

The Lens and Eye



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Intermediate EIC, 2nd Place
Rogue River Falls
©Isaac Afranguí

I took this shot last May during a workshop in Oregon. Our last stop was at the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, which is near the California border. The path to this waterfall was extremely narrow, and I constantly had to move my tripod to accommodate hikers. With each setup, I tried different angles and exposures of the waterfalls, and I settled on this one to submit.

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April Competition Assignment: Twilight/Night

To be eligible for this competition, photos must be taken in outdoor settings only, without use of studio or flash lighting. Twilight is the period after sunset and before sunrise when the atmosphere is partially illuminated by the sun (which is below the horizon and not visible). Night pictures are taken any time after sunset or before sunrise. Photos must be taken on or after April 1, 2021.

If you are competing in the electronic (EIC) category, please send your images as email attachments to nbccmdEcomp@gmail.com by no later than 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 9.

If you are competing in the print category, please send your images as email attachments to nbccmdPcomp@gmail.com by no later than 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 9.

You are responsible for confirming with the coordinator that your correctly formatted entries have been received. If you fail to do so, your images might not be entered.

Calendar

Events are designated as either **(H)YBRID** (held in person at the church with a Zoom option) or **(V)IRTUAL** (only on Zoom and not in person). Links will be sent by GordieGram. **Events start at 7:30 pm unless noted otherwise.**

- Apr 2 3:30 pm** Photo Essay Show (V)
- Apr 5 NO MEETING** (Passover)
- Apr 9** Deadline, EIC & Print entries
- Apr 12** EIC & Print Competition (H)
- Apr 19** Board Meeting (V)
- Apr 26** Program (Kuhla) (V)
- May 7** "Friendship: The Ties That Bind" NBCC Exhibit (In Person)



NBCC's Virtual Photo Essay Show On Sunday, April 2

NBCC's annual photo essay show will be presented virtually on Sunday, April 2 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Please put the date and time on your calendars. Members and waiting list applicants will receive a reminder with the link prior to the show.

The presentation of member photo essays will be followed by a special tribute to Roy Sewall, in honor of his many contributions to the club and to recognize his long-standing support of and participation in the club's photo essay program. This tribute will include several of Roy's many outstanding photo essays.

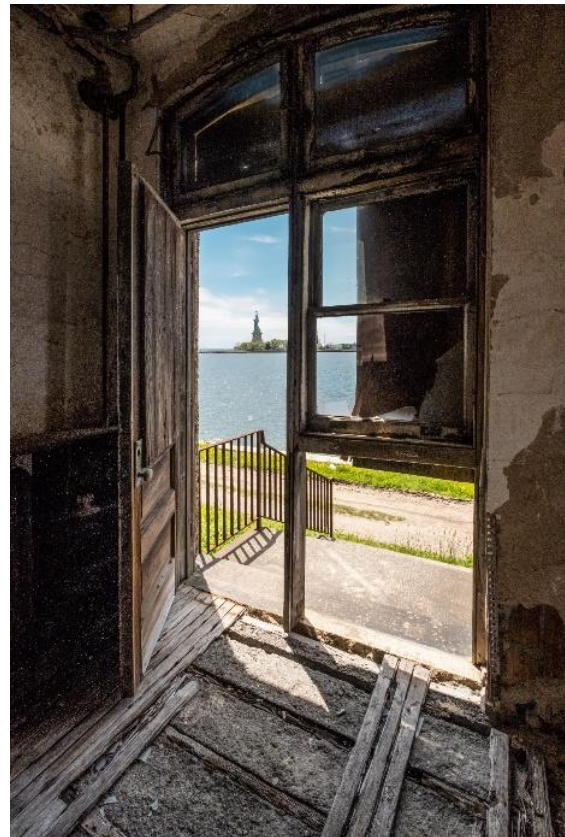
As always, the diverse group of essays to be presented will reflect the skill and creativity of our members. We will take you to the Albuquerque Balloon Festival, poignant Ellis Island, charming Provence, colorful Lisbon, rarely seen parts of Petra, and rural Iceland. We will also show you the art of historic barn advertising, the majesty of birds in flight, and ethereal landscapes from across the world. Most significantly, we will show you what Kiev, Ukraine, looked like before recent events.

As always, we will post these essays after the show in the club essay archive, which is in the members-only section of the NBCC website, where they will be available for streaming.

Stu Mathison
Photo Essay Committee Chair



© Sue Guy



© Peter Dunner



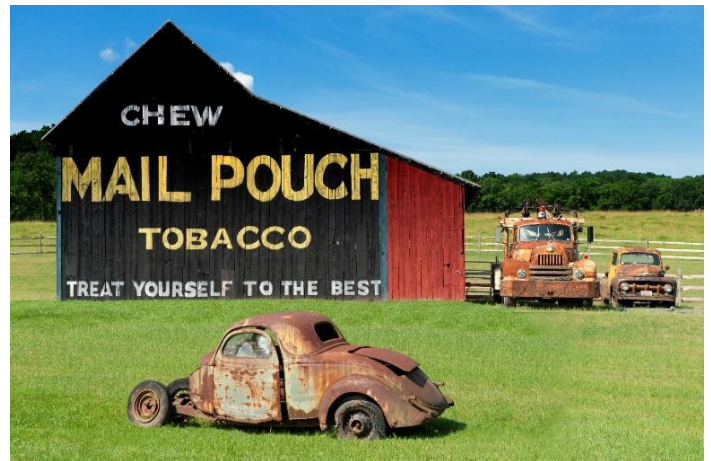
© José Cartas



© Nancy Morrison



© Max Kantzer



© David Davidson



Volunteers Needed for the *Lens & Eye* Team

Do you enjoy getting the latest updates before everyone else? Like keeping track of moving parts? Or want to meet other NBCC members by email? Know how to read a spreadsheet or proofread? If your answer to any (or all!!!) of these

questions is yes, come join the *Lens and Eye* team! Even a few hours a month would be much appreciated. If you're interested, please contact us at [NBCC Lens and Eye](mailto:nbccmdlensandeye@gmail.com) (nbccmdlensandeye@gmail.com)

April 12 Twilight/Night EIC and Print Competition Judge: Clay Blackmore

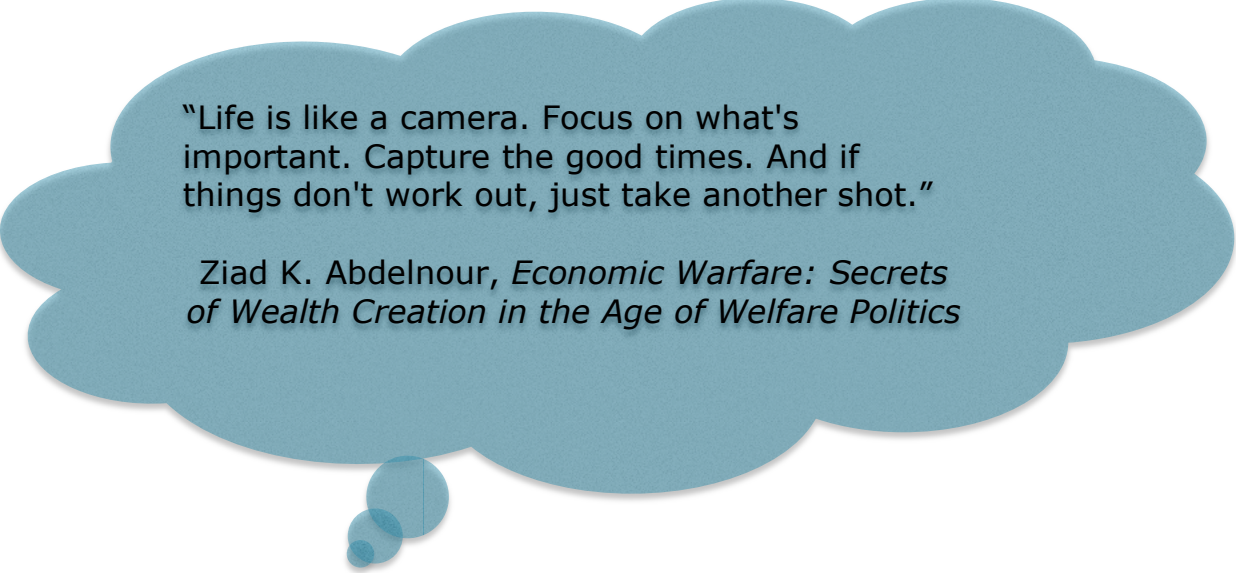
Clay Blackmore is an influential leader in the photographic industry. He is known for his development of innovative lighting and portrait techniques and is sought after as an instructor.

He developed his photographic, teaching, and business skills during his 25-year association with Monte Zucker, first as an assistant, and then as a co-educator and business partner. His clientele has included celebrities and many of Washington D.C.'s well-known families.

Clay is a champion of innovation and growth in the photography industry, in which he has pushed the boundaries of storytelling using the latest innovations in technology. In addition to his mastery of lighting and classic portraiture, Clay was among the first to test and evaluate new products for photography and HD-DSLR cinematography.

As a distinguished Canon print master, Clay has been part of the Canon team for over 20 years. In 2018, he received the Tom McDonald Award from the Professional Photographers of America for supporting photographic education. He is also part of the Westcott pro team and a member of the elite Camera Craftsmen of America. He has served as a Canon explorer of light and created tutorials for the Creative Live platform. His Rockville, Maryland, studio supports a team of passionate photographers and filmmakers working with the most cutting-edge technologies in the field.

In addition, he is active in ministry and his local community, and he volunteers his time to help others through photography.



“Life is like a camera. Focus on what's important. Capture the good times. And if things don't work out, just take another shot.”

Ziad K. Abdelnour, *Economic Warfare: Secrets of Wealth Creation in the Age of Welfare Politics*

April 26 Program: “How Photographs Produce Meaning” with Jenny Kuhla

Jenny Kuhla earned an M.F.A. in studio art from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. She also has a B.A. in art history and a B.F.A. in studio art from Tufts University. After earning her master’s degree, Jenny was an account executive and photo editor for a boutique New York City photo agency before becoming an instructor at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

This presentation will be a semiotic exploration of how photographs produce meaning and communicate information. Semiotics is the study of the ways in which signs (textual, linguistic, or visual) create meaning and the degree to which our personal and cultural baggage and inheritance influence our interpretations.

NBCC members planning to attend this program should first read a seminal essay by Roland Barthes, "The Rhetoric of the Image." A link to this essay will be sent in a Gordiegram in early April.

The program will start, as Barthes does in his essay, by exploring an advertising image of the Panzani brand of pasta, pasta sauce, and parmesan cheese that was marketed to French consumers in the 1960s. From there, Jenny will discuss concepts of personal idiolect (meaning coming from personal attributes and history), asyndeton (shortcuts to meaning), and, more broadly, sign systems.

Tammy Trocki
Programs Committee Chair

Save the Date for NBCC’s Upcoming Exhibition

"Friendship: The Ties that Bind" is the theme of NBCC's upcoming exhibition at the National United Methodist Church at 3401 Nebraska Ave NW in Washington, DC. The opening reception will be on Sunday, May 7 at 1:00pm. Support your friends and colleagues by coming to the exhibition!

Kathryn Mohrman
Exhibitions Committee Chair

Competition Assignments	
Month	Theme
2022-2023	
May	Open
2023-2024	
September	Red
October	Open
November	Family
December	Out of Focus
January	Tack Sharp
February	Nature
March	High Key
April	Cold Winter
May	Black & White Open

Splinters from the Board

We had a great response to our survey of members about photographic areas of interest for our shared interest groups (SIGs). Most members indicated an interest in more than three photographic areas. A few volunteered to jumpstart a SIG this spring.

SIGs offer informal get-togethers, usually in the form of field trips, visits to exhibitions, and image sharing at members' houses or at cafés. Each SIG focuses on a particular area of photographic interest. They are fluid and evolving, as members and those on the NBCC waiting list join a core group of SIG members who attend almost all of that group's events or outings.

Steve Silverman launched the first SIG on March 4 in the combined areas of nature/wildlife and birds. Eleven of us went to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and had a wonderful time photographing owls, ducks, tundra swans, eagles, and the marsh sunrise.

Photos from the outing are on page 9 of this issue.

To encourage club-wide participation in SIG opportunities, SIG organizers are now starting to announce outings and events via the club chat group. **Anyone who is a club member or wait-lister can participate in the SIGs, not just those who filled out the initial survey.**

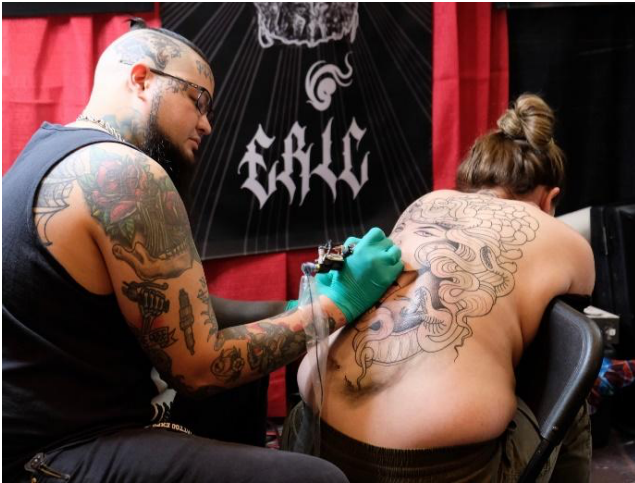
Toni Robinson has set up a chat group system whereby announcements will have a hashtag such as #SIG-Flowers_Gardens to indicate the area of interest. If you would like to receive these announcements, be sure to follow the instructions in the March 21 GordieGram explaining how to sign up for our chat group, how to indicate the SIG areas you are interested in, and how to limit the number of chat group emails you receive daily.

Cherry Wyman
President

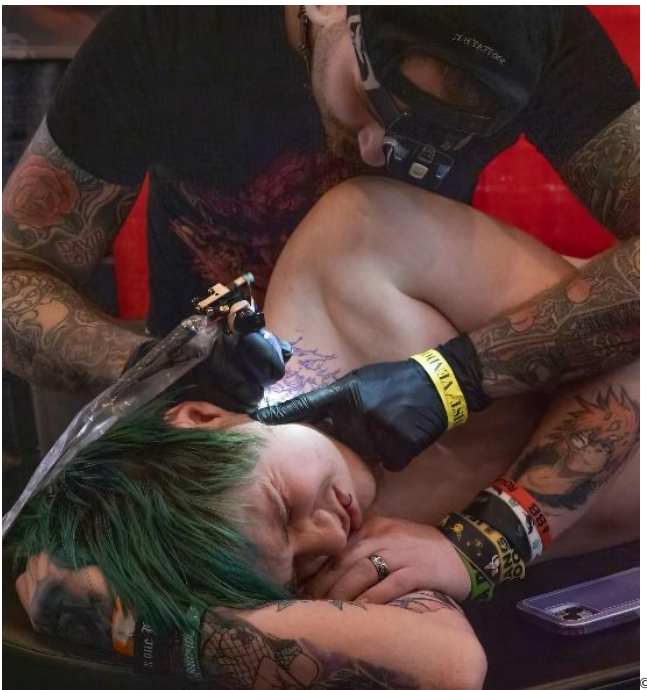
DC Tattoo Expo Field Trip Images

Several members braved a light but very cold and snowy day in late February to attend the club field trip to the annual DC Tattoo Expo. Organized by Marge Bloom, the group produced some wonderful images. Here are a few.

Cherry Wyman



© Beth Altman



© Cherry Wyman



© Guillermo Olaizola



© Riko Saidel

First SIG Launch at Blackwater NWR

Eleven brave souls woke up before dawn and drove to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge to photograph the saltmarsh sunrise and the thousands of birds just starting to feed. This trip marked the launch of our club's first shared interest group (SIG) in the areas of nature/wildlife and birds. Organized by Steve Silverman, the group photographed tundra swans, a great horned owl, eagles, several songbirds, and the multitudes of waterfowl at Oakley Street in Cambridge. SIG members also enjoyed a group lunch near Kent Narrows. It was a wonderful day!

Cherry Wyman



© Guillermo Olaizola



© Jennifer Nguyen



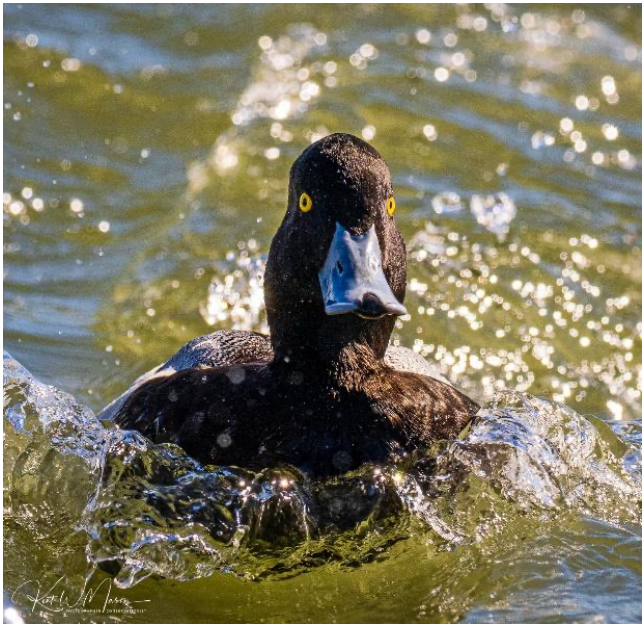
© Bennett Fletcher



© Toni Robinson



© Joel Hoffman Photography
© Joel Hoffman



© Kent Mason



© Steve Silverman

Competition Results: March (Nature)
Judge: Wayne Wolfersberger (Print and EIC)

PRINTS

Intermediate

1st	Steven Frahm	Fairy Tale Forest
2nd	Steven Lapidus	Slot Canyon
3rd	Richard Chitty	Satisfaction
HM	Richard Chitty	On the Prowl
HM	Peter Dunner	Portrait of an Iguana

Advanced

1st	Bruce Cyr	Zen of a Cicada Killer Wasp
2nd	Bill Seelig	Little Face
3rd	Dick Pelroy	Great Blue Heron & Catch of the Day

ELECTRONIC

Novice

1st	Jennifer Nguyen	Woodpecker Focusing
2nd	Janice Solomon	Thirsty Phoenix Desert Bunny
3rd	Debby Berlyne	Misty Autumn Woods
HM	Kathy Flannery	Cadillac at Sunrise
HM	Mark McDonough	Hoodoos at Sunrise

Intermediate

1st	Bennett Fletcher	Heron with Fish
2nd	Isaac Afrangui	Rogue River Falls
3rd	Bennett Fletcher	Blue Dasher Dragonfly
HM	Isaac Afrangui	Harris Beach
HM	Beth Altman	Spider Web
HM	Michael Blicher	Mighty Bee
HM	Tom Gross	Tender Thoughts
HM	Max Kantzer	Flamingos of the Camargue
HM	Max Kantzer	Wild Horses of the Camargue
HM	Jill Randell	Slim Pickings
HM	John Scott	Moose Exiting Golden Pond
HM	Claudia Seelig	Lake Tobias Elands
HM	Peter Winik	White Sands Morning

Advanced

1st	David Terao	Asparagus Beetle in a Lotus
2nd	James Chia	Wish to Be Showered
3rd	Robert Barkin	Glenn Highway, Alaska
HM	Dick Knapp	Bison in Snowstorm
HM	Ruiqing Pamboukian	Spring in Patagonia
HM	Ruiqing Pamboukian	Stone Tree
HM	Toni Robinson	Gotcha
HM	Chet Stein	All Tied Up
HM	David Terao	Jumping Spider in a Dahlia
HM	John Willis	Anna's Hummingbird

NBCC Competition Results

Cumulative Scores Through March 2023

PRINTS

Intermediate

71	Peter Dunner
30	Richard Chitty
27	Steven Frahm
25	Kay Norvell
18	Tom Marchessault
15	Steven Lapidus
14	William James
12	Bennett Fletcher
6	Kathryn Mohrman

Advanced

59	Bruce Cyr
50	Bill Seelig
45	Dick Pelroy
43	Tammy Trocki
20	John Norvell
10	David Terao
10	Nikos Zacharakis

ELECTRONIC

Novice

63	Jennifer Nguyen
55	Debby Berlyne
54	Janice Solomon
29	Pauline Jaffe
12	Isaac Rosenberg
10	Todd Epstein
8	George Kiebuszinski
6	Marjorie Bloom
6	Larry Brauer
6	Kathy Flannery
6	Elisa Gladstone
6	Mark McDonough
6	Jean Solari

Intermediate

55	Michael Blicher
48	Max Kantzer
38	Erico Silva
38	Cherry Wyman
34	Lorraine Chickering
32	Jill Randell
30	Bennett Fletcher
30	Tom Gross
30	Peter Winik

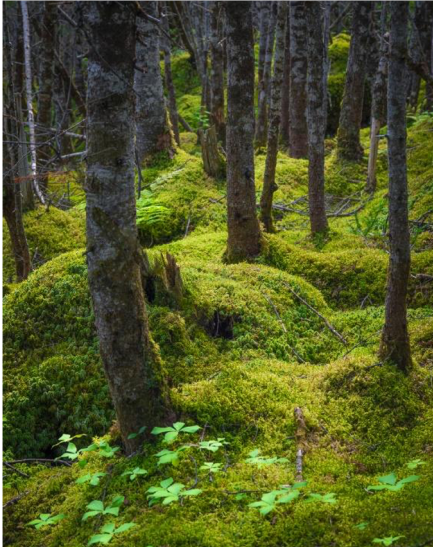
Intermediate (cont'd)

24	Don Tobin
21	Claudia Seelig
20	Al Neyman
19	Maude Svensson
18	Kurt Focke
18	Christina Papakonstantinou
16	Meg Clarke
15	Isaac Afrangui
15	Don Picard
12	Craig Carlson
12	Steve Parker
9	Karen Finkelman
9	Audrey Rothstein
6	Beth Altman
6	James Frid
6	Sue Guy
6	Mark Leatherman
6	Bob Mazziotta
6	Kathryn Mohrman
6	John Scott
6	Lorraine Vinci

Advanced

59	Kent Mason
58	Ruiqing Pamboukian
58	David Terao
42	Dick Knapp
40	James Corbett
30	Toni Robinson
30	John Willis
28	Chet Stein
24	Robert Barkin
18	Joanne Mars
18	Jack Rosenberg
18	Mark Segal
15	James Chia
12	Ira Adler
12	David Clemmer
12	Stuart Glickman
9	Gail Bingham
6	Larry Mars
6	Cat Simmons
6	Rebecca Tidman

March Nature Competition Intermediate Print Winners



1st Place
Fairy Tale Forest
© **Steven Frahm**

Perseverance and being open to the unexpected led to this image. It was taken during an early-morning hike around Berry Hill Pond in Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland. The hike was mostly around the beautiful pond, but part of the trail was beside a patch of forest and ground cover. There was a natural pathway for the eye and interesting leaves for a foreground element. I worked the framing through several exposures to get this image. In post-processing, I emphasized the pathway, foreground, and lush green of the ground cover.



2nd Place
Slot Canyon
© **Steven Lapidus**

This image was captured on the Antelope Canyon Indian Reservation, aka Slot Canyons. Tripods, monopods, and photo tours are no longer permitted in the canyons, so I took this image handheld in the somewhat dark caverns that were crowded with tourists. This was not the optimal environment. I captured this image with my Olympus OMD EM-1 Mark III. My exposure settings were ISO 3200, 1/60 sec, and f80.



3rd Place
Satisfaction
© **Rich Chitty**

The bird in this image is part of the story. The whales were bubble net feeding - diving and circling under a school of fish while blowing bubbles to concentrate them. They then shot up through the circle to devour the compressed school of fish. Since the whales were under water until the last moment, I didn't know where they would surface. But the birds knew and flew overhead looking for the big circle of bubbles. When the whales emerged, the birds dove into the feeding frenzy to pick up the scraps.

March Nature Competition Advanced Print Winners

1st Place
Zen of a Cicada Killer Wasp
© **Bruce Cyr**



This was one of over a thousand shots I took of this subject. Although the image was blurry because of the subject's distance, the background benefited from more blurring in postprocessing. Wasps rarely waste a sting on a human being who respects their routines and never on me – yet! I used a Canon 100mm macro lens with a Canon EF Lifesize converter, a Sony 1.4 Teleconverter, a Metabones adapter, and a Sony A7R III camera at f16, ISO 1600, and 1/320 sec.

2nd Place
Little Face
© **Bill Seelig**

I arrived at the National Zoo's Great Ape House as it opened one rainy day, so this little orangutan couldn't go out and play. I ended up entertaining him with my little hand-held LED, which had the added benefit of lighting up his face. What fun!



3rd Place
Great Blue Heron & Catch of the Day
© **Dick Pelroy**



The image was taken just outside of St. Petersburg, Florida, in tidal flats that are heavily populated by salt-water-wading birds. I caught a great blue heron just after it had caught a large fish. I used a 600mm prime lens at 1/2000sec and maximum aperture. The result is a good stop-action portrait of how this wading bird fishes in these fish-abundant shallow waters.

March Nature Competition Novice EIC Winners

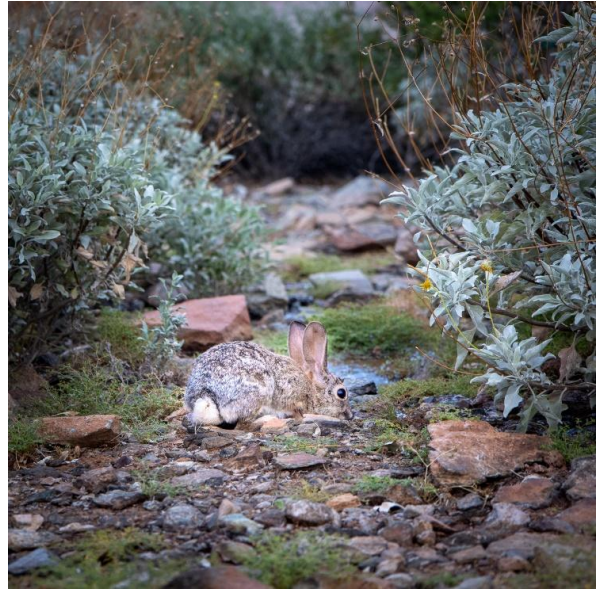


1st Place
Woodpecker Focusing
© **Jennifer Nguyen**

Last week, I was eating my breakfast in the dining room while looking out the window. I was enjoying the quiet and peaceful view of my backyard. Suddenly, a bird flew by the window and stopped on a tree. It was a downy woodpecker and was pecking for a bug. I thought, "Hurry up!" I took my camera with the 100-400mm tele lens and rushed to take this picture. I felt so lucky!

3rd Place
Misty Autumn Woods
© **Debby Berlyne**

I took this image on a foggy morning last fall at Croydon Creek Nature Center in Rockville. The nature center is one of my favorite local photography spots in every season because it's lovely and very close to my home, and I've never seen another photographer there! I increased the saturation of some of the colors using the HSL/color panel in Lightroom because I wanted to reflect the feeling I got when I came to this lovely spot.



2nd Place
Thirsty Phoenix Desert Bunny
© **Janice Solomon**

I spotted this rabbit at the North Mountain National Trail in North Mountain Park in Phoenix, Arizona, where I often hiked during my two months there. There was a short interpretive trail and garden with cacti and other plants, and probably a hidden hose under the bushes to water the plants in the desert heat. This thirsty rabbit was taking advantage of the little bit of water. I lightened the rabbit to separate it more from its surroundings.



March Nature Competition Intermediate EIC Winners



1st Place
Heron with Fish
© **Bennett Fletcher**

The shape of this heron, facing me head on with a fish, reminded me of a cross—an iconic symbol that often has a powerful impact. The capture was difficult to process. The bird's right wing was clipped off, and its right side was overexposed. In Photoshop, I used multiply mode to darken it and balanced the exposure. I also used the clone tool to add detail to some blown-out areas in the neck. Finally, I cropped the image to keep the viewer's attention on the bird's head and the fish.



2nd Place
Rogue River Falls
© **Isaac Afrangui**

See Isaac's comment on this issue's cover.



3rd Place
Blue Dasher Dragonfly
© **Bennett Fletcher**

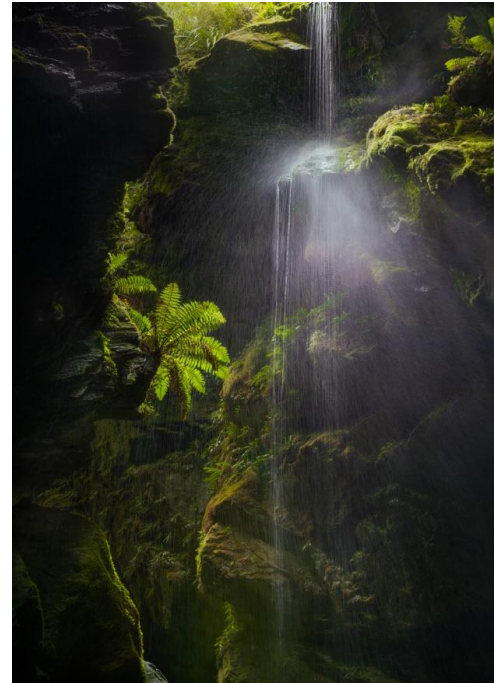
I was inspired to visit Lake Artemesia (near College Park) by my neighbor, who had seen a variety of dragonfly species there. I have several photos of the slaty skimmers and blue dashers that are common in this area, but I wanted to capture some different species and try a new teleconverter for my favorite macro lens. My best capture of the day was this juvenile blue dasher dragonfly. Taken at f36, the capture was sharp enough to crop to emphasize the eyes and thorax.

March Nature Competition Advanced EIC Winners



1st Place
Asparagus Beetle in a Lotus
© **David Terao**

I took this image at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens last summer when the lotuses were starting to bloom. I was captivated by the intense colors and patterns of the lotus pods when I saw this beetle inside one pod. The dark beetle added a nice contrast to the lotus pod. However, getting a good angle was a little difficult because the tall lotus was growing in swampy water. I used a tripod to position the camera above the lotus pod while looking through the camera's dim, electronic rear screen. I took several shots.

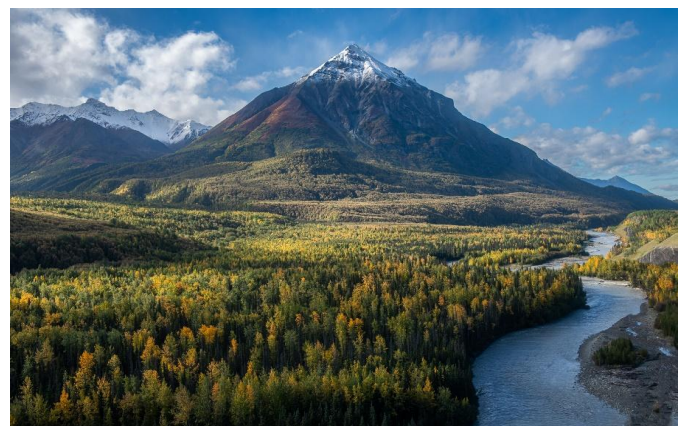


2nd Place
Wish to be Showered
© **James Chia**

This was shot at a canyon creek in the South Island of New Zealand. As I waded deep into the canyon, I was intrigued by the lone backlit fern growing way up on the canyon wall and a small waterfall trickling down from another wall behind. I compressed the scene with a long lens and placed the two subjects in juxtaposition nicely. In post-processing, I dodged and gave a hint of the shapes of the dark canyon walls and the silky splash bounced from the rock.

3rd Place
Glenn Highway, Alaska
© **Robert Barkin**

On the western coast of Alaska, the Chugach Mountains offer majestic peaks seemingly almost within reach. The Glenn Highway runs from Glennallen to Anchorage, along glaciers, mountains, and streams. Perhaps not as well known as Denali and the Alaska range, the Chugach Mountains are every bit as beautiful.



NBCC Board of Directors, Committees and Appointments 2022-23

OFFICERS

President Cherry Wyman	Vice President Margaret Colaianni	Secretary Don Picard	Treasurer Claudia Seelig
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DIRECTORS

Rich Chitty	Kent Mason	Toni Robinson
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STANDING COMMITTEES

<p>Competition Judy Switt* <i>Lightbox:</i> Geoff Hornseth Dick Pelroy Nikos Zacharakis <i>Coordinators:</i> Max Kantzer* Robert Barkin Steve Lapidus</p> <p>Education Jill Randell* Gail Bingham Steve Frahm Dick Knapp Toni Robinson</p>	<p>Judges Cat Simmons* Pauline Jaffe Guillermo Olaizola Ruiqing Pamboukian Sarah H. Salomon</p> <p>Membership Toni Robinson* Michael Blicher Pauline Jaffe Guillermo Olaizola</p> <p>Programs Tammy Trocki* Judy Ackerman Evelyn Jacob Kent Mason Brian Monahan Toni Robinson Jack Rosenberg</p>	<p>Field Trips Beth Altman* Marge Bloom Meg Clarke Peter Dunner George Kiebusinski Bob Murphy Jack Rosenberg Tara Ryan Paul Schmitz Jim Turner</p>	<p>Exhibitions Kathryn Mohrman* Craig Carlson Stan Collyer Peter Dunner Sue Guy Mike Mitchell Sarah H. Salomon Maude Svensson John Willis</p> <p>MPA Carol Lee*</p> <p>MAPV John Norvell*</p>
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SPECIAL COMMITTEES

<p>Community Outreach <i>Phabulous</i> <i>Photographers</i> Joel Hoffman*</p> <p><i>Montgomery County High School Photography Program</i> Kent Mason*</p> <p><i>Focus on Climate</i> Craig Carlson*</p>	<p>Equipment Max Kantzer* David Davidson Bennett Fletcher Kevin O'Connell Mark McDonough Nikos Zacharakis</p>	<p>Hospitality TBD</p> <p>GordieGram Administrator Christina Papakonstantinou* Toni Robinson Janice Solomon</p>	<p>Photo Essay Stu Mathison* Mark Segal John Willis Nancy Wolejsza</p>
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OTHER APPOINTMENTS

<p>Lens & Eye Debby Berlyne* Janice Solomon</p> <p>Share & Care Representative Pauline Jaffe</p> <p>PSA Representative Judy Burr</p>	<p>Facebook Group Administrator Toni Robinson</p> <p>Information Systems Coordinator Rich Chitty</p>	<p>Database Administrator Bruce Cyr</p> <p>Chat Group Administrator Bruce Cyr</p> <p>Church Liaison Rich Chitty</p>	<p>Asbury Liaison TBD</p> <p>Dinner Reservations Kay Norvell</p> <p>Website John Allender* Rich Chitty Shelley Price</p>
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* denotes Committee Chair