per exhibition entry can range from \$20+ to \$60+.

Some of the exhibitions are recognized by other international photography organizations with differing requirements. PSA, for example, allows the exhibitions to accept up to 35% of all entries while FIAP, a European group, limits acceptances to only 25%. Naturally, I tend to avoid FIAP-based exhibitions.

I almost always enter circuits instead of exhibitions, because there are multiple panels of judges in the circuits - giving me more chances to get acceptances. On many occasions, I have received an acceptance or a new title for an image from one panel when all of the other panels rejected the image.

It is important to keep good records. You do not wish to repeat what I have done in the past by getting acceptances which I could not use for anything. This would apply especially when dealing with galaxies and diamonds. Good luck if you wish to join the PSA and begin competing in the star ratings paths!

- Larry Mars

My Experience with PSA Competitions



I initially entered PSA competitions from 2011 through 2014. My objective was to use the entries to practice and improve my photo and post processing skills and see how I compared with other photographers around the world. I had no interest in PSA star ratings. From this experience, I concluded that one must be organized, understand the entry process, and not set your expectations too high. Each competition awards cash prizes for the best in each section, best in show, best author, and some specialized awards. I have never won any money.

Why I Resumed Entering Competitions

I dropped out of competitions because the paperwork was confusing and time consuming. Since then, PSA has totally revamped its process, so the paperwork requirements are the same for each competition. Also, the requirements for entering different sections are standardized. For example, the definition of what is a "travel" photo and what post processing is allowed, is the same for all competitions sanctioned by the PSA. In addition, PSA reprogramed their entry forms for the star awards, so online entry is easy and quick.

I reentered competitions this past February. My objective is to develop a body of work of accepted photos, and to begin to collect acceptances to apply for PSA stars. Hopefully, after gaining several stars I will have enough multiple accepted photos for a book.

My Competition Strategy

When deciding to begin entering competitions again, I developed the following strategy. I would select approximately four competitions a month distributed geographically around the world and limit the sections entered to color, open and landscape, and travel, open and people. While many competitions have only one judging, some have multiple judging rounds, so each photo is judged by different panels. This increases the potential number of acceptances per entry and is a factor in selecting which competitions to enter.

I developed an Excel spreadsheet to record pertinent information and track progress in competitions I enter. This consolidates relevant information needed to enter competitions and complete applications for PSA star paths. When I select the competitions for a month, I record information from each competition's website. As I enter competitions, I complete the specifics for that competition and add the results when received. When I have met the requirements for a star, I can copy and paste the information from the spreadsheet to the application form on the PSA website.

Four images that meet the requirements for that section are allowed for each section. Once an



image is entered in a competition it cannot be modified or the title changed. Thus, before I begin entering competitions, I select four photos for each section in which I plan to compete and assign a title to each. After 3 - 4 months, I review which are winners and which are losers and replace the losers with new photos. I also identify which competitions do not give me acceptances and replace them with different competitions in the future.

My 2021 German Photo Cup Entry

An example of entering a competition is my entry into the German International Photo Cup. It was one of four I chose to enter in March. I selected the German competition because it has 4 rounds of judging, all my relatives are in Germany, (so I need some bragging rights), and I had entered it previously with no success and wanted to see if I had improved.

I entered two sections: color open and travel open. Each section entry consists of four photos which must meet the section requirements, filing requirements (image size and file size), file naming requirements, payment of fees, and entry made by the due date.

I followed my usual procedure. An entry is made through the competition website (e-mail or CD entry is also available). The four images for the section are selected from the collection of photos in Lightroom. Since post processing has been completed, I only need to select each image, export it to Photoshop, resize it, change the file name to meet competition requirements and export it to a separate folder outside of Photoshop as an sRGB jpg image. I then go to the competition's website and upload the images to the sections I entered. This is where the image title is also entered.

After uploading the images, I am prompted to pay the fee for entry. I always pay using PayPal. (If payment is not made by the due date, my images will be deleted.)

The only results an entrant receives is the net result - rejected or accepted - and any awards. Needless to say, providing judges' comments, if any, is an impossible task given the number of entries.

I completed my entries on March 15. Judging was held on March 26 -28 in four different cities. The competition received entries from almost 1,200 individuals and clubs with a total of almost 15,000 images.

My German Photo Cup Wins

Results were published on March 31. I received 7 acceptances for 4 different images.

In the color open section, 2 of my images received one acceptance each.

These are their thumbnails:



In the travel open section, 2 images received a total of 7 acceptances:

4 acceptances
for this image...



...and
3 acceptances
for this one



A catalogue (pdf) showing the images which received awards and lists of acceptances will be available by the end of May on the competition's website at <https://www.germanphotocup.de/>. There also will be a printed version of the catalogue available for a separate charge. The photos receiving awards will be on display from June through August in Felderstadt, a suburb of Stuttgart.

I am pleased with the results of this competition and look forward to reviewing the catalogue to see the winning entries.

- *Eric Schweitzer*

PSA Exhibitions

Larry Mars and Eric Schweitzer have written about their experiences with PSA exhibitions and I will try not to duplicate what they have said. Feel free to ask any of us if you have questions about PSA exhibitions. Friends encouraged me to enter them and actually, I did enter some many years ago with slides, but then got too busy to pursue it. It is so much easier to enter now with everything being done online except print exhibitions. They have been hit hard with the pandemic.

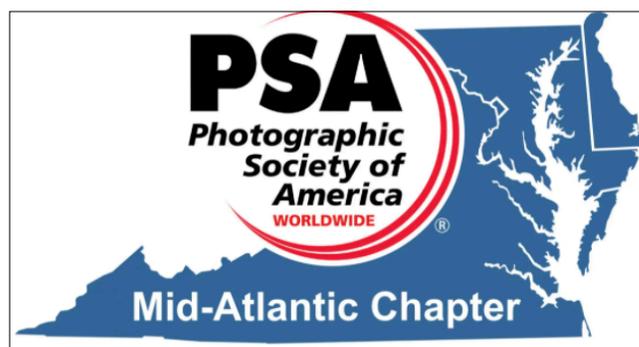
I wish I had started keeping records in an easier way, but now I suggest keeping just one Excel sheet per division, formatted the way you will need to submit star applications. Keep them up do date so you don't have to go hunting for reports. It is easy to miss an acceptance but you may be able to use it later. However, I recently entered an image that was already retired and it was accepted; that was a loss for me.

An article in a PSA Journal recommended keeping a list of images you have entered while you wait for a report, and that has been a big help in not duplicating images. I mark the acceptances and delete the rest to keep it up to date and mark those that have three acceptances. You may use as many acceptances as you receive, so you can use your best images over and over, but you have to keep in mind that you need a specified number of different titles for each star. Even if you have used it before, you can use it again through the fifth star. I have talked with several people at conferences that thought you could only use three acceptances for any

image. That is only true at the galaxy level.

When I was applying for my fifth star in Photojournalism (PJ), I used a separate Excel sheet to list all the acceptances that had not been used before and played games with what to use and what to hold over. Some had not done well so I used them, and some had 10 or more acceptances, so I used them too. I held over those with three acceptances for a galaxy, but still had to use more acceptances than needed to get to 96 titles. I was fortunate that PJ allows a percentage of published pictures to be counted and was glad that I had saved copies of all the publications. A former NBCC member encouraged me to submit my preschool images to some educational publications. They didn't pay much, but they did help me get credit with PSA.

- Judy Burr, PSA Representative



PSA Member News

Several NBCC members have been entering PSA Exhibitions and had varying success. **Larry Mars** received 13 acceptances in the SAM Digital Exhibition in India. Eight were for mono images, three for travel and two for nature. He also received 9 acceptances in the Renaissance Circuit in India - four in color, two in monochrome and three in travel. In the Sandvan Image in Singapore, Larry had a total of seven acceptances—one in color, 3 in monochrome and three in travel. Larry is working on Galaxies in three Divisions and that makes it harder. PSA rules require 25 images with 3 acceptances each for Galaxies 1 through 5. That means you may “lose” some acceptances and find it hard to get a third acceptance for some images.

Eric Schweitzer did well in the German International Photocup, garnering 9 acceptances, including 3 acceptances for “Mostar Bridge” and 4 for “Trolley in Lisbon.” I know this only because I also entered the exhibition and looked at the US acceptances and saw his name. I think they were all in travel. I was satisfied with my report, as I received an HM for a color image, and acceptances for 2 monochrome images, 3 in nature (my weakest category, where I am trying to get new titles) and one in photo travel.

I fared better in the Midnapore Circuit in India, with a total of 15 acceptances. I was fortunate to receive 3 acceptances on 3 different images, which is great at the Galaxy level. The Mammoth Circuit in India also gave me 3 acceptances on 2 travel images. I am



Blackwater Abstract © Judy Burr

not entering as often as I did in the past and will be more selective in the future. I never expected to get involved, but some friends talked me into it at a PSA conference in Charleston years ago.

The image that received an HM was taken with an iPhone using the InstaBooth camera with the Muzic setting. I then used either Roll World (no longer available) or Tiny Planets to make the final image. We were at Blackwater Wildlife Refuge on the Eastern Shore and saw next to nothing. We stopped at the visitor center on our way out and the sun was hitting the safety mat just right for a photo and that was the best image I got from the refuge!

- Judy Burr, PSA Representative

Competition Results: April (Weather)

Judge: Mary Ann Setton

PRINTS

Intermediate (15 entries)

1st	Richard Chitty	Dreams of Montana
2nd	Kurt Focke	C&O Towpath
3rd	Kathryn Mohrman	Skeleton Men
HM	Steven Frahm	Post Storm God Beam
HM	Cherry Wyman	A Bit of Fog

Advanced (21 entries)

1st	John Norvell	Sunrise at Portland Head Lighthouse
2nd	Stan Collyer	The Approaching Storm
3rd	Bill Seelig	Multiple Me
HM	James Corbett	Look Into My Eyes
HM	John Norvell	Storm at Permaquid
HM	Tammy Trocki	Kitchen Utensil
HM	Nikos Zacharakis	Milky Way in Greece

ELECTRONIC IMAGES

Novice (5 entries)

1st	Maude Svensson	Nordanviken
2nd	Maude Svensson	Changing Plans

Intermediate (34 entries)

1st	Ruiqing Pamboukian	Misty Morning Flight
2nd	Max Kantzer	Foggy Morning on Skyline Drive
3rd	Ruiqing Pamboukian	Let It Snow
HM	Michael Blicher	Splash
HM	Kurt Focke	A Storm Is Coming
HM	Gary McDavid	Rocky Mountain Cold
HM	Jill Randell	Autumn Snow in the Smokies
HM	Jill Randell	Maine Morning Fog
HM	Don Tobin	Canal Flurries
HM	Don Tobin	The Runner
HM	Peter Winik	Snowy Mat

Advanced (28 entries)

1st	David Terao	Approaching Storm
2nd	José Cartas	Rainbow and Boat
3rd	Jean Yuan	Geminice
HM	Robert Barkin	Morning Fog
HM	Bruce Davis	Three Bison
HM	Dick Knapp	Tourist at Mall on Blah New Year's Day
HM	Joanne Mars	Snow Covered Cabin
HM	Larry Mars	Foggy Morning
HM	Mark Segal	Rainy Doubtful Sound

NBCC Competition Results

Cumulative Scores Through April 2021

PRINTS

Intermediate

45 Steven Frahm
 36 Steven Lapidus
 34 Cherry Wyman
 31 Peter Dunner
 30 Kathryn Mmohrman
 27 Kay Norvell
 26 Lisa Maco
 23 Kurt Focke
 19 Richard Chitty
 10 Julia Malone
 9 William James
 8 Mark Leatherman, Tom Marchessault
 6 Marjorie Bloom, Debbie Menditch,
 Ruiqing Pamboukian, Nolan Rappaport,
 Cat Simmons

Advanced

74 Bill Seelig
 59 Stan Collyer
 49 Nikos Zacharakis
 44 Dick Pelroy
 30 Saul Pleeter
 28 John Norvell, Tammy Trocki
 24 James Corbett
 22 Lester LaForce
 15 Bruce Cyr
 14 Jim Turner
 12 Eric Schweitzer
 9 James Chia
 6 Sarah Salomon

ELECTRONIC IMAGES

Novice

44 Riko Saidel, Maude Svensson
 37 Pauline Jaffe
 29 Tom Gross
 27 Janice Solomon
 12 George Kiebuszinski
 8 Craig Carlson

Intermediate

71 Peter Winik
 67 Ruiqing Pamboukian
 49 Max Kantzer
 45 Gary McDavid
 40 Claudia Seelig
 34 Jill Randell
 30 Don Tobin
 28 Mark Leatherman,
 Christina Papakonstantinou
 27 Cat Simmons
 26 Lorraine Chickering, Steve Parker
 24 Michael Blicher
 18 Shelley Price
 15 Geoff Hornseth
 12 Kurt Focke, Stacey Lewis,
 Cherry Wyman, Rose Yee
 6 Beth Altman, Dillard Boland, James Frid,
 Tom Gross, Steven Hannes, Al Neyman,
 Audrey Rothstein, Dawn Sikkema,
 Ray Whitman

Advanced

118 David Terao
 54 Joanne Mars
 36 Robert Barkin, José Cartas, Kent Mason
 35 Mark Segal
 32 Chet Stein
 30 Bruce Davis, Larry Mars
 29 James Chia, Toni Robinson
 18 Steven Silverman, John Willis
 16 Melissa Clark
 14 Jean Yuan
 9 Stuart Glickman
 6 Ira Adler, Gail Bingham, David Clemmer,
 Dick Knapp, Carol Lee,
 Guillermo Olaizola, Nancy Wolejsza

Intermediate Print Winners

April (Weather/Open) Competition



1st Place
Dreams of Montana
© **Richard Chitty**

The rain never seemed to stop. We were hiking in the Rocky Mountains of Glacier National Park in Montana where the clouds were above us, below us, and all around us. All that could be seen was grayness. It was like being in a dream with sudden moments of clarity where the skies would suddenly clear and treat us to a scene of the surrounding mountains, and then just as quickly return to a misty view of vague shapes in the distance.

3rd Place
Skeleton Men
© **Kathryn Mohrman**

These skeleton men were participants in the Mt. Hagen cultural festival in Papua, New Guinea in 2018. Each tribe has its own distinctive language, traditional dress and body paint - and there are more than 800 languages and tribes in a country of 8 million people. I traveled there with Jim Cline Photo Tours.



2nd Place
C&O Towpath
© **Kurt Focke**

The C&O canal changes constantly depending on the season, the time of day and the weather. I was lucky to be there in a fall afternoon, before sunset; the sun illuminated the beautiful fall colors of the trees at the canal.



Advanced Print Winners

April (Weather/Open) Competition



1st Place
Sunrise at Portland Head Lighthouse
© **John Norvell**

While visiting our daughter in Maine, we got up very early to drive to the Portland Head Lighthouse for sunrise. The gate was supposed to be open before sunrise, but it wasn't. We walked in and arrived just after sunrise. I was disappointed to miss it but was impressed by the bright early sun lighting up the side of the lighthouse building. I quickly set up my tripod for a photo. It wasn't what I planned, but it was probably better.

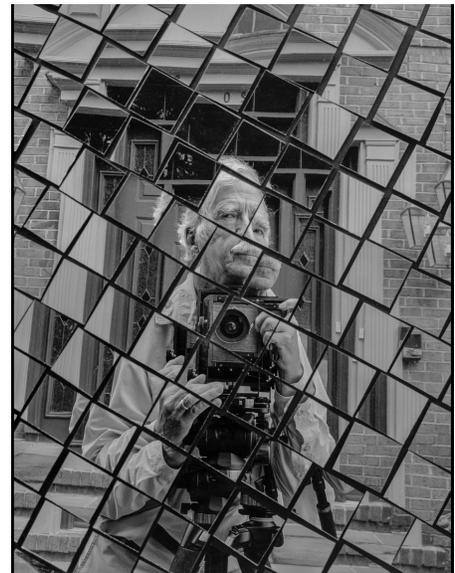
2nd Place
The Approaching Storm
© **Stan Collyer**



This is a three-image composite. While on a South America cruise two years ago, these sunbeams appeared momentarily near Tierra del Fuego. I had no time to get my "big boy" camera, so I used my Samsung G7. The wandering albatrosses and their reflections were captured on that same trip, with a 400mm lens. The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN72) was photographed near Hawaii last year as it was heading to San Diego (unescorted by any supporting ships). It was at the end of the longest carrier deployment since the 1970s.

3rd Place
Multiple Me
© **Bill Seelig**

I was striving for an unusual 'selfie' so I bought a box of 120 2" x 2" mirrors on sale on the internet and secured them to a black board. It seemed wise to have strong geometric features in the background, to help bring out the fractured nature of this concept, so I took the photo with our front door as the background in soft evening light. Of course, this was taken with my favorite 4" x 5" film camera, since the main emphasis of my work is black & white. I printed in the darkroom at low contrast in an effort to hide my many imperfections!



Novice EIC Winners April (Weather) Competition



1st Place
Nordanviken
© **Maude Svensson**

The weather tends to change rapidly by the sea and this day was no exception from the rule. I was at our summerhouse by the Baltic Sea, about two hours from Stockholm, Sweden, when one night the clouds changed from fluffy whites to darkish blue/black (remember, we have the white summer nights in Scandinavia). Having heard more seasoned photographers say that bad weather makes good photos, I thought I better seize the moment. I grabbed my camera and rushed out in my pajamas to take a shot before the rain would be all over us. But, as it turned out, the weather changed again and the storm only touched our island with some drizzle.



2nd Place
Changing Plans
© **Maude Svensson**

I shot this picture close to the top of Åreskutan in Jämtland, Northern Sweden. I had climbed the hill in beautiful sunlight and was on my way downhill when I met the mountain bikers. Having reached the age of wisdom, I was impressed to see these youngsters on bikes and I admired their strength and determination to bring their bikes so far uphill. But as they were about to race their bikes downhill, the weather suddenly changed and they must have been soaking wet before they got to the bottom of the hill. I certainly was....

Intermediate EIC Winners

April (Weather) Competition



1st Place
Misty Morning Flight
© **Ruiqing Pamboukian**

Lake Needwood is my favorite shooting spot, especially during autumn when tree leaves turn colorful. Early morning fog is often seen when temperatures drop suddenly. I can only say I was lucky when the morning light, the misty air, the flight of the birds and the colorful trees combined in this moment. For post processing, I used motion blur to straighten and clean up the background trees. I also enhanced the color and lightened a little bit.

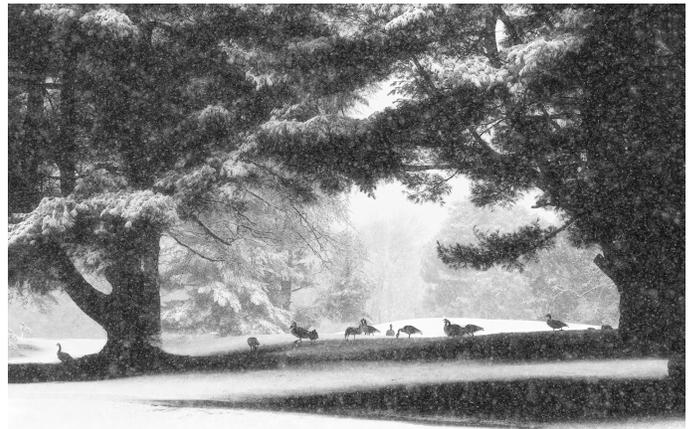


2nd Place
Tree at Greenhill Vineyard
© **Max Kantzer**

This photograph of a tree was taken in early afternoon at the Greenhill Winery and Vineyard east of Middleburg, Virginia. This beautiful tree caught my eye and I tried to frame it between the road, the vineyard and the dramatic clouds. The light fog helped reinforce the foreboding mood of the image. Post processing included dodging the tree trunk to bring out the details, using luminosity masking to select and darken the clouds and adjusting the saturation in the grass.

3rd Place
Let It Snow
© **Ruiqing Pamboukian**

It is challenging, but I always wanted to shoot some snowy scenes. This time I was not lazy. Just as an early morning snow started, I got up from my warm bed and drove to the golf course nearby. White snow covered the entire field of the golf course. It was so peaceful. I could even hear the sounds of snow falling. Not only did I enjoy the snow, but also the Canada geese family. I didn't want to intrude on them, so I used my 200mm lens from a distance to take this photo. Not much post processing was used for this one. I decided to turn it into black & white.



Advanced EIC Winners April (Weather) Competition



1st Place
Approaching Storm
© **David Terao**

This image was taken at Great Falls just before sunset when a thunderstorm suddenly came roaring in. I was ready to call it quits when I saw the dramatic storm clouds parting with a little sunlight coming through. I quickly grabbed the shot, packed up and ran for shelter.



2nd Place
Rainbow and Boat
© **José Cartas**

This photo was taken in Barbados, April 2019, where I was for work. While having breakfast (7:00 a.m.) on the balcony of my hotel room, I saw the rainbow and went inside to pick up my camera. When I came back, the boat was on the scene. However, when I took the picture it was just a little past the rainbow, so in post-processing I moved it back to this spot.



3rd Place
Geminice
© **Jean Yuan**

I took my image with my cellphone in our neighborhood after it snowed this winter. I was intrigued by the water bubbles formed by the melting ice. The forms of the bubbles changed constantly, so I took several images of the water bubbles. Later on, I turned one of the images into b&w and selectively kept the original color and enhanced it in Photoshop.

NBCC Board of Directors, Committees and Appointments 2020-21

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Steve Frahm

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Toni Robinson

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Geoff Hornseth

Dick Pelroy

Nikos Zacharakis

Electronic:

Steve Lapidus

John Willis

Education

Jill Randell*

Toni Robinson

Judges

Bruce Cyr*

Debbie Menditch

Tammy Trocki

MPA

Carol Lee*

Membership

Toni Robinson*

Anna Aslund

Steve Frahm

Mike Mitchell

Guillermo Olaizola

Don Tobin

Cherry Wyman

Field Trips

James Corbett*

Beth Altman

Gail Bingham

George Corbin

Kurt Focke

Dick Pelroy

Jack Rosenberg

Tammy Trocki

Jim Turner

Exhibits

Lester LaForce*

Jack Rosenberg

John Willis

Cherry Wyman

Programs

Tammy Trocki*

Judy Ackerman

Evelyn Jacob

Kent Mason

John Norvell

Toni Robinson

Jack Rosenberg

David Terao

Ray Whitman

MAPV

John Norvell*

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Bob Peavy

Roy Sewall

Jack Rosenberg

Judy Switt

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Kevin O'Connell

Don Picard

Nikos Zacharakis

Hospitality

Riko Saidel*

Ira Adler

Bill Seelig

Claudia Seelig

Terry Van Houten

Ray Whitman

Photo Essay

Stu Mathison*

José Cartas

Stan Collyer

David Davidson

Mark Segal

John Willis

Nancy Wolejsza

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Website

Shelley Price*

John Allender

Rich Chitty

Cherry Wyman

Lens & Eye

Cherry Wyman

Asbury Liaison

Rich Chitty

Share & Care

Pauline Jaffe

Church Liaison

Rich Chitty

PSA Representative

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Dinner Reservations

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Database

Administrator

Bruce Cyr

*chair