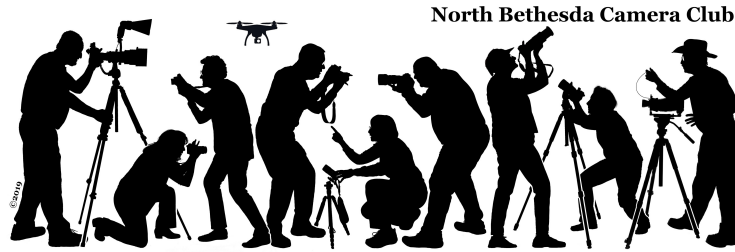


# The Lens and Eye



Volume 56 Number 2 | October 2020 | Editor: Cherry Wyman | Website: [www.nbccmd.org](http://www.nbccmd.org)

## Calendar

**All events will be held remotely. Zoom meeting connections will be sent by GordieGram.**

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

- Oct. 7** Competition (EIC) - 5-Year Open
- Oct. 14** Competition (Print) - 5-Year Open
- Mid-Oct.** Early a.m. Delaware Water Gap Meetup
- Oct. 21** Board Meeting
- Oct. 27** Early a.m. C & O Canal Meetup
- Oct. 28** Program: Humanitarian Work Through Photography

## October Competition Theme: 5-Year Open

Any picture taken within the last five years.  
(Must be taken on or after October 1, 2015)

As always, each member may submit no more than two images per month, including Members Showcase.

**Electronic images are due no later than 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 4.** If you are competing in the electronic category or submitting to Members Showcase, please send your images as email attachments to [nbccmdEcomp@gmail.com](mailto:nbccmdEcomp@gmail.com)

**Print images are due no later than 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 11.** If you are competing in the print category, please send your images as email attachments to [nbccmdPcomp@gmail.com](mailto:nbccmdPcomp@gmail.com)

*For more winning images from the September competition, see pages 24-28.*



*Bunny and Purple Flowers*  
© Janice Solomon

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## October 7 Judge: Lewis Lorton



*Corps de Ballet, Cuba*  
© Lewis Lorton

Lewis Lorton has retired from an unfortunately long but eclectic career. He lived in Columbia, MD for 35 years while stationed at Walter Reed and then while working in various executive positions. He retired to care of his wife and relocated to Manhattan in 2018, a few months after her death.

He became serious about photography after a trip to Vietnam in 1998 and worked his way up through a succession of cameras from a Sony digital point-and-shoot through crop-frame Nikons, then full-frame Nikons and transitioned to mirrorless Sony full-frame bodies and lenses.

Lew shoots a good deal of street photography and, when traveling, tries to incorporate the emotion and energy of street photography in any photos he takes. He is not a

particularly technical photographer and believes that technical issues should only serve to emphasize the emotional impact of photos. Thus, technical issues are only important if they diminish the impact of a photo.

"As far as I'm concerned, a perfectly made image without any emotional core or originality is worthless," he says.



*Auto Repair, Old Havana*  
© Lewis Lorton

## October 14 Judge: Sandi Croan



Sandi Croan is an independent photographer from Centreville, who has been living in Northern Virginia since 1978. She specializes in landscape, nature, and travel photography with an eye for capturing the unique and creating fine art for homes and offices.

Sandi has won numerous competitions and awards for her fine art photographs including: Photographer of the Year and Print of the Year numerous times as well as Versatile Photographer of the Year at Northern Virginia Photographic Society (NVPS); 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the 2016 Art Space Herndon Fine Art Photography Exhibit, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at Reston Artists PhotoArt 2015, Best Landscape and People's Choice awards at Nature Visions Photography Expo; and Best in Show and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at the juried Meadowlark Photo Expo in Vienna, VA. Her images have been selected to be put on permanent display at the Fair Oaks Hospital Cancer Center, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens and the Joseph Miller Center for the Photographic Arts. She has been juried into numerous art shows including the prestigious VisArts of Rockville Exhibitions, Fairfax County Council of the Arts Show (Unlocked), The Fraser Gallery International Photography Exhibition, Art Space Herndon Fine Art Photography Exhibit as well as many others. Sandi was a featured artist in *Elan Magazine*, and her photograph, "Blue Lagoon," was on the cover. She has also had photographs published in other local and national magazines.

Sandi has sold many of her photographs to private, corporate and government clients, and does shows for businesses and other local events. In addition, Sandi has recently or is currently displaying her art at Broadway Gallery, The Blue Iguana restaurant in Fairfax, Meadowlark Gardens, Cub Run Recreation Center, Trummers on Main Street Restaurant, and the Fairfax County Government Center.

Sandi has been an active member of the Northern Virginia Photographic Society (NVPS) since 2004 and has served in a variety of board positions since 2005. She served as president of NVPS for two terms from 2009-2011. She also is a speaker and serves as a judge for area photographic clubs, competitions and exhibitions.

You can see a sample of Sandi's work at [www.sandicroanphotography.com](http://www.sandicroanphotography.com)



*Dilapidated* © Sandi Croan



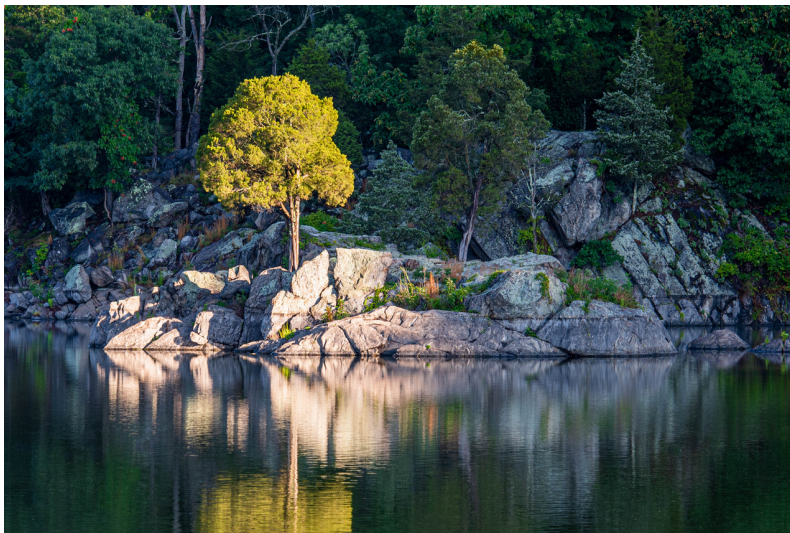
# October Field Trip Meet-Ups

## Early Morning C&O Canal



*Great Falls 4 © Mike Mitchell*

Mark your calendar for an early morning shoot on **Tuesday, October 27** along the C&O Canal Towpath with a potential for photographing sunrise from Great Falls on the Maryland side. The exact path we will take has not been decided. Look for details in an upcoming GordieGram. Rest assured that a specific and interesting path is being planned that will show off fall foliage and lovely morning views. We will be observing rules of social distancing. The trip will begin at or near dawn and last about three hours. Contact [tammytrocki@comcast.net](mailto:tammytrocki@comcast.net) if interested. First come, first served. Open to waitlisters as well as NBCC members. 10 participants maximum.



*Widewater 1 © Mike Mitchell*

- Tammy Trocki, Field Trips Committee

## Delaware Water Gap

Dick Pelroy is planning a meetup at the Delaware Water Gap (DWG) in **mid-October**. He will be scouting the area in early October and will set the date aiming for the peak of fall colors. The area is rich in waterfalls, lakes, and pleasant rolling countryside. The meeting point will be timed to catch first light at Hidden Lake near East Stroudsburg, PA. As the GordieGram is likely to give little notice, please be ready to make early morning driving plans or to book an overnight stay. The rules of social distancing will be followed during the trip.



*Hidden Lake © Dick Pelroy*

*- James Corbett, Field Trips Chair*

## October 28 Program: Compassionate Travel on Five Continents with A. Jerry Taylor

Jerry Taylor has graciously agreed to be our October speaker and will present images from his body of work, "People, Places and Portions." He describes his work as an eclectic world of people, places and portions. Each image is about a place and a story.



For the first eighteen years of his professional adult life, Jerry was a teacher, an assistant principal and a principal. Then, for the next 25 years, he was a Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist (LCMFT). With his wife (also a LCMFT), they have traveled to Thailand, Kenya, Indonesia, Myanmar, Romania, and other countries, working with people in refugee camps, schools, churches and other settings for the betterment of communication and life style changes. Jerry says his images are simply a benefit of helping others in a different culture. "People" and "places" are obvious, but many people ask him what "portions" are.

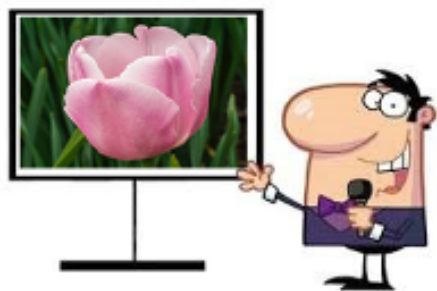
"Portions - every artistic observation is only part of the whole, regardless of the artistic rendering. Therefore, you the observer, are only seeing a portion of what the artist saw; even the artist is only sharing part of the whole," he said.

Jerry graduated from Bel Air High School and holds a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. He was a teacher at Havre de Grace Middle School; assistant principal at Magnolia Middle School and principal of Mountain Christian School.

Jerry's current website is found at [www.jerrytaylorphoto.com](http://www.jerrytaylorphoto.com).

- David Terao, Programs Committee

# Mark Your Calendars: 2020 Member Expo Coming Soon!



This year's **Member Expo** (ME) will be held on **November 11<sup>th</sup>** (7:30 pm) via Zoom. You may recall that the purpose of the ME is twofold: (1) to give NBCC members an opportunity to share their work and (2) for NBCC members to learn about the creative things their fellow members are doing. The event is totally non-competitive and informal. **All NBCC members are encouraged to participate.** As in prior years, you may **submit up to 12 images.** We recommend that

**each presentation have a central theme or common thread** (e.g., flowers, birds, travel, street, portraits, landscapes, etc.). Each member may give a brief introduction before her/his showing. The work does not have to be current. Members with **all** levels of expertise are encouraged to participate; this is NOT just for the best images in the club. It is important to note that entering images in ME does not restrict these images from being entered into other venues including competitions, exhibits, photo essays, etc.

**New NBCC members:** This program is especially for you, both as a participant and as an audience member. It will give you a chance to show other members some examples of your work and interests, and you can learn about what other members are doing. Please put it on your calendar and plan to participate and/or attend.

Further details on how to submit images will be forthcoming as we get closer to the program date. The portal for entering images will open in early November, so watch for GordieGrams announcing Member Expo. But, for now, start thinking about your theme and begin gathering your images together.

- David Terao, Programs Committee



## **Splinters from the Board**

Our new program year is in full swing with many opportunities to grow as photographers. We have already conducted our first competitions where the images were just stunning. I am especially happy to see the participation of new members who bravely provided excellent photographs. My advice to new and existing members, who may be daunted by the competitions, is to think of it as a great way to get a critique from an experienced judge. Listen closely to their comments on your image and the others in the competition and you will find that they are excellent guidance to improve your photography.

One of the best ways to move forward in your photography is to join some of the small group classes that the education committee provides. Led by Jill Randell's team, the small group classes have an amazing array of courses. Do join in or even offer your expertise to lead a class.

Our field trips also provide a real chance to develop your photography skills and vision. Even in this time of constrained travel, James Corbett and his team have created many intriguing events. Your own home can be the place which can lead to some outstanding images. Sign up for these field trips the moment they are posted!

In addition, the program committee led by Tammy Trocki has arranged for an outstanding series of speakers and events throughout this program year. These program nights will inspire us and grow our creativity - so make sure to attend.

We are so fortunate to have such a close community of people who love photography. Maintaining the well being of all our community is so important. If you know of any member who is ill or injured, please contact Pauline Jaffe, our Share and Care representative.

This year is off to a great start! If there are questions or suggestions about our club, please don't hesitate to let me know.

*- Rich Chitty, President*



## Member News

**Beth Altman** has had her image, "I Believe in Unicorns," accepted to the "Why I Vote" exhibit sponsored by Washington Women's Art Caucus and City of Gaithersburg **Activity Center at Bohrer Park Art Gallery**. This exhibit commemorates the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote while exploring contemporary issues that galvanize women voters.

The exhibit is open **until November 16** at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg. To view Beth's work at the virtual exhibit, click <https://www.wcad.org/whyivote> and scroll down to the fifth row of the gallery; hers is the black and white image of two children on the right. To visit the gallery, call 301-258-6350 and ask for current viewing hours.

### ISO Human Interest Reporter

For many years we had a standard article in the Lens & Eye called "Member Profile." Jean Hanson, our most recent Emeritus member, interviewed dozens of new members over the course of many years. Unfortunately, she has not been able to continue this very meaningful activity, and we have decided it is time to resurrect it since its last occurrence in 2017.

To that end, we are looking for someone to take on the role of "staff writer" for the Lens & Eye, specifically to interview our new members and write up the Member Profile every month. We have 22 new members this year, as well as our new members from the last few years, who have not been given the opportunity to be spotlighted.

If you are interested, please contact me. You can take a look at Jean's profiles (I believe there are 150 articles in previous Lens & Eye issues) by going to the [back issues](#) page on our website and doing a search (Ctrl-f on a PC, COMMAND-f on a Mac) for "Member Profile."

Hope to see you on the team!

- *Cherry Wyman, Lens & Eye Editor*  
[Cherrywyman14@gmail.com](mailto:Cherrywyman14@gmail.com)

# Climate Change in Our Town

It's predictable human behavior that we will mostly ignore big problems that are happening in other places such as the recent fires in California and Oregon, the derecho in Iowa, flooding in Texas and Louisiana. We will be alarmed, and sad for those affected. We might contribute money or contact friends in the area to empathize and find out how they are doing. But likely we won't really take action because we are not directly affected. If a massive oak tree hit your house in a windstorm, you'd suddenly take notice of worsening weather. Same if your basement flooded from heavy rains.

In this article I will address the larger picture of climate change in the D.C. metropolitan area (which I will affectionately call "Our Town"), with hopes of zooming into more specific topics in the future. It might seem that climate change hasn't really affected "Our Town" much. But it really has, in the form of increasingly extreme weather. This means rising temperatures, higher winds, more rainfall, more flooding, unusual events like derechos and tornados, and more pressure on water quality. We've all experienced this. We've seen flooding in Washington Harbor, East Potomac Park, Alexandria Waterfront, and the C&O Canal. It will continue to get worse. Here's a good summary from the Environmental Protection Agency: "What Climate Change Means for the District of Columbia" (<https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-11/documents/climate-change-dc.pdf>). Holy Moley!

Falling trees from high winds are a real nightmare. Higher winds and increased ground saturation from rainfall make things worse. My property has been hit three times by neighbors' huge oak trees over the 43 years I have lived here. The damage was significant, as were the close calls to our safety. My family and I were in the family room when the first tree hit the house about 20 feet from us. The sound was like a huge thunderclap just overhead, and the whole house shook. A few years later a falling tree demolished a wonderful playhouse, jungle gym, and swing structure that I lovingly built for my daughter over an entire summer. She had been in there with a friend 5 minutes earlier. She cried for 10 minutes; I cried for 5 days. See Figure 1.



*Figure 1. My Daughter's Playhouse (1996)*

As I started writing this article on September 10, it was pouring hard outside. An email came in from the Washington Post with the following headline: "Torrential rain triggers widespread flooding in D.C. area, inundating roads, stranding motorists." Hmmm.... Then the next day, from the Washington Post:

During the afternoon Thursday, a torrent washed over the heart of the D.C. area, unloading up to a half foot of rain in just a few hours. The deluge caused creeks and streams to rise up to eight feet in a single hour and overwhelmed drainage systems, bringing widespread flooding that inundated roads and stranded dozens of motorists.

Flooding can also come from the Potomac River. It is fed by an enormous watershed of 14,700 square miles, including parts of Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. I recall looking into the water variances about a dozen years ago and finding that there can be 30 times more water volume during flooding days than in low-water days. The precious C&O Canal's historic infrastructure has been battered by floods, and the National Park Service struggles to keep it maintained.

Figures 2 and 3 show Great Falls at different water levels, taken from the exact same spot. For more Potomac flooding photos see <https://www.roysewallphotography.com/Photographs/Potomac-River-and-CO-Canal/1-Potomac-Rivers-Great-Falls-Area/Flooding/> .



*Figure 2. Great Falls at Heavy Flood Stage (2006)*





*Figure 3. Great Falls at Low Water (2007)*

Let's consider what Our Town is likely to experience in our children's lives: more extreme weather, both greater flooding and droughts, rising tidal Potomac (that reaches up to Little Falls), subsidence (natural sinking of the land), diminished water supply, declining water quality, spread of mosquitoes and infectious diseases, reduced food choices, possibly more earthquakes, algae blooms, and other alarming disasters. For example, I reviewed studies of Our Town's water supply. You'd think that with increased rainfall and flooding that our water supply would remain intact, but – oddly enough – it's actually expected to get considerably worse in the next 20 years due to increased demand by a growing population, droughts, increased evaporation from higher temperatures, etc.

Yikes, friends! We've got to wake up and deal with this, at the personal, private sector, and local, state, and federal government levels. I am way past wondering if humans really are contributing to the problem. I look to scientific conclusions from organizations such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to inform us about what's going on. They tell us that humans are adding massively to nature's own greenhouse gases – especially CO<sub>2</sub> and methane – through countless poor practices, including fossil fuel burning, wetland destruction, deforestation, agriculture, manufacturing, mining, landfills, and much more. For a top level article from NASA, see <https://climate.nasa.gov/>. Poor practices even many thousands of miles away still affect what happens in Our Town. It is truly a global issue.



I am hoping to pull in other photographer/authors to form some sort of organization that uses photography to help educate people about worsening effects of climate change on Our Town and what we can do about it. Please contact me at [roy@sewallinc.com](mailto:roy@sewallinc.com) if you have climate change photos and stories about Our Town. It's too early to have a good handle on what the organization would look like, but I'm open to suggestions.

- Roy Sewall

## Call for Climate Change Articles

With this issue of The Lens and Eye, we are initiating a new series of articles on "Climate Change and Our Photography," which will run through May 2021.

Increases in extreme weather events (floods, hurricanes, wildfires, etc.), melting glaciers and sea ice, species decline and loss, erratic weather patterns, and rapidly rising ocean water are all indicators that climate change is happening now. It is not something we can ignore.

Most NBCC members are avid nature or travel photographers, and many of you have had what you love to photograph impacted by the effects of climate change.

We invite you to submit an article for this series that tells your story about a place, people and/or species that you care about and that has been affected by climate change.

### Guidelines for Articles

Articles should tell a visual story and include text. Here are some guidelines to follow.

#### Subjects

Subjects need to:

- focus on climate change and its impact on what you love and photograph
- be personally important and be written in a way that your interest is evident.
- target a specific area that is impacted by climate change such as, Climate change and...
  - Angel Glacier in Jasper, Canada
  - its impact on herons and egrets in southwest Florida
  - my trip to XXX
  - marshes
  - the farmers in Iowa

## **Photographs**

- Most should be taken by you. However, sometimes authorized third-party photographs might be helpful in addition to your photographs. An example is including photographs from many years ago to show “before and after.”
- They can be current and/or old.
- Before and after photographs are greatly encouraged.

## **Text**

- Tell a compelling story:
  - Speak from your heart.
  - Paint a picture: who, what, when, where, how, and why?
    - When did you realize XXX was at risk or destroyed?
    - Who or what has been impacted by climate change?
    - How have they been impacted?
    - How has this affected your photography?
    - What is the moral or point of the story?
    - What do you want the reader to do?
    - Why are you compelled to tell this story?
- Does the story have a clear beginning, middle and end?
- Address NBCC members.
- Be sure that your assertions accurately reflect research and data.
- Tell your story simply and without extraneous detail.
- Write a draft and then shorten it.

## **Examples**

The Washington Post In Sights online section presents blog posts that have examples of articles that combine photographs and text:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-sight/?itid=nb\\_regph\\_photography\\_in-sight](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-sight/?itid=nb_regph_photography_in-sight)

Examples that specifically address climate change issues include the following:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/photography/2020/04/29/life-too-often-lived-under-water-how-tidal-flooding-is-wreaking-havoc-bangladesh/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/photography/2020/05/18/citizen-naturalists-keep-watch-over-at-risk-dragonflies-butterflies-bugs/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/photography/2019/08/23/how-climate-change-is-affecting-quality-life-italian-alps/>

## **Submission**

Feel free to discuss your ideas with any of us.

Submit your article to Cherry Wyman for The Lens and Eye (deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month).

*- Bruce Davis, Evelyn Jacob, Toni Robinson, Roy Sewall, Cherry Wyman*

## **NBCC Print Competition Changes to Note**

In case you haven't been paying attention or your mind has been zoomed out into left field lately, last year the board voted to make a change to the print competition, hoping to promote more print participation.

We voted to allow print competitors to submit OPEN subjects into all assignments (except Nature and Black & White). You must still follow all the regular competition rules including the date restrictions. Of course, you MAY submit images that fit the assignment if you wish. No brownie points!

(None of this change pertains to the electronic competition assignments.)

Needless to say, our hope was to challenge more members to learn how to print and improve their skills through our competitions and exhibits. Well, so much for that idea!!! Hello, Zoom!

Not wanting to totally eliminate the print categories, we chose to allow our printers to submit JPEG files which will be judged monthly as though they were a mounted print. If you have a winner, you are expected to print (from the exact same file) and mount that print as usual. Those mounted prints will eventually be turned in for the year-end-competition, where they will be judged and awarded on their "true" print qualities.

Please refresh your photographic endeavors for the year by revisiting the competition assignments, rules, and submission guidelines:

<http://www.nbccmd.org/docs/NBCCassignments.pdf>

<http://www.nbccmd.org/docs/CompetitionRules.pdf>

[http://www.nbccmd.org/docs/  
ImageFilePreparationAndSubmissionGuidelines.pdf](http://www.nbccmd.org/docs/ImageFilePreparationAndSubmissionGuidelines.pdf)

### **Competition Assignments, October 2020 to May 2021**

**Oct. 2020 OPEN – FIVE YEARS.** Any picture taken within the last five years. (Must be taken on or after October 1, 2015)

**Nov. 2020 BOUNDARY MARKERS as major elements of your image:** Walls, fences, rows of trees, plants, or stones, a moat, suspended chains or ropes from posts and the like. **Prints may be themed or open.** (Must be taken on or after Nov 1, 2018)



**Dec. 2020 NATURAL PATTERNS FOUND IN NATURE.** The repetition of lines, shapes or patterns in texture. **Prints may be themed or open.** (Must be taken on or after Dec 1, 2018)

**Jan. 2021 BLACK AND WHITE OPEN.** An image rendered in black and white (i.e., ALL color has been removed either in the digital process or through the choice of film or camera). (Must be taken on or after January 1, 2019)

**Feb. 2021 ARTIFICIAL LIGHT.** Any scene illuminated by artificial light. **Prints may be themed or open.** (Must be taken on or after Feb. 1, 2019)

**March 2021 PORTRAITS.** Portraits of humans or animals. Portraits may include the main subject in his or her environment. **Prints may be themed or open.** (Must be taken on or after Mar. 1, 2019)

**April 2021 WEATHER.** Storms, fog, rain, snow, or ice. **Prints may be themed or open.** (Must be taken on or after April 1, 2019)

**May 2021 OPEN.** Any photograph taken within the past 2 years. (Must be taken on or on or after May 1, 2019)

*- Judy Switt, Competition Chair*

# Selecting Music for Photo Essays, Copyrighted or Royalty-free

Music and/or sound effects greatly enhance a photo essay. Some essayists have even built their essays around a well-known piece of music. Most essayists rely on the music to bring their photo story together. Depending on the subject, you can also supplement the music with your own narration, and/or sound effects. Sometimes short sound effects might be appropriate, such as chirping birds, laughing children, wind, and rain, but they should not be used for the entire show as they tend to be very repetitive. If you use narration or sound effects, they should blend with the music and not compete with it.

It is important to use music that compliments your essay and supports or enhances the theme. Past experience has shown that dreamy or soporific music can have a sedating effect on the audience, causing them to lose interest. Consider the pace of the essay and the nature of any activity you are showing (i.e., sporting event, hiking, travel, comedy, family party, or floral images) and select music that fits what you are trying to convey. Music that is dramatic, energetic, or strong would most likely draw the audience into the essay. Technical details of incorporating music into the essay can be found on the NBCC website at <https://www.nbccmd.org/docs/PhotoEssayPreparation2017.pdf>

## Copyrighted Music

A work of art is automatically copyrighted when it is created, be it music, paintings, literature, photographic images, or photo essays, etc. Artists have a legal right to compensation when their work is used or incorporated into another creation, such as a photo essay, and used for anything other than personal use.

NBCC allows the use of copyrighted music for the photo essay show. We are a small non-profit club that is posting essays in a private, password-protected portion of our website, for the exclusive use of members. Such usage is considered to be personal (non-commercial) and is no different than showing the essays in private shows for members. The password-protected archive was begun recently when the pandemic prevented the club from holding our annual, private, in-person, invitation-only shows.

A wide range of copyrighted music can be obtained from well-known sources such as iTunes, Amazon, and YouTube. Also, buying CDs when traveling to exotic places could give a unique quality to the photo essay. Some essayists have also recorded their own music, perhaps at a dance festival, a sports event, or a choral group, to give a personal touch to the essay. Check the quality of the recording before incorporating it in the essay.

## **Royalty-Free Music**

As the name suggests, royalty-free music is music that does not require the essayist to pay “royalties” to its creator. Instead of the royalty, there is a one-time payment (a music licensing agreement) that gives the essayist the legal right to use a piece of music for an unlimited time. Another way to explain royalty-free music is that no one owns the copyright to that music and no royalties must be paid.

Sometimes royalty-free music is called copyright-free music. This is a misnomer since anyone who creates a piece of music automatically owns the copyright for that music. It is up to the creator to decide how and when the music is used. Other terms have been proposed such as “pre-licensed” or “single fee” but for now most people are staying with the term “royalty free.”

You should consider using royalty-free music if you are going to post your essay on a public web site or make any money from it. But since the variety and quality of royalty-free music has vastly increased over the last several years, you might want to consider using it at any time.

There are several misconceptions about royalty-free music. Royalty-free music is not:

- free (It simply means “free of royalty” after you pay the initial cost.)
- a specific type or genre of music
- poor quality music
- cheap music

## **Where to Buy Royalty-Free Music**

There are many sites on the Internet that sell royalty-free music and it seems to be growing in popularity. One advantage to the essayist is that most sites give you efficient search capabilities and the ability to listen to as many music selections as you want.

I looked at four sites, but I have the most experience with Pond5. All had the ability to do a structured search (i.e., by genre, mood, nationality, artist, etc.) and a free-form search (i.e., “penguin music”). All sites had the ability to listen to the entire piece of music.

### **1. Pond5.com**

The prices I saw range from \$15 - \$90+. The length of the music clips I viewed was usually 1-4 minutes. There are also some very short clips under 1 minute.

### **2. PremiumBeat.com**

This site had more standardized costs than the other sites. The cost for a standard use license (web, personal, corporate) was \$49 for each piece of music but a premium use license (TV, radio, apps, trade shows, etc.) is \$199. The length of many of the music clips ranged from 2 – 4 minutes with the ability to select shorter versions (15, 30, or 60 seconds) of the clip.

### **3. AudioJungle.net**

Costs varied from \$1 (for a 3 sec clip) to \$49 for clips ranging from 1 – 5 minutes. They also offered some free items every month.

### **4. EpidemicSound.com**

This is the only site I checked that requires a subscription account for \$15/month but offers a free trial. I did not investigate it any further.

For a more complete list of royalty-free sites, check out the link below. It also gives you the pros and cons for each site.

<https://www.animaker.com/hub/11-best-royalty-free-music-sites-for-your-amazing-videos/>

A subset of royalty-free music is actually free music. Here is a link to 10 sites that have free music for videos.

<https://www.wix.com/blog/photography/2019/11/27/free-music-for-videos>

In summary, there is an overwhelming amount of quality music, both copyrighted and royalty-free, that is available to be used for any photo essay application.

- *Nancy Wolejsza*



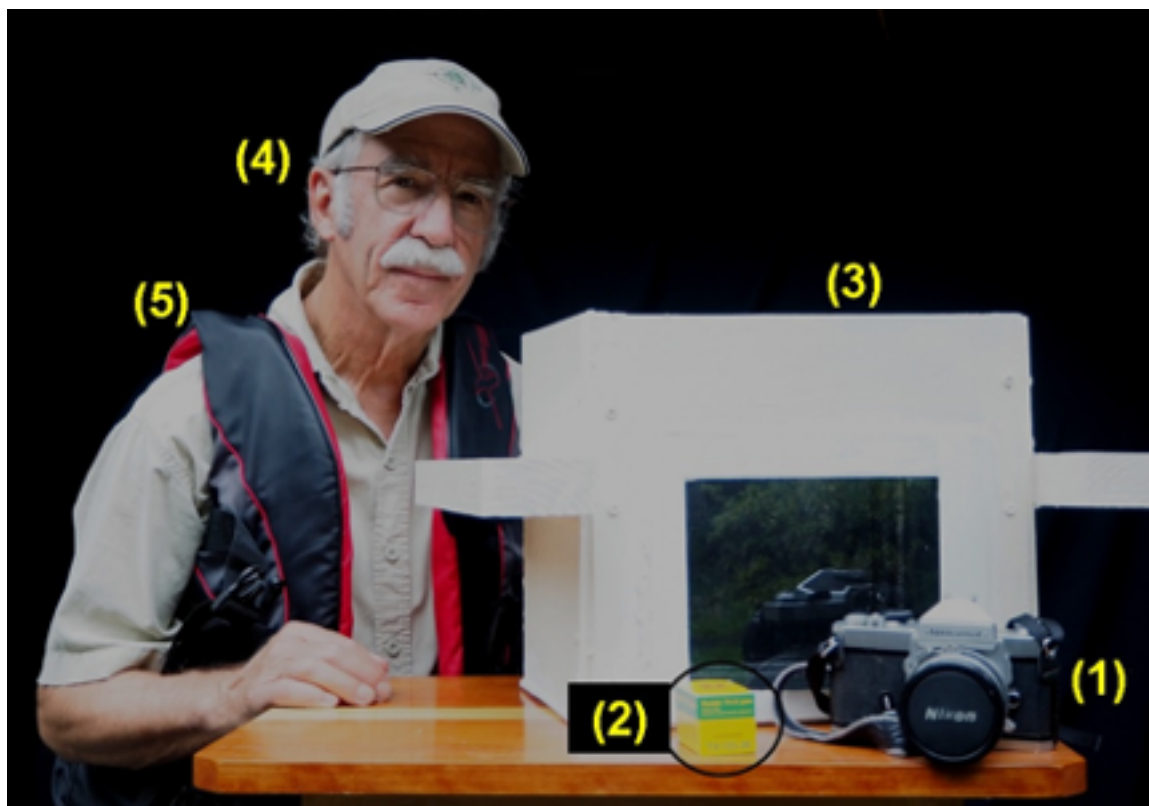
# Emergency Underwater Photography

I hate to disappoint the ladies, so I failed to mention that I didn't have any underwater gear when a lady called this week and asked me to take some submerged pool photos.

Rather, I ran to my shop and built a watertight floating box that sits with its bottom about 6 inches into the water, so I can get good reflections off the surface (i.e. I find that beautiful women and their reflections compliment one another quite well).

This device is intended to be used in the baby end of the pool and/or hanging off the pool side. I am unable to see through the camera viewfinder, so this is a point-and-shoot device.

*Warning: Not for use in high-wave or high-splash zones (top open).*



***Bill's Floating Box for Near-Surface Underwater Photography***

1. CAMERA: Nikkormat and wide-angle lens; 1970's vintage.
2. FILM: Kodak B&W Tri-X; expiration Sept 1979 (from Gordie's freezer).
3. WOOD BOX: 13" x 9" x 11" high with steel ballast and wood outrigger handles (both for stability) and an 8" x 10" glass view-port; box painted black inside to reduce reflections.
4. USER: Antique.
5. SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Lifejacket (in case the scenery induces light-headedness).

- Bill Seelig

# Competition Results: September(Nature)

Judges: EIC - Roz Kleffman

Print - Victoria Restrepo

## PRINTS

### Intermediate (14 entries)

|     |                    |                           |
|-----|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st | Peter Dunner       | Great Falls               |
| 2nd | Richard Chitty     | Backyard Beauty           |
| 3rd | Kurt Focke         | Ibis                      |
| HM  | Steven Frahm       | We're Watching You, Human |
| HM  | Ruiqing Pamboukian | Preening Egrets           |

### Advanced (24 entries)

|     |                  |                           |
|-----|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st | Stan Collyer     | This Bud's for Me         |
| 2nd | Dick Pelroy      | King Penguins Marching    |
| 3rd | Jim Turner       | Muscid Fly                |
| HM  | Stan Collyer     | Where's Momma             |
| HM  | James Corbett    | The Pods Have Eyes        |
| HM  | Dick Pelroy      | Flowering Shrub Ecosystem |
| HM  | Sarah Salomon    | Mother Hyena and Cubs     |
| HM  | Nikos Zacharakis | Snowed Mountaintop        |

## ELECTRONIC IMAGES

### Novice (9 entries)

|     |                |                          |
|-----|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1st | Tom Gross      | Ice Falls                |
| 2nd | Janice Solomon | Bunny and Purple Flowers |
| 3rd | Pauline Jaffe  | Monarch Butterfly        |

### Intermediate (39 entries)

|     |                     |                                |
|-----|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1st | Peter Winik         | Sally Lightfoot                |
| 2nd | Geoff Hornseth      | Pine Beetle                    |
| 3rd | Jill Randell        | Aspens' Majesty                |
| HM  | Beth Altman         | Lichen                         |
| HM  | Michael Blicher     | Dragonfly                      |
| HM  | Lorraine Chickering | North Dome from Sentinel Beach |
| HM  | James Frid          | Stillness and Focus            |
| HM  | Geoff Hornseth      | Haleakala Crater               |
| HM  | Ruiqing Pamboukian  | Bunting                        |
| HM  | Steve Parker        | BeeUtiful                      |
| HM  | Dawn Sikkema        | Posing Roadrunner              |
| HM  | Cherry Wyman        | Double Take                    |
| HM  | Cherry Wyman        | Lunch                          |

### Advanced (34 entries)

|     |               |                              |
|-----|---------------|------------------------------|
| 1st | David Terao   | White Nigella                |
| 2nd | David Terao   | Red Dragonfly and Lotus      |
| 3rd | Chet Stein    | Giant Petrel, Southern Ocean |
| HM  | Ira Adler     | Cunningham State Falls Park  |
| HM  | Robert Barkin | Pirouette                    |
| HM  | Jose Cartas   | Grooming                     |
| HM  | James Chia    | Frozen Lake at Night         |
| HM  | Bruce Davis   | Bison                        |
| HM  | Kent Mason    | One Day Old                  |
| HM  | Chet Stein    | South Georgian Empathy       |
| HM  | John Willis   | Bee on Sunflower             |

# NBCC Competition Results

## Cumulative Scores Through September 2020

### PRINTS

#### *Intermediate*

- 10 Peter Dunner
- 9 Richard Chitty
- 8 Kurt Focke
- 6 Steven Frahm, Ruiqing Pamboukian

#### *Advanced*

- 16 Stan Collyer
- 15 Dick Pelroy
- 8 Jim Turner
- 6 James Corbett, Sarah Salomon,  
Nikos Zacharakis

### ELECTRONIC IMAGES

#### *Novice*

- 10 Tom Gross
- 9 Janice Solomon
- 8 Pauline Jaffe

#### *Intermediate*

- 15 Geoff Hornseth
- 12 Cherry Wyman
- 10 Peter Winik
- 8 Jill Randell
- 6 Beth Altman, Michael Blicher,  
Lorraine Chickering, James Frid,  
Ruiqing Pamboukian, Steve Parker,  
Dawn Sikkema

#### *Advanced*

- 19 David Terao
- 14 Chet Stein
- 6 Ira Adler, Robert Barkin, Jose Cartas,  
James Chia, Bruce Davis, Kent Mason,  
John Willis

## Intermediate Print Winners

### September (Nature) Competition



*1st Place*  
*Great Falls*  
© **Peter Dunner**

Due to the inability to travel during the pandemic, I took the advice about finding subjects close to your own home seriously and went to a safe area to photograph - Great Falls Park. I had also been trying to learn long exposure photography with a neutral density filter. Since Victoria and Iguazu Falls are out for the time being, Great Falls was an attractive option. I used multiple exposure times to try to get just the right effect of the water and then did a black and white conversion and some light post processing in LR and PS. When I saw the results, I was really pleased with the technique and results.

*3rd Place*  
*Ibis*  
© **Kurt Focke**

Originally from Africa, the cattle egret is now at home in most tropical zones. This photo was taken in Colombia, about 30 miles from Bogota, in the afternoon when hundreds of birds gather to spend the night together. At the end of the day they like to fly at about 200 feet above their home tree and then dive and break shortly before landing. I was able to capture this bird just before touchdown when it was breaking to reduce speed. Because I was using effectively an 800mm equivalent lens (I used a 400mm on micro four thirds) I was lucky to capture this moment.



*2nd Place*  
*Backyard Beauty*  
© **Richard Chitty**

Beauty in nature can be found in your backyard. Late one afternoon, I accidentally found this luna moth while doing some chores in my yard. It stayed put long enough for me to run inside and come back with my camera. I composed this image to show just the essential parts of the moth with its bright colors, shapes, and textures contrasted against the rough bark of the tree where it had landed.





# Advanced Print Winners

## September (Nature) Competition



*1st Place*  
*This Bud's for Me*  
© **Stan Collyer**

Every springtime I battle the evil squirrels who feast on leaf buds from our red maple tree. They're so voracious that I fear they're going to denude the entire thing. Fortunately, that hasn't happened yet, and I admit their acrobatics are fun to watch. Still, I chase them away, but not before snapping a few photos.

This image was shot through a windowpane, while sitting at my desk. As a formerly intrepid nature photographer I'm embarrassed to admit



*2nd Place*  
*King Penguins Marching*  
© **Dick Pelroy**

The king penguins are the largest of the five major penguin species in the Falkland Islands. A couple of times a day, they walk to and from the ocean to fish for food and to feed themselves and their fledgling offspring. In this process, they form regimented lines, first in small groups that eventually nucleate into much longer lines. This behavior is very striking and photogenic. The Falkland Islands are not the easiest place to reach for wildlife photography but well worth the effort. A Nikon D850 and 500mm lens with a 1.4x tele-extender was used to create this image.



*3rd Place*  
*Muscid Fly*  
© **Jim Turner**

"Muscid fly" is the common name for members of the insect family Muscidae. Over 4000 species of muscid flies have been identified worldwide. I found this fly in my backyard in Silver Spring. Although it resembles a housefly it is on a completely different branch of the Muscidae family. To get the shot I used a 105mm macro lens at f/16 along with a closeup filter and an off-camera flash.

# Novice EIC Winners

## September (Nature) Competition



*1st Place*  
*Ice Falls*  
© **Tom Gross**

The photo was taken at Mammoth Hot Springs in Yellowstone in May 2019. The weather was nippy and the air crisp. The rock outcropping with the icefalls was not too distant from a walkway. The vivid scene and colors jumped out. Little post-processing was done aside from adding some modest clarity and texture.



*2nd Place*  
*Bunny and Purple Flowers*  
© **Janice Solomon**

I followed this adorable baby bunny around my mom's yard in Rockville for half an hour and was surprised at how close it let me get without running away. It's hard to tell how small he was from the photo, but he was really tiny. He was munching away on grass and posing for the camera by the purple spiderwort flowers.



*3rd Place*  
*Monarch Caterpillar*  
© **Pauline Jaffe**

I watched for almost two weeks as three monarch caterpillars matured on a milkweed plant outside my front door and I cataloged their growth with my photographic images. I watched as the caterpillars ate the leaves and flowers and wondered if some caterpillars only ate the leaves and some only the flowers. I cataloged the caterpillars until they left the milkweed plant at about two weeks. I felt sad in a way, but I had my images. Here, take a look!



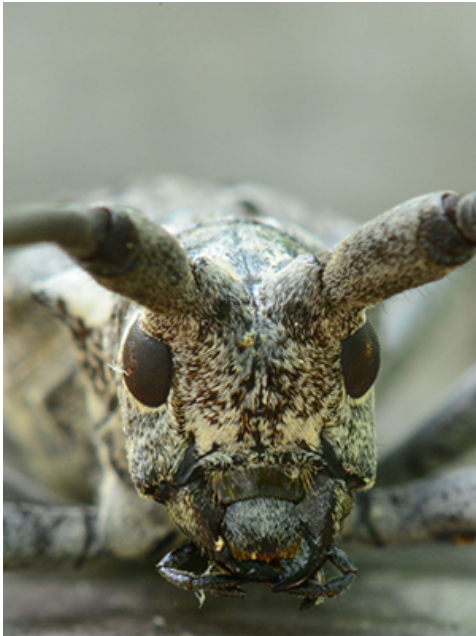
# Intermediate EIC Winners

## September (Nature) Competition



*1st Place*  
*Sally Lightfoot*  
© **Peter Winik**

I shot this image on a morning excursion to Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos. I took dozens of images of Sally Lightfoot crabs that day. I loved their colors and eyes. I was able to get close and low to capture this image, which was shot with a 200mm telephoto. Very little post-processing. A bit of cropping - this image is probably two-thirds of the original - and a bit of the usual color/clarity adjustments; that's all.



*2nd Place*  
*Pine Beetle*  
© **Geoff Hornseth**

This "macro portrait" was shot mid-day where I was camped in Shenandoah National Park. These beetles are striking for having really huge antennae which are longer than the body of the insect. That aspect initially attracted me to attempt a photo. The beetle was stationary for a long time, which enabled me to really "work the subject" (different camera angles, etc.). I have only basic post-processing capability and primarily shoot JPEGs. This image is a slightly cropped JPEG with no other post-processing (I forgot to add vignetting). 200mm macro lens, 2x extender, extension tube, fill flash, tripod.



*3rd Place*  
*Aspens' Majesty*  
© **Jill Randell**

This was taken in Colorado, at Kebler Pass. It has the largest acreage of aspens anywhere in the US. The separation of the trees is what caught my attention. In post processing I spent a lot of time increasing the exposure of all the tree trunks to make them stand out.

# Advanced EIC Winners

## September (Nature) Competition

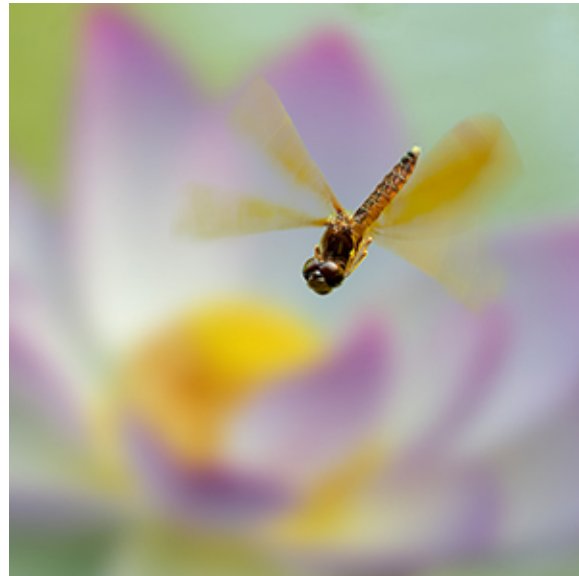


*1st Place*  
*White Nigella*  
© **David Terao**

I took this image of a white nigella flower at the Brookside Gardens this past May. For the past few years, I've been going to Brookside Gardens trying to get a decent shot of the white or blue nigella, but I always came too early or too late. This year, I came at the right time (end of May, early evening) and there were plenty of nigella to choose from. This particular flower was standing taller than the others with a nice clean, dark background. I shot it using manual focus stacking (about 10 images) on a tripod.

*2nd Place*  
*Red Dragonfly and Lotus*  
© **David Terao**

I shot this dragonfly in flight at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens this past July when the lotuses were in full bloom. There were several of them flying near each other around the lotus flowers, and they would stop mid-flight for a few seconds; perfectly still except for their flapping wings. This allowed me time to focus on them and get a sharp image.



*3rd Place*  
*Giant Petrel, Southern Ocean*  
© **Chet Stein**

The image was taken in March while on a 3-week National Geographic trip to the Antarctic region. As the ship sailed in open water, various types of petrels and albatross would follow along. Due to the harsh wind and extreme cold, very few people stayed out on deck, unless whales were spotted. Then there are the crazy people who belong to camera clubs!

