

The Lens and Eye



Volume 51 Number 4 | December 2015 | Editor: Lori Ducharme | Contact: newsletter@nbccmd.org | www.nbccmd.org

Calendar

DECEMBER EVENTS

- Dec 2** - Competition Night, 7:30pm. Theme: Leaves. Judge: Carla Steckley
Dec 9 - Program Night, 7:30pm. Topic: Member Expo
Dec 16 - Board Meeting cancelled
Dec 23 - NO MEETING

JANUARY PREVIEW

- Jan 6** - Competition Night
Jan 13 - Program Night
Jan 20 - Board Meeting
Jan 27 - Program Night

In this issue...

We've got an abbreviated newsletter issue this month as we wind down for the holidays. Before then, though, please join us for competition night on December 2, and for the Member Expo on December 9. The Member Expo has become an annual event, and if you haven't been to one before, it is a treat!

The Lens & Eye has a few other goodies for you this month, including a new member profile, a recap of Nature Visions, some insight on the judicious use of flash, and our current competition standings and November results. We'll be back at it with a full slate of events in 2016!

Here's wishing everyone a happy and stress-free holiday season. Whatever you celebrate, however you celebrate it – may it be all you want it to be!

– Lori Ducharme, Editor

December Competition Topic: Leaves

An image in which one or more plant or tree leaves, dead or alive, is the subject. Taken on or after June 1, 2014. [See the membership handbook for full topic description.]

Electronic submissions are due by 7:30pm on Sunday, November 29.



December Judge: Carla Steckley

Carla Steckley, our judge for December, may be familiar to some of you as she has been our end of year judge twice, most recently in 2014. She has been a serious photographer since the late 80's when she worked in a traditional darkroom with chemicals and an enlarger. She produced black and white images, especially infrared, and color photos with the Ilfochrome process. Since 2004, she has embraced all the advantages of the digital darkroom.

Carla has been a guest speaker in Washington, Maryland and Virginia, and gave an infrared program to the New England Camera Club Council in Amherst, MA. She was President of the Vienna Photographic Society for 2 years. Her images have been on the covers of magazines, in calendars, on the New York Institute of Photography's web site, and in the *Washington Post*. She was a featured artist in *Elan* magazine in 2002.



© Carla Steckley

To list a few of her honors, she won "Best of Show" for *Ancient Maple* at the Meadowlark Expo, which is now called Nature Visions. Her image "Potomac Tributary" was a winner for *Nature's Best* and on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. In competitions with the Northern VA Photographic Society and the Vienna Photographic Society, over a 7 year time span, she was named "Photographer of the Year" 22 times, earning 94 first place awards.

Carla has exhibited in group shows, but also had one-person exhibits at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery, the Barry Gallery at Marymount University, and shows sponsored by the League of Reston Artists. She's been juried into Glenview Mansion for 2016.

In 2015, she was the judge of the annual photography exhibit at ArtSpace Herndon, for the April photo show of the League of Reston Artists, and the September multimedia exhibit for Great Falls Studio.

Carla tells us, "I am looking forward to viewing the images of the members of North Bethesda Camera Club and assisting you with your creative endeavors."

Member News

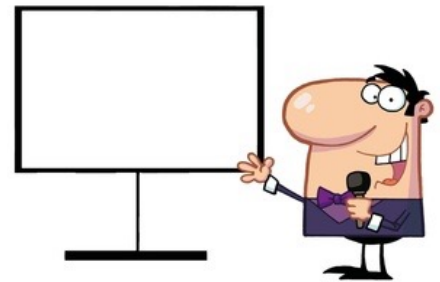
Please welcome new member **Allen Neyman** to NBCC! Allen is the latest member to be rescued from the club's waiting list, where he has resided since March 22, 2014. Allen's membership was made possible by the recent resignation of 8-year member Jessyca Stansbury-McCargo, who has come out of retirement and returned to work, leaving her little time to participate fully in the club. Jessyca offered to make room for someone on the Waiting List who could take advantage of the Club's activities. We wish Jessyca well, and we say hello to Allen!

– Chuck Lee, NBCC Membership Chairman

December 9 Program Night: Member Expo

NBCC Members are invited to participate in, and attend, the Member Expo Program on December 9.

The 2015 Member Expo will continue the successful format used in previous years. The program is an informal and non-competitive showcase of members' photographs. Participants get to display up to 12 of their own chosen photographs (no restrictions). The audience will get to learn more about fellow members and their interests, while picking up creative ideas and gaining inspiration. For example, Art Hyder may want to show some of his wild animal photos, or Bruce Cyr may want to show some of his latest innovative works, or Cheryl Naulty may show some of her Iceland images. Many members have collections of images that would be interesting to see and learn about. For new members, this is a great way to introduce yourself!



The evening will proceed like this: up to 12 images from one member will be projected on the big screen for about 10 seconds each. The member may give us a brief introductory explanation of the theme of her/his collection as the images begin, and short comments as each image is being shown. At the end of the set, there will be time for a brief Q&A, and/or to provide more details about specific images just shown. (Note: in a change from prior years, we will not have advanced photographers commenting on the presentations this year.) Then we move on to the next member's set of 12 images. At the break and after the program, audience members may take the opportunity to share ideas and ask questions of the presenters.

Prepare to be surprised at the quality and diversity of your fellow members' work. Undoubtedly we'll learn things from each other: places to go, techniques to explore, new avenues to creativity, etc. We encourage NBCC members to take advantage of this opportunity by participating in and/or attending this program. *Please do not submit images unless you plan to attend the Program and be available to discuss your image set.* Members are strongly encouraged to show relatively "new" works for maximum audience enjoyment.

Participants should submit images in a process similar to Electronic Image Competition: submit JPG files with maximum dimensions 1920 pixels (width) and 1200 pixels (height). Detailed submission guidelines can be found at: www.nbccmd.org/docs/EICSubmissionGuidelines.pdf

However, we will use a slightly different filename convention for this program. Files should be named as follows: **YourName - SequenceNumber.jpg**. Use a leading zero for sequence numbers 01 - 09 so that your images will be displayed in the order you set. (For example: TomSullivan - 03.jpg; RoyRogers - 11.jpg; please note no space between first/last name.)

Submit up to 12 of your photographs. **Attach no more than three image files to each email, and send them to workshop@nbccmd.org.** (If you tried to attach all 12 files to a single enormous email, delivery would likely fail – perhaps without notice.)

Submissions are currently being accepted. The closing date is Wednesday, December 2nd at midnight. Please send all of the images at the same time (not hours apart) and only submit them once. Receipt of your files will be confirmed by reply e-mail from a Member Expo program staff member. You are responsible for timely follow up if you do not receive a confirmation email. Submissions will be accepted into the Expo in the order received, until we reach the limit for the evening; so enter soon!

If you have questions please contact Tom Sullivan at sullynbcc@yahoo.com.

Splinters from the Board

The first Nature Visions expo in which NBCC was a participating club is now in the history books. First, let me point out that Nature Visions 2015 was a resounding success. It broke all previous attendance records. Some of the speakers were exceptional. In particular, I thought Joe McNally gave on of the best keynote speeches I have ever attended at Nature Visions. In addition, I found it interesting that Joe McNally's photographic credentials, interests and accomplishments mirrored Bruce Dale's photographic career so closely. I'm sure other people who attended both Joe McNally's keynote speech at Nature Visions and Bruce Dale's presentation at the NBCC 50th Anniversary celebration were also aware of the similarities.



Claudia Seelig, with her "Best of Macro" award winner at Nature Visions

Secondly, I want to congratulate Claudia Seelig. Claudia's photo "Mushroom Curves" won the best in category for all macro images. Claudia also received a special recognition award from speaker Tim Grey.

Thirdly, I would like to confess that I was somewhat disappointed that we didn't walk away with more awards. The Nature Visions leadership had led me to hope that we would sweep the awards this year with a strong set of entries, and that didn't happen. The image that won Best of Show in the Photo Art division was by Jim Turner, who as you all know is an NBCC member, but Jim was representing the NIH Camera Club at Nature Visions. Part of the reason we didn't do better was that we only had 23 club members who submitted images for consideration in the Nature Visions exhibits. Most of our best photographers, those who are among our elite (you know who you are), didn't submit any images. I'm hoping that we can have more NBCC members submitting images next year.

[To see all of the 2015 Nature Visions Expo winners, visit <http://naturevisions.org/the-exhibits/2015-nature-visions-winners>.]

Finally, I want to thank Steven Silverman who is the NBCC Nature Visions representative. Steven worked very hard all year long to help make the 2015 Nature Visions exposition successful. Steven really jumped into the Nature Visions leadership with both feet. Next year Steven is in charge of selecting all of the presenters for Nature Visions; clearly he has taken on a very important role in the organization!

In conclusion, I note that the December holidays are now upon us. Let me wish all of you a very merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a joyous New Year!

– David Davidson, NBCC President

Member Profile: Philippe Pradel

New member, Philippe Pradel, won a second and a third place with two of his abstract images in the Novice Electronic category of the first competition of the 2015/2016 Club year. Philippe likes to make pictures containing clues that suggest at feelings or realities beyond what is shown. He likes to catch the viewer's eye with his presentation and then allow that person, based on their own experiences, to interpret the meaning of the image for himself.

At present, Philippe owns and uses only one camera, his Nikon D70 with a very sharp CCD sensor and the original kit lens, an 18-55 mm. He post-processes (minimally) in Lightroom.

Philippe was born in Algeria, the descendant of poor French farmers who had migrated in 1856 to what was then a French colony in order to better their economic situation. These immigrants were called "Pied Noirs" and many quickly established themselves in the country, much to the annoyance of the largely Moslem population. He was the fifth in the lineage of Pradels to bear the name Philippe. His son became the sixth. Philippe left Algeria for Paris in 1958 when he made the decision to attend pharmacy school.



Philippe's wife to be, Francoise, attended the same school seven years later. They did not become acquainted, however, until Philippe brought his dog to visit a drugstore where he had once worked. Francoise, only 21, was then employed as a clerk in the store. She was immediately charmed by the dog and, as Philippe avows, only later charmed by him. He was 27 at the time. They were married in a civil ceremony and made plans to immigrate to the USA. In 1992, they were accepted at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill where they earned their Masters degrees and PhDs (Francoise at UNC School of Public Health and Philippe at the School of Medicine and Pharmacy in Limoges, France.) Their son was only three years old at the time they started, but the couple managed to both care for him and complete their graduate studies.

In 1999, they moved to the Washington, D.C. area and settled in Bethesda. Philippe started a consulting business representing the French Association of Pharmaceuticals at the World Bank and also French and US Biotechnology start-ups looking to find funding and acquire licensing of early stage molecules. He once contacted, through the local offices of the World Bank, representatives from various of the poorer African nations. His idea was to supply them with his relatively less expensive "essential drugs" to cure epidemic conditions like malaria and female anemia in their populations.

Francoise secured a position as a full professor in the University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy, where she is still employed. Their son, Philippe, now age 28, and a practicing lawyer, became an eagle scout as a youth, after nine years enrollment in a Kensington, MD troop. Philippe senior served as the Assistant Scout Master and troop leader for this group and led them on many High Adventure hikes.

Philippe's interest in photography was encouraged by two NBCC members, his neighbors and friends, Jean Yuan and Bill Ho. About three years ago, Philippe became a member of the CCACC and attended several seminars and critique sessions on photographic composition led by John Telford. He also went on a field trip with a CCACC group, led by John, to Arches National Park in Utah. He quickly noticed that most of the sites the group visited at sunrise or sunset were already crowded with many photographers eager to capture the same view. He decided that he would have to find other vistas or develop a method for making his own captures more unique. He often wandered away from the main group in order to make fresh discoveries.

Lately he has been walking the Potomac River Trail, focusing not so much on the usually photographed Great Falls, but more on quiet water pools and reflections. He composes carefully, often taking no more than 10 images in 3 hours. Now that Philippe has become an NBCC member, perhaps we will see more of his work, both in competitions and exhibits.

– Jean Hanson

Two Roses: Another Study in the Use of Minimal Flash

One of my favorite photos from the trip to Turkey was not a building or a ruin, but a pastoral setting I call Two Roses. The photo was taken outside Hagia Irene on the Tokapi Palace grounds. Istanbul seems to have rose bushes in a lot of places around the historic section, and the roses are a deep red. I was taking pictures of one of those roses, unremarkable in and of themselves, except for that color in late afternoon light.

The intensity of the rose was increased with the shade. I popped up the tiny flash on the Nikon 1 V3 and snapped a couple shots to try to bring up the rose up better against its background.

In the corner of my eye, I saw a girl sitting cross legged on the ground in a sunny spot, so I fitted the camera out with the 6.7-13mm lens (18mm 35mm eqv) and got both the girl and the rose into the same frame.

I then waited until the girl looked the way of the rose and snapped the shutter, firing off that little flash setting off the red of the rose.

I shot the image in Auto, with the flash set to -1.7 stops in TTL mode. The red of the rose, the strongest part of the image, took that bit of flash and lifted in intensity just enough to do its job in the photo. I knew that if I needed to, I could always work a bit in Lightroom to bring it up more if I needed.



The image is as it was shot, no post-processing was done.

Those little flashes don't put out a lot of light, but sometimes what they do is just about perfect. Try yours out sometime. I would start with the TTL setting, and cut the light of the flash way down to start out with. A little goes a long way in these kinds of images.

If I were to compete this image, I would edit out some of the clutter, but this is not my intent here. My objective is simply to show what a little thought, a little luck, and a little flash can do.

– Steve Robinson

November Competition Results (Decisive Moment)

Judge: Mary Ann Setton

PRINTS

Intermediate (12 entries)

1st	Steven Lapidus	Under Seige
2nd	Eric Schweitzer	Will He Hit It?
3rd	Steven Lapidus	Seeking Shelter
HM	Kay Norvell	Dining with Lions

Advanced (30 entries)

1st	Gail Bingham	Hannah
2nd	Stan Collyer	Sheepdog Frenzy
3rd	Carol Walsh	Exuberance
HM	Dave Clemmer	Let's Play Catch
HM	Bruce Cyr	Teamwork Take Off
HM	Bruce Cyr	Neighborhood Nature Bar
HM	Morris Liss	Hi Ho Silver
HM	Morris Liss	I'm On It!
HM	Joanne Mars	OMG Bad Decision
HM	John Norvell	Stampede



© Lorraine Chickering

ELECTRONIC IMAGES

Novice (16 entries)

1st	Lorraine Chickering	Whose Idea Was This?
2nd	Louise Roy	It's Dinner Time!
3rd	Jill Randell	Taking a Peek
HM	Steven Lapidus	Buffalo Ambush

Intermediate (14 entries)

1st	Ken Goldman	Taking the Plunge
2nd	Steven Silverman	Goal Kick
3rd	Toni Robinson	Gotcha!
HM	Ken Goldman	On the Edge
HM	Claudia Seelig	The Winning Cowboy

Advanced (37 entries)

1st	John Norvell	In the Corral
2nd	Nancy Wolejsza	Peek a Boo
3rd	Michele Egan	Decisive Moment - 2
HM	José Cartas	Old Barbershop
HM	David Davidson	Cooling Off
HM	David Davidson	Running
HM	Bruce Davis	Catching a Wave
HM	Stuart Glickman	Safe or Out
HM	John Norvell	Crocodiles and Wildebeest
HM	Jack Rosenberg	Exciting Prague
HM	Jim Turner	Liams Backhand
HM	John Willis	Bittern Snacktime



© Gail Bingham

Cumulative Competition Results through November 2015

PRINTS

ELECTRONIC

Intermediate

- 28 Steve Lapidus
- 28 Eric Schweitzer
- 15 Louise Roy
- 12 Kay Norvell
- 8 Beth Altman
- 8 Lorraine Chickering
- 6 Ellie Trybuch
- 6 Ray Whitman

Advanced

- 28 Carol Walsh
- 28 Morris Liss
- 22 John Norvell
- 18 Bruce Cyr
- 16 Gail Bingham
- 15 Stan Collyer
- 15 Joanne Mars
- 14 Bill Seelig
- 12 David Davidson
- 9 Jim Turner
- 6 Willem Bier
- 6 Dave Clemmer
- 6 Lester LaForce
- 6 Dick Pelroy



© Steve Lapidus

Novice

- 28 Louise Roy
- 22 Jill Randell
- 17 Philippe Pradel
- 12 Robert Barkin
- 12 Bill Bulmer
- 12 Steven Lapidus
- 10 Lorraine Chickering
- 10 Ellen McGovern
- 6 Deborah Menditch

Intermediate

- 31 Toni Robinson
- 25 Steven Silverman
- 16 Ken Goldman
- 16 Claudia Seelig
- 14 Kay Norvell
- 9 Bob White
- 6 Jean Hanson
- 6 Neil Hermansdorfer
- 6 Lauren Ludi

Advanced

- 22 John Norvell
- 21 Dick Pelroy
- 20 Jim Turner
- 18 Miranda Chin
- 18 Bruce Davis
- 15 Chet Stein
- 10 Bruce Cyr
- 10 Chuck Lee
- 9 Nancy Wolejsza
- 8 Michele Egan
- 8 Cheryl Naulty
- 6 Gail Bingham
- 6 José Cartas
- 6 Melissa Clark
- 6 Stuart Glickman
- 6 Jack Rosenberg
- 6 Sarah Salomon
- 6 Carol Walsh
- 6 John Willis



© Ken Goldman



© John Norvell

2015-2016 NBCC Board of Directors, Standing, and Special Committees

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<u>Programs</u> <i>Paul Taylor</i> Evelyn Jacob Kent Mason John Norvell Ray Whitman Michele Egan Gail Bingham Neil Hermansdorfer	<u>Membership</u> <i>Chuck Lee</i> <u>Exhibits</u> <i>Sarah Salomon</i> Melissa Clark Sibyll Erdman Dawn Sikkema Alan Simmons John Willis	<u>Competition</u> <i>Judy Switt</i> <i>Prints</i> Bill Ho Bill Richards Bill Seelig <i>Electronic</i> Willem Bier Tom Field John Willis	<u>Judges</u> <i>Steve Robinson</i> Bruce Cyr Lester LaForce Kay Norvell <u>Nature Visions</u> <i>Steven Silverman</i> John Norvell Jean Pierre Plé Lori Ducharme	<u>Hospitality</u> <i>Claudia Seelig</i> Bill Seelig Geri Millman Terry Van Houten Jim Render Virginia Render Ellie Trybuch Ira Adler Mark Segal Jitesh Batra	<u>Field Trips</u> <i>Gail Bingham</i> Bruce Davis Lori Ducharme Joann Mars Larry Mars Jim Turner Dick Pelroy Steven Silverman <u>Lens & Eye</u> <i>Lori Ducharme</i>
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PSA Representative
Judy Burr

Awards Event Coordinator
John Villforth

Database Administrator
Ken Goldman

Voting members in bold

NBCC, founded in 1965, meets most Wednesday evenings from September to May. Competition and program meetings are held in the fellowship hall of the Faith United Methodist Church, 6810 Montrose Ave., Rockville, MD. Membership meetings are open and guests are always welcome.

Membership in NBCC is capped at 165 members and we currently have a waiting list. For more information about the club and for an application, visit the Membership section of the club website at www.nbccmd.org

