



# The Lens and Eye

North Bethesda Camera Club

Volume 46 Number 9 <http://www.nbccmd.org> Editor: José Cartas [nbcclensandeye@yahoo.com](mailto:nbcclensandeye@yahoo.com) May, 2011

## Calendar

### May, 2011

- 3 Community Outreach – PCR: 7:00 pm.
- 4 Competition Night: 7:30 pm.  
Judge: Gary Landsman.  
Hospitality: Ira Adler, Rebecca Tidman.
- 7 Field Trip: Annapolis, MD.
- 11 Program Night: 7:30 pm.  
Andrew Zimmerman. Large Format Photography.  
Hospitality: Jean Hanson, Marilyn Jacox.
- 18 Board Meeting: 7:30 pm. Melser's.
- 22 Photo Essay Encore: 3:00 pm. Leisure World, Silver Spring.
- 25 Program Night: 7:30 pm.  
Rhoda Steiner. Underwater Photography.  
Hospitality: Rhoda Steiner, Anita van Rooy.

### June, 2011

- 7 Community Outreach – PCR: 7:00 pm.
- 8 Year-End Awards Event: 6:00 pm.  
Asbury Methodist Village.
- 18 Field Trip: Lilypons Water Garden, Adamstown, MD.

## Competition Assignment

### *Close-Ups in Nature*

**The image must be a close-up photograph of any natural subject. In addition, plant life in cultivated settings is allowed, but domestic animals are not. The principal subject must dominate the image. Devices such as macro lenses, extension tubes, and/or diopters may be used. (Must have been taken on or after June 1, 2009.)**



## Program Night, May 11 Andrew Zimmerman Large Format Photography

*Jessyca Stansbury-McCargo*

Our guest speaker for the evening of Wednesday, May 11 is Mr. Andrew Zimmerman; also known by his friends and peers as “Zimm.” Andrew specializes in “large format” photography. Aside from being a fabulous photographer, Andrew can also boast to be one of the leading “hobbyist” chefs in the Arlington/D.C. area. His cheesecakes, pecan pies, and tarts are to die for.

Behind the “boyish” good looks is a true professional photographer to be admired and taken very seriously. Andrew has an interesting story behind his ascent to the photographic perfection that he has achieved. Although having taken a photography class in his senior year of high school, it was not until he went off to college that he actually began to really understand photography, and to see himself as a photographer. Originally wanting to be a writer, he wrote continually in high school. His college experience began at a small, liberal arts college by the name of Prescott College, which is in Prescott, AZ. Prescott's class schedule is somewhat unusual; for part of the year a student can pursue a “block” class, which is a single, intensive class that absorbs all of the student's time.

*Cont'd on p.4*

## Program Night, May 25 Rhoda Steiner Underwater Photography

*Donald Martell*

Beautiful underwater photography is the focus of Rhoda Steiner's May 25 presentation. Born in Pittsburgh, raised in Corry, PA, and a graduate of Penn State University, she has a great life married to a guy who lets her do pretty much whatever she wants. Travel, boating, and scuba diving have provided both opportunity and inspiration for pursuing her passion with photography. Photography did not always come easy. In 1986, while in Kenya, her sister refused to let her take a single picture, because apparently she moved every time the shutter button was depressed. Her sister became the official photographer and that arrangement was quite satisfactory until Rhoda started to scuba dive in 1993. The desire to share the wonders of the undersea world prompted her to try photography again. That in turn inspired

*Cont'd on p.4*

**Year-End  
Awards Event  
June 8, 2011**

*See details on p. 10*

## Member Profile

### Ray Ao



After his retirement from the work force seven years ago, Ray's interest in photography—latent since his college days—was re-awakened and he signed up for seminars with Tony Sweet and Susan Milestone. Susan, a former Club member, recommended he join NBCC to learn more about camera techniques and to hone his skills with the competition topics. Ray was on the waiting list one year before his application was accepted. Now his wife, Silvie, who has gotten interested in image making, is on the waiting list for membership. She often joins her husband at meetings and on field trips. They plan to attend the NECCC weekend at the University of Massachusetts together in July.

Macao was Ray's birthplace and where he spent his early and, as he remembers them, quite happy years. His father was a real estate developer at a time when the island was enjoying record prosperity and expanding its facilities. Ray wished very much to join his father's business. In order to best do this, he needed an engineering degree from a British University. To qualify for entrance, he had to attend the International School in Hong Kong and a British secondary school in London.

At the end of his senior year in high school, Ray was accepted at the University of Saskatchewan in the

western province of Canada of the same name, where he spent four (freezing) years earning his BS in Civil Engineering. Because he also stayed in Canada through the summers, he simultaneously earned a second BS in Mathematics. Here he first took up photography and often used the darkroom facilities at the university to develop his film. Also here he met Silvie Chu, who had been born and educated in Hong Kong and was working on a degree in accounting. They became close friends but were separated when Ray returned to Macao after his graduation.

While he was a student in college, his father died. Ray, however, following his original dream, accepted work on a project development on Macao, but quickly became disillusioned with the "deal making" and shoddy workmanship that had taken over the industry. He admits that he was very idealistic but was, nevertheless, altogether miserable with his job. Silvie suggested that she and Ray move to America.

They arrived in Washington, D.C. in 1972 and got married in the same year. The project to develop the Washington Metro system was just getting underway. Ray remembers the leaders as mostly ex-military engineers with a very gung-ho and energetic management style, eager to get things done correctly and efficiently. Ray applied to the Metro organization and was selected to manage the design of the subway rails and stations. To supplement his knowledge, he earned a MS in Transportation Engineering from George Washington University. In 1975, the Ao's daughter, Terry, was born. She is now a lawyer. Victor was born in 1982. He has a degree from the University of Maryland and nearly made the Olympic team in Tae Kwon Do. Silvie was a CPA with the GAO for many years until her retirement. She now does consulting work.

After he retired, Ray purchased and renovated a condo in Macao. Now the family has a place to stay when they visit their friends and relatives in China. At the same time, he became re-acquainted with photography, his old hobby from college, and began acquiring camera equipment. He currently uses a Nikon D700 and his favorite lens is the 70-200mm, f/2.8. His lens collection includes a 24-70mm, a 16-35mm, a 28-300mm, and a 200mm macro lens. He recently acquired a Pro Optic 8mm fisheye. His tripod is a Benro (Chinese Gitzo) with a ball head and a Really Right Stuff "L" bracket for the camera. He has Photoshop CS5 and Lightroom 3 on his computer but professes, like most of us, to need more instruction in their use. He also owns a Nikon D90 with an 18-200mm lens, which Silvie uses to refine her skills. He recently had an old D200 converted to infrared, but has not yet mastered its use.

Ray's favorite subjects are landscapes, nature—particularly light and weather—and macro. He owns a Canon Pro-9000 MKII printer, but often has images printed in China where he can get very large prints—sometimes as large as 4x3 feet—made at a very reasonable price. Last year he traveled to Japan, where he was able to get photographs of the Fukushima area, never dreaming that they would be of such historic interest today. He has also traveled extensively in China and other parts of Asia and Europe. He has visited Australia, and recently toured some of the Mediterranean countries. He has taken seminars with Corey Hiltz and Nikhil Bahl, and plans to attend some of the Maine Workshops given by Frank Van Riper and Judith Goodman in August this year. His goals for the future include visiting, and photographing, all the American National Parks.

*Text and Photo by Jean Hanson*

**May Competition Judge:  
Gary Landsman**

*Marvin Sirkis*

**G**ary Landsman has been shooting images for over 20 years. His career began at NBC TV Washington and expanded to corporate and advertising clients throughout the United States. Experienced in working with the limitations of difficult environments and sensitive situations, Gary captures images to express the emotion of each project.

The element of every project is carefully weighed and evaluated. Each situation requiring solutions to logistics and technical photographic issues is carefully and skillfully managed.

His clients refer to Gary as a photographer that warms with all of his subjects and clients, while creating images that are captivating. Gary's extensive experience includes shooting still life subjects from food to full-scale interior architecture, as well as corporate and advertising lifestyle. Gary's work can be seen at [www.Garylandsman.com](http://www.Garylandsman.com).



**April, 2011, Splinters from the Board**

*Bob Dargel, President*

The competition assignment committee presented the proposed themes for the 2012-13 season. After review, they will be approved at the next Board meeting.

The Board approved continuation of the NBCC Star Awards. The Star points earned in all categories will now be combined into one score.

The results of the survey distributed last month resulted in a statistical tie. Because of a majority of novice competitors voted for the four categories, and the majority of advanced members voted to retain the existing categories, the Board felt that perhaps the survey did not ask the right questions. The Board decided to conduct one more survey, with the intent to better understand and decide how to provide fair competitions for both novice and advanced photographers. When you receive the Gordiegram with the survey, PLEASE take the time to respond.

The Board approved the dues for next year to remain unchanged: \$50 per member with a \$25 surcharge to receive *The Lens & Eye*.

An in-depth study of our capital equipment requirements, and a methodology to monitor them in the future, was presented. This study will insure that NBCC remains current with applicable advances in computer and projection technologies.

May, 2011

**Year-End Competition Judge:  
Scott Musson**

*Roy Sewall*

**S**cott Musson is a photographer and lecturer. He frequently critiques, speaks, and judges at photography organizations and clubs in the Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. For the past ten years, Scott has published a photo calendar with his wife Emi.

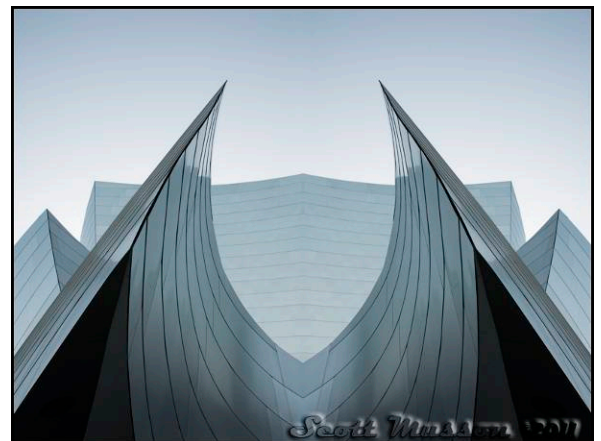
"Photography is a natural extension of my love for travel", says Scott. "While I've taken pictures all my life, it wasn't until I was older and could afford to travel that my passion for photography truly developed. I love the whole process of photography: planning a shoot, getting up early to catch the light, processing the images (nowadays digitally), and printing and matting."

Scott has a passion for photography in and around water. He has been capturing images from a kayak and while snorkeling. "I would snorkel every day if I could," Scott says. Additionally, Scott enjoys architectural and black light photography.

Scott and his wife have had a number of photographs used in the sets of major motion pictures. Most recently, Scott's photo "Lightning Steve" was a prominent backdrop in the 2009 film "Wonderful World" starring Matthew Broderick. They both have a whole room decorated with their images in the upcoming Nicholas Cage and Nichole Kidman movie "Trespass."

Scott is a past president of the NVPS and has served on its board for several years. He has been Vice President of Competition and of Programs for that organization, and currently is its Web site manager. He has received the NVPS "Versatile Photographer of the Year" award and the "Advanced Photographer of the Year" award for Prints and Digital Projected Images.

Scott blogs about photography and posts images on his website at [www.scottmusson.com](http://www.scottmusson.com), please stop by for a visit any time!



## Program Night, May 11 (cont'd from p.1)

He attempted to enroll in a writing class, but it was full. For some reason, he then decided to take a large format photography course. He completed this course *very* successfully. He states that he more or less hated the class. Most of this was due to frictions with the instructor, who he later came to realize was a great guy, but a terrible teacher.

The subject of large format photography still fascinated Andrew; so much so that he ended up borrowing some equipment from the school and teaching himself—a process, he says, that is ongoing. While attending “Prescott” he made the acquaintance of several artists connected with the photographer Frederick Sommer, who lived in “Prescott” while Andrew was a student there (he died at the age of 93). Exposure to the photographs of Sommer, and to the works of his contemporaries and predecessors, played a major role in the development of his understanding of photography and of visual art in general. He ultimately went on to get his degree in English from Bennington College, to which he transferred after a year at “Prescott.” Oddly enough, obtaining a B.A. in English was what he had originally gone to college to do—“but the majority of my time during my four years was spent out shooting or in the darkroom.”

In the near decade since graduating from college, he has continued to expand his knowledge of photography, and he also acquired a lot of knowledge related to art history in general. For approximately four years, he pursued a career as an art conservator—primarily specializing in paintings—until he abandoned that field for a more complete personal investment in photography.

Andrew will bring his large format camera equipment for a demonstration on how he is able to capture such fascinating photos. Andrew uses processes which he describes as contact printing, hand-work bleaching, and spot toning. On December 4, 2010, I had the opportunity to attend the artist reception for Andrew at the Fisher Gallery. I was mesmerized by the quality of his photos and his artistic skill. The composition was *perfect*. He will be bringing a few of his actual prints when he comes to us.

Andrew has a new show scheduled to open at The Greater Reston Arts Center, Saturday, April 30, from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. He will also be showing at both the Bethesda Fine Arts Festival, May 14–15, and the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, May 21–22. Here you will have an opportunity to see a large amount of his exquisite work; old and new. ***Trust me! You will not want to miss this program.***

## Program Night, May 25 (cont'd from p.1)

her to explore other aspects of photography and she now delights in getting lost behind the viewfinder whether above or below the water's surface. Reading whatever she could get her hands on, and joining two local camera clubs, helped her develop photographic skills. Through the NBCC connection, she had the opportunity to exhibit at McCrillis Gallery, Brookside Gardens, and had two one-woman shows: Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church and the cafeteria at the Kennedy Center. One of her underwater images contributed to NBCC winning the Camera Club category in a Nature's Best competition. In 2001, she received the coveted “Wet Belly” Award.

Rhoda's May 25 presentation will feature images captured in the waters throughout the Eastern Caribbean, as well as in Palau, in the Western Pacific. When diving, she is hunting and never knows what she will discover, and that leads to interesting and colorful images. She is keen to share what she has learned about the animals and plants that live in our oceans.

Mostly, when thinking of the sea, we envision shades of blue, but, with the aid of strobes, Rhoda is able to show colors and patterns that you never thought would be found underwater. For most of us, the oceans are mysterious places. Hopefully, these images will help you discover the beauty and majesty of what lies below and they will inspire you to help protect this vital resource.

Rhoda uses Nikon equipment, and Fuji Velvia used to be her favorite film. You can find a sampling of her work at [www.rsteinerphotos.com](http://www.rsteinerphotos.com).

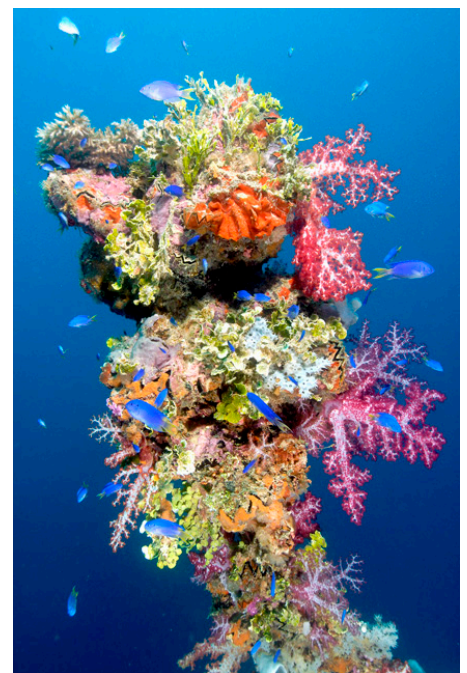


Photo © Rhoda Steiner

## **NBCC Field Trip – May 7** **City of Annapolis**

*Cheryl Naulty*

The field trip for May takes us to Annapolis, the capital city of Maryland. Now you might think, why there? That sounds boring! And even though Annapolis is known as the “sailing capital of America,” what else is there to see and do that is worth photographing? The answer is plenty!

Founded in 1649, this 350-year old city offers a delightful combination of history and a zest for living. Walk along the old brick sidewalks much as George Washington or Thomas Jefferson did in the days when Annapolis was the Capital of the United States. View charming town homes with window boxes and beautiful door decorations on narrow winding streets. Architecturally, Annapolis boasts some of the finest 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings in the country. The Hammond-Harwood House is said to have the most beautiful doorway in Colonial America. The Paca House and two-acre pleasure garden were built by William Paca, a three-term governor of Maryland and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. It is a fine example of classic Georgian architecture.

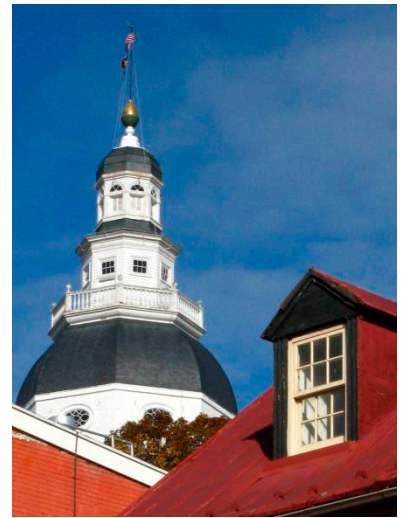
Sir Francis Nicholson designed Annapolis based on baroque design principles and renamed Anne Arundel Town in honor of England’s Queen Anne. He created a new city comprised of two circles high on a hill above the Chesapeake Bay, State and Church, both with radiating streets stemming out from them. In one circle is St. Anne’s, the Episcopal Church and the spiritual center of the capital. In the other circle, crowning the historic district and rising on the highest hill over the harbor, is the State House, completed in 1779. It is America’s first peacetime capitol and the oldest state house still in legislative use. The dome, completed in 1788, is an unusual design. It was constructed of timber and no metal nails were used in its construction and, to this day, it is held together by wooden pegs reinforced by iron straps forged by an Annapolis ironmonger.

Designated a Chesapeake Bay Gateway Site in 2001, the harbor area is the centerpiece of the Annapolis South County Heritage Area. It is a popular port of call for international cruising vessels and is a safe harbor for many boats and yachts, even in the off season.

The trip is on Saturday, May 7. Although you are welcome to arrive and depart at will, we will meet as a group at 9:00 am at the Market House, across from City Dock. All of historic Annapolis is within a short walk of the City Dock. Maps will be available. Lunch

will be at 12:30 pm at McGarvey’s, 8 Market Space, across from the City Dock. Please let me know who will be there, so I can make lunch reservations.

Directions: Beltway to Route 50 East; Exit 24 to Rowe Boulevard; go around Church Circle to a right onto Duke of Gloucester Street. Look for the first sign indicating public parking on the left about half way down the street.



*Photo © Cheryl Naulty*

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## **NBCC Field Trip – June 18** **Lilypons Water Gardens**

*Cynthia Keith*

Our June fieldtrip will be on Saturday, June 18 to Lilypons Water Gardens in Adamstown, MD. Lilypons Water Gardens was founded in 1917 by a private landowner and entrepreneur who loved goldfish and water lilies. Today, Lilypons is a commercial establishment with 250 acres of ponds, plants, and water gardening materials for sale. They have an amazing assortment of water lilies and other aquatic plants which should be in full bloom in mid-June.

Water lilies tend to open after the sun is up and the temperature begins to rise. So our first shots will be of the buds and, as the morning progresses, we will shoot the open flowers. There are display pools near the store, which offer wonderful opportunities for macro images. Larger display ponds lend themselves to telephoto and wide angle images of clusters of lilies. Tripods are allowed and do not forget to bring your polarizer!

Management has agreed to allow us to enter before normal business hours. We will meet there at 8:00 am to take advantage of the early light.

It is a short 45-minute drive north of Bethesda to Lilypons. Carpooling will be available. If interested, please contact me at [clkeith@comcast.net](mailto:clkeith@comcast.net). Directions to Lilypons Water Gardens: from Bethesda, take I-270 North toward Frederick, take Exit 26 to Route 80. Turn right on Route 80W, Fingerboard Road, and drive 5 miles. Turn left onto Route 85, Buckeystown Pike, and drive 2.1 miles. Turn left on Lily Pons Road to 6800. If the gate is not open, please park along the road.

## Underwater Photography

*Text and Photos by Rhoda Steiner*

Nearly twenty years ago, I was introduced to the astonishing world of diving. I began using an apparatus called the Brownie Third Lung. Mostly used by the boating industry to aid in cleaning the undersides of their vessels, two people, each attached—by a hose—to a floating generator, could dive and remain underwater for as long as the generator produced life-sustaining air. However, when used for diving, you had to make sure your buddy wanted to explore in the same direction as you and ultimately the 30-foot hose that connected you to your air source restricted you.



It was not long before I was yearning to be unfettered to explore and record the stunning undersea world that I would learn to love so deeply. Little did I know how important a message I could convey when I borrowed a Nikonos V underwater camera and launched my journey documenting the astonishing animal life that resides in our oceans. Every dive was a time for new discovery.

I should mention that underwater photography was the only photography I practiced at that time. As a matter of fact, in the late 80's when in Africa my sister would not let me touch a camera, as all my images were blurred. Needless to say, I had huge learning curves to tackle: diving and photography. Fortunately, I had ample opportunities and wonderful resources, NBCC being a major one. I will never forget my first foray into the world of "competition." Just naming my image was an overwhelming task. So, as they say, practice makes perfect; I am still working at that.

As I already mentioned, I began shooting with a Nikonos V system, which included a 15mm, a 28mm, and a 35mm lens. A single, hand held, Nikonos TTL flash



system enabled me to control the direction and intensity of the light source.

All geared up, I would plunge into the deep with a myriad of items on my mind's checklist; like, do not forget to breathe; not too much or too little, because you will not be able to control your



buoyancy; everything is moving underwater and not necessarily in the same direction at the same time. For the most part, I could set my camera on 1/60 of a second, but the all important strobe to subject distance was another item to think about; underwater, objects seem 33 percent bigger and 25 percent closer than they actually are.

For macro, I used the 28mm or 35mm lens with extension tubes rigged with reflectors. They worked exactly the same as on land, with the tube extending the focal length of the lens. Pre-set sizes, 1:3, 1:2, and 1:1, corresponding to the image/subject ratio, allowed for artistic options.

My gear bag also included a close-up kit, which used a diopter and framer that attached to either the 28mm or 35mm lens. This rig was great for "fish portrait" sized subjects. With a picture angle of 94 degrees, razor-sharp optics, and the ability to focus down to 10 inches, the 15mm f/2.8 lens soon became my favorite. It is always important to have an idea of what you want to shoot before each dive. Underwater you do not have the luxury of changing lenses. The versatility of the 15mm allowed me to cover a wide range of subjects.

Film was another issue to be dealt with. If you carefully loaded your camera, you were rewarded with 38 frames. I always kept one or two frames for the end of each dive. What if a rare creature presented itself and I had already blown my roll?

It was not long before I was completely hooked on underwater photography. Lured by the advantages of using an SLR camera, which my Nikonos was not, I opted for buying a housing for my Nikon F100 and



added another strobe to exact more even lighting. This was no small proposition. The gear bag grew exponentially, as did the cost. Housings are proprietary. Therefore, I needed not one, but two (in case one flooded) Nikon F100s, and special domes for several lenses: 60mm micro, 105mm micro, 17-35mm, 16mm. Two strobes, connected to the housing via flexible arms and sync cords, provided balanced illumination.

When digital photography exploded, I made the leap and began shooting with a Nikon D70 for everything but underwater. No more running out of film just as the leopard attacked its prey. No more carrying 11 pounds of film through airport security check points; and no more waiting for 100 rolls of film or more to be developed, so I could see if I had been on target with my exposures. The advantages of going digital under-



water were luring me closer and closer. The ability to experiment without running out of film before running out of air, being able to immediately check exposure and composition, and the demise of Velvia—my favorite color popping film—influenced my decision to make the grand plunge.

In 2007, a dive trip to the western Pacific tipped the scale. The entire F100 system was replaced by two D200s, the appropriate housing, new, more powerful strobes and, of course, all new ports and domes. My gear bag grew exponentially once more. Having said that, I have never looked back. Digital photography has freed me to fire away without fear. It was not uncommon to come back from a dive nearly filling an 8GB card. Much of what you will see in my presentation, May 25, was shot digitally.

I would like to share with you quotes from two famous marine photographers, who have spent their life's work trying to help humans understand the impact they are having on the oceans.

"My job description is to make a picture of a place no one has ever seen before, or to make a picture that's different of a place that everybody's seen before." – David Doubilet

"We have the ability and the responsibility to help educate the public about the very real need to protect the undersea world and the plants and animals that live there." – Wolcott Henry

My hope is that, in some small way, I too can join their ranks as educators. Today, the threat of local and global effects on the world's reefs makes corals the most endangered animal on the planet. We are just beginning to understand the relationship we, as humans, have with this primordial world. Shame on us if we let ignorance dictate its future!



## The Mexican Costa Alegre

*Text and Photos by Lester LaForce*

**M**anzanillo is a major Mexican port city located on the Pacific coast in Colima state; at about equal distance (180 miles) from Puerto Vallarta and Guadalajara, and 400 miles north from Acapulco. Colima is bordered to the north by the state of Jalisco and is the third smallest of Mexico's 32 states. Mexican tourism marketing has coined catch phrases for its various coastal tourist destinations, and thus this region—located largely in the southern region of Jalisco State—is termed the Costa Alegre (Happy Coast).

Everyone has heard about the dangers of crime and violence in contemporary Mexico. We choose the Costa Alegre and Colima because of being, in my estimation, off the beaten tourist track and relatively free of serious crime. To plan our itinerary we leveraged technology to do our research, including resources available on the Internet. Airfares were researched and booked via airline Web sites. Lodging options were identified and reviews researched online, reservations made via e-mail, and deposits paid using online banking systems. The rental car was reserved online. Driving route options and choices were researched and printed from Google maps while, on the ground, an automobile GPS was used for navigation.

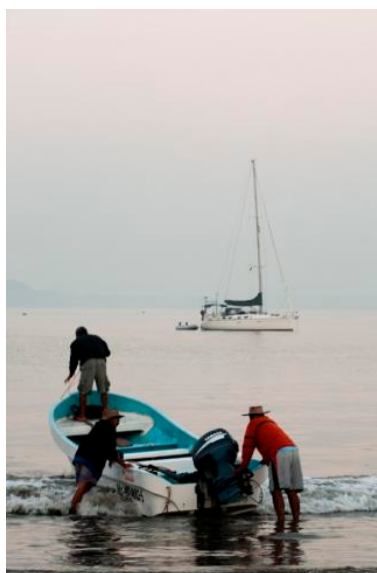
For our eight-day itinerary we decided on a self-guided photography workshop/road trip in the model of our 2009 tour of the San Francisco wine country. We would crisscross the region and stay in multiple locations while using a rental car for maximum self-reliant freedom of movement. We planned three nights in La Manzanilla, Jalisco; three more in Comala, Colima; with the final stay in Barra de Navidad, Jalisco, 35 minutes from our departure airport.



La Manzanilla, our first destination, was 50 minutes north by coastal road from our arrival airport. The village is difficult to find on maps, as it appears to have minimal visibility with the state authorities. Nonetheless, it is very charming and seemingly unspoiled in spite of its popularity with retired Ca-

nadian ex-pats, who have built numerous rainbow colored trophy homes in the hills above this still traditional fishing village and beach destination.

On the way from the airport to our first overnight lodging, we happened on a cultural festival on the main street, an event we later learned was titled Día Mexicano (Mexican Day). We quickly parked our rental car and unpacked our camera gear. After scoping out the possibilities, I made several images of the presentation by the Ollin Yoliztli folkloric dance group. We photographed multiple traditional dance numbers, including one where three of the male dancers covered all but their eyes with bandannas to impersonate bandits, and then began to embrace the female partners of other male dancers before proceeding to risqué-ly roll around on the floor to the sound of break-dance music.



In spite of the large number of North American tourists and retirees, La Manzanilla still has the feel of a traditional Mexican fishing village. Here is a quick, handheld, grab shot of a small fishing boat in the foreground, with the pleasure boat of an ex-pat North American in the background. Since there is no pier, local fishermen carry their small fishing boats up on

the beach each evening, and launch them again in the morning after riding from their homes to the beach by bicycle. An anchor line is tied to the bow and placed in the water off the beach with the stern tied to a post on the beach. The anchor line can be used to pull the boat back into the water when launching.





For our second destination we choose a change of scenery and altitude and traveled to Comala, located in the coffee farming highlands of Colima state, 2½ hours by highway from La Manzanilla. It is a traditional colonial village of white-wash walled homes with interior courtyards, and shops with open air fronts situated along narrow cobblestone streets. In the center of the town are the zócalo (town square) and a colonial church. Comala is located in full view of the Colima volcano (Volcán de Colima), currently one of the most active volcanoes in Mexico and in North America (it has erupted more than 40 times since 1576).



The city of Quesería, located at the southern foot of the Colima volcano, is home to a sugar cane refinery owned by the Grupo Beta San Miguel, Mexico's second largest sugar producer and the country's largest privately-owned producer. The plant is supplied by more than 2,000 sugar cane growers and employs 350 workers from the region

during harvest time (October through May). The city has a variety of natural beauty, including the panoramic view of the active volcano, as well as the inactive snow volcano Nevado de Colima (geographically located in Jalisco), which in the winter months provides some postcard images hard to ignore. Among the architectural beauties of Quesería one can admire the main temple dedicated to Our Lady of Mercy, as well as the recently remodeled kiosk, the garden, and the plaza, all situated in the center of the town.

West of Colima—at the foot of the volcano—we found the village of Cofradía de Suchitlán, where in the evening we watched a traditional bull riding event in its “charro” ring. It was packed with people of all ages—all dressed in



fine clothes: dresses, pressed shirts and jeans, cowboy boots and hats. Young boys are smartly dressed like miniature versions of their “charro” fathers. Beside the bulls, bull riders, and “charros” on their horses, the festivities feature a live 12-man “banda” keeping up a constant cacophony and commentary filling in the gaps in the action, similar to a Batman movie. The festivities began with the riders making their horses prance about to the music. The following bull riding evolved progressively into hijinks with capes, lassoing, and hog-tying of the bull by the highly skilled “charro” horsemen.

Our final destination was Barra de Navidad (Christmas Sandbar), another small port and fishing village, which has



become a Pacific coast beach destination for both North Americans and Mexican nationals. We stayed here at Casa Seniorina B&B. The Casa Seniorina is a small but palatial private vacation home, built by Señor Antonio Zepeda Godoy of Guadalajara for the personal use of himself, his wife, and family. Following his untimely death, in 2007 it was turned into a B&B by his niece. It is designed in a Moorish architecture style with elaborate tile, marble, and mahogany details. The image here of the foyer and dining room with the stair case leading to the bedrooms on the second floor is a composite of three bracketed exposures merged into one HDR image with the HDR Efex Pro Photoshop plug-in from Nik Software, and then applying the Surrealism Balanced preset. The images were made with the Canon 14mm f/2.8 L Mk II.

CocoCabañas, a property that features thatched roofed cabañas, is located on the beach near Barra de Navidad. We did not stay there on this visit, but may in the future if we return to the area. I made a multi-image stitched panorama in CS5 of the property, and then



made two HDRI stitched panoramas of one cabaña interior. Each of the thatched roofed cabaña has large olate (native bamboo) windows with sensational views of the ocean. Each cabaña is a two-story thatch roof structure, built with woven wood and adobe walls.

We felt that this was one of our most enjoyable and successful trips. It was relatively inexpensive compared to other vacations we have planned, and the activities we enjoyed were our favorites. The places we visited and the people we met struck the right balance between entertainment and exotic, without being too intimidating or scary. There are so many North Americans living in the area, and so many Mexicans we met that had lived in the United States and spoke



English, that with my little Spanish we were always able to manage the language barrier. We very much recommend the area to anyone interested in seeing Mexico.

### Annual Awards Event, June 8, 2011

Make your plans now to attend the Forty-sixth Annual Awards Event of the North Bethesda Camera Club on June 8, 2011, beginning at 6:00 pm. This year, it will again be held at the Rosborough Community Room in the Asbury Methodist Village, 409 Russel Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD. The basic function of this event, as its title says, is to recognize those who have won the top spots in the competitions the Club has held throughout the year. But it is much more than that. This is always a wonderful environment to meet and mingle with many of our Club members in a comfortable social setting. If you look at photos of previous events in old issues of *The Lens and Eye*, you will see a lot of laughing and smiles. As they say, a good time being had by all.

You may have noticed that the Competition Committee is busy collecting all the winners of any print competition we had all year. These will be forwarded to our Year-End Judge, Scott Musson, who will select the "Top Ten" prints of the year, with the first place winner being specifically identified. These will be shown at the awards dinner with comments from the judge. The same process will happen for the electronic images, with these being projected on the screen. In both cases, novice and advanced images are judged together; the only time during the year that this happens. If history is considered, you may be surprised how many novice entries make the top ten. Some say the highlight of the evening is the show of ALL of the winning electronic images, assembled into a presentation similar to those developed for the photo essay program. Judy Switt and her team put together a wonderful show of these images, beautifully set to music, which will be enjoyed in the Asbury "theater" setting after our dinner. It is always amazing to see

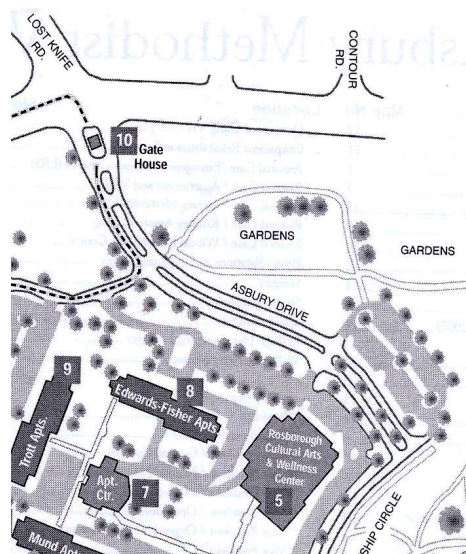
this showing of all the fantastic images that Club members have entered over the whole year. This is not to be missed; worth the price of admission alone.

We look forward to seeing many new and "veteran" members at this event! You will find your reservation form on page 17 of this May newsletter.

### Directions to Asbury Methodist Village

To get there, take I-270 to Exit 11, Route 124. Go through the traffic light at Route 355; then go to the third traffic light and take a right on Lost Knife Road to the end, at a traffic light at Odenthal Road. Go straight across this intersection to the gated entrance to Asbury. Stop at the guard station (number 10 on the map below) and just tell the attendant you are going to a dinner in Rosborough Hall.

Right after you go through the guard station, you will come to a stop sign. Go straight through it and proceed a few hundred yards, where you will see Building #409 (number 5 on the map below). Rosborough Hall is on the right. Park in any unmarked spot (not reserved for handicapped or residents). Note that there are also more parking spots in a lot across the main street, Asbury Drive.





# PSA News

Judy Burr, NBCC PSA representative

The Club had been hearing a lot about Lightroom, including from Jon Goell at our print competition in April. *Drury's Digital Diary* introduces the program in the April *PSA Journal*. While this may be too basic for some members, it provides a good beginning for those who are just starting to learn the program or want to get a better idea of what it can do to make your processing easier. The figures in the article show the dialog boxes referred to, which makes it easy to follow. The next Lightroom column will cover importing images, while next month Drury will continue his discussion of Adobe Camera Raw by focusing on how the Histogram and Basic tab controls are used.

Apple's Aperture v3.1 is the subject of the software review, and may interest club members who use that program or who may want to learn more about it. This new version of the program offers more than 200 enhancements, which will help in cataloging and editing. With the program, you can export files directly to Flickr, Facebook, and other similar programs. Aperture supports major plug-ins such as onOne and Nik Software.

Last month, I mentioned that PSA was offering advice on social networking, and this month the suggestions continue with "What to Blog About." I am sure we have all seen blogs that tell us more than we want or need to know. This article is for photographers and provides good information on what you might want to include in your blog if you have one, or it may encourage you to start one. The comments on **what not to write about** are important and include providing useless information and whining!

Have you ever wanted to travel to Cuba? It may not be something you want to do, but Karl Leck's article on the PSA humanitarian trip to that island nation shows what photo ops await you if you do go. Karl, an award winning photographer who is president of the Delaware Photographic Society, explains what is required for obtaining permission and traveling to Cuba. He also gives a bit of advice about equipment for travel photography.

NBCC has never competed in the PSA club competitions, and with the quality of work done in the Club this activity is something that would be worthwhile. It

would provide an excellent opportunity to compare our work with that of other clubs around the world. You can see some winning entries at [http://psa-club-services.org/club\\_services/interclub\\_competitions.html](http://psa-club-services.org/club_services/interclub_competitions.html). Don't you think we could do well in such competitions? Details on PSA club competitions can be found on the same link.

As mentioned at a recent Club meeting, the PSA Web site is being redesigned, and I encourage you to take a look at <http://psa-photo.org>. Some sections are available only to individual members of PSA, but you will be able to see some great photography from around the world and learn more about PSA at the same time.

Much of the rest of the April magazine is about the conference in Colorado Springs. There will be a variety of classes and photo tours offered before the conference begins. Programs will be presented by all the Divisions of PSA, and the featured speakers include George Lepp (a PSA member) and Julieanne Kost, the Adobe guru. You do not have to be a PSA member to attend the conference, but you save money if you join!

The Camera Club Sparkle group continues to share ideas, and recently the posts show that some clubs have their competitions judged before the meetings by using electronic transmission. This is especially useful for more remote clubs. A question was posed as to the percentage of club members who participate in competitions: the range was from about one-third to one-half, and I think NBCC falls in that range much of the time. One club mentioned that they hold a hands-on night for things like table top photography or demonstrations on selective focus. NBCC did that a few years ago with macro photography. If you have a question you would like me to ask to the group, let me know. I have shared some NBCC procedures and feel that has been helpful to other clubs. It is a good way to learn from others and get ideas.



# Results of Competition for April 2011 – Open, Five Years

## Competition Judges: Jon Goell, Bill Prosser

### Print

#### Traditional – 24 entries

1 <sup>st</sup>	Jean Yuan	Silhouette with Waterfall
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Frank Herzog	East Broad Top Workbenches
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jean Hanson	Window Cat
HM	Chuck Bress	Wilson School Coat Rack II
HM	Frank Herzog	48 <sup>th</sup> Street Fountain View
HM	Bob Dargel	White Flower
HM	Bill Ho	Morakai Boulder Reflection
HM	Barbara DeLouise	Old Fire Engine

#### Novice – 13 entries

1 <sup>st</sup>	Judy Manesh	Monsurat Fog
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Judy Manesh	Red Table
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ying Huang	In Arizona
HM	Ying Huang	In Maine

#### Advanced – 15 entries

1 <sup>st</sup>	Jean Yuan	Plates of Vegetables
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dennis Green	Otavallo Merchant
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jack Rosenberg	Pillar Sunset
HM	Bill Seelig	Attack
HM	Dan McDermott	Falling Water

### Electronic

#### Traditional – 21 entries

1 <sup>st</sup>	Bob Peavy	In the Spotlight
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bruce Cyr	Looking Up Museum Stairs and Lift
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jean Yuan	Orange Pool
HM	Bruce Cyr	Hanging Light with Wooden Slats
HM	Jay Gartenhaus	Sunrise on the Muskingham
HM	Art Hyder	Eagle Fishing
HM	John Willis	Star Magnolia at Prayer

#### Novice – 19 entries

1 <sup>st</sup>	Art Hyder	Fox Jumping
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Stuart Glickman	Ban Cell Phones While Walking
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Stuart Glickman	Cairo Teens
HM	Lori Ducharme	Chapel Door
HM	Cheryl Naulty	Sunrise at Hughlett's Point
HM	Dawn Sikkema	True Blue

#### Advanced – 27 entries

1 <sup>st</sup>	Bruce Davis	Union Terminal
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Melissa Clark	Amaryllis Monaco
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alex Guo	D.C. Cherry Blossom 2
HM	José Cartas	Fontaine des Mers
HM	Melissa Clark	Lantern on Golden Wall
HM	Gordie Corbin	Dahlia
HM	Alex Hoffmaister	Candle Interpretation
HM	Evelyn Jacob	Into de Depths
HM	Marcia Loeb	Window Heat Sensors

## **Nominating Committee for the 2011-12 Year**

In accordance with Article VII of the Club constitution, we wish to inform you that the Nominating Committee has completed its slate of nominees to serve as NBCC's officers for the 2011-12 Program Year.

The Committee's slate is:

Bob Dargel, President  
Carol Lee, Vice President  
Paul Taylor, Treasurer  
Lori Ducharme, Secretary

Each nominee has confirmed his/her willingness to serve if elected. The election is scheduled for the **Program Night, May 11, 2011**. During the meeting, additional nominations may be made from the floor, with the agreement of each additional nominee to serve if elected. Oral balloting is used to elect the slate of officers presented by the nominating committee, but if an additional nomination is made from the floor, voting must be taken by written ballot. We hope that you will plan to attend and participate in the election.

*Nominating Committee*  
*Judy Burr (chair)*  
*Barbara DeLouise*  
*Bob Peavy*



## **2011 NBCC Image Essay Program**

### **Encore Performance**

An encore performance of the 2011 NBCC Image Essay Program will be presented in the auditorium of Club House II at Leisure World in Silver Spring. It will be held at **3:00 pm on Sunday, May 22, 2011**.

If you could not attend the presentation on March 20 at the Asbury Methodist Village, or if you simply would like to enjoy once more a collection of beautiful photographs set to music, this is the opportunity to do it.

**NOTE:** This is a change from the previously announced April 17 showing.



## April 2011 Competitions — 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners

### Print



*Traditional – Jean Yuan – “Silhouette with Waterfall”*

### Electronic



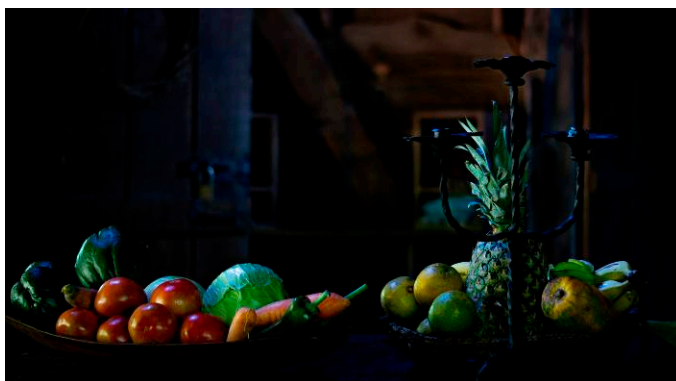
*Traditional – Bob Peavy – “In the Spotlight”*



*Novice – Judy Manesh – “Monsurat Fog”*



*Novice – Art Hyder – “Fox Jumping”*



*Advanced – Jean Yuan – “Plates of Vegetables”*



*Advanced – Bruce Davis – “Union Terminal”*

## Cumulative Scores for 2010-2011; Through April, 2011

### Traditional Prints

70	Chuck Bress
44	Bill Richards
38	Bob Dargel
26	Bill Seelig
25	Jean Yuan
22	Barbara DeLouise
19	Dan McDermott
15	Frank Herzog
14	Bruce Cyr
14	Bill Ho
12	Les Trachtman
10	Willem Bier
9	Jack Rosenberg
8	Jean Hanson
8	Chris Hanessian
8	John Willis
6	Mike Fleming
6	Jay Gartenhaus
6	Sharyn Greberman
6	Larry Loewinger

### Novice Prints

71	Ying Huang
50	Dawn Sikkema
41	Stuart Glickman
25	Cheryl Naulty
19	Judy Manesh
15	Mike Fleming
10	John Barnes
10	Peter Hui
9	Art Hyder
8	Marcia Loeb

### Advanced Prints

87	Chris Hanessian
30	Dan McDermott
24	Bill Seelig
18	Bill Ho
18	Jean Yuan
9	Dennis Green
8	Judy Burr
8	Marcia Loeb

### Traditional Electronic

57	Jay Gartenhaus
54	John Willis
38	Rebecca Tidman
35	Jean Yuan
28	Bob Peavy
26	Ira Adler
19	Judy Switt
18	Stephen Gelband
16	Art Hyder
15	Bruce Cyr
15	Mary Rolston
14	Mark Segal
14	Paul Taylor
12	Judy Burr
12	James Hammack
12	Kent Mason
9	Frank Herzog
8	Allen Melser
6	Bruce Davis
6	Janet Myder Hammack
6	Dawn Sikkema

### Novice Electronic

58	Stuart Glickman
56	Lori Ducharme
48	Ying Huang
38	Cheryl Naulty
34	Dawn Sikkema
29	Martha Cain-Grady
27	Cynthia Hunter
22	Louise Roy
20	John Barnes
19	Art Hyder
16	Nancy Brun
15	John Pan
14	Jitesh Batra
12	Sharyn Greberman
6	Ira Adler
6	Ken Goldman
6	Judy Manesh
6	Allen Melser
6	Eric Schweitzer
6	Steven Silverman

### Advanced Electronic

97	José Cartas
43	Alex Hoffmaister
40	Melissa Clark
28	Willem Bier
28	Evelyn Jacob
26	Judy Burr
23	Chris Hanessian
20	Alex Guo
18	Janet Myder Hammack
16	Bruce Davis
15	Paul Taylor
12	Gordie Corbin
6	Barbara DeLouise
6	Frank Herzog
6	Marcia Loeb
6	Don Martell
6	Mark Segal
6	Rebecca Tidman



"Interpretation is the revenge of the intellect upon art."

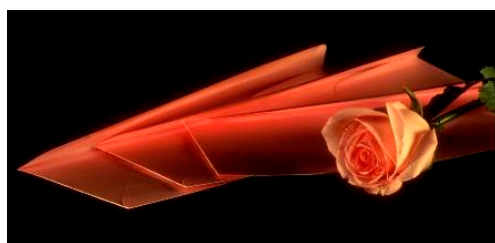
*Susan Sontag*

## Year-End Competition

**All prints that have won an Honorable Mention, Third, Second, or First Place during the 2010-2011 Competition Year should be turned in at the May 3 competition night. If you are not going to be in attendance, please send them in via another member.**

**Many thanks!**

*Judy Switt  
Competition Chair*



## Membership Renewal

Current NBCC members: do not miss the membership boat for Program Year 2011-2012! An application to renew your membership is attached to this month's newsletter. Completed forms and checks from present members must be received by **June 15, 2011** to assure a place on the rolls for next year. On June 15, membership will be opened to those on the waiting list. As of now, that list has over 50 persons who have expressed an interest in joining us.

Completed applications and checks are to be mailed to Membership Chair Chuck Lee, 14603 Carrolton Road, Rockville, MD 20853.

## NORTH BETHESDA CAMERA CLUB - APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP – 2011-2012

Current member renewals (completed applications with dues paid in full) **must** be received by **June 15, 2011** to ensure membership renewal. Memberships will then 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 \$50. Fill out one form per member.**

CHOOSE ONE:  RENEWAL OR  NEW MEMBERSHIP

I WANT PRINTED NEWSLETTERS SENT TO ME BY US MAIL ( \$25 ADDITIONAL )

I WANT AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER SENT TO ME BY EMAIL (FREE)

*Note that the newsletter is also freely available on the NBCC Web site, <http://www.nbccmd.org/newsletter.htm>*

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP BOOK (IF RENEWAL)

I AM A MEMBER OF OTHER CAMERA CLUB(S): \_\_\_\_\_

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 to have the following kinds of educational training, workshops, and programs:**

**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 to: Mr. Chuck Lee, 14603 Carrolton Road, Rockville, MD 20853.**

## **Additional Space for Comments and Suggestions**



North Bethesda Camera Club  
46<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Event  
Wednesday, June 8, 2011, 6:00 pm.

Asbury Methodist Village  
Rosborough Community Room  
409 Russell Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland

**\$35.00 per person**

**Reception: 6:00 pm**

*Fresh Vegetable Display  
Fresh Fruit Platter*

**Dinner Buffet: 7:00 pm**

*Mixed green salad  
Chicken with garlic sauce  
Sliced tenderloin of beef  
Saffron rice  
Fresh vegetable medley  
Chocolate cake  
Coffee (regular and decaf), Tea, and Iced Tea  
Bring your own wine to tables*



Reservations must be made by **Friday, May 27, 2011**

Make checks payable to North Bethesda Camera Club (or NBCC)  
Turn in form and check to John Villforth (or Paul Taylor) at a club meeting, or  
Mail to: John Villforth, 211 Russell Ave, Apt #54, Gaithersburg, MD, 20877.



Number of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Vegetarian Options: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: @ \$35 per person: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of persons attending as you would like them to appear on the name cards:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2010 – 2011 NBCC Board of Directors, Standing, and Special Committees

**President**  
**Bob Dargel**

**Vice President**  
**Carol Lee**

**Treasurer**  
**Paul Taylor**

**Secretary**  
**Lori Ducharme**

**Directors**  
**Gordie Corbin    Kent Mason**  
**Bob Peavy**

*Voting Members in Bold*

**Programs/Workshops**

**Jean Hanson**  
Ira Adler  
Nikhil Bahl  
John Burgess  
Sharyn Greberman  
Don Martell  
Kent Mason  
Stu Mathison  
Jessyca Stansbury-McCargo  
Gerry Weiss

**Membership**

**Chuck Lee**  
  
**Exhibits**  
**Angelique Raptakis**  
Evelyn Jacob  
Dawn Sikkema

**Competition**

**Judy Switt**  
  
**Prints**  
David Davidson  
Bill Ho  
Bill Richards  
  
**Electronic**  
Willem Bier  
Tom Field

**Judges**

**Marvin Sirkis**  
Jitesh Batra  
Steve Gelband  
Chris Hanessian

**Hospitality**

**Marcia Loeb**  
Stephanie Archie  
Alla Doroshko  
Jim Render  
Virginia Render  
Ellen Sirkis  
Terry van Houten

**Field Trips**

**Cheryl Naulty**  
Raymond Ao  
John Barnes  
Deeva Garel  
Frank Herzog  
Cynthia Keith  
Bill Olson

**Church Liaison**  
**Allan Melser**

**Webmaster**  
**Steve Lapidus**

**Newsletter Editor**  
**José Cartas**

**Education & Training**  
**Chris Hanessian**

Nikhil Bahl    Bruce Cyr    Tom Kraly  
Kent Mason    Alan Sislen    Les Trachtman

**Awards Event Coordinator**

John Villforth

**Community Outreach**

Joel Hoffman

**Photo Essay**

Stu Mathison  
David Davidson  
Tom Field

**Competition Image Review**

Gordie Corbin    Tom Field  
Carol Lee    Bob Peavy  
Alan Sislen    Judy Switt  
Anita van Rooy

**Data Base Administrator**

Roy Sewall

**PSA Representative**

Judy Burr



North Bethesda Camera Club  
 15641 Gold Ring Way  
 Derwood, MD 20855

First Class Mail

