

# The Lens and Eye



Volume 51 Number 6 | February 2016 | Editor: Lori Ducharme | Contact: [newsletter@nbccmd.org](mailto:newsletter@nbccmd.org) | [www.nbccmd.org](http://www.nbccmd.org)

## Calendar

### FEBRUARY EVENTS

- Feb 3** - Competition Night, 7:30pm. Theme: 3-month open (electronic). Judge: Lewis Lorton
- Feb 10** - Board Meeting
- Feb 17** - Competition Night, 7:30pm. Theme: 3-month open (prints). Judge: Steve Gottlieb
- Feb 24** - Program Night, 7:30pm. Topic: Master Photographers Present

### MARCH PREVIEW

- Mar 2** - Competition Night (Electronic)
- Mar 9** - Competition Night (Prints)
- Mar 13** - Photo Essay Event
- Mar 16** - Board Meeting
- Mar 23** - Program Night

## In this issue...

As I write this, today is January 23 and we're in the grip of the blizzard of 2016, which the Capital Weather Gang has dubbed "Snowzilla." I can't even talk about how much snow is outside my window right now. Somehow there's less than 4 weeks until pitchers and catchers report!

Hopefully this month's newsletter will help stave off cabin fever just a little bit. We've got all the usual goodness to tell you about — competitions, programs, field trips, and assorted other surprises coming up in February.

Stay safe and warm, and hopefully we'll all be plowed out in time for the 3-month open competition on Feb 3.

— Lori Ducharme, Editor



## February Competition Topic: 3-month Open

Any image taken on or after November 1, 2015. Note that electronic and print entries will compete on separate, non-consecutive nights.

*Electronic submissions are due by 7:30pm on Sunday, January 31st.*

## February 3 Judge: Lewis Lorton

Our judge for the electronic image competition on Feb 3 will be Lewis Lorton. Here's how he describes himself:

Lewis Lorton is an amateur photographer of fairly long experience, starting in film with a Nikkormat, Nikon F, various twin lens reflexes, and Rolleiflex SL66. He took a seventeen year break from photography when the pressures of family, work and increasing sensitivity to darkroom fluids took their toll. He began shooting again in the early 2000's and progressed from point-and-shoot film and digital through all levels of Nikon up to the D700, then reversed course to an Olympus Micro 4/3 and a Sony A7 II.

Lew has been in one show, vows never to do another and doesn't send photographs to exhibitions or contests, nor does he attempt to sell pictures. He loves to travel and been to Iceland, France, Italy, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and Laos (these last five multiple times in the last 15 years). Lew believes that art doesn't stop when the shutter button is pressed, and technical issues are significant only when they don't support the content. Technical perfection in the absence of impact is a waste of time.

Lew considers himself a street photographer no matter what subject matter he is shooting, and he has long since stopped photographing 'pretty' subjects. When critiquing photos, he is direct and honest without being unpleasant, believing that, as artists, each of us wants and deserves to hear the truth about how our images impact others.

His photos can be seen at [LewLortonPhoto.com](http://LewLortonPhoto.com) along with a series of blog posts about photography and travel.

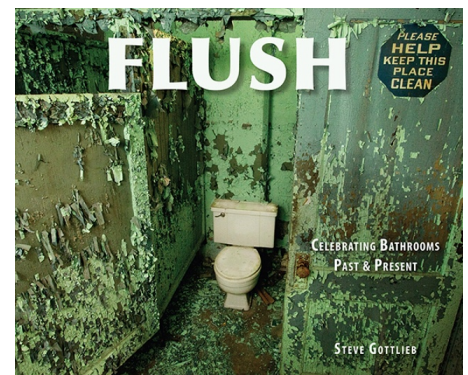
## February 17 Judge: Steve Gottlieb

Prints will compete on Feb 17, and Steve Gottlieb will return as our judge. Steve's photography ranges from architecture to people to landscapes. His images have been featured in *Shutterbug*, *Popular Photography*, *American Photo*, *Rangefinder*, and *Photo District News*, among others, and he been recognized with such awards as "Advertising Photograph of the Year" in both NYC and Washington, DC. He is the photographer—as well as author and designer—of six books, including *American Icons*, *Washington: Portrait of a City*, *FLUSH: Celebrating Bathrooms Past & Present*, and *Abandoned America*; the latter was selected by both *People Magazine* and *USA Today* as "Gift Book of the Year." *Shutterbug* has referred to Steve as "a gifted photographer and author." A graduate of Columbia University College and Law School, Steve practiced law for a decade before turning his life-long hobby into his vocation. In addition to shooting and leading photography workshops, he leads workshops to promote innovation and teambuilding in organizations ([www.visionmining.com](http://www.visionmining.com)).



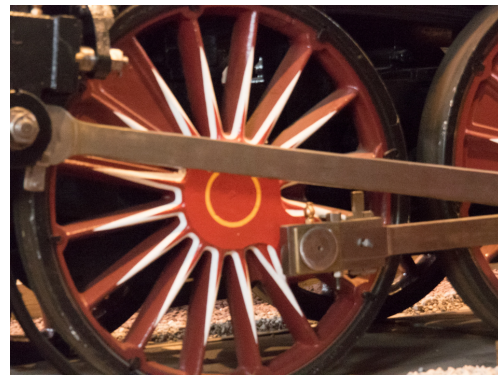
View Steve's portfolio at <http://www.gottliebphoto.com>.

Steve is also the organizer of the annual Horizon Photography Summit in Wilmington, DE. Held this year from March 4-6, 2016, the Summit features Tony Sweet, Karen Messick, Arthur Ransome, Bob Madden, Steve Gottlieb and others, speaking on Landscapes, Lighting, Photoshop, Creativity, B&W, Drones, Underwater, Travel, and much more. The event is open to all, and NBCC members are invited to join in! See details and registration at [www.horizonworkshops.com/summit](http://www.horizonworkshops.com/summit).



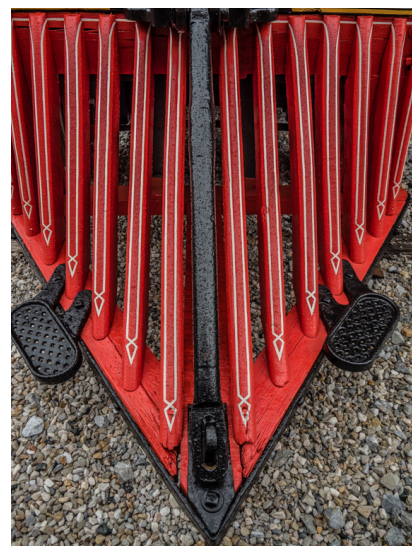
## Feb. 20 Field Trip: Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum is an interesting, desirable and challenging place to photograph. The Museum houses many examples of locomotives, freight and passenger cars, cabooses and other rolling stock dating back to the beginning of American railroading in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Museum's website states that its ".....roster of rolling stock represents the first, last, best or only of their kind in existence today." It is not surprising, therefore, that the Museum is on the register of National Historic Landmarks of the U.S. Department of Interior. Most of the photographic opportunities take place in the several buildings that comprise the 40 acre site, especially the main building called the Roundhouse with its 22 bays of railroad cars and a 60' turntable. Outside of the buildings are three platforms where one can photograph railroad cars inside and out. Also outside is a model train setup.



A field trip has been arranged to the B & O Railroad Museum in Baltimore on Saturday, February 20. We will meet at the museum entrance at 10:00 AM, the time at which the museum opens. (It closes at 4:00 PM.) One can arrive later than 10:00 AM, but more visitors will be arriving at this historic site during the morning and early afternoon hours. Admission is \$18 per adult and \$16 for those 60 and older. Parking is free.

It is suggested that NBCC members bring their full range of lenses because there are many opportunities for wide angle and close-up photography and all focal lengths in between. Tripods are permitted and are needed to deal with indoor lighting conditions. Flash photography is also permitted. Images cannot be used for commercial purposes without the consent of the Museum. The Museum is located at 901 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21223. Entrance to the Museum grounds and the main parking lot is at the intersection of West Pratt Street and Poppleton Street. For more information about the Museum, see its expansive website at [www.borail.org](http://www.borail.org).



As a courtesy to the Museum, we would like to give its staff an idea of the number of NBCC members who are likely to be present that day. Please email Larry Mars at [limars13@gmail.com](mailto:limars13@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

– Larry & Joann Mars

## February 24 Program: Master Photographers Present

You won't want to miss this program! Two well-known NBCC photographers will present images and insight from their photographic work. You will find this quite interesting, visually stimulating, and informative.

**Roy Sewall:** "My presentation will be about my journey as a photographer. Part of it will be to discuss genetic disposition, as seen in my missionary grandfather, artist mother and father, and architect daughter. I'll discuss major moments and people that inspired my photography. The journey will be illustrated with photos from my first days to the present. It will end with what conclusions I have made for my photography going forward."

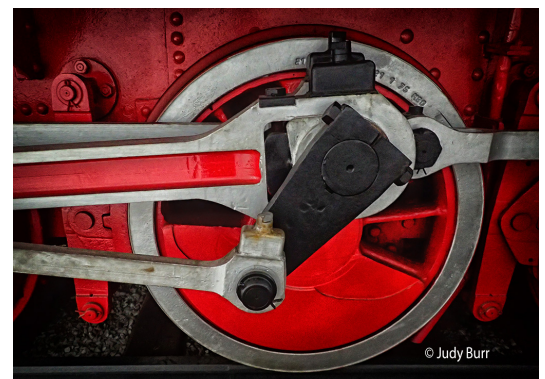
**Alan Sisen:** "My topic will be 'The Importance of Projects.' As photographers, we are each trying to improve our photographs, while at the same time gaining greater enjoyment and pleasure from our photography. I've found that having short-term and long-term photography projects help me to keep focused and to attempt to continually move my photography forward. During this presentation I'll discuss and show images from a number of projects I've worked on over the last number of years as well as some current projects. I'll talk about various types of projects and how they can keep us motivated and energized."

## Fun with an Olympus Tough TG 3

A little over a year ago, I went to Ace Photo since company reps were there and I wanted to talk to the ones from Olympus. They were in the process of demonstrating the TG 3, a waterproof, tough point and shoot which could focus as close as 10mm—about ½ inch. The microscope settings include focus bracketing and focus stacking. This 16 MP camera shoots only jpgs, but its successor, the TG 4 also shoots raw. Due to its size and tough build, it is good for bad weather and times when you don't want to lug a larger camera. It is fun to experiment with and produces fairly decent images considering its limitations.

I took it on a trip to Germany and Belgium last spring and used it along with my Olympus EM-5 when we visited a beautiful garden on a nasty day. That was not a time for a tripod or a DSLR. Since I need new titles for PSA, I decided to try one of the flower images to see how it would do in the 5 rounds of judging. What a pleasant surprise I had when the report arrived. My icy flower was accepted in all 5 rounds and received an HM in one of them.

The camera was also very useful when we visited the Sinsheim Auto & Technik Museum, the largest private museum in Europe. I was able to shoot details of all kinds including the train wheel below. It is hard to enjoy some places when heavy cameras detract. Obviously, this does not produce the quality of my Olympus or Nikon gear, but there are times where it is the camera of choice.



– Judy Burr

## Splinters from the Board

The January field trip to the Diyanet Center of America was a huge success. We had 45 photographers in attendance and we were treated extremely well by the people running the facility. In particular we were treated to an absolutely wonderful lunch. A huge thanks to Gail Bingham for all her hard work in preparing for this memorable field trip. I'm very eager to see everyone's photographic take on the place.

I need to bring to your attention that our camera club will not be competing in the Glennies this year. We just didn't get started early enough to insure a successful set of entries. However, we will be competing in the Glennies again in 2017. Next year we will be getting an earlier start at promoting participation in the Glennies in order to insure a winning set of Club entries.

Lastly, at the January Board of Director's meeting the Board heard a report from the Year-end Event Planning Committee. This committee was specially formed to take a fresh look at our year-end event, and come up with suggestions for making the event fun and invigorating. The committee shared their ideas with the Board and, while it is still too soon to report on any specific changes that will occur, stay tuned to learn more about the 2016 year-end event.

As I write this month's "Splinters", the metro DC region is bracing for a winter storm that could be historic in size and strength. I hope everyone drives carefully and stays safe. I'm sure we will be talking about this storm a lot at upcoming meetings.

– David Davidson, NBCC President

## PSA NEWS



PSA offers many services to its members, yet few take advantage of them. Study groups and Digital dialog groups offer an opportunity to evaluate work by others in the group and to have them evaluate your work. Each Division has groups, and the Projected Image Division has both study groups and digital dialog groups. These operate differently, having sprung from the old Color Slide Division (late the Color Projected Image Division) and the electronic Imaging Division. There are study groups for Advanced Photoshop, assigned subjects, creative, fine art, HDR, infrared, landscape, macro, monochrome, nature plus, painting, people, phoneography, sports, animals, street scenes, time lapse video, and many general groups. You can see a sample study group via the link [http://www.psa-photo.org/pid/pid-dsg/group\\_display.php?grp\\_num=01](http://www.psa-photo.org/pid/pid-dsg/group_display.php?grp_num=01). You can see any actual study groups here: <http://psadigital.org/groups/>. The reality-based divisions all follow the rules for images that apply to that category. They provide an opportunity to get opinions about whether an image meets the definition.

There are many online educational opportunities including an image analysis course, individualized courses, history of photography, advanced photography and portraits. There are other image evaluation opportunities, as well as mentors and consultants for various areas of photography. For those interested in, but not too educated in, nature subjects, a species identification service is available. (The information about these opportunities is in the members-only part of the PSA website so no links are provided here.) I encourage all NBCC members who are Individual PSA members to explore the website and try an activity so you can gain more from your membership. The November issue of the **PSA Journal** includes an article on navigating the website.

Zerene Stacker v. 1.04 is reviewed in the November **PSA Journal**. This is a stand-alone alternative to Helicon Focus. The issue also includes the new definition for a photo travel image which emphasizes that set-ups/posed pictures are not permitted. Photos must be as seen by the photographer and manipulation is limited. There is a lengthy article on the 2015 PSA International Exhibition, which showcases some of the top images. The 2015 Honors and Awards are covered in another article. PSA has a wide variety of awards covering a wide range of contributions to photography and PSA in particular.

The December **PSA Journal** describes the Star Ratings program in detail; covers the Yellowstone Conference; and explains the International Understanding Through Photography Award. The latter shows how photos can have an important impact on lives and events. There are articles on Sultanate of Oman, Underwater Photography, and Iceland. The Distinctive Image article shows work by Gunther Riehle, APSA, GMPSA who started the German Mega Circuit and several other exhibitions in Germany. Gunther presented 2 programs at the Conference and one was presented twice due to its popularity. He put together a program of the top nature photos from several German Exhibitions. He offered copies to attendees, and I have a copy which could be available for showing at the club. Gunther has been concentrating on nature and wildlife for several years and leads trips to some far-away places above the Arctic Circle. It was a delight to meet him after email exchanges re: the German Mega Circuit.

PSA continues to make changes as our art changes. A new Distinction has been added—that of Portfolios. This will give photographers an opportunity to have a group of photos judged rather than just individual ones. The planning, order and subject will all be considered, providing a totally different experience. The Photo Travel Division plans to add a Travel Set with script which will provide an opportunity different from the travel essays which require Royalty Free music. Rules will be posted on the website in the coming months.

Finally, **Nancy Wolejsza** has been appointed to the Photo Travel Division Board as the **Who's Who Director**. PSA will benefit from her Excel experience.

– Judy Burr, NBCC PSA Representative

## The Variable Neutral Density Filter

A neutral density filter lowers the amount of light reaching the lens. It is useful any time light levels are higher than is wanted for a particular image. A typical use for them is to slow the shutter to produce silky water (as in a waterfall) when light levels are high. Another use is to permit the photographer to shoot scenes in bright light with a shallow depth of field (overpowering the sun). This second use allows an image to be taken of someone or something in full sun, with the background thrown out of focus — think bride and city-scape in the background. In this case, the idea is to reduce the light level so the shutter can be lowered to the flash sync speed so that a flash can be used for fill-in or other purposes.

Two basic kinds of neutral density filters are on the market: fixed and variable. I first began using the fixed filter because of cost. I purchased a Cokin filter holder, and slotted the resin filters in front of the camera lens. Different strengths of these filters could be used in combination to achieve from one to 10 stops of light reduction. They did the job, but they were easily scratched, and had to be replaced periodically.

As the variable neutral density filters became available, I decided to try them. I purchased a pair of circular polarizing filters and built a variable filter from them. My filter was an about 1.5 inches thick and a bit on the heavy side, but it gave me a level of light control that was very interesting.

Over the years, I had come to think of light control in three dimensions, shutter, aperture, and ISO. Each of these dimensions carried side effects. A changed shutter either froze or softened action, aperture affected depth of field and blur, ISO affected dynamic range and noise. I had become acutely aware of each of these effects as I composed my imagery.

With the variable neutral density filter, I discovered that I had a fourth dimension that affected nothing but light intensity. I could compose my silky water image with my shutter set to a tenth of a second, the aperture set to blur out the background, and the ISO set to, say, 100 to give a high quality to the image. Then I could dial in the brightness level to whatever I wanted. When I went upstream or downstream, the light level would likely change, but no problem, I would just rotate the filter to bring the exposure back into range.

I could take a whole series of images without making changes to water softness, depth of field, or image quality. All of this without juggling a stack of resin filters in changing light conditions.

When I assembled the kit for my mirrorless camera, a Nikon 1, I purchased a variable filter with a set of step down rings so I could use the filters on almost every lens I had for that system. The new filter is tiny compared to the one I built for my D700. The new ones are less expensive as well, so the need to use the old resin filters simply no longer exists so far as I can see. I carry the filter, with a circular polarizer, the rings, and a cleaning cloth in a stiff Velcro pouch.

If you haven't tried the variable filter, you might want to give it a try. My filter was in the range of about \$100. When it comes to camera equipment, this little filter is a real bargain.

– Steve Robinson

## (Former) Member News

The Washington, D.C. Sports Hall of Fame will add 11 new members to its honor roll on Sunday, July 17, at Nationals Park prior to the 1:35pm game between the Washington Nationals and Pittsburgh Pirates. The 2016 class includes retired broadcaster (and former longtime NBCC member) **Frank Herzog**, along with USA Today sports columnist Christine Brennan, former DC United Star Marco Etcheverry, Basketball Hall of Famer and Georgetown graduate Patrick Ewing, the late Earl Lloyd (the first African American to play in the NBA), former Redskins' defensive lineman Dexter Manley, Maryland field hockey coach Missy Meharg, Good Counsel football coach Bob Milloy, the late Washington star athletes Hymie and Phil Perlo, and retired tennis star Harold Solomon.



# January Competition Results (Still Life of Fruit/Vegetables)

Judge: Don Berkmeier

## PRINTS

### Intermediate (11 entries)

1st	Kay Norvell	White Pitcher
2nd	Eric Schweitzer	Ready for Cutting
3rd	Kay Norvell	Pumpkin and Friends
HM	Beth Altman	3 Pears

### Advanced (25 entries)

1st	Greg Holden	Apple Peeler
2nd	Willem Bier	Slices
3rd	John Norvell	Garden Veggies & Mushrooms
HM	Bruce Cyr	Arrangement with Teapot
HM	John Norvell	Fall Pears
HM	Jack Rosenberg	Red Onions
HM	Bill Seelig	The Durian
HM	Chet Stein	Bananas

## ELECTRONIC IMAGES

### Novice (3 entries)

1st	Lorraine Chickering	Benevolent Banana Banter
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### Intermediate (9 entries)

1st	Kay Norvell	Winter Fruit
2nd	Kay Norvell	Cut Pumpkin
3rd	Ray Whitman	Nightshades

### Advanced (18 entries)

1st	Jim Turner	Golden Pear
2nd	Morris Liss	Balanced Diet
3rd	Jim Turner	Pears Grapes & Rambutans
HM	Stuart Glickman	Dark Still Life
HM	John Norvell	Pumpkin Man
HM	John Willis	Fruit Candle



© Jim Turner



© Lorraine Chickering



© Kay Norvell

## Cumulative Competition Results through January 2016

### PRINTS

#### *Intermediate*

- 37 Eric Schweitzer
- 30 Kay Norvell
- 28 Steve Lapidus
- 23 Beth Altman
- 18 Lorraine Chickering
- 15 Louise Roy
- 8 Toni Robinson
- 6 Mike Fleming
- 6 Ellie Trybuch
- 6 Ray Whitman

#### *Advanced*

- 42 John Norvell
- 34 Carol Walsh
- 28 Morris Liss
- 28 Bill Seelig
- 24 Bruce Cyr
- 21 Jim Turner
- 21 Stan Collyer
- 21 Dick Pelroy
- 20 Greg Holden
- 16 Gail Bingham
- 15 Willem Bier
- 15 Joanne Mars
- 12 David Davidson
- 6 Chuck Bress
- 6 Dave Clemmer
- 6 Lester LaForce
- 6 Cheryl Naulty
- 6 Jack Rosenberg
- 6 Chet Stein



© Kay Norvell

### ELECTRONIC

#### *Novice*

- 30 Lorraine Chickering
- 28 Jill Randell
- 28 Louise Roy
- 19 Ellen McGovern
- 17 Philippe Pradel
- 12 Robert Barkin
- 12 Bill Bulmer
- 12 Steven Lapidus
- 8 Jason Wolf
- 6 Deborah Menditch

#### *Intermediate*

- 39 Kay Norvell
- 39 Steven Silverman
- 31 Toni Robinson
- 26 Ken Goldman
- 25 Claudia Seelig
- 9 Bob White
- 8 Ray Whitman
- 6 Ira Adler
- 6 Jean Hanson
- 6 Neil Hermansdorfer
- 6 Lauren Ludi

#### *Advanced*

- 50 Jim Turner
- 34 John Norvell
- 33 Dick Pelroy
- 21 Melissa Clark
- 18 Miranda Chin
- 18 Bruce Davis
- 17 Nancy Wolejsza
- 15 Morris Liss
- 15 Chet Stein
- 14 Cheryl Naulty
- 12 David Davidson
- 12 Stuart Glickman
- 12 John Willis
- 10 Stan Collyer
- 10 Bruce Cyr
- 10 Chuck Lee
- 8 Michele Egan
- 6 Gail Bingham
- 6 José Cartas
- 6 Jean-Pierre Plé
- 6 Jack Rosenberg
- 6 Sarah Salomon
- 6 Carol Walsh



© Greg Holden



## 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)

