

# The Lens and Eye



Volume 51 Number 9 | May 2016 | Editor: Lori Ducharme | Contact: [newsletter@nbccmd.org](mailto:newsletter@nbccmd.org) | [www.nbccmd.org](http://www.nbccmd.org)

## Calendar

### MAY/JUNE EVENTS

- May 4** - Competition Night, 7:30pm.  
Theme: Methods of Transportation.  
Judge: Clarence Carvell
- May 7** - Field Trip: Chanticleer Garden
- May 11** - Program Night, 7:30pm. Topic:  
Finding Your Voice
- May 18** - Board Meeting, 7:30pm
- May 25** - Program Night, 7:30pm. Topic:  
Photo Critique
- June 5** - Field Trip: Germantown Dirt Jump  
Jam
- June 8** - Year-End Event, Asbury Methodist  
Village
- June 15** - MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

**SUMMER PICNIC: TBD**

## In this issue...

We've got a full slate for the home stretch of the club year. This issue includes information about programs, field trips, our newly re-configured year-end event, and a number of other treats.

This issue also includes two important forms. The first is your **membership renewal form**. Fill this out and return it now — members who fail to renew by **June 15** will have their spot given to someone on the waiting list.

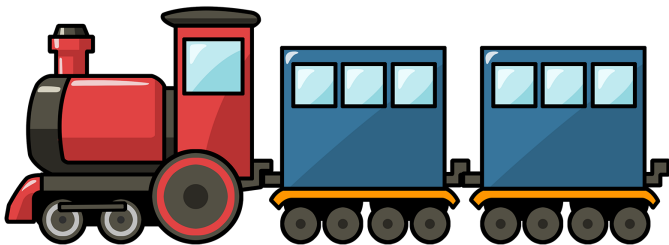
The other form is to reserve your spot at the year-end event. Be sure to RSVP by June 1.

— *Lori Ducharme, Editor*

## May Competition Topic: Methods of Transportation

All or part of one or more means of transportation (trains, planes, automobiles, etc.). Taken on or after June 1, 2014.

*Electronic submissions are due by 7:30pm  
on Sunday, May 1.*



## May 4 Judge: Clarence Carvell

Our judge for the May 4 competition night ("Methods of Transportation") will be Clarence Carvell. Here's what he tells us about himself:



© Clarence Carvell

*Photography came about as a solution to a mid life crisis. Having retired at an early age, I wanted something I could pursue and enjoy for the years to come. When picking up some pictures from Industrial Photo one day, the clerk suggested I might want to consider joining a camera club. With that I discovered something I could enjoy for the rest of my life. I joined six, NBCC being one of them after seeing a presentation by Gordie and Judy.*

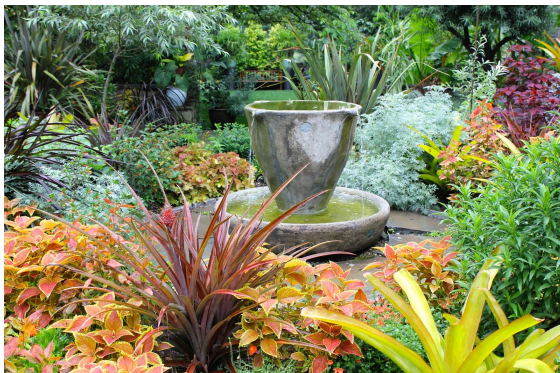
*I also went back to college to get a BA in photography, attended dozens of workshops and photographed whenever and wherever I could. In all those years I've had occasion to work with some of the best photographers in the world and if there is one thing I have learned from each of them, it's "find yourself." If you can do that, you can photograph anything.*

## May 7 Field Trip: Chanticleer Garden

Our next field trip on Friday, May 7, will be to Chanticleer Garden in Wayne, PA. Chanticleer Garden is a botanical garden and considered as one of the most delightful in the United States if not the world. Somewhat smaller than its close neighbor, Longwood Gardens, it contains an elegant mix of lawns, woods, flower gardens, courtyards, and a specially constructed faux ruin garden in an English & European style.

Most days, the garden and grounds are open from 10 AM until 4 PM. But on May 7<sup>th</sup> Chanticleer will open at 8 AM, which should be nearly optimal for photography. There is a large 120 car parking lot and easy accessibility. There is an entrance fee of \$10. The garden is about 140 miles from Rockville, about a 2.5-hour drive. The street address 786 Church Road, Wayne, PA 19087.

Tour co-leaders are Dick Pelroy (240-691-3204) and Jim Turner (301-681-9133) and we request that you let one of us know if you will attend. This field trip is open to NBCC members and would-be members alike. All are welcome.



## May 11 Program: Finding Your Voice

Each of us is drawn to photography for different reasons, and each of us is exploring different things. However, through our different journeys is woven a common thread of seeking to make as well as take photographs that convey something personal, visual, or unique... something that expresses the artistic voice inside us. No one can tell you what you want to say, but we can share the journey to find our voice.

On May 11, we have an opportunity to hear from three NBCC members about where they are in "finding their voice." They will present a larger group of images than is possible in competitions or in the member expo, which will allow them to share with us what they are seeking to accomplish, some of their techniques, and what they've learned along the way.

Our presenters will be Sarah Hood Salomon, Jim Turner and Carol Walsh.

**Sarah Hood Salomon** is a fine art photographer whose work explores the emotional aspects of the world around her. She will talk about her journey to find her own quiet voice, and methods you can use to achieve a unified portfolio. Sarah is represented by the Waverly Street Gallery. She has a solo show there May 10 - June 4, 2016. Her website is [www.sarahhoodsalomon.com](http://www.sarahhoodsalomon.com)

**Jim Turner** is relatively new to photography and is searching for a project, or projects, and for a style. He likes simplicity and some level of surrealness in his photographs and he enjoys using post processing and experimentation to produce a final product that he (at least sometimes) envisions when he presses the shutter. He will describe some of his recent work, his search for a personal style, and what he has learned that might help you begin or continue your search.

**Carol Walsh** is an artist/photographer who sees her internal and external worlds as symbolically vivid. What she chooses to capture in her artwork mirrors back to her what she emotionally and spiritually experiences within herself. Carol will talk about her creative process -- how she used curiosity as the driving energy behind the evolution of her photography and specifically her photo-paintings. Her website is: [www.ckwalsh.com](http://www.ckwalsh.com)

– Gail Bingham

## Attention Print Competitors!

In order to ensure your eligibility for the year-end awards, all 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prints from the 2015-2016 competition year must be turned in to Judy Switt no later than the May 4 competition night. (While we have previously collected low-res digital files of these images, only the physical prints will be reviewed by the year-end judge panel.) Please don't forget!!



## May 25 Program Night: Photo Critique



NBCC Members are invited to participate in the 2016 Photo Critique session at the May 25<sup>th</sup> Program Night.

The 2016 Photo Critique will employ a panel of three experienced NBCC photographers (Roy Sewall, Nikhil Bahl, and Judy Switt) to review and comment on your candidate images for Nature Visions, The Glennies, and other external competitions and exhibits.

The Photo Critique is an excellent opportunity for NBCC members to get quality feedback on their photographs, with sufficient time to improve their images before the external competition or exhibit deadlines. The panel will point out strengths in the photographs and will suggest any important improvements so you can take your images to a higher level before entering. It is always valuable to have fresh eyes analyze and critique your images, and we are fortunate to have such qualified reviewers.

The motivation for this critique is not to qualify or disqualify images for a particular contest, but to offer some fundamental photographic improvement suggestions before the image is submitted for consideration. There are no awards – just actionable advice from some of our experts. Names will not be displayed, and participants may choose to remain anonymous. But to maximize everyone's useable takeaway, we encourage you to speak up if the panel has questions or if you need clarification on their recommendations.

The Photo Critique will proceed like this:

- NBCC Members will submit up to 5 electronic images each. These should be your leading candidates for entering in external competitions or exhibits. Each image should be compliant with the rules and restrictions imposed by the organizer of the external competition or exhibit.
- Number your submitted images 1 through 5 in order priority sequence. We will critique all #1s first, then proceed with #2, then #3, etc., until we either finish them all or run out of time.
- The panel will view each projected image and offer their assessment of its strengths and weaknesses in the context of an external competition or juried exhibit.
- A timekeeper will assist the panel in staying on pace, so they complete a thoughtful analysis and commentary on as many images as possible.

Participants should submit images in a process similar to the Electronic Image Competition, i.e., JPG files with maximum dimensions 1920 x 1200 pixels (width x height). Detailed submission guidelines can be found at: [www.nbccmd.org/docs/EICSSubmissionGuidelines.pdf](http://www.nbccmd.org/docs/EICSSubmissionGuidelines.pdf)

However, we will be using a different filename convention for the 2016 Photo Critique, as follows: **PriorityNumber - Your Name.jpg**. For example: 1 – Paul Taylor.jpg, 2 – Paul Taylor.jpg, etc.

Submit up to 5 of your photographs as email attachments. Attach no more than 3 image files to each email, and send them to [critique@nbccmd.org](mailto:critique@nbccmd.org). (Delivery could fail if you attach more than 3 image files – perhaps without notice.)

Submissions will be accepted beginning Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – and the **deadline will be at 7:30 PM, Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Submit images only once (no substitutions or late additions, please). Receipt of your images will be confirmed by personal email. You are responsible for timely follow up if you do not receive a confirmation email.

If you have questions please contact Paul Taylor ([taylorres@yahoo.com](mailto:taylorres@yahoo.com)).

## June 5 Field Trip: Germantown Dirt Jump Jam

The June field trip will offer photographers an opportunity for action shots of dirt-jumping bicyclists at the South Germantown Recreational Park's Mountain Bike Jump and Pump Track. The schedule and structure for the event has been customized to support our participation. Member-in-waiting, James Corbett, is an avid mountain biker and ride photographer ([www.epiclifeimages.com](http://www.epiclifeimages.com)). James volunteers with MORE (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts), the regional mountain bike club ([www.more-mtb.org](http://www.more-mtb.org)). MORE members built and work hard to maintain the venue.

Because of the tight configuration of the venue and safety considerations for both photographers and riders, we'll be limited to 10 photographers on the course at one time, but we'll have 3 rotations. This will permit 30 photographers to get in very close proximity for shots during the afternoon's activities. There is no limit on the number of photographers shooting from off-course at spectator distance.

For the close work on the course, James uses two camera bodies with the following lenses: a 24-70mm (38mm-112mm equivalent on a crop sensor) and a 70-200mm (full frame). For the laying-on-the-ground head-in-the-landing-zone shots, he changes to a 14mm prime on his full frame. For photographers arriving early – and for those who did not register for a group slot – spectator range is still close enough to capture some fine shots with a focal length between 150mm-300mm.

Flash usage is allowed, but limited to a single camera-mounted or handheld unit. You are encouraged to familiarize yourself with high speed sync capabilities of your flashes. The use of light stands, strobes or anything more elaborate than your typical speedlite is not allowed. Although tripods are allowed, James encourages participants to work handheld and forego tripods. Some of his best images have been shot by laying on the ground.

Because MORE is a non-profit and the track is maintained entirely by volunteers, a tax-deductible donation of \$25 to MORE will reserve your spot and contribute to upkeep of the venue. It is also our "thank you" to the organization for integrating us into the program and providing subjects in action. (See information about registration at the end of this article.)

The day's schedule is shown on the next page. During each group orientation, photographers will be required to sign MORE's participant waiver, as required by the club's insurance.



© James Corbett (shot at 14mm)



© James Corbett (shot at 200mm)

(continued)

*(Field Trip, continued)*

Photography Schedule for Dirt Jump Jam	
Time	Activities
11:30	Group A Arrival
11:40-11:50	Group A Orientation
12:00-1:15	Group A Close-Up Shooting (rotation) Last rider enters course at 1:10; shooting for Group A wraps.
12:45	Group B Arrival
1:00-1:10	Group B Orientation while Group A exits course.
1:30-2:45	Group B Close-Up Shooting Last rider enters course at 2:40; shooting for Group B wraps.
2:15	Group C Arrival
2:30-2:40	Group C Orientation while Group B exits course.
3:00-4:15	Group C Close-Up Shooting

Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the indicated arrival time for your assigned group. Because the rotations are timed, the orientation sessions are mandatory and photographers not attending their respective sessions will forfeit their spots on the course.

Parking is available in the field immediately adjacent to the venue. A satellite image of the area is available at [this link](#). For GPS, the coordinates of 39.150141, -77.312727 will get you to the entrance to the field. The address of the nearby SoccerPlex is 18031 Central Park Circle, Boyds, MD 21075.

If you have questions about photographing the event, contact James ([james@epiclifepictures.com](mailto:james@epiclifepictures.com)). To register, contact Gail ([gbingham@resolv.org](mailto:gbingham@resolv.org)) and let her know if you have a preferred time slot. She'll send a schedule out a week in advance.

Also note: a check for \$25 payable to MORE is due in advance. Please send your check to Gail Bingham, 4713 De Russey Parkway, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

*– James Corbett and Gail Bingham*



© James Corbett (shot at 157mm)

## Member Profile: Roy Sewall

Roy is not a new NBCC Member. He first joined the Club in 1972 as a hobbyist photographer. He left in 1974, and returned in 2001. Since then, he has moved from a successful career in Engineering and Management to a full time commitment to photography. His skills include shooting, post-processing, critiquing and instruction. His appreciation for the Washington, D.C. area as a prime photo location led him to publish two books: *Our Potomac, from Great Falls to Washington, DC* (2005) and *Great Falls and Mather Gorge* (2009). So far, 7,000 copies of his books have sold. They continue to be a profitable enterprise and have led to numerous presentations to local organizations interested in the river and canal.

In 2007, Roy became the first Chair of the Board of Directors for the C&O Canal Trust, a non-profit friends group for the National Park Service. In 2013, he joined the Board of Directors of the Potomac Riverkeeper. He has done extensive photography work for river and C&O Canal related government and non-profit organizations, as well as private and commercial clients. One of his photos won a competition for the "2008 Passport to Your National Parks" stamp set. In 2009, his photos were used on large banners throughout the C&O Canal Park to announce a Ken Burns documentary on the National Parks.

Roy was born in Boston, MA but spent most of his youth in India, Pakistan, Indonesia and the Philippines. Roy's father worked for the US Department of State, Agency for International Development. He taught government trainee organizations in foreign host nations how to make training films. The family traveled with him on assignments, and Washington DC became their base city. After high school, Roy earned a BS in Physics from the Case Institute for Technology in Cleveland, OH (1967), and a Masters in Engineering Science from Penn State (1969).

Roy returned permanently to the Washington area in 1969 and has since worked for several major technology corporations. In 1979, he met Ase Wijismuller while working at Booz-Allen. They were married in 1979 and now have two children: a son, Chris, who is married and currently living in Irvine, CA with his wife and 7 month old son; and a daughter, Laura, who works as an architect in Seattle, WA. Roy and Ase now own a condo in Seattle where they go in the summer to "de-compress" and enjoy some gorgeous weather.

For several years now, Roy has been part of the NBCC Education Committee, and has focused much of his attention on group photo critiques for both old and new members. This year he is trying something different. He formed a critique group that gets together once a month. There are nine critique sessions and three Photoshop sessions. This is an experiment of sorts and Roy is anxious to see how it will benefit the attendees. Hopefully it will inform his NBCC Educations activities next year. Roy also is an instructor for Capital Photography Center, managed by Marie Joabar. He is available to provide photography lectures, demos, critiques and tours for groups. Outside of the Center, he offers one on one instruction for those who need special tutoring.

Roy is also constantly working on several photography projects that are of special interest to him. His ongoing primary concentration is on Mysterra. These photographs are illusions of people in remote and natural settings, conveying mystery, fantasy and sensuality. He has had several formal exhibits in his home gallery of these unusual works. Other interests include nature, especially river scenes, and nostalgia, including rusty cars, decrepit structures, etc. He currently shoots with a Canon 5D Mark III full frame DSLR. Favorite lenses include a 17-40mm f/4, a 24-70mm f/2.8, a 70-200mm f/2.8, and a 300mm f/4. He processes in Photoshop and Lightroom and occasionally with some plug-ins, and does his own printing, matting and framing.



*Photo credit: Tom Field*

*(continued)*

## *Member Profile, cont'd*

This year may bring a special challenge into Roy's life. After being approached three times in the past by the NBCC Nominating Committee to run for Club president, and saying "no" twice, Roy has now decided to say "Yes." His wealth of knowledge in all aspects of the photographic process, plus his years of managerial experience with technology firms and non-profits would certainly qualify him for the job. Roy has many plans for the Club, including the creation of small, special interest groups which will meet periodically and construct their own, specialized learning agendas.

Roy has another solo exhibit coming up next month. It will be in the main lobby of the Embassy of Portugal and will be a feature of the D.C. Embassy Open House Day. To read more about Roy and his accomplishments, or to view classes and educational offerings, go to his website, [www.roysewallphotography.com](http://www.roysewallphotography.com). You can also message him directly at [roy@sewallinc.com](mailto:roy@sewallinc.com).

*– Jean Hanson*

## **Splinters from the Board**

Your Board of Directors is focusing carefully on the upcoming year-end event. As I have mentioned in prior issues of the newsletter, we are experimenting this year with a complete overhaul of the year-end event. At the beginning of this program year, I formed a committee to take a fresh look at the year-end event and come up with suggestions that would make the event more appealing to a larger number of Club members. Based on the recommendations of this committee, we have planned a completely different event. I must stress that these changes to the year-end event are experimental. I am hopeful that attendees will enjoy the new format, but we won't know until we get your feedback.

Here are some of the ways the evening has been redesigned: We have replaced the sit-down dinner with an hour of socializing and continuous hors d'oeuvres. Following the hors d'oeuvres, we will go to the auditorium where there will be some short announcements, and the presentation of a few awards. Then we will have the highlight of the evening, which will be a presentation by the very well-known photographer, lecturer, author, and workshop leader – Tony Sweet.

We are doing away with most of the awards and trophies, and we have abandoned the use of a year-end judge. Instead, we will be letting our membership select the winning electronic images of the year, and three highly-regarded Club members will select the best prints of the year. In addition, we have done away with the traditional photographic essay of winning images. Instead, a running slide show of the year's winning images will be displayed in the community room while we are eating hors d'oeuvres and socializing. All of the year's competition winners, and recipients of "star" awards will be prominently displayed in the program that will be distributed as people arrive, and will be displayed on the screen in the auditorium prior to Tony Sweet's presentation.

The entire event will cost \$28 per person. That is \$10 less than the event cost last year, and we are throwing in a presentation by a well-known, highly-regarded photographer. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a form to complete for your attendance at this event. Please plan on attending. I am hopeful it will be a grand way to end the program year and a grand ending to my tenure as your president.

One more thing to announce...the Board of Directors has decided to increase the membership dues to \$75 per year. The \$10 increase will be used exclusively to cover the cost of bringing well-known photographers to the area to make presentations to the club throughout the program year.

*– David Davidson, NBCC President*



## Reminder: June 8 Year-End Event



As you have no doubt heard by now, we're planning a "new and improved" Year-End Event on **June 8** at Asbury Methodist Village. This event is being substantially revised in response to member feedback and waning attendance in past years. This year's event will feature hors d'oeuvres and socializing, in lieu of the usual sit-down dinner. Other activities and surprises will be revealed as we get closer to the date.

more time for

The cornerstone of the evening will be a keynote presentation. We're pleased to announce that the keynote speaker for this year's event will be **Tony Sweet**. Tony will present a one-hour retrospective of his work from 2010-2016.

Tony is one of the best-known professional photographers in the metro DC region if not the country. Among other things, Tony is a "Nikon Legend Behind the Lens."

After successful careers as a jazz musician/educator, and professional magician, Tony settled on photography as his chosen means for personal expression. Beginning as a film photographer, Tony has become facile in image editing software and plugins and is an in-demand speaker throughout the United States and Canada on creativity in the digital age.

Tony Sweet and Susan Milestone conduct Visual Artistry photography location workshops in the United States, Canada, and Iceland. Tony maintains an active speaking schedule to photography organizations, industry trade shows and PPA schools across the continental US and Canada. He also conducts an annual Visual Artistry Creativity Seminar series.

Tony's photography is published worldwide in every medium and is represented by Getty Images. His iPhone photography is represented by Aurora Photos. Tony's images are also used by Nikon, MacPhun, Singh Ray, Alien Skin, Topaz, Lensbaby and others for national ad campaigns.

An interview with Tony on macro photography was published in [The New York Times](#).

Tony has authored five books on the art of photography: *Fine Art Nature Photography* ('02), *Fine Art Flower Photography* ('05), *Fine Art Nature Photography: Water, Ice, Fog* ('07), *Fine Art Digital Photography* ('09), and *HDR Photography* (2011). He and Master Photo Workshops have co-produced four photography DVDs: *Visual Artistry*, *HDR Made Easy*, *Visual Literacy* and *Flower Photography Artistry*, as well as an iPhone instructional video series.



This is shaping up to be a not-to-be-missed event. Mark your calendars, and stay tuned for more details.

## Year-End “Top Ten”

Now with 100% more member participation!



As you’ve heard by now, the NBCC Year-End Event has been completely redesigned for 2016. Drawing from feedback received from a member survey, a special committee was formed to re-think the entire event. One key change is to the selection of the “Top Ten” images of the year. This year, we will be testing a new approach on an experimental basis – and YOU are invited to participate.

**Electronic Top Ten – PEOPLE’S CHOICE.** All of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place images in the monthly electronic competitions will be posted to an online gallery. In mid-May, NBCC members will be given a link to the gallery, and you’ll have 2 weeks to review the images and select your 10 favorites. You’ll also receive instructions on how to use a simple online survey to “cast your ballot.” Top 10 and Electronic Image of the Year will be determined by total votes received, and the winners will be acknowledged in the Year-End Event Program.

**Print Top Ten – expert panel review.** All of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place images in the monthly print competitions will be reviewed by an NBCC expert panel (akin to the 3-member panel that was used in the April 13 competition). The panel will select their consensus Top Ten and the Print Image of the Year. Winners will be acknowledged in the Year-End Event Program.

We hope this experiment proves to be engaging and perhaps even fun. There are some trade-offs, which we recognize. For example, while we would love to extend the “People’s Choice” format to cover the print competition, we also believe strongly that the quality of the physical print needs to be taken into consideration, and there is no easy way to have members view more than 100 prints in one physical location. Perhaps next year we can consider expanding in that direction.

We look forward to your participation in the People’s Choice awards, and hope to see you at the Year-End Event on June 8.

## NOTICE



NBCC Membership dues for the 2016-2017 program year will increase to \$75. The additional \$10 will be earmarked exclusively to cover the costs of bringing well-known, high-quality speakers to present at Club programs during the year.

## Help Requested

NBCC has always been a friendly Club. We care about our members. If you know of a member in our Club who is seriously ill or hospitalized, please let Gordie Corbin know about the situation. If you know of a member who has lost a spouse or a close family member, please give this information to Gordie so that she can send our deepest sympathy to the family. Gordie has been designated by President Davidson as the Club representative who will send sympathy cards or get well cards to members who need to know we care. Please send all the information you can to [gordie.corbin@erols.com](mailto:gordie.corbin@erols.com). Thank you.

## NOMINATION OF CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2016-2017

The NBCC Nominations Committee — Gail Bingham (Chair), Chuck Lee, and Bill Ho — offer the following slate of nominees for Club officers for the coming year:

President: Roy Sewall  
Vice President: Lori Ducharme  
Secretary: Bill Ho  
Treasurer: Bruce Davis

*Elections will be held by voice vote prior to the May 11 club meeting.*

## NATURE VISIONS 2016: SNEAK PREVIEW!

Mark your calendars for Nature Visions 2016, scheduled for **November 18-20** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas, VA. NBCC's own Steven Silverman is the Speaker Chair for this year's Expo, and he and his colleagues have assembled a fabulous lineup. Here's a sneak peek:

**Bob Krist** will be Friday's featured speaker, leading a full-day workshop on Travel Photography.

**Tom Till** will be the Saturday Keynote speaker. His talk will be on "A Lifetime in Landscape Photography: The Southwest and Beyond."

**Julianne Kost** will be presenting two free Lightroom lectures on Sunday and a paid Photoshop lecture on Saturday.

**Charles Needle** will be doing three presentations: Creative Macro, Impressionistic Photography, and Creative iPhone.

**Denise Ippolito** will be lecturing on Creative Flower Photography as well as leading the 4 raptors hands-on workshops.

**Eileen Rafferty** will be presenting two lectures: B&W Photography and Visual Design.

**Mark Buckler** will be doing three presentations: Photographing the Night Sky: How to Create "Stellar" Images; Improving your Bird (Wildlife) Photography; and Creating Dynamic Images of the Coast.

**Mike Moats** will be leading four Macro Photography workshops

**Lisa & Tom Curchara** will be leading several flower workshops as well as several frog photography workshops.

**Tom Field** will be speaking on Drone Photography.

**Jennifer King** will be lecturing on: Photographing America's National Parks (in honor of their 100th anniversary), and Graphic Design for Photographers.

**Marie Jobar** will be presenting 4 beginner classes: The 10 Best Reasons to Use Lightroom; Getting Off Auto - Taking Control; Manual Exposure Made Easy; and How Do You Do That?

**Ben Greenberg** will be speaking on Photographing Virginia, and Panoramas for Beginners.

Stay tuned for more details!

## PSA NEWS



The Photo Travel Division (PTD) of PSA has added a Mini-Essay Competition for Individual PSA members. The Travel Photo Mini-Essay competition provides an opportunity for PSA members to develop or explore one theme or subject without the need for software or finding royalty free music, as is required in the Travel Essay Competition. A Mini-Essay will consist of up to 20 related images that tell a travel story or explore a travel theme (examples: a location, an event or a culture). This was added primarily for those who don't have the software or experience to do an extensive essay. A written script to accompany the images is optional. Text may be added to the images if desired. Further details are available [at this link](#).

The PSA International Exhibition (the only one sponsored by PSA) is now open for entries; the deadline is July 25. Anyone may enter this exhibition; you do not have to be an Individual PSA member. It is an excellent opportunity to try your hand at an International Exhibition. There are multiple digital categories and you may enter any or all of them. They include Projected Image Color and Monochrome; Nature open and wildlife; Photo Travel open and scapes; and Photojournalism open and human interest. The Nature, Travel and Photojournalism categories also have print competitions. The Pictorial Print Division has 4 categories—Large and Small Color prints and Large and Small monochrome prints. The 3D Division also has competition in prints, digital and slides. It is very important to read all the Information and Conditions of Entry if you enter any of the competitions. An entry consists of 4 images for each category. Details can be found [at this link](#).

The March and April issues of the **PSA Journal** both have a lot of information on San Antonio, where the Annual Conference will be held next September. They also have reviews of software, books and cameras, including the new Sony A7-R II. There is also an article comparing DSLRs and mirrorless cameras with interchangeable lenses. A variety of subjects is covered in the most recent issues—from Easter Island and a Chinese Spring festival by a member in India, to articles about bird, flower, and underwater photography.

Two important articles in the March issue explain **copyright and the PSA Journal** and **exhibition standards**. Daniel Charbonnet, Hon. PSA, EPSA, who is Vice-President for Exhibition Services, clearly explains what "created by the entrant" means. This clearly states that use of commercial clip art, textures created by others, commercial backgrounds created by others, and parts of others' images are prohibited. The use of plugin and software that help create your image are permitted. The reason for this is to keep images as photographs and not graphic art. Everything in the **PSA Journal** is copyrighted by PSA and the authors involved. Permission must be obtained for any reproduction. The copyright includes all photos in the publication.

– *Judy Burr, NBCC PSA Representative*

# Unmasking the Crafty Dudes at Nikon

– by Steve Robinson

It was with a sinking heart that I examined the results of cameras and lenses from the perspective of the optical limit of the Airy Disk. This disk size dictates the absolute best use of the pixels for a camera when the size of the pixel and the size of the Airy disk are the same. When this happens, a point of light, such as from a star, or some other bright point source focused onto the sensor fits onto one pixel. With this information programmed into a spreadsheet, I quickly discovered the following.

Body	Frame Size	Megapixels	Best Aperture
Nikon D810	Full	36	f/10
Nikon D7100	APSC	24	f/8
Nikon D300	APSC	12	f/11
Nikon D700	Full	12	f/18
Nikon 1 V1	13.2 x 8.8mm	10	f/7.1
Nikon 1 V3	13.2 x 8.8mm	18	f/5
OMD EM1	4/3	16	f/7.1

I should add here that I own Nikon equipment, and have never shot a Canon in my life, but having said this, a full frame Canon will have very similar characteristics when sensor size and pixel count are similar. One small difference is the definition of the APSC sensor size category. Nikon has a 1.5 crop factor, and as I understand the Canon, it has a 1.4.

There isn't a lot that can be done for these numbers. A Nikon D300, because of the size of its pixels, will begin to see image degradation at f/11 when the Airy disk becomes larger than the pitch size of the D300 pixel. This is one of the physical laws that governs optics.

My concern became acute when I discovered that my Nikon 1 V3 began suffering from this problem at only f/5. Those dudes at Nikon, had they snookered me? Most of my lenses were variable zooms, and had little to offer under the f/5 aperture. Some of my primes went down to f/1.8, others f/2.8, and one went all the way down to f/1.2, but f/5 is a problem.

Had those crafty dudes at Nikon sold me on a pile of pixels in the name of being *light to carry*? I thought I had better find out.

## The trudge to a happier state of mind

At one point in the evolution of all that is wise and good, photographers developed the idea of depth-of field, and defined it as the point when the image became blurry, both in front of the center of focus and in back of it. Central to the notion of depth of field is this concept of the Circle of Confusion (CoC). The CoC is a similar idea to the Airy disk, but rather than being bound to the physical laws of optics, it is defined to be associated with the limits of human vision, a way to judge resolution of an image. In short, if the CoC is larger than the Airy disk, then a smaller aperture than the one given above can possibly be used, but if the Airy Disk is larger than the CoC, then we have a problem, since the eye will detect the blur.

*(continued)*

The circle of confusion I use here is 1500 lines per millimeter. When this is applied to the diagonal of the sensor, the size of the Circle can be compared to the size of the Airy disk, and so long as the Airy disk is smaller than the Circle of confusion, the human viewer of the image will not be affected by the small pixel size, and will not suffer from bad camera design.

The smallest pixel of all the bodies described above is the Nikon 1 V3 having a pixel pitch of 2.54 microns, or millionths of a meter, or .0025 millimeters.

The lenses for the Nikon 1 V3 have no apertures that are smaller than f/16 and being 3 stops beyond the point where diffraction becomes a problem, I felt this would be a good place to test, so I found the Airy disk diameter at f/16 to be 8.2 microns, or .008 millimeters.

So now, the moment of truth. What is the circle of confusion for a sensor 13.2mm x 8.8mm? The diagonal of this chip is 10.8 mm. Dividing this diagonal by 1500 lines/mm gives 111 microns, or .011 mm. Wow. Heavy.

The Nikon 1 v3 lens has a circle of confusion **larger** than the Airy disk at f/16 by about 3 microns, yay!!, so images taken at this aperture are not impacted by the size of the chip so long as a print of size 8x10 viewed from 25cm is acceptable to the photographer. If the lenses would have had an aperture of f/22, the CoC would have exceeded the Airy disk size, and degradation would have been visible. Smart, crafty, kudos on Nikon. No f/22 in their lens lineup for this 1" sensor. I can save my discomfort for another day.

### **But what does this mean?**

Oh Happy Day!! Well, the Circle of Confusion is determined by a human being of reasonable visual acuity looking at a print magnified to 8x10 inches viewed from 25cm. At that range, a spot with the diameter of the circle of confusion cannot be distinguished from a point source of light by that eye. The image appears sharp throughout the depth of field established by the sensor size, focal length of the lens, and the f/stop.

If the observer uses a magnifying glass and examines the print from a close distance though, the hoax is exposed. But, this does not mean the print cannot be larger than 8x10 inches, it simply means the observer viewing distance should be increased accordingly.

If the photographer wants the viewer to stand one inch away from his or her 30x40 inch print and see amazing detail uncluttered by diffractions effects, it is likely a larger format camera, (larger sensor) will be required since the pixel pitch of even full frame 35mm cameras can only help so much. The key to closer viewing is to use the f/stop that is closest to that given in the table above. Since the Nikon 1 V3 is my most extreme example is viable at f/16, the print can be viewed at a closer distance if f/8 or f/5.6 is used instead. The same goes for all the other camera models as well. The Nikon D700 is the system least affected by this phenomenon and will produce the most viewable images of all those shown above, at least when limited by the 35mm format, from the perspective of diffraction limits.

### **Wrapping up**

I can only say that I am impressed. Those crafty dudes of Nikon chased the optical laws of the Universe to within an inch of their lives. The Airy Disk was closely approached but not overtaken by the optical excellence of their small camera and lenses. I chose the Nikon 1 V3 in this paper to demonstrate the tight tolerances makers of cameras of this size must respect in the ongoing race to smaller high quality cameras. The other bodies in the table above require nowhere near this demonstrated optical craftsmanship. The lenses specifically designed for the Nikon 1 bodies have pushed up the optical quality by necessity. Although full frame scaled lenses can be used with the Nikon 1 body using the FT-1 adapter, image quality suffers. Lenses designed for Full or APSC lenses do not require the same resolution that is needed by the tiny 1 inch Sensor.

Scaling up from the small size of the one inch sensor system to achieve a closer viewing distance, the photographer should expect added system weight for the same construction quality. This is the trade to be expected.

How about those tiny sensors in cell phones? Reasonable images can be expected if the f/stop is wide enough. I haven't studied these cameras, but physics is physics.

A good source of information on Airy disks and Circles of Confusion can be found in the Wikipedia if deeper understanding is wanted.

## First-Place Images (April 2016)



© John Norvell



© Robert Barkin



© Bill Bulmer



© Bob White



© Saul Pleeter

## April Competition Results (Open)

Electronic Images Judge: Frank van Riper

Print Judge: NBCC Panel

### PRINTS

#### *Intermediate (21 entries)*

1st	Bill Bulmer	Great Falls
2nd	Steve Lapidus	Seeking Shelter
3rd	Toni Robinson	St Pats on High
HM	Robert Barkin	Geometry
HM	Robert Barkin	Pennyfield Lock House
HM	Bill Bulmer	Canvasbacks
HM	Lorraine Chickering	Purple Passion

#### *Advanced (40 entries)*

1st	Saul Pleeter	Dancer
2nd	Dick Pelroy	Orchid, Longwood Gardens
3rd	Jack Rosenberg	Cracked Egg
HM	Willem Bier	Verzanna
HM	Gail Bingham	Illuminated
HM	Stan Collyer	Dominos
HM	Bruce Cyr	Down in the Nave
HM	Carol Lee	Hawk Portrait
HM	Joanne Mars	Dos Caballos
HM	Cheryl Naulty	Uncle Ho
HM	John Norvell	Portland Head Lighthouse
HM	John Norvell	Wading Cranes
HM	Jean Yuan	Female Dancer

### ELECTRONIC IMAGES

#### *Novice (12 entries)*

1st	Robert Barkin	Point Lobos
2nd	Loretta Argrett	Miniature Tortoise in Hand
3rd	Loretta Argrett	Old Barn
HM	Robert Barkin	Disabled Vet Memorial

#### *Intermediate (22 entries)*

1st	Bob White	Feeding the Fledglings
2nd	Bob White	Unexpected Visitor
3rd	Ira Adler	Hancock Shaker Village Barn
HM	Ken Goldman	Firenze Frutta
HM	Neil Hermansdorfer	Last Drop
HM	Kay Norvell	Pemaquid Lighthouse
HM	Ray Whitman	Elvis

#### *Advanced (54 entries)*

1st	John Norvell	Tuscan Sunset
2nd	Jim Turner	Appliance Bulb
3rd	Art Hyder	Encounter
HM	Gail Bingham	Diner at Dawn
HM	Stan Collyer	After the Storm
HM	Stan Collyer	Popcorn for Sale
HM	Michele Egan	Working Mural
HM	Stuart Glickman	Feeding Time
HM	Stuart Glickman	V Sign
HM	Bill Ho	Flower Market
HM	Cheryl Naulty	Ice Lagoon at Sunset
HM	John Norvell	Penguin Hill
HM	Jean-Pierre Plé	Roaring Fork
HM	Jack Rosenberg	Granada Condo
HM	Eric Schweitzer	Just Hooked
HM	Mark Segal	Ledger
HM	Jim Turner	Tulips on Black
HM	Nancy Wolejsza	OxBow Bend



## Cumulative Competition Results through April 2016

### PRINTS

#### *Intermediate*

43 Eric Schweitzer  
 41 Toni Robinson  
 40 Lorraine Chickering  
 37 Steven Lapidus  
 36 Kay Norvell  
 29 Beth Altman  
 25 Louise Roy  
 21 Robert Barkin  
 16 Bill Bullmer  
 12 Ray Whitman  
 6 Mike Fleming  
 6 Ellie Trybuch

#### *Advanced*

70 John Norvell  
 54 Dick Pelroy  
 45 Morris Liss  
 43 Gail Bingham  
 40 Bill Seelig  
 39 Stan Collyer  
 34 Carol Walsh  
 30 Bruce Cyr  
 27 Joanne Mars  
 26 Greg Holden  
 24 Cheryl Naulty  
 21 Jim Turner  
 21 Willem Bier  
 20 Jack Rosenberg  
 12 David Davidson  
 12 Chet Stein  
 12 Jean Yuan  
 10 Saul Pleeter  
 6 Chuck Bress  
 6 Dave Clemmer  
 6 Stuart Glickman  
 6 Lester LaForce  
 6 Carol Lee  
 6 Larry Mars  
 6 Mark Segal

### ELECTRONIC

#### *Novice*

54 Robert Barkin  
 51 Louise Roy  
 36 Jill Randell  
 30 Lorraine Chickering  
 28 Ellen McGovern  
 18 Bill Bulmer  
 17 Philippe Pradel  
 17 Loretta Argrett  
 12 Steven Lapidus  
 8 Jason Wolf  
 6 Deborah Menditch

#### *Intermediate*

62 Ken Goldman  
 54 Steven Silverman  
 51 Kay Norvell  
 40 Toni Robinson  
 28 Bob White  
 26 Neil Hermansdorfer  
 25 Claudia Seelig  
 14 Ray Whitman  
 14 Ira Adler  
 12 Michael Roberts  
 10 Steven Lapidus  
 6 Jean Hanson  
 6 Lauren Ludi  
 6 Philippe Pradel

#### *Advanced*

71 Jim Turner  
 50 John Norvell  
 43 Stan Collyer  
 35 Nancy Wolejsza  
 33 Dick Pelroy  
 31 Bruce Cyr  
 28 Chuck Lee  
 24 Bruce Davis  
 24 John Willis  
 24 Jean Yuan  
 24 Jean-Pierre Plé  
 24 Stuart Glickman  
 22 David Davidson  
 21 Melissa Clark  
 21 Morris Liss  
 20 Cheryl Naulty  
 18 Miranda Chin  
 18 Mark Segal  
 18 Gail Bingham  
 18 Jack Rosenberg  
 15 Chet Stein  
 14 Carol Walsh  
 14 Michele Egan  
 12 José Cartas  
 8 Art Hyder  
 6 Sarah Salomon  
 6 Bill Ho  
 6 Eric Schweitzer

**NORTH BETHESDA CAMERA CLUB - APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP – 2016-2017**

Current member renewals (completed applications with dues paid in full) **must** be received by **June 15, 2016** to ensure membership renewal. After June 15, memberships will be offered to those on the waiting list. Please PRINT legibly and fill in COMPLETELY even if this is a renewal!

**Please note that all memberships are individual and cost \$75. Fill out one form per member.**

CHOOSE ONE:  RENEWAL OR  NEW MEMBERSHIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address City State Zip

( )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (Home or Cell) E-Mail Address (please print carefully)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation Employer (optional) ( )  
Business Phone

- MY CONTACT INFORMATION HAS CHANGED FROM THE 2015-2016 MEMBERSHIP BOOK (IF RENEWAL)
- I AM A MEMBER OF OTHER CAMERA CLUB(S): \_\_\_\_\_
- I AM A MEMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA.
- I WOULD BE WILLING TO SERVE ON A COMMITTEE.
- I AM WILLING TO HELP WITH BRINGING AND SERVING REFRESHMENTS.
- I AM WILLING TO MAKE A PRESENTATION AT A WORKSHOP OR PROGRAM ON :

**I would like the following kinds of training and programs: (Use back of form for additional suggestions)**

**I would like to see the following club field trips: (Use back of form for additional suggestions)**

**Please write any additional ideas to improve NBCC below, or on the back of this form:**

*I hold NBCC and each member of NBCC, individually and collectively, blameless for any injury that may occur to me or my guests, or my property, while participating in any NBCC activity or event.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature Date of Application

**CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO: NORTH BETHESDA CAMERA CLUB**

Members considering Emeritus status, thus having their dues waived, should note the eligibility requirements in the Membership Book and apply to Membership Chair for subsequent Board approval.

**Please mail completed form and check to: Chuck Lee, 14603 Carrolton Road, Rockville, MD 20853.**

# NBCC Annual Year-end Event



## Featuring **Tony Sweet** "A Photographic Retrospective"

Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 6:30 PM.  
Asbury Methodist Village  
Rosborough Community Room  
409 Russell Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland  
\$28.00 per person

Socializing and hors d'oeuvres beginning at 6:30 PM  
Bring your own wine to tables if you wish

**Reservations must be received by Wednesday, June 1, 2016**

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Make checks payable to North Bethesda Camera Club (or NBCC). Mail check and form to: Toni Robinson, 9808 Aldersgate Rd, Rockville, MD 20850.

Number of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount enclosed: @ \$28 per person: \_\_\_\_\_

List names of persons attending as you would like them to appear on the name tags:

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

<b><u>President</u></b> <i>David Davidson</i>	<b><u>Vice President</u></b> <i>Roy Sewall</i>	<b><u>Secretary</u></b> <i>Bruce Davis</i>	<b><u>Treasurer</u></b> <i>Toni Robinson</i>	<b><u>Directors</u></b> <i>Carol Lee</i> <i>Joel Hoffman</i>	<i>Gordie Corbin</i> <i>Kent Mason</i> <i>Alan Sislen</i>
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<b><u>Programs</u></b> <i>Paul Taylor</i> Evelyn Jacob Kent Mason John Norvell Ray Whitman Michele Egan Gail Bingham Neil Hermansdorfer	<b><u>Membership</u></b> <i>Chuck Lee</i>  <b><u>Exhibits</u></b> <i>Sarah Salomon</i> Melissa Clark Sibyll Erdman Dawn Sikkema Alan Simmons John Willis	<b><u>Competition</u></b> <i>Judy Switt</i>  <i>Prints</i> Bill Ho Bill Richards Bill Seelig  <i>Electronic</i> Willem Bier Tom Field John Willis	<b><u>Judges</u></b> <i>Steve Robinson</i> Bruce Cyr Lester LaForce Kay Norvell  <b><u>Nature Visions</u></b> <i>Steven Silverman</i> John Norvell Jean Pierre Plé Lori Ducharme	<b><u>Hospitality</u></b> <i>Claudia Seelig</i> Bill Seelig Geri Millman Terry Van Houten Jim Render Virginia Render Ellie Trybuch Ira Adler Mark Segal Jitesh Batra	<b><u>Field Trips</u></b> <i>Gail Bingham</i> Bruce Davis Lori Ducharme Joann Mars Larry Mars Jim Turner Dick Pelroy Steven Silverman  <b><u>Lens &amp; Eye</u></b> <i>Lori Ducharme</i>
<b><u>Equipment</u></b> <i>Ken Goldman</i> Tom Field Steven Lapidus Neil Hermansdorfer	<b><u>Webmaster</u></b> <i>Tom Field</i>				

<b><u>Education</u></b> <i>Chris Hanessian</i> Evelyn Jacob Kent Mason	Roy Sewall Alan Sislen Nikhil Bahl	<b><u>Community Outreach</u></b> <i>Joel Hoffman</i> Ron Dietrich Chris Hanessian Gordie Corbin	Bob Peavy José Cartas Judy Switt Kent Mason	<b><u>Photo Essay</u></b> <i>Stu Mathison</i> Willem Bier David Davidson	Tom Field John Pan John Willis
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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](http://www.nbccmd.org)

